



# TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Vol. 39

News From Your Town Government

Fall 2015

## One Hundred Years Ago

*From the Enterprise, Sept. - Dec. 1915, circulation 2,953 in the first week of October.*

September sees the Lakeside Hotel at Thompson's Lake close for the season except for Saturdays and Sundays, and many cottage owners are returning to their Albany homes. Apples are being harvested, and local cider producers offer 25 cents per hundredweight for them. The West Berne writer reports that Haverly's mill can make cider from your own apples and a 'for sale' listing offers 72 new apple barrels for 22 cents each. Feed grinding is available at the Becker Bros. mill in Berne on Wednesday and Saturday. The Thompson's Lake writer says frequent rain has hurt the buckwheat harvest in early October, and buckwheat feed is \$23 a ton. As cooler weather comes in, Standard Oil of New York advertises the Perfection oil heater, smokeless and portable. Ten hours of comfort on one gallon of kerosene, "the most inexpensive form of heat."

Fall entertainment includes church suppers featuring chicken and oysters. At Thompson's Lake, the Church's oyster supper brings in \$14. The Church will also feature a "stereopticon lecture" the day before Halloween, and on the same day, the West Berne Methodist Church will host a Halloween supper, and Berne Reformed has a Halloween masquerade. Farther afield, you can enjoy a one-way trip to New York City aboard a Hudson Navigation Co. boat for one dollar, or \$1.50 for a round trip. There are also "tourist automobile rates" of \$4 to \$10 dollars, one way, and \$6 to \$15, round trip. (cont'd on page 2)

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Senator George Amedore, along with County Executive Dan McCoy, announced a \$300,000 grant for the purpose of building a new shared salt shed. Senator Amadore has been a great partner for the Town of Berne and saw the need for a shared salt shed. Thanks to our Senator, our road salt and sand will be stored under cover making our Town Highway Department more cost effective. I would also like to thank our Highway Superintendent Randy Bashwinger for working cooperatively with the Albany County DPW; and the Berne Town Board for helping to make this a reality. The Town of Berne has received over half a million dollars in grant funds in just a little more than a year. I would like to commend the Town Board for all their work in finding and perusing these grants.



*Pictured above are (left to right): Dep. Albany Co. Comm. Scott Duncan, DPW Comm. Darrell Duncan, Mary Rosak, County Ex. Office, Supervisor Kevin Crosier, Senator Amedore, Councilperson Karen Schimmer, Councilperson Dawn Jordan, and Berne Highway Superintendent Randy Bashwinger*

## BROADBAND FORUM

A Berne/Knox Broadband Forum has been scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Knox Town Hall. Many thanks to our Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara for his support in bringing broadband to the hilltowns.

John Mucha from Time Warner Cable and Jason Guzzo of Hudson valley Communications will be on hand to discuss the challenges to rural broadband. The Governor has set aside \$500,000,000 for rural broadband expansion. This will be the start of expanding internet access for all Berne residents. The Town board has been working to find ways to provide this much needed service, so please mark this date on your calendars.

~~~~~Kevin Crosier~~~~~

(cont'd from page one)

As November begins, election activity heats up. All Albany County Towns except Knox vote to go "wet" with alcohol sales. A proposed amendment of the New York constitution, to give women voting rights, goes down in defeat by some 200,000 votes, despite an assurance in a suffrage ad that "Evolution is not going to stop or turn backward when women get the vote."

Other reported November events include snow visible from Thompson's Lake on distant mountain tops, a horse and wagon mishap on the state road in South Berne when a "wifflebolt" detaches, and Mr. Carl's auto going over an embankment near the letter "S" on the Albany road. Mr. Carl's auto will be issued a new and improved license plate next year, according to the State Department [which included the motor vehicle bureau at that time], "autoists" will be issued a more visible plate embossed with "New York 1916" and having hyphenated alpha and numerical characters.

Mr. Carl will not be driving in mid-December. Two storms combine to produce a snow event labeled the worst since the 1888 blizzard. Strong winds create drifts of six to 15 feet around Albany County, three are dead in Albany City, the Thompson's Lake writer reports that mail delivery is stopped from Dec. 11 through Dec. 20, and some 40,000 men are enlisted to shovel snow in New York City. With classic understatement, two Berne correspondents refer to this as "real winter weather ... the past few days" and a "bad storm" that prevents church services.

*Contributed by George Christian*

*A note on suffrage: The New York Constitutional suffrage battle was won in 1917, three years before the U.S. Constitution was amended, and 48 years after the Wyoming Territory gave its women the right to vote. Albany City again voted "no" in 1917.*

## **SUMMERFEST — A GREAT SUCCESS !!!**

Who can argue with the delight of children running through freshly mown grass, or swinging through the warm summer air to see the world from a new perspective? It brings smiles to the faces of all those around them, and a sense of well-being that says all is, after all, right with the world.

Berne's Summerfest, held August 22, did just that. Mingled with the sounds of children at play came the scent of burgers roasting and hot dogs sizzling, the voices of adults engaged in conversation with friends and family, and the bustle of artisans and vendors displaying their wares. The clank of horseshoes hitting their mark resonated. It was a grand day, a day of celebration, relaxation and joy.

Kudos to Karen Schimmer, Summerfest Chair and her committee—Dawn Jordan, Wayne Emory, Phyllis Johnson, Mary Alice Molgard, and our own, Model A Mike...Mike Vincent. Through winter and spring they met, planned and implemented their ideas. Anita Clayton and Andrea Borst who together insured supplies arrived on time were indispensable. A very special thank you to Dick Stock, who single-handedly arranged for the five phenomenal groups who played music throughout the day....*Nite Train, Hawbuckees, A Bunch of Guys, the Hilltown Ramblers, and the Red Haired Strangers*..... Music filled the air from beginning to end thanks to his unflagging efforts.

Thank you to Dan McCoy and County Sheriff Craig Apple for being partners with the Town. Through their efforts and support the day ended on a high note with a fantastic fireworks display that brought shouts and whistles from the audience.

And let us not forget the fire police who directed traffic, and the ambulance crew who stood by all day, ready, willing and able to jump in if necessary. Their reassuring presence offered comfort and the knowledge that we were all in good hands.

Last, but certainly not least, a very big thank you goes to Scott Green, and his crew, Dave Harnett and Randy Bashwinger for their help with the resurfacing of the swing set and creating the new horseshoe courts. Through their efforts, the park not only looked beautiful, but provided the community with more options for play and enjoyment.

Summerfest was a great success. Our deepest thanks to all who made it possible..



### *Did you know?*

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Berne held its largest Household Hazardous Waste Day to date serving over one hundred cars. This indicates that Berne residents care about recycling and our environment.

Approximately half of the cost of this project will be funded by a grant from DEC. Many thanks to Recycling Coordinator Scott Green and the Berne Highway Department for their help. Many people working together helped to make this a very successful event.



**RIBBON CUTTING FOR REOPENING OF BRIDGE IN BERNE HAMLET**

*THANK YOU ASSEMBLYMAN SANTABARBARA!!!!*



On September 4, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, was joined by Berne Supervisor Kevin Crosier, County Executive Daniel P. McCoy and other elected officials as they cut the ribbon and officially reopened the Route 443 bridge over the Fox Creek in the Town of Berne. Work on the \$1.01 million project began in the summer of 2014 and was completed in two phases to minimize its impact on school traffic. This summer the state Department of Transportation replaced the aging bridge, which carries more than 1,200 motor vehicles every day.

The work began last summer with the widening of the intersection of Route 443 and Route 156, which had previously been difficult for school buses to safely navigate. A damaged building near the intersection was also removed to improve sight distance and the turning radius.

The reopening of the bridge, which had been closed since June 29, means the community has access to one of its critical means of transportation; and school bus drivers will have a safer route to school.

**COULD THERE BE A BANK IN OUR FUTURE?**

The Bank of Greene County and the Town of Berne are in discussions for a proposed satellite bank which would be located in the Town of Berne. Many residents have expressed interest in having a bank in our town. Please let us know what you think. Contact the supervisor's office at 872-1448, extension 103 with your thoughts and opinions.

**ELECTION DAY**

~November 3, 2015~

To be eligible to vote you must be a citizen, and have reached the age of eighteen by November 4, 2015. If you know you will be unable to be present to vote in the General Election on November 3, 2015 for reasons of illness, studies, vacation, occupation or business related duties, absentee ballot applications may be obtained from the Town Clerk or the Albany County Board of Elections located at 32 No. Russell Rd. Albany.

If you have any questions regarding registration or absentee ballots, call the Berne Town Clerk at 872-1448.



Pictured above are hard working volunteers developing trails on the Town's newly acquired property in Switzkill.

**TRAIL BLAZERS HARD AT WORK**

Progress on the trail system at the recently purchased Game Farm Road property in Berne is moving along quickly. A trails plan is presently being developed that includes existing trails as well as proposed trails.

The proposed trails will take people through a wide variety of ecological communities including two very scenic oak/hickory forests, a pine stand and a hemlock forest. Along the trails are incredibly scenic views of the Catskill's as well as down into the Switzkill Valley.

The board for the property is presently working on constructing a trail to the two waterfalls located on the property. If you are interested in helping with the construction of this new trail and getting familiar with the new park, please call Mark Hohengasser at 573-301-4951 or email at mhohengasserberneny@gmail.com. We would love to have your help and show you this amazing new resource in the Town of Berne.

## COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS SET FALL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DATES

*Flexible and Varied Volunteer Positions Available*

Would you like a chance to make a difference in the lives of others? Consider joining the Community Caregivers volunteer team; a neighbor in need would enjoy spending time with you. And, as the kids and grandkids return to school, volunteering with us is a wonderful way to mark the start of the autumn season!

Community Caregivers, located in Guilderland, is a well-established and "homegrown" non-profit organization, founded in response to local needs. Its mission is to enable individuals of all ages to maintain their independence and quality of life within their homes and communities. A large pool of dedicated volunteers help carry out this mission by providing essential, non-medical services at no charge to residents in Albany, Bethlehem, Guilderland, Altamont, New Scotland, Voorheesville, Berne and Knox.

Since 2010, Community Caregivers has had more than 230 volunteers provide 16,500 services to nearly 500 individuals in the towns it serves and, since 2012, in the City of Albany. Services include: transportation, friendly visits, and brief periods of respite for family caregivers. We also offer shopping assistance, prescription pickup, and telephone assurance calls.

If you are interested in learning more, please join us this fall on one of the following dates:

Tuesday -10/6; 11/3; or 12/1 at 12 noon.

Or

Thursday- 9/17; 10/15; 1/19; 12/17 at 10 AM



Contact the office at 518-456-2898 or [volunteer@communitycaregivers.org](mailto:volunteer@communitycaregivers.org) to reserve your spot. All orientations are held at the Community Caregivers office located at 2021 Western Avenue in Albany.

*Community Caregivers, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides non-medical services and caregiver support at no charge to residents in the Towns of Guilderland, Bethlehem, New Scotland, Berne, Knox, and the City of Albany through a strong volunteer pool of dedicated individuals with a desire to assist their neighbors.*

## HILLTOWN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

HCRC would like to welcome new staff member Misty Schaffer who joined the team in August. Misty comes with lots of experience and energy which is needed in order to go forward with the annual Christmas program which is just around the corner.

HCRC had a busy summer getting students ready for back to school. Over 100 students were supplied with backpacks, sneakers and necessary supplies for the upcoming school year. Thanks to so many dedicated and generous sponsors that give their time and money to support the programs of HCRC.

Anyone interested in adopting a child for our Christmas program or for further information should contact :

Mary Beth Peterson @ 797-5256



## HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

The Town of Berne is very pleased to have been approved for a grant which will provide funding for a new salt shed that will be shared with Albany County at the Town Highway Garage. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2016. This facility will also be shared with Berne- Knox-Westerlo School supplying clean material for roads in the Berne district.

This season, six roads have been paved and road crews will be trimming several more roads. A new truck has been purchased and will be available for the upcoming snow season.

With the snow season just around the corner, the Town Highway Department is requesting your help and cooperation regarding mailboxes and snow removal. It is important to remember that mailboxes must be set at 48" off the ground to avoid interfering with snowplowing.

Also, as inconvenient as this may be, it is necessary that vehicles are parked at least 12 feet away from the edge of the highway during snowstorms and shortly thereafter. This amount of space is needed for the plow to wing back the snow in anticipation of the next storm.

Residents are also reminded that the moving of snow into the roadway from driveways or parking areas is an illegal practice and may put passing vehicles in danger as well as making proper clearing of the roadway by town plows impossible.

Thank you for your cooperation.  
Call Randy Bashwinger @573-3002  
with questions or concerns.

## ***LIBRARY NOTES***

Individuals from the community met during September in focus groups to discuss their aspirations for Berne and how the library fits into that vision. The Library Board of Trustees will be using this information along with the results of the community survey from the last courier to develop a five year plan for the library. Thank you to all who shared your thoughts.

The last five year plan for the library was to move into a new building which has been accomplished with the help of NYS Library Construction Grants. In fact the Berne Public Library has received \$285,637 of grant money so far. The library recently applied for its fourth NYS Library Construction Grant. The monies will be used to replace all single pane glass with insulated glass and clean and repoint the brickwork of the building. The Friends of the Library are providing the 25% matching funds needed for the grant, so please support their efforts.

The community room at the library is hopping with activity. In addition to library programs, the room is being used by non-profit community groups such as the Girl Scouts, HHA, and the Berne Historical Society. The community room calendar on the library's website [www.bernepubliclibrary.org](http://www.bernepubliclibrary.org) lists room reservations and library activities. If you have a group that is interested in reserving the community room, contact Judy at 872-1246 or [director@bernepubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@bernepubliclibrary.org).

Remember that the library does more than provide books, audio books, movies on DVDs, magazines, e-books, e-audio books, and music CDs for you to borrow with a free library card. There is high speed internet and Wi-Fi especially useful for updates on your devices. The library also provides services such as copying, printing, faxing, and laminating for a minimal fee.

Upcoming events are listed on the library website and in the weekly article of the Altamont Enterprise. Monthly e-newsletters are also available if you supply the library with your email. Look for special events such as the historical program by Bruce Dearstyne on Monday, September 28 at 7 pm or the Makerspace program on Wednesday, December 30 at 3 pm. Please take advantage of the offerings from this valuable community resource.



## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS**

- 1st Sunday - Book Club —7 pm
- 1st Monday – Reading to Ariel, a therapy dog--4 to 6 pm
- Tuesdays – Storytime—10:30 am
- 1st Friday – Movie Night — 6:30 pm
- 2nd Sunday – Game Night — 7 pm
- 2nd Thursday – Board of Trustees meeting—6:30 pm
- 2nd Friday – Teen Action Group—6:30 pm
- 3rd Sunday – Knit Wits—7 pm
- 3rd Saturday – Lego League — 11 am
- 4 th Wednesday – Memoir Writing —2 pm
- 4th Thursday – Inky Fingers — 7 pm



## **LIBRARY HOURS**

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Monday:    | 4 to 8 p.m.       |
| Tuesday:   | 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. |
| Wednesday: | 4 to 8 p.m.       |
| Thursday:  | 2 to 8 p.m.       |
| Saturday:  | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. |

## ***Friends of the Berne Library***

Mark your calendar for the Lasagna Dinner and Cakewalk at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Berne Senior Center. The Friends will be serving homemade lasagna (meat, vegetarian, and gluten-free varieties), salad, bread, beverages, and “make-your-own” sundaes courtesy of Stewart's Shops.

Pre-paid tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Library. Tickets at the door will be \$12. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$8 with a \$50 family maximum. The Cakewalk is a special feature of our dinner. You can enter a drawing to win a “baked from scratch cake” by purchasing tickets 10 for \$10. Place your tickets in front of your favorite cake and if you are lucky, you will win the cake.



In the near future the Friends will be partnering with Dr. Kristin Mack, Family Medicine Physician, in providing books for children at their well-child visits. The Friends look forward to supporting Dr. Mack in this literacy project for the young people in our community.

Take an invigorating walk in the Knox Town Park and read our second installment of our StoryWalk®. The Knox Historical Society is our co-sponsor for this story, *Henry and the Cannons* by Don Brown. The book relates the amazing feat of Henry Knox during the early days of the American Revolution. It is likely that the Town of Knox was named for Henry Knox.

Plans are being made to install a StoryWalk® in the Berne Town Park in the spring. There is currently a temporary installation around the tennis courts.

The Friends meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Berne Library and welcome all new members.



Town of Berne  
 PO Box 57  
 Berne, NY 12023



**DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

**TOWN of B ERNE—ALL DEPARTMENTS PHONE.....872-1448**  
**TOWN HALL FAX.....872-9303**  
**TOWN OF BERNE LIBRARY— PHONE .....872-1246**  
**FAX.....872-9024**  
**HIGHWAY GARAGE PHONE 872-1448..EXT 108**  
**FAX... .872-9563**  
**SUPERVISOR Kevin Crosier**  
**TOWN BOARD MEMBERS Joe Golden**  
**Wayne Emory**  
**Dawn Jordan**  
**Karen Schimmer**  
**Anita Clayton**  
**TOWN CLERK Randy Bashwinger**  
**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT Albert E. Raymond**  
**TOWN JUSTICE Alan P. Zuk**  
**TOWN JUSTICE Stacy Loucks**  
**COURT CLERK Alan Rockmore**  
**PLANNING BOARD CHAIR Ron Jordan**  
**ZONING BOARD CHAIR Kathleen Moore**  
**CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR Brian Crawford**  
**ASSESSOR**  
**BUILDING & ZONING Tim Lippert 339-6030**  
**DOG CONTROL OFFICER Cheryl Baitholts 728-8082**  
**TAX COLLECTOR Gerald O'Malley 872-0331**  
**TOWN HISTORIAN Ralph Miller 872-0212**  
**BERNE POST OFFICE 872-0424**  
**EAST BERNE POST OFFICE 872-1244**

**TOWN CLERK**

**Monday-Wednesday 8 AM-3 PM**  
**Thursday 9 AM- 2 PM**  
**Saturday -Sept. Thru July 9 AM-noon**  
**Evenings by appointment**

**BUILDING INSPECTOR**

**Thursday 7-9 PM**  
**Saturday 9AM to noon**  
**(except July & August)**

**TOWN BOARD**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30 PM**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:00 PM**

**TOWN COURT CLERK HOURS**

**Tuesday 9 AM TO 1 PM**

**TOWN COURT**

**Tuesday 5 PM**

**ASSESSOR**

**Wednesday 5:30 to 7 PM**

**(January through May)**

**Located at Town Library Building**

**TRANSFER STATION**

**Monday 4 PM to 8 PM**

**Wednesday Noon to 8 PM**

**Saturday 8 AM to 4 PM**

**\*\*\*Closed Holidays\*\*\***

**Permit required-Obtain from Town Clerk**