



TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Vol. 41

News From Your Town Government

Summer 2016

One Hundred Years Ago

*One Hundred Years Ago—
From the Enterprise,
May–July, 1916.*

On the threshold of summer, the Thompson's Lake correspondent remarks that William Zimmer was the "only patriot on this street who flew Old Glory" on Memorial Day. July Fourth will give everyone another opportunity, and there will be a special baseball game at the fairgrounds on the Fourth between Altamont and Delanson. See it for 25 cents. Plenty of fireworks for sale at CL St. John's in Altamont including rockets, sparklers, colored torches and "torpedoes." [A small firework that explodes when thrown against a hard object.] There are fireworks of a different kind at William Smith's home on July second. A lightning strike shattered a chimney, tore down stove pipes and damaged interior walls and furniture. Family members were badly shaken, but all recovered.

Schools close for the summer, and graduation ceremonies are scheduled. Thorn and Sons of Albany recommends giving boys scarf pins, "link buttons," [cuff links], leather belts and "pocket pencils." [Small pencils in a metal holder with storage cap.] For girls, they have "lingerie clasps," hat pins, wrist watches and pearl beads.

Summer brings hot weather and the threat of food contamination. The State Health Department warns that babies are in danger of "derangements of the stomach and intestines," often from bad cow's milk; pasteurized milk is safer. *A "30-years-ago" weather report reprinted in the Enterprise says it reached 108 degrees in Altamont on July 10, 1888. [National Weather Service records list no NYS location breaking 100 in that year.]*

And Thompson's Lake has a riddle on its hands. "Someone evidently needed a pump and ax and a clothesline, as those articles are missing from the Hungerford home."

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

From time to time, our community is faced with controversial decisions that may affect our small town. A case in point is the emergency communication tower that has been proposed by the Albany County Sheriff's Department. We all agree that it is important to improve the emergency communication throughout the county, town and state. However, some residents oppose the proposed tower location because it will ruin the scenic vista while others believe that public safety is more important. I would like to commend both sides of this debate for their thoughtful and respectful comments.



Recently, however, I have heard many concerns from Town residents about the negative reflection on the Town of Berne in print and social media because of a few who have chosen to malign those who have a different view or opinion. This approach concerns me as I know that the people of Berne deserve better and are better than that. I have always said that our residents and our natural resources are Berne's greatest assets. Let's work together to ensure that the Town of Berne's name and our neighbors are treated with the respect and appreciation as are the beautiful natural resources that surround us. Berne is a wonderful place to live and raise a family and I know that you all agree.

Enjoy the summer!

-Kevin Crosier

Household Hazardous Waste Day



Household hazardous waste day was a huge success last year. This year, the Town of Berne will partner with the Town of Knox on August 20th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Knox town highway garage for another event. Please see our Town Clerk, Anita Clayton, for a free permit to participate.

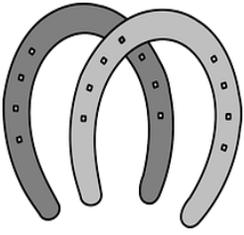
-Kevin Crosier



Signs of Summer

Thank you to Sheriff Craig Apple (above left), Deputy Sheriff Amy Kowalski and Craig Angard (right) for their hard work on these signs which are available for distribution. Any resident who would like to have a sign to put on their lawn or along the side of the road, the signs will be available at the Town Clerk's office.

Horseshoes Anyone?



The Summerfest Planning Committee is seeking individuals interested in participating in horseshoe games at the festival on August 27, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and dark. Challenges will be held throughout the day, dependent on the number of teams participating. Members of each team will be blind chosen, the result of random selection. Each challenge will be a single elimination game, with prizes for the winners. Individuals may participate in more than one challenge. There will be no fee for participation.

Those interested may contact our Town clerk, Anita Clayton at berneny-clerk@gmail.com, or Karen Schimmer at karen.schimmer@gmail.com.

SENIOR NEWS—As you plan your outings, include a trip to the Hilltown Senior Center for a nice lunch with friends. The Helderberg Half Day Program has moved to the Center as well. If you would like to sign up your mom, dad or older neighbor for a Friday of playing games, good conversation and just being around others, call Beth at (518)694-3511.

Senior Services has a social worker available should you have questions about various programs or support that is available for caregivers or older individuals. Please call Anna at (518)435-1794.

Message from the Assessors' Office...

Important STAR Changes: As a result of recent law changes, the STAR program is being restructured. New STAR recipients will receive a check directly from NYS instead of a school property tax exemption. The amount of the benefit will be the same.

If you purchased your home after March 1, 2015, or have resided in the town for several years and have not had a Basic Residential STAR, you are

affected by this legislation. Per NYS law, individuals are only allowed the STAR on their primary residence.

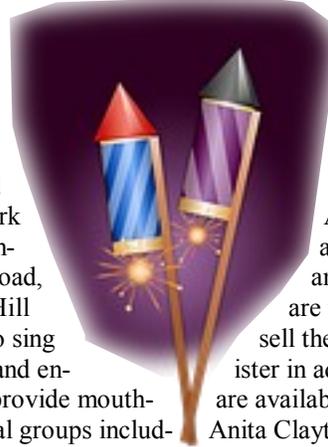
Mark your calendars! This year's Summerfest is scheduled for August 27th, starting at noon and ending with fireworks at dark. It's a great opportunity to gather together with friends and family for a day of relaxation, fun, and celebration. There'll be plenty for all... kids, adults, and everyone in-between!

Once again, music will resound through Town Park all day. The Hilltown Ramblers, Nite Train, Flood Road, Stringdusters, and Shine Hill Road will provide tunes to sing to, dance to, or to just sit and enjoy! Elegant Touch will provide mouth-watering food, as will local groups including the Friends of the Berne library and area churches.

Back by popular demand will be Reptile Adventure and its slithering denizens.

SUMMERFEST 2016

New this year will be Joyce Perry - raptor wildlife rehabilitator and her feathered friends - and caricaturist Phil Singer who'll sketch portraits...free of charge. The ever-popular climbing wall will be back - this year provided by the New York Army National Guard. And of course, fireworks at dusk, with an open jam session immediately following.



A plethora of local vendors and crafters will offer an amazing array of goods. All are welcome to set up a table and sell their wares; one need only register in advance. Registration forms are available through our Town Clerk, Anita Clayton, at berneny-clerk@gmail.com (872.1448 ext. 101). Or stop by Town Hall and pick up a form. We ask that all registration forms be returned by August 8th to insure your spot.

Albany County Legislature Donates \$12k to BKW Little League. *At a recent ceremony, Emma Detlefsen and her mother, Tiffany, were presented with a check for \$12,000 by Albany County Legislators, Chris Smith (left) and Travis Stevens (right). Emma also is an advocate for lymphedema awareness and research and is a resident of Berne.*



affected by this legislation. Per NYS law, individuals are only allowed the STAR on their primary residence.

To be eligible for a STAR check, you must register with the NYS Tax Dept. by calling (518)457-2036 or visiting www.tax.ny.gov.

YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 1ST TO RECEIVE A STAR CHECK THIS FALL

The Senior STAR program has not been affected by this law change and the renewal process will remain

the same. Seniors have the option of enrolling in the Income Verification Program, which if qualified, eliminates the need to submit proof of income to our office each year. To enroll, visit www.tax.ny.gov.

If your mailing address has changed during the year, please let our office know the correct information so that future documents are sent to the correct location. Additionally, if there is a third party that should receive information, please provide our office with that information.

Town of Berne Summer Recreation Program

July 18—22nd, 2016 from 9 a.m.—12 noon daily (rain or shine)

At the Berne Town Park on Route 443 (unless otherwise noted)

Monday: Bike rodeo! Please bring your own bicycle and helmet for this fun day of obstacle courses and music!

Tuesday: Tye-Dye Tuesday! Be sure to indicate shirt size below.

Wednesday: Turtles, and lizards and snakes... OH MY! Educational reptile day.

Thursday: It's a free for all! Games, crafts, legos and face painting.

Friday: Please note special time and drop off. 9:15 parents drop off at Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center—87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville, (518)

872-0800. *Please pack a carry bag for your child with a bagged lunch, water bottle, swim suit, and towel. Swimming at Thompson's Lake immediately following nature center tour.*

*Please have your child arrive promptly at 9 a.m.

*All children must be picked up by 12 noon.

*A light snack will be provided during the day. Please make us aware of any food allergies your child may have.

*Have children wear light-colored, loose clothing and sneakers.

Youth Counselors Needed for Rec Program. Paid positions for those 14 or older with valid working papers and who meet the minimum qualifications. Must work well with children and be available all days of camp. Please call Kathy Wank, Director, @ 281-6880 to arrange an interview. Deadline for interest is June 29th. Preference will be given to Berne residents.

Berne Summer Recreation Program Registration Form

Child's Name _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

_____ address/phone same as student

If no: _____

FREE to all Berne and Knox residents. Out of area charge is \$10/day per child and \$30/day per family. **OUT OF AREA RESIDENTS**—please indicate days attending: _____ Mon. _____ Tues. _____ Wed. _____ Th. _____ Fri.

Out of area residents only- please make checks payable to: Town of Berne and mail to Town of Berne, Attn: Town Clerk (BYC), PO Box 57, Berne, NY 12023
 You may also drop registration and payment directly at Town Hall during normal business hours.

Children's safety will require a strict sign-in/sign-out policy. Please notify personnel if someone other than a parent will be picking up.

Please indicate child's shirt size:

Youth	S	M	L	XL
Adult	S	M	L	XL

Game Farm Road Property Update

Hilltown Events

It has been a year since the purchase of the Game Farm Road property. A lot is being planned, is being worked on and is happening!!! The Board has been very busy finding direction for this beautiful piece of land.

In May, a group from the Hudson-Mohawk Land Conservancy came to the property to observe the "Transit of Mercury" - which is when Mercury crosses in front of the sun. They showed presentations designed to explain the transit. Throughout the day, members took many opportunities to peer through several solar telescopes set up to view the tiny black dot (Mercury) on the face of the sun.

The end of May brought our first "big" event - a wedding. It was a wonderful day and the Lodge looked great. (Thanks to all the volunteers!)

The Helderberg Earth and Science Observatory (HESO) has expressed interest in the possibility of locating an observatory on the property. This group is comprised of astrophysicists, amateur astronomers, educators and professional astronomers. The dark skies so evident here in Berne are unusual and an asset for research and astronomic study, and therefore our community. The group also sees the site as important for other scientific work. They are seeking funding now.

The GFR Board developed and presented a strategic plan to the Town Board. It sets out visions, goals and prioritizes activities to further develop the property.

Thanks to Hannan Paving Co. (Pat Hannan) for paving in front of the Lodge. This makes the entrance to the building much more inviting.

Thanks to a grant from Albany County, we have been able to secure the help of the marketing firm, Overit, whose principals - Michelle Dinsmore and her husband - are from East Berne. They are researching and developing naming and branding the property.

Last summer, Mark Hohengasser and Mark Sangenberger worked on many of the trails to get them in shape. A lot more work needs to be done and help is always appreciated! Fifteen Mohawk Hudson hikers have visited the area and took advantage of all the trail work that has been accomplished over the past year.

Plans have begun to prepare an area to be used for camping - another way to enjoy the beautiful land. The band, "BLACK MOUNTAIN SYMPHONY" (featuring Annie and Charlie Burgess) will be performing a concert to benefit Forever Rural for programming and capital improvements to the Game Farm Road Property. (See additional information below.)

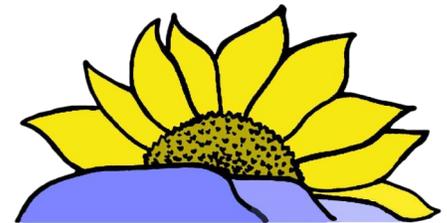
Many exciting activities are being planned and will be held in the near future. Come up and walk some of the trails, see the beautiful waterfalls and enjoy the wonderful property that is ours to preserve.



The **Helderberg Hilltowns Association** will be holding our 6th annual Discover the Hilltowns: Farms and Artisans Tour on September 17 and 18 this year. This is a self-guided driving tour of farms, artisans, small businesses, and recreational areas in all four hilltowns. A map with details and the hours each venue is open, including any special events offered is free, and there is no cost for entering any venue. Some farms, artisans and businesses will have produce or products for sale. More information will be available in August, but you can see the details and map from last year's tour at www.hilltowns.org/farms-and-artisans-tour.html.

Dudley Observatory Star Parties are held one Friday a month at the Octagon Barn, 588 Middle Road in Knox. Each session is a one hour program, rain or shine, followed by outdoor observing if weather permits. Upcoming dates are June 10, July 8 (both at 8pm), September 9, October 7 and November 4 (at 7pm). Call Amy Pokorny at (518) 618-5376 for more information.

The Knox and Berne Historical Societies will be holding their annual Quilt Show at the Knox Town Hall on July 17 from 10am-4pm. Visit www.knoxhistoricalsociety.org or call Sandra Stempel at 872-0431 for more details or to enter a quilt.



HHA meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at the Berne Library at 7pm. See our website at www.Hilltowns.org or contact Dawn Jordan at HHAPublicity@gmail.com or 872-1390 for info.

Get Involved!

Local Band to Perform

Well known local band **Black Mountain Symphony** will present a free concert on June 25 on the concert stage at the Game Farm Road property. The 6:30 p.m. concert will feature local musicians, among them, favorites Charlie and Annie (nee Campo) Burgess. Bring a lawn chair, blanket and join us for a lovely summer evening on one of the most beautiful sites in Albany County! Watch the sun set, see the fireflies come out and relax to the tunes of one great band!

The Friends of the Helderberg Observatory will have telescopes set up after the concert for viewing of Mars! In case of rain, the concert will be held in the lodge.

Berne Public Library—Read All About It

English writer Joseph Addison said, “Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” The goal of the 2016 Summer Reading Program (SRP) is to encourage healthy minds and bodies for all age groups by encouraging reading and participation in library programs from June to September. For up-to-date information, stop by the library, call 872-1246, read the Altamont Enterprise library page, or visit our website www.bernepubliclibrary.org.

SRP kicks off at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 30 at the Hilltown Senior Center, 1360 Helderberg Trail. An acrobatic and juggling act from Scotty Nut Nut Entertainment will perform for the community. Interactive circus play is available for the children after the performance. Try out juggling, balancing, and riding a mini bike.

Children ages 1 to 5 will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays from July 5 to August 9 for Wee Read Storytime. The program, led by Ms. Kathy, includes stories, exercise activities, and a craft.

“On Your Mark, Get Set, Read” is the theme for middle readers, ages 5 to 12. Their programs are at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays from July 7 to August 11. Participate in games from the 50s, cultural games and races out of the ordinary.

Teens will “Get in the Game. Read” for their SRP. On Friday, July 8 they will focus on “Mind and Body Wellness” by making a Zen garden and healthy smoothies. Teens are invited to “Get in the Game” on Friday, August 19 with games and chocolate challenges.

All children are invited to take a bus to a fun park on August 15 for our SRP Finale. Those who meet the summer goal of reading 500 minutes will be able to attend at a much lower cost. Sign up for SRP online or at the library from June 25 to July 23 in order to enter your summer reading minutes.

Adults also have a SRP. This year you are encouraged to “Exercise Your Mind. Read!” An adult challenge sheet is available at the library after June 25. It is your choice what to read from the list that includes books on Olympians, healthy lifestyles, comedians, and sports. The adult program begins on Sunday, July 10 with a discussion on the 1936 Berlin Olympics as described in *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. The program concludes on Sunday, September 11 with a potluck dinner of healthy foods and a discussion of your favorite summer reads. Adult summer programs being planned include yoga, healthy brain food, spa night, Alzheimer’s disease, and orienteering.

Another way for families to keep fit is to investigate the Storywalk at the Knox Town Park. Pages from the book *Feathers: Not Just for Flying* by Melissa Stewart are posted around the park. The Berne Town Park will soon have its own Storywalk. Girl Scout Jordan Latter has taken on this project for her Silver Project.

Thanks go out to Girl Scouts Annielaura Shafer and Christina Grippin. They designed and built a reading area with benches for their Silver Project. Enjoy sitting under the sugar maple tree purchased by Karen Schimmer and Sue Hawkes-Teeter in memory of MaryEllen Hamilton. They are both wonderful additions to the library campus. Stay tuned for information about a dedication this summer.

Music is good for the mind and dancing is great exercise. Attend the **Music in the Park** concerts at the Berne Town Park from 6:30 p.m. to dusk on Wednesdays. Admission is free but you will need money to purchase delicious refreshments provided by the Friends of the Berne Library.

July 13 - Wood Chuck Wood

July 20 – Just a Bunch of Guys

July 27 - Two’s Company

August 3 - Slim Pick’ins

August 10 – Bluestones

Summer concludes with the Town of Berne Summerfest on Saturday, August 27.



LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Monday: 4 to 8 p.m.
 Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Wednesday: 4 to 8 p.m.
 Thursday: 12 to 8 p.m.
 Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friends of the Berne Library

Keep your camera handy all this season to capture some photos! The Friends will again sponsor a Juried Photo Exhibit at the Berne Public Library. Photos must be submitted by the end of January 2017 and will be on exhibit throughout the month of February 2017 in the community room in the library. The categories for the contest are: “Joy of Reading”, “Hilltowners”, “Down on the Farm”, and “Reflections and Shadows”. The photos will be judged on their artistic merit, composition, and relevance to the category.

Please consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Berne Library. Your membership gives you a voice in choosing the programs we support at the library. Individual membership is \$15 and family membership is \$25. Membership envelopes can be picked up at the library or checks can be made out to Friends of the Town of Berne Library and mailed to FOBL, P.O. Box 42, Berne, NY 12023.

*The Friends meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the library community room and we welcome you to join us. Hope to see you at our refreshment booth at the **Music in the Park** events this summer.*



Town of Berne
 PO Box 57
 Berne, NY 12023

Visit our website at
www.berneny.org

TOWN DIRECTORY:

TOWN of BERNE—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	Rick Rapp
PLANNING BOARD CHAIR	Ron Jordan
ZONING BOARD CHAIR	Kathleen Moore
CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR	Brian Crawford
ASSESSOR	
SEWER DISTRICT ISSUES/EMERGENCIES	Kevin Crosier 424-3446
BUILDING & ZONING	Tim Lippert 339-6030
DOG CONTROL OFFICER	Cheryl Baitsholts 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 closed July-Aug
 Evenings by appointment

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Thursday 7-9 PM
Saturday not available July-Aug

TOWN BOARD

2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM

PLANNING BOARD

1st and 2nd Thursdays 7 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