



# **POWDER HOUSE NEWS**

## **BERLIN COUNCIL ON AGING—BERLIN, MASSACHUSETTS 01503**

MARCH/APRIL 2016

978-838-2750

COA@TOWNOFBERLIN.COM

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **MARCH:**

**3/1 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

**3/3 - Senior Citizens, FPC, 10:30am**

**3/4 - Friday Pizza Nite, FPC, 5-7pm**

**3/5 - Contra Dance - 1870 Town Hall - 7:30-10:30pm - \$5 per person**

**3/1 & 3/15 Lions Club Meeting - 19 Carter 7pm**

**3/13 - Daylight Savings Begins**

**3/17 - St. Patrick's Day**

**1/22-1/31 - Flyleaf Theater - 1870 Town Hall**

**3/20 - Palm Sunday**

**3/20 - Spring Begins**

**3/25 - Good Friday**

**3/27 - Easter**

#### **April:**

**4/1 - April Fool's Day**

**4/1 - Friday Pizza Nite, FPC, 5-7pm**

**4/2 - Contra Dance - 1870 Town Hall - 7:30-10:30pm - \$5 per person**

**4/5 & 4/19- Lions Club Meeting, 19 Carter, 7pm**

**4/7 - Senior Citizens, FPC 10:30am**

**4/15 - Tax Day**

**4/30 - Historical Society Meeting - 1870 Town Hall - 7:30pm**

#### **Weekly Activities at 19 Carter**

Open Mon. through Fri., 9am-5pm and Sat. 10am-1pm. All activities are free. We welcome donations to support operations of the building. For weekly emails on programs and activities call us at 978-415-0014 or email [maryredington@charter.net](mailto:maryredington@charter.net).

**Monday** - 2-4pm, Tea Time

**Tuesday** - 12-2pm, Lunch Time Soup—Call for COA bus ride.

**Wednesday** - 9-11am, Community Coffee,  
- 3:30-4:30pm Knitting Group  
- 7-9pm Cribbage & SkipBp

**Thursday** - 2:30-4:30pm - Tea Time

**Friday** - 10am-12pm, Kids Playgroup  
- 12-2pm Lunchtime Soup

**Saturday** - 10am-1pm, Community Coffee  
**Town Offices, Rm 118,**

**Thursday** - Tai Chi, 10:45-11:45am

**Saturday** - Senior Yoga, 9-10:15am  
- Chair Yoga, 10:30-11:30am

**Suggested donation, \$2.00**

### **FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK**

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting or Election. You have until 8pm to register at the Town Clerk's Office or online.

### **DOG LICENSES**

All dog licenses expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Tags are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Town Clerk's Office or stopping by during office hours. Intact males and females are \$11.00. Neutered and spayed dogs are \$7.00. A current rabies certificate must be kept on file. Checks can be made payable to 'Town of Berlin'. Credit cards are accepted through [TownofBerlin.com](http://TownofBerlin.com). All dogs over 6 months must be licensed.

Fines will be imposed after June 1st for unlicensed dogs.

### **RABIES CLINIC MARCH 26**

The Nashoba Boards of Health is sponsoring a Rabies Clinic on MARCH 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10:00am at the Town Barn on Carter Street. The cost of the rabies vaccination is \$15 CASH ONLY.

Eloise Salls will be on hand to issue dog licenses at the Rabies Clinic.

### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Town Department meeting minutes are posted on the, [mytowngovernment.org](http://mytowngovernment.org)

### **COA BUS SCHEDULE**

Call 978-838-2750 and request pickup with time and street address. You will get a call back on the requested day with your pickup time.

If you have a medical appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to accommodate you with one of our volunteer drivers.

**Monday** - Medical appointments with prior scheduling

**Tuesday** Lunchtime Soup @ 19 Carter - Medical Appointments

**Wednesday** YMCA - Wegmans - Christmas Tree Shop

**Thursday** - Senior Luncheon, FPC - 1st Thurs. of the month

**Thursday** - Highland Commons, Market Basket & Medical Appointments

**Friday** Special Events - Medical with prior scheduling

**Saturday** Special Events

### **DRIVERS NEEDED**

The Council on Aging has a need for more drivers for the senior bus. There are some requirements to be met; however, a CDL license is not one of them. If interested, please call 978-838-2750 to leave a message or contact George Pendergast for further information.

### **ACCESSIBILITY ITEMS**

The Council on Aging offers the loan of wheel chairs, walkers, and other accessibility items to any elder or caregivers needing same.

Lori Fearebay at 978-804-8487 has more information and will be able to assist anyone interested in borrowing these items.

**COA Mission Statement** — to enhance the quality of life of seniors in the community by providing services, education and other programs to meet their needs.

**Council on Aging Services and Programs**

**Medical Equipment** - Contact Lori Fearebay @ 978-804-8487 or jfearebay@msn.com

**Berlin Meals Wagon (BMW)**: Meals delivered each Tuesday & Friday Labor Day -June. Call 978-838-2215 for further information.

**SHINE Program (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders)** - a counseling service providing info and assistance for Health Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. Call 800-243-4636, Opt #3 to make an appointment with a SHINE counselor.

**Powder House News** - a bi-monthly newsletter mailed to each senior household in Berlin with information on health, legislative issues, and topics of interest.

**Blood Pressure Screenings**: 1st Thursday of the month, 9:30am Sept - May at First Parish Church; June at Berlin Country Club; July - August at Town Offices, 23 Linden Street. Any questions or concerns call: Tamara Bedard, Town Nurse, 978-772-3335 ext. 340.

**Medical & Shopping Transportation** for appointments. Call 978-838-2750 to schedule a ride.

**Council on Aging Members:**

Chairman - George Pendergast; Secretary - Fran Gill; Treasurer - Joyce LaMotte; Members - Pat Wheeler, Carolyn Cashin, Karen Schultz, and Lori Fearebay.

**Senior Citizens Association Officers:**

President - Barbara Halloran; Vice President - Trudy Tervo; Treasurer - Hazel Miele; Ass't Treasurer - Millie Blenkhorn; Recording Secretary - Denise Davis; Corresponding Secretary - Jeanne Snay.

**Senior Citizens Association Meetings:**

First Parish Church on the 1st Thursday of the month, September through June. Blood pressure screenings by VNA 9:30-10:30 am followed by business meeting and program or entertainment. Lunch (\$5.00) is served at noon. Call 978-838-7381 for more information.

**Newsletter Editor:**

Contact Lucy Roseberry Ayers -

**EVENTS AT 1870 TOWN HALL**

**THE MAID, IN THE COMMON ROOM, WITH THE FIANCE**

Presented by Flyleaf Theater Company

March 18, 19 - 8:00pm

March 20 - 2:00pm

Book by Adam Dalton Blake

Director: Brian Kelly

Previously workshopped as part of Flyleaf's Staged Reading Series! Paul and Annette prepare for the engagement party of one of Paul's exes and, as the guests arrive, we learn about the trials and tribulations of this group of friends. As the winter storm grows heavier and heavier, these seven characters are trapped in a very small New York apartment. Insults are thrown, costumes, donned, and infidelities made. Go to [flyleaftheater.com](http://flyleaftheater.com) to purchase tickets (only \$10 for Berlin residents)

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**MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES**

Performed by David Polansky

Sponsored by the Berlin Public Library

Sunday, April 10, 2:30-3:30pm

Recently The Norman Rockwell Museum commissioned David to develop "Music Through The

**Decades**", a fun-filled hour in which the audience learns how the last hundred-plus years of American and world history have influenced the great American Popular Song Book. Using keyboard, trumpet, and vocals David brings alive the music of George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, Fats Waller, George Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael, and a host of others. These are songs inspired by the gay 90's, the advent of the automobile, World War I, the Roaring 20's, The Great Depression, WWII, Big Band, Atomic Age, Swing Eras, Broadway and the Wild West (Over There, Sweet Georgia Brown, Brother Can You Spare a Dime, Rosie the Riveter and much more). The show very often ends with a standing ovation. David engages the audience, taking questions, performing requests, and telling anecdotes about famous musicians as well as some about his own life as a musician. David's Louis Armstrong impersonation is legendary and never fails to thrill everyone. A career musician, David has played with Sandler and Young, Phyllis Diller, Henny Youngman, Ray Bolger, Arthur Fiedler, The Platters, The Coasters....The list goes on and on. This program is a real winner. Don't miss it.

**WELCOME TO THE INTERIM CHIEF**



Paul J. Zbikowski, Interim Chief

Paul J. Zbikowski came on board on February 1st as Interim Chief of the combined Fire Department & Rescue Squad. He takes over from recently retired Fire Chief Bruce Ricard. He is expected to be with us through the end of the fiscal year while a search for the new chief is conducted.

Paul, who is retired, served in the Ashburnham fire department for 36 years, the last 21 years as Chief.

He keeps himself busy with many activities; Fire Science teacher at Mount Wachusett Community College, consultant for Badge Quest Public Safety, to name a few.

But, he says his very favorite activity of all is spending time with his young granddaughter.



## **MANY HANDS THRIFT SHOPPE**

Announcing the Grand opening for First Parish Church of Berlin's Many Hands Thrift Shoppe on March 19 from 10am-2pm, rain or shine!

Clean, gently worn or new clothes for infants, children, men, and women's clothing will be sold along with accessories; hats, belts, gloves, scarves, jewelry, shoes, and a limited selection of prom dresses. All sales are **cash only!** Donations are tax deductible!

Regular hours, Tuesday 10-2, Thursday 10-2 and 7-9. Open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10-2. Complimentary coffee/tea will be offered.

For more information, contact [thriftshoppe@fpcberlin.org](mailto:thriftshoppe@fpcberlin.org).

## **19 CARTER ST**

...is a New Kind of Community Place with Open Wi-Fi and shelves of books to take or drop off.

There's still time to Buy a Brick to help raise funds for the on-going renovations. Bricks can be purchased at 19 Carter or on the Town of Berlin website. Donations are tax deductible.

Everyone is Irish for St. Patrick's Day, so put on your green, bring a twinkle in your eye and join

the 19 Carter Street Band for a night of blarney and Irish music on **March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** The Knitting Group meets on Wednesdays from

3:30-4:30pm. All levels of knitters are welcome.

SkipBo & Cribbage has been introduced on **Wednesday from 7-9pm.** We all know what Cribbage is, but what is SkipBo you ask? You'll have to come to 19 Carter to see what the fun is all about.



## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Now is the time to start looking through the seed catalogs to plan this year's vegetable garden. The Agricultural Commission is making preparations for the planting season at the Community Garden on River Road. The Garden offers Berlin residents the opportunity to grow their own organic vegetables. The gardens are tilled in the spring and divided into plots - 30 - 20'x20' and 15 - 10'x10', as well as, 2 raised beds, 4'x8', for anyone with a disability.

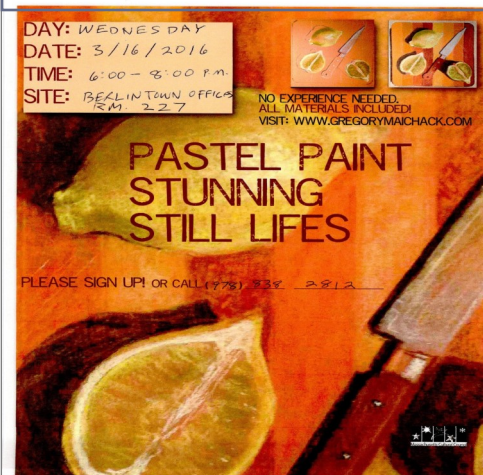
A locked shed serves the purpose of storing garden tools and two 550-gallon tanks provide water for irrigation. Cured and processed organic compost is available on site. In addition, gardeners can bring in organic manure. Wood chips from brush cut and chipped by the DPW can be used for mulch and making garden paths. A canopy and a picnic table on the back side of the shed provide an ideal place to take a break and get out of the hot sun for a little while. There is also a 'handy' house on site.

Applications for the Community Garden were sent out in January with the Annual Census. They are also available at the Town Clerk's office. Applications are being accepted for the plots no later than May 15 and preferably by April 1. Donations start at \$15.00 for the larger and \$10.00 for the smaller plots and also the raised beds. Unless space permits, plots are limited to one per family. Seniors over 65 are eligible for reduced rates for the plots. Berlin students at Tahanto and Assabet and Berlin Food Pantry clients can apply for plots for free.

A Kick-Off Meeting is scheduled for April 12, at 7pm, in the Town Offices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, the last room on the left at the Town Offices. Gardeners from previous years have the 1<sup>st</sup> choice of garden space. Remaining plots will be assigned by lottery. Rules and regulations (posted on the TownofBerlin.com website under the Community tab) will be discussed at the Kick-Off Meeting.

There are still lots of spaces available for anyone who wants to grow their own fresh vegetables. It's a great opportunity for first timers to learn from more experienced gardeners in this community-friendly environment or anyone who simply wants to provide good organic food for their family.

For more information, contact the Berlin Agricultural Commission's Garden Manager, Debra Rolfe, at: [dauby52@gmail.com](mailto:dauby52@gmail.com) or by phone at (978) 838-2628.



Wednesday, March 16, 6-8pm at the Town Offices, Rm 227. No experience required—presented by Gregory Maichack and sponsored by the Public Library and Berlin Cultural Council.

## **Friends Who Have Left Us**

James DiRenzo—12/18/15

Edmund Mollica 1/10/16

Lawrence Bennett—2/4/16

Robert Tervo—2/9/16



## **Phases of the Moon 2016**

Mar 1 - Last Qtr.

Mar 8 - New Moon

Mar 15 - First Qtr.

Mar 23 - Full Worm Moon

Mar 31 - Last Qtr

Apr 7 - New Moon

Apr 15 - First Qtr

Apr 22 - Full Pink Moon

Apr 31 - Last Qtr

**Thank you!**

Special thanks to the  
Clinton Savings Bank for their continued  
support in providing the postage for the  
*Powder House News*

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## *PowderHouse News*

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Berlin, Massachusetts 01503

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### **OPEN SPACE UPDATE BY WALTER BICKFORD**

The Conservation Commission purchased an additional 49 acres of land in 2015.

#### **Total acres protected acres in Berlin**

| Owner and type of protection                      | Acres |
|---|-------|
| Berlin fee-owned                                  | 954.3 |
| Berlin Conservation Restriction                   | 623.0 |
| State (flood control sites and aqueduct)          | 241.5 |
| Hudson (Gates pond, town forest, Crystal Springs) | 316.0 |
| Sudbury Trustees                                  | 81.0  |

Total 2,255.8 = 28% of Berlin

Of the 954.3 acres, Berlin tax payers only spent \$11,000 for 229.3 acres before 1996. The remaining 725 acres protected post 1996 with mitigation monies from Solomon Pond Mall at an average price of \$4,138 per acre. Note that a couple of high ticket parcels like the fifteen acres at the corner of Pleasant and Central Streets cost \$500,000 really inflated the average price paid per acre. Bottom line is that Berlin property tax payers have spent the unbelievable low price of \$11,000 to protect 954.3 acres.

The Conservation Commission has recently committed to protecting a 55 acre farm and 73 acres of woodland (East face of Mt. Pisgah). SVT has committed to protect another 60 acres elsewhere.

At this time Commission's Land Acquisition Fund is depleted. The Commission will be asking the Town Meeting in May to restore the Fund by raising three million dollars. Immediate targets for this funding will be three farms, and additional woodlands that will link together existing protected areas. Such greenway linkages are critical for wildlife movement as well as recreational trail networks. These projects should result in the protection of the most critical open spaces on Berlin.

Two other projects that the CC is planning are: first a handicapped accessible trail from the parking area at Berlin Meadows, down a ramp, and across the meadow to a picnic area in the woods on the far side. Second, we are asking approval of the Town Meeting to develop a rail trail along the old Central Mass Railroad. Both will enable seniors, people with children or mobility problems to enjoy fresh air, beauty and exercise without fear of rough terrain or vehicular traffic.

**THE POWDER HOUSE NEWS IS PARTLY SUPPORTED BY  
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS.**

### **SENIOR CITIZENS OF BERLIN**

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**Thursday, March 3**, Senior Citizen Meeting - 10:30-11am; Entertainment after; Lunch at noon - Evie Dueck, on violin, and friend, on guitar, will entertain with Irish music. Be sure to bring your toe-tapping shoes and wear a 'wee bit o' the green' to keep the leprechauns happy.

**Thursday, April 7**, Senior Citizen Meeting - 10:30-11am; Program after; Lunch at noon - Life Care of Action returns to present a program on health issues followed by a delicious meal prepared by Chef John from Life Care.

#### **SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

Held in Room 118, Town Offices.

**Senior Yoga** - Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:15 Sharon Santello.

**Chair Yoga** - Saturday mornings from 10:30-11:30 with Sharon.

**Tai Chi** - Thursday morning from 10:45-11:45 with Jeff Cote.

*"Life is a journey to be experienced,  
not a problem to be solved"*

- Winnie the Pooh

#### **BERLIN ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Art & Historical Society will present, *The Telephone House* on April 30th at 7:30pm in 1870 Town Hall. Barry Eager will talk the history of its owners and occupants. The program follows a short business meeting.