



# POWDER HOUSE NEWS

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

978-838-2750

COA@TOWNOFBERLIN.COM

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

### **NOVEMBER**

- 11/3 - SENIOR CITIZENS, FPC, THURS., 10:30AM**
- 11/4 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**
- 11/4 - LAST DAY FOR EARLY VOTING IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS**
- 11/5 - FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK AND BAKE SALE - 10AM-1PM**
- 11/5 - FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE FAIR, 8AM-2PM, 24 CENTRAL ST.**
- 11/5 - JOHN GEIS RETIREMENT PARTY BERLIN COUNTRY CLUB - 2-6PM**
- 11/6 - FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE FAIR, 11AM-2PM, 24 CENTRAL ST.**
- 11/6 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**
- 11/8 - NATIONAL ELECTIONS**
- 11/14 - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, 7:30PM IN BERLIN MEMORIAL**
- 11/11 - PIZZA NITE, FPC, FRI, 5-7PM**
- 11/18 - BEER & WINE TASTING, 7-9PM 1870 TOWN HALL**
- 11/26 - ART & FINE CRAFT FAIR, 1870 TOWN HALL, 9AM-4PM**

### **DECEMBER**

- 12/1 - SENIOR CITIZENS, FPC, THURS., 10:30AM**
- 12/3-4 - CHRISTMAS SHOPPE FAIR**  
ST. JOSEPH'S, 9AM-3:30PM, SAT  
ST. JOSEPH'S, 9AM-NOON, SUN
- 12/7 - PEARL HARBOR DAY**
- 12/8 - SENIOR LUNCH SPONSORED BY COA, FPC, 12 NOON**
- 12/9 - PIZZA NITE, FPC, FRI, 5-7PM**
- 12/21 - Winter SOLTICE**
- 12/25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
- Happy Chanukah
- 12/31 - HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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

Open Monday through Friday (9am-5pm) and Saturday (10am-1pm). All activities are free. Donations welcome to support operations of the building. Sign up for emails on programs and activities, at [www.19carter.org](http://www.19carter.org) or call 978-415-0014.

**MONDAY** - TEA TIME, 2-4PM

**TUESDAY** - SOUP AT NOON

**WEDNESDAY** - COFFEE AND KNITTING, 9-11AM,

**THURSDAY** - TEA TIME, 2-4PM

**FRIDAY** - KIDS PLAYGROUP, 9:30AM

## **From the Desk of Chief Galvin**

Some of you may have seen recent news stories about how our State 911 Emergency Notification System (E911) works. If you haven't, here is a brief overview.

When calling 911 from your home phone line the call rings at your local E911 dispatch center. The call taker answers the phone and a computer screen in front of them provides the telephone account holders name and address. A separate screen maps the location of your call to aid the dispatcher and provide more detailed information to first responders.

When calling from a cellular phone things are a bit different. When calling 911 from your cellular phone the call taker is no longer provided with your name and exact address. In 1996 the Federal Communications Commission instituted Phase I of the wireless carrier plan requiring all cellular carriers to provide dispatchers with the cellular number that was calling 911 and the location of the nearest cell tower to the caller. Often callers were unable to provide a specific location for their emergency and it was difficult for first responders to locate callers. Phase II of the program was then rolled out and completed in 2006. Phase II requires that latitude and longitude information be required, providing a location within 50 to 300 meters of the caller. Although this is not perfect it narrows the search area for first responders and significantly improved response times. Recently a call from Mount Pisgah was received by our dispatch center from a mountain biker who had crashed and in-

jured himself. The caller was able to provide a vague description of the area, but not the specific location. The 911 system provided mapping coordinates that were given to first responders and the cyclist was quickly located and transported to the hospital.

The State is now in the process of implementing Next Generation 911 (Nextgen 911). Nextgen 911 will replace the outdated computer equipment in all of the emergency dispatch centers in the Commonwealth. The new system will begin to catch up with technology and utilize some of the smartphones features that people rely on daily. Text message reporting, Skype reporting, sending pictures to responders, and improved GPS tracking are all features of the next generation of our 911 system. The contract for Nextgen 911 in Massachusetts was awarded to General Dynamics. The new system is currently being tested.

In addition to Nextgen 911 one of the major undertakings of E911 is the regionalization of 911 call centers. Massachusetts is one of the few states if not the only state that has 911 call centers in almost every community and on some college campuses. Currently there are 278 call centers in Massachusetts. This is no longer practical or cost effective. The state of New Hampshire has one 911 call center for the entire state and relays information to other dispatch centers. With the push towards regionalization in Massachusetts, we in Berlin have decided to pick the regional center we will go to instead of waiting to be told who to join with. In Janu-

*Cont. on pg. 3*

**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 Members:**

Chairman - George Pendergast; Secretary - Fran Gill; Members - Pat Wheeler, Kate Bliss, Karen Schultz, Lori Fearebay, Bev Baldwin.

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

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

**COA Bus** - Call 978-838-2750 to schedule a ride on the bus.

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

**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.

**Senior Citizens Association Officers:** President - Trudy Tervo; Vice President - Bob McTague; Treasurer - Hazel Miele; Ass't Treasurer - open; Recording Secretary - Helen DiMuzio; Corresponding Secretary - Jeanne Snay; Hospitality - Barbara Halloran

**Senior Citizens Association Meetings:** First Parish Church on the 1st Thursday of the month, September through May. June @ Berlin Country Club. Blood pressure screenings 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 info.

**Blood Pressure Screenings:** 1st Thu. of the month, 9:30am Sept - May at First Parish Church; June at Berlin Country Club; July - Aug. at Town Offices, 23 Linden Street. Call: Tamara Bedard, Town Nurse, 978-772-3335 ext. 340 for any question.

**Newsletter Editor:**

Contact Lucy Roseberry Ayers

AT LUCYAYERS@CHARTER.NET TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE. ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS AT [HTTP://WWW.TOWNOFBERLIN.COM/BOARDS-AND-COMMITTEES/COUNCIL-ON-AGING/](http://www.townofberlin.com/boards-and-committees/council-on-aging/)

**Need a ride?** Call COA to schedule a ride on the bus - 978-838-2750.

**FROM THE DESK OF  
HAROLD NAUGHTON**

July 31<sup>st</sup> marked the end of the formal Legislative Session for both the House of Representatives and the Senate here in Massachusetts. The Legislature has continued to meet in informal sessions to work on and pass noncontroversial bills.

I want to highlight some of our significant achievements over the past year and a half that are of interest to the residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> Worcester District.

We were able to once again pass a budget for Fiscal Year 2017 that presents a balanced plan with no new taxes and builds on the State's commitment to exercise fiscal responsibility. I am very pleased to announce the following successful budgetary items specific to our District:

-\$500,000 in reimbursement for the Water and Sewer Treatment Plant and for land use of the Wachusett Reservoir to the Town of Clinton.

—\$50,000 in reimbursement to the Town of Boylston for hosting the Municipal Police Training Academy.

—\$43,000 for handicap accessibility improvements to the Lancaster Town Beach.

—\$65,000 for the Town of Lancaster to build a playground at Thayer Field Memorial Park.

—Approximately \$200,000 in Prison Mitigation funding to the Town of Lancaster.

--All of the towns in the 12<sup>th</sup> Worcester District experienced significant increases in local aid and education funding, specifically Berlin, Sterling, and Northboro.

In addition, in FY17 the 12<sup>th</sup> Worcester District will receive a total of \$22,234,919 through Chapter 70 local aid and Unrestricted Government Aid.

While our battle against substance abuse continues in our

**SHINE—MEDIGAP INSURANCE**

The SHINE program, administered by the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs in partnership with elder service agencies, social service and community based agencies and Councils on Aging, assists Massachusetts seniors with Medicare, access to accurate, unbiased and up-to-date information about their health care options.

Retiring seniors or anyone already covered but wishing to change their coverage often have questions about Medigap insurance.

Volunteers are trained and certified in many areas of health insurance, including Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D; Medigap insurance, Medicare HMOs, retiree insurance plans, prescription drug programs, Medicaid, Medicare assistance programs, and other programs for people with limited resources. To schedule an appointment call: 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) and press 3 or press 5 if calling from cell phone to contact your local Regional Program Office.

**Naughton Cont.** communities, in the state and our nation, we were able to make positive strides in the Commonwealth. In March the Legislature passed our country's most comprehensive and progressive substance abuse prevention bill that has already seen positive results. The bill limits 1st-time opiate prescriptions to 7 days for adults and all opiate prescriptions for minors to 7 days with some exceptions. This legislation updates current law - requiring all public schools to have a policy regarding substance abuse education. In May, my office partnered with The Item and Clinton Police to host a "Community Substance Abuse Awareness Forum" at Clinton High School. This event was a successful start, as it brought stakeholders together and answered important questions. I believe we must continue our efforts and work together in this matter, as this crisis will continue to affect all of us.

ary of 2017 dispatch operations for the Town will transition to the Nashoba Valley Regional Emergency Communications Center at Devens. All calls will be answered at the regional center and first responders will be dispatched from there. You will still have Berlin Police, Fire and EMS personnel responding to your home in the event of an emergency.

#### **NEW F150 PICK-UP TRUCK**

Other than the 911 system you will see a few changes coming to the Police Department. First you may have noticed the addition of our newest police cruiser a 2016 Ford F150 Pick-up Truck. Pick-up trucks have been used in law enforcement for many years mostly as a special service vehicle. A few years ago, the most popular police vehicle the Ford Crown Victoria, stopped being produced. A few alternatives have been developed, the most popular being the Ford Interceptor SUV, a Ford Explorer produced for law enforcement use. The introduction of the SUV has



generally been positive but limited for some activities. It

was decided that a Pick-up would be a suitable addition to the fleet and provide added utility and use by having an available truck bed. In addition to the added utility is an overall reduced cost. The F150 is in the same price range as the interceptor SUV but will have a higher residual value when its life as a police vehicle is over. As most of you may notice on a daily basis pick-up trucks are everywhere and the demand is high. The value of a decommissioned police pick-up truck is valued at \$2-4K more than

that of the SUV or sedan, lowering the overall cost of ownership.

#### **NEW POLICE PATCH**

You will also notice an updated shoulder patch being worn on our uniforms. The patch will be added to the winter uniform in early November and be a similar version of the current patch.



#### **JOHN GEIS RETIREMENT**

The most significant change in November will be the retirement of Sergeant John Geis. Sgt. Geis has served the citizens of Berlin in many capacities over the years and has been a member of the Police Department for 35 years. It will be extremely difficult to fill his shoes, but we wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement. A retirement party will be held for Sgt. Geis on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> at Berlin Country Club. Stop in anytime between 2PM and 6 PM to wish John well.

#### **Special Town Meeting**

**November 14**, at 7:30pm, in Berlin Memorial School

**November 4** is the last day of open registration to vote at the Town Meeting.

#### **Early voting in National Elections**

**November 1**, 11am to 2pm

**November 2**, 7pm to 9pm

**November 3**, 11am to 2pm

**November 4**, 9am -8pm last day  
Absentee Ballots are available till  
**November 7.**

#### **Friends Who Have Passed**

**Elinor Potvin - Aug. 29**

**Dennis Munyon - Sept. 22**

**Charles Maki - Sept. 28**

**Cheryl Keegan Smith - Oct 4**

**Anna Rondeau - Oct. 17**

**Marie Spinney - Oct 25**

#### **ROCK CARVINGS AT 19 CARTER**

As you walk down the path leading to 19 Carter, it is impossible not to notice the Egyptian profile and bird sculpture gracing the brick path. The carvings were created by Mark Smith using blades, chisels and hammers to release the image he sees in the rock.

Mark carved his first piece, a rhino, in 2012 after enrolling in a stone-carving class at the Contemporary Arts International site in Acton. CIA, owned by his teacher, Yin Peet and her partner, Viktor Lois, is a former granite quarry that provides the 'raw' materials for carving.

In August 2016, Mark was invited to attend the 3-week symposium to carve a piece



for their sculpture collection. Artists from around the world come to learn the art of rock carving. He has created many granite carvings including the Indi-

an in his yard. He carves and his wife Pat decides where to place carvings. Jokingly, he says this arrangement has contributed to his 30+ plus years of wedded bliss.

Mark is a former teacher in the Acton-Boxborough school system who retired after a 38 yr. career. He maintains his involvement with the school as assistant football coach and as a substitute teacher.

#### **Full Beaver Moon - Nov. 14**

An interpretation suggests the name comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter.

#### **Full Long Nights Moon - Dec 15**

During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest.

*Farmers' Almanac*



**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

Council on Aging  
Berlin, Massachusetts 01503

**BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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BERLIN, MA**

### **LIBRARY EXPANSION PLANS**

Below is a little summary of the current status and a link to the conceptual plan.

The Berlin Public Library Building Committee have been conducting a building needs assessment and we have been hoping to address some issues of access and functionality.

The links provide a drawing showing a plan for doing just that. We are planning to apply for a Library Building and Design Grant from the MBLC.

Stay tuned for further developments as we move forward in providing a library environment that is safe and accommodating for everyone.

See the plans at the following links:

Conceptual Floor Plan Scheme

(Page 1) link— <http://www.townofberlin.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ConceptPlanD-1.jpg>

Conceptual Floor Plan Scheme

D (Page 2) link —<http://www.townofberlin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ConceptPlanpg2.jpg>

To Volunteer at Tower Hill, contact Suzanne Hauerstein @ 508-869-6111 x175

### **TOWER HILL EVENTS**

One event you may want to attend is the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Standard Flower Show. The theme is Wonders of New England, and the show will take place November 4, 5, and 6 10am-5pm Fri. and Sat. and 10am-4pm Sun. The Stickwork exhibit by Patrick Dougherty, unique structures made of branches & twigs, will on display until it 'disintegrates'.

The next major event will be Winter Reimagined, starting the day after Thanksgiving and running through Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. Information about Winter Reimagined is available here: <http://www.towerhillbg.org/winter-reimagined/>

### **FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE FAIR SHOPPE**

24 Central St. Berlin, MA  
Nov. 5th 8am-2pm, Sat.  
Nov. 6th 11am-4pm, Sun.  
Breakfast (Sat. only) 8-10am  
Food Court(Sat.-Sun.) 11am-2pm

The Shoppe will have Attic treasures, baked goods, cheese, jams & jellies, handmade bears, handmade mittens hats & sweaters, handcrafted items, jewelry, aprons, etc.

Orders can be taken for items by SERRV in time for Christmas gifts. The big Yard Sale will be outdoors under the tent.

### **BERLIN SENIORS**

**November 3rd**, Seniors will meet in the First Parish Church. Blood pressure screenings 9:30-10:30am will be followed by business meeting and program. Chief Galvin will talk about scams that often target seniors and how to avoid them. Lunch (\$5.00) is served at noon by Lowe's.

**December 1st**, the Seniors will be entertained by students from Berlin Memorial followed by lunch. All seniors are invited to join. Dues are \$10/year; and \$5 for those over 90.

**December 8th**, Senior Lunch at First Parish, 12 noon, sponsored by COA.

**WINE AND BEER TASTING:** fundraiser is Friday, Nov. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the 1870 Town Hall, sponsored by The Wine Cellar at B.J.'s. The fundraiser benefits The Berlin Family Food Pantry. Contact Fran Gill at [fmgill@verizon.net](mailto:fmgill@verizon.net) for information.

### **ARTS AND FINE CRAFT SALE:**

is Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the 1870 Town Hall. The Arts and Fine Craft sale includes food, raffles and unique gifts. For more information, contact Pat Smith at [psmith10@charter.net](mailto:psmith10@charter.net).

### **Weekly Senior Activities**

Tai Chi and Yoga Classes are held every week in Room 118 of the Town Offices. All are always welcome.

**Tai Chi** - , Thursday 10:45-11:45am with Jeff Cote

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

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