



Powder House News

Nov/Dec 2023

COA Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of seniors in the community by providing services, which include nutrition, health screening, education, and other programs to meet their needs.

COA Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., November 28 and December 26.

Office Location

The Council on Aging office is located at the Town Offices, 23 Linden St., bottom floor, Room 118.

COA Members

Bob Blair, Co-Chair
Pat Wheeler, Co-Chair
Kate Bliss
Rachel Boyer
Lori Fearebay
Karen Schultz

Phone

978-838-2750

Medical Equipment

The COA has a supply of medical equipment available. We accept donations of thoroughly clean equipment in good condition. Please consider donating your clean, used equipment so we can pass it on to someone in need. Contact Victoria Flynn at coadirector@townofberlin.com, or the COA phone 978-838-2750.

Transportation Services

Transportation is available Monday through Friday. Rider information forms are available on the Berlin town website under Boards & Committees / Council on Aging / Bus Services. Call 978-838-2750 for assistance.

From COA/Social Services Director Victoria Flynn-Sankaran

Fuel Assistance and Mass Save

This year, with additional heating costs expected this winter, people may be eligible for some energy assistance. In Berlin, the agency that we work with is Making Opportunity Count (MOC) in Fitchburg. To qualify, a household of one needs to make less than \$45,392 annually or \$59,359 for a household of two. If you have not applied previously, you will need to have the following documentation to show proof of residence: list of all household residents, identification proof for all household residents, copy of lease/mortgage, copy of all energy/utility bills, and proof of income.

Those who were approved last year, the recertification process is ongoing now. For new applicants, residents can start applying in November. You can try to apply online and upload documents but you may need to go in person. If you are deemed eligible, you will be notified and funds will be dispersed to your utility companies. To apply for fuel assistance, you can contact MOC at 978-342-4520 or register online at <https://toapply.org/INTFITCH>. If you have any questions, please call us at the COA at 978-838-2750.

SHINE Webinar

In September, we were lucky enough to have Lisa Farnham from Blue Cross Blue Shield join us to give our residents a Medicare rundown. For those of you who were not able to catch it, here is what we reviewed. Plans are decided at the individual level.

Types of Medicare: Original Medicare (Parts A and B), Prescription Coverage (Part D) and Medicare Advantage (Part C—this incorporates Medicare Parts A, B, D into one plan)

Enrollment Periods: Initial Enrollment Period (3 months either side of your 65th birthday), Open Enrollment Period (October 15- December 7th) and Special Enrollment Periods (these vary on individuals)

Additional Information for Residents: Medigap plans (additional coverage besides Medicare A, B, D to help pay for copays/deductibles) Massachusetts Public Benefits (MassHealth coverage, Prescription Advantage, SNAP benefits, Fuel Assistance)

SHINE Counseling through Open Enrollment

As mentioned in the previous edition, the SHINE open enrollment period is October 15-December 7th. This allows Medicare enrollees to change their plans for calendar year 2024. Plan changes include Medigap plans, prescription plans or Medicare Advantage plans.

If you or another Berlin resident are interested in SHINE counseling, please reach out to Victoria at the COA (978-838-2750 or coadirector@townofberlin.com).

Fire Safety Checks

The Berlin Fire Department is offering a free home safety check to residents, particularly seniors who may be in need of updated smoke detectors/carbon monoxide detectors before winter. If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to the Fire Department at 978-838-2444.

A Note to Berlin Veterans

Would you be interested in gathering, once a month or so, to chat with other local vets about your in-service experiences, the current state of our service branches, your sense of our country's present politics, your interest in putting your military experiences to use in volunteer work to help others, your interest in exploring your eligibility for veterans' benefits, your feelings about the value of the service you performed and other matters.

There is no political agenda, commitment to regular attendance, dues or formality involved. Relaxed conversation and the discovery, perhaps, of others in town who have had experiences similar to yours and would enjoy comparing impressions of the experience.

A possible meeting place would be downstairs at Nineteen Carter and on a Wednesday evening or a weekend day. Nothing is set in stone at this point and your input would be most welcome.

Share your thoughts on this idea and we'll see what we can set up. Call Bob Blair at (978) 838-2985. Thanks.

MassHealth Ongoing Recertification

As we mentioned in the last issue, MassHealth has started undergoing recertification of benefits. During the COVID-19 emergency, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts automatically continued coverage for those on MassHealth. Since the emergency status of COVID has lifted, MassHealth is now undertaking the task of reviewing its 2,000,000 applicants. We are asking you to please be on the lookout for any blue envelopes coming to you, this is a main way that seniors will be recertifying their eligibility. If you have had any change of address or contact information during COVID, please call update your records with MassHealth. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Victoria at coadirector@townofberlin.com or 978-838-2750.

Caregiver Support Groups

The Nashoba Associated Board of Health (NABOH) is offering caregiver support group training to Berliners and their families.

As of now, the first class is scheduled for November 30th at 12:15 p.m. at the Berlin Town Offices. The plan is to have these classes monthly.

Stay tuned for additional information, if you have any questions you can reach out to the COA at 978-838-2750.

Coats

The Berlin Police Department was donated 3 brand new winter coats. If you or someone you know is in need of a new coat and cannot afford one, please reach out to us at the COA at 978-838-2750.

The coats are sizes L, XL and 3XL.

Senior Digital Literacy Classes

In the last edition, we mentioned that the Town of Berlin has gotten a Massachusetts grant to increase digital literacy in our seniors.

We are working to get classes and one-on-ones scheduled for Berlin residents. The goal is to start classes in January 2024.

Classes will vary in location between the Berlin Town Offices, Berlin Public Library and Northbrook Common Rooms. We are capping classes at 20 participants each. Residents are allowed to bring in a caregiver or a family member.

When classes are scheduled, we will be opening up registration. We are asking residents to sign up for a class first before a 1-on-1 session will be allowed. There is no cost for classes, donations to the COA are always accepted.

SAIL Classes

During the summer, we started offering SAIL classes in lieu of our senior yoga as a trial. For those of you who are unaware, we wanted to fill you in on SAIL and its benefits.

SAIL stands for Stay Active and Independent for Life. These classes are intended to help seniors maintain their balance and strength. When SAIL exercises are done several times a week, the goal is that it helps seniors prevent falls. SAIL classes are structured into warmups, aerobics, balancing and strengthening and finally stretching into the hour session.

Please check out sailfitness.org for some additional information. SAIL classes will continue on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. in person (Berlin Town Offices Room 118) and virtually.

The Five W's: Berlin's who, what, when, where, and why

The Take It or Leave It Shed at the Berlin Transfer Station — story by Dennis Fearebay

It started as simple as residents placing reusable items on the street side of the Town's landfill. When the transfer station was placed on that site, a small shed to keep items dry replaced the table previously used to keep the items off the ground, but still exposed to the weather.

The shed allowed for many more items to be recycled and quickly grew in popularity (and use.) Unfortunately because of cramped space and no vetting of items, it required frequent cleaning and item disposal by the Transfer Station and Highway department staff. A few years back our current building was donated to the town by a generous developer. Lacking just the foundation, one was built using large cement blocks donated to the town (to avoid wasting and disposing left over cement).

The Take It or Leave It (the "TOLI") is also known locally as the "Put and Take", "The Jones Road Mall," and "The Shed." The TOLI is staffed by 8 to 10 volunteers (town residents) who vet items, organize and clean, and monitor and enforce the rules.

The rules of the TOLI were developed as a result of researching over 30 town-run recycling centers at their transfer stations and from multiple states. The successful ones had many great ideas (that solved problems) that we incorporated in our rules. We also learned as much from the handful of recycle centers that failed. Most community failures had negative media coverage and angry residents, something our rules effectively avoid. Our rules are listed at the end of this article.

We also have great news regarding the opening of our new Furniture containers, located across the driveway from the TOLI. We are working with Fresh Start of Hudson, a non-profit that accepts donated furniture, kitchen utensils, pots, pans, etc. needed by low-income families to live in their new apartments. More information about the Furniture Barn and Fresh Start affiliation will be posted on the Board of Health web site or on handouts that will be available at the TOLI. Working with Fresh Start will allow us to recycle larger items that previously could not be accepted or were fee items we hated to see thrown away.

The Take It or Leave It is open from April to New Years, weather permitting. We have many seasonal displays



including the large Holiday Display that runs from after Thanksgiving thru New Years.

The shed is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parking for all visitors is on the grass across the driveway from the shed. If you have multiple or heavy/large items to drop off you can park close to the orange cones on the left side of the driveway by our entrance. Staff will be glad to help you unload your vehicle if requested.

Please let staff know if you want any containers or boxes/bags returned to you.

The following are rules for the Take It or Leave It and Fresh Start and have been approved by the Board of Health.

Take It or Leave It Rules:

- **Berlin Residents only.** Guests from other towns are not allowed to visit the TOLI.
- Resident must have a current transfer station sticker on their vehicle.
- Fee items are not accepted. See the Transfer Station Manager or TOLI staff for exceptions.
- There is a 10-minute visit limit that can be enforced by the TOLI staff when required.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at the TOLI at all times.
- You can take a limit of 5 items PER CAR per day.
- Only one visit per day to the TOLI.
- All donated items must be cleared by TOLI staff and left at the check in table.
- TOLI staff are also residents and are allowed to take any items subject to the same rules.

No limit items include books, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, glasses, clothing, fabric. Sets count as one item.

Our goal is to keep recyclable items out of the land fill.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

For a complete listing of the meeting times and places of all Berlin town boards, commissions and committees, go to the "mytowngovernment.org" and click on "berlin, ma"

COA

Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. Tai Chi with Jeff Cote in COA room 118. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81287909508> Meeting ID: 812 8790 9508

Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. Senior Yoga, 10-11 a.m. SAIL yoga COA Room 118. Zoom Meeting Web Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89963068074> Meeting ID: 899 6306 8074)

BERLIN CHURCHES

First Parish Church

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Meetinghouse and Zoom

Family programming: First and third Sundays

Friendship Village Fair: 11/18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Meetinghouse.

Pizza Night: Second Friday each month 5-7 p.m. Meetinghouse.

Blue Holiday Vespers: Details TBA

Winter Solstice Walk: Details TBA

No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant: 12/17 at 10 a.m. Multigenerational Worship Service. Meetinghouse & Zoom.

Christmas Eve: 12/24 at 5:30 p.m. Meetinghouse.

St. Joseph The Good Provider Catholic Church

Daily mass: Mon.- Fri. at 7:30 a.m.

Weekend masses: Sat., 4 p.m.; Sun., 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Christmas Shoppe Fair: Sat., 12/2 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 12/3 from 9 a.m.-Noon. Children's book signing "Twas the Day Before Christmas in Bethlehem Town" by Leslie Diggings.

XIX CARTER

Open: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Closed: September 2-4 and October 9

MON: TeaTime 1-3 p.m.

TUES: Soup 12-1 p.m. Occasionally **History Matters**

WEDS: Community Coffee 9 a.m.- Noon
2nd & 4th Wed. of the month **Old Time Music Jam** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Irish Session 7-9:30 p.m.

THURS: Afternoon Games 1:30-3:30 p.m.
1st Thurs. of the month **Intermittent Fasting Support Group** 3-4 p.m.

FRI: Coffee Hour 9 a.m.- Noon **Open Studio** 9 a.m.- Noon
Fiber Arts 2-4 p.m.

SAT: Scones 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
1st Saturday of the month - **Veg Group** 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING: November 23-24

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS: December 25

Open Mic: Fri. Nov 10, & Fri. Dec 8, 7-9 p.m.
All types of music and all ages are celebrated at our supportive, welcoming, and inclusive open mic. Sign up in advance with Host Lori Diamond at LoriDiamondMusic@gmail.com. She and

co-host, Fred Abatelli, will support you with a professional sound, and authentic encouragement. Piano available. BYOB. Suggested donation of \$5.

Sound Healing Experience: Thurs. Nov 16, 7-8 p.m.

Relax, revive, and renew as you prepare your mind, body, and spirit for the holiday season. Join Reiki Master and Certified Sound Healer Gina Cranford for this Reiki-infused Sound Healing event. As you lay or sit comfortably, you begin your journey with relaxing breathwork. Reiki (universal life force) energy will flow through you and around you during the entire session. Following a brief meditation, Gina will play tones on crystal singing bowls to open and balance the chakras (energy centers). Tickets at 19Carter.org/tickets: \$25

Office Hours with the Senator Robyn Kennedy Team:

Mon. Nov 13, & Mon. Dec 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Participate in monthly office hours with the Senator Robyn Kennedy Team — a fantastic opportunity for the community to engage with their state legislators. For more information, email the Senator's office at: kayannajames18@gmail.com

Book Club: Tues. Nov 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

This month's theme is Women's History Nonfiction. We welcome anyone to join us for the discussion. Please contact Ann Ribbens with any questions at annri1951@yahoo.com.

Fostering & Adoption Info Sessions: Weds. Nov 8 &

Weds. Dec 12, 10 a.m.-Noon

Become a foster parent and make a difference in someone's life! Stop by our information session at 19 Carter to learn more about being a foster parent.

If you've ever thought about opening your home to a child in need, this is the perfect opportunity to talk with staff from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to learn what it takes to become a foster parent. Foster parents are vital to our efforts to provide a supportive, healing environment for children who have been abused, neglected, or removed from their homes due to unsafe or dangerous conditions. For further information please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/foster-care> or call: 1-800-KIDS-508.

Jazz Jam: Sun. Nov 19, & Sun. Dec 3, 6-8 p.m.

Join Ken Parrish and the house band for an evening of Jazz. All instruments and musicians are welcome. Vocalists, please bring your charts. For questions, please email Ken Parrish at ken@parrishworks.net. Suggested donation of \$5.

Christmas Concert: Sat. Dec 16, 7-9 p.m.

Join us for a warm and festive evening of Christmas tunes, featuring songs from jazz to country, from gospel to Americana, and a little classical too! Singers and musicians from the area will gather to perform some of the most memorable songs of the season, and a few obscure gems as well, with piano, guitar, violin, clarinet and concertina and three fabulous vocalists singing in three-part harmony

Inclusion Coffeehouse: Sun. Dec 17, 4-5:30 p.m.

Lori Diamond and Fred Abatelli will host this magical, memorable musical event featuring talents of some extraordinary young musicians/artists. This coffeehouse is a joyous event of INCLUSION where we will celebrate everyone's unique gifts! Songwriters, singers, dancers, poets and comedians will all be sharing the stage, kinship and camaraderie. Special appearance by Anelise and her Family Band! <https://www.ldfamusic.com/anelise-music>

Tickets at 19Carter.org/tickets: \$5

Goodbyes and Hellos

Since our last issue, Mary Arata is no longer our Selectmen/Town Administrator Assistant. Mary served the town for 10 years. Mary's last day with the Town of Berlin was on October 6.

Brien Devaney and Steven Price are no longer serving the

Town of Berlin as Assistant Tax Collector and Assistant Treasurer. Their roles were combined and we have a new Assistant Tax Collector/Treasurer, Cathy Green.

We will miss Mary, Steven and Brien and wish them all the best.

Meet Dee Green, Berlin's Newly-Appointed Administrative Assistant



The Town Administrator and Select Board offices recently welcomed Dee Green as their new Administrative Assistant. Dee comes to Berlin with experience in several municipal offices, most recently as the Executive Assistant to the Oxford Board of Selectmen. Dee is enthusiastic about her new role and "looks forward to meeting co-workers, residents and applying her skills and exemplary customer service to the Town of Berlin". On a personal note, Dee resides in Shrewsbury with her husband of forty-four years. They have two adult children and four grandchildren. Dee enjoys family time, her golden retriever, gardening, reading, traveling, interior design and crafting.

Meet Cathy Murphy, Berlin's Newly-Appointed Assistant Treasurer/Collector



My name is Cathy Murphy. I am the new Assistant Treasurer/Collector. I am very excited to be working in this position. I previously worked in Stow and in Maynard before arriving here at Berlin.

I grew up in a small town so Berlin feels like home to me. I enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, gardening and camping. I like to crochet and create craft projects. My favorite time is spent with my family.

I look forward to serving the Berlin community. Please come by the Treasurer/Collector's office and say hello.

St. Joseph's Annual CHRISTMAS SHOPPE FAIR



Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Sunday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to Noon

Visit our Christmas Café, opening early this year with some delightful breakfast fare and a selection of teas and coffee. For lunch we'll be offering homemade hearty fare, including; chowders, stews, chili and cabbage soup along with sandwiches, hot & cold beverages and an assortment of delightful desserts.

After you've eaten, visit our wonderful cookie and bake shop, shop our fine selection of gift baskets, Christmas crafts, raffles, mugs of greens, and our wonderful Christmas Past room. Join us for this wonderful tradition held the first weekend in December!

This year we will be welcoming author Leslie Diggings, who will be signing copies of her recently published children's book, "Twas the Day Before Christmas in Bethlehem Town", which tells the story in rhyme about a cranky shepherd boy annoyed by the crowds in Bethlehem and his journey from irritation to utter joy kneeling beside a humble manger. Be sure to stop by for your copy of this enchanting story which is sure to become a treasured tradition with your family.

Christmas Café * Gift Baskets * Raffles * Cookies * Baked Goods * Crafts * Christmas Past

52 West Street/Route 62, Berlin, MA

SOUP RECIPES TO WARM YOUR SOUL

Here are some soup recipes to warm up your day from the 2012 Berlin BiCentennial Cookbook. If you'd like to share favorites of your own, send them to the COA office at 23 Linden Street, Berlin, or to Bob Blair at 28 Summer Road.

ELLEN SWINCONECK'S BUTTERNUT BISQUE

2 cups cooked, cubed butternut squash
2 cups canned chicken broth
1 Tbsp. pale dry sherry
Pinch white pepper
1/2 cup light cream
Chopped chives for garnish

In a blender, puree the cooked butternut squash with 1 cup of the chicken broth. Pour the mixture into a saucepan along with the rest of the broth, the dry sherry and white pepper. Simmer over low heat for 10 minutes.

Add the light cream and stir. Remove from the heat. Serve in individual soup bowls garnished with chopped chives. Serves 6 to 8.

LORRAINE CEDAR'S FRANTIC FRENCH ONION SOUP

2 cans (14 ½ oz. each) beef broth
1 can chicken broth
¼ cup dry sherry
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ tsp. minced garlic
¼ tsp. dried thyme
2 cups caramelized onions with juice (recipe follows)
4 deli slices (4 oz.) Swiss cheese
2 cups butter-flavored or plain croutons or you can use toasted slices of French bread
4 tsps. Parmesan cheese or more to taste

Remove visible fat from beef broth. Pour into a 4-½ qt. Dutch oven over high heat. Add chicken broth, sherry, Worcestershire, garlic and thyme. Stir well.

Cover pot and bring to a boil. When broth boils, add caramelized onions (recipe below) and cover. Reduce heat and boil one minute.

Divide into 4 ovenproof bowls and add croutons. Put a slice of cheese over croutons with a tsp. of Parmesan cheese. Place under broiler until cheese melts. Serve at once. Bowls will be hot.

Caramelized Onions

6 large onions
2 Tbsp. olive oil

Peel the onions and cut them into 1/4 inch slices. Place them in slow cooker and drizzle the olive oil over the slices. Place lid on cooker, turn to High. Cook 8 to 10 hours. They will have a deep brown color. Makes about 4 cups.

MARJ LAMY'S TORTELLINI SOUP

1 lb. sweet sausage
1 cup onion, chopped
3 cans beef broth
2 cans chicken broth
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup red wine
2 cups crushed tomatoes
1 cup sliced carrot
1/2 cup sliced zucchini (I use the whole zucchini sliced)
1 green pepper, cut
1 tsp. basil
1/2 tsp. oregano
8 oz. can tomato sauce
Parmesan cheese to sprinkle on top
1 bag tortellini (cook separately and add just before serving)
3 Tbsps. parsley

Remove sausage from casings and brown.

Put everything in a large pot. Bring to a boil, turn to simmer and cook for one hour.

Berlin Transfer Station— Fresh Start Collaboration

You can donate your gently used furniture, kitchen essentials and linens to help those in need. Most needed items are: dressers/night stands, loveseats and couches, recliners, small kitchen tables and chairs, kitchen items, bed and bathroom linens.

There are two furniture containers at the Take It or Leave It. The furniture is available to all Berlin residents. Fresh

Starts stops by once a month and gathers furniture and kitchen items to recycle to the needy in the community.

If you have at least two large gently used items and are unable to transport them to the Transfer Station, you can call Fresh Start directly at 508-485-2080 to schedule a pickup or visit their website at FreshStartFurnitureBank.org. There are so many people in need.



Berlin History Makers: Jack and Sally Bergen

Jack and Sally Bergen contributed to their adopted home town of Berlin in so many ways and for so many years that it is easy to forget that they were from “somewhere else”. They arrived in Berlin in 1948 via a circuitous route. They met in the Army while they were both lab technicians assigned to the Army hospital at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. They married in 1947, and were living in Burlington, Vermont in 1948 when Jack finished his Masters degree and received an offer from the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury to be a research assistant and to simultaneously enroll in the PhD program at Tufts. They jumped at the chance, but knew nothing about central Massachusetts. They did know that they wanted to set down roots, so they drew a circle on the map with Shrewsbury as the epicenter and started to explore the surrounding towns by visiting various churches. Berlin felt right to them, so they bought a house on the east end of town and jumped in with both feet. Jack and Sally joined the First Parish Church, Jack joined the Legion and Sally went to work in the research lab at Worcester State Hospital. They quickly got pulled into town life: they joined the local theatrical group, served on various church committees and Jack got assigned to the committee to explore building what was to become the “original” Berlin Memorial School.

In 1953, Jack having completed his PhD and no kids on the horizon, Jack and Sally decided to build their dream home. With architect in tow, they settled on an abandoned bungalow on Sawyer Hill that Charles Cotting was looking to unload. The 16-bedroom bungalow was originally built to serve as the summer home for orphaned blind and crippled children from Boston, but had not been used for many years. Sally was unenthusiastic about the mice, snakes and taxidermied owl that claimed residence, but the architect loved the fieldstone fireplace and stone pillars of the old bungalow. The architect designed a “modern” house with lots of glass and redwood beams to be built around the existing fieldstone fireplace and stonework, and Jack and Sally proceeded to carefully deconstruct the bungalow. They moved into their new home in 1956 with a 1-year-old daughter and Sally 7 months pregnant. Sixty years later, my sister Joni and I took Sally to Taliesin West in Scottsdale, AZ and recognized many elements of the Frank Lloyd Wright residence repeated in my parents’ home.

Jack became a world-renowned scientist in his work to discover the chemical changes that occur in the brains of the mentally ill and was in high demand to give lectures on his work. One of his more memorable trips was an invitation by the Soviet government to attend a symposium in Moscow in 1967. He had to seek clearance from the State Department to be allowed to visit the USSR and was briefed on what to expect. Fortunately, the trip was uneventful and he had a wonderful time.

With Jack traveling extensively for work, Sally went back to work as a lab technician in 1959 when her 3 daughters were old enough to attend nursery school. She became very active in the



Girl Scouts, serving as both a Brownie troop leader and a Cadet troop leader for many years — long after her own daughters had left for college. Sally felt strongly that the Girl Scouts offered young girls the opportunity to become strong and independent. She took several Cadet troops down to Washington D.C. over Spring Break, along with innumerable camping and ski trips.

In 1970, Berlin needed a replacement town treasurer mid-term. Sally was selected to fill the term. Her family had owned a bank in Indiana so she had been introduced to

accounting and bookkeeping as a young girl and she was willing to try. She served as the town Treasurer for 19 years. At that time, everything was recorded in heavy paper ledgers, and there was no town accountant. She handled everything by herself. She had an office on the second floor of the old town hall (formerly a closet at the back of the ballroom), and many days she would take one of her collies with her to work, as she would often be in the Town Hall by herself.

In their “retirement”, Jack and Sally doubled down on their volunteerism — serving in several town positions — Jack as an Assessor, Sally as a member of the Cemetery Commission, Historical Commission and Council on Aging, delivering Meals on Wheels, helping to prepare and serve meals for the monthly Senior Citizens meetings and holding many church committee roles.

Upon the death of Charles Cotting, Jack and Sally bought the field in front of their house and turned it into their own little farm — growing raspberries, strawberries and vegetables that they sold self-service at the little farm stand they placed at the end of the driveway. Jack also became a beekeeper and planted his own small fruit grove. But every Thursday to Monday between May 1 and Oct 12, they would spend in Mattapoisett where they had built their beach house. Sally grew up in Indiana and Jack in central upstate New York, but they discovered they both loved the ocean. Two of their Berlin friends had summer homes on the coast. In 1961 while visiting one of Jack’s Legion buddies in Falmouth they decided they wanted a place of their own, and proceeded to search out available beachfront lots. Sally became a devout believer in the healing properties of saltwater, and would send husband and daughters (and later grandchildren) to soak whatever ailed them (physical and emotional) with a good swim in the saltwater. She continued to swim in her beloved saltwater up until 3 months before she died at age 97. Jack taught himself to sail. They spent their 25th wedding anniversary sailing a newly purchased sailboat from Marblehead down to Mattapoisett. Many years later, they’d still laugh about their adventure sailing down the coast and through the Cape Cod canal.

Jack and Sally were married for 64 years when Jack died in 2012. Sally remained in her house on the hill until her death in 2021, continuing her gardening and volunteer work well into her 90’s, never losing her sense of adventure.



Powder House News

TOWN OF BERLIN, COUNCIL ON AGING, 23 LINDEN ST., BERLIN, MA 01503

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Tax Abatements/Exemptions

If you think that you may qualify for any kind of tax abatement, please come to the Assessor's Office or call them at 978-838-2256. If you have any concerns about paying your taxes, please reach out as well. We want to make sure that all seniors have all the information possible. Abatements need to be filed before the next tax bill is due for you to be considered.

Gone But Not Forgotten

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Alan Peterson | August 4 |
| Donald Coletti | August 23 |
| Fred Halfpenny | September 19 |
| William Davis | September 23 |
| Conrad Rainville | October 4 |
| Natalie Lombardy | October 12 |

Sand buckets

Two years ago, the COA was able to secure Lowes buckets and we were able to fill them with sand (thanks to the Highway Department) to distribute to various residents. If you participated previously and need a refill or are interested in getting your own bucket, please reach out to us at 978-838-2750 or at coadirector@townofberlin.com. Deadline for this is the end of December.

Hospital Bed — A local resident has a hospital bed available. Call Lori Fearebay at 978-804-8487 if you are interested. She will put you in contact with the donor.

Free COVID tests

COVID tests are available at the town offices. The COA also has COVID tests if you are in need.
Call 978-838-2750 for some free COVID tests.

The Powder House News

If you would like a digital copy of the Powder House News, please call us at 978-838-2750.

Thank you, Thank you! The Berlin Council on Aging would like to thank its gracious sponsors for helping to keep the Powder House News going: **Kristine Romano, Esq, LLM, PC; Clinton Savings Bank; Golden Skep Farm; Holiday Farm; The Berlin Seniors; Berlin General Store; and Chef Du Jour.**

If you or anyone you know would like to sponsor the Powder House News, please reach out to us at 978-838-2750.