

Berlin Community News

Volume 26, Issue 1
Fall, 2014

Mayor & Council of Berlin, MD

Autumn Events

September

September - Worcester County Arts Council Exhibit

The art of David Simpson, painter and adjunct professor at UMES, will be on display through September 30th.

September 18-20 - Paint Berlin

5th Annual Plein Air Competition. Artists will paint any or all days during the event with opportunities to network, exhibit and sell their artwork as well as compete for attractive cash prizes.

Visitors are invited to come and watch the artists paint outdoors during this event and to attend the "Wet Paint" sale and exhibit to be held on Saturday, September 20 from 1- 4 PM at the Arts Council. In addition, visitors will have an opportunity to vote for the "People's Choice" award. Paintings from the exhibit will be available for sale and remain on display until October 31. Visit the Arts Council website at www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org for more information.

September 19-21—Fiddlers Convention

Downtown Berlin

Friday, September 19,

7 PM—10 PM

7-8: The Wood Pickers (2013 Winner) kick off the event

8-10: Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen

Saturday, September 20,

10 AM—5 PM

10 AM: Registration

10 AM—11 AM: The Wood Pickers

11 AM—Noon: Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen

Noon-5 PM: Music Competition

5 PM: Awards

(Continued on page 2)

Mayor's Column



We often tell folks who haven't visited Berlin before, "Please come, we think you will experience an unexpected pleasure." Well, the year 2014 has provided the entire town with the unexpected pleasure and pride of being voted the "Coolest Small Town in America." The title seems to fit just right for Berlin's unique blend of heritage, culture, entertainment, activities and lots of great places to eat. I have found hardly anyone who doesn't think Berlin, Maryland is a cool place, so what's next?

All of us—town leaders, business owners, and most certainly residents—must now decide if we stop the long journey of moving forward that got us where we are and become content with marching in place, or do we continue to work together to maintain the unique momentum and community spirit that has brought us so much praise and sometimes even a little envy.

During the immediate months and years ahead, it is the commitment of your Mayor and Council to continue along the path that has brought us greater prosperity, goodwill and a unique feeling of being part

(Continued on page 5)

Inside this issue:

Worcester County Arts Council	2
Town Meetings schedule	3
Town Holidays, Trash/Recycling Schedule	3
New Town Website	3
Heritage Foundation News	4
Berlin Electric Tests LED Lights	6
Fall Special Trash Collection Schedule	7
Election Schedule	8
Stormwater Management	8
Delmarva Power Project	9

Events (Continued from page 1)

Sunday, September 21, Noon-3 PM

Bluegrass Gospel Jam at Taylor House Museum

October

October 10 - 2nd Friday Art Show

6 Jefferson Street

5-8 PM

THEME: FREEDOM: Juried art exhibition featuring work of professional or amateur artists with work in all media. Monetary prizes awarded. Exhibit on display throughout October. For additional information, call 410-641-0809 or email curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org.

The Arts Council also offers classes for all ages throughout the year.

October 10 - Little League Parade

Downtown

6 PM

Join us in honoring the Berlin Little League Age 9-10 All Stars for winning the Maryland State Championship and the Intermediate (Age 13) Team for winning the District 8 Championship, Eastern Regional Championship and finishing second in the US for the National Championship!

October 11—Fall Cruisers

Downtown

Vintage vehicles on display.

October 18—OctoberFest

Downtown

11 AM—4 PM

Featuring live polka music, beer garden, "Octoberfest Best Dressed" contest, ethnic food, and giveaways. For information, contact Megan Houston at 410-973-2051 or mhouston@berlinmd.gov.

November

November 14 - 2nd Friday Art Stroll

Holly Days

6 Jefferson Street

5-8 PM

THEME: Holly-Days. Local artists' seasonal arts and crafts will be on sale starting November 14th and until December 24th (see complete article below)

Worcester County Arts Council

Holly-Days Sale & Exhibit

Be sure to mark your calendars now for our annual Holly-Days Exhibit and Sale. Our Gallery will celebrate local co-op artists with a showcase of their seasonal arts and crafts on exhibit at the Worcester County Arts Council.

The Showcase will be featured for the months of November and December with the kick-off reception on Friday, November 14 from 5 pm -8 pm during the Second Friday Arts Stroll.

Original paintings, handmade art, jewelry, pottery, cards and more will be available at very reasonable prices for all your holiday gift giving needs. All items are unique, and will become special keepsakes of the season to enjoy year after year. Our Holly-Days Gallery is the perfect place to find a gift for that hard-to-please person on your holiday list!

A portion of each sale helps support the Arts Council's various programs such as the scholarship fund, arts camp, and community art development grants. The holiday gallery will be open Monday through Saturday, 11AM to 3PM through December 24, 2014.

"BASKETS OF ART" – RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

TO BENEFIT ART SCHOLARSHIP

In efforts to raise additional funds to support the annual art scholarships for local students, the

(Continued on page 6)

Town Meetings

All meetings are held at Town Hall, 10 William Street.

Meeting schedule subject to change.

Council Meetings- 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 PM.

Parks Commission-1st Tuesdays at 5:30 PM.

Historic District Commission-1st Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

Board of Appeals -1st Wednesdays at 7 PM

Planning Commission-2nd Wednesdays at 6 PM.

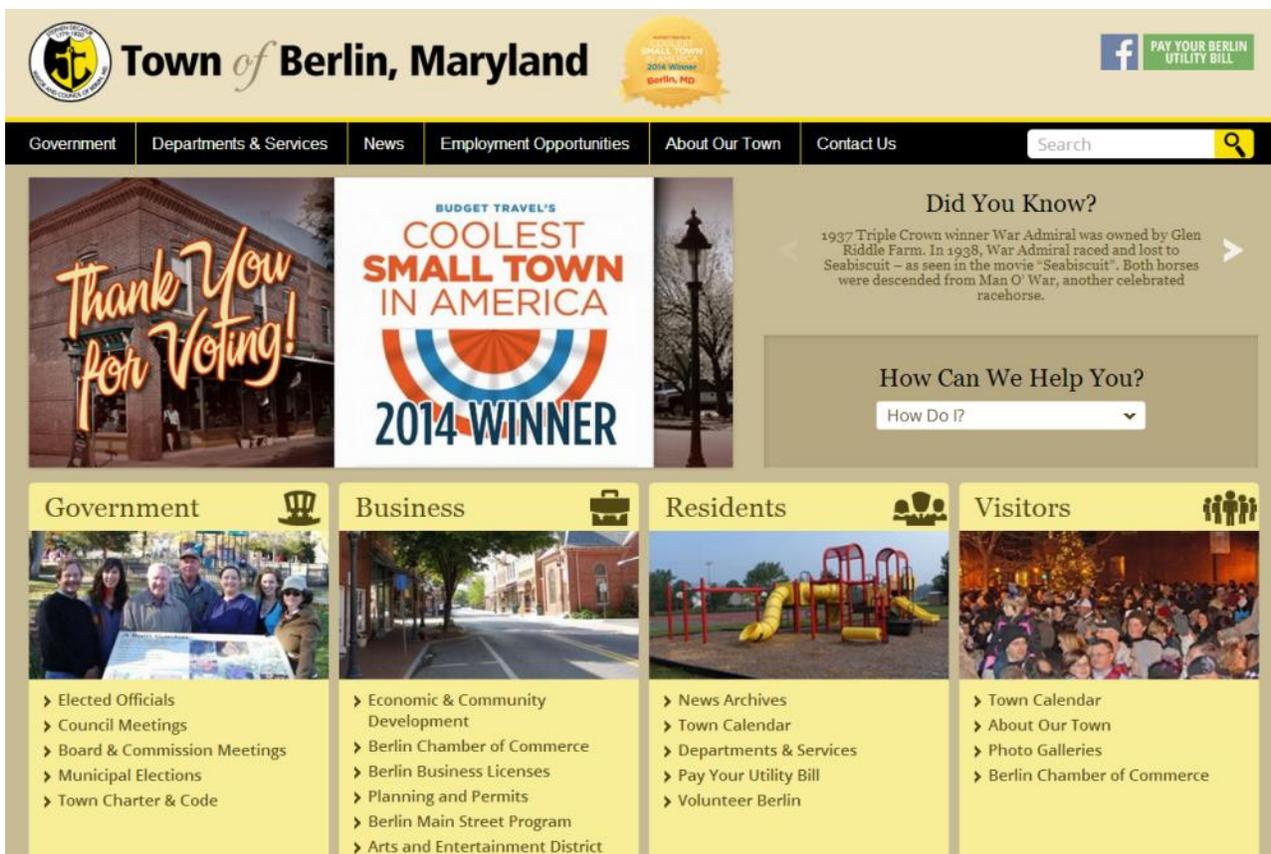
Board of Supervisors of Elections-Scheduled Meetings
5:30 PM September 30.

Town Holidays and Refuse Collection Schedule

Please see page 7 for Fall Special Collections. Because Town offices will be closed on the following holidays, trash/recycling pickup will be re-scheduled as follows:

Monday, October 13. Columbus Day. There will be no recycling collection.

Tuesday, November 11. Veterans Day. There will be no recycling collection.



Have you seen our new look? We have a whole new webpage design! Please take a few minutes to visit the new site at www.berlinmd.gov and let us know what you think! Call Mary Bohlen at 410-641-4314 or email mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

Heritage Foundation News

by Debora Spieier

It Takes a Village to Make a Great Peach Festival.

The Berlin Heritage Foundation's Peach Festival Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all those who made our sixth annual festival a great success. We are grateful to all those who donated funds, prizes or in-kind services, volunteered, performed, demonstrated and sold crafts and art, shared educational information, provided delicious food and beverages, judged pies, dared to join in a pie-eating contest or sport a peach tattoo. We also thank the more than 3,000 people who attended.

Our downtown merchants made Peach Day so much fun! Special thanks go to our major sponsors -- Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and Main Street Berlin -- as well as to Mayor Gee Williams, the Council and all the departments working for the Town of Berlin who helped to make this another great community event.

What a festive day in Berlin!

And the Winners Are...

The 6th Annual Peach Festival committee announces that the winners of the Pie-Baking Contest are Allison Anders (first place), Rebecca Turner (second place) and Caroline Turner (third place). Seth Hudson won the Kids' Pie-Eating Contest and Patrick Salisbury won the Adults' contest. Neil Frederick came closest to guessing the correct number of peach pits in the container. And the raffle basket was won by Holland House guest Cathy Nolan.

Mark Your Calendars!

Christmas is approaching as rapidly as the proverbial one-horse open sleigh, so before the calendar fills with events, join The Berlin Heritage Foundation for a candlelight concert at The Taylor House Museum and a delicious dinner at The Atlantic Hotel. Our Classical Christmas date is scheduled for Monday, December 1. We are offering a reduced rate of \$50 per person for the 6:00 PM dinner seating, followed by the concert. The concert followed by dinner at 8:00 PM is \$60 per person. Contact the Museum at 410-641-1019 or email taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net for reservations. Hurry! We are filling up fast!

Contestants in the 2014 Little Mr. and Miss Peach Contest held on August 8, 2014. Winners were Mr. Hunter Dysart (back row, 3rd from left) and Miss Hailey Lewis (front row, in yellow)



Mayor (Continued from page 1)

of a greater “family of Berlin.” This is *Berlin’s Time* and with it brings the responsibility of working together to forge a plan that will ensure that our community continues to build on all the cool ways we are working to make our town a special place for residents, workers and growing numbers of guests.

Early this fall, the Mayor and Council will authorize a “strategic planning process” to encourage input from every sector of our community and every neighborhood, so we can thoughtfully and collectively determine both the course of Berlin’s future and to the best of our abilities, our priorities.

We have already successfully started taking on some of the opportunities and challenges we face together. Significant improvements to our infrastructure will continue with the most immediate new benefit coming from the rewards of creating our own municipal stormwater utility. The effort has gotten off to a good start and great funding support from our state and federal partners.

But success has also brought us new challenges. For many years Berlin had a downtown parking problem, too many spaces and not enough vehicles. In just the past five years, or less, this situation has been turned on its head. Not only is there the need for additional parking during our many popular and growing special events, but there are people in town in unprecedented numbers seven days a week from early April through New Year’s Eve.

Our approach will be to methodically examine the options for more parking along two parallel tracks. First, resolving the temporary demand for parking capacity during our 20-plus special events each year will be approached on one level. Through a cooperative effort between the expansive unused parking already available at Berlin schools and places of worship, coupled with a reliable and convenient shuttle service, this will likely be the easier of the two parking challenges to resolve.

To fill the permanent need for daily use parking

that continues throughout at least nine months of the year, will require a bit more creativity. I certainly will never support the demolition or removal of historic buildings in the heart of our community in order to accommodate more motor vehicles, and I don’t think it is even necessary. The town will be exploring multiple options for renting parking on a long-term basis for properties that are currently underused. We also will look at a variety of convenient shuttle service options that could be contracted by the town to automatically adjust to the changes in demand as we go from one season to the next.

Berliners should expect the town to be approached about commercial development along the three major highways that intersect our town: MD 346 (Old Ocean City Blvd.); US 50 (Ocean Gateway) and US 113 (Worcester Highway). Much of the services for town utilities are already in place for these corridors and in some cases we should expect strategic annexations of properties that are immediately contiguous to existing town limits and are also compatible with Berlin’s Comprehensive Plan.

Although our historic downtown is a source of great pride, there still are a handful of buildings in the heart of Berlin that need significant upgrades to the facades. The town will proactively approach these property owners and inform them of the financial grants that are available to help offset the cost of transforming their properties from community eyesores to eye candy.

The Mayor and Council have been besieged in the past couple of years with multiple requests from residents, especially younger families, for a variety of new recreational and entertainment venues and opportunities within town. We are looking forward to the community’s input on the scope of these interests in an effort to determine what priorities to assign to these ideas. You can

(Continued on page 6)

Mayor (Continued from page 5)

also expect continued municipal support for youth programs, not just athletic activities for which Berlin obviously excels, but for endeavors, experiences and community participation in activities and programs that develop character for kids from every neighborhood so they will be prepared to become the next generation of town civic leaders and volunteers in the decades ahead.

The final thing I think you can realistically expect is for the Town of Berlin, or as I prefer to think of it, as our greater "Family of Berlin," is to continue to evolve with changing times. I think our attitude that in Berlin we honor our past, but we don't live in it, has served us very well. It is my hope that this will remain among the bedrock principals we continue to share together as we create the next cool thing in Berlin.

Arts Council(Continued from page 2)

Worcester County Arts Council will be raffling off a basket filled with original artwork generously donated by local artists. Raffle begins on 2nd Friday, September 12th and will conclude on November 27, when winner will be drawn during the Holiday Arts Night.

Ticket holder need not to be present to win. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 5 for \$40 and are available at the Arts Council Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

The Worcester County Arts Council's scholarship program is designed to identify, recognize and encourage talented students who demonstrate excellence in Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts and Creative Writing. This year seven talented local students have been each awarded \$1000 art scholarships from the Worcester County Arts Council in support of their artistic goals.

Berlin Electric Department Tests LED Lights



The Berlin Electric Department has recently switched the Victorian streetlamps in front of Town Hall to LED lights. The majority of the Victorian lights in the downtown use 100 watt HDS (high-density sodium) bulbs and the new light is a 27watt LED (light-emitting diode). As seen in the photo below, the old lights (right) provide an off-yellow tint while the LEDs (left) are a bright white and save about 70% energy per fixture.

The lights in front of Town Hall are a demonstration – let us know what you think! Call Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence at 410-629-1713 or email him at tlawrence@berlinmd.gov.

We're on the web! www.berlinmd.gov



Find us on Facebook: Town of Berlin Maryland

TOWN OF BERLIN FALL 2014 SPECIAL TRASH & YARD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please see below for information about what will be collected and what dates apply to your neighborhood.

If your <u>NORMAL TRASH DAY</u> is	then your <u>BULK WASTE PICKUP DAY</u> will be	and your <u>YARD WASTE PICKUP DAY</u> will be
Tuesday or Wednesday	Wednesday, November 5	Wednesday, December 3
Thursdays	Wednesday, November 19	Wednesday, December 10

Regular household garbage and recycling is not part of these collections. Collection is for residential properties only; commercial and industrial properties are not included. Items must be at the curb by 6:00 AM; materials placed for pickup at any other time may not be collected.

BULK ITEM COLLECTION

DO:

Include items such as: Furniture - Toilets and Sinks – Carpet – Mattresses - Tables and Chairs – Refrigerators - Washers & Dryers - Small appliances – Televisions – Microwaves – Computer Components.

Small items must be placed in a container at the curb and weigh no more than 100 lbs.

DON'T:

Include items such as: Hazardous Waste - Construction materials – Paint - Yard waste/brush - Propane tanks – Tires – Chemicals - Insecticides.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

DO:

Place leaves, grass clippings, pine needles and cones, and garden waste in a paper bag, plastic bag, or (maximum) 30 gallon container.

Cut brush into 4 ft. lengths and bundles no larger than 18 inches in diameter.

DON'T:

Mix in stones, rocks, metal, other inorganic matter, dirt, sod or other materials.

For more information about acceptable items for either collection, please call the Public Works Department at 410-641-4001.

2014 Municipal Election Schedule

The Berlin Board of Supervisors of Elections has announced the following schedule for the upcoming Municipal Election for Council seats in Districts 1 and 4 and At-Large.

Absentee Voting: Applications to vote absentee will be available until the following deadlines:

- To apply by mail: Deadline is Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Applications must be received by that date; postmark will NOT be accepted as date of receipt.
- To apply in person at Town Hall: Deadline is 5:00 PM, Friday, October 3, 2014

Absentee Ballots will be accepted up to 7:00 PM on Election Day.

Write-In Candidate Filing: 5:00 PM, Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Filing documents must be received by that date/time; postmark will NOT be accepted as date of receipt. Note: Write-In candidates will not appear on printed ballots.

Election Day: Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM.

Polling Places:

Districts 1 & 2 Voters: Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main Street.

Districts 3 & 4: Multi-Purpose Building on Flower Street, next to the Head Start Center.

Anyone with any questions regarding Berlin's 2014 Election should contact Deputy Town Administrator, Mary Bohlen at 410-641-4314 or mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

Successful candidates will be sworn in at the October 27, 2014 Mayor and Council Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Help Improve Water Quality!

Stormwater management plays an important role in the improvement of water quality in local area waterways. Our stormwater system consists of storm drains, storm pipes, ditches and stormwater ponds. Rainwater that enters the local stormwater system eventually makes its way to local waterways and remains largely untreated, carrying excess nutrients and pollutants to waterways.

By reducing contamination and pollution entering storm drains, we can decrease the ecological and economic impacts to local waterways, including the adverse effect to fish and wildlife. Regular maintenance to the stormwater system can also reduce flooding and the potential for property damage and erosion, this includes clearing debris from storm drains and catch basins. There are many sources of contamination, some that you may encounter daily without a second thought. Among them are pesticides, fertilizer, dog waste, garbage, leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste. Even the runoff from washing your vehicle is a damaging source of pollution.

While improving the health of our environment is a large-scale obstacle to overcome, there are many ways that you can help! Keeping yard waste cleaned up is a major way to prevent runoff from washing debris and waste into the roadway and clogging storm drains. You can also help reduce runoff by using rain barrels and rain gardens to capture rainwater as well as pervious pavers in lieu of pavement to allow infiltration of rainwater. Likewise, cleaning up after our dogs and using environmentally friendly products for washing your car, fertilizing your yard will keep excess nutrients and pollution out of our local waterways.

DELMARVA POWER PROJECT TO BENEFIT WORCESTER COUNTY

Delmarva Power will hold a community meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company – Station 5 at 10124 Keyser Point Road to provide details on its plan to rebuild a more than 50 year old electric transmission line between Berlin and Ocean City.

The approximately \$43 million project to rebuild the existing nine-mile, 69,000-volt transmission line is scheduled to begin in October of this year and is intended to increase electric system capacity to handle customer load growth and improve overall area electric reliability.

The project involves the replacement of approximately 150, 45- to 60-foot tall wooden poles with 80- to 90-foot tall steel poles that are more durable, require less maintenance and can withstand hurricane force winds of 120 miles per hour.

Work also will entail the installation of a new underwater cable under Isle of Wight Bay between West Ocean City and downtown Ocean City at 2nd Street bayside.

The rebuild of the overhead line is targeted for completion by May 2015, with the underwater section scheduled to be finished by May 2016.

“This work will enhance electric service reliability in Worcester County and ensure that we can continue to meet our customers’ energy needs,” said John Allen, Delmarva Power Region Vice President. “This project is one of numerous infrastructure improvements planned throughout our service territory over the next several years.”

Find additional information about Delmarva Power by visiting www.delmarva.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/delmarvapower and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/delmarvaconnect. A mobile app is available at www.delmarva.com/mobileapp.

Subscribe to the Berlin Community News

The *Berlin Community News* is available online, via email, or postal mail. If you would like to have the newsletter delivered directly to you, either in paper or electronic form, please let us know! Call 410-641-4314, or email info@berlinmd.gov.

You do not have to be a Berlin resident to subscribe.



Berlin Community News

Vol. 26, Issue 1: Fall 2014

A community newsletter published four times annually by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin.

Mayor: Wm. Gee Williams, III

Council: Elroy Brittingham

Dean Burrell

Lisa Hall

Paula Lynch

Troy Purnell

Town Administrator: Laura Allen

10 William Street
Berlin, MD 21811

Town of Berlin, Maryland



YOU'RE INVITED!

COME SEE OUR NEW SPRAY IRRIGATION FACILITY!

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, October 3, 2014

11 AM—2 PM

Five Mile Branch Spray Irrigation Facility

7303 Five Mile Branch Road

Newark, MD 21841

This project was funded in part by Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Quality Financing Administration and the
Department of Housing and Community Development, Community Development Block Grant.