

Berlin Community News

Volume 27, Issue 2
Winter, 2015-2016

Mayor & Council of Berlin, MD

Holiday Events in Berlin

Spend the Holidays in Downtown Berlin and have yourselves a Merry Little Main Street

Visit Downtown Berlin’s winter wonderland this holiday season. Enjoy traditional events with a few new twists and some new activities that are sure to become a treasured part of your holidays.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Arts Night: Friday, November 27; 5:30pm

Mayor Gee Williams will light the tree in front of the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street at 5:30pm accompanied by Santa and Mrs. Claus and your favorite Christmas characters, including a reindeer, snowmen, and someone very green and furry. Several ice sculptings sponsored by Ocean Downs Casino will be taking place as well. After the tree lighting follow Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Visitor’s Center for treats and pictures. Live music will be played by pianist Eric Byrd of Baltimore, MD.

The Berlin Christmas Parade: Thursday, December 3; 7:00pm

This year’s theme is “Toyland in Berlin”. Join us for this fun annual event featuring marching bands, floats, Christmas characters, hot chocolate and more.

Main Street will be closed from approximately 6:00 to 9:00pm. Free shuttle parking will be available at Berlin Intermediate School on Franklin Avenue from 5:45 to 7:15pm and 8:45 to 9:30pm. Drop-off and pick-up will be

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Edible Forest Project

By Dorothy Baker, ACT Volunteer

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Stephen Decatur Middle School students began work on the Edible Forest on Nov. 12th

An Edible Forest Garden is an edible ecosystem; a consciously designed community of mutually beneficial plants intended for human food production. They are comprised of a myriad of different perennial plants that grow well together planted in 7 layers: tall trees, low-trees, shrubs, non-woody plants, ground cover, vines, and roots. All seven layers interact with

each other to create a sustainable and permanent agriculture system. Assateague Coastal Trust and 8th graders from Stephen Decatur Middle School will be working over the course of the coming year to plant such a garden in Stephen Decatur Park.

The Edible Forest Garden will function as a service learning project for Kristin Jackson’s 8th grade Social Studies class

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Town Holidays and Refuse Collection Schedule

Town offices will be closed on the following holidays. Trash/recycling pickup will be re-scheduled as follows:

Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27. Thanksgiving. If your normal trash day would be Thursday, November 26 or Friday, November 27, your trash will be collected on Wednesday, November 25. There will be no recycling collection on Friday, November 27.

Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25. Christmas. Town offices close at noon on Thursday, December 24. Normal collection schedule for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be no recycling collection on Friday. If your trash is normally collected on Friday, it will be collected on Monday, December 28.

Thursday & Friday, December 31 & January 1. New Year's. Town offices close at noon on Thursday, December 31. Normal collection schedule for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be no recycling collection on Friday. If your trash is normally collected on Friday, it will be collected on Monday, January 4.

Curbside Live-cut Christmas Tree Collection. Wednesdays, January 6 & 13. Trees must be at the curb by 7 AM and free of ALL decorations.

Monday, January 18 & Monday, February 15. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and President's Day. There will be no recycling collection.

REMINDER: Trash/recycling must be at the curb by 6 AM ; items placed later may not be collected. It is acceptable to place items the night before.

Please see page 3 for information about Fall Yard Waste Collection.

Berlin HEAL Walking Clubs



Berlin is creating a new walking initiative as a follow up to our Strategic Planning meetings earlier this year. The initiative was launched at the 4th Annual "Just Walk, Berlin," event held on Saturday, Nov. 14th.

"Residents asked for more recreational activities during our strategic planning and the walking initiatives fit into our recent Healthy Eating, Active Living designation as well," said Mayor Gee Williams in making the announcement.

As part of Berlin's Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Community designation, the Town is inviting the community to form walking teams for fun and fitness. "We hope participants will meet new people and make new friends during these activities," the Mayor added.

There are no complicated forms, no fees to participate, just groups of people with similar interests getting together on a regular basis to walk. Teams of walkers may be organized around a variety of common interest, including; dog walkers, stroller pushers, book clubs, knitting circles, coffee klatches or other original ideas.

"Already part of a walking group in Berlin, let us know," said Mary Bohlen, the town's Administrative Services Director and liaison with the Berlin Parks Commission. "If you are new to the area, but interested in being part of a team, or

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FALL 2015 YARD WASTE COLLECTIONS

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

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

DO:

Leaves, grass clippings, pine needles and cones, and garden waste **MUST BE BAGGED** in a paper or plastic bag, or placed in a (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.

If your <u>NORMAL TRASH DAY</u> is	Then your <u>YARD WASTE PICKUP DAY</u> will be
Tuesdays or Wednesdays	Wednesday, December 2
Thursdays	Wednesday, December 16

For more information about acceptable items for collection, please call the Public Works Department at 410-641-4001 or email Public Works Superintendent Wendell Purnell at wpurnell@berlinmd.gov.



Sign-up to receive important notifications from the Town for residents and businesses. Please register at www.berlinmd.gov and click on the CodeRED logo in the upper corner. Or, call Town Hall at 410-641-2770 and we will be glad to help you get signed up.



WINTER SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Re-printed from Public Power Connections, Fall 2015

Wind chill indicates heat loss, not temps

For your safety and that of your family, you should know what wind chill numbers mean and how they should guide your winter outdoor activities and the way you dress for them.

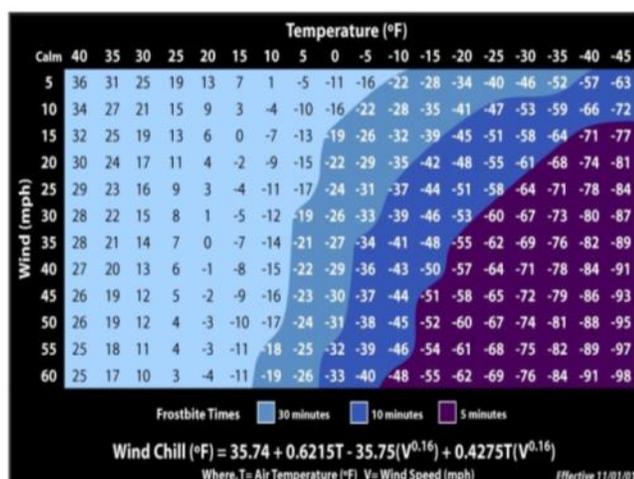
To begin with, the numbers on the wind chill index are not actual temperatures. They indicate what the combined wind and cold feel like based on the rate of heat loss from a person’s exposed skin. The greater the wind speed, the faster the heat loss.

The helpful wind chill chart below shows how long skin can be exposed at different temperatures and wind speeds before frostbite occurs. For example, a wind speed of 20 mph when the temperature is 40 would feel like a mildly uncomfortable 30. However, that 20 mph wind blowing when the temperature is 0 would feel like a very uncomfortable -22. It would also result in frostbite after 30 minutes.

Besides frostbite, another danger of exposure is hypothermia, where the body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Immediate medical attention is needed for both of these conditions. You can learn about symptoms and treatment, as well as general winter preparedness, at the Red Cross (www.redcross.org) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.emergency.cdc.gov) websites.

Keep yourself and your family frostbite-free when temperatures drop below freezing by (1) using the wind chill chart, (2) heeding weather forecasters’ wind chill advisories (potentially hazardous conditions) and a warnings (life-threatening conditions), and (3) planning and dressing according to general advice from the Red Cross and CDC. Be sure to wear:

- Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and, if possible, hooded.
- A hat (preferably covering the ears), because almost half of a person’s body heat is lost through the head.
- A scarf, balaclava or neck warmer to cover the mouth and protect lungs in extreme cold.
- Winter gloves or mittens (mittens are warmer than gloves but sometimes may not be suitable).
- Waterproof, insulated boots with good traction to protect feet and help maintain footing on ice and snow.
- A change of clothing if clothes become wet.



Courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service



TAYLOR HOUSE MUSEUM HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Berlin Heritage Foundation is pleased to offer the following events for the holiday season:

December 4, 11, and 18 from 5 - 6:30pm: Open for Candlelight Tours

December 5 from 1 - 4pm: Museums of Worcester County Traditions Day. Tour the museum and enjoy wassail and gingerbread.

December 6, 12, 19 from 1 - 4pm: Open for Guided Tours

December 7: Join us for a gourmet dinner at the historic Atlantic Hotel and a candlelight concert by The Salisbury String Trio at the Taylor House Museum. The first dinner seating begins at 6pm at the Atlantic Hotel, followed by an 8pm concert at the Taylor Museum, for the early bird price of \$50.00 per person. The second dinner seating begins with a 6:30pm concert at the Museum, followed by an 8pm dinner at the Hotel, for the price of \$60.00 per person. For information and reservations call the Museum at 410-641-1019 or email taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net. Reservations are required and accepted upon receipt of payment. Make checks payable to Berlin Heritage Foundation and mail to PO Box 351, Berlin, MD 21811.

For more information, please visit the website at www.taylorhousemuseum.org.

Holiday Events (Continued from page 1)

at the corner of Bay and William Street, less than one block from Main Street.

Win the Window Contest

See flyer, page 6.

Letters to Santa: A special LETTERS FOR SANTA mailbox will be placed inside the Visitor's Center for children to mail their letters (no postage necessary). We will be collecting the letters to send on to the North Pole and sending each child a letter back containing a coupon for a free treat at either Baked Dessert Café, Berlin Coffee House or Rayne's Reef. Letters can be dropped off Monday thru Friday from 10am to 4pm and Saturdays from noon-3pm. Letters must be dropped off by Friday, December 18th for a return letter.



Saturdays and Sundays 12noon – 3pm: FREE Horse and Carriage Rides in front of the Visitor's Center.

Saturday, December 5: Santa photos with the 'Santa of the Presidents'. Mr. Ed France has been the White House Santa Claus since the 1970s. We are fortunate to have him here on Saturday, December 5th from 12noon-4pm. Mrs. Claus will be here for story time as well. Free hot chocolate will be served. Christmas Characters will be walking around town.

Friday, December 11: 2nd Friday Art Stroll. Downtown .

Saturday December 12 and Saturday December 19: 12pm-3pm. Meet

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Holiday Events (Continued from page 5)

Santa Claus and have story time with Mrs. Claus. Christmas characters will be walking around town.

New Years Eve Celebration and Ball Drop, December 31: More entertainment & food this year for New Years Eve! Hosted by Ocean 98s Big Al Reno and Berlin’s own David Miller. Music & fun starts at 10pm. Beer by Burley Oak.

For more information about these events please visit www.BerlinMainStreet.com or call our Visitors Center at 410-973-2051.

HEAL Walking Initiative (Continued from page 2)

Edible Forest (Continued from page 1)



just let us know what your interests may be and we’ll try to put you in touch with a group,” Bohlen added. “Someone from each team will be asked to be a team captain. We need nothing more than a contact person for others interested in joining.”

This year’s Just Walk, Berlin! fun-walk was a great success and Berlin and the Worcester County Health Department hope to add an event in the Spring. Look for more information in the coming months.

For more information, please call 410-641-4314 or email mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

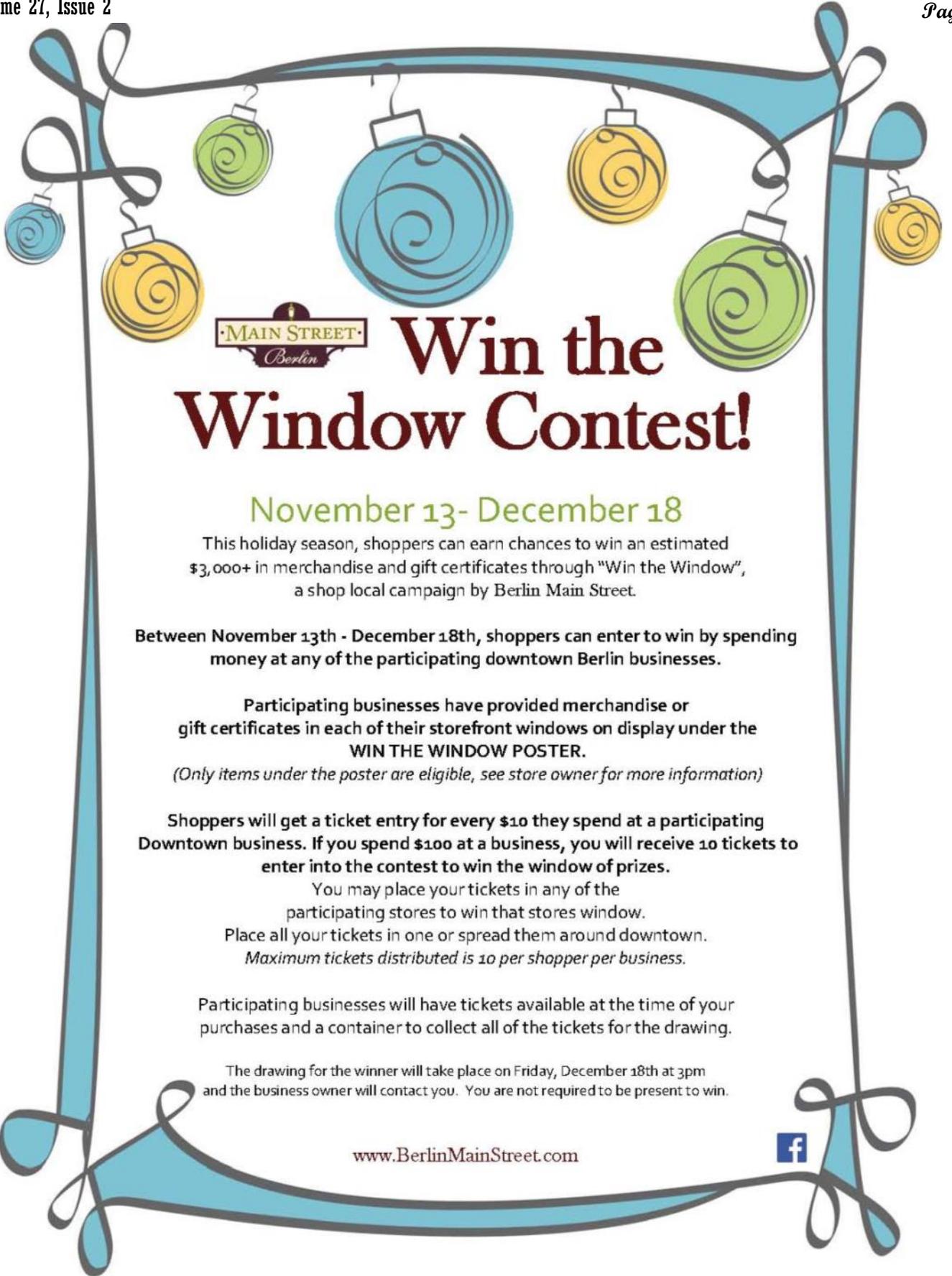
at SDMS. Throughout the year, the students will participate in every aspect of the Edible Forest Garden from researching plants and preparing the site, to making interpretive signs and planting the beds in May.

In addition to the students’ involvement, a volunteer committee is being formed that will help maintain the forest garden. The committee is open to anyone interested in alternative agriculture or who simply wants to help. This is a great way to meet people, have fun and learn about sustainable farming!

The project also fits into the Town’s Strategic Plan and Grow Berlin Green initiatives. Run-off in the park will be reduced, and organic matter will be increased. The Edible Forest Garden will also act as a demonstration of alternative, sustainable food systems for the Berlin community.

This project is organized by Dorothy Baker, a Chesapeake Conservation Corps volunteer at Assateague Coastal Trust. If you want to learn more about the project, or join the volunteer committee, please contact Dorothy at dorothybaker@actforbays.org

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is run by the Chesapeake Bay Trust which gives real-world experience to people interested in pursuing careers in environmental fields.



Win the Window Contest!

November 13- December 18

This holiday season, shoppers can earn chances to win an estimated \$3,000+ in merchandise and gift certificates through "Win the Window", a shop local campaign by Berlin Main Street.

Between November 13th - December 18th, shoppers can enter to win by spending money at any of the participating downtown Berlin businesses.

Participating businesses have provided merchandise or gift certificates in each of their storefront windows on display under the WIN THE WINDOW POSTER.

(Only items under the poster are eligible, see store owner for more information)

Shoppers will get a ticket entry for every \$10 they spend at a participating Downtown business. If you spend \$100 at a business, you will receive 10 tickets to enter into the contest to win the window of prizes.

You may place your tickets in any of the participating stores to win that stores window.
Place all your tickets in one or spread them around downtown.
Maximum tickets distributed is 10 per shopper per business.

Participating businesses will have tickets available at the time of your purchases and a container to collect all of the tickets for the drawing.

The drawing for the winner will take place on Friday, December 18th at 3pm and the business owner will contact you. You are not required to be present to win.

www.BerlinMainStreet.com



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.

Town Meetings Schedule

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 Zoning Appeals – 1st Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (as needed)

Planning Commission – 2nd Wednesdays at 6 PM

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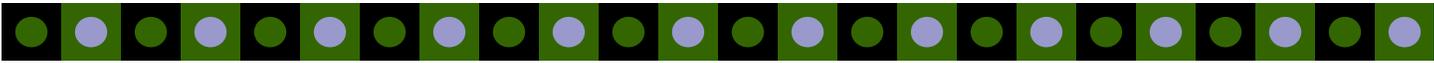
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Town of Berlin, Maryland

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