



Newsletter

Spring 2023

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Cathy Rippel

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Residents,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of Berlin Township Board of Trustees for 2023. First and foremost, I would like to thank Trustee O'Brien for his leadership and faithful service as Chair over the last year. Trustee O'Brien has been committed to public service for many years and both his, and Trustee Bullard's, keen attention to details and focus on fiscal responsibility has helped place our township in a stable and strong position to meet our needs for years to come.

We have started off this year with continued momentum from the last. This past year, your Board oversaw many important improvements for the township to support our growing community. A few key highlights continued into this year will include: focusing on technology upgrades such as with the new ADA compliant website, a new system for live streaming meetings, and substantive security upgrades; building infrastructure updates like the long-term solution for roofing at the Fire Station implemented last year; dedicating significant time to address zoning issues as well as parks and trails opportunities focusing on plans that best serve immediate and future needs.

Beyond the many successful projects, your Board has also welcomed several highly qualified employees to ensure operations continue smoothly. Specifically, we welcomed Jacob Bon as the full-time Zoning Inspector and Jesse Peden as the full-time Assistant Roads Superintendent. We have also added several part-time personnel and established the Architectural Review Board. In addition, we have several openings throughout the year for various positions and welcome applications from those interested in serving your local community. Be sure to check out our website for current job openings. Working within the local community provides a chance to participate in government that is by the people and for the people and often results in truly tangible results for the good of the community. With that in view, residents are always encouraged to attend and engage in our public meetings so that your respective boards may ensure they hear the voice of the people.

Sincerely,

Meghan B. Raehl
Chair, Board of Trustees
Berlin Township

Updates from Trustee Raehl

Have questions about Zoning? If you have questions about Zoning whether it be a permit or development information, our experienced Zoning Secretary, Cathy Rippel, is available to help answer any zoning related questions. In addition, the Township welcomed a new full-time Zoning Inspector, Jacob Bon in November of last year. Inspector Bon will be focusing on zoning compliance as well as ensuring our Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Text are updated over the next year.

We also saw a number of changes in zoning staff and welcomed the first meeting of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to serve for the application process related to the Berlin Business Park. Several township residents transitioned to and from Berlin Zoning Commission (BZC) and we are grateful for their dedication to serving our community.

Did you know? The Township approved permits for 142 new homes last year. This is down over the year prior but is still keeping up a steady pace for the township. Welcome to the new residents!

Parks and Trails Updates:

Thanks to all the residents who took the time to fill out our recent Parks, Trails, and Recreational Opportunities Survey. The results may be viewed on our website at this time. Following the analysis of responses, the Parks and Trails Advisory committee worked diligently on a program application and received technical assistance for planning from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)! Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30pm** when MORPC will be presenting the results and initial recommendations to the public for initial feedback. Residents, as always, are encouraged to attend!

Updates from Trustee Bullard

The electric and gas aggregation contracts will be expiring soon, and with the market rate volatility, the aggregated rates are expected to increase. The electric rate contracted will save about 26% off the Price to Compare on your AEP Invoice. The PUCO defines a specific process to follow when the contract changes, thus you will probably receive letters stating "We will no longer be providing your electricity" and others "We are your new supplier". As always AEP will be your electricity connection and provider of your invoice, emergency contact, etc.

These comments apply to only AEP and Columbia Gas customers. Suburban and Consolidated are considered as contract suppliers and not available for the aggregation programs.

If you have any questions about the aggregation programs please contact TREBEL at 614-425-4885 or visit www.Trebelllc.com

Resident Reminder: Now is a good time to check the detectors and replace your Fire, CO2, and other alarm batteries as needed.

Resident Pro Tip

Zoning Inspector Tip: Please be aware that signs in the right-of-way (ROW) is not permitted and poses a safety hazard. Be certain if you advertise to please keep all signage out of the ROW and ensure that follows local regulations. Spring time is here, contact the zoning office to make sure your are in compliance with upcoming spring projects.

Roads Update

As winter winds down this year the road department will be gearing up for spring and summer projects. The roads department which consists of 3 full time and 1 part time employees and are responsible to maintain all township roads including all roads in the subdivisions within our township borders and we also maintain Fairview and Cheshire Cemeteries.

The road projects side of things will be cleaning, repairing and putting in to storage for the year all of the salt and brine spreaders and snow plows so we can use the dump trucks to haul dirt, gravel or berm as needed. We will be hitching up the mowers to allow us to mow the road ditches and keep intersections mowed back for sight distance purposes. The department will also be fixing the berm along the edge of the road to keep the edges of pavement from breaking off. As the signs become older, we will be updating the regulatory road signs as required for retro reflectivity as to be visible at nighttime. Even though all permits go through the zoning office we are charged with actual field inspections of any new driveways or sidewalks built, as well as final inspections of all roads and road related items of the new subdivisions. During all the planned work we will still be ready to handle the unexpected issues as they arise either from storms or manmade.

As spring approaches, we will be leveling and seeding graves that have been opened over the fall and we will be leveling and seeding graves that have been opened over the fall and winter months at each of the cemeteries. As new graves are opened and closed, we will maintain those until able to be seeded. The crew will be excavating and placing foundations that have been requested by the cemetery sextons. As in the past we will place flags at all known veterans laid to rest at both places. For any questions on cemetery item please reach out to the respective sexton for assistance at either location.

There will also be many projects starting that are in the township that will be done by contractors or the county engineer's office, please check our website or Facebook page for updates as more details become available on each of those projects.

2023 Road Projects:

During 2023 there will be several Berlin Township projects to maintain the roadway surfaces, along with crack sealing. These will be posted on the website and should only involve short time frames with traffic maintained at all times. Delaware County has several similar maintenance projects along with some large projects that will disrupt traffic flow. A good place to check is the DCE's web site for specific project information at

https://engineer.co.delaware.oh.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2023/03/2023_RCG_2023.03.21_final.pdf

This site lists projects across Delaware County that may impact your travels.

Berlin Township has received calls about certain streets not having the snow plowed. When a new subdivision is constructed the streets and sidewalks are considered private roads until being accepted by Delaware County. The streets are then turned over to Berlin Township for normal maintenance. This process may take months and or years depending on the developer's construction any repairs necessary to the street surface, drainage, curbing, sidewalks, signage, painting, etc. Typical timing is 18-24 months from start to acceptance. During the time the street is considered a private street all maintenance is the responsibility of the developer, thus Berlin Township does not work on the private roadway until acceptance. This includes snow removal, flood control, pothole repair, signage, etc. The Delaware County Sheriff may patrol the private street as will Fire and other Emergency vehicles. There may be some confusion about the acceptance, but it occurs only upon the Delaware County Commissioners acceptance.

Homes may be constructed and occupied during the "private street" timeframe. Some developments are built with a plan to always have their streets be private, thus the Homeowners Association or Management Group will always Some developments are built with a plan to always have their streets be private thus the Homeowners Association or Management Group

RETURN ADDRESS:
3271 Cheshire Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DELAWARE, OH
PERMIT NO. 41

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Berlin Township Zoning Commission (BZC)

Jerry Valentine
Chair

Angela Brown
Keith Goshia
Darcy Kaplan
Christina Littleton

BZC Alternates
Jasper De Christopher
Tara Shields

Zoning Clerk
Lisa Knapp

Berlin Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Don Sutton
Chair

Jason Acevado
Brad Cook
Michele Cook
Larry Harmon

BZA Alternates
Jessica Kuenzli
Quinn Machan

Zoning Clerk
Lisa Knapp

**DON'T MISS OUT! Residents can stay up to date
with the latest township news at: www.berlintwp.us**

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th, 2023

The hunt will begin at 10:00 AM

Station 390
2708 Lackey Old State Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015

It is time once again for our annual egg hunt, this is an annual event that usually draws hundreds of people and is also a signal that Spring and nicer weather are right around the corner. Please join us for the egg hunt and take a tour of the Fire station and see all our trucks and equipment.

The Firefighters will be hiding more than 3000 candy-filled eggs in the field beside the station. Children ages 1-10 are welcome to hunt for eggs and everyone of all ages are welcome to tour the station.

All who plan on attending: the egg hunt will begin at 10:00 AM sharp. All eggs will be distributed, and once they are all collected, we will have no more eggs.

Don't forget your basket!

From the Fire Chief's Desk

I am excited to announce that we have added additional staffing! We have just concluded our hiring process and have hired one full-time position and six part-time employees. We are optimistic that we will promote one of the part-time employees to the ranks of full-time soon.

Our newest Full-time member is Tanner Merdeath. Tanner has been in the fire service for 3 years; he is a graduate of the Delaware Area Career Center. He has fire department experience previously with Porter-Kingston and BST&G fire departments. Outside of the fire department he enjoys the outdoors and contributes to the community by coaching middle school lacrosse at Big Walnut.

Our new part-time employees bring a wide range of experiences to our department. I'm confident that they will contribute to an already outstanding Fire Department. Even with these additional hires, we are always looking for great people to join us. So, if you know anyone interested, please send them to the station, or to the Berlin Township homepage; www.berlintwp.us and download an application today. Please help me congratulate the newest members of our Fire Department family: Tanner Merdeath, Sara St. John, Michael Messmer, Jonathan Cabus, Samantha Leonhardt, Jeremy Moss and Colin Barga