



# Berlin Township NEWSLETTER

Administration Office

3271 Cheshire Road • Delaware • OH • 43015

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**Letter from the Chairman,**

Berlin Township is blessed to have many skilled employees working for the benefit of the residents.

At our Open House at the Fire Station last October, I was honored to present Larry Buell, our cemetery sextant, with a plaque to commemorate his 60 years of work for the Township. Larry has been kind to many, many people when they are dealing with a stressful time in their lives. Larry is knowledgeable, helpful and understanding. He has helped residents when they are getting a cemetery plot at Cheshire Cemetery or later when people are having the grave site prepared for their loved ones final resting place. I, and the other trustees appreciate Larry Buell for his commitment and passion that he has devoted to Berlin Township. We hope he continues for many more years to come.

We also were pleased to honor Craig Hall at the Open House at the Fire Station. Craig, who recently chose to retire as Fire Chief, has been kind enough to stay active as a lieutenant. Craig first joined the ranks in January of 1976 and twice held the position as Chief. He has faithfully served Berlin and helped to make Berlin a safer place for us all.

Berlin Township has also been blessed with Township Trustees who care deeply about the Township. I thank Tom D'Amico who has loyally served the last four years. Two tasks on which he diligently worked was gaining the road right-of-way for the widening of Piatt Road and the transition of Fairview Cemetery, which the courts placed into the stewardship of the township. Fairview had many unresolved issues in which Tom dealt with fidelity to resolve.

The township is fortunate to have Trustee Meghan Raehl join the Board with Trustee Ron Bullard and myself. Trustee Raehl is energetic and has an excellent skill set that complements the rest of the board. I believe that each member of our board has unique skills that make us a strong team. We don't always see everything exactly the same, which leads to very long meetings. But, we work well together. We have the interests of the residents at heart and I believe we will accomplish much for you.

One of our recent accomplishments is our newly designed website that is more intuitive, transparent and useful to its users. Please visit our website at [berlintwp.us](http://berlintwp.us) to see the updates. Kudos to Trustee Raehl on completing this task. We look forward to announcing other innovations in our next newsletter.

Berlin Township is in an excellent state. The township has grown and is in a position to innovate without going into debt. The township has prided itself in the past in having the funding in place before committing to new services. The growth of the township has its disadvantages, but it does allow us to meet the needs of the residents without asking for new taxes. I do believe that if residents want new services and find the funding for those services, that I as a servant to the voters should consider those services. That is not to say I support them, but that I, and the board should seriously consider those services and the funding sources necessary to implement them.

Sincerely,

Ken O'Brien

Chairman of the Board,

Berlin Township Trustees

## News and Notes from Trustee Raehl

**Technology/Media.** The new Berlin Township website is live! Located at [berlintwp.us](http://berlintwp.us), the upgraded website provides robust accessibility features including, but not limited to: dyslexic friendly font, high contrast coloration, and adjustable font sizes. It also translates into over 80 languages and is mobile/tablet friendly! We will continue to build out accessibility and user friendly features over the next year and welcome resident input. If you have any comments or feedback please contact Trustee Raehl at [trusteeraehl@berlintwp.us](mailto:trusteeraehl@berlintwp.us).

**Zoning.** The Zoning Department was very active in 2021. Having approved just over 200 new housing permits we continue to welcome the new residents to the township community. Looking ahead to 2022, Zoning will be partnering with Delaware County Regional Planning to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan was initially updated in 2011 and will need to integrate the Berlin Business Park and reflect the growth of the community. We will continue to post updates on the website to provide additional details and residents are always welcome to attend any open meetings and provide public comment.

**Parks and Trails Advisory Committee.** The Parks and Trails Advisory Committee held its first meeting on March 10th. Thanks to all the residents who were interested and volunteered. The overall goal of the committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees related to potential parks and trails for the Township.

**Civic Duty Opportunities.** The Township has a number of volunteer openings and will have a number of paid openings over the next year. We are currently seeking volunteer members of the Architectural Review Board and the Audit Committee. Residents are encouraged to reference our website for updates to job and/or volunteer openings.

**Roads.** Did you know that Berlin Township's Road Department currently maintains approximately 42 miles of roads?

Maintenance consists of snow removal, road repairs, storm water drainage, signage, tree trimming, emergency call outs for fallen trees/damaged signs, roadside mowing, driveway construction inspections, drainage culvert inspections and repairs.

The Board of Trustees approved a number of township roads projects for 2022 that include: Piatt Rd – Rejuvenating agent; The Marina at Alum Creek – Onyx Asphalt

Sealer; Oldfield Estates – Onyx Asphalt Sealer; Ravines of Alum Creek – Asphalt Rejuvenating Agent; Brookview Manor – Rejuvenating Agent; Acadia Court- Asphalt Mill and Fill Repair; Winding Creek Subdivision – New Asphalt; Clover Plains – New Asphalt

In addition Delaware County plans to begin construction of a new peanut-shaped roundabout across from Berlin High School on Berlin Station Rd beginning in June. The County also has begun construction of a Reed Parkway located on Lackey-Old State Road which will serve as an entrance to the future Berlin Business Park.

## Multiuse Path along Piatt Road

Olentangy Local School District, the Delaware County Engineer and Berlin Township Trustees have met and worked to put a multiuse path along Piatt Road near Berlin High School and Berlin Middle School. The path will be installed in two phases with phase one in 2022 and phase two in 2023. Phase one will extend a path from the sidewalk north of Glen Mead to the high school driveway at Preston Fields. Phase two will extend the path north to the new roundabout at Berlin Station and Piatt Roads, which will be constructed this summer. There will also be improvements in the pathway connecting to Cheshire Elementary.

Did you remember to change your smoke detector's batteries when we sprung ahead this year? It's okay we all forget things especially when we are dreaming of warmer days to come. However, changing the batteries in your smoke detectors only takes a few minutes and if you were to have a fire in your home, it will likely save a life. Early warning in the event of a fire is critical to escaping unscathed.

Did you know that on average a residential fire doubles in size every 30 seconds? Having working smoke detectors on every level of your home is a crucial component to keeping you and your family safe. Most manufacturers recommend testing your detectors once a month and changing your batteries every 6 months. Most experts believe that smoke detectors have a useful life of about 10 years and recommend their replacement at that time. If you aren't sure how old your detectors are, check the back of the detector, it should have a manufacture date. If you don't see a date, it's a safe bet you should consider replacing that detector.

Still have questions? You can always reach out to us, we will always do our best to answer your fire safety questions.

## Road Department News

Berlin Township is full of natural beauty, and there is no better time for it to be on display than Spring. With this comes the start of new paving projects, roadside mowing, tree trimming and with new subdivisions being built. Keep in mind to be very observant of the men and women working along our roadways; their safety is our number one concern. Slow down in construction zones; there may be equipment and trucks coming and going from these sites. Our Piatt Rd widening project will also be wrapping up as soon as the ground is dry enough to do final grading and seeding.

With winter being behind us we thank the residents for their help in keeping cars from the roadway when snow and ice was at its worst and for their patience while we were providing services to everyone.

## Gas and Electric Aggregation

Berlin Township residents voted on May 7, 2013 to participate in both electric and gas aggregation programs as allowed by Ohio State Revised Code. The following provides some points regarding the programs:

1. Several years ago, the State Legislature enacted a code to allow voters to choose to participate in an aggregation program. This code was written to take advantage of bulk purchasing power for energy. It was also written in response to vendors that took advantage of customers with phone calls, emails, and mailings that promised lower rates but did not always deliver.
2. The programs are available to AEP and Columbia Gas customers. They are not available for other suppliers as those suppliers are considered aggregators, they do not produce the energy products, but negotiate bulk supply from producers, which should be at a low rate.
3. Each year the trustees work with energy aggregators to determine a contract price for supply of the energy products and to sign a contract. The contract is usually for 1 to 3 years.
4. The delivery, billing, emergency service, and communications are all supplied by the delivery company (AEP /Columbia). The energy is supplied by either the local company or the contracted aggregator. The local company is always required to provide the energy to the customer. The aggregator purchases their energy, as a bulk purchase, from which every producer that provides the energy at the lowest cost. This bulk energy is provided to the local company for delivery to the actual customer.
5. The trustees work to make the best price available to our residents. This means the vendors often change, and residents receive letters from both the primary and aggregation vendors about the supply of energy. The letters are typically correct but worded in ways which often cause unnecessary concern.
6. The gas contract expired during the high usage/price part of the year and the trustees decided to wait until the contract prices went lower to enter into another contract. The contract price is often highest during the winter and usually goes down significantly during the summer.
7. The contract has provisions to opt out and use your own supplier at any time at no cost. This is not the case with most of the phone call, email, and mail vendors, which typically include a cancellation charge to end their service.
8. The Township receives no compensation for providing this service for the residents.

As with every year, Berlin Township hires contractors to do maintenance on our roads and this year there will be a lot of work throughout subdivisions. These jobs are posted on our web site and will be posted in each neighborhood prior to work being done. With your cooperation, each of these projects will be completed in just a few days. Thanks again for making Berlin Township a Beautiful Place to be.

Brodi Irwin  
Road Superintendent

The Board of Elections is in need of Poll Workers for the May 3, 2022 Election. Please contact Ali Solove, Delaware County Board of Elections, Poll Worker Supervisor/Community Outreach. at [asolove@delawarecountyohio.gov](mailto:asolove@delawarecountyohio.gov) or 740-833-2085 office.



**RETURN ADDRESS**

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**Berlin Township Zoning  
Commission Members**

**Steve Flaherty**  
Chairman

**Angela Brown**  
**Darcy Kaplan**  
**Christina Littleton**  
**Jerry Valentine**

**BZC Alternates**  
**Sherry Graham**  
**Jenny Sloas**

**Zoning Clerk**  
**Lisa Knapp**

**Berlin Township Board  
of Zoning Appeals**

**Don Sutton**  
Chairman

**Jason Acevedo**  
**Brad Cook**  
**Michele Cook**  
**Larry Harmon**

**BZA Alternates**  
**Quinn Machan**  
**Jessica Kuenzli**

**Zoning Clerk**  
**Lisa Knapp**

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

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

Zoning Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Zoning Secretary, Cathy Rippe

Residents can reference our new township website for  
important news and updates at [www.berlintwp.us](http://www.berlintwp.us)

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 16th 2022**

**The hunt will begin at 10:00 AM**

**Station 390**

**2708 Lackey Old State Rd.**

**Delaware, OH 43015**

Please join the Berlin Township Fire Department for a day of fun and excitement for all. We are once again hosting an egg hunt for children ages 1-10. The Firefighters will be hiding more than 3000 candy filled eggs in the field beside the station.

The hunting ground will be sectioned off for different age groups. Adults should plan on assisting the 1–3-year-old children while 4–10-year-old group should plan to hunt alone. Don't forget your basket to collect your eggs in.

All who plan on attending; the egg hunt will begin sharply at 10:00 AM. All eggs will be distributed, once they are all found we will have no more to distribute, so please plan accordingly.

**From the Chief's desk**

I am grateful to have the opportunity to sing the praises of different Berlin Township Firefighters here in the newsletter. The difficult part is deciding which team member to discuss when I am surrounded by so many great choices. As a fire chief, this is a great 'problem' to have.

The American Legion helped make the choice for me this time around, when they announced that Berlin Township Fire Department Lieutenant Steve Arnold would be receiving the American Legion Department of OHIO "Department Commanders Appreciation Award."

Lt. Arnold was selected for this prestigious award based largely on his years of service and commitment to the Berlin community. Steve not only serves as Lieutenant of Prevention at Berlin Township, he also serves as a fulltime firefighter for the Washington Township (Dublin) Fire Department. Steve has more than 38 years of combined fire service experience.

On behalf of myself and all the Firefighters and Officers at Berlin Township Fire Department, we extend our sincerest congratulations to Lt. Steve Arnold! This recognition is well deserved. We are proud of you.

Adam J. Miller, Fire Chief