

# BERN TOWNSHIP



*in the news.....*

WINTER 2017

## 2016 in Review

2016 started with a bang as the area dealt with a snowstorm of historic proportions in January. The year remained interesting as the Primary and General Elections unfolded in an unprecedented manner.

We were sadly informed that the Teleflex facility in the township will be closing in the future. Our thoughts and best wishes are extended to all of the affected employees for a successful and smooth transition in their careers.

We also learned of potential business growth ahead for the township in the near future. The Berks County Industrial Development Authority is in the process of planning a business park behind the Reading Regional Airport. Senator Schwank and Representative Jozwiak worked together to secure \$2.5 million to support the development of Berks Park 183.

The township's three year trash and recycling collection contracts ended on the last day of 2016. Bid documents were prepared and a new three year contract for trash and recycling collection started on January 2, 2017. A new trash district was created as a result of residents petitioning the township for the service.

The road department removed and rebuilt a small bridge over a creek. The DEP Equipment Grant was completed and closed out. The road department also experienced staff changes during the year.

Other exciting events happened during 2016 including celebrity visits to the township and numerous organized demonstrations that necessitated pre-planning by the police department. The police department again participated in the presentation of the Citizen's Police Academy.

The township became aware of the significant stormwater regulation changes that loom on the horizon. Actions are being implemented to meet these future standards and requirements

that originate at the federal level with the Environmental Protection Agency. The Spotted Lanternfly is now next door in Centre Township.

Communities came together to embark on a search for temporary structures to house fire and ambulance vehicles while the bridge in Leesport Borough is closed for reconstruction.

The labor market and economy seems to continue to move in the right direction creating optimism for 2017.

In many ways, 2016 was an exciting year full of surprises and turns. During this turbulence, Bern Township stayed the course and continued to strive to be a more efficient organization while improving our services to the community.

This newsletter will reflect on our progress during the year and provide sneak peaks into our goals for 2017.

For those of you who are new to Bern Township, residents and businesses, we welcome you to the community. Contact us if you should have any questions or concerns that we may be able to help you resolve. By working together, we can continue to make Bern Township a great place to be. ❖

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# BERN TOWNSHIP

1069 Old Bernville Road  
Reading, PA 19605

Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Fri - 8:30 am to 12 pm

Phone: (610) 926-2267

Fax: (610) 926-9028

[www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org)

## TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Lucille M. Brady	610-376-5039
James Dailey	610-926-1941
Irene Reed	610-926-7621
Jeff Thompson	610-371-9411
Boyd C. Wagner	610-372-2121

## SUPERVISORS MEETING

1st Tuesday of the Month - 7:00 pm

### Township Staff

Brian Potts	Manager
Diane DeJesus	Secretary / Treasurer
Wesley Waugh	Chief of Police
Steve Edwards	Assistant Road Foreman

### Township Contacts

LTL Consultants 610-987-9290	Building Inspector / Zoning Officer
Lori Hozza 610-916-9919	Municipal Authority
Jamie Neuin 610-916-8955	Tax Collector
Berks Envirotech 610-375-7640	Sewage Officer
Kevin Hinkle 484-335-3289	Emergency Management

**Non-Emergency** for Police, Fire, Rescue & Medical  
610-655-4911

### Township Monthly Meetings

Planning Commission	2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Municipal Authority	4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm
Solid Waste Commission	2nd Wednesday Qrtly at 7:00 pm
Zoning Hearing Board	Meeting dates as needed
Recreation Board	Meeting dates as needed

### POLLING PLACES

1st Precinct	Bern Township Municipal Building
2nd Precinct	Ontelaunee Grange Hall
3rd Precinct	Greenfields Fire Co. Social Hall

## TRASH COLLECTION INFO

**Bern Township Trash Collection Districts:**

**Greenfields / Riveredge Acres**

**Orchard Hill Area**

(West Leesport & Rick Road)

**Bern Manor Area**

(Prison Road, Kercher & Mull Ave, Burdan Drive)

**Willows Area**

(Cathy & Christina Drive, Almark Way)

**Northwest Area**

(Ziegler, Park Roads, Brossman Court)

### About Bern Trash Collections:

*Every week - six (6) 35 gallon bags or cans per household, one (1) bulk item per week allowed*

*NO items containing Freon, automotive tires, hazardous waste or construction material*

### Collection Dates:

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28;**

**May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 3, 9, 16, 23, 30;**

**July 8, 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25;**

**Sept. 1, 9, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27**

*Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2017 trash flyer*

**CALL 610-926-2267 the day of collection to report a missed trash collection - messages can be left on the answering machine until midnight**

## RECYCLING COLLECTION INFO

**About Bern Recycling Collections:**

*Every other week*

### DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS!

*Place clear, brown and green glass containers, plastic, tin, Bi-metal and aluminum cans in recycling container. Place newspapers in paper bags or bundle. Cut cardboard and place in paper bags or bundle. **Items NOT collected for recycling:** paint cans, tires, batteries or large appliances.*

### Collection Dates:

**March 2, 16, 30; April 13, 27; May 11, 25;**

**June 8, 22; July 7, 20; Aug. 3, 17, 31;**

**Sept. 14, 28; Oct. 12, 26**

*Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2017 recycling flyer*

**CALL 610-926-2267 the day of collection to report a missed recycling collection - messages can be left on the answering machine until midnight**

**Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2017 leaf and yard waste flyer**

# 2016 in Review

## Bern Township Committees

The various Bern Township Committees met during the year to conduct business on behalf of the township.

### Zoning Hearing Board

The Zoning Hearing Board reviewed three projects during 2016. The Board rendered decisions on the Try Mac cell tower, Carriage House parking lot and the Stor-4-U self-storage facility.

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met 11 times through the year to review Land Development and Subdivision Plans to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission reviewed six residential subdivision projects. The commercial projects reviewed included the Stor-4-U facility and Berks County Solid Waste facility. The Commission informally reviewed plans for the Berks County Industrial Development Authority, Try Mac Towers, Bulk Chemicals, Wawa Food Market and the Hartman Farm development.

### Solid Waste Advisory Commission

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission met 3 times through the year to discuss current recycling and trash collection programs and reviewed ideas on how to communicate the benefits of recycling to the community.

The township received a petition to add certain residences to the Trash Collection District. Survey forms were prepared and mailed to the area in question to confirm the interest of the residents. The survey tabulations showed that the majority desired to be in the district. Letters were sent to the residents providing the results of the survey and the relative information of being in a trash district. A service area map and listing of the resident addresses were created to add the Northwest District to the trash collection program.

A new three year trash and recycling request for proposal was created during the year as the current contract ended on December 31, 2016. The contracts were awarded to the lowest responsible bidders as required by Pennsylvania State Law. County Waste is the successful recycling hauler and Tamaqua Transfer is the successful trash hauler from January 2, 2017 until December 31, 2019. Cougles received the Marketing and Processing contract for the same period of time. For the next three years, the trash collection fee is \$138.00 per year per residence and the recycling fee is \$37.00 per year per residence.

### Ag Security Commission

The Agricultural Security Commission met to review two applications, one on White Oak Lane and the other on Possum Lane, to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

We thank all of the committee members for devoting their time on behalf of the township.



COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL DISPOSAL SERVICE

"Your Cans Are In Good Hands"

## Lawley's

Disposal & Container Service, Inc.

P.O. Box 778

Leesport, PA 19533

(610) 916-599

The township received a DEP Recycling Performance Grant award of \$15,346.00 for our 2014 recycling efforts. The township also finished and closed out our \$64,171.00 Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Equipment Grant after receiving funds towards the purchase of the skid loader. The township appreciates the financial support from the Department of Environmental Protection towards our recycling program grants.

The township submitted the 2015 Recycling Performance Grant application to DEP for 2,344 tons of material recycled. This amount is approximately 245 tons more than 2014.

The township curbside recycling program collected a total of 251.73 tons of material. This was approximately 83.77 tons less than 2015's amount.

The township participated in the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Contract for leaf and yard waste removal for the next two years. ❖

### Berks County Recycling News:

[www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa)

### Electronic Waste & Tire Recycling:

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

8:00 am to Noon

Fees may apply

County Recycling Center

Hilltop Road, Bern Township

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates:

8:00 am to 2:00 pm rain or shine

April 15, 2017

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

October 21, 2017

Berks County Agricultural Center

### Paper Shredding:

8:00 am to 2:00 pm rain or shine

April 22, 2017

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

October 14, 2017

Berks County Agricultural Center

**IT PAYS TO RECYCLE !**

# 2016 in Review

## Emergency Management Committee

The Bern Township Emergency Management Committee was active during the Winter Storm Jonas event. The Emergency Management Coordinator, Kevin Hinkle, declared a snow emergency prior to the storm that was extended twice. A State of Emergency Declaration was announced during the evening on the first day of the storm. Afterwards, documents were assembled to validate equipment, material and labor costs associated with the storm. The township could only submit a funding request for costs during a specific 48 hour window during the storm. The township went through the process of attending meetings, preparing documents and interviewing with FEMA and PEMA officials for our funding request. The total 48 hour window cost of the storm established and approved for Bern Township was \$31,036.95. The total funding assistance received from FEMA was \$23,277.72, or 75% of the total cost. The State of Pennsylvania declined supporting the other 25% of the costs, therefore the township absorbed those costs. We are very grateful for the assistance that we received.

An identity badge was created for the Bern Township Emergency Management department. This is to establish credibility and professionalism to the department. Emergency management material continues to be created for placement on the Bern Township website as well.

A number of exercises and training opportunities were offered during the year. Staff participated in:

- Code Silver drill at Penn State Health conducted by the Bern Township Police.
- An oil train derailment tabletop exercise at the Berks County Department of Emergency Services.
- Staff served as evaluators and observers at the Penn State Health Mass Casualty and Surge Emergency exercise in 2016.
- A pipeline seminar was also attended during the year to gain knowledge on emergency response tactics and damage prevention with regard to the underground pipeline facilities. This was very appropriate for us as these facilities exist in Bern Township.

The township reviewed and updated various documents to declare a State of Emergency, declare a Disaster Proclamation or Snow Emergency Proclamation.

The township participated in meetings with Life Lion Ambulance, Berks County DES and Penn State Health with regard to EMS services on the Penn State Health St. Joseph property. Eventually, Life Lion was designated as a "QRS" agency, allowing Life Lion to assist in responding to EMS calls on their specific property. There are no other EMS coverage changes within Bern Township.

The township spearheaded an effort for discussions on securing temporary structures to house a fire truck from Union Fire Company and an ambulance from Schuylkill Valley EMS while the Wall Street Bridge is

closed by PennDOT for reconstruction, since both of their facilities are located on the Route 61 side of the river. A Resource Request for the structures was prepared and sent to Berks DES, approved and forwarded to PEMA on November 28 for their consideration. Discussions with PEMA ensued. Unfortunately, PEMA was unable to locate any temporary structures or funding in response to our needs. We continue to search for other alternatives.

The Emergency Management Committee will continue to work to update ordinances, agreements, operations plans during 2017 and continue training efforts to be prepared for any developing emergencies. ❖



## Bern Township Municipal Authority

BTMA is pleased to announce there will be no water or sewer rate increase in the 2017 Budget. However, BTMA continues to have increased sewer flow reads at the West Shore Development's flow meter. Future rate increases may be necessary.

Rag balls increased the flow reads again in two periods during the month of November. The increased flow reads resulted in the increased payment BTMA made to the RRAA sewer plant. Please do not flush sanitary wipes as they could cause a blockage in your sewer pipes which would cost you, the homeowner. They also cause balls to form that cause an increase in the metered flow.

Grease has also been an ongoing problem at two or three of the BTMA Pump Stations. A new pump is needed at the Bern West Ridge Pump Station. The cost is over \$8000. Please **DO NOT** pour grease down the drains.

With your cooperation in these matters,

# 2016 in Review

the BTMA Board can keep rates steady and potential future increases at a minimum.

## Information Requested

For the last several months, BTMA has made a concerted effort to acquire customer contact information. An emergency call system will most likely be decided upon within the next month or two. All Boil Water Notices will go through the call system. If you are a **water customer and have not provided your contact information or need to update your contact information, please do so ASAP.** BTMA will no longer be required to personally deliver a notice to you once the call system is in place.

## Automatic Bill Payments

BTMA is researching the possibility of having customers be able to pay their monthly water/sewer bills by ACH payment. The program that is being researched would allow the customer to have an automatic payment of the entire billed amount deducted from the customer's bank account monthly. The customer would provide the necessary information to BTMA on a registration form. Please keep an eye out for future announcements on your monthly bill regarding this possible way to pay your monthly/quarterly bill. ❖

## Board of Supervisors / Administration

The Bern Township Board of Supervisors adopted:

- An In-Law Suite Ordinance for residential properties.
- A revised Stormwater Ordinance to allow some relief on small projects.
- A revised Building Permit Fee Resolution.
- Revised Emergency Management Resolutions.
- Two Agricultural Security applications.
- A balanced 2017 General Fund Budget of \$3,780,622.00 that includes a 0.5 mill tax increase.
- Trash fees have been slightly lowered and recycling fees have been slightly raised. For those who receive both services, the overall yearly cost is \$5 lower than 2016. These fees will remain constant for the next three years.

Township staff communicated to the residents via email blasts on various topics such as:

- BTMA boil water advisory issues.
- Recycling collection schedule reminders.
- 2016 Winter and Fall Newsletters.
- Road project scheduling and road closings.
- Police Citizen's Academy opportunities.
- The new 2017 trash, recycling and yard waste collection schedule flyers.

**Please contact the township office if you would like to be added to our email address list.**

Stormwater programming again received much attention in 2016 as we continue to learn the new EPA/DEP requirements involved with the next township permit in

2018. We improved and updated our program and manual.

Two illicit stormwater inspections were conducted during the year as required. The township prepared and submitted a detailed progress report to DEP on our stormwater management plan accomplishments and improvements over the last two years. A DEP inspector visited the township during the year and audited our program. We received his compliments on our program. Bern Township was afforded the opportunity to review educational material being developed for DEP Training sessions on stormwater management and provided comment from a municipal standpoint.

Staff remained involved in various county organizations. Administrative staff attended a total of 37 free webinars or seminars on subjects including stormwater regulation, Affordable Care Act regulations and IRS reporting requirements, weather forecasting, gas / electric pricing and storage outlooks, insurance company management & safety topics, FEMA training on Winter Storm Jonas, economic forecasting, doing more with less budgetary training, grant application training, grant program training and LED streetlight transitions. Staff also attended two full day stormwater training sessions on future requirements and regulations provided by DEP.

The Five Year Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Plan were updated during the year, including:

- Budget revenues and expenditures were reviewed each month.
- Calculations of future revenue projections based on potential speculative developments were prepared and reviewed.
- A study of non-taxable land in the township revealed that \$764,095.68 would be received if the land was taxable.
- Due to the above bullet, **the township continues to find ways to economize and reduce costs through doing work in house or finding more efficient solutions to our operations. The total dollars saved since 2006 is \$3,281,351.46.**

Township staff took the opportunity to provide training to elected officials of approximately 35 municipalities on how to create and administer a Five Year Financial Plan.

Staff will remain active in 2017 with projects such as updating the five year plans, updating our physical plant, continuing to update the storm water program and managing roadway projects. ❖

Please help to support your newsletter by purchasing ad space. Please call 610-926-2267 for information. We thank the businesses that have supported your newsletter

# 2016 in Review

## 2016 Finances

Certain funds arrived in 2016 that should have arrived in 2015 to the General Fund. This artificially inflates revenue for 2016 while lowering revenue in 2015. When adjusting for this, the township's General Fund income for the year totaled \$3,293,808. This amount is \$81,308 (2.5%) more than 2015. The following is a breakdown of the General Fund revenue amounts for 2016:

Real Estate Tax	\$1,262,881	39%
Act 511 Tax	\$1,327,479	40%
Permits & Licenses	\$195,503	6%
Fines	\$48,261	1%
Charges for Service	\$124,276	4%
State Pension Aid	\$122,490	4%
Gov't Revenue	\$106,029	3%
Reimbursements	\$59,269	2%
Police Services	\$47,620	1%

The General Fund expenses for the year came in at \$3,233,377. This amount is \$71,401 (2.2%) more than the expenses for 2015. The following is a breakdown of the township's General Fund expenses for 2016:

General Government	\$362,492	11%
Debt Service	\$4,336	0%
Fire Companies	\$45,731	2%
Police Protection	\$1,158,745	36%
Building Inspections	\$114,750	4%
Roads & Highways	\$485,215	15%
Recycling Center	\$40,354	1%
Pensions	\$333,485	10%
Insurances	\$648,269	20%
Equipment Escrow	\$40,000	1%

The general fund tax was adjusted this year by an increase of a ½ mill. The breakdown of the total tax is:

General Fund	3.67 Mills
Capital Improvement	0.116 Mills
Fire Protection	0.15 Mills
TOTAL	3.936 Mills

How do we compare with our neighbor's tax rates? The City of Reading (17.689 mills), Muhlenberg (5 mills), Ontelaunee (4.05 mills), Leesport (5.72), Lower Heidelberg (4.79 mills) and Spring (4.01 mills) are Higher. Penn (1 mill) and Centre (0.36) are lower.

The township's current five-year financial, capital improvement and strategic plan continues to be monitored and adjusted. ❖

## Police Department

Training and preparedness remained high priorities of the Bern Township Police Department during 2016. The department continued the use of the grant-funded Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network to receive required mandatory in-service training courses as well

as an Encountering Persons with Autism course online. Various personnel also received training in Alzheimer's recognition and response, investigation of specific types of assaults, laws and legal updates, fingerprinting compliance, and contemporary police and homeland security skills. First responders' electrical hazards training was conducted for all department members. The police department participated in organizing and conducting an active shooter exercise at Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center, and approximately 50 law enforcement officers from fourteen departments attended the hospital familiarization, briefing, and exercise. The Bern Township Police Department continues to support planning efforts for the upcoming Wall Street Bridge closure and replacement beginning in 2017.

Police-community involvement remains another high priority of the Bern Township Police Department. Citizen assistance continues to allow the department to solve burglaries, thefts, vandalism incidents, and all varieties of crimes. The department, along with Muhlenberg Township and Northern Berks Regional police, once again held a joint Citizen Police Academy for eight weeks in February and March 2016. The department continues to receive positive and enthusiastic comments about the ongoing Citizen Police Academy program. Bern Township Police Department assisted Bern Township Pool personnel in planning and holding the township's first National Night Out during August 2016. The Chief of Police and the Detective Sergeant attended a community meeting at a residence in Greenfields during May 2016, covering topics of interest to residents and answering questions from attendees. Safety programs were developed and presented to summer camp attendees at Berkshire Country Club and at the Schuylkill Valley Community Library. The department presented active shooter emergencies per-capita training at a major township employer.

The Chief of Police attended the Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust Police Safety Forum in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania in May 2016 to review general information about police officer injuries in Pennsylvania. Information received at the forum was used in policy development aimed at enhancing officer safety and minimizing risk situations.

Department members attended the Berks Women in Crisis "Silent Witness Project" event at Reading Area Community College. Reading City, Bern Township, and Exeter Township Police Departments are the three police departments in Berks County that have adopted the Maryland Model of the Lethality Assessment Program, which is supported by Berks Women in Crisis. The lethality assessment is a tool to identify victims of assaults and domestic violence who are at risk of potentially lethal future assaults. Police officers then institute immediate measures to initiate victims' participation in domestic violence programs by placing them in direct

# 2016 in Review

contact with a domestic violence program counselor. Bern Township Police Department remained active with the Berks County Juvenile Probation Community Youth Aid Panel Program as a participant on the Muhlenberg 1 Youth Aid Panel. The most recent published outcomes indicate that there have been successful program completions by offenders in 83% of the cases referred to the youth aid panel.

First Amendment Protected Events challenged department resources during 2016. With the freedom to disagree peacefully with government and political leaders being so critically important in the United States, the department trained and worked hard to ensure that the rights of protestors were respected, that laws of the Commonwealth were enforced, and that everyone's safety remained a pre-eminent concern at all events. The department, in partnership with the Berks County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies, provided participant security for a number of protests at the Berks County Residential Center. The department also provided security at a political protest along a major transit route during the evening rush hour. Aside from two arrests made for trespassing violations at the Residential Center, First Amendment Protected Events have been held without injuries or significant incidents. ❖

## Road Department

The road department started 2016 by responding to a historic winter snowstorm event, Winter Storm Jonas. By the time it was over, approximately 26" of snow fell during the weekend storm. The crew of five, with the help of two part time employees, spent 36 hours plowing and salting during the event. Trucks became stuck at times and truck breakdowns happened. Cars became stuck on the roads and some were abandoned causing challenges for plowing operations. All roads were passable with at least one lane at the end of the 36 hour shift. Plowing, salting, equipment repair and clean up after the storm required 476 man hours. An interesting note – the Blizzard of 1996 dropped 30" of snow over two days on Berks County causing roads to be closed for two days. The 2016 storm dropped 26" of snow and all roads were passable 36 hours after the storm began.



The department members dismantled and rebuilt the Mill Road culvert during the year. The culvert was built by the township in 1943. The township engineer, SSM Group, designed the project and secured our General Permit from DEP to allow us to work in the stream. The material quantities, request for proposals, contract awards, shop drawing and submittal reviews, labor estimates and project schedule were handled in-house by the road foreman. The road crew dismantled the old box culvert, temporarily diverted the stream, excavated and poured concrete footers, installed reinforcing bar, formed and poured concrete headwalls, installed a 23 foot aluminum pipe, backfilled and paved the roadway and stabilized the streambank areas. A contractor was hired to install the new guiderail to complete the project. The project was completed under the original budget amount of \$30,000.00 as the final cost was \$29,444.84.

The road crew also removed the deteriorating concrete entryway to Peach Blossom Lane and installed paving. This was to finally remedy the constant deterioration of the concrete surface.

The 2016 road project was completed \$39,120.60 under budget at a total cost of \$308,574.40.

The project included the following renovations:

- Paving a portion of White Oak Lane.
- Paving Upper Van Reed Road and Blessing Lane.
- Replacing the Upper Van Reed Road guiderail.

Since 2008, a total of 27 roads consisting of 11.6 miles, have been repaved, not including seal coat applications.

The road foreman prepared bid specifications for the 2017 road project to include resurfacing:

- Peach Blossom Lane and Hillview Circle.
- Fairview Drive (McCoy Lane to White Oak north).
- White Oak (Fairview Drive to Possum Lane west).
- Possum Lane (White Oak to Fairview Drive).
- The budget cost for the project is \$274,540.00.

The township purchased Shillington Borough's used 2000 street sweeper for \$6,000.00 during the year to replace our worn out 1987 model sweeper.

The yearly road inspection was conducted. The road inventory catalog and 10 year road plan was updated.

Josh Forry resigned his position again in the road department. The township hired Jason Kercher from 42 applicants. We welcome Jason to our staff. We are confident that he will serve our community well and hope that his career at Bern Township is enjoyable.

The road department received training in 2016 on stormwater management tasks required by DEP, PA One Call functions, paving operations, safety procedures near downed wires and signage information.

The road department plans to work on pipe replacements and resurfacing roads such as Van Reed Road between Leiscz's Bridge Road and the Schuylkill River in 2017. ❖

## The Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly had previously been found in southeastern municipalities in Berks County. This invasive pest has gradually expanded its location and is now next door in Centre Township.

There is a quarantine order in place that prohibits movement of any living life stage of this insect to areas outside of the quarantine area. To find information about identifying the spotted lanternfly, current distribution information, quarantine order, and compliance go to: [www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted\\_lanternfly](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly)

If you find a spotted lanternfly outside of the quarantine area, you should try to capture it and put it into a vile filled with alcohol to kill and preserve it, or at least take a good picture of it. Report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture by emailing [bedbug@pa.gov](mailto:bedbug@pa.gov) or call the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-253-7189.

This insect is considered a threat to crops and many people are working to prevent it from spreading. Each female can lay up to 100 or more eggs in the fall.

The spotted lanternfly is not known to bite humans. You can kill spotted lanternflies by swatting or crushing them. However, they can quickly jump far away from you when you threaten them.

It is important for landowners in affected areas to avoid spreading the insect. One good practice is to avoid parking your vehicle under trees because spotted lanternflies

that are living in the trees will lay eggs on the cars that are under the tree. Inspect items, including the wood from cut or killed Tree of Heaven, their preferred plant to feed on, and destroy any living spotted lanternflies or egg masses before you move them out of the area. ❖

## Greenfields Fire Company

The Greenfields Fire Company, an all-volunteer squad, responded to 398 calls during 2016. The calls included car accidents, brush fires, structure fires and chimney fires. Dylan Matz received a promotion to Exterior Firefighter. Adriana Tonkonow joined the squad as FireFighter One.

The company continued their drill practices, held their annual Open House and cheerfully escorted Santa Clause through the township.

Sadly, the company and township communities experienced a loss with Phil Haupt's passing. Phil was a true servant to the Greenfields Fire Company and Bern Township communities for more than 20 years. During his career, he served as fire company officer, firefighter, treasurer, supporter and Bern Township Emergency Management Coordinator. Our community benefited from Phil's dedication and knowledge of the many positions that he filled. Our sympathies are extended to Phil's family, friends and many co-workers. He will truly be missed. ❖

**Important news inside that affects YOU!**



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1069 OLD BERNVILLE ROAD  
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