

BERN TOWNSHIP



in the news.....

WINTER 2021

2020 in Review

We experienced many significant events during the year with the Covid-19 Pandemic at the top of the list. This caused the stock market crash on March 9, an economic slowdown, businesses were forced to close on a few occasions, record unemployment resulted and a vaccine was developed and started to be distributed. Many events were cancelled such as the World War II Weekend, Christmas in the Air and the Reading Fair. Township services were interrupted for a period of time.

We had many natural disasters such as a record hurricane season, volcanoes erupting in Hawaii, wildfires in the western United States and Australia and drought in the southwest. Bern Township was not immune from these events either as we experienced significant storms in March, June and August that caused flooding and sink holes.

We watched many public protests and civil unrest in the country throughout the year. Bern Township also had public protests occur at the Berks County Residential Center.

Odd things happened as well. Explosions in Beirut and Nashville. Murder hornets in the United States. Members of the Royal Family quit their positions. An 800 seat church was proposed to be placed within the City of Reading with an expected access route through the Greenfields development. Township staff testified at the zoning hearing regarding the concerns of the traffic impact to the development.

The President and Vice President of the United States came into the township on separate occasions in October. The Greenfields Fire Company, Bern Township Police, Western Berks Ambulance and Township Emergency Management disciplines created and implemented plans at our own cost to protect the persons attending these events and the properties involved.

And some other things happened in Bern Township. Our 2020 Census response rate was 84.6%. We were one of the highest rate of returns in the county – congratulations to all!

Township staff participated in a blood donation day with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Thanks to staff for being good stewards to our community! The One

Room Schoolhouse was saved from the wrecking ball by the Friends of the School. Township police staff provided an escort for the move, road staff posted no parking signs along the transport route and assisted with creating a spectator parking plan. The Belfair Drive street lights were finally turned on after the developer and Met Ed got together to resolve the problem. The Reading Airport sponsored a 5K race in November for the Camel Project, a non profit organization that promotes emotional, physical and mental health support to communities including schools, organizations and individuals.

Even with the distractions, we still managed to get some things done. This newsletter will report to you the accomplishments and activities of Bern Township during 2020. The end of the year again brings transition to the township on various personnel and service contract matters.

We again thank our committee / board members and paid staff for their service to our community. We thank those who volunteer their personal time to serve our community for no compensation. All of you are very important to Bern Township and we recognize your dedication to the quality of life in your community.

For those of you new to Bern Township, residents and businesses, we welcome you to the community. 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

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Brian S. Eveland	610-587-0077
Irene Reed	610-926-7621
Jeff Thompson	610-371-9411
Dan Tobias	610-375-1664
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 For emergencies call 911	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 Wed. at 11:00 am
Solid Waste Commission	Meeting dates as needed
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, oil or epoxy paint cans or construction material*

Collection Dates:

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26;

May 3, 10, 17, 24; June 1, 7, 14, 21, 28;

July 5, 12, 19, 26; Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;

Sept. 7, 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25

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 #1 and #2 plastics, tin, Bi-metal and aluminum cans in your recycling container.

NO GLASS. *Place newspapers in paper bags or bundle. Cut cardboard and place in paper bags or bundle. Items NOT collected for recycling: glass, paint cans, tires, styrofoam, plastics #3 thru #7, batteries or large appliances.*

Collection Dates:

District #1:

Mar. 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 6, 20;

June 4, 17; July 1, 15, 29; Aug. 12, 26;

Sept. 10, 23; Oct. 7, 21

District #2:

Mar. 4, 18; April 1, 15, 29; May 13, 27;

June 10, 24; July 8, 22; Aug. 5, 19;

Sept. 2, 16, 30; Oct. 14, 28

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

2020 in Review

2020 Finances

The township's General Fund revenue / income for the year totaled \$3,778,428. This amount is \$8,567 less than 2019. The following is a breakdown of the General Fund revenue amounts for 2020:

Real Estate Tax	\$1,583,954	42%
Act 511 Tax	\$1,396,379	37%
Permits & Licenses	\$205,661	6%
Fines	\$48,408	1%
Charges for Service	\$149,196	4%
State Pension Aid	\$157,563	4%
Gov't Revenue	\$79,935	2%
Reimbursements	\$116,990	3%
Police Services	\$40,342	1%

The General Fund expenses for the year came in at \$3,577,442. This amount is \$71,690 (2%) less than the expenses for 2019. The following is a breakdown of the township's General Fund expenses for 2020:

Police Protection	\$1,313,100	36%
Insurances	\$772,949	22%
Roads & Highways	\$462,877	13%
Pensions	\$411,458	12%
General Government	\$381,432	10%
Building Inspections	\$89,763	2%
Equipment Escrow	\$50,450	2%
Recycling Center	\$49,421	2%
Fire Companies	\$43,824	1%
Debt Service	\$2,168	0%

The general fund tax will remain at 2020 levels in 2021. The breakdown of the total 4.186 mill tax is:

General Fund	3.92 Mills
Capital Improvement	0.116 Mills
Fire Protection	0.15 Mills
TOTAL	4.186 Mills

Emergency Management Committee

Emergency Management was busy during the year. Work associated with Covid-19 occupied a good amount of time. Costs for personal protective equipment for staff were tracked and tabulated. The emergency management coordinator (EMC) participated in a panel discussion for other municipal representatives to discuss emergency preparedness for the Covid-19 hosted by Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government.

The EMC assisted in pre-planning for special events such as the President and Vice President visits to the township. The EMC also responded to reports of various storm damage and visited those areas affected to take photos and document the damage to report to the county department of emergency services. The EMC also responded to a building collapse as a result of a large tree falling on an occupied home and assisted the Red Cross in finding suitable shelter for the displaced residents.

The township continued to engage businesses and institutions to share emergency preparedness information and become familiar with new facilities in order to be in a better position to assist them in an emergency.

The EMC worked to fully outfit the emergency operations center with equipment and furniture, most of which was donated by him, to prepare the center for emergency operations activities.

Before the closing of Aviation Road, the township developed an alternate emergency route for Route 183 traffic in the event an accident or other event blocked the highway between Aviation Road and Van Reed Road.

We thank Stor4U for assisting the township by posting emergency messaging on their digital sign along Route 183.

The EMC continued to create emergency management material for posting on the township website. The township updated the emergency operations plan including the Notification and Resource Manual and the Continuity of Operations Plan. This plan guides us in how we continue to provide our services to the community even if we lose our township building, staff or other vital equipment or infrastructure. These updates were provided to Berks Department of Emergency Services.

Thanks to our volunteer EMC, Kevin Hinkle, the township saved \$18,764.00 in EMC labor costs during the year.

Please remember the "Bern Township Guide to Emergency Preparedness" guide is available on our website. We encourage you to print or save a copy of the guide for yourself.

The 2021 goals of the emergency management staff is to update and revise all Emergency Operations Plans, evaluate increased ways of immediate notification to township residents of significant events and emergencies, update credentials of the department and continue to evaluate any potential threats to the safety of those within the township. ❖

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Your Cans Are In Good Hands!

2020 in Review

Berks County Recycling News:
www.co.berks.pa.us/swa

Electronic Waste & Tire Recycling:
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays
8:00 am to Noon Fees apply for tires
County Recycling Center
1316 Hilltop Road, Bern Township

The Berks County Hazardous Waste collection and the Paper Shredding events have not been scheduled as of the writing of this newsletter. Please visit www.co.berks.pa.us/swa for more information.

Please note – latex paint is not a hazardous material and should not be brought to the county hazardous waste collections. Dry latex, water based, or acrylic paint can go in the trash. Follow these steps to get rid of it safely:

- **If there is less than an inch of paint in the can, remove the lid and air dry.**
- **If there is more than an inch of paint in the can, mix the paint with cat litter and let it solidify. You can also use a paint hardener according to directions.**
- **Throw the can of dried paint in the garbage. Remove the lid, but do not take the paint out of the can.**

Bern Township Committees

The various Bern Township Committees met during the year, in person and virtually, to conduct business on behalf of the township.

Ag Security Commission

The Agricultural Security Commission did not receive any applications in 2020 requiring the commission to meet.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met in person or virtually 9 times through the year to review Land Development and Subdivision Plans to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission reviewed and recommended approvals of the proposed G&T Industries facility, Berks Heim Boiler addition, the Berks Park Building “E” addition and two residential subdivision plans. The Reitenouer Development project was withdrawn during the year. The Commission also reviewed plans for the Misco Products addition, the proposed Suncap facility and the proposed Burkey Development facility.

The group experienced staff changes again during 2020. Matthew Hood and Don Ballou resigned their positions on the commission and Glenn Sweigart was appointed to the commission. Lori Hozza stepped down as secretary and Marge Rumbaugh was appointed to take her place. We thank Matthew, Don and Lori for their service to the community

and welcome Glenn and Marge to the team.

Solid Waste Advisory Commission

The Advisory Commission did not meet in 2020. The township submitted the 2019 Recycling Performance Grant application to DEP for 1,276 tons of recycled material and received an award of \$13,292.00 for our recycling efforts. This was \$380.00 more than our 2018 grant award. We recycled 23 tons less than 2018.

The township curbside recycling program collected a total of 255 tons of material in 2020 at a cost of \$19,102.50 to the township. This was approximately 38 tons less than 2019’s amount (293 tons).

The total recycling of all materials in 2019 for residential and businesses, including yard waste, was over 3,226 tons which is 851 tons higher than 2019.

The current three year trash and recycling contracts enter year 2 in 2021. A.J. Blosenski will continue to collect recyclables on Thursdays and Republic Services will continue to collect trash on Mondays.

Glass and plastics 3 through 7 are no longer recyclable. The hauler will not collect your recyclables if these materials are amongst them.

The township continues to participate in the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Contract for leaf and yard waste removal.

The township purchased a new leaf vacuum in 2020 and submitted an \$81,882 repayment request to DEP for the machine.

Zoning Hearing Board

For the first time since 2005, the Zoning Hearing Board did not receive any variance applications requiring the board to meet.

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

Greenfields Fire Company

The all-volunteer staff of the Greenfields Fire Company have been protecting Bern Township since 1953. The fire company responded to 448 calls during 2020, including 45 EMS calls. There were 118 calls to incidents in other municipalities for the fire company. There were 330 calls that other fire departments responded to in Bern Township. The average time that it took the fire company to leave the fire station after getting dispatched was 4 minutes and 50 seconds. This includes travel time from their homes. The average time that it took the fire company to arrive at the scene after getting dispatched was 12 minutes and 34 seconds. The average time the fire company spent at the scene was 62 minutes and 48 seconds. The majority of calls received by the fire company were false alarms or false calls. The fire company also responded to calls for fires, rescue and emergency medical

(Continued on Page 5)

2020 in Review

Road Department

The road department was somewhat handicapped during the year due to Covid-19. There were cuts in the road program, reduced staff, reduced training, the road department members were not available for a short period of time and they were unable to purchase road materials for a period of time.

The 2020 Road Project (repaving Park, Center and Ziegler Roads and seal coating a portion of Hilltop Road, a portion of Leisz's Bridge Road, a portion of Van Reed Road, Seidel's Run and Snyder Road) and the construction of a stormwater facility at Snyder Drive and Grange Road were cancelled. We currently plan to do both projects in 2021.

Even with the pandemic interruptions, the road department completed a number of projects. The men resurfaced the township tennis courts and replaced the nets. Pickleball courts were added to the layouts much to the delight of residents. The department added rubber mulch to the township playground area. A contractor was engaged to resurface the basketball court and the men refinished the basketball backboards, replaced the nets and the pole padding covers.

The road department crew also rebuilt the salt shed. The back wall posts of the shed snapped and were pushed out. The posts were replaced and sandwiched in steel channels into a new foundation, new sub-framing was installed with a new interior liner wall and new exterior metal siding.

The department advertised and purchased through gas tax funds a used 2010 paving machine and a used 2018 asphalt grinding machine. The grinding machine will save the township money as we can now just grind certain sections of bad roadway areas without completely digging up the road.

The township publicly bid the Palisades Bridge Scour Repair project and awarded the project to the low bidder. This project involves refilling the stream beds on both sides of the bridge to prevent further erosion and undermining of the bridge foundation. The township secured a permit from DEP a few years prior to do this work. The project will be accomplished in 2021.

The township submitted a Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance grant for Washington Road after completing an in-house traffic study and receiving an easement from the farmer. The grant request was for the purchase of materials and some engineering costs in the amount of \$22,824.00 with \$40,541 for in-kind contributions by the township. The grant was not approved as most of the work was not along the township roadway. The project was redesigned to cure that issue and the grant will be resubmitted in early 2021.

The department members continued to participate in the Berks County Public Works Association. Finally, the department conducted their annual inspection of the township roadways.

Projects for 2021 include re-submission of the Washington Road grant, completing the 2018 DEP Equipment grant, implement the 2021 road project, facilitate the Palisades Bridge repairs, construct one stormwater facility as required by DEP and update our 10 year road plan. ❖

Greenfields Fire Co. (Continued from Page 4)

services, hazardous conditions, service, good intent, special incidents and severe weather or natural disaster.

Mahlon Auker continued as Fire Chief. He has been a member of the company for over 15 years.

In cooperation with the US Secret Service and multiple state and local agencies, Greenfields Fire Company prepared emergency action plans for the President and Vice President visits in October. Greenfields, along with Western Berks Fire Department, Mt Pleasant Fire Company, and Fleetwood Fire Company, provided fire protection and traffic control for both incidents.

The fire company has continued on a capital improvement program to make repairs to the fire station. This improvement program includes seal coating the exterior of the building, replacing all man doors, and new heating and air conditioning thorough the living area and offices of the station. Although the project was stalled due to the ongoing pandemic, the improvements should be completed by summer of 2021.

The fire company also updated and approved their bylaws and developed new policies to keep their members safer in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the fire company had to revisit their operations guidelines to ensure safer practices while interacting with the public on calls and during public relation events. They are hopeful that they will be able to return to a more open and inviting atmosphere in the near future.

In usual fashion, Greenfields Fire Company, assisted by Mt Pleasant Fire Company, gave Santa's reindeer a day off in December while they gave Santa a ride through the neighborhoods on their fire truck to the delight of all. They look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come and enjoy filling the hearts of the residents with holiday spirit.

Finally, Greenfields Fire Company is always looking for new volunteers for the fire company, both operational and administrative. If you would like to make a difference in your community, but you are unable to fight fire, we are in need of operations support personnel as well as firefighters. Please call 610-374-9283 and leave a message, or email Chief Auker at mauker@greenfields55.com for more information on how you can help. If you are not able to commit to being a firefighter or operations support, please consider joining the Greenfields Fire Company Social Club on Boeing Avenue. The money you spend at the social quarters is used to support the fire company operations. ❖

2020 in Review

Board of Supervisors / Administration

The Board of Supervisors voted on various legislative items, including a Disaster Emergency Resolution for the Covid-19 pandemic, appointing a Pandemic Safety Officer and extending the township real estate flat tax period to September 30, 2020. The Board approved a one year extension to the current police contract, the PennDOT 5 year Winter Maintenance agreement and the extension of the agreement with Berks County for our leaf and yard waste center through September 2023. The Board prepared an Ordinance to vacate Wayne Street in Greenfields, approved the vacation of Van Reed Road between Leisch's Bridge Road and the Schuylkill River and approved the updated Transportation Capital Improvement Plan. The Board assisted the Greenfields Fire Company with \$16,000 towards their equipment grant funding shortfall and approved a balanced budget of \$4,602,825.00 for 2021 that does not include any tax increases.

The township recognized savings to residents during 2020 in the amount of \$402,231.42 by securing grant funding, completing certain work in-house instead of paying consultants, bulk purchasing, staffing economies, engaging volunteer residents, selling equipment, working safely and re quoting services for savings. The total dollars saved since 2006 is now at \$5,034,347.00. We continue to prepare five year financial plans to maximize the power of your tax dollars. Our non-taxable land value is at 33%, causing a real estate tax loss of \$915,955.00. The township prepared a financial recovery plan early in 2020 in the event the township forecasted running out of funds due to the revenue losses resulting from the pandemic. We continued to monitor our revenues and expenses monthly and compare these amounts to our 2019 numbers through the year.

Covid-19 was a significant factor to the township. We had to close the township recreation facilities and the leaf and yard waste center for a period of time, we sacrificed the purchase of a second police car, our township building is still closed to the public and we continue to make arrangements to exchange documents as needed, we now hold public meetings virtually and we developed internal policies to mitigate the spread of the virus. Please note we now have a drop box at the main entrance to the Municipal Building for your convenience. The township submitted an application to the Berks County Cares Grant program for personal protective equipment costs and sanitizers and received the full request of \$3,152.34. We thank Berks County for assisting the township with these costs.

Administrative staff continued to attend training events and remained involved with the county stormwater steering committee, the county cooperative purchasing council, the Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Association, Berks Census 2020 Complete Count Committee, and the Reading Behavioral Health Community Advisory Council.

We thank our volunteer Steve Tricarico for mapping our township stormwater facilities to help us comply with DEP requirements. His time devoted to this is greatly appreciated.

Staff projects for 2021 include finishing the fire company study, facilitating the negotiation of a new police contract, maintaining and improving our stormwater program and continuing our financial planning and monitoring our revenues and expenses. ❖

BTMA NEWS

As many of you are aware there are ongoing issues with the United States Postal Service having major delays with mail delivery and pick-up. This has affected BTMA causing customer payments to be received later than expected. This includes customers that use their banks online bill payment service.

If you are a customer that utilizes a bill payment service online you may be assuming that when you input the delivery date for your check, making it prior to the bill's due date, that it will actually be printed and delivered by the USPS to our office by the due date. In actuality there is no way this can possibly occur, unless you are giving the USPS at least 2 weeks to deliver the payment on time. We are advising if you continue to use any online bill payment service, bank or otherwise, that you discuss what options they have that will guarantee your payments reach BTMA by the due date. All payments must be in BTMA's office on the 25th of each month, unless the 25th falls on a holiday or weekend. Then the payment is due the next business day. Checks dated the 25th or prior that are not physically in the BTMA office on the due date will receive the penalty.

Automatic Cash Transfer, ACH, is a payment option available to customers. You sign up with BTMA to have your monthly payment automatically withdrawn from your Checking or Savings account. There is no charge for this service at this time and payments are withdrawn on, or around, the 25th of each month. With this option you are guaranteed that your account is paid on time each month. Call the office and we can provide you with the application. Also, a secure **DROP BOX**, located outside the main entrance to the Township building, is a convenient option. This is emptied several times daily. For cash payments you may go to the Rt.183 VIST Bank, they are authorized to accept our payments, but bring your postcard bill with you to the drive-up.

Not receiving your BTMA bill? If you do not receive the postcard by the 5th of each month please call the office to obtain account balance due. *Not receiving your bill **does not** release you from paying your bill. A penalty will be assessed and added to your unpaid balance. BTMA does offer electronic billing where your bill is sent to the email address you provide. With this option you would no longer get the postcard bill in the mail. Call the office at 610-916-9919 if you would like the application to sign up. ❖

2020 in Review

Give the Gift of Life this Winter with Miller-Keystone Blood Center

A very successful “block party” was held from Dec. 26 through Dec. 31 at Miller-Keystone Blood Center’s donor center located on Leisch’s Bridge Road in Bern Township. The first 50 individuals registering to donate blood received a “swag bag” including a Dunkin Donuts gift certificate and a Redner’s hoagie gift certificate. All donors during the week were also automatically entered into a raffle for a variety of gift cards and gift baskets.

“Our community blood supply typically decreases this time of year due to holiday activity combined with accidents, inclement weather and seasonal illnesses”, says Robin Schappell, Account Manager, Miller-Keystone Blood Center. “However, we need approximately 450 blood donors every day to meet the transfusion needs of our regional hospitals as they care for accident victims, cancer patients, premature babies and others in need.”

Ms. Schappell adds that the Covid-19 pandemic has added another challenge for Berks County’s only blood supplier, as it forced the Blood Center to cancel several hundred drives, resulting in the loss of more than 12,000 blood donations in our region.

“While we typically see an uptick beginning in September when our regional high schools and colleges are back in session, this year we were notified by many of these institutions that they will be unable to host blood drives for the foreseeable future as they have adopted online or hybrid models for the upcoming school year,” she says.

Ms. Schappell also notes that individuals who have recovered from Covid-19 may also be eligible for the Blood Center’s Convalescent Plasma program.

“When a person becomes ill with Covid-19, it can take a patient time to develop antibodies needed to combat the disease,” she explains. “Once patients recover, they have special antibodies in their plasma. By collecting this plasma and giving it to ill patients we hope we can provide a boost to the patient’s antibodies and help stimulate recovery.”

For more information on Miller-Keystone Blood Center’s Convalescent Plasma Program, visit GIVEaPINT.org/covid-plasma. To schedule your lifesaving blood donation, call 800-B-A-DONOR or visit GIVEaPINT.org. The Blood Center can also be followed on their official social media sites on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. ❖

***Bern Township wishes for you
a
happy and healthy 2021!***

Police Department

The Bern Township Police Department responded to 7,094 events and requests during 2020. The department continued to receive training including security awareness, financial crimes, CPR, Ground Vehicle Operations training and examination for the Reading Airport and new crime reporting systems.

The police department management team remained engaged with institutions in the township by holding periodic meetings with the Berks County Jail and the Reading Behavioral Health Care leadership teams.

The department continues to contribute two department members to the Berks County Emergency Response Team and will soon add a third member to the team. The department also continues to remain active with the Berks County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force.

The department implemented full time use of body worn cameras for all of its patrol members. This was accomplished using grant funding, a donation from a Bern Township resident and use of taxpayer funds.

Policies, Procedures and Directives were updated during the year for body worn cameras, Covid-19 precautions and protocols, animal control, First Amendment Protected Events and police jurisdiction.

The department organized a commercial motor vehicle enforcement detail within the township in September. This is done in an effort to keep our roadways safe from vehicles that are not being operated safely or being maintained in a safe way. Forty warnings were issued, four trucks were placed out of service, one driver was placed out of service, four trucks were weighed with one overweight violation and twenty five citations were written.

The department was the law enforcement agency of primary jurisdiction for the Vice President and President visits in October. Secret Service has the task of protecting the President and Vice President only. In both cases, the Bern Township Police Department and local police agencies outside of the township who assisted were responsible for the enforcement and protection of the citizens that attended the events. Bern Township thanks the numerous law enforcement and public safety agencies that assisted in successfully planning and managing these events.

The department continues to work hard at keeping our community safe. They continue to be dedicated to identifying and seeking out illegal activity in our community. Assisting with this endeavor is the specialized training that our officers receive to investigate traffic offenses, crashes, fires, drug offenses, financial crimes, and other major crimes that affect our community. The team approach to keeping Bern Township safe as well as a desirable place to live could not be done without the continued support of the residents it serves. The department continues to seek out innovative ways to balance both financial concerns and public safety while maintaining the highest degree of professionalism. ❖

Berks County Government Contacts

District Justice Brian Strand	610-916-4496
County Services Building	610-478-6100
Office of Aging	610-478-6500
Tax Assessment Board	610-478-6262
Recorder of Deeds	610-478-3380
Register of Wills	610-478-6600
Tax Claim Bureau	610-478-6625
Veterans Affairs	610-378-5601
Voter Registration	610-478-6490
PA Game Commission	610-926-3136
Berks Heim	610-376-4841
Schuylkill Valley Library	610-926-1555

Township Tree Trimming

Please maintain your trees and bushes to keep them away from the paved surface of the road. Delivery trucks, school busses, fire trucks, trash trucks, snow plows and passenger vehicles can be scratched or damaged by the trees encroaching into the roadway areas. Trees growing over the roadway can cause accidents by forcing cars out into the middle of the road to avoid them. Keep everyone safe by keeping your trees and shrubs away from the road. ❖

Please Consider

Please consider purchasing an ad to help support your newsletter and promote your business to our residents. The continuance of this program is important so that we can keep everyone informed about our community's accomplishments each year and to provide bits of information that may be helpful to all.

Plenty of room is available. Please call 610-926-2267 for information on placing an ad. We greatly appreciate those who have supported the newsletter by purchasing ad space and ask that everyone to support the businesses who have graciously purchased ads in your newsletter. Thanks ! ❖

Bern Township Website

Visit our website at www.berntownship.org for more information on recycling collection dates, meeting dates and special interest information. We have posted various permit application forms on the website so that you can save a trip to the township building by printing the applications in the comfort of your home and / or office. ❖

Communication Information

The township sends email blasts to inform the residents about current issues of the day. All email addresses are kept confidential. If you would like to sign up for this service, please call the township building at 610-926-2267 to provide your email address and street address. ❖

Important news inside that affects YOU!



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READING, PA 19605