



BERNVILLE BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 24, Issue 1

January-February-March 2020

BOROUGH CALENDAR... **Dates To Remember**

January

- 2 – Waste and Recycling Pick-up (on Thursday)
- 6 – Reorganization/Council Meeting
- 15 – Recycling Pick-up
- 26 – Bernville History Open House
- 29 – Recycling Pick-up

February

- 4 – Council Meeting
- 6 – Shade Tree Commission (Borough Hall)
- 12 – Recycling Pick-up
- 18 – Heritage & Cultural Society (Borough Hall)
- 26 – Recycling Pick-up

March

- 3 – Council Meeting
- 11 – Recycling Pick-up
- 25 – Recycling Pick-up
- TBA- Clay Park Clean-up

BOROUGH NEWS TO KNOW

- 2020 borough millage rate increased to 5.44 mills.
- No increase in borough water and sewer rates.
- Pay 2020 trash bill by Feb 29 - \$220.
- Clear snow and ice from sidewalks within 12 hours.
- Snow or ice emergency parking restrictions.
- Stan Clay Park Clean-Up, March; volunteers welcome.
- Bernville History Open House.
- Recycle Christmas trees behind borough garage. Remove all decorations and tinsel. No artificial trees. No plastic tree covers. Trees are ground into mulch.
- Tree Grant Provided 90 trees to Umbenhauer Park.
- Borough Council voted to retain the Police Department



BOROUGH NEWS REPORT. . .

Mayor's Report

It's with great anticipation and excitement that I'm looking forward to not only a new year but also the start of a new decade. It's hard to believe that it's already been two years of serving as the Mayor, and I can't express how much I have enjoyed the opportunity to have conversations with so many people in the community and witness the generous and selfless actions of countless volunteers who have made Bernville a better borough to call home.

I would continue to ask if you are interested in helping with projects or have ideas or concerns please don't be shy with reaching out to me and the borough council. I can be personally reached at 570.573.5677 or on the web at bernvilleborough.org by clicking on *mention it to the Mayor*.

Also, if you are interested in helping with the Memorial Day parade, whether it is to plan it, organize it, or day of staff please let me know. With so many communities doing away with patriotic events like this I feel it's vital that we come together and ensure that we don't falter in our commitment to it and your help is critically needed and appreciated.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,



Shawn A. Raup-Konsavage,
Mayor – Bernville Borough

Borough Council 2019 Year in Review

STREETS

There haven't been any major road projects completed this year. However, there were several small repairs completed.

SEWER

This is the 3rd year a Sewer Grant was applied for and denied. Council will be looking into having sewer lines repaired and replaced in 2020. This will be done after a study is completed and detects the major leaks.

WATER

The Borough applied for a PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant of \$138,337.50 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the construction of water main replacement to the Borough's public water distribution system from 5th and Main Street to Washington Street and Washington St. to Penn Street.

TRASH

On August 1, 2018 the Borough started a 5-year contract with Republic Services. The contract is for one time per week pick up and we will have a Spring Cleanup date in June. The trash bills will remain at \$220.00 for 2020 if paid by February 29, 2020. There will be a 5% finance charge on trash bills paid after March 1, 2020.

PARKS

The remainder of the ash trees were removed in Umbenhauer Park. There were several Eagle Scout projects completed in Umbenhauer Park this year. They include remodeling the snack shack, upgrading the electric under the pavilion which included new lighting and a new electric panel, and a gaga ball pit. The electric in the kitchen has also been upgraded.

Council adopted Resolution 020519 authorizing participation in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Junior Council Person Program. If interested in being a Junior Council Person please contact Brenda Strunk at 484-769-8594.

FINANCE

The millage rate will increase to 5.44 mills for 2020; this is a 1 mill increase from 2019. The 2020 budget was approved at the December 3, 2019 meeting. The following is the 2020 budget:

- a. General Fund \$334,978
- b. Sewer Fund \$294,650
- c. Trash Fund \$81,400
- d. Water Fund \$237,150

Borough Council would like to wish everyone a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year!

Snow or Ice Emergencies

When the Mayor declares a snow or ice emergency, there is no parking on Main Street from Garfield Road to Shartlesville Road and no parking on Second and Third Streets from Main Street to Route 183 (including the fire company parking lot).



For snow emergency information, tune to:

- Radio Station 830 AM (WEEU)
- Radio Station 102 FM (WRFY/Y102)
- Radio Station 105.1 FM (WIOV)
- TV – Berks-Lehigh News WFMZ channel 69 on cable channel 9.
- TV – WGAL News (channel 8).

Snow and ice are to be removed from the sidewalks within twelve (12) hours after the end of any snowfall. A walk path is to be cleared at least thirty (30) inches in width.

NOTE: Snowmobiles and ATVs are only permitted on borough streets in the event of an emergency. Violators are subject to a fine. Ordinance #235

Update on Police Department



In October, Council conducted a special meeting at the fire company to discuss the future status of the police department and taxes. A large number of citizens attended the meeting. At the November Council meeting, Council members voted, by consensus, to retain the police department.

In December, Council members approved a 1 mill tax increase to address borough expenses.

Bernville History Open House



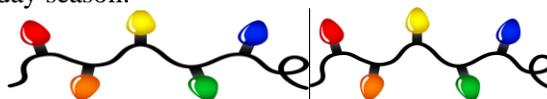
You are invited to an Open House presenting some of the borough's historic items from the Heritage & Cultural Society's collection. The Open House will be Sunday, January 26, 2020 at Borough Hall from 2 – 5 p.m. All items will be displayed on the first floor; stop in to see some unique and interesting Bernville treasures. Among the items to

review: scrapbooks donated by Bernville residents featuring local newspaper articles/photos, memorabilia associated with Rev. Ruth, and Bernville photographer Cyrus Blatt's glass plate negatives. (Open House will not be held in the event of snow or ice.)

Heritage & Cultural Society meetings are open to the public (see back cover for meeting times and location). The first meeting this year will be February 18th. Efforts currently focus on cataloging historical items held at the Borough Hall, digitizing photos of the Bernville area from approximately 1970-2000 taken by Spencer Watts, and identifying families residing on Main Street from 1950 forward. Please join us if you have an interest in Bernville's history and in preserving it for future generations.

Christmas Lights on Main Street

The borough extends a sincere thanks to the Strunk family (Danny Sr., Brenda, Danny Jr., Kaylee, and Parker) for volunteering their time to install the holiday lights on Main Street. Their efforts over the years have ensured that Main Street remains festive during the holiday season.



Caroling at the Gazebo



Thanks go to all who volunteered their time or participated in this year's annual Caroling at the Gazebo. Also, a big thank you to the Bernville Community Fire Company for allowing us to use their building due to the inclement weather. Special thanks to Shawn and Wesley Raup-Konsavage, and Michele Ehrhart, for their volunteer decorating efforts (and for making Borough Hall look festive), to Santa for taking time to visit our community, and to the faithful service of the Bernville Community Fire Company for escorting Santa safely around town.

Bernville Borough Newsletter Update

The borough would like to thank Tom and Marisa Vanzin for their many years of work on the newsletter. They decided to step down from this responsibility at the end of 2019. Any community member interested in

helping with the proofing and layout of the newsletter can contact the borough secretary or email the newsletter at bernvillenews@gmail.com.

You may also have noticed that there is a slightly new layout to the newsletter. These changes were made to improve the look of the newsletter and to ensure that the most important information is presented on the first page.

Christmas Tree Recycling



Borough residents may recycle their Christmas trees behind the borough garage, at the recycling center. Please remove all ornaments and tinsel prior to recycling. Additionally, please do not discard plastic tree covers at the recycling center which may have been used when removing the tree from your residence. Artificial trees cannot be accepted. The Christmas trees are converted to mulch which is eventually placed around trees in our parks and residential yards.

Clay Park Spring Clean-up in March

At our February meeting, Shade Tree Commission members plan to set the date for the annual Stanton Clay Park clean-up in March. The date will be advertised on the signs at Borough Hall and within Clay Park, and on the borough's website and Facebook page. If you join us, please bring work gloves; clean-up activities include light tree pruning, leaf raking, mulching, and general park clean-up.

There is an opening on the Shade Tree Commission. No experience is required, just an interest to participate in tree-related outdoor activities. Formal meetings are quarterly and last about one hour. Contact the Borough Secretary if interested.



Tree Grant Provided 90 Trees



The borough received ninety trees and shrubs from a grant secured by the Shade Tree Commission (and supplemented by funds from the

Bernville Grange). Volunteers planted all trees in 2019 at Umbenhauer Park, and the Shade Tree Commission extends a thank-you for their assistance. Most especially, our thanks go to the Grange for donating money to purchase trees. The new trees provide increased tree diversity in the park. Various species planted included: oaks, basswood, tulip-poplar, blackgum, red maple, sycamore, redbud, river birch, blackhaw, and winterberry.

COMMUNITY NEWS...

Bernville Area Community Library

4th Street at Fox Alley
2nd floor of Redner's Quick Shop
P.O. Box 580, Bernville, PA 19506
Phone: 610-488-1302
Fax: 610-488-1979
E-mail: baclstaff@berks.pa.us
Website: www.bernvillelibrary.com



LIBRARY HOURS:

M-Th 11 a.m.-8 p.m. | Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Sun 2-6 p.m.
Closed Fridays, New Year's Day.

Happy New Year from the staff at the Bernville Library! Wow did 2019 fly. 2019 was a year of changes for our library and we hope to continue the improvements in 2020.

Do you have a passion for our library and want to help make our library even better? We currently have a few vacancies on our Board of Trustees we need to fill. Please consider coming to a board meeting to see if this is a place you could serve your community. We are looking for people with new and exciting ideas to help our library grow and improve.

We are also looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways, including a book club facilitator. Check at the circulation desk next time you are in. We are currently working on programming for January, February, and March. Here is what we have scheduled so far.



We will continue to have our story times weekly on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings.

We will be relaunching our 1000 Books before Kindergarten in the New Year. Please ask at the circulation desk about this fabulous program.

We will also be starting a coding program for children in 3rd to 5th grade and another specifically for girls in 6th to 12th grade; please check for updates on our Facebook page and website.

Our Wellie Wishers and Super Hero book clubs will be meeting on January 6 and February 3 at 5:30pm, American Girl will be meeting January 20 and February 17 at 5:30pm.



Lego club starts back up in March, so be on the lookout for that date and theme.



On January 25 at 6 p.m. we will be having a wine and cheese pairing event. You must be 21 years old to participate. The cost for the program is \$20 per person and must be paid in advance to hold your spot. Space is limited. The program will be presented by Aulenbach Winery.

On February 12 at 7 p.m. John Brown will be presenting “Abraham Lincoln and the Northern Central Railway.” Relive Lincoln’s three train trips on the Northern Central Railway which connected Baltimore to York to Harrisburg to Williamsport. On each trip the differing moods—angry, joyous, and sad—of the country at the time were on display. Learn more about the emotions of the citizens during the Civil War with these three snapshots of Lincoln on the Northern Central Railway.

March 11 and 12 from 12 to 4 p.m. we will be hosting an AARP Safe Drivers class. The cost for the class is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members of AARP. By taking this class you may qualify for a discount on your car insurance. Please sign up at the library as soon as possible to hold your spot. Class may be limited.



In March we will be having a Flower Arranging class with Marge from the Nosegay. We are still planning the date and type of class and the cost of the class so please check on our Facebook page or on our website for more information. Sign-up and payment will be required for this event to hold your space as space is limited.

Did you know you can now donate to the library online? Check out our webpage at www.bernvilibrary.com for all our events as well.

In November, we held our first ever Breakfast with the Grinch which was a huge success. Participants ate pancakes and sausage, decorated cookies, played games, and took pictures with the Grinch. In addition, our stylists from Bernville Family Hair created “Who” hair for any who so desired. A huge thank you to Snyder’s Landscaping, Bernville Borough, Friedens Church, Peggy, Wesley, Shawn, Evonne, John, our staff and board, McDonalds, Denise, Julie, and all those who attended.



Bernville Community Fire Company

6701 Bernville Road
Engine House 610-488-6592
Fire Chief 610-488-6687



Thank you for your continued support of the Bernville Community Fire Company.

Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bernvilcommunityfirecompany

Bernville Grange #1887

Meets every 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
37 Shartlesville Road
610-488-1381



To rent the Grange Hall for parties or other

gatherings, call 610-488-7518. There is a kitchen and a large dining area with tables.



In the fall of 2019, the Bernville Grange presented a free dictionary to each third grade Penn-Bernville and Bethel Elementary student. *The Best Dictionary for Students* is for the children to keep so they can take it with them into the fourth grade and use throughout their school career. The dictionary gift is an annual community service project of the Bernville Grange.

Bernville Pool

The Bernville Community Pool
Operated by the Western Berks Swim
Assoc.

Ph- 610-488-0624
bernvillepool@gmail.com



The Bernville Community Pool, operated by the Western Berks Swim Association, is in need of lifeguards for the 2020 season. If your child is 15 years of age by March/April of 2020, this is great opportunity. We reimburse half of the certification fee after completing certain work requirements. We would also love to have any interested adults apply as well.

Does your child need to complete a graduation project? We are a non-profit organization with many opportunities to fulfill project requirements. Please consider volunteering with us, to help provide a great summer to our community.

We are also looking for volunteer board members, no experience necessary. But if you have a special talent (maintenance, fundraising, grant writing, activities planner), or just have some free time to learn more. We could use the help to keep the pool open for our surrounding community.

Please contact Karen Alton 484-877-0228, or karenalton329@gmail.com for information about any of these opportunities.

Don't forget to save some of your tax refund to purchase a season pass for a summer of family fun. And all donations to the pool are tax deductible.

We can't wait to see all of you again, and any new faces this summer season!

Boy Scout Troop 422

Meets every Tuesday 6:45 p.m.
in St. Thomas Church basement.
Scout Master: Brad Folk
Phone: 610-488-8058
E-mail: folkfamily548@comcast.net



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Boy scouts, Troop 422, is collecting aluminum cans (no trash please) at the following locations: Bernville Beverage and Boyer's Market, located in Troutman's Plaza, and Blue Marsh Restaurant. We are collecting torn or tattered American flags for proper disposal. There is a drop box at the Borough office or contact any Boy Scout.

We would like to thank the residents of Bernville for helping out with our yearly Scouting for Food Drive in November; we collected a record 1109 lbs. of food to donate to the Berks Food Pantry.

Starting the beginning of March the scouts will be selling Kauffman's BBQ tickets for the beginning of April pickup at St Thomas Church.

We would also like to say Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts: Colt Hoppes, Matt Blankenbiller, Andrew Folk, and Kyle Schermerhorn.



Cub Scout Pack 422

Cub Master: Dan Degler
484-332-1893
E-mail: dandegler@comcast.net



Flag Etiquette: When an American flag becomes discolored, weathered, torn, ripped, etc., then it is time to properly retire the flag. To honorably retire an old flag, contact the Cub Scouts. They will retire the flag for you – in the correct manner.

Bernville Young at Heart

Meets every 3rd Wednesday 1 p.m.
At the Bernville Grange

Senior
Citizens

Meetings:

- January 15 – will be announced
- February 19 – will be announced
- March 18 – will be announced

Trip Contact: Earl & Millie Graeff 610-488-6898

Tips for Safe Snow Shoveling



Shoveling Snow can be dangerous for individuals with underlying health conditions or those who don't normally perform strenuous duties.

- If you have any heart attack symptoms, like pain in your chest or shortness of breath, stop shoveling and call 911.
- Shovel in shifts instead of all at once.
- Take breaks and drink water to prevent dehydration.
- Push snow instead of lifting it – if you must lift, bend your legs and not your back.
- Avoid twisting motions that can stress your back
- If using a snow blower, follow all safety instructions and stay aware of others who may be nearby.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church



P.O. Box 201
Bernville, PA 19506
Telephone 610-488-6260
Email
friedens_bernville@verizon.net

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tues & Thurs 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
(Holiday weeks and/or other hours by appointment)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

"Everyone Is Welcome"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AA Meetings:

Every Thursday starting at 7:00 p.m.



Free Soup & Bread Luncheons:

Mondays, January 13th, February 10th, March 9th - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Will continue the second Monday of each month through May

*Please note that in case of bad weather we will follow Tulpehocken School Closings

Soup Sale:

Saturday, February 8th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday Service:

Wednesday, February 26th – 7:00 p.m.

Thereafter, Friedens will participate in weekly

Wednesday night Lenten services – call the church at 610-488-6260 for details.

Central Pennsylvania Handbell Festival:

The Carillonaires Bell Choir from Friedens will be participating in this festival.

There is a free concert for the public on March 14th starting at 4:00 pm at Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church 600 Shepherd Street; Jonestown, PA.

PLEASE NOTE:

**Friedens will not be making Easter candy this year.
Thank you all for your years of support!**

St. Thomas Church



536 N. Main Street
Bernville, PA 19506
Rev. Dr. Daniel Lute

Phone: 610-488-6702
Fax: 610-488-0962

E-mail: stchurchbv@verizon.net
Visit us at stthomasbernville.org

Contemporary Worship Service 8:00 a.m.

Eat and Greet 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group
(Grades 7th thru 12th)
Sunday 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Men's Fellowship/Breakfast
First Saturday of the month – 8:00 a.m.

Prayer & Praise Night
First Friday of the month – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 29



Wednesday, February 26 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, March 7



Community Lenten services will be held each Wednesday beginning March 4 through April 1. A light meal of soup and bread will be held at 6:00 followed by a service at 7:00. Contact the church office for the location of each service.

Bernville Borough Newsletter

The Bernville Borough Newsletter is published quarterly on behalf of Bernville Borough. Articles from local civic & community organizations may be submitted to P.O. Box 40; Bernville PA 19506 or emailed to bernvillenews@gmail.com.

Deadline for the April-May-June edition is March 5th. **Please submit articles in Microsoft Word via email if possible.** Extra copies are available at the Library, Post Office, Borough Hall, and Mario's Pizzeria.

BERNVILLE BOROUGH

P.O. BOX 40, BERNVILLE, PA. 19506-0040
☎ 484-769-8594 ☎ 610-488-9500 bernvilleboro@comcast.net
· bernvilleborough.org

HOURS: Mon, Tues, & Thurs 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bernville Borough Council

Council Members' names and their assignments will appear on the Borough website after the January reorganization meeting and will be listed in the next Newsletter.

Mayor

Shawn A. Raup-Konsavage
shawn@bernvilleborough.org 570-573-5677

BERNVILLE BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Brian Thumm

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Brenda Strunk - Secretary, Treasurer, Open Records Official

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Jacob Shultz, Thomas Vanzin, 1 Vacancy

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Steve Faust, Mary Himmelberger, Jeremy Lutz

BERKS COUNTY COMMUNICATION CENTER

Non-Emergency: 610-655-4911 Emergency: 911

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

James Moyer, Sr.

WATER AUTHORITY:

Spotts, Stevens and McCoy ·

ENGINEER AND CODES OFFICER:

Motley Associates

SEWER ENGINEER:

Entech Engineering ·

SOLICITOR:

Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern, and Lutz