



Powder House News

May/June 2021

COA Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of seniors in the community by providing services, which include nutrition, health screening, education, and other programs to meet their needs.

COA Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., May 25 and June 29.

Office Location

The Council on Aging office is located at the Town Offices, 23 Linden St., bottom floor, Room 118.

COA Members

Bob Blair, *Co-Chair*
Pat Wheeler, *Co-Chair*
Kate Bliss
Rachel Boyer
Wes Durant
Lori Fearebay
Karen Schultz

Phone

978-838-2750

Medical Equipment

The COA has a supply of medical equipment available. We accept donations of thoroughly clean equipment in good condition. Please consider donating your clean, used equipment so we can pass it on to someone in need. Contact Lori Fearebay at 978-804-8487, jfearebay@msn.com, or the COA phone 978-838-2750.

Transportation Services

Transportation is available Monday through Friday. Rider information forms are available on the Berlin town website under Boards & Committees / Council on Aging / Bus Services. Call 978-838-2750 for assistance.

From the Office of Senator John J. Cronin

I hope you are fully vaccinated and have been able to hug your grandchildren by now. Unfortunately, I know too many seniors not yet vaccinated and that is unacceptable.

That's why I've been working with my legislative colleagues and local officials to increase vaccine programs in the area. In response, the state provided targeted resources through local boards of health for senior housing complexes, mobile community clinics, and door-to-door teams to vaccinate home-bound residents. In addition, federal vaccine supplies via pharmacy chains have been expanded. But this is not enough and I will continue to press the state to aggressively expand vaccination sites in the North Central region.

The good news is there will be funding to help communities recover from the impact of the last sixteen months. The real challenge is connecting those resources to those with the greatest need. This challenge will be my focus in the weeks and months ahead.

From remedial education for children who have lost learning time, to job retraining workers whose jobs have disappeared, our COVID recovery needs are substantial and I look forward to working with community partners to address these challenges.

Lastly, if you or a friend are having any issues with a state agency, like RMV or MassHealth, please contact my office so we may help to resolve the matter. Please email me at john.cronin@masenate.gov or call my office at 617-722-1230.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

At the Council on Aging (COA), we will continue to do our best to help out Berlin residents to get registered for COVID-19 vaccines. We have gotten several calls from residents who have been frustrated with this process. We are well-aware of how challenging registration for the vaccine has been.

We want everyone to know that you have any questions, comments or concerns to please reach out to us by calling or emailing us. We will continue to update our COA page and our Facebook page as frequently as possible to provide the most up to date information. We are hoping that more vaccine supply will become available, sooner rather than later.

The COA is more than willing to help if transportation concerns arise. We are working with the town administrator and public service to help Berliners get to their COVID vaccine appointments if they are unable to take themselves. We ask for as much notice as possible so we can accommodate.

If there is anything that you think the COA can do to further help with this, please let us know at coa@townofberlin.com or calling us at 978-838-2750.



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Berlin Council on Aging

06-5323

Learn how to make your home more liveable as you age!

Nashoba Neighbors is sponsoring a FREE AARP HomeFit online presentation **May 20th from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** An expert will teach you how to modify your home to make it your lifelong home. Most people want to stay in their homes as long as they can even though houses are often not designed for this purpose. Come and hear what you can do to make modifications that will help you be safer and more comfortable as you live at home.

Register on FaceBook at Nashoba Neighbors or call (978) 218-8025



Free Covid Vaccination Card Lamination

The Staples office supply store at 771 Boston Post Road East in Marlboro is offering free lamination of Covid vaccination cards.

It is advised that you make a **COPY** of your card and have **THAT** laminated, as there may be a need to make further entries on your original card in the event that booster shots are required in the future.

Your original card should be kept, **UNlaminated**, in a safe place with other important documents.

Office Max, on Post Road West in Marlborough, is also offering free laminations. They ask that you bring in a coupon for this service that you will find online at www.officedepot.com. It should be noted that this Office Max branch will be closing its doors in May of this year.

Grilling Safety Tips

Many people enjoy barbecuing in the summer months. But when grills are not used safely, things can go horribly wrong. Every year, Fire Departments respond to hundreds of fires involving grills, hibachis and barbecues. These fires cause injuries and property damage. For safe grilling, always follow your owner's manual and practice the safety tips here.

Grilling Safety Tips

- Always grill outside
- Grills must be 10-feet from the side of a building unless the manufacturer's instructions say it can be closer. Make sure grills are not underneath overhanging branches.
- Grills cannot be used on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang or wall (other than the exterior of the building).
- Grills can be used on open first floor porches, decks or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level.
- Grills cannot be used on fire escapes.
- Place grills away from the house and deck railings.
- Keep all matches, lighters and lighter fluid away from children.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from any grill. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.
- Open the grill when you light it. Propane can build up inside and when ignited, the lid may blow off.
- If you smell gas while cooking, turn off and get away from the grill.
- Always turn the burners off and close the propane cylinder when done cooking.
- Never leave a burning grill unattended.
- Keep all propane cylinders outdoors, at least ten feet away from building openings such as doors, windows and dryer vents, and twenty feet away from air intakes and ignition sources.
- Do not smoke while handling propane cylinders.
- Store propane cylinders upright in an outdoor, shaded area; do not leave cylinders in a vehicle; cylinders should not be used, or transported where they can be exposed to high temperatures.

Enjoy your safe grilling!

COA Contact information:

Feel free to reach out to us at coa@townofberlin.com, coadirector@townofberlin.com and at 978-838-2750.

Please check out our website

www.townofberlin.com/council-aging and at

www.facebook.com/Berlin-MA-Council-on-Aging-2135015623491850

Meet Your Town Movers

We might have called this edition's article, introducing you to our town's elected and appointed officials and volunteer doers, Hail to the Chiefs. We asked our Fire and Police chiefs to share a brief bio and photo.

Police Chief Tom Galvin joined Berlin's police department on September 9, 2013, having previously served the Town of Wayland as an administrative sergeant in their department.

Fire Chief Kenneth Clark, having retired from the Hopkinton Fire Department, became Berlin's interim Fire Chief on August 6, 2019 and permanent Chief on February 3, 2020. Pending approval from the state legislature, he has agreed to extend his contract with us for an additional year after reaching his mandatory retirement age in May of this year.

Berlin has benefitted greatly from the dedication and depth of institutional knowledge that both men bring to bear in the conduct of their duties on our behalf.

Meet Police Chief Tom Galvin



Chief Tom Galvin has served as a Police Officer since 1998. He was hired by the Wayland Police Department and attended the 7th MPOC of the Norwood Police Academy. He served the Town of Wayland as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, and Administrative Sergeant for over 15 years. In September of 2013 he was appointed Chief of the Berlin Police Department.

During his time in Berlin Chief Galvin has served in many capacities including, Data Systems Coordinator, Chair of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Member of the Town Administrator Search Committee, and Vice Chair of the Nashoba Valley Regional Dispatch Operation Committee. In 2019 Chief Galvin served as President of the Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (CMCOPA), and remains an active member serving on the Regional Lock-up Committee and on the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA) Firearms Committee, and is the MCOPA representative on the State Off Highway Vehicle Committee.

Chief Galvin holds an associated degree in criminal justice from Massachusetts Bay Community College, and a bachelor and master degree from Western New England College. Chief Galvin is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Class 235.

Chief Galvin lives in Hudson with his wife Melissa, two children Grace (14) and Kathleen (12), and Goldendoodle Rudy.

Meet Fire Chief/EMD Ken Clark



I have lived in the Town of Hopkinton my entire life. My family moved to Hopkinton in 1888. I attended Hopkinton public schools and played football and basketball. My passion was always to become a firefighter. My grandfather, father, two brothers, two uncles and six cousins were all firefighters. I have been married to my wife Marie who is a teacher for thirty-five years. We have raised four boys; Joe, Sean, Matthew and Kyle. I am very blessed to have a great daughter in-law Caroline and the very special part of my life, my granddaughter Ava. With the four boys I was very active in the Hopkinton youth sports programs and had the opportunity to coach over 50 youth sports teams in football, basketball, lacrosse, soccer and baseball. My hobbies include spending time with my family and extended family, hunting, fishing, vacationing in York Beach, Maine with family and occasionally sipping aluminum juice boxes.

- Hopkinton Fire: January 1973 – 1976 Probationary Call Firefighter; 1976 – 1978 Call Firefighter; 1978 – 1989 Career Firefighter; 1989 – 2007 Fire Prevention Officer; 1998 – 2007 Operations Lieutenant; 2007 – 2009 Career Deputy Fire Chief; 2009 – 2016 Chief of Department; 1/1/2016 retired
- Tasked with development and implementation of the Marathon Incident Action Plan for 21 years
- Interim Fire Chief for the Town of Upton, September – December 2016
- Chief of Berlin Fire & EMS, August 2019 – present

The Five W's

Many of us know that Berlin has had a number of recreational venues to enjoy over the years. The Spooky World Halloween theme park and the golf driving range, both near the South Berlin traffic rotary, a number of riding stables and the Boundless Adventures Zipline and Aerial Park on River Rd. West come to mind — but a water park venue? Who knew?

WALDO'S CHUTE — A piece of Berlin's history by DAVID E. ROSS, WALDO'S grandson

Waldo Lewis Wheeler, my grandfather, was born June 3, 1873. He was a farmer who grew flowers and vegetables and raised chickens. He lived on the family farm on Berlin's Summer Road.

As a young boy, I grew up on that same farm. I heard tales of Waldo's Chute and was told where it was built. I explored the area, but found that no physical evidence of the chute was visible in the late 1950's.

I was told that Waldo had built a wooden chute structure and a boat that people got into and rode down the chute into a pond. It was only within the last fifteen years that I found a lot more about Waldo and his chute.

I found daily diaries written by Waldo's mother, Annie, that contained notes about the chute. I also found a log,



David Ross, a longtime area surveyor, grew up with his sister, Judy Christensen, on the family farm their grandfather operated on Summer Road. The water feature he developed on his property made quite a splash, as you will read.

written by Waldo, that listed all who went down the chute, the date of their experiences and their surnames. During a conversation with Willard "Bill" Wheeler, Bill produced a photograph of Waldo's boat, containing five people, just as it splashed into the water.

The chute was constructed below the outfall of Gates Pond, above an earthen and stone dam, the site of a once-functioning shingle mill. The dam impounded enough water to serve as Waldo's splash-down pond.

According to Waldo's log, he and his 58 year old mother were the first to test run the ride, although they only rode the lower half to make sure it would work as planned. It did!

Two days later, on May 20, 1902, Waldo and his mother rode the full length of the chute. From that ride until November 16, 1902, 190 people went down the ride. The last date in Waldo's log is June 17, 1905 and by that time 609 people had made the descent. 201 were from Boston, Chicago, Colorado and Vermont and one entry listed a lady from San Francisco. Next to her name was entered the word "blind".

I do not know how much Waldo charged for each ride or why the rides stopped in 1905.

Today, there is little water impounded at the dam site as the dam failed in the hurricane of 1938.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Joanne O'Brien March 5, 2021
Paul Wilder April 16, 2021
Ruth Wheeler April 21, 2021

Berlin Food Pantry
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Outdoor Music at **XIX** Summer 2021

NINETEEN CARTER Friday Nights 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

<p>MAY 14 HIP SWAYERS</p>		<p>A good-time, get up and dance band playing an eclectic mix of catchy originals, old time country, and twangy, reverb-soaked surf that keeps your toes tapping and your hips swaying. www.hipswayers.com www.facebook.com/HipSwayers</p>
<p>MAY 21 HOME BREW BAND</p>		<p>This Rock & Roll band has performed around Metrowest for 15+ years, playing mostly cover tunes ranging from Alternative to Dance to Blues to Funk; soft to heavy, 1960's to present. Facebook.com/thehomebrewband</p>
<p>MAY 28 ANDREW WILCOX TRIO</p>		<p>Young and gifted jazz pianist Andrew Wilcox returns home to perform jazz standards and his original works with his trio on upright bass and drums. www.Andrewwilcoxmusic.com</p>
<p>JUNE 4 HOT CLUB OF PEPPERELL</p>		<p>J-Bob - guitar/vocals and Lefty - washtub bass in cahoots with trombonist Mark Hamilton and jazz violinist Tomoko Iwamoto play popular and obscure Jazz, Swing and Blues from the Great American Songbook (1920s - 1950s)...and the occasional Tango. www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF93fuQVqZU</p>
<p>JUNE 11 DANIELLE MIRAGLIA</p>		<p>New England Music Award Winner - 2019 "Female Performer of the Year" Danielle comes armed with a steady thumb on an old Gibson, an infectious stomp-box rhythm, harmonica and tunes ranging from heart-felt to socially conscious. www.facebook.com/daniellemiragliamusic www.Daniellem.com</p>
<p>SUNDAY, JUNE 13 3PM BRASS QUINTET CONCERT IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS</p>		<p>Five prominent New England brass players come together to perform a stellar concert of works ranging from Bach to Duke Ellington jazz to Sousa marches. All colleagues of the late trombonist and founding 19 Carter board member Don Davis, they'll perform in his memory.</p>
<p>JUNE 18 BUSTED JUG BAND</p>		<p>High energy music from the 20's and 30's on kazoos, washboard, mandolin, banjo-uke, washtub bass and slide whistle. Vaudevillian sight gags, jokes and colorful stage attire make a fun and wacky show. TheBustedJugBand.com</p>
<p>JUNE 25 NORTHWOODS BAND</p>		<p>Rick Pacheco, John (JB) Borges, Seth Asser, and Gary Brown, based in Mattapoisset with 40 years of music making under their belt play an eclectic variety of blues, pop, folk, country with covers and their own exceptional compositions.</p>
<p>JULY 9 PASTICHE</p>		<p>Quartet Lydia Fortune, Roland Ochsenbein, Tim Fiehler and Hatrack Gallagher offers up some of the best of American jazz, swing, and standards from across the decades in their own smooth style. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaDAzNiERGO</p>
<p>JULY 16 SOUTHCOAST TROUBADOURS</p>		<p>Seth Asser, Neal McCarthy and Ken Richards perform an entertaining blend of blues, folk, country and classic rock tunes with fabulous acoustic picking and 3-part vocal harmonies.</p>
<p>JULY 23 BONEYARD BOHEMIANS</p>		<p>This new band of good-time rascals, anchored by Aaron Finnian and Roland Ochsenbein, mixes the grooves of New Orleans, Chicago, Memphis, Nashville, and the Delta to create an acoustic gumbo of soulful R&B. Fun and family-friendly. www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC7Nun7WKvU www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGhwyleNoKw</p>
<p>JULY 30 STILLWATER STRING BAND</p>		<p>Dave West, Walter Crockett and Bill Fisher are an acoustic trio playing a mix of traditional American and contemporary tunes. Front porch music and old-time radio tunes. www.stillwaterstringband.com</p>
<p>AUGUST 6 SALTY HAWGS</p>		<p>Hatrack Gallagher & Seth Connelly have performed at Concord's Colonial Inn for over 30 years as part of the legendary Salty Dawgs. Roland Ochsenbein (piano) and Tim Fiehler (upright bass) will sit in for this show! From folk to old-time jazz and blues, these versatile troubadours provide a feast of a show. www.johnfitz.com/dawghouse</p>
<p>AUGUST 13 DIVERSIONS</p>		<p>This international jazz ensemble performs music influenced by Afro Cuban Latin Jazz as well as improvisational contemporary jazz. Led by jazz flutist Earl Grant Lawrence, the band includes Brandon Guillermo on percussion, Michael Shea on piano, Caroline N'diaye on tenor saxophone and vocals, and Ivan Korn on guitar. grantlawrence.net</p>
<p>AUGUST 20 LIGHTS OUT BLUES BAND</p>		<p>Winner of the Granite State Blues Challenge. Clay Brown, Gary Bernath, Chris Tosti, and Brian Rost formed the band 7 years ago to honor the "Chess Records" master of the '50s and '60's while creating its own unique style of traditional blues. www.lightsoutbluesband.com</p>
<p>AUGUST 27 440 GYPSY JAZZ</p>		<p>440 Gypsy Jazz with violinist Tomoko Iwamoto combines the sounds of jazz and gypsy music, expanding on the tradition of gypsy jazz established by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. www.Facebook.com/440jazz jazzyviolinist.com</p>

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Powder House News

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Cultural Council Grants

The board members of the Berlin Senior Citizens are pleased to announce that our applications for 3 Berlin / MA Cultural Council grants have been approved. We are in the process of getting some live entertainment for all town folk to enjoy in a safe, social distanced environment. Everything is in the planning stages at the moment. We will continue to post updates. We miss our meetings and our senior friends. We are here to help with any concerns. Feel free to contact Judy Mills @ 978-838-0403 at any time. Till we meet again stay healthy.

New Dates — 2021 Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election

Annual Town Meeting

Outside lawn, Berlin Memorial School

3 DATES (*if rain, moving to next date*)

- 1) Saturday, May 15 at 1 P.M.
- 2) Monday, May 17 at 6:30 P.M. and
- 3) Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 P.M.
(*if 3rd night needed*)

Annual Town Election

Lower level, Berlin Town Offices
Voting: Monday, May 24 from
12 Noon to 8 P.M.

Updates on Town Website
www.TownOfBerlin.com
and follow us on Facebook!

If uncertain, check with the Town Clerk to ensure you are already registered to vote.



June 22, 2020 Town Meeting.