

SUPERVISORS NOTES

The Town Survey was completed, tabulated and presented to the residents on June 30th. The results and full presentation are available on the Town Web Site. I would again like to thank those who volunteered their time to help make this possible: Sarah Albrecht (Chair), Jerry Acton, Carol Kania, Bill Leonard, and Tara McKenzie. With a special thank you to Jerry Acton for his long hours putting the results and presentation together. You will also see items from the survey other places in this issue of the newsletter.

One item that came from the survey was the speed limit through the main part of town on State Route 38. This section of route 38 is very bumpy and causes loud noises from trucks traveling through the area. There is also a concern for the safety of children and seniors walking and crossing the highway. Unfortunately; the Town Board has no control over the State Highway. We do consider the problem a very real problem and therefore have taken some action to try and resolve the issue. At the July Town Board meeting we passed a resolution asking the State DOT to investigate the concerns by conducting a traffic study of the area from the Welcome sign at the south end of town to the Welcome sign at the north end of town, approximately 1.6 miles of road. I have also been authorized to write letters to Senator Libous and Assemblyman Friend asking them to help find funding for resurfacing this section of road. The NYS DOT in Owego has told me that they have no funding for this project and are not sure when funding would be available. I have asked that the speed be reduced from 40MPH to 35MPH through this area. That speed limit would be consistent with Newark Valley and Richford and was told it would require the traffic study. I fully intend to push to have this situation resolved in a manner that can be agreeable to all.

Another issue from the survey was keeping property clean from trash, junk vehicles and abandoned mobile homes. We have passed a local law that will allow the Town to begin taking action for non-compliance including removal of such items with the cost being assessed to the property owner. People enjoy living here but do not wish to have a junky town and neither does the Town Board.

We thank everyone for taking time to complete the survey and we do not intend to let the concerns expressed sit with no action. As I am sure you are aware; change does not happen overnight and we will keep you up to date on the progress. Until next time, please attend Your Town Board Meetings and help us help you make beneficial changes in our community.

Your Supervisor *Ron McEwen*

**BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY**

Wow! We have been busy at the library. Lots of people getting library cards, lots of children reading and many coming in to get their vacation reading in. The Summer Reading Program for the children has been going great with the help of Karen McNally and 6 young ladies that are our teen helpers this year, Kaila McNally, Kelly Perkins, Taylor & Joree Gregrow, Susan Armstrong and Farrah Fiacco.-The children have read more than 205 hours so far. The children have until August 31 to read for prizes. They have until September 5th to turn in their hours. We had a great turn out for "Moreland the Magician" and everyone had a great time. The wonderful ladies of the East Berkshire Methodist Church provided lunches for all the children who attended the Summer Reading Program this year. We would like to thank them for their time and efforts. The children enjoyed all the wonderful goodies. Thank you everyone who helped support us with the Doug's Fish Fry. We made over \$600.00 and that will go toward the operational costs of the Library. We received a grant for \$2,600.00 from the Hooker Foundation for building up the Young Adult and Juvenile collection and to sponsor some Young Adult programs. If you have a teen aged student let them know we will be doing some programs for them and if they have any suggestions of what they would like or a title of books they would like us to buy please come in and talk to me. Coming this fall we will restart Story Time and start the "Every Child ready to read" Program in October for the children 0-5 years of age for both the Richford and Berkshire area. In October we will have some fun activities for children of all ages. There will be a hunt for mice in the library, guess how many M & M's are in the jar and other fun things for the whole family. We are planning a visit from the Ross Park Zoo-Mobile sometime this fall. Lena and I will be working on getting lots of new books on the shelves during the next month. We have been able to purchase lots of new children's books with the help of several grants. The "Rosen Library Fund Grant" and the "Floyd Hooker Foundation Grant" both gave us money for Books. Our hours are: Tues. 12-5, Wed. 1:30-7, Thurs. 1-5, Fri. 1:30-5 and Sat. 9-2. Email – bfl@htva.net

LuAnn Whirl Director

We would like to interrupt your regularly scheduled Newsletter to bring you breaking information about youth activities in the greater Berkshire Area. Kindly turn the newsletter over to your children to read.

BOY SCOUTS

Newark Valley Troop 30 meets every Monday night at 6:30. We have 1 1/2 hour long meetings where we plan out our future camping and events. We camp once a month, year round. We visit many local and state camping facilities, with the scouts deciding what they want to do. This year we have gone to Greek Peak, Highland, Ricketts Glen, Alexander Pond, and have a whitewater rafting trip planned in August. We also provide community service at certain events, like the Apple Festival. *Jon Maule 607-821-8905*



Sara Snitchler
Volunteer Services Manager/Johnson City Team Leader

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.
601 Harry L. Drive Suite 52, Johnson City, NY 13790
T 607.724.6572, ext. 2427 F 607.724.6575



I can't wait to 

Start the fun at gsnypenn.org/join

GIRL SCOUTS

Travel the world. Explore the outdoors. Make friends. Have amazing adventures. It's all possible with Girl Scouts! Girl Scouts take a Journey that can take them overseas, helping a sick friend, volunteering in their community, or sitting around a campfire. Whatever it is that you want to do, Girl Scouts helps you do it! For more information on joining, visit gsnypenn.org/join.

NEWARK VALLEY YOUTH CHEER

NV Youth Cheer Mission Statement: The purpose of Newark Valley Youth Cheer is to create and maintain a cheerleading program for youth that teaches the fundamentals of cheerleading in an environment that stresses great sportsmanship, teamwork, responsibility, and respect in the spirit of cheerleading and school spirit. Newark Valley Youth Cheer (under the umbrella of the Northern Tier Youth League) was established in 2001. In the last several years they have become not only spirit leaders for the youth football team, but also compete against other youth cheer teams at three competitions in the areas of hometown cheer and cheer dance. The current director of the program, Barbara Gehm-Jordan, has lead the program since 2003. It was under her initiative that NV cheer began going to competitions. Many NV Youth Cheerleaders continue on to be exceptional Varsity Cheerleaders having gained the basic skill of cheering from an early age. Our organization strives for a quality program of growth. This is not only for the cheerleaders, but coaches as well. We aim for a well-rounded program that lifts up the spirit of the cheerleader as well as offering an outlet for becoming physically fit. Cheerleading tends to be rather different than what most people see when they go to a football game. It recently became an official sport by the State of New York. However, those of us who coach cheerleaders, or have children in cheer know that it was a sport before the State of New York recently stamped it as such. Cheer still has the traditional chants and clapping however that is now blended with dancing, jumping, and tumbling. All of these aspects require, focus, fitness, specific skills and practice. If your child (girl or boy) is age 4 to 14 by November 1, 2014, they can join our program this Fall. Practices have already started but there is time to register and join in the fund. Please visit <http://goo.gl/Oj9UWs> to find out more or to register. You can also email NTYLcheer@gmail.com or call me, the secretary of the program, at 607-972-4847 and leave a message. – *Telessa Bean*

BERKSHIRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is all about helping local youth find the joy of growing closer to Jesus and loving others the way God loves us. During the school year, meetings are at 6 pm almost every Sunday night. They are filled with fun games, relevant Bible teaching, engaging group activities, singing and food. Special events include fun outings, game nights and community service. Each spring the youth participate in the "30-Hour Famine", a fund-raiser and educational lock-in focusing on relief needs around the world. Our volunteers include Jenn Willard, Mike Kunik, John Stoughton, Jerry & Kathy Platz. We always welcome more youth and volunteers. Mike Kunik also has led a special "youth band" ministry for the last several years. Teens who may never have tried to play a guitar, drums, keyboard, or other "band" instruments get a chance to learn how to play, and then to perform together. The band also plays for some Sunday worship services. The first team formed a band called "The Cross of Mercy and Grace", which has had a number of performances in the area. Many of that team have now graduated, and Mike is trying to build up a second team into a full-fledged band. Any parents that are interested in learning more about the youth band ministry could call Mike at 657-8077. The church has just hosted its second summer "Red Brick Church Worship Camp". 25 teens from the region, including 5 from Berkshire, gathered here for 3 days of instruction about worship, music, and playing together in a worship band. The leader is Joe Salzano, a jazz saxophonist and instructor at Cornell, who is on fire for Jesus. This year's camp also had a strong focus on how to write new songs, in keeping with how the Bible often encourages God's people to "sing a new song." We hope to have some more, less-formal Worship Camp gatherings on Saturdays through the year. For more information, contact Pastor Jerry Platz church 657-2677, or home 657-8058.

4-H PROGRAM

The **4-H Program** is an expansive network reaching every corner of the country; 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization. More than 6 million 4-H youth in urban neighborhoods, suburban schoolyards and rural farming communities stand out among their peers: building revolutionary opportunities and implementing community-wide change at an early age. As the youth development program of the nation's 109 land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension System, 4-H fosters an innovative, "learn by doing" approach with proven results. The **4-H Study of Positive Youth Development**, a longitudinal study conducted by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, shows youth engaged with 4-H are: nearly two times more likely to get better grades in school; to go to college; 4 percent less likely to engage in risky behaviors; and 25 percent more likely to positively contribute to their families and communities. **The 4-Hs** Head, Heart, Hands, and Health are the four Hs in 4-H, and they are the four values members work on through fun and engaging programs. **Head:** Managing, Thinking; **Heart:** Relating, Caring; **Hands:** Giving, Working; **Health:** Being, Living.

TIOGA COUNTY 4-H CLUB PROGRAM: A 4-H club must consist of at least one registered adult volunteer leader and 5 youth from two or more families. Club meetings include a business meeting run by elected club officers (youth members); an activity portion to work on projects; snack time; and time to have fun. All clubs are required to complete one community service activity during the year. 4-H members must complete at least six hours of educational experiences during the year. The six hours may include club meetings, state events, sessions with a mentor, or other educational activity. All 4-H enrollments are handled by the 4-H staff. Club openings are at the discretion of the club leaders who work closely with the 4-H staff. All club requests must go through the 4-H Office. **General Clubs:** Members work on a variety of projects that may include sewing, cooking, animal care, art, etc. **Animal Science Clubs:** Members work on specific animal science projects that may include horses, dogs, beef cattle, poultry, rabbits, sheep, goats, swine, etc. **County-wide Clubs:** Two county-wide clubs are available for members 9 to 19. One focuses on raising and marketing livestock, and one focuses on natural resources and environmental education. **Cloverbud Clubs:** Members are 5 to 8 years old and work on age appropriate projects that may include arts & crafts, small pets, natural resources, etc. **Special Programs:** A program that includes several projects that are taught by registered adult volunteers with those project skills. Classes are held but are not run in a club format. **Opportunities:** There are several learning opportunities throughout the 4-H year for youth to further develop their communications skills, leadership skills, and community service skills. Some of these opportunities may include: Public Presentations (county, district, state levels); Equine Careers Camp; March Dog Madness; Agri-Business Career Conference; Animal Crackers; Teen Council; Capital Days Trip to Albany; Youth voice on state level committees; County and State Fairs; Clinics and Workshops; Short Term Projects and Career Exploration at Cornell -The new 4-H year begins Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30. The Tioga Co. 4-H Program will hold its Open Enrollment Day on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tioga County Office Building auditorium. On that day, 4-H staff will talk about the program, requirements, how to enroll, which clubs have openings, how to start your own club, and which projects will be available during the year. To find out more contact the 4-H Office at 687-4020.

BERKSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board has been continuing review and update of a Road Preservation Law at the request of the Town Board. A Road Preservation Law protects town roads from wear and tear above and beyond normal use in situations where there may be high-impact and/or high-frequency truck or equipment traffic, making the user of the road responsible for appropriate repairs when necessary. We were pleased with the response to the Town-Wide Survey which we worked so hard on, and would like once again to thank the members of the committee who contributed to the development of the survey: Jerry Acton, Carol Kania, Bill Leonard, and Tara McKenzie. And a special note of appreciation goes to Jerry Acton for also compiling all of the results into an excellent presentation! We are looking forward to working with the Town Board in the review of the results and action plans based on those results. The Planning Board would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service of John Gehm and extend our condolences to his family with his recent passing. John served on the Planning Board for about 3 years until 2012 when his work schedule made it impossible for him to continue. John was a valuable member of the Planning Board and an excellent resource due to his experience with building codes. If you have issues you would like to discuss with Planning Board, our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall unless otherwise advertised or you can contact the Chair, Ken Ceurter, at kc_cute@frontiernet.net or 657-2831.

Sarah Albrecht

C.M. Ochrymowych, DVM
J.M. O'Krepki, DVM

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NEWARK VALLEY * 642-5535



Berkshire Town Survey Spring 2014

Mailed to All Berkshire Addresses

123 Questionnaires Returned

4 Non-Berkshire Residents Not Used

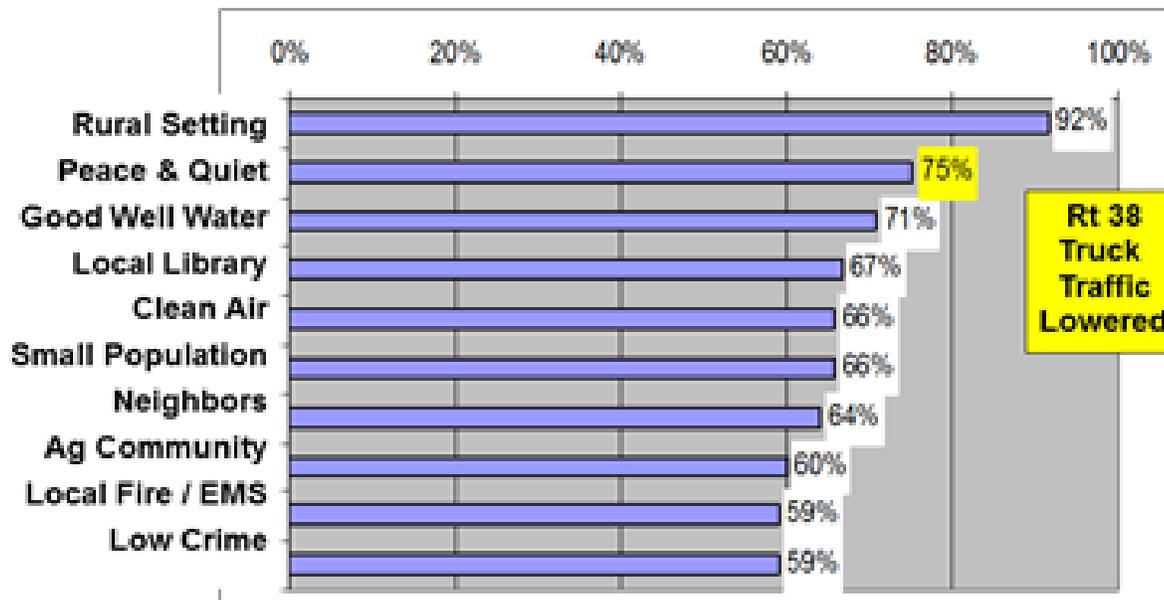
6223 Question Responses

520 Comments

See Berkshire web site, www.BerkshireNY.net, for the entire Survey Presentation.

Berkshire Town Survey

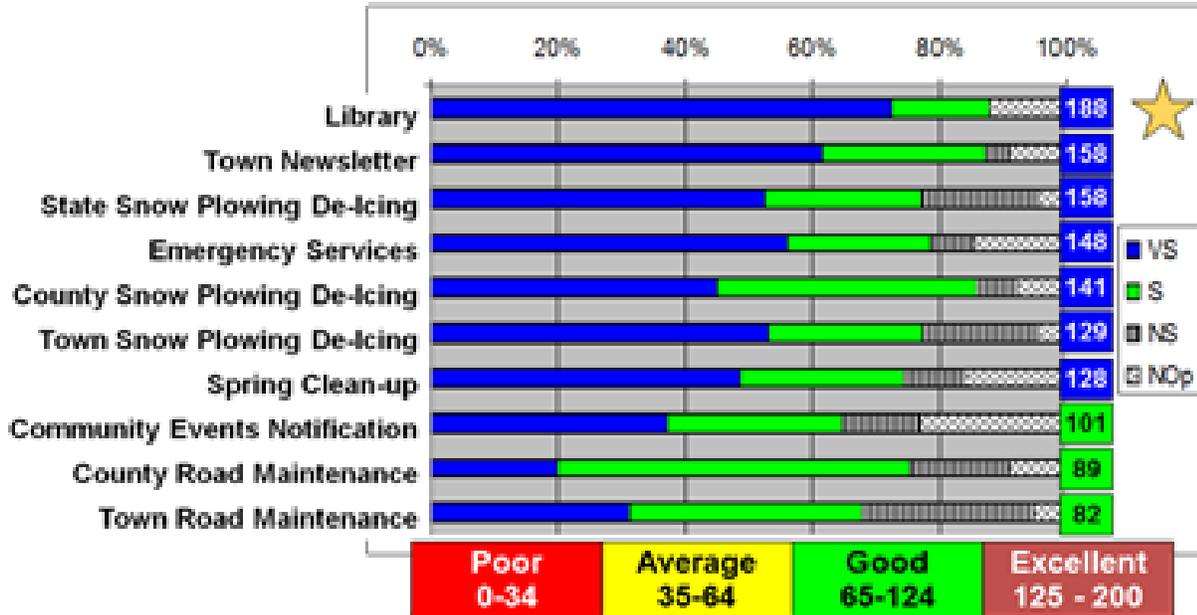
**2.0 What I Like About Living in Berkshire:
Top 10: Consistent Across All Age Groups**



Berkshire Town Survey

5.0 Services & Communications:

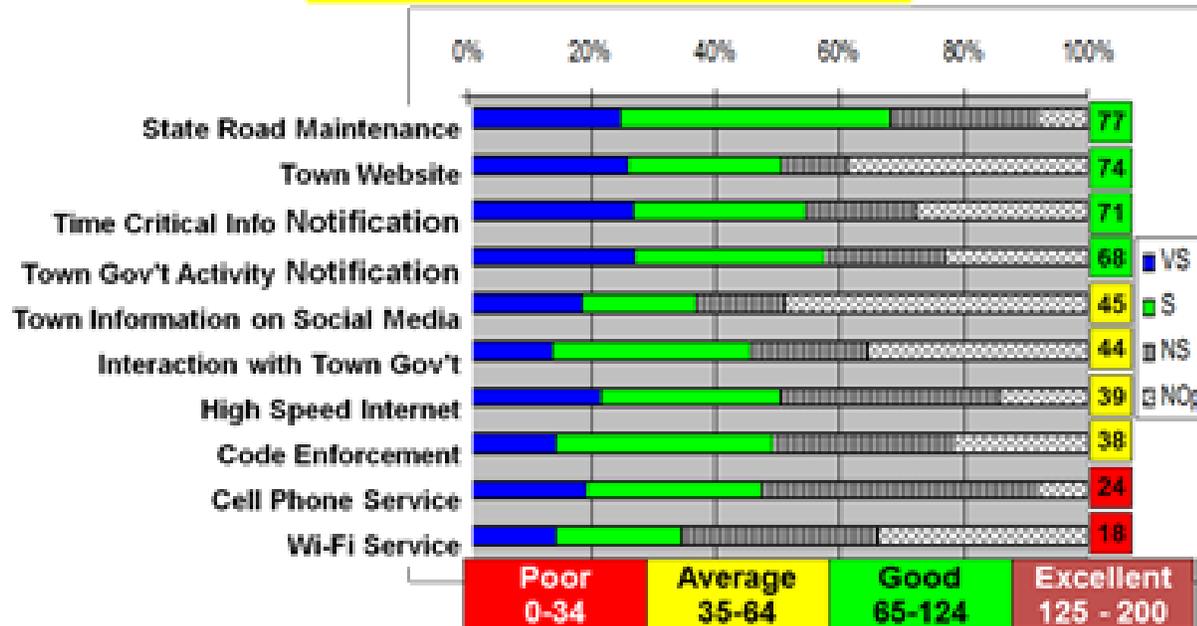
**Top 10: Satisfaction Score
Consistent Across Age Groups**



Berkshire Town Survey

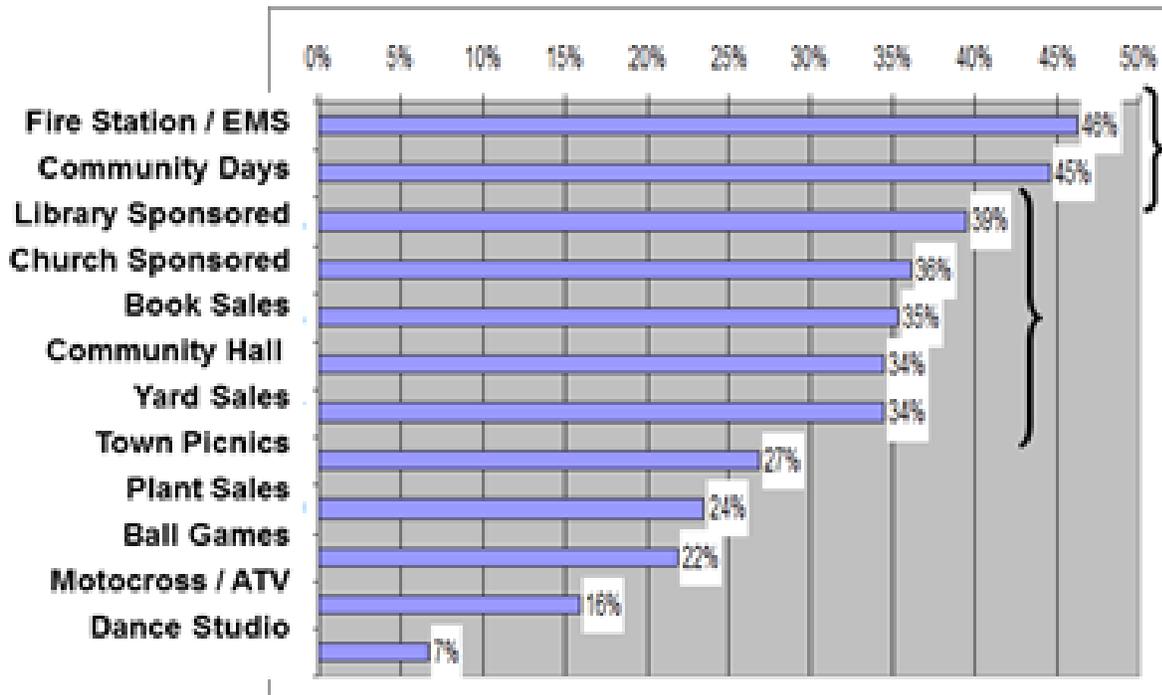
5.0 Services & Communications:

#11-20: Satisfaction Score



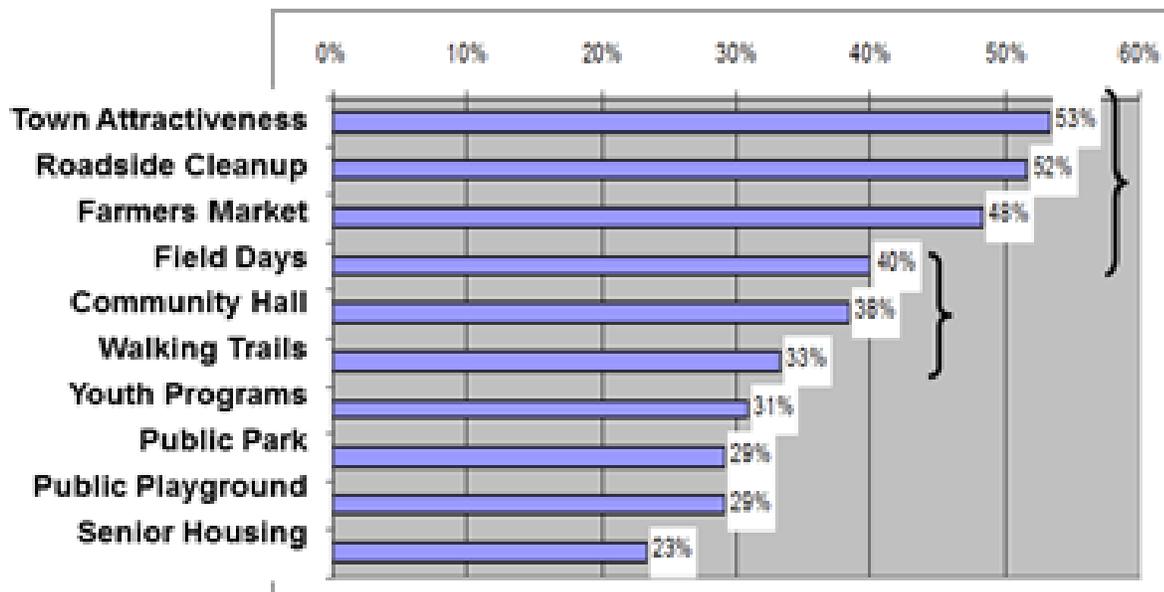
Berkshire Town Survey

4.0 Community Events I Enjoy



Berkshire Town Survey

3.0 New Community Projects I Would Like to See in Berkshire



Berkshire Town Survey

Cleanup Town: 10 Comments

Observations

Our community in areas
looks like a disaster

Let's cleanup what we have before
continuing with new projects

Spring cleanup is so limited on
what can be picked up

Berkshire used to be a nice town!
Now looks like a garbage area

Suggestions

Make Our Town More Attractive

Need curbside pickup again

Town could clean up around
office, set an example

56

Berkshire Town Survey

Predominant Themes

Preserve & Improve What We Like (Top 10)

- Rural Setting, Peace & Quiet, Small Population,
- Good Well Water, Clean Air, Friendly Neighbors, Low Crime
- Local Library, Local Emergency Services, Local Agriculture

Improve Town Attractiveness / Pride

- Comprehensive Roadside, Property, & Town Space Cleanup

Re-build Sense of Community

- Community-sponsored Projects & Events

Expand Local Businesses

- Small, Family-owned, Home-based, Agriculture-based

69

Concrete Work & Foundations Excavating
Construction Pole Barns Logging

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Karl Spoonhower
Office (607) 657-8202 **New Homes Additions Remodeling**
Cell (607) 725-1402 128 Barnes Rd.
Berkshire, NY 13736

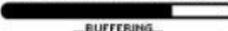
TOWN WIDE EMAIL LIST

We maintain a list of email addresses to disseminate information of significant happenings in and around Berkshire such as major projects, meetings, fundraisers, public hearings, new or proposed legislation, etc. We have 200 addresses on the list and have been using it to help keep you informed for more than 12 years. It has proven to be a very effective way to get near real time communications to those people in Town who have email capability and wish to keep up with what is happening around Berkshire and surrounding areas. The program also serves as an excellent way for us to receive feedback. As a protection against personal use and SPAM, messages are sent out as Blind Carbon Copies so the entire list will never be sent to any recipients. Comments on the information provided and the use of the list has been very positive. To be placed on the list or to change an email address, contact Skip Hartwig - 657 8418, email skhartwig@frontiernet.net



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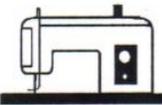
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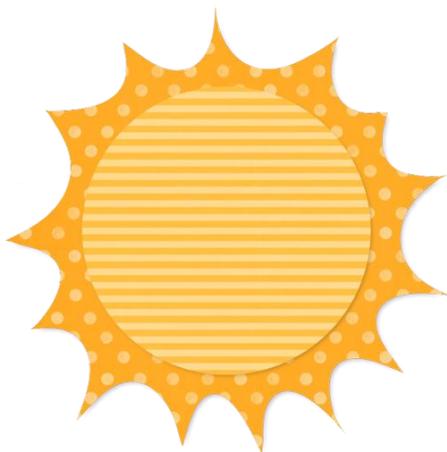


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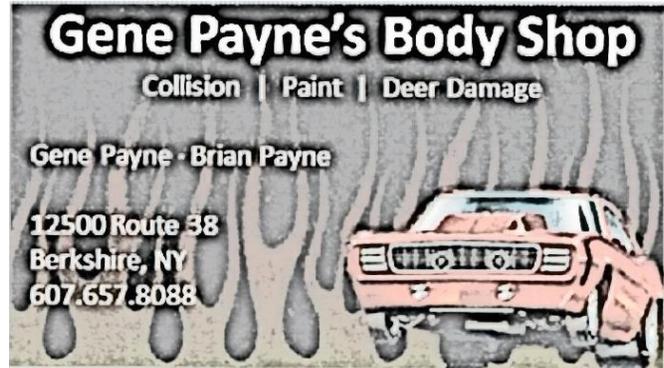
- Reasonable Rates -

Howard & Gay Coon 400 Hartwell Rd.
Owners East Berkshire, NY 13736

BERKSHIRE FIRE COMPANY

USDA has done a final inspection and they are satisfied. We have also received the last of the grant money from them. The new furniture is in the offices and looks very nice. We have also purchased a washing machine for turn-out gear so members no longer have to take contaminated gear home to clean it. Everything is looking very good at the station, please stop by and check it out if you have not seen it. Anyone wishing to use the station for an event call Bill Morris at 657-2536 as it is available for the public to rent just as the old station was. The commissioners have purchased a used fire engine from the Lansing fire district. It is a 1988 Pierce with custom cab. It will be replacing the 1977 Sanford we had donated to us several years ago from Scottsville. This new used engine has a larger pump, onboard foam and can carry 6 fire fighters. This is the first engine we have owned with a cab big enough for 6 firefighters. This is important when we get called to help out the neighboring districts now all the fire fighters can ride on the engine. Remember as we get into the dry season of late summer, to be careful when burning anything. As always we are looking for new members and would like to see some existing members become more active again. We are at the station every Tuesday night. Meeting is the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00PM and training is every Tuesday after that at 6:30PM. Please feel free to stop by and see how you can help your community. If anyone has any questions or would like to talk about what we do feel free to call Chief Bret Welch (607)657-8054 home or (607)427-0964 mobile.

Bret Welch, Chief

**HIGHWAY NEWS**

North Ketchumville Road is being rebuilt this season. That work will use most of the gravel that we have on hand. Although we have a good stockpile, we still need to find a continuing source. I am working on a possibility located near the County line on Rt 79 but first we must reclaim a pit that we used years ago on Brown Rd. If funds permit we will repave portions of North Ketchumville and Ford Hill Roads. Our old John Deere grader has been failing for years. We have replaced it with an even older Clark. However the Clark has relatively low time and works great with more power than the JD ever had. The best part is that the purchase price was less than we would have paid to rent one for 2 seasons. I have been notified by NYS that our CHIPS (Highway improvement) funding may be augmented by as much as \$11,000 because of the severe winter season.

Karl Spoonhower



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ASSESSOR NEWS

All property owners should review their School Tax Bill in September, especially ones who have Escrow accounts, if they do not have a Star exemption they need to contact the State as soon as possible, I cannot enter the exemptions for them, if they do not correct the exemption by 12/31/2014 they will lose the exemption for 2014. Renewal notices for Enhanced Star/Agriculture etc will go out at the end of the year Dec 2014. I will set my office hours as by early September. *Sole Assessor Mike Maxwell 315-391-8323*

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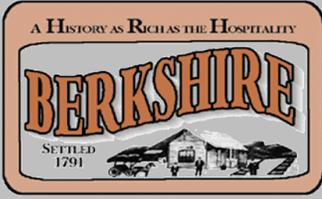
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Patsi Spoonhower
Housing Consultant

1174 N. Ketchumville Rd.
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August 2014

TOWN NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Town Supervisor Report
- Highway Supervisor Report
- Library News
- Planning Board Activity
- Tax Assessor Report
- Fire Company News
- News Just for Youth
- Berkshire Survey Summary

Address Label to be pasted here

Page 8

Berkshire Town Newsletter

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Our goal is to get this newsletter to everyone in Berkshire. Obtaining and keeping the address list current is one of the hardest and most time consuming things that we do. We really need your help. Please let us know if: you or someone you know is not receiving a newsletter or getting duplicates; have a change or correction of a name or address or email; you can receive the newsletter via email saving us printing and mailing costs; are receiving the newsletter but it is addressed to Current Resident or Boxholder. We would like to have your name on our address list. Contacts: Fraser Williams, 657 2742, fraserw@citlink.net or Skip Hartwig 657 8418, skhartwig@frontiernet.net

SPECIAL THANKS

We are very grateful to our faithful helpers. Telessa Bean spends a lot of time organizing and laying out the plain vanilla version of the newsletter that we hand her each quarter. Artfully inserting the many ads from our sponsors is no easy task. Barbara Williams, Millie Stout, Louise Beebe and Tina Williams are always there to help with the time consuming task of labeling and preparing the newsletter for delivery. Please take note of our sponsors who make it possible to bring you the newsletter without using a penny of your tax money.

Fraser Williams