

Berkshire Community Association
PO Box 113
Berkshire, NY 13736
www.BerkshireNY.net

November 2015

BERKSHIRE TOWN NEWSLETTER

PRSRSTSD
U.S. Postage
Newark Valley, NY
Permit No. 3

Published by the
Berkshire Community Association
Vol: 2015 Issue #3

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Supervisor Notes
- Berkshire Assessor
- Berkshire Free Library
- Berkshire Planning Board
- Berkshire Fire Company
- Highway News
- Berkshire Community Hall

Address Label to be pasted here



Above & Beyond Country Homes

Offering Sun Modular Homes

*Personalized Sales at an
Affordable Price*

Let me take the stress out of your new home purchase. I am associated with a team of local expert craftsmen offering you a quality finished home, built with pride at an affordable price. I will work with your busy schedule in the convenience of your own home or mine. Complete site and home packages available.

Patsi Spoonhower
Housing Consultant

1174 N. Ketchumville Rd.
Berkshire, NY 13736
Cell (607) 725-1395
Fax: (607) 725-8388
Patsi3467@aol.com

HOLLENBECK'S

17 NORTH MAIN ST.,
NEWARK VALLEY, NY

HOURS: MONDAY thru FRIDAY 6am to 8pm
SATURDAY 6am to 6pm, SUNDAY 9am to 5pm

PHONE: 642-3430



FOODS

*We offer Deli Platters, Fruit Baskets,
Fruit Trays and Veggie Trays!!*

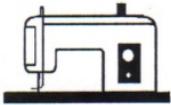
Check out our weekly ad to see our wonderful specials

SUPERVISORS NOTES

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES: It is time again to update you on the progress of town activity. The Town Clerk, Connie Liddington, will not be running for re-election for the term starting January 1, 2016. Connie has served the residents of the town for 32 years and will be missed by all. Connie takes with her a wealth of knowledge that will take some getting used to. She has been able to steer many town boards through the complex legal requirements of local laws, resolutions and advertising of legal notices just to name a few. The Town Clerk's office has been located in her home for her entire term in office. The Town Board has started remodeling the interior of the Town Hall at 18 Railroad Ave. to serve as the new Town Clerk's Office starting in January of 2016. The Town's financial position is very sound and the expenditures are well within the Budget. We have received the final FEMA payment from the 2011 flooding. As a new year approaches we have been working on the 2016 spending plan and a new budget. As of this article, it appears that once again there will be no tax levy increase for the town. We will be holding a Public Hearing on the 2016 budget November 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. The progress of Route 38 being resurfaced in 2017, and the bridge replacement in 2016, is moving forward as originally planned. The State has completed paving north of Town to Richford. Until next time, please attend Your Town Board Meetings, held on the third Monday of each month at the Town Hall 18 Railroad Avenue. Help us help you make beneficial changes in our community. Please visit our Web Site for current information at <http://www.berkshirenyc.com> and you will find us on Facebook "Town of Berkshire New York", please like us and follow current posts.

Ron McEwen, Town Supervisor

**BROWN'S
Sharpening Service
&
Sewing Machine Repair**



Elwin H. Brown
679 Jewett Hill Road
Berkshire, NY 13736
Tel. (607)657-2780



e-mail: mariannelwinbrown@Frontiernet.net

Division of: Brown's Sharpening

The Red Brick Church
"Neighbors loving Jesus and you!"

**The 1st Congregational Church
of Berkshire, NY**



Corner of RT 38 & Glen Road
PO Box 196
Berkshire, NY 13736
Sunday Service 11:00 AM
Summer Hours 10:00 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM

ASSESSOR NEWS:

The notices for Enhanced Star/Agriculture exemptions will be mailed out in early December. These exemption applications must be returned to me by March 1, 2016. I will post my Berkshire office hours in the cover letter of the renewal notices. The Town Board has tasked me to review and update property assessments in Berkshire. I have completed most of the review of the assessments and have taken over 800 photos to load onto the computer file. Assessments will be updated and notices will go out after Feb/2016 for anyone who had a change in their assessment.

If you have any questions please call me at 315-391-8323 or e-mail me at maxappraisal@hotmail.com
Thank you *Mike Maxwell*

BLUEBERRIES GALORE!!

Berkshire will be bursting with blueberries for the second annual **Blueberry & Books Festival** on **Saturday, July 23, 2016**. We are in the planning stages of another exciting festival and are looking for energetic community volunteers. We are in need of vendor booths, volunteer planners, event day helpers, and your great ideas. We have a place for you. Come help plan the day and be a part of this exciting community event. This festival will be bigger and even better than last year. We can't wait to hear from you! Sandy Negus (657-8272) and Karen McNally

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

The trustees and library patrons thank Director LuAnn Whirl for her commitment to serving the Northern Tioga community, especially in expanding children's programs, and wish her happiness in her new home. We welcome Fran Miller as our new Director. Fran's teaching experience with literacy programs will be an asset to children & teen programming and her experience with technology will help patrons use the many services of the Finger Lakes Library System.

Technology Classes

All sessions will be held Saturdays, 10 to 11am at the Berkshire Free Library, corner of Route 38 & Jewett Hill Rd. with instructor, Tony Miller. Classes are free-of-charge to all Northern Tioga residents. The program is sponsored by an Outreach grant from the Finger Lakes Library System.

Oct 31: Pros & cons of types of devices; aid to purchasing decisions.

Nov 7: Operating system differences; Windows, Apple, Android, etc.

Nov 14: Free time for questions and practice.

Nov 21: Uses of Facetime, Facebook, Twitter, DropBox and other applications

Dec 5: To be announced based on participant's requests

Dec 12: Free time for questions and practice.

If you have a portable device, please bring it with you. *Carol Kania,*
Trustee

HIGHWAY NEWS

This summer we paved Shirley Rd. and portions of North Ketchumville and Rejmer Rds. Weather permitting we still be doing some ditch work, pothole patching as needed, and perhaps brush trimming, but basically our road work is finished for this season. Preliminary planning for 2016 include paving the remainder of McMahan Rd. and reworking and paving that portion of Akins that is still gravel. Without our own pit, I look for the best deal on gravel each year. I may have found a source in Lisle for some high quality gravel at a very good price. We also have the option of hiring a crusher for the stockpile of river gravel behind the Town Hall. We are going over the trucks and plow equipment and continuing to build our sand pile reserve which we seriously depleted during last year's hard winter. There are no serious problems, but when the weather makes outside work impractical, we will be doing preventive maintenance on our road working equipment. We are still heating the highway garage, but having a harder time getting used motor oil. There appears to be more conversions to waste oil furnaces resulting in competition for the oil. Drop your used oil at the highway garage or if you have or know of larger quantities, give us a head's up and we will come and get it. *Karl Spoonhower*

BERKSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board is continuing work on the Town of Berkshire Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan articulates goals and approaches pertaining to the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the municipality. A quote from the NY Planning Federation: "You can save what you love best about the place you live while accommodating and attracting desirable growth if you begin with a sound comprehensive plan." The 2014 Town Survey is a key source for the plan and the results can be seen at www.BerkshireNY.net in the Community Development section.

We could certainly use more volunteer help and still have two alternate positions open (these are 1 year term positions so not an ongoing commitment) that complement our regular 5 member board. If you are interested in joining our team contact Ken Ceurter at 657-2831 or by email at kc_cute@frontiernet.net or stop by our meeting and check us out. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Winter is not far away so as a reminder, please maintain your sidewalks for your safety and others. As a reminder to snow-mobile users, please stay off the sidewalks in town so they are usable by pedestrians and more easily maintained and always be respectful of property owners. Hope to see new faces at our next meeting. *Bette Johnson*

BERKSHIRE FIRE COMPANY

As summer comes to a close and the cold weather moves in we, just like everyone else, begin to shift to indoor events. We had a great summer cooking food at the motorcycle races and the first Blueberry Festival was big success. Now we are planning for fish fries, pancake breakfast and other indoor events. Please watch our sign for dates and be sure stop by to support us and mingle with your friends and neighbors.

We are anticipating the arrival of our new ambulance soon and are very excited about it. The old ambulance was bought to get us started back in the ambulance business but due to several recent breakdowns it is definitely time for it to be replaced. The ambulance is by far the most used vehicle in our fleet, and someone's life can depend on it at any time. We want to thank all of you that came and voted yes for us to purchase the new ambulance. Just a reminder that the new ambulance will not cause an increase in taxes. We paid for over half of it with money we have saved over past few years and the remaining \$60,000 will be financed and paid off over the next four years using money that was already in the budget.

The new fire station is still getting improvements. You may have noticed the driveway was redone this year. Thank you very much to the Town of Berkshire Highway Department for your help with this. Also, Denny Dyer used some of the wood from the old station walls and the letters from the front of the old station to make a beautiful sign to hang up inside the meeting room to serve as a memorial of the old station, if you get a chance stop in to check it out. Thank you Denny. We have also made a platform by our sign out front where Dave and Carol Cooley will be placing a monument in memory of all of our members that have passed on. We will be having a dedication of the memorial and an open house in spring. Anyone wishing to rent the station for your events contact Bill or Jackie Morris at 657-2536. Rental fees are \$100.00 for members of the FD, \$200 for nonmembers that are Berkshire residents, and \$300.00 for nonmember that are not Berkshire residents. It is a nice facility to hold your function.

As winter approaches we would like to remind everyone to keep your chimneys clean and keep combustibles away from portable heaters. Also, as the roads get slippery slow down and never text and drive. We are here if you need us but we do not want to see you by accident.

As always we are in need of more members. It doesn't matter if you 18 or 81 we have a way you can help your community. We accept junior members at 16 and there is no maximum age limit. People often say they are too old to go into a burning building but there is a lot more to the FD than just rushing into a burning building. Someone has to operate the pump supplying water, someone has to stand in the street and stop traffic, someone has to be at the ambulance in case of injury, someone has to help set up and clean up at the scene, someone has to prepare and bring food and water to the scene. That is just a small list of jobs done by members at a fire that do not actually put the water on the fire and every one of them is just as important. We also need help at fundraisers and administrative functions within the company. So there is always a job for everyone in the fire service whether it is in the Fire Company, Emergency Squad or Auxiliary we need your help. Feel free to stop by the station anytime we are there and talk to someone about joining, or you can call my cell 427-0964 and set up a time to come by and I will show what we have and what we do and how you can help your community. *Bret Welch, Fire Chief*

We wouldn't have it any other way!

*...As dedicated professionals, we know what you expect from us...
excellent service, understanding counseling
and the trust that every request will be
fulfilled by people who take immense pride
in their profession.*

www.macphersonfuneralhome.com

NEWARK VALLEY * 642-5535

**BERKSHIRE POST OFFICE HOURS**

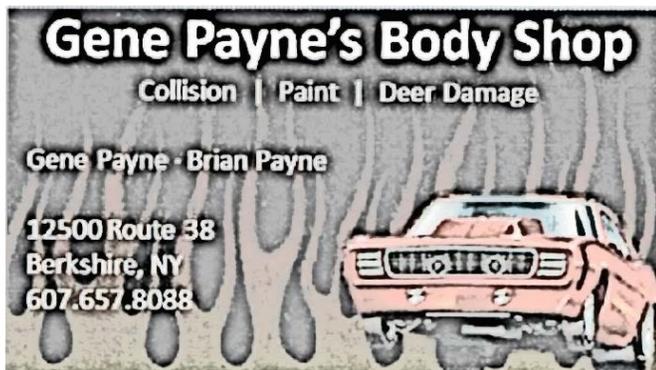
Post Office Lobby Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Retail Window Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Call Martin Kilmer, Post Master with any questions at phone number 607-642-3611

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.



Gene Payne's Body Shop
Collision | Paint | Deer Damage

Gene Payne · Brian Payne

12500 Route 38
Berkshire, NY
607.657.8088

Melinda Eaton
Owner/Operator

Valley Hair Visions
142 South Main Street
Newark Valley, New York 13811

(607) 642-9924

<http://www.valleyhairvisions.com>

**HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY**

It's hard to believe the food pantry has been in the lower level of 11 Jewett Hill Road for over two years already. We are grateful for having a handicap accessible facility. We appreciate the continued support of the Berkshire Community Association. The Helping Hands food pantry will assist people that need help providing food for their families as long as they get their mail in Berkshire or Richford. Since we can only help, not be a sole source for food, we sometimes offer phone numbers of other agencies that may be able to help, too. Regular hours are Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 and Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00. There is also a special food distribution just for seniors (60 years of age or older) one Saturday each month from January thru October. Seniors wishing to be added to our call list should either leave a message at the pantry during regular hours, or leave a message on Emily's answering machine. We distribute food boxes to over 120 families in just a two-hour time period in both November and December. These boxes help families have a little better holiday season than they might otherwise have. The holiday boxes are requested in October and pick-up times are assigned at that time. Anyone interested in helping out with packing Holiday boxes or on Holiday pick-up days, or during regular pantry hours is asked to leave a message at the pantry during regular hours, or call Emily at 657-8158. Financial donations are always welcome, too. Checks should be made out to "Helping Hands Pantry" and mailed to HH Pantry, 12245 State Rte. 38, Berkshire, NY 13736. *Emily Sheldon*

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Hello everyone! I have now reached my year mark as Code Enforcement Officer with the Town of Berkshire. It is still my goal to clean up the Town and restore pride in the community – this can be achieved by following State and Local Codes/Laws. Progress is slow but it is happening. The most notable cleanups to date can be seen along the railroad tracks on Railroad Avenue. There are several properties throughout the Town that are currently or will be shortly going through court actions for cleanup. I am focusing on Route 38, Railroad Ave, Mill Street, and East Berkshire Rd at the moment. If anyone has any complaints or issues – please contact me at any time. I do also accept anonymous complaints as well. I am doing the best that I can at the moment but I will again emphasize that Code Enforcement is very time consuming. Results will not be seen overnight! The Town residents can help speed up this process by ensuring to follow the codes in place. Also, spend more time looking in your own yards, rather than rushing to complain about others. There have been 25 permits issued so far this year. Also, heating season is now approaching. Please remember to test your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors monthly. Also, batteries should be changed yearly. Remember to get a proper container for ashes and do not put them in or on any combustible materials. Please remember to inspect and clean your chimney if using wood, pellets, or coal. Make note that if you install or have a company install any new heating source such as a wood stove, pellet stove, coal stove, boiler furnace, gas furnace, or any type of fire place insert you need to get a permit at the Town Clerk's Office for the installation of such heating sources and the new unit needs to be inspected by Code Enforcement prior to its use. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I am more than happy to help! Please be aware of the laws and if you are unsure, please call! I am available by cell phone at 607-744-9383. I look forward to continuing my services with Berkshire and cleaning up this great community. Thank you! Rachel Jacobs

BERKSHIRE BUSINESS

 **Tioga** Hardwoods, Inc.

As you may have seen when driving by, there is continuing growth at the Tioga Hardwoods facility here in town. Foundations are currently being poured for the addition new dry kilns, and a new air drying yard has been added to the North side of the plant. Inside the facility, the stacker line is being upgraded and a new trim saw is being added to the grading line. These capital investments were necessary in order to keep up with the increased production from the news kilns which are scheduled to come online in the Summer/Fall of 2016.

Current employment stands at 42 with another 4-5 new positions to be added over the next 6-12 months. This number includes off-site domestic sales offices located in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Colorado, as well as overseas sales offices in Taiwan and China.

Owners Scott Snyder and Kevin Gillette have made a commitment to continued growth and there will be more additions and improvements coming in the future.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

We want to make sure you get the Town Quarterly newsletter. Keeping the address list current is still one of the most difficult and 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

BERKSHIRE ASSESSOR

The town has authorized me to update all of the assessments in Berkshire for the 2016 Roll year. I will be visiting all properties in early Fall to review the current information and to update photos for the Assessment records. There will be notices mailed out in April/2016 with the updated assessments, at that time property owners may make appointments to review these new assessments with me. I will start in September making office hours again, no changes can be made to the current roll. Thank you, property owners may call to make appointment at 315-391-8323.

Michael Maxwell/Sole Assessor

YOUR TOWN AND YOU:

Making Communities Better Places to Live by Jeannine English

Read an article not long ago that really stuck with me though penned by a Canadian writer, it pointed to something important that Americans don't talk about very much - the difference between "citizen" and "taxpayer". As citizens, we have rights and responsibilities to each other. Paying our taxes is one part of citizenship. That got me thinking about the meaning of community, our commitment to our neighbors - and the need to make sure our cities and towns can support the growing number of older residents in the coming years.

A livable community is a place where people of all ages can enjoy secure, healthy lives and stay engaged in civic and social life. A livable community can reflect the rich tapestry of life in which all generations contribute and interact. But communities do not become more livable by accident. Engaged residents can plan a critical role in shaping where they live and promoting good decisions on land use, zoning, development and public services. Livability is an issue of growing importance, whether you look at it as an engaged local resident, a taxpayer, or both. Supporting efforts to make your community more livable is an exercise in good citizenship and smart investment of our tax dollars. Article End

After thinking about making our 'Community a Better Place to Live' I challenge each of you to consider what responsibility you would like to take on to do your part. There are numerous positions/activities that are ongoing where you could participate: Town Board, Town Planning Board, Developing a Berkshire Comprehensive Plan, Fire Company, Fire District, Ambulance Service, Community Hall, Library, upcoming festivities like the Blue Berry Festival next year, Berkshire Museum and many others. I quote: One refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors" - Plato If this rings a bell for you and you want to be involved give me a call. 607-657-2742 *Fraser Williams*



Cardinal Cafe
Dine-in, Take out, or Call ahead & Pick-up

CAFFEINE LOADING, PLEASE WAIT...
...BUFFERING...

12 S. Main St., Newark Valley
we look forward to serving you!

Free Wifi
Breakfast & Lunch Sandwiches, Paninis, and MORE

(607) 642-5116
www.cardinalcafe.net
facebook.com/cardinalcafe



FROST-KLOSSNER-SWAN INC
INSURANCE

HOMEOWNER-RENTERS-FARMOWNER-AUTO-BUSINESSOWNER
LIFE-BONDS-HEALTH & DISABILITY

(607) 642-3224 OR (607) 862-3222
14 N. MAIN STREET, NEWARK VALLEY
2640 ROUTE 26, MAINE
WWW.FKSINSURANCE.COM



Grandview Farms
18 hole **Golf Course**

(607) 657-2619

- Reasonable Rates -

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



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

Knoll's End Integrative Care
Your Pet's Alternative

Acupuncture • Chiropractic
Bach Flowers • Cold Laser • Herpetology • NAET

106 Hartwell Road, Berkshire, NY 13736 • (607) 657-8555

Concrete Work & Foundations Excavating
Construction Pole Barns Logging

SPOONHOWER CONSTRUCTION AND EXCAVATING



Karl Spoonhower
Office (607) 657-8202
Cell (607) 725-1402

New Homes Additions Remodeling

128 Barnes Rd.
Berkshire, NY 13736

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 3

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, from 6 am to 9 pm at the Berkshire Fire Station.

Berkshire candidates are:

Councilmember: 4 year term Vote for two:

John Stoughton (D) (Incumbent)

Ron Sharp (R) (Incumbent)

Candidates for Town Clerk: 2 year term Vote for one:

Bonnie Swartwood (D) Dear Community Members; My name is Bonnie Swartwood and I am running for Berkshire Town Clerk. I have lived in Berkshire for 14 years and enjoy our small town community. My husband and I own and operate 3rd Rail Redemption Center on 44 Railroad Ave which has been in business for a little over a year. We are excited that we recently received our license to operate as a general store and enjoy serving our community. This enjoyment led me to my decision to run for Town Clerk.

With my 18 years' experience as an Executive Assistant it has given me the experience, tools and ability to become your next Town Clerk. I love new challenges and I am always eager to learn new things. In my role as Town Clerk I will work very hard at keeping up with new technology and I will do my best to accommodate your many requests, such as issuing hunting licenses. In electing me as your new Town clerk I promise to do an excellent job.

Annette Thayer (R) My name is Annette Holcomb-Thayer, I'm running for Berkshire Town Clerk on the Republican Party line. I've been a resident of Berkshire for the past four years. Before moving to the Town of Berkshire I was a resident of Richford for almost 20 years. I graduated from Marathon High School in 1982 and currently work at Ongweoweh Corporation as an Accounting Clerk for Operations. I live at 25 Depot Street with my fiancé Bill Rampe, I have three children Sally - 33, Rachael - 27 and Michael - 25, along with three beautiful grandchildren. I am running for Town Clerk of Berkshire because I want to serve the good people of our Town. One of my goals, if elected, would be to establish office hours that will accommodate the residents, i.e. evenings and weekends. I will look forward to attending the training sessions and workshops needed to keep me informed on the latest regulations in my job as Town Clerk. I feel I am qualified for this position because I have an accounting background and enjoy working with the public. My qualities as a person is that I am loyal to my family, my community and have a strong desire to serve our community. Hopefully I can count on your vote Election Day on November 3rd. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to serving you in the office of Berkshire Town Clerk. Annette Holcomb-Thayer 25 Depot Street, Berkshire, New York Home - 657-1409 Cell - 591-2348