

BERNVILLE BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 1

January-February-March 2019

BERNVILLE BOROUGH: P.O. BOX 40, BERNVILLE, PA. 19506-0040

PHONE: 484-769-8594 **FAX:** 610-488-9500

E-mail: bernvilleboro@comcast.net **Website:** bernvilleborough.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MAYOR: Shawn A. Raup-Konsavage shawn@bernvilborough.org 570-573-5677

BOROUGH POLICE: 610-488-0928 **Chief:** Brian Thumm chiefthummbpd@comcast.net

READING STATE POLICE: 610-378-4011 **EMERGENCY:** 911

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: James Moyer, Sr.

WATER AUTHORITY: Select Environmental Solutions Inc.

ENGINEER AND CODES OFFICER: Motley Associates, Jim Mohn 610-775-0888

SEWER ENGINEER: Entech Engineering, John Brady 610-373-3345

SOLICITOR: Christopher Hartman

Borough Council Meetings	1st Tuesday of the month	7:00 p.m. Borough Hall
Planning Commission	2nd Monday of the month	7:00 p.m. Borough Hall
Shade Tree Commission	1st Thursday of 2 nd mo. in quarter	7:00 p.m. Borough Hall

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shawn A. Raup-Konsavage, Mayor
Danny Strunk, Sr., President – Sewer & Water
Justin Kiebach VP – Streets, Lights & Sanitation
Jim Gabel – Finance
Wesley Raup-Konsavage – Planning & Zoning
Lucas Schaeffer – Parks & Recreation
Gene Weatherholtz Sr. – Buildings & Equipment

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Brenda Strunk - Secretary, Treasurer, Open Records Official

PLANNING COMMISSION

Gary Brown, Dottie Merkey, Rufus Merkey,
Wesley Raup-Konsavage, Thomas Vanzin

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Jacob Shultz, Thomas Vanzin

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Steve Faust, Mary Himmelberger, Jeremy Lutz

NOTE:

ONLINE BILL PAYING (FOR ALL BOROUGH BILLS)
available soon at WWW.BERNVILLEBOROUGH.ORG

Residents: Please be aware that because of the
January 1st holiday, *Republic Services* will pick up
trash and recycling on Thursday, January 3rd.

BORO NEWS TO KNOW

- 2019 borough millage rate will remain at 4.44 mills.
- No increase in borough water and sewer rates.
- Pay 2019 trash bill by Feb 28 - \$220.
- Clear snow and ice from sidewalks within 12 hours.
- Snow or ice emergency parking restrictions, page 3.
- Stan Clay Park Clean-Up, Mar 23; volunteers welcome.
- Hospitality book to be delivered to residents in Feb or Mar.
- Recycle Christmas trees behind borough garage. Remove all decorations and tinsel. No artificial trees. No plastic tree covers. Trees are ground into mulch.
- Community Day planning meeting, 2/4, 6 pm, Friedens.
- Shade Tree Commission meeting, 2/7, 7 pm, Boro Hall.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Borough News ...

Page: 2 Borough Council 2018 Year in Review & more

Community News ...

Page: 4 Bernville Area Community Library
5 Bernville Community Fire Company
Bernville Grange #1887
Bernville Pool
6 Bernville Young at Heart
Boy Scout Troop 422
Cub Scout Pack 422
Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church
7 St. Thomas Church
Patriotic Order Sons of America
8 Voter Registration Information

Borough Calendar ...

8 Dates To Remember

BOROUGH NEWS REPORT. . .

Borough Council 2018 Year in Review

STREETS

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

SEWER

4th Street and Penn Valley Road sanitary sewer was replaced by M&A Excavating at a cost of \$16,140.00. This is the 2nd year a Sewer Grant was applied for and denied. Rates remain the same for 2019.

WATER

There was a water main break on the 500 block of Main Street. Council will be accepting bids in 2019 for water line replacement in this area with work beginning Summer, 2019. Rates remain the same for 2019.

TRASH

On August 1, 2018 the borough started a 5 year contract with Republic Services. The contract is for one time per week trash pick-up, and we will have a Spring Cleanup date in June.

PARKS

Borough Council contracted services with Summer Mountain Tree Service at a cost of \$6100 to remove 26 trees (all but one were ash trees) from Umbenhauer Park. There were multiple ash trees removed also in 2017.

ZONING

The Zoning Hearing Board has a vacant seat for a member who would serve as an alternate. The Zoning Hearing Board meets only when there is a zoning hearing. This is when someone applies for a zoning permit and the application gets denied due to not complying with the zoning ordinance, then there would be a zoning hearing. If interested, please contact the Borough Secretary.

FINANCE

The millage rate will remain 4.44 mills for 2019. The 2019 budget was approved at the December 4, 2018 meeting. The following is the 2019 budget:

- a. General Fund \$296,180.00
- b. Sewer Fund \$294,150.00
- c. Trash Fund \$81,400.00
- d. Water Fund \$240,150.00

The trash bill will decrease to \$220.00 for 2019 if paid by February 28, 2019. There will be a 5% finance charge on trash bills paid after March 1, 2019.

Borough Council would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Borough Volunteers and Staff

The borough extends a note of appreciation to the individuals who worked for, or who served in the borough government, and whose terms expired in 2018 or who stepped down. Thank you for sharing your time and talents to support our municipality.

Properly Disposing Unused Medicines

Properly disposing medications protects the environment as well as accidental or intentional misuse.

Items that can be disposed of (at drop-off sites) include:

- All unwanted or expired medications (including for pets)
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter meds (including vitamins, ointments, inhalers, powders, medicinal patches)

Medications need to be in the original container. Black out all personal information, but leave the name of the medicine visible.

There are numerous drop-off sites in Berks County for unwanted medications. Neighboring locations are listed below; call to see when the facility is open.

- Berks County Ag Center 610-378-1844
- Bern Twp Police Department 610-926-2535
- Robesonia Borough Hall 610-693-3474
- Tulpehocken Twp Police Department 717-933-5033
- Wernersville Borough Hall 610-678-1486

Not all medications can be accepted. Items not able to be accepted include syringes, loose pills, bloody or infectious waste, thermometers, lipstick, sunblock, skin cream, deodorant, peroxide, cleaning agents, aerosols, and medications from businesses.

Visit www.councilonchemicalabuse.org/prevention-reading-pa/dropbox.html for more information.

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

Heritage & Cultural Society



Those who would like to help preserve Bernville's history or participate in history-related projects are invited to attend the initial 2019 meeting of the Bernville H & C on February 19th at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall. Meetings last approximately one hour. Last year, the H & C participated in Community Day, purchased Volume 25 of the Passing Scene series for the Bernville Area Community Library, and sponsored two programs at the library.

Emerald Ash Borer Removal Project

The second phase of the Emerald Ash Borer tree removal at Umbenhauer Park involved the removal of twenty-six trees (all but one were ash trees) at a cost of \$6100.00. In total, over 70 ash trees have been cut down in the past two years from the park in the interest of public safety.

Community Day Meeting

The next Community Day planning meeting will be Monday, February 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Friedens Church basement. All organizations interested in participating in this summertime event (scheduled for Saturday, August 3rd) are requested to send a representative who would like to assist in planning the event. Please join us; your input is welcomed.

Caroling at the Gazebo



The borough expresses its appreciation to all who attended and/or supported this year's Caroling at the Gazebo event.

Special thanks go to: the Bernville Community Fire Company for escorting Santa around town, then

to the Gazebo, and finally back to the North Pole; the volunteer gazebo decorating crew led by Shawn and Wes Raup-Konsavage; and especially to Santa for finding time in his busy schedule to visit with us.

The borough also offers sincere thanks for the generous, custom-made, anonymous donation of Santa's new chair. It gave Santa a special place to sit and chat with the youngsters and will be an integral part of this event for years.

A Thank You for Christmas Lights



A big thank you to Danny, Brenda, and Ashley Strunk for putting up the Christmas lights on Main Street.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Borough residents may recycle their Christmas tree 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.



2019 Hospitality Booklet

The 2019 edition of the Bernville Hospitality Booklet (little yellow book) is being put together at this time. Those listed in the Business section will be contacted to validate information. If currently not listed, and you are interested in having your local business listed, please contact Borough Hall and leave a contact number. (The borough reserves the right to restrict listings of businesses included in the booklet.) Other parties will be contacted as needed for update purposes. The 2019 edition is anticipated to be delivered in February or March to borough residents. The booklet is provided courtesy of the borough.

Stanton Clay Park Annual Clean-up



All volunteers wishing to participate in the

annual Stan Clay Park Clean-up may join us on Saturday, March 23rd. Clean-up tasks include light tree pruning, leaf raking, mulch spreading, cleaning flower beds, etc. Work starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends before noon. The park may be wet/snowy, so wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and please bring work gloves. This event is coordinated by the Bernville Shade Tree Commission.

Shade Tree Commission Opportunity

The Shade Tree Commission currently has an opening for one volunteer. If you are interested in joining the Shade Tree Commission, please contact Borough Hall and request to be appointed; our first meeting is Feb. 7th. The annual time commitment is minimal, and the major events are the Stan Clay Park clean-up (March), Arbor Day celebration (April or May), and a street tree/park tree review (Oct or Nov) which focuses on hazard tree identification. No specific tree knowledge is necessary, just a



willingness to share your talents by caring for the trees under the borough's jurisdiction.

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: 1-270-479-1302

E-mail: bernvilleacl@berks.lib.pa.us

Website: <http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/bernvilleacl>



LIBRARY HOURS:

M-Th 11 a.m.-7 p.m. | Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Sun 2-5 p.m.

Closed Fridays, New Year's Day.

In the New Year we will continue some of our programs, and we will be trying new programs.



Monday: Story time at 11:15 a.m. with Miss Debe, ideal for ages 3 to school age.

Tuesday: Mother Goose on the Loose at 11:00 a.m. with Miss Debe, ideal for ages Birth to 3.

One of 4 therapy dogs visits monthly, usually the first Sunday of the month from 2:30 p.m. to 4.

We are working on some new adult programs for the New Year. Stop in and give us your email so you may receive the newsletter. This will have all the events for the month on it so you can plan to attend.

Also in the New Year, if you would you like us to put your favorite authors on hold for you, come in and request a form. This form will have popular authors that we receive as well as a place for you to recommend authors. This ensures that you are put on the list to receive this book before it leaves our library.

In the New Year the library will be adding a Giving Tree. As a way to combat a reduction in funding and a different way that you can help us, we will have items that we need in the library on

“display.” You take the one that you would like to help with and purchase the item listed and donate it, or donate the monetary amount for us to purchase the item. We hope you will help us out in this way.

We would like to give a great big thank you to everyone who helped us with making our Arts Celebration a success this year. Special thanks to Charlie and Leann Eckenrode, the Hamburg Ascending Chamber Strings, and the Tulpehocken Jazz Band for playing some great music throughout the day. We would also like to thank the art teachers, Ms. DeFilipps, Ms. Miller and Mr. LePera for providing us with artwork to display, and of course thanks to the students whose artistic talents were displayed. We’d also like to thank those who provided refreshments. Below are a few pictures from that day.



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/bernvillecommunityfirecompany

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 2018, 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

Open Memorial Day to Labor Day
 610-488-0624 (summers)
bernvillepool@gmail.com



As we watch the snow fly, it is time to begin preparations to open the pool. We need to find lifeguards and get them scheduled for certifications. We NEED community members to serve on the WBSA board. Without a board we cannot open the pool. The board oversees the operation of the pool, cleaning and making repairs, interviewing lifeguards, buying supplies, supervising the lifeguards, chemical license and managing the pool levels and cleaning filters. PLEASE consider volunteering so the pool will be open this summer. Contact Karen Alton 610-488-8694 if interested in a lifeguarding job or volunteering to help at the pool.

Bernville Young at Heart

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

Senior
Citizens

Meetings:

- January 16 – Installation of officers, Berks Heim, and Norman Reifsnnyder WWII- A farm boy becomes a soldier.
- February 20 – will be announced
- March 20 – will be announced

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

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



The boy scouts are collecting aluminum cans. There are bins at the following locations: Boyer's Market, Bernville Beverage, and Blue Marsh Italian Restaurant. Aluminum cans only; no trash, plastic, or glass please.

Cub Scout Pack 422

Cub Master: Tim Adam
E-mail: tadam2003@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.

Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church

Evangelical Lutheran
Friedens Church



Main & Washington Streets,
P.O. Box 201, Bernville, PA
19506

Church Office Telephone 610-488-6260
Church Building Telephone 610-488-0206
E-Mail at Friedens_bernville@verizon.net
Web Site: friedensbernvillepa.com
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
(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”

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES & PROGRAMS:

Monday, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, and Apr 8 – Free Soup & Bread Lunch, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
You are invited to a free community Soup and Bread Lunch. We hope you will join us for soup, bread, and fellowship.

Saturday, Feb 9 – Soup Sale 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
A variety of home-made soups will be available for purchase to enjoy at home. For more information call the church office.

Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday Service 7-8 p.m.

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3 & 10 - Lenten Services, 6 p.m. Soup & Bread, 7 p.m. Service. Please call the church office for confirmation of location & time.

Friedens Easter Candy Orders are due by March 17 and can be picked up starting April 3. Homemade butter cream, coconut and peanut butter candy will be offered.

St. Thomas Church



ST. THOMAS CHURCH

536 N. Main Street
Bernville, PA 19506
Rev. Dr. Daniel Lute
Youth Pastor Joel Jackson
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.

S.O.F.A. Food Distribution
(Share Our Food Always)
3rd Thursday of each month
from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Contact Youth Pastor
Joel Jackson for more information.

Youth Group
(Grades 7th thru 12th)
Sunday 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Al-Anon
Monday evenings - 7 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 17
S.O.F.A. Food Distribution - 5 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, February 10
BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Thursday, February 21
S.O.F.A. Food Distribution - 5 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday Service - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13
Community Lenten Service - 7 p.m.
(Call for location)

Wednesday, March 20
Community Lenten Service - 7 p.m.
(Call for location)

Thursday, March 21
S.O.F.A. Food Distribution - 5 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27
Community Lenten Service - 7 p.m.
(Call for location)

Patriotic Order Sons of America, Bernville Camp 113



The Patriotic Order Sons of America, or POS of A, is an organization that promotes patriotism and honoring the American flag in local communities. Bernville and Robesonia are served by POS of A Camp 113, which was granted its charter in 1869 by the national office. It originally was located in the Borough of Bernville. However, approximately thirty years ago, the number of Camp 113 members was declining, and disbanding was being considered. At that time, Lester Breininger offered the Camp the use of his Furnace Office building along Freeman Street in Robesonia for its local meeting room and headquarters. The Camp members availed themselves of this gracious offer, and the Office building has housed Camp 113 and its extensive memorabilia ever since. We continue to occupy the building through the generosity of the Breininger family.

Patriotic Order Sons of America, Bernville Camp 113 cont.

Last year Camp 113 placed a flag-disposal box, similar to the one shown on the prior page, at the Bernville Borough Hall. Please dispose of any tattered or soiled flags and any flags no longer suitable for respectful display in the box. The box is periodically emptied by the Scouts, and all flags that are removed are stored for eventual incineration at a flag retirement ceremony.

Camp 113 events and activities throughout the year include: conducting the annual Memorial Remembrance ceremony at the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park in Robesonia in May, participating in local parades (including Bernville's Memorial Day Parade) with our extensive collection of flags, leading an annual ceremony to honor Conrad Weiser at the Homestead outside Womelsdorf (usually in November), and granting scholarships to deserving seniors at Tulpehocken and Conrad Weiser High Schools for essays on patriotism.

If you are interested in joining the POS of A or in learning more about our service organization, which meets monthly at the Robesonia Furnace Office (across the street from the Furnace Mansion along Freeman Street) on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., please contact President Mike Emery (mbemery@yahoo.com) or Dave Bright (david.bright@ssmgroup.com, or 610.698.3488). Additional information can be found at www.nationalposofa.org.

Voter Registration Information

The deadline to register to vote in the spring primary is April 22nd. Everyone who wishes to vote must be registered in order to be eligible to vote on election day. This year's primary will be May 21, 2019.

To register to vote, and for other voting information, go to the website: dos.pa.gov and click on the voting and elections link.

BOROUGH CALENDAR... Dates To Remember

January

- 2 - Borough Council Meeting (Wed.)
- 3 - Trash/Recycling Pick-up (Thur.)
- 14 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 - Recycling Pick-up
- 30 - Recycling Pick-up

February

- 4 - Community Day Planning Meeting
- 5 - Borough Council Meeting
- 7 - Shade Tree Commission Meeting
- 11 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 13 - Recycling Pick-up
- 19 - Heritage & Cultural Society Meeting
- 27 - Recycling Pick-up

March

- 5 - Borough Council Meeting
- 11 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 13 - Recycling Pick-up
- 23 - Clay Park Clean-up
- 27 - Recycling Pick-up

BERNVILLE NEWSLETTER

The Bernville Planning Commission publishes this *Newsletter* four times per year on behalf of the borough. Articles from local civic and community organizations may be submitted to P.O. Box 40, Bernville PA 19506 or via email to bernvilnews@gmail.com.

Deadline for the April-May-June Newsletter is March 5th. **Please submit articles in Microsoft Word via e-mail wherever possible.** Extra copies of the Newsletter are distributed at the Bernville Library, Bernville Post Office, Borough Hall, and Mario's Pizzeria.