

Taconic Valley News

BERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What a Great Listener



BES' favorite reading buddy was back at BES last week! Crosby the reading dog and Mr. Paul Raider spent quality time listening to the wonderful readers in Ms. Ruebel's 2nd grade and Ms. Hannigan's kindergarten classrooms. Photo courtesy of the BCS Communications Department.

BERLIN

July 4th Parade

American Music Through the Ages is the theme for our 2021 parade. America has gifted the world with our blues, jazz, country, bluegrass, rock and roll, R&B, Hip Hop, funk, gospel and rap (not to mention classical, spirituals and patriotic music). From Yankee Doodle Dandy to Kate Smith's God Bless America, Ray Charles sang America and Jimi Hendrix played the Star-Spangled Banner like we had never heard it before. American music is part of who we are.

Celebrities can be as big as the music. Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, Elvis and Fats Domino, Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton, Aerosmith to ZZ Top all had their role in making American music what it is today.

Music has helped Americans through the hard times and helped celebrate the good times, united us with inspiration, honored those who earned it and added humor

when we needed it most. Celebrate the July 4th holiday with American music.

Looking forward to seeing (and hearing) the parade. Bands, floats, cars, equipment, service groups, schools, churches, horses, antique cars, obviously fire companies and more. Be a part of the legacy, build a lifelong memory, celebrate the day, celebrate America.

Your donations are appreciated and allow this tradition to continue.

Berlin Parade Committee, PO Box 66 Berlin, NY 12022.

BERLIN CENTRAL SCHOOLS Wellness Fair/Smith 5K

The two annual events are just around the corner, scheduled for Saturday, May 1 from 9 am to noon. To register for the 5k or 1 Mile Fun Run, learn more about the BCSD Wellness Fair or sign up to be a vendor, please go to the school's website at www.berlincentral.org.

STEPHENTOWN

How To Spend American Rescue Money

by Doug La Rocque

That was one of the topics of discussion at the Stephentown Town Board meeting on Monday evening, April 19. Supervisor Larry Eckhardt indicated he would like the public's input how the town could best use the approximately \$310,000, but also warned, this is a one time shot, and we should probably avoid purchases that would be repetitive. Councilman Bill Jennings said they "should look for sustainable investment in Stephentown." Supervisor Eckhardt said one thought he had was to install emergency backup power at the Town Hall, Town Garage, Fire Department and Fire Hall. The Stephentown Memorial Library (SML) was also mentioned. The Supervisor figures these projects might total about \$150,000 but that was a rough estimate.

Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar suggested looking into digitalizing the older town records taking up room in the vault. She indicated most of the official documents over the last ten years have already been digitalized, but there are many that have not. Supervisor Eckhardt thought that was a good idea, reckoning back to when Hurricane Irene struck upstate New York in 2005. He noted at least two town halls in the Catskills were flooded out and all their records were washed away, never to be found, at least intact.

According to the Supervisor, the town will receive the money in two installments, one sometime this summer and the other probably next year.

More Highway Money Too

Highway Superintendent Aldie Goodermote said he has been told the Consolidated Highway Improve-

ment Program (CHIPs) funding has been increased. He expects to receive the 20 percent that was withheld last year, and perhaps a little more. He indicated Stephentown will also receive Pave NY funds and Early Winter Recovery monies. He told board members, however, he has not received anything official in writing and "I'll believe it when I see it."

Superintendent Goodermote has plans to spend some money too. He indicated the payload is 13 years old and he suggested to the Board it consider replacing it. But, in the same breath he said, if you don't want to spend the money, that's alright too. He did indicate he hopes to purchase a new truck next year.

Speaking of Pave NY, how about Pave Stephentown. Mr. Goodermote asked the board to consider using \$200,000 of highway reserve money to pave some more of the town roads, exactly which ones were not noted. According to the Superintendent, all but 13 of the town's 53 miles of road are paved, but he would like to reduce that number even further. Characterizing the shape the town roads are currently in, he said "we are never going to have perfect roads, but we have good roads."

Clean Up Time

Councilman Bill Jennings announced a slight change in the way the town wide cleanup days are handled this year. It will be two weeks instead of three, but more days in the week. Specifically, the days the transfer station is open, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The cleanup is scheduled for the weeks of June 14 and 21.

How much, if any, electronics will be accepted is

still a fuzzy picture. Councilman Jennings says the electronics bin has not been picked up by the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Authority (ERCSWA) in many months. He has been in communication with them and they promised it will happen shortly, blaming a lack of contracted help. Mr. Jennings says if it is emptied on a regular basis, they will allow one or two TVs, etc., but not truck loads like in the past. If it is not picked up before the cleanup, electronics will not be accepted.

Library Receives Its Grant

Several months ago, the SML asked the Town Board to write a letter of support for a grant it was seeking from the American Library Association for a Community Engagement Survey. The library announced at the meeting it has received the grant. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

The library also announced another blood drive, scheduled for Thursday, April 29 from 1 to 6 pm. Potential donors can sign up on the American Red Cross website.

Mowing Bid Awarded

The Board opened three sealed bids for mowing at the Town Hall and Town Park. The contract was awarded to Everything Green, the lowest bidder and the firm that did the mowing last year.

Their low bid was for \$30 a mow at the Town Hall and \$35 at the Town Park.

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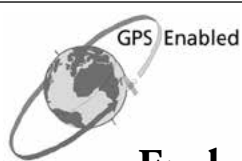
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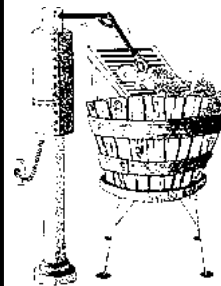
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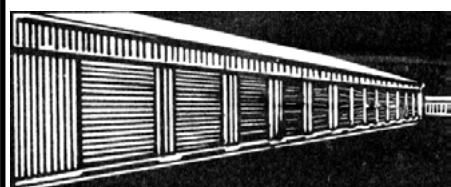
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