



Powder House News

August 2025

The Powder House News is moving to a bi-monthly newsletter.
Look for the next edition in October

***From the office of* THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

As we embrace the heart of summer, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued engagement and support of our Town initiatives.

I am constantly impressed by the vibrancy, inclusivity and forward thinking that makes Berlin such a special place and feel honored to help the town progress into the future.

Fall Town Meeting

Fall Town Meeting will be held on Monday, November 17th, at 6:00pm in the Berlin Memorial School Gym. Please note the earlier start time. The warrant (meeting agenda) will open for articles beginning on September 8th and close on October 6th. Warrants will be mailed to residents at the end of October or beginning of November, and a Town Meeting Information Session will be held at the Municipal Offices on November 6th at 6pm Stay tuned for more information and keep an eye on the

homepage of our website for updates.

FY24 Audit Results

The FY24 Town audit is complete. There were no findings or material weaknesses. Many thanks to Treasurer/Collector Cathy Murphy and Town Accountant June Poland for their hard work and for achieving such a successful outcome.

Online Permitting

The Town will be adding an online option for applying for fire permits this fall. This option will be available through our OpenGov software which currently allows for online building permitting. We hope this more customer friendly option will allow developers to have a one stop shop for building and fire permitting, thereby streamlining and simplifying the process of getting housing projects and businesses approved. The Town will be adjusting its fees to match our surrounding communities in order to

help offset the additional cost of adding this option.

A Meeting Information Session will be held at the Municipal Offices on November 6th at 6 pm Stay tuned for more information and keep an eye on the homepage of our website for updates.

Stay Connected

My door is always open to residents, and I would like to hear from you. Your input shapes the Town's future. You can email me at townadmin@townofberlin.com. You are also welcome to call the office at 978-310-5919 or stop by Room 206 at 23 Linden Street, Monday through Thursday.

Warmly,
Kristen L. Rubin
Town Administrator
Town of Berlin, MA



Council on Aging Upcoming Events:

- **August 4 thru August 18** School Supply Drive Donations accepted at Room 221 Town Offices. Most requested items: Ticonderoga #2 Pencils, Crayola Crayons and Markers, Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Disinfectant Wipes, 1 Subject Notebooks, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Student Scissors, Dry Erase Markers, and 4 oz Play-Doh
- **August 7** Bill Reidy Music 5-7 pm at 19 Carter
- **August 14** Veterans Breakfast at 9 am in Room 118 Town Offices
- **September 10** Chocolate Tasting at 1 pm, Room 118 Town Offices- Join us for a midday treat of different chocolates from places around the world.
- **September 11** Veterans Breakfast at 9 am, Room 118, Town Offices
- **September 24** Book Swap at 1130am, Room 118, Town Offices - You may bring any books you are ready to part with and trade with others in attendance. Coffee, Tea, and pastries will be served.

Berlin Expands Efforts to Improve Accessibility for All Residents

Accessibility remains a top priority for the Town of Berlin as local officials continue working to remove barriers and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since receiving an initial \$8,000 state grant in 2023, the town has successfully implemented critical updates to improve public facilities, including modifications to door hardware, coat hooks, hallways, and automatic door openers at municipal buildings.

Now, Berlin is requesting additional funding for new accessibility projects, ensuring that residents of all abilities can move freely through public spaces. Among the town's latest grant requests are ADA-compliant voting booths, which will provide an accessible way for wheelchair users to cast their ballots with ease.

Public spaces, such as the town library, are also undergoing improvements. Officials have requested funding to pave a path to the back patio and install an ADA-compliant picnic table, making outdoor seating more accessible to those using mobility aids. Additionally, the library's heavy front door has been identified as an obstacle for individuals using crutches or wheelchairs. A grant has been submitted to install an automatic door opener, making entry simpler for all visitors. The 1870 Town Hall is also set to receive critical upgrades. Officials plan to install stair railings for the small staircases leading to the stage, improving safety and stability for all residents.

Berlin submitted its grant requests earlier in June, but funding decisions won't be announced until this fall. Local leaders remain hopeful that these accessibility improvements will help Berlin fully comply with ADA Titles I and II, ensuring equal access to municipal programs and services.

Making towns ADA-compliant isn't just about following regulations—it's about ensuring that all residents can participate fully in their community. By investing in accessibility, Berlin is taking meaningful steps to create an inclusive, welcoming environment for everyone.

For more information or to support these initiatives, contact your Selectboard members along with the Town Administrator.

HOUSEHOLDS 60 AND OVER - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The COA surveys were mailed in mid-June. If you did not receive one and would like to complete it, please contact COA Director Melissa Sargent at (978) 838-2750. If you have not completed it yet, please complete both sides of the survey and mail or drop it off to the COA as soon as possible.

Help us help you by returning your completed survey!

Services provided by COA:

Notary Public
Housing Applications
SNAP Applications
Home Health Care Options
Medical Equipment Rentals (Free)
Social Security
Medical Insurance
Rental Assistance

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Meeting Information:

View agendas, minutes and check
meeting dates and times for all
boards and committees at
www.mytowngovernment.com/01503. Select Board and Finance
Committee meetings are
streamed on YouTube.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@TownofBerlinMA/streams>

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – MAY AND JUNE

MAY - EMERGENCY RESPONSES - 81

- Fire: 2
- EMS: 46
- MVA: 8
- Hazardous Condition: 2
- Service Call: 6
- Good Intent Call: 7
- Alarm Activation, malfunction: 9
- Special Incident: 1

MAY - FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY

- Special Event -1
- Food truck - 1
- Flammable Storage - 1
- Hot Works - 1
- Inspections Conducted - 8 Home Safety Inspections - 1

JUNE - EMERGENCY RESPONSES- 83

- Fire: 4
- EMS: 46
- MVA: 7
- Hazardous Condition: 4
- Service Call: 4
- Good Intent Call: 4
- Alarm Activation, malfunction: 14

JUNE-FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY

- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Certificates -4
- LP Gas 4
- Oil Tank Install - 1
- Suppression System -1
- Dumpster -1
- Sprinkler Repair - 1
- Inspections Conducted -15
- Home Safety Inspections - 1

**Smoke detectors
and carbon
monoxide
detectors save
lives every day**

- Call volume continues to remain elevated for the Fire & EMS Department. We are currently 25% ahead in call volume for the same period of time as last year. With the increase in call volume, as would be expected, we are seeing an increase in the number of times we have multiple calls at the same time. Crews are handling these as we also combat staffing shortages.
- Training has been active for the last 2 months with crews completing training on water supply operations, ASHER training, mass casualty responses, and helicopter landing zone operations. Crews conducted a scenario-based training utilizing LifeFlight out of UMass Hospital and also completed our annual tanker drill operations. This tanker drill had us delivering 60,000 gallons of water in an hour period of time to demonstrate our water supply capabilities.
- Lt Paulino completed 40+ hours of confined space training operations in June and 40+ hours of rope rescue training in May. This completes his training for Rescue Technician that covers several disciplines of high-angle rescue, below grade rescue, confined space, and water technician. Also, Lt. Paulino and Lt. Colomey were appointed to the District 8 Fire Investigation Unit. This is a certified/educated group of fire service personnel that responds within our fire district community to investigate any fire incident that occurs. They are selected by a managing group of fire officers in District 8, and it is not an easy process to complete. We are fortunate to have 2 members active with the investigative unit.
- The Paper Store opened at Highland Commons on Saturday, June 28. Ramen Haven is the restaurant that is taking the space where Subway used to be. Fire Prevention has received the plans for the upfit of the sprinkler system for the space, along with other needed fire prevention systems. Work is ongoing in that space.
- May had 14 open shifts that were unfilled, and June had 10 unfilled shifts. We do have several interviews in process to increase the call department numbers.
- Our home safety check program is available to any resident in town, along with the child passenger seat program. Both of these programs are a no cost safety item that can pay dividends for home safety and for new children riding in car seats. Please reach out to Lt. John Paulino at fireprevention@townoberlin.com or call (978)838-2444 to schedule a safety check with fire prevention if you are interested or would like a car seat install.
- Work has come to a completion for the summer on the second-floor renovations. Assabet made great strides in placing walls, running electrical wiring, and plumbing for the project. They are ahead of schedule as they will return the last week of August to start work for School Year 2026.

- - - Respectfully, Michael McQuillen, Berlin Fire Chief

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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT – JUNE

JUNE - CALLS FOR SERVICE - 1257

- Criminal Charges – 7
- Motor Vehicle Crashes – 22
Reported Injuries – 6
- Motor Vehicle Stops – 178
Citations Issued – 63



- The Drone Unit was deployed twice in the month; both times were here in Berlin.
- Sgt. Goulding organized the annual 5th Grade field trip this year to Peddocks Island, which is part of Boston Harbor. We spent the day with the kids and chaperones taking a one-hour boat ride to and from the island, and once we were there broke off into several groups exploring the 300-acre island.
- June 20th, Officer Brendan Judge graduated from the Boylston Police Academy and started field training the following week.
- Accreditation - Currently at 129 policies, started with 77 last fall. We will be joining MPAC (Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission) in the near future, so we can start a 6-9 month path to being an accredited department.
- 7 officers have been submitted to POST-C for recertification, all have met the training requirements to be recertified.

- - - Respectfully submitted Eric Schartner Police

Chief

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - JUNE

This month presented a manageable workload overall for the Highway Department, with notable progress on road projects and continued commitment to general maintenance duties. Both Crosby and Lyman roads were successfully reclaimed and received their binder coat. Following that, the structures were raised in preparation for the final top coat application. Overlay work on Sawyer Hill was also completed, with subsequent edge filling performed.

A few equipment issues were encountered during operations, including the replacement of two brake cans on Truck 31 and a hydraulic hose failure on Truck 30 during roadside edge work. Nevertheless, routine responsibilities such as pothole repairs, roadside mowing, and hazard mitigation were actively pursued. The team continues to balance multiple seasonal and infrastructure-related tasks with efficiency.

Notably, the town was awarded \$500,000 in funding under Phase 2 of the Small Bridge Grant. This is a reimbursement-based grant that will significantly support upcoming bridge-related infrastructure efforts. Meanwhile, the Municipal Building's attic received spray insulation, adding to the building maintenance achievements this month.

There is no substantive update on the South Street Bridge at this time, though a MassWorks grant application is actively in progress. Public buildings underwent routine maintenance with no major incidents to report.

- - - Respectfully submitted Fred Cummings Highway Superintendent

Community Events

COA

Tuesdays from 1–2 pm Tai Chi with Rev. Helen Morin in COA room 118. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81287909508> Meeting ID: 812 8790 9508

Saturdays from 8:50 to 9:45 am Senior Yoga with Latha in COA room 118. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89963068074> Meeting ID: 899 6306 8074

BERLIN CHURCHES

FirstParish Church Sunday Worship: 10 am, call 978-838-2575 for location

St. Joseph The Good Provider Catholic Church

Daily mass: Mon.– Fri. at 7:30 am

Weekend masses: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30 am and 10:45 am

XIX CARTER

Weekly Events: Suggested donation \$5

Monday A Politics-Free Tea Time 2 - 4pm

Turn off your TV and stop by for 2 hours of pleasant tea and pleasantries, pastries with good company, and no politics!

Tuesday Armchair Meditation 8 - 8:30am

Wednesday Coffee Hour 9am - 12pm

Wednesday Office Hours with Melissa (Director of the Berlin COA) 10 - 11am

Wednesday Irish Session 7 - 10pm

Friday Open Art Studio & Coffee Hour 9am - 12pm

Friday Fiber Arts Group 2 - 4pm

Saturday Social 10am - 1pm

Saturday, August 2, 11:30am | Veg Group

Join Dr. Michele Ricard, a retired internist and geriatrician with a certificate in plant based nutrition, for a talk about a healthy immune system - from the produce aisle! She has been leading Veg group at 19 Carter since 2019 (with a hiatus during Covid). Stop by and join the discussion! Questions? Email ricardam@charter.net. Suggested donation: \$5

Saturday, August 2, 7pm | Summer Concert Series: The Jive Heroes

This band brings together 3 of the most experienced, and talented musicians in the Bay State - they blend Delta blues, country blues, and Americana in a style that heralds and elevates the best elements of funk, soul, and rhythm & blues. Put on your dancing shoes and join us for a ride! \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$5 for students, free for kids! Purchase tickets at [19Carter.org](https://www.19carter.org)

Sunday, August 3, 10am | Shake Your Soul

"Shake Your Soul" is a movement practice led by Molly Delehey that is designed to relax your nervous system as it energizes your body. Get ready for great music, wonderful people, expressive workout for the body and spirit. It's suitable for all bodies, fitness levels, and abilities. Cost: \$10. Reserve your spot at [19Carter.org](https://www.19carter.org).

Thursday, August 7, 5pm | Bill Reidy Concert

Join this free outdoor performance by Bill Reidy - you'll hear everything from oldies to swing, with a splash of country & western music! Sponsored by the Berlin Council on Aging. Cost: Free!

Friday, August 8, 7pm | Open Mic

Join our inclusive Open Mic with hosts Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli, who will support with professional sound, a welcoming vibe, and a piano. Performers must sign up in advance by emailing LoriDiamondMusic@gmail.com. Sign up window opens 6pm the Wednesday before the event. Suggested donation: \$5

Saturday, August 9, 7pm | Summer Concert Series: The Dukes of Winsor's

Presenting the best of Dixieland and classic jazz in the tradition of Bix, Louis and the Duke played by a lively band on banjo, cornet, clarinet, guitar, trombone and tuba. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$5 for students, free for kids! Purchase tickets at [19Carter.org](https://www.19Carter.org)

Sunday, August 10, 6pm - 8:30pm | Jazz Jam

Join us for our monthly jazz jam! Improvise in a fun, welcoming atmosphere. Players & listeners welcome - email Ken at ken@parrishworks.net with questions. Suggested donation: \$5

Tuesday, August 12, 7pm | Author Talk: The Garden at the End of Time

Join us for a talk with author John Hanson Mitchell on his book *The Garden at the End of Time: Getting By in the Age of Climate Change*. With gravitas, kindness, and wit, Mitchell offers a model for maintaining a connection to nature even as it reels from manmade threats. Cost: Free! Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Berlin Public Library.

Wednesday, August 13, 11am – 1pm | Old Time Music Jam

All acoustic string players & listeners are welcome to join a round robin, "Old Time" session of historic tunes. Suggested donation: \$5

Wednesday, August 13, 11am – 12pm | Office Hours with Senator Robyn Kennedy's Team

Stop by our monthly office hours with Senator Robyn Kennedy's team! For more info, contact the Senator's office: Kayanna.James@masenate.gov.

Friday, August 15, 7pm | Going Mental: A One-Man Mind Show

Going Mental is a one-man psychological illusion show by Dan Candell that blends mind reading, hypnosis, persuasion, and raw audience connection into an unforgettable experience. Cost: \$25. Purchase tickets at [19Carter.org](https://www.19Carter.org).

Saturday, August 16, 7pm | Summer Concert Series: Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli

"Storytellers at heart, [Diamond and Abatelli] combine a beautiful classical piano and a warm-toned guitar to make music that seeps into the soul and permeates the senses" – Pulse Magazine. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$5 for students, free for kids! Purchase tickets at [19Carter.org](https://www.19Carter.org).

Thursday, August 19, 2:15pm | Book Club: Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

The book of this month's session is "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri. All are welcome to stop by and join the discussion. For more info, please contact host Ann Ribbens: annri1951@yahoo.com. Suggested donation: \$5

Wednesday, August 27, 11am – 1pm | Old Time Music Jam

All acoustic string players & listeners are welcome to join a round robin, "Old Time" session of historic tunes. Suggested donation: \$5



August Library Events



Please be aware that our hours have changed! The library is open **Mondays** 10am-7pm, **Tuesdays** 10am-6pm, **Wednesdays** 10am-1pm, **Thursdays** 2pm-7pm, and **Saturdays** 10am-1pm. Some of our recurring programs have changed days or times as a result, be sure to double check.

Story Time

Mondays, August 18, 25 @ 10am

Children of all ages are welcome to join us as we read a book together, sing, make some art, and play together to start our week! There will be no storytimes on August 4th or 11th while Ms. Hadley is absent.

Pop Art Pet Portraits

Tuesday, August 5 @ 4pm

Bring a photo of your pet, or any animal, and create a colorful framed work of art. Using acrylic paints and picture frames provided by the library, we will find our artistic side and leave with one of a kind images of our furry, scaly, or feathered friends! For ages 16+. Registration required.

Community Game Night

Thursday, August 7 @ 6-8:30pm

Get together with a gaming master to learn some new board games. Or, if you want to share one you and your family love, bring it along to teach the group. Everyone is welcome!

Digeridoo Down Under

Tuesday, August 12 @ 6pm

Join us on an epic adventure, from the birth of the universe to the age of the dinosaurs to the modern world. With awe-inspiring visuals, we'll explain how the air we breathe was created; we'll marvel at prehistoric creatures roaming primordial landscapes; we'll explore a mysterious underground plant communication network; we'll observe interactions between different animal species; and we'll explain how to protect our beautiful and beloved Earth ... all while listening to the pulsing, otherworldly sounds of the didgeridoo, one of the world's oldest musical instruments. For all ages

Card Battle Blast

Wednesday, August 20 @ 12pm

Bring your Pokémon, Reading Dragons, or Magic Cards. We will also have classic card games and Uno available. Play against your friends and have fun. For ages 6-12.

One Up Games

Thursday, August 21 @ 4pm

Use a variety of next-gen consoles and gaming monitors to play many popular games including some classic and retro games. This program allows your children, or teens to play what they wish, with the freedom to move to any system and play any game. Everything will be here at the library: monitors, consoles, games, controllers, cables and more! For ages 8-17. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Berlin Cultural Council.

Summer Reading Wrap Up

Saturday, August 23 @ 12pm

Celebrate a summer of reading with a scavenger hunt, games, crafts, and ice cream. We will also draw the raffle prize winners at this event!

Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesday, August 26 @ 1-3pm

Pajama Storytime: Back to School

Thursday, August 28 @ 5:30pm

Join us for a relaxing and educational evening. Come dressed in your pajamas, if you wish. Bring your favorite stuffed friend and a blanket and get cozy. We'll talk about getting ready for the school year by reading stories, making a craft, having a snack, and singing together.

Thursday Evening Book Club

Thursday, August 28 @ 6:30pm

Join us for a discussion of Tilt by Emma Pattee.

Copies of the book are available at the library, and through Libby. New voices are always welcomed at the book club!

*For more information and to register for library events, please visit
berlin.cwmars.org/programs*

STAY CONNECTED CATCH CONNECT

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), in partnership with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA), is pleased to offer Catch Connect service to residents of Berlin.

As part of an ongoing effort to improve regional mobility, MWRTA has expanded its existing Catch Connect service—previously available in Hudson—to now include Berlin. This flexible, on-demand transit option is designed to better serve those living, working, or visiting in the area.



Service Details:

- Operates Monday–Friday, 6:45 AM – 6:45 PM, and Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Travel between any two addresses in Hudson and Berlin
- Includes key destinations in Marlborough: Downtown Marlborough, Boston Scientific, Marlborough Hospital, and Apex Center (Bus Stop Area at Entrance)
- Riders can book trips easily through the MWRTA Catch App, offering a convenient alternative to traditional fixed-route buses
- Catch Connect also links with WRTA's Via service at the Solomon Pond Mall, allowing riders to travel to additional destinations in Shrewsbury, Northborough, and Westborough. For more information, visit: therta.com/via

For questions about the service, contact MWRTA at 508-283-5083 or info@mwrta.com.

To learn more or to plan your ride, visit: mwrta.com/catch.



Powder House News

TOWN OF BERLIN, 23 LINDEN ST., ROOM 206, BERLIN, MA 01503

Powder House News online:

<https://www.townofberlin.com/town-administrator/pages/town-newsletter>

TOWN OFFICES

Accountant	978-838-0045	Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School Superintendent's Office	508-263-9602
Animal Control / Animal Inspector call dispatch.....	978-772-1900	Select Board /Town Admin.	978-838-2442
Assessors	978-838-2256	Tax Collector/ Treasurer.....	978-838-2765
Board of Health	978-838-0214	Town Clerk	978-838-2931
Building Dept.	978-838-0046	Town Hall (1870).....	978-310-5922
Cemetery Dept	978-838-2502	Transfer Station.....	978-838-0042
Council on Aging	978-838-2750	Veterans Services.....	978-838-2560
FIRE or AMBULANCE	911	W. H. E. A. T. (Clinton)	508-370-4943
Dept	978-838-2444	For any other official or board not shown, call the Select Board Office for assistance	978-838-2442
Fire Prevention.....	978-838-2444	FAX to Town Offices ...	978-838-0014
Highway.....	978-838-2898		
Library	978-838-2812		
Nashoba Boards of Health (in Ayer)	978-772-3338		
Plumbing and Gas Inspector	978-265-7421		
Police	978-838-7355		
Berlin Memorial Sch...	978-838-2417		
Tahanto Regional HS...	508-869-2333		

**The Berlin Family Food
Pantry** is open 2 Saturdays
amonth by appointment, the
first and the third Saturday from
7:30 am to 11:30 am. The Pantry
number is 774-245-8320.

**Considering volunteering on a
Board or Committee? Call the
Town Administrator's Office
for Information.**

**The 1870 Town Hall is
available for rentals
beginning August 4,
2025.**

Call: 774-764-9001

Email:

berlin1870townhall@gmail.com