

New Berlin Day Schedule of Events—August 25th

9:00 AM—4:00 PM	The 37th Annual New Berlin Day
9:00 AM—4:00 PM	Special exhibit at the Heritage Museum, “Tied to New Berlin’s Apron Strings”
10:00 AM	Civil War drilling at the Firemen’s Field, 18th North Carolina Infantry, Company A
10:00 AM—12 Noon	Entertainment - The Good Wife: Mrs. Benjamin Franklin at The Community Center Porch
11:00 AM	Civil War battle at The Commons, 18th North Carolina Infantry, Company A
12:00 Noon—12:30 PM	Entertainment—Back Porch Rhythms at The Community Center Porch
12:30 PM—1:00 PM	New Found Sound at The Community Center Porch
1:00 PM	Civil War drilling at the Firemen’s Field, 18th North Carolina Infantry, Company A
1:00 PM—1:30 PM	Back Porch Rhythms at The Community Center Porch
1:30—2:00 PM	New Found Sound at The Community Center Porch
2:00—2:45 PM	Pipe Organ Recital by H. Frank Showers at Messiah Lutheran Church
2:00 PM	Civil War battle at The Commons, 18th North Carolina Infantry, Company A
2:30 PM—3:00 PM	New Found Sound at The Community Center Porch
3:00 PM	New Berlin Homecoming Hour at The Community Center

New Berlin Calendar of Events—2007

- **BINGO** is played every Tuesday evening at the New Berlin American Legion beginning at 6:30 PM. Proceeds benefit New Berlin Little League Baseball and the New Berlin Recreational Park.
- **New Berlin Fire Company** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.
- **New Berlin Borough Council** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Community Center.
- **New Berlin Lions Club** meets the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Firemen’s Social Hall for dinner, business meeting, and program; no regular meeting in August.

August

Sunday, August 19	Community Center Rededication
Sunday, August 19	Town Volunteer Fair
Saturday, August 25	37th Annual New Berlin Day
Monday, August 27	First day of school

Labor Day, September 3 Last Swim, Retire the Rope

November

Sunday, November 25 Hanging of the Greens

December

Sunday, December 2	Community Center & Heritage Museum on Mifflinburg Area Holiday House Tour
Sunday, December 9	Community Tree Lighting
Sunday, December 9	Annual Talent Show
Sunday, December 16	Door Decoration Judging

Church Calendar

Emanuel United Church of Christ, 326 Market Street. Sunday worship at 9:00 AM, followed by Sunday School.

Emanuel United Methodist Church, Plum at High Street. Sunday worship at 10:15 AM, preceded by Sunday School at 9:00 AM.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, 308 Market Street. Sunday worship at 9:00 AM, followed by Sunday School.

More details will follow. Please consider this listing as your SAVE THE DATE notice.

Last Swim of an Era: Retiring of the Rope!

For generations, New Berlin's youth have found their refuge on the shores of Penns Creek and in the shade of New Berlin's bridge. Seeking respite from the heat and humidity, the chores and the curfews, they have found their way to the rope dangling beneath the bridge and made it part of their creek-swimming rituals, utilizing the rope and the pier-running board, ramp, and all—of the old covered bridge that once stretched overhead. On

Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 2007 at 5:00 PM, we'll all gather at The Commons (towards the bridge) for a final seasonal dip in Penns Creek and a final swing on the rope that has supported the weight and the childhood memories of town residents. At 6:30 PM, we'll follow the swim with a ceremonial procession to carry the rope from The Commons to the New Berlin Museum, where it will reside perpetually on display. Residents of all ages are heartily encouraged to attend.

Our rope-retiring ceremony is occasioned by the advent of the new bridge under construction at this site. Our gathering will take place RAIN OR SHINE. Our plan for a creek dip will take place if we are blessed beforehand with plenty of rain to refresh the water supply; if not, we'll settle for an ankle-deep wade. Retro suits and swim caps are encouraged. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be sold by the New Berlin Recreation Association.

Let it be said that we retired the rope in style and with dignity! The local press will be invited to attend our 6:30 PM processional to the New Berlin Museum, as will our mayor in his top hat and the Borough Council. Once the rope is laid to rest, we'll share in some commemorative stories offered by DJ Mapes, Mayor Egli, John Showers, and others who are willing to reveal their memories of a bygone time. Be prepared for tales of slugs, "skinnies," and more! Cookies and punch will be served, and visitors will have the added benefit of being able to check out the museum's new, outstanding apron exhibit (see other story for details).

P.S. If there happens to be a debilitating thunderstorm on this evening, we'll skip the dip and simply meet at the museum to conduct our rope ceremony. Also, major kudos to DJ for instigating this bit of heritage preservation!



Tied to Her Apron Strings

A New Exhibit Honors New Berlin's Matriarchs

It all began in December 2006 with a heartwarming holiday gift: a homemade holiday apron and a copy of *The Apron Book*, by Ellyn Anne Geisel. This gift, in turn, inspired nostalgic thoughts of our town's previous generations and of the apron's use by our matriarchs as a day-long clothing appendage. Even after being securely tied around the waist, aprons found roles not only as potholders and pouches but as carriers of fresh eggs from the coop and a tissue for children in need of consolation.



The New Berlin Museum (above the Post Office) is now proud to present an exhibit supported by the temporary donations of Chris Wilson, Betty Kratzer, Ruth Alice Spangler, Bertha Knauss, and several other generous individuals. These donated aprons reflect the lives of our "town mothers" and are presented as they were worn—complete with the stains and wear-holes that vouch for the love, caring, and hard work of the women who wore them. Complementing the display is a collection of feed bags (thanks to Margaret Seebold) from which many aprons were created. Feed bags traveled from the grain mill to the home for transformation into aprons, clothing articles, sheets, pillowcases, table linens, and other sundry uses. While traveling through the exhibit, don't miss the apron made by Valda Hunt from material produced at the New Berlin Garment Factory (an apron made to match her dress!) as well as several bib aprons donated by Velma Solomon and produced from 1940s and 1950s-era feedbags.



It could perhaps be said that our apron-clad grandmothers lifted hot pies to the windowsill to cool, while granddaughters now place theirs on the windowsill to *thaw!* It is a privilege to honor our previous generations, and we thank and honor Joan Maurer for her vision of this exhibit and for the time that she took to conduct the appropriate research, collect the aprons, and create the display forms and the labeling for it. The New Berlin Museum will be open during New Berlin Day on August 25th as well as on August 31st when we gather together to "retire the rope." Fancy retro-style *new* aprons will be for sale on New Berlin Day—a tad more expensive than a feedbag at \$25 per apron. The aprons are functional for everyday use or heartwarming as a gift item.

Rebuilding the Historic Evangelical Church Building

On **Sunday, September 2nd at 2 PM**, New Berliners are invited to assemble with area Methodists and ancestors of the church's founders at the site where the first Evangelical Church building was built in 1816 (at the corner of Water and Plum Streets) to discuss its possible restoration. The goal is to explore the feasibility of building a full-sized replica of the original building where so many of our ancestors were baptized, worshipped, and married. If the project goes forward for completion by the church's 200th anniversary in 2016, it will likely be through the joint efforts of private donors, local churches, the New Berlin Heritage Association, and New Berlin at large. The September 2nd meeting will be used to identify potential uses for the new building; possibilities include using the site for a museum, a retreat, a sanctuary, a meeting hall, or an historical research facility.

The plot of land supporting the original church has been made available for restoration by the United Methodist Church. Bring a chair, your ideas, and your questions to this brainstorming session. Lemonade and cookies will be served. For more information, call 570-966-2370 or 570-522-5011.

Citizen Spotlight...

Your New Berlin Borough Council team

****Quiet, friendly, laid back environment we can call home.*

****Small town atmosphere with an historical feel.*

****Sense of connectedness among its residents.*

****Insulated in a positive sense to preserve our children's childhoods.*

****Penns Creek, angels, and the 6 PM carillon bells to welcome us home!*

These are the collective answers from our town's ten officials as they describe the essence of New Berlin for themselves; these are only some of the values that they strive to maintain through their borough duties.

Our Borough Council meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7PM in The Community Center. These ladies and gentlemen frequently feel that they are working in a vacuum because of our minimal input and feedback. Meetings are open and our participation is solicited. SO, it seems that this is an official summons to be *less laid back* and *more connected* to:

Chris Janzen, our Prez. After living in CA just long enough to get smog in his blood *and* after stints in WI, MN, IA, TX, ME, and MD, he and his wife Tammy settled right here in center-city New Berlin. Together they share professorial roles at Susquehanna U. from which they return (after the 6PM bells) to enjoy their dog and cat, frequent volleyball matches, and so much more. And an extra note on this Prez...great sense of humor! His job requires him to be coherent in front of many people. On one memorable moment, he got tongue-tied while asking Tammy's father for her hand in marriage. He accidentally asked for HIS hand instead and, of course, he accepted. Wedding day: Chris knew that he was getting married, yet he wasn't certain to whom!

Jim Diehl, Council V.P. In contrast to Chris, Jim has been a Union County resident all of his life, sampling our valley's lifestyle in Forest Hill and Lewisburg before nestling in New Berlin. His wife Kathy and son Zachary (12) complete his family scene. Gardening (and waiting for rain this summer) are Jim's avocations.

Kurt Zimmerman, Council Prez Pro Tem. Throughout his entire 5*0 years~we have permission to announce that milestone~Kurt has lived first in Mifflinburg and then in New Berlin. His wife Linda (who works for the MASD) and he built their home here "from scratch" almost 28 years ago. The Sears van in his driveway gives nod to his employer who relies on his expertise in appliance repair. Their two "twenty-something" daughters (Katrina & Melissa) have honed in on education and nursing. Completing the family is one of two Pomeranians with a Westminster Dog Show heritage who was found on the internet and transferred to Kurt and Linda in Nashville!

Tom Stickley, Councilperson. Tom is one who knows this valley well as he, too, grew up in Lewisburg. He and his wife Nancy have three grown children who live outside the area. Tom veers toward travel, fine dining, and photography to fill (and ful-fill) his time outside Council commitments.

Juli Finkbiner, Councilperson. (No typos in her name: no "e" and then no "d".) Julie hails from IL, but, being a Navy brat, also has international experiences as part and parcel of her history. Life in Selinsgrove immediately preceded her move to New Berlin. Juli boasts four men in her life: husband Harry (a computer software engineer) plus Jacob (10), Daniel (8), and David (3 1/2). While Juli still pursues her search for what she wants to be, she maintains a Seinfeld view of the world laden with humor, hobbies, and a positive outlook.

Marty Bachorski, Councilperson. Troxelville, Port Ann, and~for the past 11 years~New Berlin have been home to Marty. Louise and he have only 3 years before that wedding anniversary with a silver lining. Marty's spare-time focus is on car shows and his own hotrod. Son Josh is now 16, indicating (perhaps) his own interest in cars.



Members of the New Berlin Borough Council team as pictured above, left to right: Jim Diehl, Chris Wysocki, Rebecca Witmer, Chris Janzen (looking Presidential), Marty Bachorski, Lester Hummel, Kurt Zimmerman, and Craig Egli. Tom Stickley and Juli Finkbiner are not pictured.

Chris Wysocki, Councilperson. Chris grew up in Danville; he and his wife Donna moved from Williamsport to New Berlin to be equidistant from their respective employments. Daughter Erin with her husband Josh live in CO which Chris and Donna find a tad far away for grandparenting Sophia (5). Chris enjoys the attention from Humphrey and Sadie (canines), but his greatest enjoyment revolves around family time. Sophia has captured his attention 'cause she thinks that he is old and silly. (What do the other council members think?)

Craig Egli, Mayor. Craig is New Berlin born and raised and following in the footsteps of his grandfather Roy Lepley who served on Council for many years. Craig and his wife Janice are parents of four sons...Anthony at home and Charley, Chad, and Ryan. Craig reflecting on New Berlin says, "I don't know when to come home anymore for dinner since the 5 PM fire whistle no longer blows."

Lester Hummel, Street Dept. Supervisor. Now here's a man dedicated to this town! Lester has never lived anywhere except New Berlin. Married to Shirl for 43 years emphasizes his family focus which also includes two daughters (Kathy and Karen who both live in the area) plus five grandchildren. Lester loves to travel and to work on his Model A Ford.

Rebecca Witmer, Sec./Treasurer Kratzerville and Mifflinburg were Rebecca's homes before settling in New Berlin. Married to Troy and being Mom to Meghan (12), T.J. (7), and Alivia (4), she still has time for borough business and frequently fields calls at home when officially off-duty! Fun-seeking Rebecca-along with her family-love the adrenalin rush of amusement parks' thrill rides.

Connect with your New Berlin Borough Council team:

P.O. Box 330, New Berlin, PA 17855-0330
Telephone: 966-4705 Email: nbboro@ceinetworks.com

On-line, go to www.NewBerlinPA.com and look under tab (page) three entitled "About New Berlin". At the bottom of this page you will find town web-links including one for the Borough of New Berlin.

Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at The Community Center.

The New Berlin Herald

*A joint publication sponsored by The New Berlin Activities Committee in cooperation with
The New Berlin Heritage Association and the Borough of New Berlin.
P.O Box 223, New Berlin, PA 17855-0223*

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*A day of celebration for all of New Berlin;
all are encouraged to attend!*

Community Center Rededication

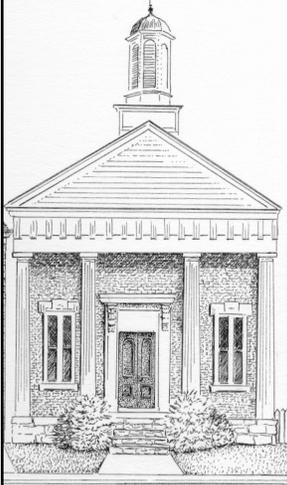
This Sunday, August 19th!

Activities begin at 1:30 PM.

Ceremony commences at 2:00 PM.

Town Volunteer Fair & Community
Center Open House follows.

Details inside this issue of The Herald.



Postal Customer
New Berlin, PA 17855

VOLUNTEER FAIR

...with the key emphasis on the word F*A*I*R!

Lions Club, the Women's Auxiliary to the Fire Company, and the New Berlin Heritage Association are only three of our town's non-profit organizations that exist to serve the community at large and yet struggle with decreasing memberships. Their *vital* contributions over the years have been recognized; now needed is *vitality* and, in the cadence of The Music Man's Harold Hill, *that* begins with V and rhymes with C and that stands for commitment and that in turn stands for each of us to assess where we can *make* that commitment. **Sunday, August 19th at 2:30 PM (after the Community Center's rededication)** will be the time to visit our nonprofits' stands where they'll present their missions and their needs... and perhaps a few refreshments to sweeten the deal.

Our goal: NO COMMITTEE LEFT BEHIND!

Our reason: It simply wouldn't be FAIR to those who benefit from these myriad services.

New Berlin's churches, The New Berlin Herald, our town's scouts, and others will also be represented at this event. *Major kudos to John Benfer for presenting this version of a job fair at a recent New Berlin Vision Committee Meeting.*

**Paul Revere earned his living as a silversmith.
But what do we remember him for? *His volunteer work!***



Historic Dates of the New Berlin Community Center

1844. The Community Center building is built as a house of worship for New Berlin's Presbyterians.

1936. Last installed pastor of the church leaves.

1951. Sisters Edith and Emily Wunderly, the last two members of New Berlin's Presbyterian congregation, deed the building to the Borough of New Berlin.

1960s. The New Berlin Lions Club transforms the building into a Community Center for the town. Borough Council, the Lions Club, and Scouts use the facility. Building is also used for other meetings, borough offices, polling place, and rental for family gatherings.

2000. Building is closed due to structural safety issues.

2007. Renovations are completed with grants, donations, and loans. Rededication occurs August 19th.



Community Center Rededication on Sunday

It was a sad day in 2000 when the condemned sign appeared on the front door of the New Berlin Community Center. Within days the picture became even more depressing as large metal supports on the front porch reinforced the weight of the bell and steeple towering over decaying timbers on the front of this grand edifice. Much to the credit of New Berlin's Borough Council and to the countless citizens involved in fundraising efforts for this restoration project, a brand new day begins this Sunday for the Community Center with its rededication ceremony at 2:00 PM. Activities begin at 1:30 PM and our community's first ever Town Volunteer Fair on High Street will follow. We are proud to say that the rededication ceremony activities have been organized by Becky Mapes for her Girl Scout Silver Award.

For a small town, New Berlin has certainly proved itself as a leader in historic preservation. The Borough Council, together with the New Berlin Activities Committee (which raised \$14,000 for the project), citizens at large, and other organizations now adds this glorious Greek Revival structure to New Berlin's restoration collection of honor. Together, we have saved this treasure that is listed on both the Pennsylvania and National Historic Registers.

We must mention the help we have received from friends beyond New Berlin: a \$40,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a \$30,000 Degenstein Foundation Grant, a \$44,535 Community Development Block Grant from the Union County Commissioners, and Community Revitalization Grants totaling \$85,000 which were secured for the project by our State Senator Jake Corman.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$286,627. What has not been funded to date by grants has been financed by the Borough of New Berlin. (Donations are still welcome to help defray the costs of the loan.)

Residents will be surprised when the doors swing open on August 19th. The building was totally gutted. Everything in the interior space is new with the exception of the windows that have had new insulating windows attached. The ceiling has been elevated to the original height, the kitchen has been installed on the east wall along with handicapped restrooms. A new rear entry has been added which is handicapped accessible. (Note the picture to the left.) Also, take special note of the engraved "1844" in the glass transom above the front door. The bell from the steeple has been placed in a special position of honor in the interior of the room. And there are other touches too numerous to mention.

All of this could not have been accomplished without the skilled industrious students and faculty at the SUN Area Career and Technology Center who were the backbone of this project. Not only are they responsible for the expert craftsmanship but, without SUN Area this restoration could not have been afforded by our town.



Still time for a block party on your block.

Ron and Fran Blatchley (left, front & center) hosted their first and were assisted by across the alley neighbors Jim and Diane Lengle providing the dessert. At least two other block parties have followed and rumor also has it that there was a third somewhat lively boisterous block party held somewhere on the west side of town. The High Street party is scheduled. Yours could be as simple as meeting for a PB&J, lemonade and a brownie with the sole intention of breaking bread together and meeting as neighbors.

New Berlin Courthouse to Host First County Function Since 1855

County government action returns to the original Union County Courthouse on Wednesday, September 5th at 12:30 PM. Built in New Berlin in 1815, the courthouse will have a taste of its former glory when it hosts a press conference held by the Union County Commissioners and members of the Union County Planning Commission to unveil the official start of the Union County and Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Planning Program. County officials will be joined for the event by the consulting firm of Wallace, Roberts, Todd, LLC, who has been retained by the County to lead what is expected to be an 18-month-long comprehensive planning process.

The press conference will be used to highlight various aspects of the Comprehensive Plan, how it can be developed, project timelines, and how the public can become involved. The event will be held on the courthouse's second floor, which is now home to the New Berlin Heritage Association's museum collection.

Later that same evening, a public kickoff of Union County's Comprehensive Planning Program will be held at The Campus Theater in Lewisburg. The event will feature Thomas Hylton, Pennsylvania's own Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of "Save Our Land, Save Our Towns." Admission is free for citizens of Union County; complimentary tickets are available in New Berlin from John Showers.

The New Berlin Borough Council has joined as an official municipal partner of the Union County Comprehensive Planning Program. Because this program will serve to chart our community's future, residents of New Berlin and of the county at large are urged to become involved in the process.

Hark, The Herald Sings

The angel Gabriel has flown over New Berlin in the form of a weathervane for many years. In earlier years, it was referred to as "the winged creature" and flew high on top of the steeple of the Union Reformed and Lutheran Church that stood where the current UCC Church is located. The original pig-tailed Gabriel weathervane was removed from its perch in 1912 and rested in storage until restored in 1976 by Robert Miller and staff at QE. QE needed to repair 32 bullet holes in Gabriel as it was believed to have been used as target practice by hunters sighting in their rifles. Currently, a replica of the New Berlin Gabriel oversees our town from the roof of the UCC Church. The original is preserved elsewhere in safekeeping.

Today, the Gabriel weathervane symbolically recognizes the early religious heritage of New Berlin; hence, the welcome signs at the four entrances to town. Therefore, we felt it fitting for Gabriel to "toot his horn" via this newsletter...heralding news of our past, present, and future through THE NEW BERLIN HERALD.

The current desire is to publish seven issues of The Herald annually. The issue of funding has been brainstormed in three organizations' meetings...without resolution at this point; feedback and ideas are certainly solicited. The next issue should be in the mail by September 15th, followed by a November 15th issue.

All submissions should be delivered to Nancy or John Showers or emailed to john@newberlinpa.com by the first of the month that corresponds to that month's publication. There is now an editorial board in place which oversees content of The Herald. No personals (such as birthdays, anniversaries, or other milestones) will be included as the material should reflect the interest of the community at large.