

News from Mayor Mark Kaczynski

I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe during these trying times. I am writing to provide you with an update on the latest developments in Berlin. As of today, there are thirty Berlin residents that have been tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, ten of them are / were hospitalized and tragically one resident of our community passed away. Please join me in extending our deepest condolences to the family members of the resident who passed away and keeping all others who are in recovery in your prayers.

The Town Hall staff is committed to providing all of the services to our community even though the Town buildings are closed to the general public. In the spirit of the, “stay home stay safe”, request from Governor Lamont, the Town staff are on rotating schedules and / or working from home when possible to create enough social distancing. All departments can be reached by phone and email. Please refer to the Town’s website for specific departmental phone numbers and email addresses.

I am pleased to share with you that during this unprecedented time, recognizing the financial difficulty many residents and businesses are facing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town's elected officials came together with Town and Board of Education staff to deliver a 0 mill rate increase budget for fiscal year 2021. The budget continues existing services, maintains the Town's investment in infrastructure and recognizes the importance of investing in our schools.

Berlin Senior Center will remain committed to serving our senior community. If you or someone you know could use help with either meal delivery, grocery shopping, medication pickup or if you have any other questions please contact Tina Doyle at 860-828-7050 during normal business hours. If there is a critical need (food or medication) outside of those hours, please contact Berlin Police Dispatch at 860-828-7080.

if you or someone you know needs food or other assistance, please contact Berlin Social and Youth Services at 860-828-7059 or 860-828-7007.

The Parks and Recreation Department has not made any decisions on summer programs at this time and will re-evaluate things at the end of April, please check the Town of Berlin website for updates. We have information from Personal Euphoria, who is offering classes on-line, which are free or have a small fee and Skyhawks who have a great resource page for parents to help keep your kids active. Information on both programs is available on the Parks and Recreation page, on the Town website.

As a reminder, The Eat Local-Win Local campaign is now underway and next week we are planning to kick-off The Local Lunch Time Challenge. Manufactures, Sirois Tool and TOMZ Corporation are challenging our manufacturers and employers in Town to buy lunch for their

employees one day a week from Berlin restaurants. Please keep our local businesses and restaurants in mind during these challenging times and do whatever you can to support them.

As always, the Town Manager and the Town staff are available to answer any questions you may have.

Please be safe and stay healthy.