

*April 16, 2020*

## *News from Mayor Mark Kaczynski*

### **COVID-19 Related:**

I hope this letter finds you in good health and in good spirits. Since my Newsletter last week, the number of Berlin residents who have been tested positive for the COVID-19 virus has gone up to fifty-three and sadly two have passed away. Please join me in extending our deepest condolences to the family members of the residents who passed away and keeping all others who are in recovery in your prayers.

For additional information on the State's as well as the Town's COVID-19 cases, please click on the link below that will take you to the Town's webpage <https://www.town.berlin.ct.us> and then click on Breaking News to access the State of CT COVID-19 updates, Central CT Health District COVID-19 Resource Hub and the UConn Department of Geography – CT Dashboard on COVID-19.

Tax Relief: On April 1, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 7S, which establishes two programs to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The two programs are referred to as the "Deferment Program" and the "Low Interest Rate Program". The "Deferment Program" allows the Town to extend payment deadline by 90 days from the tax due date, instead of the usual 30 days and the "Low Interest Rate Program" will allow for a lower rate of interest, 0.25% per month, or 3% per year (currently 1.5% a month or 18% a year), from the tax due date for a period of up to 90 days. Each municipality is required to participate in one or both programs and the Berlin Town Council will discuss this item and make a decision at its April 21, 2020 meeting.

The Eat Local-Win Local campaign is now underway, and we are happy to see many of our residents supporting our restaurants. We kicked off the LOCAL LUNCHTIME CHALLENGE where TOMZ and Sirois Tool is asking businesses to buy lunch 1 day a week for their employees. Please keep our local businesses and restaurants in mind during these challenging times and do whatever you can to support them.

Senior Services: If you or someone you know could use help with either meal delivery, grocery shopping, medication pickup, need a handmade mask, or 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.

As I mentioned last week, if you or someone you know needs access to food or assistance, please contact Jaymee Miller at 860-828-7007 or Doug Truitt at 860-828-7059.

As a reminder – all fields, playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts remain closed at this time.

We are also in the midst of the 2020 Census. Your participation is critical to the future of Berlin. Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year that can go towards health clinics, fire departments, schools, roads and highways. You can respond by phone **844-330-2020**, online <https://2020census.gov/> , or simply mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.

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

Please be safe and stay healthy.