

# CommUNITY



The CommUNITY Team is a partnership of individuals who enhance the attributes of Berlin through education and promotion.

## CommUNITY Team Receives Nod Of Excellence

Article by: Jeff Hoffman, UW-Extension CRD Educator

As this is my last day on the job for UW-Extension in Green Lake County, I wanted to let Berlin know how much I appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Berlin Economic Development Committee/CommUNITY Team.

The positive, can do attitude from the people in this group was refreshing. I worked with many organizations that continually struggled with a lack of funds, turn over of people, lack of direction, negative attitudes, and the list seems to be endless.

The Community Team was never that way; they continually looked at what can we do to make Berlin a better place. This group was a safe place to voice your thoughts or concerns without fear of criticism, and the group banded together to address the issues in a positive way.

I have been very proud to be part of this group. Know that the efforts of the CommUNITY Team will be the standard of excellence that I will look to repeat with other high performing teams.

## Berlin Business News

### NEW BUSINESS



**Sunny Solutions, LLC**  
Owners: Terry & Nancy Mulville  
204 Broadway • 920-354-6260  
Retail of alternative energy systems.

### NEW BUSINESS



**Fastenal**  
District Manager: Tony Walters  
738 Broadway Green Tree Mall  
Distributor of fasteners & commercial supplies.

### NEW BUSINESS



**Simple Delights**  
Owner: Sunshine Lease  
153 W. Huron St. • 361-0777  
Soy candles and soy products.

### NEW BUSINESS



**The Realm**  
Owner: Ryan Lease  
106 N. Capron St • 361-1119  
Video game exchange.

### EXPANSION



**Farmer's & Merchants Bank**  
123 W. Huron St.  
361-1454

### NEW OWNERS/NEW NAME



**Formerly Sponholtz Photography**  
**Heaven's Touch Photography**  
Owners: Jeff & Mandy Lindemann  
151 S. Adams Ave. • 361-4270

### NEW OWNERS



**Berlin Beauty**  
New Owners:  
Michelle Klawitter  
& Mary Liptow  
164 W. Huron St.  
920-361-1909

### NEW OWNER/NEW NAME



**City Inn Banquet Hall**  
Owner: Lance Schultz  
689 Broadway  
361-4750

**Formerly The Columbus Club**

## 2008 Berlin CommUNITY Calendar of Events

*If you have an event that you would like to get into the 2008 Calender of Events for Berlin, please call 361-5401 ext 5456 or email sknoke@dotnet.com*

### March

- 3/05 Health Care Career Fair @ Fox Valley Technical College *contact Jerry Disterhaft 920-929-3942*
- 3/13 Chamber sponsored Business After 5 at Sunny Solutions, 204 Broadway *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 3/13 Masonic Lodge Friends Night, public invited for chili supper & guest speaker *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 3/13 Waupaca Job Fair *contact Jerry Disterhaft 920-929-3942*
- 3/15 Boy's & Girl's Club Wearin' & Sharin' The Green @ The Heidelberg in Green Lake *contact Elyse Piper 293-8599*
- 3/15 & 16 Kiwanis Girls Basketball Tournament w/Berlin Backcourt Club *contact Caren Reich 361-2160*
- 3/16 Kiwanis Palm Sunday Brunch @ Clay Lambertson *contact Caren Reich 361-2160*
- 3/19 Spring Career Fair on the Fox @ U W Oshkosh, 785 High Ave, Kolf Sports Center, Oshkosh *contact Jerry Disterhaft 920-929-3942*
- 3/20 Leaderfest @ U W Fond du Lac Campus. This is for young professionals. *More information at: www.yppfdl.org/leaderfest*
- 3/21 Masonic Lodge Spring Dance Party free admission *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 3/27 Chamber sponsored Wine Tasting Social at Mascoutin Golf Club *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 3/29 Masonic Lodge Acoustic Jam Session, public invited to participate. Food available. 6:30 pm *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### April

- 4/19 Boy's & Girl's Club Arbor Day Tree Sale at the Club *contact Steve Sondalle 361-2151*
- 4/20 UnderPar DiscGolf Open, Riverside Park, registration at 8:00 AM, for more info: *www.underpardiscgolfopen.com*
- 4/20 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grace Lutheran Church, celebratory brunch to follow the 9:15 service *contact 361-1820*
- 4/26 Berlin Area Historical Society Antiques Appraisal Day 10 am to 4 pm @ Conservation Club *contact Lee Erdmann 361-2460*
- 4/26 Masonic Lodge Acoustic Jam Session, public invited to participate. Food available. 6:30 pm *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### May

- 5/06 Fond du Lac & Manufacturing/Tech Job Fair @ MPTC Campus. *More information at: www.fdljobcenter.com*
- 5/10 Berlin City-Wide Garage Sale sponsored by The Berlin Journal Newspaper *contact 361-1515*
- 5/17 CHN Helping Hands For Cancer 5K Run/Walk & Healthy Living Fair *contact Kelly Krause 361-5481 email: talktous@chnwi.org*
- 5/18 Habitat For Humanity "Raising The Roof" Golf Outing at Mascoutin Golf Course *contact Marge Bostelmann 294-6905*
- 5/22 Masonic Lodge Scholarship and Youth Awards Program, public invited *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### June

- 6/07 4<sup>th</sup> Annual VFW Poker Run. Two or four wheels - ALL WELCOME! *contact Butch Rhodes at 361-1252*
- 6/10 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/BHS Jazz Band *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 6/11 CHN 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic @ Waushara Country Club *contact Kelly Krause 361-5481 email: talktous@chnwi.org*
- 6/12 Chamber sponsored Business After 5 at Coldwell Banker & American Family *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 6/17 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/Heartland Band *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 6/18 Berlin Chamber of Commerce sponsored community steak fry- The Great Berlin Grill Out! *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 6/23 Boy's & Girl's Club Outing @ Mascoutin Country Club *contact Doug Fosso 361-4442 email: dfosso@m-p-lic.com*
- 6/24 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/Community Band *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### July

- 7/01 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/to be announced *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 7/05 Berlin Veterans Foundation America Daze fireworks events *contact Barb Resop 229-5856*
- 7/08 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/Heartland Band *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 7/09 Booster Club Golf Outing *contact Steve Stellmacher @ 361-2000*
- 7/15 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/Mandy Hallman *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 7/18 & 19 Fox River Days Family Fun w/music/karaoke & activities *contact Mary Lou Neubauer 361-5402*
- 7/18 Kiwanis & Knights of Columbus Doug Davis Memorial Fish Fry @ Fox River Days *contact Caren Reich 361-2160*
- 7/19 Berlin Chamber of Commerce sponsored Pig Roast @ Fox River Days *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 7/19 BBA's Sidewalk Sales retail-Shop Berlin! *contact Jason Buttke & Tina Goetsch at Fields 361-1375*
- 7/19 Boy's & Girls Club Duck Race @ Fox River Days *contact Shannon Wienandt 361-2717*
- 7/22 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/to be announced *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 7/25-27 Voyagers Canoe Trip from Princeton to Oshkosh on the Fox *contact Jerry Disterhaft 295-3335*
- 7/26 Annual Bugle Mouth Bass Tournament *contact Mark VanOrnum 361-9701*
- 7/29 Masonic Lodge presents a FREE concert @ Nathan Strong Park @ 6:30 pm w/Heartland Band *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### August

- 8/10 Street Cruiser's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Berlin Car Show @ Riverside Park *contact Street Cruisers, Inc. 361-0843*
- 8/20 Berlin Chamber of Commerce 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 8/24 Jeff's On The Square Anniversary Bash *contact Jeff or Judy Bending 361-4847*
- 8/30 Blue Knights 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Ride & Co-ed Softball Tournament *contact Kevin Block 361-4237*

### September

- 9/06 Mardi Gras! *contact Harry Kwidzinski 361-2162*
- 9/25 Masonic Lodge Friends Night, public invited for chili supper & guest speaker *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### October

- TBD Berlin Fire Department Annual Pig Roast & Open House
- 10/04 BBA's Pumpkins on Petunias *contact Allison Rainboth 361-0533*
- 10/18 Historical Society's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ghost Walk (rain date of 10/19) *contact Lee Erdmann 361-2460*
- 10/31 Masonic Lodge Halloween Costume Party & Dance *contact George Doty 361-4523*

### November

- 11/22 BBA's Musical Open House retail-Shop Berlin! *contact Tricia Clasen-Prellwitz at 361-3535*
- 11/30 Federated Church of Berlin 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 4pm *contact Pastor Joann Schoblaski 361-0447*

### December

- 12/11 Masonic Lodge Public Installation of Officers- refreshments to follow *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 12/13 Berlin Chamber of Commerce 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lighted Holiday Parade *contact The Chamber 361-3636*
- 12/13 Masonic Lodge Christmas Party w/food, candy, cookies, & music (same day as parade) *contact George Doty 361-4523*
- 12/25 Kiwanis Christmas Dinner *contact Mark Finger 361-9954*

## Chamber Chat

Article written by Laura Stagg, Berlin Chamber of Commerce Director

### ROCKIN RATES IN 2008!

The Berlin Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce it's new membership rates for 2008. In an effort to offer even more benefit to membership, the Chamber is offering fantastic new membership rates with as much as a 20% discount over last year!

**CHECK OUT OUR RATES:** 1-3 Employees \$215, 4-10 Employees \$330, 11-39 Employees \$475, Over 40 Employees \$685, Clubs/Non-Profits \$90, Associate Individual \$50.

In addition to offering great membership rates, the Chamber can assist your business in reaching it's goals with benefits like networking with other businesses through After 5 events, participation in community events, inclusion in the upcoming Chamber membership directory, discounted group health insurance rates, complimentary listings on the Chamber of

Commerce website, and many leadership opportunities through Chamber Committees.

As a member of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, not only do you enjoy the many benefit opportunities afforded, you also gain a sense of belonging to the Berlin community. Your membership is an investment in your community's future and helps enable the area where you work, live and play, to prosper, and grow.

Take this fantastic opportunity to network, promote, connect, and be a part of your community. Join the Chamber today! Call Laura at the Chamber Office at 361-3636.

Upcoming Events: March 13, Business After 5 at Sunny Solutions, March 27, Wine & Beer Tasting at Mascoutin, May, Business After 5 at Farmers & Merchants Bank, June 12, Business After 5 at American Family/Coldwell Banker.

## BID Bulletin

Article written by Lisa Morris-Schilling, BID Director

### What the Heck is a BID and Why do We Need One?

To help everyone understand what it is the BID (Business Improvement District) is to be doing, I'd like to help out a little bit to try and make it clearer.

Under Wisconsin Act 184, signed into law in 1984, Wisconsin municipalities are authorized to create Business Improvement Districts upon petition of at least one property owner within the proposed district. The State Legislature created Section 66.1109 of the Wisconsin Statutes (the "BID Law") to provide a mechanism "...to allow businesses within those districts to develop, to manage, to promote the districts, and to establish an assessment method to fund these activities." See Appendix F, 1983 Wis. Act 184, Section 1, legislative declaration. In many instances, BID's are designed to promote, develop, redevelop, manage, and maintain the district. BID's use a variety of methods to determine assessments. A majority of Wisconsin BID's levy based on each parcel's assessed value. Under the BID law, properties used exclusively for residential purposes may not be assessed.

Business Improvement District assessments are quite similar to traditional special assessments wherein property owners are assessed for improvements or services that benefit them. Unlike traditional special assessments, however, Business Improvement District assessments can be used to finance a wide range of activities, services, and improvements. Business Improvement Districts in Wisconsin have been used to fund a broad scope of activity including business retention and recruitment programs, marketing and promotional activities, environmental enhancement, maintenance programs, parking utilization, services such as snow removal, façade renovations, as well as crime prevention and security activities.

In 1988, business and property owners located within the proposed Business Improvement District (the "District") signed a petition requesting the creation of a Business Improvement District. The purpose of the District is to sustain the competitiveness of Downtown and ensure a safe, clean environment conducive to business and recreational activity. The petition was included as part of the Initial Operating Plan that was developed in accordance with the BID statutes. The Berlin Common Council approved the Plan and created the

District in 1988. The BID District functions as a cooperative partnership with the City of Berlin.

The 2008 Operating Plan, (which can be found at [www.1berlin.com](http://www.1berlin.com)) will govern the BID for the next year. It is anticipated that the BID will be renewed for subsequent years with essentially the same terms and conditions (with options to modify work plans, budgets, etc.), and in the manner prescribed under section 66.1109 (3) (b) of the BID law.

The provisions set within the Operating Plan shall constitute the "Operating Plan" of the Berlin City BID. As used throughout the Operating Plan, "BID" refers to the business improvement district's operating and governance mechanism and "District" refers to the real estate located within the physical boundaries of the Business Improvement District.

Other goals and objectives laid out in the Operating Plan for the BID are activities such as: events and promotions,

to help increase the value of property in the District, and to help tenants and existing businesses in the District become stronger.

Every building in the District is charged a tax which applies to the operating expenses of the District. Solely residential buildings are not included in the tax, however, mixed use (both residential apartments and retail space) buildings are. These buildings (anything from Juliette Manor to Krause's Mystic - Hwy 49 to Hwy 49) and one block north and south is charged a tax of \$2.95 Per \$1000 of assessed value, with no parcel assessed more than \$1000. There are only six businesses in the District paying the full \$1000.

The entire District generates approximately \$32,000 worth of revenue in a year...which isn't much when you think about all we'd like to do to improve the District. Currently, there are 102 businesses in our District with eight of those properties in tax-exempt status.

I do hope this helps clear up some confusion and questions as to what the BID is, what we're suppose to be doing and how it benefits the city. Again, the full 2008 Operating Plan is at [www.1berlin.com](http://www.1berlin.com) for a download, or you don't have internet access, please call 920-361-9745 and I will be more than happy to put one in the mail for you.

## Hamilton's Ladies Apparel

105 W. Huron St. 361-2829

Interview and article written by Bobbie Erdmann

There was a time when Berlin's business district sported several lady's modistes, milliners, and boot makers. You could easily get custom one-of-a-kind articles of clothing from your favorite craftsman. It was during this time that Faye Gelhar's ancestors came to town and opened their mercantile store and boot factory. The Hamilton name has been a part of Berlin's downtown for 154 years and still going strong.

Today, Faye and her brother Craig, carry on the family tradition with Hamilton's Fine Apparel (Faye's store) and the flagship, the Midwest's oldest shoe store, Hamilton's Shoes, that Craig runs.

Not only has Faye carried on her family's traditions of quality and service but, because of her, shoppers can still find unique, one-of-a-kind articles of clothing and accessories. By visiting the major fashion markets, Faye brings back to her Berlin and Ripon stores fresh and distinctive lady's apparel for her customers. Whether the shopper is looking for dressy

## Retail Business Spotlight

or casual, one piece, or a whole outfit, visiting these shops will offer an array of choices. She carries lady's sizes 4 to 16 and extra small to extra large in both the casual and dressy wear.

To accent your outfit she offers a large selection of jewelry, handbags, scarves, belts, and other accessories sure to complement that special outfit. Faye can be found most days in her Berlin location to help you select the outfit that best complements you. The Berlin location is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday year round. The store located at 206 Watson Street, Ripon is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday year-round. Faye will also meet customers by appointment.

Besides running her two busy stores, Faye has volunteered her time over the years to various downtown promotions and committees. She currently serves on the BID board.



This colorful jacket greets you when you walk into Hamilton's Ladies Apparel

## Briski's Design & Lettering

W2656 Cty Hwy F • 920-361-4250

Interview and article written by Bobbie Erdmann

While looking for an idea that would allow her a chance to work and still be home for her kids, Gloria Briski started Briski's Design and Lettering. As her business grew, she moved her operation into the building next to her house. She has been providing continual service since 1985. This busy home-based business is located 2.2 miles west of Berlin at W2656 County Highway F. Regular business hours are Monday's, 12 Noon - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday's, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday's, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Briski's prints cloth items...t-shirts, sweatshirts, polos, jackets, caps, aprons, and canvas items that can be ordered from their large catalog selection. Gloria can also do embroidery on your article.

## Home Based Business Spotlight

If it's a special event, family reunion, company shirt, or local softball team, Briski's custom lettering heat transfer design business is ready to help you with a good quality product at a fair price and a short turn-around time. Gloria can help you design your logo or you can bring in your own creation to reproduce. She offers professional service with a personal touch.

Whether it is one shirt for that special occasion with a personal message, or an event that requires 100's of shirts... Briski's is there to help. Special appointments are available for your convenience by calling 920-361-4250.



Gloria Briski with one of her many creations.

## Hover Shuttle, Inc

328 Ripon Rd. 920-361-9483

Interview and article written by Bobbie Erdmann

In the maritime world, Berlin, Wisconsin is known for producing unique boats. In 1959, the Brooks family introduced their new design that offered the luxury and livability of a houseboat with the speed and maneuverability of a cruiser and the stability of a catamaran. In that year, the Carri-Craft was born. As their business grew, the company expanded their manufacturing space on Ripon Road, building a huge building with a moat and a movable roof crane. The company continued to expand and evolve until the 1990's when it disbanded due to market changes.

Fast forward to 2008 and another unique watercraft is now taking shape in the former Carri-Craft building, the Hover Shuttle. When Lawrence Brown and Raymond Jordison were searching for a spot in America to establish their business and build their craft they found the Carri-Craft building perfect for their needs. With the BCDC behind them, the pair moved forward acquiring the necessary tools and equipment to begin the arduous task of handcrafting a 28 foot long fiberglass ship that navigates on a cushion of air. Since this is a new concept, most of the hardware, etc. was designed and built from scratch. Once completed, the Hover Shuttle was ready to serve as a

## Industrial Business Spotlight

prototype for an even larger craft. The 28-foot boat is outfitted to be used as a rescue craft and a demonstrator.

Lawrence and Raymond, as they are affectionally known around town, have taken this craft to Green Lake, Lake Winnebago, the EAA Convention, and other locations showing what it can do. Back in Berlin they have been hard at work on their next creation, a 48 foot 42 passenger shuttle. The body was built in two sections and molded in fiberglass from molds the men made themselves. It will be powered by three diesel engines and also have a loo and galley on board. As with the smaller craft, all parts from motor mounts, to dashboard, to throttle handles, floor pedals, and even stair railings have been designed and crafted by the two men. They have even shared their expertise with other Berlin businesses by helping to design and/or build parts for varied projects.

They are always happy to show visitors around their shop and explain the concept and design of the Hover Shuttle, another unique boat, putting Berlin on the map.



## The Wolff's Den Bar

122 E. Huron St. • 361-3848

Interview and article written by Bobbie Erdmann

Sporting what is definitely the most unique interior in town, and now a new great looking exterior, Wolff's Den is soon to celebrate its 14th year in business. Owner Teresa Simonis bought the former Red Arrow Bar in 1994 as an investment and a way for her to support her family. She named it Wolff's Den because Wolff was her maiden name. Three years later she met and married Al Simonis. Together they began redesigning the interior of the building and bringing in a "Northwoods" theme.

The interior walls are paneled in a rough plank board trimmed with peeled and polished red cedar beams. The beams continue across the ceiling and provide a divider between the barroom and the pool/game room. The couple logged all these beams themselves. The bark was removed by a special high-pressure water system. Red cedar was also used for the bar base.

For the top, the couple logged a very large white pine tree and Al turned it into a unique bar top that accents the trees many features. With wood left over from this tree, he also fashioned several tables that they donated to the Conservation Club.

The backbar is paneled with ironhead stone and supported by heavy 8 x 8 beams in the basement. Handcrafted sconces made from moose antlers and two antler chandeliers provide mood lighting. Scattered around the room are several trophy mounts including a record 24-pointer shot

## Service Business Spotlight

by Al on his 21st birthday. Both bathrooms were also remodeled and enlarged in this redo process.

The Wolff's Den is open every weekday from 2 p.m. to close and 11 a.m. to close on Saturday and Sunday. They offer music and karaoke on the weekends. Besides the usual snacks, one can also get a personal size pizza and garlic bread with their libation. They have "Happy Hour" every Sunday thru Thursday from open 'til 6 p.m.

When she is not running her busy bar, Teresa has served as the Green Lake Area Tavern League secretary for the past five years. During this time the Tavern League has supported several charitable causes. Teresa, herself, has been a supporter of many fund-raisers and community events. She is now on the Berlin Mardi Gras committee that is being held on Sept. 6th.

If you haven't been in this bar in awhile or you like "Northwoods" themes, stop in and see for yourself what this talented couple has accomplished.



Owner, Teresa Simonis getting ready to serve her customers at The Wolff's Den Bar

## The Berlin Senior Center

142 Water St. 361-5422

Interview and article written by Bobbie Erdmann

If you think Senior Centers are just for old people, you have not visited the Berlin Senior Center at 142 Water St. in awhile. The people who frequent the Center are certainly not "old" acting. Learning new skills such as painting, lapidary, line dancing, Tai Chi, participating in pool tournaments, and jumping out of airplanes are NOT the activities of those considered "old."

Even though the Center has been around since 1969, it has not stayed stagnant but has grown and evolved to meet the needs of its members and visitors. Berlin's Center is open to anyone who is 50 years old and up. There are no dues and you don't have to be a "member" to participate in any of the activities.

A recent addition is their "On the Go" program where members visit local business places and learn more about what their community has to offer. Their "In The Kitchen" program with "secret" chefs is always a popular event.

Two of the main activities that are important to Berlin citizens are the nutrition program and the transportation program. Noon meals are served for a nominal fee every weekday, Monday through Friday.

One can join others at the Center or you can have your meal delivered by friendly and helpful volunteers. This program keeps growing every year. There were 1,873 more meals served in 2007 than the previous year.

The transportation program is subsidized by Green Lake

## Community Service Spotlight

County and the City of Berlin. A new van was purchased with the help of a grant. The program provides rides to appointments, etc. within the community or to such neighboring cities of Oshkosh, Appleton, Madison, and the like.

A group of the members recently formed a new group "Friends of the Seniors" that is working to help raise money to expand the current center and to find more parking space.

The Seniors also volunteer their services helping with community projects, such as collating this newsletter after it is published.

Karen Neuman has been the Senior Director since 2005. She is ably assisted by Diane Franke, Senior Program Assistant and Patty McClelland, Community Recreation Assistant. Center hours and activities are published in the Berlin Journal every week or can be found by calling the Center at 920-361-5422.



The Senior Center is a department of the City of Berlin

## Alphabet Soup - What Does It All Mean?

*An attempt to educate the public on the various groups around Berlin*

### BBA (Berlin Business Association)

#### What purpose does your group serve to the City of Berlin as a whole?

*The BBA provides the organization and manpower for several events, including Sidewalk Sale day, Pumpkins on the Petunias, and Musical Open House. This year we will also be assisting with Mardi Gras. We aim to provide shopping and recreational opportunities for area residents.*

*We also promote business in Berlin ALL business, ANY business!!! We work closely with the BID and the Chamber to help them as needed, but one does not need to be located in the BID nor a member of the Chamber in order to join our group.*

#### Who is eligible to be a member of your group?

##### How does one become a member?

*Anyone who is involved with business in Berlin is welcome*

*to join. There are no dues, fees, or other requirements.*

*Just show up at one of the regular meetings held the first Wednesday of the month at 8 am, usually at Goodrich' Furniture and we will put you to work. For any other information, contact current chair Bill Denkert or secretary Tricia Prellwitz.*

#### How is your group working to enhance Berlin?

*By providing a group open to anyone, anywhere in the area, we hope to build unity in the business community. We are able to share information, support each other, and coordinate resources to benefit not just BBA members, but the City as a whole.*

Responses provided by: Bill Denkert 361-3551 & Tricia Clasen-Prellwitz 361-3535

### BCDC (Berlin Community Development Corporation)

#### What purpose does your group serve to the City of Berlin as a whole?

*The BIDC (Berlin Industrial Development Corporation) was chartered by the State of Wisconsin in 1952 to engage in Industrial Development, but later changed to BCDC (Berlin Community Development Corporation) a non-profit corporation.*

*As needed, we build buildings for businesses to lease or purchase to conduct their business either in our industrial parks provided by the City or in areas zoned for development.*

#### Who is eligible to be a member of your group?

##### How does one become a member?

*The BCDC board shall consist of nine persons: one member*

*of the City Council, selected by the Council, one member from the local school district, recommended by the District Administrator, one member provided by the local energy provider, and six members at large selected by the current Board of Directors. Vacancies are selected by the entire board.*

#### How is your group working to enhance Berlin?

*Business growth and retention of mainly manufacturing sector, recruitment of new businesses, administer the City's revolving loan fund established through a small cities community development block grant, land and facility maintenance, meeting with existing businesses yearly to offer help if needed.*

Response provided by Gordon "Jake" Jodarski 361-2570

### Berlin Chamber of Commerce

#### What purpose does your group serve to the City of Berlin as a whole?

*The Chamber of Commerce is many times the first place a newcomer to the area visits. Having knowledge of the community and its businesses is a vital part of helping welcome someone to Berlin.*

*The Chamber serves the City of Berlin by communicating and promoting community events and activities, as well as business events and celebrations, and so much more about the community we live in.*

*The Chamber is a central, visible distribution center for the promotional materials.*

*In addition, as a membership-based service organization, the Chamber provides leadership and services directly to our members to help their business succeed. A successful business community helps the community as a whole to grow and prosper.*

#### Who is eligible to be a member of your group?

##### How does one become a member?

*Anyone can be a member of the Chamber. We offer business, club/nonprofit, and individual or 'associate' rates. Application materials are available at the Chamber office. The Chamber's new "Rockin' Rates for 2008" and revised dues structure makes it even easier to invest in our community's future.*

#### How is your group working to enhance Berlin?

*The Chamber strives to connect community and business in everything it does with regards to leadership, services provided, Chamber member benefits, community support, promotion, awareness building, marketing, and more.*

Responses provided by Candy Gravunder (361-6009) on behalf of The Berlin Chamber Board of Directors and Executive Director.

## Alphabet Soup - What Does It All Mean? (continued from page 6)

### CommUNITY Team (formerly BEDC - Berlin Economic Development Committee)

#### What purpose does your group serve to the City of Berlin as a whole?

The CommUNITY Team takes a "round table" approach for their activities. Individual groups outline their upcoming projects and events at the CommUNITY Team meetings.

Collectively every member of the CommUNITY Team will then assist to expand upon that project or event any way they can to help that event succeed.

There is no "single player" in the CommUNITY Team, it is a group effort. The CommUNITY Team members then take the information received at the meetings back to the entity they represent and circulate it to the larger group for further enhancement.

#### Who is eligible to be a member of your group? How does one become a member?

The CommUNITY Team membership is open to all. We ask that any group who has a stake in the community and want Berlin to thrive, attend the meetings. By having the representation of the specific groups (i.e. Chamber, School, BID, City,

etc.) at the CommUNITY Team meetings, the community events and projects that they sponsor can be enhanced through better exposure. Meetings are generally the last Monday of the month at noon at City Hall and open to all.

#### How is your group working to enhance Berlin?

The CommUNITY Team provides outreach to the greater Berlin area through: The creation and distribution of the CommUNITY Newsletter made available as an insert to all Berlin residents through the Billboard Newspaper, welcome "meet & greet" sessions to new businesses in Berlin with on-site visit, provides an outreach source (newsletter) for area businesses as an advertising source, along with providing coordination of projects that can be undertaken by multiple groups that potentially could not be accomplished by an individual group (i.e. Welcome to Berlin sign replacement project). Attendees of the CommUNITY Team see the total picture for Berlin, not just one segment.

Responses provided by Mary Lou Neubauer 361-5402

### Meeting Days, Times, And Locations

#### Public encouraged to attend

#### Monthly meeting schedules are as follows:

**BBA** meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8 a.m. at Goodrich Furnishings (barring Berlin schools late starts)

**BID** meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

**Meeting of Great Minds** meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Goodrich Furnishings

**Chamber of Commerce** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Noon at the Chamber office

**CommUNITY Team** meets the last

Monday of the month at Noon at City Hall Council Chambers

**Committee of the Whole** meets the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Council Chambers at City Hall

**Common Council** meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Council Chambers at City Hall

### Discovering Ways To Bring The People In Berlin Closer

Remember that excitement you felt when you first moved into your home—how you couldn't wait to get involved in the local community, take the family to the town's seasonal festivals, join food and book drives, and volunteer at firehouse pancake breakfasts?

And now another year has gone by and you barely eked out time for the neighbor's holiday cocktail party and trick-or-treating on Halloween. You are not alone. In our time-starved lives, "community," understandably, falls to the bottom of the priority list behind family, work, and friends.

The good news is that it does not really take that much time or energy to reconnect with where you live. A lot has changed since our parents' PTA days, when getting involved in a charity meant weekly evening meetings and Saturday-morning volunteering commitments.

Today, community groups stay connected via e-mail and the internet and know how to bend and sway with

their volunteers' hectic schedules. And those volunteers are not just adults. Increasingly, families are taking on community activities together finding that when they combine family time with volunteering, everybody gains and kids learn that there are ways in which even they can contribute.

Looking ahead to the new year, think about what kinds of projects, activities, and organizations best suit your interests and lifestyle. To get some ideas, pick up your daily and local weekly newspapers, check out postings in your church or synagogue bulletin, and search the internet for local chapters of nationwide causes and charities.

Remember, if you really want to give back but do not have the time almost all charities will be happy to arrange regularly scheduled donations. To help you get started, contact the Proud Community Volunteer Project. We work with YOUR schedule.

Call 920-290-0167 or email sknoke@dotnet.com

## Fresh Ideas

We welcome your ideas and input to make this the best newsletter for Berlin's Business-minded Community. Call Sue at 920-361-5401 ext. 5456 or email sknoke@dotnet.com with your thoughts and ideas.

## CommUNITY newsletter editorial committee

Mary Lou Neubauer  
Sue Knoke  
Bobbie Erdmann  
Lisa Schilling

To volunteer contact a committee member

## Help us keep your contact information up-to-date

Have a new address? Email? Or would like your web address linked in the City web site? Please call 920-361-5401 ext. 5456 or email sknoke@dotnet.com to ensure your information is current.

**Note:** This newsletter can be viewed electronically at [www.1berlin.com](http://www.1berlin.com)

## Even With Potential Record Snow Fall In Sight, It's Time To Think SUMMER Activities!

### 2008 Berlin Area School District SUMMER SWIMMING PROGRAM

Session Dates: June 16 - 27

July 7 - 18

July 21 - August 1

August 4 - 15

Registration dates to be determined, Call 361-2004

### 2008 Berlin Youth Soccer

May 3 - June 21

Call 361-3192

### 2008 Berlin Parks & Recreation Summer Brochure Activities for all ages.

Watch for it in your Billboard Newspaper.

Call 361-5437

### Berlin Senior Center Spring Trips

March 9 - Nationwide Spring Reunion Show

March 27 - Musical Memories, WI Dells

April 17 - WI Schools Marching Band Competition, Madison

May 7 - Spa & Shopping Day, Appleton

Call 361-5422

### People Are Talking.....

Because of my marketing business, I visit many of the area websites in order to share information, check out upcoming events, and find out the latest news.

In my opinion, [www.1berlin.com](http://www.1berlin.com) is one of the best community websites and hats off to everyone who plays a part in it. This excellent site is professional, comprehensive, clean, easy to navigate, and up-to-date. It is a pleasure to visit and a positive reflection on the city of Berlin. Thanks for doing a great job.

Elyse Piper, Piper, INK

The City website was created by Lois Kavanaugh, designed by Sue Knoke and maintained by Sandy Peschke.

**\*Thank you to the Berlin Senior Center for helping assemble this edition.**

**\*This edition of the CommUNITY newsletter is paid for by the City, we thank the City of Berlin for all their efforts.**

### THANK YOU for your support

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