

MAYOR'S REPORT

JUNE 25, 2010

Welcome summer! After spending close to four and a half months, all of us who serve on the City Council have passed a budget that I think is responsible. Yes, personally, I would have wanted to spend a bit more in the public school system as well as street repair, but given the fact that citizens were not in a position to fund more government, this was the best Berlin could hope for. The City Council did agree to put \$200,000 aside in surplus in the event the schools need additional funding for special education students. The residential portion of Berlin's tax value as a percentage will be reduced as a result of market updates on our tax cards. What that means is since we did not raise taxes as a whole, the residential home owners will see a reduction in their November tax bills, but the commercial/industrial and utility sectors will see an increase. We are not yet sure of the exact change, but given the fact the economy in Coos County is still a bit shaky, we must be sensitive not to be irresponsible to our employers and utilities.

The 12th Street Bridge will see it's re-decking work begin on or about the week after Labor Day. The bridge will be closed entirely for about the 8-10 weeks that the work will be performed. As we get closer to the actual construction day, there will be more information coming. Doing this project with the bridge totally closed to traffic is a major inconvenience for all of us, but the work itself will be of greater quality and the total time to do the work could be less by as much as half.

By now residents who live near White Mountain Lumber have seen the beginning of the sewer line work to tie the Federal Bureau of Prisons to Berlin's waste treatment plant. That work will be ongoing through the season and into the spring.

The Berlin Water Works crews are doing a fantastic job in replacing old water mains. In some instances, the men actually have to

break ledge apart to place lines deeper into the ground. The results, when completed, will further reduce maintenance on the water delivery infrastructure and will virtually eliminate the necessity of running water during winter to prevent freeze ups. Great job to all of the crews for an awesome job and to Craig Carrigan and Roland Viens for the planning and supervision!!

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the folks who took part in a recent fundraising supper at Fagin's Pub for Karin Dorval. Karin is a member of the Berlin Board of Education and is very active in the community. Along with husband Mark, many youth athletic programs in Berlin would not be nearly as strong and organized without the countless hours and efforts of the Dorvals. All of us on the City Council wish you all the best in your recovery and keep up the good fight!!

Paul R. Grenier, Mayor