

MAYOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 28, 2011

Well, it has already been a year since I was sworn in as Mayor of Berlin. I truly love this city, our rich heritage, and a never "cry uncle" attitude in the face of seemingly impossible odds. I have worked very hard to secure a future that we all can be proud of. There are strong encouraging signs that Berlin is poised to shoot off like a rocket.

Cate Street Capital, the majority shareholder of the Laidlaw Berlin Biopower project, last week announced that a Green Technology company will co-locate on the Burgess site that once housed the Cutter Room. They will employ up to 65 people in high-paying jobs in a technology that has only been recently developed. Although I know the name of the company, Laidlaw will release the name and parent location once all of the small details have been finalized. The new company is a perfect fit onsite. Their process requires access to wood chips and a high abundance of steam, both of which will be plentiful. The Laidlaw project itself is in the final laps of their exhaustive permitting and review process. We are not assured of success, however, and we need to do whatever we can to convince the PUC that the future of families and communities are much more important than the narrow-mindedness of no, nothing and not in my back yard that still exists in ever shrinking numbers here in Berlin.

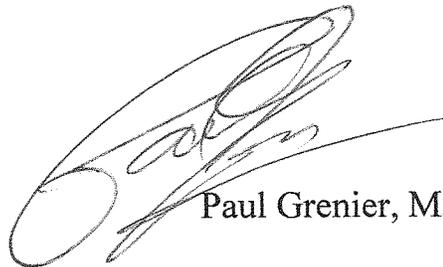
There has been some significant activity with regards to the opening of the Cascade Mill. It is too early to reveal the interested parties, but both have the significant capital necessary to operate and modernize the mill. I have had a number of meetings with Spanky Lozier and Ed Deblois and I have to say again, the mill employees have excellent representation with these two gents.

Seeing I've been in office for a year, I'd like to share a bit of what ifs... What if Laidlaw begins construction this March/April (300+ jobs onsite within 90 days), The Federal Bureau of Prisons begins to ramp up staffing levels in June/July (150-300 jobs), 50 or so construction jobs building the gas pipeline to Cascade Mill because a new buyer has put all 249 people back to work, the prep work is ongoing for the "Green Technology" company on the Burgess site, and construction underway for the Granite Reliable Power Windfarm project. This has a high probability of happening, but the PUC has to deliver!! I can't remember anything happening like this in my lifetime here in Berlin. **WE MUST STAY VIGILANT AND LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED!!**

Our new City Comptroller, Betty Domino, is doing a whale of a job. Betty's a native of Berlin and I had the privilege of serving on the Berlin City Council in the early nineties with her dad, Richard Ramsay. On any given Sunday morning, you can see her car in the parking lot at City Hall while she's inside tending to business. I want to publically acknowledge her efforts. I also want to congratulate Max Makaitis on being hired by Larry Kelly and Tri-County CAP to do economic development in Coos County. Max is very capable, brings people of diverging views to communicate with each other, and is a man of high moral and ethical standards. Mr. Kelly could not have chosen a better candidate to fulfill the much needed role here in Berlin and Coos County. Max, here's to a successful 2011!!

Finally, a big thank you is in order to Chris Hansen of Nordic Construction. Chris and his company recently donated and installed a new commercial boiler in the front side of the Notre Dame Arena. Also, Berlin resident Larry Boucher needs all of our help. On February 4th, there will be bone marrow drive to see if a compatible match can be found. Larry is suffering from a rare form of leukemia. The test is painless and it will be held at the White Mt. Community College from 12:00 to 5:30 PM. See you there!!!

Until February...



Paul Grenier, Mayor