

MAYOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 30, 2012

As we begin to get ready for winter, I have a couple of tips. With heating oil the same price as gasoline, treat your indoor ambient temperature like driving your car at 55 mph. If you keep your thermostat set at 64-66, you will save a great deal of energy. If you have older windows, installing the heat shrink plastic liners will eliminate expensive drafts. Keeping your furnace serviced annually will maximize efficiency of combustion, and make sure any leaky hot water faucets are repaired immediately.

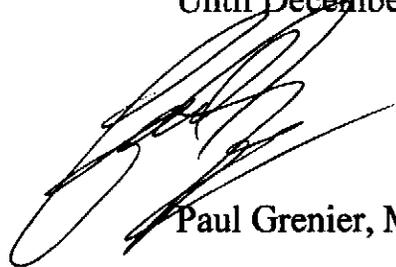
I have been approached recently by a citizen who has asked that the City Council look at amending the winter parking ban. Even though snow patterns have changed somewhat, remember, last year's first snow was during Halloween. Significant snow can hit anytime now and our PWD crews cannot be held back from their duties to clear streets at night. The winter parking ban will remain November 1st to April 1st unless there is a majority of the City Council members who wish to place the item on the agenda and change it. The season's first snow events are typically very difficult to deal with, PWD crews and the public alike. Please, be patient with our men and women of Public Works, they have enormous responsibilities to keep our streets open and it always takes a bit of time to get back into the swing of things.

Now that Black Friday has come and gone, the Christmas holiday shopping season is upon us. This year let's all make a real effort to shop locally. Our locally based retail merchants are the same folks who get hit up for support for Berlin Youth Hockey, Cal Ripken Baseball, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Girls Bobcat Softball and on and on. Our local folks do what they can in a tough economy because they have pride for Berlin. They all deserve our commitment of support and I plan to do my shopping right on Berlin's Main Street.

I will be meeting in the next few days with State Senator-Elect Jeff Woodburn to discuss issues critical to Berlin. At risk is a significant portion of state aid to education, the delay in payments of the 20% match the state participates in for wastewater system improvements and bridge aid funds. If Berlin doesn't get what was promised by the Department of Environmental Services (DES), as much as \$5 Million dollars could be lost. The legacy of the last New Hampshire Legislature is the downshifting of millions of dollars of state fiscal responsibilities to NH counties, cities, and towns. It is no wonder there was a big change in November's elections.

I was honored last Saturday to be asked by the Berlin Youth Hockey Association officers to participate in the inaugural "Husky Poirier Day" at the Notre Dame Arena. Husky was "Mr Hockey" in Berlin for over 65 years. Husky was one of the co-founders in the early 60's of the Berlin Youth Hockey Association. He was a highly accomplished player for both Notre Dame High School and the Berlin Maroons. He donned the whistle to coach at all age levels of youth hockey, and coached the Berlin Junior Maroons as well as the Berlin Maroons during the 70s and early 80s. Husky could always be seen at the arena working on projects, helping the rebuild after the 68-69 collapse as well as the "new" board installation in 1979. I can't imagine there will ever be a person who gave so much to Berlin's youth for so long. Husky was as accomplished a baseball player as he was a hockey player, and his enshrinement to the New Hampshire Legends Of Hockey Hall Of Fame is a testament to how important a role he played in his community. Many thanks go to his wife Priscilla, who was a huge part of the success of Berlin's "Mr Hockey" and the enduring numéro huit!!

Until December

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Grenier", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Grenier, Mayor