

MAYOR'S REPORT

JULY 31, 2012

Things have been fairly quiet on the home front since my last report. As part of the recently passed FY 2013 budget, however, is a sizeable street repair project. The area just after the 12th Street Bridge to the end of Page Hill Road, and from Hutchins Street at end of the new highway all the way to Turcotte Street will be completely ground, manholes lifted, and resurfaced. This area is one of the worst streets in Berlin and once completed, will be smooth and passable once again. There are other less involved projects as well. There will also be additional building demolition as part of the Rt 110 bypass. The city also tax deduced a number of buildings this year and many of those buildings will be razed as well. Things are starting to take shape since we began taking down poor quality houses. There is much that needs to be done, however, and we won't fully realize the results for another three to five years.

The City of Berlin lost one of it's favorite daughters 10 days ago with the passing of Laura Lee Viger. Laura's heart was the shape of Berlin. Everything she worked for and touched made our city a much better place. Even though she suffered a period of declining health before she passed away, she still took part in a phone meeting with the City Council last month. I will greatly miss her frank discussions and suggestions as well as her friendship.

Assistant Fire Chief Thad Soltys and I represented the City of Berlin Saturday at the Presby Environmental Open House and Fair. A great time was had by all 3,000-4,000 people who attended at his facilities at the Whitefield Airport Complex. Dave and Sheila Presby, who have invested a great deal of money here in Berlin in the last year, has some exciting plans for his holdings and operations here in town. Stay tuned...Mr Presby and his folks are morally committed to maximizing his recent purchase of the assets of the now bankrupt Issacson Structural Steel facilities.

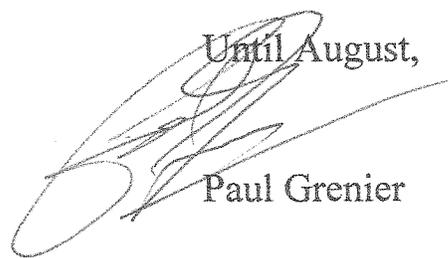
Maybe I'm a bit old fashioned, but I'm really not very excited about the recent announcement that Woodlands Credit Union is being swallowed up by a seacoast credit union. It is ironic that a credit union that was started by hard

working Androscoggin Valley families will now suffer the indignity have having some of it's residents' and neighbors' jobs eliminated because of "duplication of services". This certainly isn't progress for Berlin and Gorham, but we are very fortunate we can still bank "locally".

The Berlin Station biomass plant project has shifted into a higher gear in the last few weeks. There are over 300 employees on site, most from the Berlin/Gorham area. In fact many steel fabricators who were formerly with ISSI have landed jobs with various trade unions. NH Building Trades Council President Joe Casey, and Ironworkers Local 7 agent Shawn Cleary have more than held up their share of the bargain. I want to publically thank both men as well as the business agents of all the trades who hired locally skilled craftsmen for this project.

Finally, I'm sure you read that I endorsed Jeff Woodburn of Dalton to succeed our own John Gallus for State Senate in District One. Jeff is a lifelong Coos County resident, successful business entrepreneur, but most of all, a decent and loving family man. As your mayor, I need to have a close relationship with a person whom I can trust, will back the middle class working families of our area, yet spend precious state dollars wisely. We had the best of all worlds with John Gallus, but Jeff Woodburn will partner with us here in Berlin and Coos County the same way Senator Gallus has for all these years. Please join me in supporting Jeff Woodburn to be our next senator from District One.

Until August,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Grenier", written over the printed name below it.

Paul Grenier