

MAYOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Well summer is over and it is time to get to my duties full time! I want to first take a moment to thank every single Berlin resident for doing your part to increase our recycling efforts. In just one year's time, the avoided landfill cost saved all of us over \$10,000! In addition to the avoided tonnage costs at \$67 per ton, AVRDD is able to market more commodities, generating more revenues. Although unrelated to Berlin's increased efforts, the 10 member community representatives voted this year as a trial to stop collecting dues. For Berlin, at one time, dues represented about 30 cents on the tax rate. Our efforts will allow valuable city resources to be spent on other projects by keeping everyone working. My new recycling initiative is to develop a plan to implement curbside pickup of cardboard items. Something I would like to begin discussions after elections.

With municipal elections a little over a month away, I will seek another term to serve as your mayor. It has been an honor to represent our city and I work tirelessly to make our community the envy of the valley. I hope and pray that to a person, everyone that is currently serving on the Berlin City Council will seek office again. I have never been more proud of the men and women of the City Council. They too work hard and bring a very diverse viewpoint to the table. I appreciate the fact that all members seem to be conservative with taxpayers' money, but also recognizing the needs of everyone in the community. Berlin is in a good financial place both short and long term, and it is because of the people you elected. Let's keep the train moving!!!

It certainly didn't take City Manager Jim Wheeler to get acclimated to his new job. Jim is working on a plan to begin the rehabilitation of Berlin's streets. It is a daunting task and will take some time, but Jim and I agree on this, what we fix isn't going to be bandaids work. Most of the work will require planing (grinding) to remove many inches of old pavement. Jim is certainly putting his extensive engineering background to good use to help solve some serious infrastructure challenges.

Another example of folks working together is the Berlin City Council

and the Berlin Board of Education. Our school system is quickly becoming the envy of Coos County. Berlin High School has the most diverse college preparatory curriculum in the North Country and the Career and Technical Center is still the best ever after being in existence for over 50 years. The City Council recently agreed to fund a significant IT upgrade in all of our classrooms. We remain committed to providing a solid educational experience here in Berlin and all of the members of our Board of Education, chaired by Nicole Plourde, should be commended for all the hard work and dedication to Berlin's youth. It truly is a first class board.

Finally, I've been asked by many concerned citizens who are frightful that the City Council will allow chickens within city limits. Many others were miffed that we collectively sent the issue back to the planning board. I am on record as opposing changing the current zoning regulations to allow it. I'm very sure there are many responsible folks who would be conscientious and do the right thing, but our community still has too many three and four story occupied buildings. There are pockets of very dense population and it is unfair to the rest of the citizenry to divert police personnel to complaints when they are already taxed doing their primary work.

Finally, Dick Bradley and Bea Lambert will be inducted into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey Hall of Fame on Sunday, October 27 at the Grappone Center in Concord. Both people played pivotal roles in Berlin's rich hockey history and a "tip o' the hat" and congrats go to both.

Until October,

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

Paul Grenier