From the Selectboard

The Selectboard extends springtime greetings and hopes that through a somewhat mild winter, all of our neighbors have remained healthy. Now into the second year of the pandemic, we’re all hopeful that with a variety of social measures and vaccine availability that in the not too distant future we can all look back on this unprecedented period and say, “Remember when…?”

Annual Election

Monday May 10th is the day that town offices are up for annual election. Polling hours are 11:00am to 7:00pm at Town Hall. On the ballot this year are two binding Debt Exclusion questions. The questions appear due to the potential for the town arranging financing for a new fire station building. Please see the plans on the following pages.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday May 5th and 6th, beginning at 7:00 on both nights. The meeting will be held at the Kringle Barn Events Center, located at 219 South Street.

Fire Station

As outlined above, there will be plenty of discussion regarding the proposed new fire station building. The Selectboard will be hosting a virtual informational session on Monday April 19th at 6:00pm. The presentation will explain how this final draft of plans came to be and how the new facility will provide a safer working environment for our firefighters.

FY22 Budget

The Selectboard and Finance Committee have been working diligently on the FY22 budget for the Town for the fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2021. Countless hours are spent by many to develop a balanced budget funding local government, local services, and education all while trying to keep the tax burden on citizens to a minimum.

Meetings

All Selectboard meetings are open to the public and regular meetings are televised by BNCTV and live streamed on their Facebook page. Meeting information is posted on the Town Calendar page on the town website: http://townofbernardston.org

Bernardston Selectboard

Stanley D. Garland, Chairman
Brian J. Keir
Robert R. Raymond

Visit Bernardston’s webpage at www.townofbernardston.org
Attention Bernardston Residents:

The Selectboard would like to express our gratitude to our townspeople for the responses that we received regarding the new fire station plans. An overwhelming majority of you showed your support for the new station.

We felt the previous set of plans offered a significant improvement over the current station. At the request of some of our firefighters, we held a special televised meeting in January. This was followed up by two more televised meetings. After these discussions we decided it was important to update the plans again.

The core of the plan remains the same. The biggest change was in adding office and meeting space to the front (Church Street side) of the proposed new structure. This will allow for greater efficiency at the station.

The estimated cost of the new fire station is now in the $2.2 to $2.4 million range. We have been working diligently to do what we can to make this as affordable to our townspeople as possible. We remain dedicated to trying to free the $1 million that was approved in 2018 by Governor Baker. Recently, State Senator Comerford has been assisting us in that matter. We are also in the application process for a USDA Rural Development loan for the project. Depending on how much of the project needs to be financed we, in consultation with the Finance Committee, may seek a debt exclusion ballot question.

The next phase will be to conduct an informational meeting, most likely on Zoom to get into the details of the plan and answer questions that you may have. For the time being, please look at the next few pages and familiarize yourself with the plans. Get your questions ready and please plan on attending our informational meeting.

Respectfully Yours,

Stanley D. Garland
Brian J. Keir
Robert R. Raymond
Bernardston Emergency Management
Peter A. Shedd, Emergency Management Director
(413) 648-5459 berneoc@townofbernardston.org

COVID-19:
Slowly, but surely, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Granted, it’s been an awkward process and there has been plenty of frustration for all of us, at all levels, as we confront challenges that we never imagined.

As difficult as the process has been, we encourage you to get vaccinated, wear a mask, and maintain social distance for as long as the experts advise. As things begin to reopen, we ask that you use good judgement regarding the activities you return to and the limits you set for yourself and your families.

Family preparedness:
Although the pandemic continues and remains foremost in our minds, we advise individuals and families to prepare for other emergencies, such as severe weather that results in prolonged power outages. We encourage you to visit the following websites for valuable information and contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns:


Special Needs List: If there is anyone whom we should add to our Special Needs List, please let us know. You can add yourself or a family member, and you can contact Bill Montiglio at (413) 824-1004 or the email address provided above with any questions. We also appreciate notification of any resident who should be removed.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Town of Bernardston Special Needs List

Resident’s name: ___Mr. ___Ms. _________________________________

Address: _________________________________

Primary phone: __________________ Secondary phone: _________________ Is this person a minor? Yes   No

Special needs that require consideration in an emergency. Please check all that apply:

Mobility   ___Home oxygen   ___Insulin for diabetes   ___Vision   ___Hearing   ___Dementia   ___Dialysis
Other:________________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency contact: _________________________________ Contact’s number:

Person completing form: ________________________________________________________________

Please mail to:
Peter A. Shedd, Emergency Management Director, c/o Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337

---

Want your ad to appear in the Newsletter?
Well, it can! A new fiscal year will begin with the July 2021 edition, which will be mailed to every residence and business in Bernardston as well as appear on the Town website as a color PDF. If you’re interested in placing an ad, e-mail bernardstonnewsletter@gmail.com prior to May 14th for the July-Sept 2021 edition. Thank You for your support!
A Note of Appreciation: Although things are slowly coming around, the pandemic is still upon us, and, again, I offer my sincere thanks to all of our members. We, in turn, offer our sincere thanks to our town leadership, town personnel, residents, and local businesses for the cooperation and sense of community. There is still lots to be done, and more for us to learn.

Fire Station: Our plan, which calls for a separate building that connects to the existing structure by a passageway, is in place and is undergoing minor revisions. We will keep you posted.

New Squad: You may see our new Squad 1, a black, 2021 Ford F-350 pickup making its way around town. It is our primary vehicle for medical calls, which have become the bulk of our mission. In addition, it will serve as a utility vehicle at fire and accident scenes and during weather emergencies. The older Squad 2 will remain in service as a brushfire and utility vehicle for as long as it remains viable to do so.

Brush Burning ends on or about May 1: Brush-burning season is regulated by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Please be reminded that un-permitted open fires are illegal and can result in fines of up to $1,000. We encourage you to get your permit through the website, fcburnpermits.com. Permits are also available by calling Franklin County Dispatch at 413-625-8200.

Facebook Page and Town Website: We have created a Facebook page and continue to have a presence on the Town of Bernardston website. We invite you to make use of these resources.

Green Community Committee

The Green Community Committee has been working hard on several projects. We have been working with Dan Ingold from Jacobs, Inc. to install a Solar Photovoltaic System on our town landfill. Dan was instrumental in obtaining funding from the state for a Technical Assistance Grant. With the grant money Dan has sent Request for Qualifications from solar companies who would be interested in the project. As of the date of this writing he has receive notice from approximately 16 companies interested in the project. It will be the duties of the Selectboard, Green Committee and Planning Board with Dan to review the applications. Those three or four companies chosen after the RFQ process will then be given a timeline to prepare their final Request for Proposal. We are extremely excited about this project and hope to have construction start within one year.

We have also been working with UMass Clean Energy Corp for energy upgrades to our Highway Dept. building. There is much work that needs to be done including replacing the heating units with more efficient equipment, insulation, new insulated doors and windows. We will be hearing their proposal for the upgrades on March 25th. We will then seek out estimates from contractors for the work and apply for the Green Community Grant in the fall round of funding.

Our last project we are currently working on is applying for a grant to fund the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station. One location we have discussed to locate the charging station is at the Senior Center. The exact location still needs to be determined because a dedicated electric line will need to be installed. Stephanie Ciccarello, one of our members, works for the Town of Amherst and is in the process of completing the grant application for that municipality and will submit ours later since the grant is available on a rolling basis. We are fortunate to have her on our committee.

Bernardston Cultural Council

The Bernardston Cultural Council is looking for new members. This is a fun, easy way to bring arts and culture to Bernardston – the schools, senior center, library, churches, park…. Very minimal time commitment required, with a voting meeting in the fall and only an occasional e-mail or meeting the rest of the year. Please e-mail kristinajcostello@yahoo.com or call 978-413-3078.
We have a new Assistant Town Clerk. Camilla Thacher was appointed by the Selectboard on March 10th to the position. Camilla takes the place of Susan LaCoy who did an extraordinary job in helping with organizing our office however had other commitments that took precedence.

We have been busy since the 1st of the year when the annual town census and dog license applications were mailed out. If you have not returned your census or licensed your dog, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a dog license application, send an email to townclerk@townofbernardston.org or call 413-648-5408 and I will send one to you. I have also sent forms to businesses in town who have not renewed their Business Certificate. Business certificates are valid for four (4) years and need to be renewed in the month it expires. Any business that has gone out of business should notify my office. If you have a new business and have not applied for a Business Certificate, please contact me.

It is that time of year again for Town Meeting and Town Election. Town Meeting will be on May 5th and 6th starting at 7pm and is being held at the event barn at the Farm Table 219 South St. Due to the many Articles on the Town Warrant the meeting is expected to be held two nights. Entry to the meeting will be at the side door closest to the parking lot at the back of the building.

The annual Town Election is being held on Monday May 10th at the Bernardston Town Hall. Polling hours are 11am to 7pm. There are no contests however if you are interested in any position you may run as a write in candidate. There is one open position on the Recreation Commission to fill the seat vacated by Shannon Bassett who moved out of town. This position is for one year which is the remainder of the term. Mail in ballots are available by contacting me in writing no later than May 3rd.

I am looking forward to a much quieter coming year with no other elections until our annual town election next year! Everyone be safe and healthy.

---

**Scarecrow in the Park, Planning in Progress!**

The Scarecrow in the Park Planning Committee is working on the annual festival, scheduled to take place on October 16th & 17th, provided it is deemed safe by that time. We look forward to a park full of creatively handmade scarecrows, two days of live music, quality handcrafted items from local artists and craftspeople, delicious food from local vendors, and lots of fun activities for all ages. The 60’s Experience is already signed on to kick the weekend off in the music tent on the evening of October 15th, and there’s more to come!

Artists, Craftspeople, and Specialty Food Vendors who are interested in participating can contact Karen Stinchfield at scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com. The committee will be jurying applicants via e-mail this year, so quality photos of your work will be more important than ever. If you were already juried in and paid for 2020 you are all set for this year.

For those of you already thinking about this year’s scarecrows, the categories will be Scariest, Funniest, Prettiest, Most Interesting Use of Materials, with Science as our rotating category. Should be fun!
The Planning Board held a public hearing on March 18th to present and receive on several proposed zoning bylaws public comment. The hearing was held on Zoom which was attended by 18 people. The updates to the bylaws include changing a small parcel of land located in the Expedited Permit District (EPD) from Industrial to EPD. We are proposing new bylaws for active working farms to allow business uses by special permit and site plan review. The addition of updated bylaws regulating and defining marijuana businesses is also proposed along with changing some uses in various districts from Not Allowed to Allowed by special permit. The final item discussed at the hearing was allowing drive-throughs at restaurants in the Center Village zone. This bylaw change was requested by a landowner who petitioned by sending a letter to the Selectboard who then forward the request to the Planning Board. The Planning Board was required to hold a public hearing within 65 days of receiving the request. All these zoning bylaws will be on the warrant for the next Annual Town Meeting for the town to vote. Approval of any of the bylaws requires a majority 2/3 vote at an annual town meeting or at a special town meeting.

The Planning Board will begin to explore strategies to preserve the integrity of the town's river corridors. This includes updating the 1980 FEMA/FIRM maps which have flooding short for places the town has grown in the last 40 years when our population was just over 1600. This is particularly important in light of recent climate patterns where storm intensity and frequency are the new 'normal'.

As part of a grant under FRCOG to create county-wide pollinator corridors the planning board has made some additions to several bylaws which will be presented at a public hearing within the next year. Pollinators play an essential role in food production and an even larger part in climate change mitigation. Development, which can decrease and fragment migration corridors, and use of pesticides, especially residential applications, have created significant decreases in pollinator biodiversity. Scientists have become very aware that several local species face extinction and its potential role in tipping the scales toward ecosystem collapse. An effort to change this course can significantly improve resilience during change and favors conditions for essential 'green infrastructure' such as clean air and water, healthy forests, and topsoil conservation. In our continued effort to preserve the rural character of Bernardston, the town leaders will be reaching out to landowners in the coming months to initiate discussions on how we can proactively move toward a healthier future through connecting pieces of land that could benefit from improved pollinator activity. Specifically, we are looking for landowners who would like to add a portion of their land to the pollinator corridor. Please send an email to bernardstonpb@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more!

As many of you already know, the town recently completed the Municipal Vulnerability Planning Grant. That has been accepted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and we are now inline for our first round of Action Grants. We will be reviewing the recommendations made at three stakeholder meetings in 2020 and 2021. (A BIG thank you for those who participated!) The four big hazards we potentially face are flooding, extreme temperatures, wildfire and severe storms. We identified the Town's top strengths as active community groups and volunteers, an abundance of open space, roads and culverts that are well maintained by DPW, local farms and zoning bylaws. Our top priorities include:

- Obtaining funding to address stormwater management & drainage issues
- Obtaining funding for the design and installation of box culverts
- Seeking generators/backup power for municipal buildings and the DPW garage
- Identifying forested wetlands for flood water storage near Fox Hill Brook
- Developing and implementing a record management plan for Town records

The full report is available on the town's website. It contains many more details and other areas we will be addressing in the future.
In his will dated 1864, Henry Cushman gifted the Town of Bernardston a tract of land on the condition that this land “shall forever be used and appropriated for a Public Park for the benefit of all the people of said town, and for no other purpose whatever.” Thanks to Henry Cushman we all have our beautiful park to enjoy along with our wonderful Cushman Library and Powers Institute.

The “Cushman Hall” Committee, as designated by Mr. Cushman, consists of the President of the Library Board of Trustees, currently Brandon Grover, and a second trustee, currently, Karen Fitzpatrick. Two members of the Board of Trustees from Powers Institute, the President of that board, currently Bob Eddy, and another member, currently Janice Deane. This joint committee is responsible for keeping the park and its trees in good shape along with the Town.

Sadly, four to five of the shade trees in the park are needing to be replaced. The committee along with help from the Town will be having to hire a tree service in the near future to remove the ailing trees that cannot be saved. The Highway Department and Tree Warden will be assisting with stump grinding and tree planting and watering.

A wonderful way to honor a family member, friend, or perhaps someone who has done a lot to serve our town would be to purchase a tree in their name. It would be a living memorial to that person hopefully for many years to come. If you are interested in purchasing a tree please contact Brad Bordewieck, Town Tree Warden, at 413-834-5736, or Brandon Grover at 413-387-3176.
A Call for Artists

Bernardston Elementary School

Entry Procedures
All entries must be submitted to Dr. Kelly Carriere at carrierek@pvrsdk12.org. Entry deadline by August 20, 2021.

Goal: Enhancing education and community through inspiring artistic expression

At Bernardston Elementary School we strongly believe in the strength of our community. In supporting our community, Dr. Carriere Principal at Bernardston Elementary School, applied for a grant through the Bernardston Cultural Council and was awarded $900.00. The goal of this grant is to educate those who view it and also to inspire them with a greater sense of community.

The artist's image will be transferred to 6 sliding doors that currently close off the stage from the gym. These doors are roughly 10 feet high by 4 feet wide. This image will be viewed by all who use the gym including elementary school students from Prek - 6 grade, visiting basketball teams, local recreation departments, town residents for meetings, and local cheerleading groups.

Students in the 2021-2022 school year will select the winning art/artist. All proceeds from the Cultural Council will be used to fund the transferring of the image onto the designated area.

The winning artist will receive public recognition of their artwork and the acknowledgment that their work will continue to inspire all who view it for years to come.

Grant Focus: What inspires you when you think of community and education?

Share a representation of what community and education looks like for you? This image should inspire those who view it.

Eligibility
This is a call for artists, at any stage in their life. Artists may submit up to 3 images for consideration. All artists must live in either Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, or Warwick.
Friends of the Charity Farm Lot

John Lepore, Kathy Montiglio, Bill Montiglio
charityfarmlot@townofbernardston.org

Have you visited us yet? Have you told your friends?
The ice and snow are gone, and things are drying out. Spring is a time of change and growth in nature. If you haven’t discovered what the Charity Farm Lot has to offer, please do. Believe it or not, some people in town still don’t know about us. Please tell them. They will thank you, and so will we.

Please help protect our vulnerable treasure
The crew from Wiggins Hydroseed, a local contractor, did a remarkable job of repairing the severe, decades-old erosion along the Main Trail. Like many home projects, maintaining this important piece of our property will be an ongoing task, especially as things settle in, and our volunteers will be providing ongoing touch-ups. Please do your part by protecting the still-fragile surface, especially whenever the ground becomes wet and soft.

New for 2021
A kiosk that features a map and other good stuff, along with a new entrance sign, are awaiting installation. We hope that the new map and educational information can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages. Please let us know.

This link will bring you directly to our map on the Town website: https://tinyurl.com/um3vud6h.

Let’s stay in touch
Our most up-to-date information can be found on the Town website and our Facebook page, Friends of the Charity Farm lot. Your questions, comments, and concerns are always welcome. If your group would like a tour or a presentation, please contact us.
Pioneer Valley Regional School is in the planning phases for an outdoor classroom. This project is funded through Career and Technical Education Community Partnerships Grant with a goal of providing an open-air educational space for students to enhance learning in a variety of ways. This space will be a reflection of PVRS’s commitment to sustainability, resilience and stewardship and embraces its unique ecological campus and community. As envisioned in the Pioneering Stewardship Plan, prepared by John Lepore, an outdoor classroom will become an “engaging destination” for the PVRS community “to experience an authentic educational environment”.

The new outdoor classroom will be situated to the southeast side of the school building, behind the 200 wing of PVRS. This welcoming, open pavilion will offer a sense of place, and provide an easily accessible area for students and staff to connect with each other and the world around them during the course of their academic day.

The Pioneer Valley Regional School Outdoor Classroom is planned to be completed this summer to welcome students in the fall of 2021.

PVRS is seeking licensed professionals from within our school community who may be interested in assisting in the following capacities as we seek to construct our new Outdoor Classroom, to be completed in June of 2021.

- Surveyor
- Excavator
- Concrete Contractor
- Framer/Builder
- Truss Supplier
- Roofer
- Electrical Contractor
- Painting Contractor

The outdoor classroom is just the first step in our overall vision of utilizing our 90 acres. We are currently working on plans to build a rope course on the eastern side of the property. This area consists of Mature Pasture
Pines which is ideal for an Outdoor Leadership Course. Students and staff will benefit from the course with team building activities, self confidence building, and physical activity. Nikki Pullen, our Environmental Science Teacher, is currently working on a plan to build a Farm Lab in our underutilized courtyard on the west side of the building. The goal is to encourage outdoor use on a daily basis. The Farm Lab will consist of greenhouses, raised garden beds, a chicken coop (utilizing the shade from the solar panel), a 3-bay composter, picnic tables, and a pollinator garden. The hope is to move beyond just learning about sustainability in the classroom, and actually contributing to sustainability outside the walls of the school building.

Another part of our vision is to improve our trail system throughout the 90 acres of PVRS. The system is used by educators, as a cross country trail, mountain biking, and recreational use. Due to the lack of maintenance of the years the trails are showing signs of erosion. We are working with John Lepore and other local agencies to figure out how we can protect ecological and hydrologic systems, restore unsustainable trails and sustain the existing trail system. Snow and Sons has already donated chipped local wood to PVRS and our science classes have begun to protect some areas of the trails that show evidence of erosion.

Environmental education is a “process that helps individuals, communities, and organizations learn more about the environment, develop skills to investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can help take care of it.” With community partnerships and a generous grant we can begin making these visions come to life and provide a unique, authentic learning experience for our students.

Make a Difference... Join the Foundation for Educational Excellence!

FEE offers educators the opportunity to receive grants that support engaging programs, projects, and classroom improvements that would otherwise not be possible. FEE’s mission “is to promote educational enrichment, foster community awareness, and encourage individual and corporate involvement in the educational life of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District. The Foundation identifies appropriate educational programs and activities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, and seeks to support them and their implementation.” FEE funds grants that support cultural enrichment, scientific exploration and study, artistic expression, how to be a strong and active member of the community, and more.

In order to do this good work, the Board of Directors always needs people who are interested in volunteering to serve. Parents, teachers, administrators, students, business owners, and community members are encouraged to join the Board of Directors of this vital community non-profit entity. Board members do not need to be parents or from the four district towns, they just need to have an interest in supporting opportunities that augment the education of PVRS District students.

What does that involve? FEE meets once per month. There’s fundraising, grant reviewing, and other activities that support FEE’s mission. It’s not a huge time commitment, but it is a valuable one, and the more board members there are, the easier it is for the group to get its tasks done. If you are interested in joining the FEE Board of Directors, or if you have questions about how you might be able to assist FEE in its mission, please contact us at foundedex@gmail.com.

We would welcome your support!

For more information about FEE and its mission, or to make a donation to FEE, please visit www.feepvrsd.org or find the Foundation for Educational Excellence - pvrsd on Facebook and Follow Us!
Bernardston Cemetery Corporation

Cemetery rules are posted on the large sign near the Depot Street entrance and on the Town’s website should there be any questions. We would like to remind everyone that only planting of flowers (no trees, shrubs, or bushes) is allowed and any planting of flowers must be at the head of the grave. Landscape borders for planting at headstones may be no more than 18 inches from the foundation and only on the east side (toward River Street) of the foundation and flush to the ground. Plantings must not interfere with walkways or adjacent spaces. Noncompliance often results in increased costs to the cemetery, due to increased labor time on the part of the maintenance crew.

We hope you enjoy the peace of the cemetery as we continue to make improvements over time. We have received a quote to repair the older monuments in need. It is going to be an expensive process. We are applying for a grant which will cover a portion of the cost associated with any veteran’s graves, with matching funds; however, the veteran’s headstones are only a small portion of the stones which need repair. We request your help as we strive to maintain the beauty of the cemetery and appreciate your continued tax-deductible support. Checks should be made payable to Bernardston Cemetery Corporation and mailed to PO Box 45, Bernardston, MA 01337. Our contact phone numbers are listed on the Town’s website.

Respectfully, The Board
Paul Palazzo, President; Will Pratt, Vice-President; and Sherry Deane, Secretary/Treasurer
Trustees: Robert Carey, Robert Deane, Eva Lee Stratford, and Doug Weiss
Memorial Tree Planting
May, date and time TBA: The Council on Aging recognizes that losing a loved one has been especially difficult during Covid. We wish to honor all those lost over the last year with a memorial tree planting at Cushman Park. All who wish to attend are welcome. We hope that you will join us in remembering those who are no longer with us.

Available Programs
Drive Thru Lunch Pick Up: Monday through Friday order out from the LifePath kitchen! Available to anyone over the age of 60, suggested donation of $3/meal. Delivery available. Call (413) 648-5413 by 9am the day before to order a meal (if you’d like a meal for Monday, call by Friday). Meals may be ordered weekly or monthly.

Pop Up Pantry: Drive thru monthly grocery pick-up. Participants receive on average 30 pounds of groceries, including canned foods, fresh produce, and a few other goodies! Call (413) 648-5413 for more information. Upcoming dates: Wednesday, April 28th, Wednesday, May 26th, and Wednesday June 30th.

Foot Clinic: Third Thursday of each month. Call (413) 648-5413 for more information. BSC Foot Clinic is made possible by: COA and Title III grant from EOA and LifePath.

Outreach Services: Our outreach worker is available by appointment only. The outreach worker can assist with referral to programs such as SNAP and fuel assistance as well as referrals for in-home care and housing repair and home modifications.

Enhanced Fitness: Monday/Wednesday/Friday at 9:30am on Zoom. Each 1-hour session includes a warmup phase that incorporates balance exercises to stimulate blood flow to the muscles, strength training with soft ankle and hand weights, aerobic activity, followed by a flexibility cool down period. Suggested donation of $1 per class. For info on registering, email coa@townofbernardston.org. This program is made possible by a Title III grant from EOA and LifePath.

Healthy Bones & Balance: Tuesdays at 9:30am on Zoom. Feeling a little rusty or just new to exercise? Brush the dust off with this easy to follow class (if you’ve thought about knee surgery, this class is for you!). There are no fees for classes, but donations are gladly accepted. For info on registering, email coa@townofbernardston.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Bernardston Senior Center</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday: 9:00-3:00pm</td>
<td>20 Church Street, PO Box 504</td>
<td>Phone: 413-648-5413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday: 9:00-3:00pm</td>
<td>Bernardston, MA 01337</td>
<td>Meal Reservations: 413-648-5413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday: 9:00-3:00pm</td>
<td>Facebook.com/BSCCOA</td>
<td>Van Services: 413-834-4084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday: 9:00-3:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:coa@townofbernardston.org">coa@townofbernardston.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday: 9:00-1:00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bernardston Senior Center

Contact Information

Hours

Monday: 9:00-3:00pm
Tuesday: 9:00-3:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00-3:00pm
Thursday: 9:00-3:00pm
Friday: 9:00-1:00pm
If you would like to participate in an organization that serves the community in which you live... offering family-oriented events like the annual Community Thank You Breakfast, Senior Citizens Dinner, and Scarecrow in the Park; raising scholarship funds for Bernardston students; and doing projects that enhance life in your community, Kiwanis may be for you! At this point in time, Kiwanis is meeting every other Tuesday at the Vet’s Club on Hartwell Street, at 6:30. Everyone brings their own meals and masks, and sits at a distance. Once the weather warms up a little more, we’ll be back at Kiwanis Park for our meetings.

New members are always welcome!
If interested, please contact Dan Devine, Kiwanis President, at 413-522-7941.
BERNARDSTON FARMERS' MARKET

OPENING DAY IS SATURDAY MAY 29TH
UNITED CHURCH PARKING LOT
10-1PM

WANT TO BE A VENDOR THIS YEAR?
EMAIL--MELULENI@COMCAST.NET
Little Explorers
A virtual interactive story/play group
or Parents & Caregivers with children ages infant to 5

Thursdays at 10:00 via Zoom

For additional information, contact Deb Wood, CFCE Coordinator
woodd@pvrsdk12.org

or Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/PVRCFCE

Sponsored by Pioneer Valley Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program
Funded by the MA Department of Early Education and Care

Nicole Sargent
Financial Advisor

21 Mohawk Trail
Suite 9
Greenfield, MA 01301
Bus. 413-773-0070  Cell 802-376-5115
Fax 877-503-1462
nicole.sargent@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
Making Sense of Investing

If you would like to advertise in the four editions of the Bernardston Newsletter that will be produced during FY22, now is the time to make those arrangements. The whole year only costs $100 and your ad will be visible to every Bernardston resident and business owner, as we will be resuming mailed newsletters; will appear in color on the Town website; and surplus newsletters will be placed at the Post Office, Town Hall, Cushman Library, and the Senior Center. It’s a lot of visibility for a small investment, and it supports the continuation of the Bernardston Community Newsletter. Contact Karen at bernardstonnewsletter@gmail.com.
Spring and Summer News
for the
Congregational Unitarian Society
of Bernardston

Meeting in the 1739 Bernardston Unitarian
Meetinghouse at 49 Church Street
Corner of Depot Street

www.bernardstonunitarian.org

We have continued to have a vibrant program with our Congregation and Friends of the UU Church meeting online both on Zoom and on YouTube during the pandemic. Speakers include our usual favorites, Barry Deitz, Dan Tinen and Rev. Steven Wilson. We have collaborated with the other Franklin County UU Churches to share programs and musical events as well. This collaboration has brought us new friends and faces and helped us all through the pandemic.

The Meetinghouse Artists weekly workshop group has also continued to meet online to give each other personal, artistic, and professional support. We plan to have a new art show at the Meetinghouse as soon as it is safe to meet in person. We are hoping for a three-church picnic under the wonderful old oaks at the Meetinghouse in June. Consult our web page for the summer calendar which will include our usual special "Garden Service" hosted by one of our members.

All weekly programming can be found at www.bernardstonunitarian.org. Contact for weekly zoom links and other church information is 413-330-0807. Call or Text. We welcome your participation!

We will soon resume work on our steeple with painting and slate repairs and reengaging our wonderful historic church bell. Stay tuned for some exciting fund raisers for the Meetinghouse in late summer and early Fall. Rawn Fulton is our Fundraising Chair if you would like to help! If you love the old Meetinghouse and all the recent improvements inside and out, please consider a donation to the Morton Fund for continued preservation of Bernardston's first meetinghouse. The history of its move from Huckle Hill to Bald Mt. Rd. and then to its present location is a great story you can find on our web page!

Annette Mackin and Mark Wadleigh
for the Bernardston Unitarian Congregation.

www.bernardstonunitarian.org

Donations to the Meetinghouse Restoration "Morton Fund" or Arts & Activism Programs can be made online or sent to:

Congregational Unitarian Society
Box 5
Bernardston, MA 01337-0005
Pop-Up Events Satisfy the Urge to Peruse the New Shelf

We are now hosting weekly Pop-Up New Shelf events, weather permitting, every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30. Three rolling carts full of books and a small bookshelf are placed out front of the library, all at a good distance from each other, and folks are invited to browse through a plethora of our newest items, including fiction, mysteries, non-fiction, young adult, juvenile, and more. Karen checks out your items from the stoop.

Please be aware that masks covering nose to chin are required to attend these events, and we supply lots of hand sanitizer.

These events are dependent upon dry weather. If it’s raining, or looks like it might rain soon, we’re probably not out front. If there’s a doubt, feel free to give us a call and check.

Unlimited Access to Books, Movies, and More Continues with Curbside

We continue to circulate our collection, as well as items traveling to us from libraries throughout Massachusetts and beyond, via 20-minute contactless Curbside Pick-Up appointments. This service has been very popular with residents because it gives them access to all circulating materials, and we offer three easy modes for requesting items to borrow. Folks can go to www.cwmars.org and place holds using their patron barcode, e-mail cushionrequests@gmail.com with requests or seeking assistance with what to choose, or give us a call at 648-5402 for suggestions and ideas. We’ll even put together a “surprise bag” for you, based upon your tastes in genre, author, topics, and more. It’s a quick, easy, and above all, safe way to borrow materials at this time!

Curbside Pick-Up is available Mondays 2:00-5:40, Wednesdays 10:20-6:00 (or later), and Saturdays 10:20-3. Items can be returned during these hours without an appointment. Please just be cognizant of whether others are in the area in front of the building.
~ Virtual Programming for All Ages ~

**Preschool Story Time**: Posted every Friday throughout May and June, Preschool Story Time offers our youngest patrons, zero to 5 years, stories, sign language, crafts, and other activities to enjoy. Thanks to PVRSD Coordinated Family & Community Engagement for funding!

**Wednesday Night Knitters**: No matter how much experience you have, the Wednesday Night Knitters will welcome you to the virtual table via Zoom, from 5:30 to 6:30 every Wednesday. E-mail us for the link!

**Bonjour! French Conversation**: If you speak French, a little or a lot, this monthly gathering is for you! The 2nd Tuesday of every month, from 5:30-6:30, the group gathers to speak French via Zoom. E-mail us for the link!

**Book Discussion Group**: Book Discussion Group gathers monthly, on a Monday from 6:30-7:30 via Zoom for lively conversation & a good dose of laughter. Members take turns choosing both fiction and non-fiction selections. We’ll be discussing *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig on June 7th. E-mail us for the link!

~ Virtual “Rooms” on Facebook ~

Via our Facebook page we are able to offer everyone in our community a virtual library experience. Find programming information easily in our Events, and enjoy links to cultural entertainment and connect with others who share your interests in any of our virtual thematic groups, which include:

- **Braiding Sweetgrass Discussion Group**: Readers from all over the world talking about this book
- **Come Color with Us**: Loaded with links to coloring pages for all ages
- **Cushman Library Share a Book Nook**: Share titles of books you love & find new ones
- **Cushman Library Yoga Group**: Find links to yoga workouts & connect with other yogis
- **Cushman’s Crafty Corner**: Get crafty with videos of all sorts of fun projects
- **Cushman’s Help for Homeschooling Parents**: Educational support for homeschooling families
- **Cushman’s Kitchen, Cooking & Baking**: For folks who enjoy cooking, baking, and sharing recipes
- **Cushman’s Story Time Circle**: Loaded with people reading stories for your kiddos
- **Teen Programming @ Cushman**: Find book bundles, program information, & inspiration to get involved

~ Fabulous FREE Digital Offerings ~

**ACORN TV** is the most popular digital service Cushman offers its patrons. Check it out at [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**The Great Courses** offers courses on how to do it, how to learn it, or how it happened. Visit [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**IndieFlix** is a beautiful deep rabbit hole of films, documentaries, shorts, animation, and more! Go to [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**Qello Concerts by Stingray** is loaded with concerts, music documentaries, & more. Visit [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**RB Digital Magazines**, enjoy more than 50 magazines online with your Cushman card at [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**Transparent Language**, learn 90+ languages at your own pace at home or on your phone at [http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com](http://cushmanlibma.rbdigital.com)!

**Universal Class** offers over 500 Online Courses! Go to [http://cushmanma.universalclass.com/barcode-login.html](http://cushmanma.universalclass.com/barcode-login.html) to get started!

Our Virtual New Shelf!

Go to [www.wowbrary.org](http://www.wowbrary.org) and sign up for a weekly Wednesday newsletter featuring all of the new items entered into our on-site collection during the week prior. You get to see book and movie covers and read descriptions of each item. It’s like perusing the new shelf, but digitally, & it puts you at the front of the line!

FREE Wireless Internet, Every Day, Every Night!

Follow Cushman Library on Facebook!