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THE BERKLEY BUZZ



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Welcome to Berkley Buzz! This is the first edition of our new monthly newsletter! Get ready for exclusive insights and stories, as well as current information snippets to keep you up to date on the latest happenings in town. We are thrilled to have you on board and excited to embark on this journey together!



Animal World Visits the Library

On Saturday, July 11th, the Berkley Public Library welcomed Animal World Experience for an interactive, hands-on program that introduced children and families to a variety of live animals. Participants had the opportunity to learn about wildlife, ask questions, and enjoy an engaging educational experience that was both fun and memorable.

The Town extends its thanks to the Berkley Public Library and the Berkley Cultural Council for continuing to offer outstanding programs that bring learning and entertainment to residents of all ages.



Berkley Celebrates 250th

Hundreds gathered to celebrate Berkley's 250th anniversary with entertainment, local organizations, family activities, and a day that highlighted the best of our community.



A Celebration to Remember

Berkley's 250th Celebration was an overwhelming success, made possible by an incredible outpouring of support from volunteers, historical reenactors, sponsors, 5K participants, local organizations, state and local officials, vendors, and the many families who came together to celebrate our community. From children's activities to live entertainment and historical exhibits, the event showcased the very best of Berkley.

A special thank you goes to Selectwoman Jennifer Vincent and Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Partridge, whose leadership and countless hours of planning helped make the celebration such a memorable occasion. Their dedication, along with the efforts of the entire planning committee and volunteers, resulted in a fun, safe, and truly community-driven event.

The positive feedback received from residents and visitors alike has been tremendous, and they're excited to share that the celebration will return next year as **Berkley Celebrates America**. If you're interested in volunteering, planning for next year's event will begin in earnest following the Lights On celebration in December. **Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 27, 2027**—they look forward to making an already great event even better.



GROVE STREET CULVERT WORK

The Berkley Highway Department recently completed work replacing an aging culvert on Grove Street, helping to improve drainage and protect local infrastructure.



**Before
&
After**



Grove Street Culvert Replacement

The Grove Street culvert had long been identified by the Highway Surveyor, Robert Rose, as a critical infrastructure concern due to its deteriorating condition. Left unaddressed, the failing culvert posed a risk to the roadway above and required replacement to ensure the continued safety and reliability of the road.

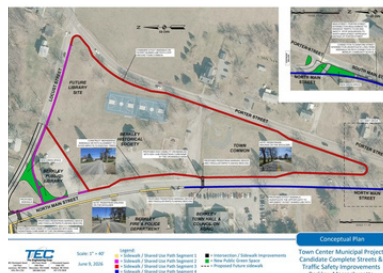
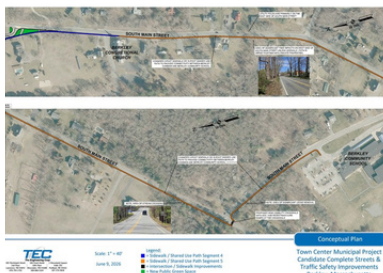
Thanks to the support of Representative Norman Orrall and Senator Kelly Dooner, the project was funded through a \$50,000 supplemental budget appropriation supported by Fair Share ("Millionaires Tax") revenues, allowing the Town to complete the work at no direct cost to Berkley taxpayers. The project is another example of the Berkley Highway Department's commitment to maximizing every public dollar. Through careful planning, in-house expertise, and efficient project management, the department continues to deliver critical infrastructure improvements while maintaining one of the most cost-effective public works operations in the region.



PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



PROGRESS



The town continues to make steady progress toward improving pedestrian safety and connectivity throughout Berkley through a three-part approach.

First, a Commonwealth earmark funded the initial survey work, which was completed on June 30, 2026. Second, through MassDOT's Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Program, the Town has received technical assistance from TEC, Inc. to prepare conceptual designs and planning-level cost estimates (pictured above). Finally, the Town has secured federal Community Project Funding (CPF) through the office of Representative Jake Auchincloss to help advance the project toward construction.

The conceptual plans shown above represent one possible vision for Berkley's future. They are not final designs, and public feedback—along with input from Town departments and stakeholders—has already helped shape the project and will continue to do so as planning advances.

Current concepts include improved pedestrian connections to Berkley Community School, intersection safety improvements at North Main Street/Locust Street and Porter Street/South Main Street, and future phases that could include a walking path around the Town Common and additional sidewalk connections extending toward Sanford Street.

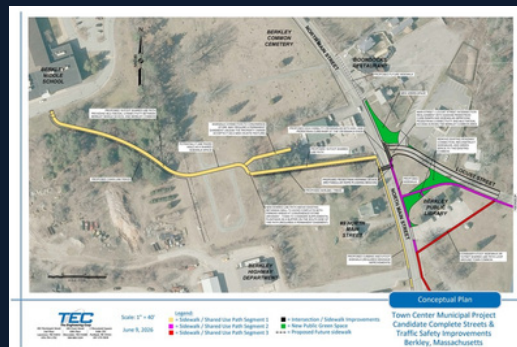
A future phase remains aspirational: completing a continuous pedestrian connection to Berkley Community School. Achieving that vision will require funding beyond the current federal grant allocation, but it remains an important long-term goal.

As the project continues to evolve, resident feedback remains invaluable in helping the Town establish priorities and create a safer, more connected Berkley for years to come.

Public Feedback Opportunity

Help Shape Berkley's Pedestrian Improvements

The Town is seeking public feedback on conceptual plans for future pedestrian improvements connecting key community destinations. We encourage residents to review the proposed concepts and share their thoughts as planning continues.





A Lifetime of Service

The Town of Berkley recognized Catherine Westgate for her many years of dedicated service on the Board of Registrars, celebrating a legacy of volunteerism and commitment to the community.

At the June 17, 2026 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Ms. Catherine Westgate was formally recognized for her many years of dedicated service to the Town of Berkley as a member of the Board of Registrars. Throughout her tenure, she helped ensure the integrity of the Town's elections and voter registration process while generously volunteering her time in service to the community.

The Town extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Westgate for her years of commitment and public service. Volunteers like Catherine are essential to the continued delivery of local government services and exemplify the civic spirit that makes Berkley such a special place to call home.





Town Business

Building Inspector Recruitment



The Town has concluded its first round of interviews for the position of Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer and has invited finalists to return for a second round of interviews later this month. The Board of Selectmen expects to consider appointing a successful candidate following the completion of the interview process.

As the Town works through the hiring process, we also extend our sincere gratitude to **Mr. Joseph Biszko** for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Berkley. Joe's professionalism, knowledge, and commitment to serving our residents have left a lasting impact on the community. We thank him for his years of public service.

Finance Team Update

The Town's fiscal year came to a close on June 30, 2026, marking one of the busiest times of the year for Berkley's Finance Team. While day-to-day operations continue uninterrupted, the transition between fiscal years requires significant behind-the-scenes work to ensure the Town's finances remain accurate and well-managed.

The Accountant's Office is responsible for closing out the prior fiscal year, reconciling accounts, and preparing the Town's financial records for audit. At the same time, the Treasurer/Collector's Office updates payroll, employee pay rates, benefit deductions, and other financial records for the new fiscal year. These critical tasks are completed while both offices continue to provide their normal level of service to residents, vendors, and Town departments.

The Town extends its appreciation to the Finance Team for their continued professionalism and dedication during this demanding period of the year.

Innovative Solutions

Note from Town
Administrator

Reach Out



We hope you enjoyed the first edition of the Town of Berkley Newsletter. Our goal is to keep residents informed about the projects, people, and accomplishments that shape our community. Whether it's major infrastructure improvements, community events, or the day-to-day work of Town departments, we hope this newsletter provides a better look at the work happening on behalf of Berkley residents.

The Town welcomes suggestions for future newsletter topics, community events, volunteer recognition, and other items of public interest. Please send your ideas to the Town Administrator's Office at mchabot@berkleyma.gov.

Feature Spotlight

OpenGov E-Permitting Project

The Town has officially begun implementation of OpenGov, a modern online permitting platform designed to improve customer service, increase transparency, and streamline municipal operations. While the initial rollout will focus on the Building Department, the project represents a collaborative effort across multiple Town departments.

- **Building Department-** The Building Department is assisting with the development of electronic permit applications, document uploads, review of workflows, and inspection processes to ensure the system reflects Berkley's permitting practices while improving the customer experience.
- **Board of Assessors-** The Board of Assessors is assisting with the integration of parcel mapping and property data to ensure permits are accurately linked to individual properties. This work will improve data accuracy while reducing duplicate entry across departments.
- **Treasurer/Collector & Accountant-** The Treasurer/Collector and Accountant's Offices are working to integrate online payment processing and financial reconciliation into the permitting process. This will provide applicants with convenient electronic payment options while improving internal accounting, tracking, and reporting.

As implementation continues over the coming months, additional departments and permit types will be incorporated into the system. The Town anticipates launching the first phase of OpenGov in early 2027, making municipal services more accessible and efficient for residents and businesses alike.

Upcoming Events

- FY27 Q1 real estate and personal property taxes due – Monday, August 3rd
- Berkley Cultural Concert, Emily Nawrocki – Thursday, August 20th (6PM-8PM)
- Special Town Meeting Warrant open – late August/early September
- State Primaries - Tuesday, September 1st (7:00AM - 8:00PM) Berkley Middle School

