

CLOCK TOWER TIMES

The Newsletter of the the Berne Community Development Corporation



Aerial view of Muensterberg Plaza

Muensterberg Plaza To Impact Berne For Generations

In the spring of 2003, the Berne Community Development Corporation (CDC) hired Moake Park, an architectural firm from Fort Wayne. Moake Park's assignment was to prepare preliminary plans for streetscaping along the Main Street and US 27 business corridors, as well as to show how new Swiss facades could improve these business areas to foster increased tourism. The goal was to help our business districts encourage individuals to stroll, shop and do business.



Artist rendering of Muensterberg Plaza

Moake Park also drew up preliminary plans for a plaza at the corner of Main Street and US 27. The preliminary plan includes a replica of the Bern, Switzerland clock tower. The Berne City Council has given strong continued affirmation for the project as a whole, has committed to transfer the triangular piece of property (old Shell station) to Berne CDC and has committed to vacate State Street to Berne CDC. The plaza will forever improve the appearance of Berne at the crossroads of our community.

TOWERING THOUGHTS!

"Never tell a person that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossible to do that thing."

Dr. J. A. Holmes

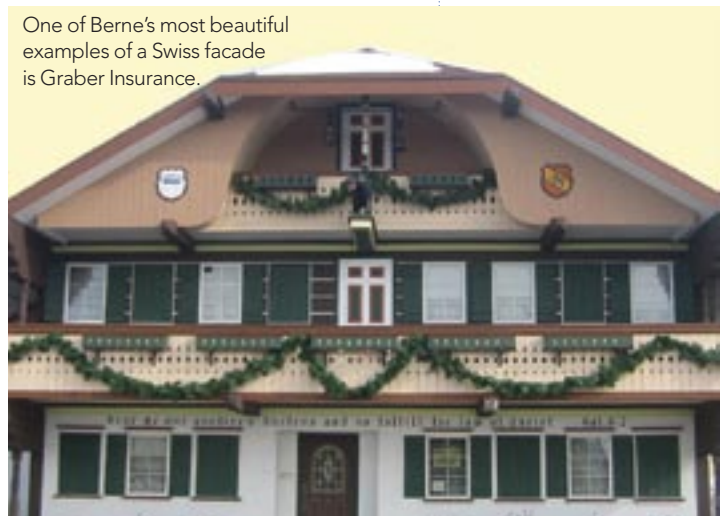
Improvements Mean Money for Businesses

The purposes of the Berne CDC are to assist in the ongoing development and beautification of downtown and US 27 businesses and public properties—making Berne a Community of Distinction and Charm.

First Bank of Berne and Bank of Geneva have each agreed to provide up to \$250,000 to Berne businesses that install new Swiss facades. Once the facades are completed, funds may be used for interior improvements. Each qualified business may apply for loans of up to \$40,000 at a rate that is 75% of the Wall Street Journal prime rate, payable over 10 years.

In order for Berne to become a destination marketplace, Berne CDC will work with the City Council to pass an updated and more restrictive signage ordinance that would limit the size, height and illumination of signage in the business corridors.

One of Berne's most beautiful examples of a Swiss facade is Graber Insurance.



Message from the President:

Berne CDC was organized in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our goal is to ensure that present and future businesses in town will not only survive, but will thrive in the ever-increasingly difficult business environment for small town businesses.

When Berne CDC was formed, the City Council asked us to plan and build a plaza at the corner of Main Street and US 27 as a gateway between the two business sectors. Preliminary planning has been completed for the plaza that will include a replica of the famous Bern, Switzerland clock tower. A steering committee for fund raising is beginning its work for this project.

The plaza will bring numerous people to Berne, people who will shop at our stores, who will need lodging, and who will need somewhere to eat. New stores and restaurants will sprout up. We believe that entrepreneurs will be inspired to bring about new vibrant commercial enterprises. Every person in Berne will be benefited by this project, either by increased business, increased employee base, increased income, increased quality of life, or possibly just increased community pride.

We consider the plaza to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to forever improve the quality of life in Berne. The plaza will commemorate and emphasize the values that brought the early settlers to Berne; values such as faith, courage, determination, perseverance, hard work, craftsmanship, generosity, hope, and vision. It will create an enduring legacy for generations to come, and for the thousands who drive by the plaza every day. It will create a visual impact at the "crossroads" of the community that will become nationally, indeed internationally, known.

Join with us as we work to set Berne apart from other small towns so that people will know Berne, Indiana, as a community of distinction and charm.

Dave Baumgartner



Meet the Board of Directors

The Berne CDC Board of Directors is composed of the following individuals front row from left: Gretta Lehman, Floyd Liechty, Jane Velasco, Connie Potter (Secretary), Charles Isch, Gwen Maller (Treasurer) and David Baumgartner (President). Second row from left: Scott Bixler (Vice-President), Jim Beitler, Nancy Subler, Dwight Habegger, Fred Clauser, Matt Lehman, Marcia Rich, Roger Muselman, Rick Snodgrass and Kent Liechty. The five active sub-committees are Membership, Design, Public Relations, Revolving Loan and Fund Raising. Berne CDC is a member of Indiana Main Street, the downtown revitalization effort of the Indiana Department of Commerce.

Rediger to head campaign



Wesley Rediger

Wesley Rediger has been hired by Berne CDC to serve as a consultant for the upcoming fundraising campaign.

He has served human service and missions organizations in major metropolitan areas including Philadelphia and Indianapolis, as well as international ministries based in Europe and the Caribbean. He serves on the faculty of various organizational and fund

development associations.

Prior to founding the consulting firm, Rediger Taylor Group, LLC, he served as VP Development at Huntington College, Director of Student Life at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia and Area Director with Youth For Christ, Long Island, NY.

He is a graduate of Taylor University (1968) and Ball State University (1985) and he earned the Certified Fund Raising Executive certification from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (1995). One of his recent clients, Wells County Revitalization, Inc., raised over \$2.5 million in six months to build the Wells County Creative Arts, Commerce and Visitors Center located along the river in downtown Bluffton.

According to Mr. Rediger, "Serving the Berne community is a special privilege for

two reasons. First, the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower project is an historic turning-point for Berne because it honors the legacy of the original settlers and imparts their faith and perseverance to future generations. It is a unique opportunity for this generation to significantly advance the quality of life of the community forever. Secondly, and more personally, I still remember attending a performance of "Messiah" at First Mennonite Church and visiting in Freeman and Mary Kay Burkholder's home 40 years ago."

He lives in Upland where his wife serves on the music faculty and directs the Taylor University Chorale. Daughter, Andrea, is a veterinarian in Springfield, Ill., and son James, is a small business development specialist with the Ft. Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

2004 CDC Membership Drive a Success

In 2004, Berne CDC conducted its first membership drive and over 160 family units and businesses joined. Included in this newsletter, is a simple form to submit your 2005 membership dues. We encourage you to carefully consider the economic and historical impact this organization will have on the future of Berne. Memberships for 2005 are offered at three levels—Grimsel, Furka and Susten. Business memberships are \$100. Members in 2004 are listed below:

GRIMSEL (\$75 and higher)

David and Tanya Baumgartner
Howard and Phyllis Baumgartner
Michael and Kay Bauserman
Jim and Melissa Beitler, Jr.
Jeff and Julie Chrisman
Fred and Beth Clauser
Beth Conrad
John and Mary Eicher
Charlie and Arlene Fell
Gary and Teresa Flaughter
Roger and Mary Flueckiger
Russ and Susan Flueckiger
Ron and Carolyn Fryback
Blaine and Phyllis Fulton
Dwight and Bev Habegger
Mike and Gwen Habegger
Ron and Anita Habegger
Tim and Cheryl Hartigan
Dean and Myrna Hendricks
Charles and Linda Isch
Kirk and Mary Johnson
John Kirchofer
Ardena Lehman
Bill and Gretta Lehman
Fred and Sonia Lehman
Heidi Jo Lehman
Matt and Joye Lehman
Rodney and Sandra Lehman
Stuart and Rosemary Lehman
Floyd and Renee Liechty
Kent and Teri Liechty
Larry and Gwen Maller
Daryl and Karen Martin
Peter Minnich
Art and Gloria Muselman
Roger and Naomi Muselman
Steven and Si Hon Neuenschwander
Rhona Norris
Larry and Jeannie Piety
Neil and Connie Potter
Omar W. and Betty Reusser
Charles and Susan Schaffter
Jim and Mary Carol Schwartz
Rick and Linda Snodgrass
Ben Sprunger
Bruce and Galen Sprunger
Gregg and Barb Sprunger
Kent and Lillian Sprunger
Gaylord and Agnes Stuckey
Army and Jane Velasco
Tony and Ginner Yoder
Paul and Marvel Zuercher

FURKA (at least \$50)

Steve and Connie Bailey
James and Evelyn Beitler, Sr.
Wanda Brown

Jerry and Betty Burke
Marjorie DeArmond
Terry and Margie Dougherty
Bill and Agnes Habegger
Charles and Waneta Habegger
Cecil and Donna Henn
Mark and Kim LeFever
Charles and Louise Lehman
Doyle and Anna Lehman
Richard and Colleen Lehman
Steve and Nicki Lehman
Adam and Julia Liechty
Clinton and Helen Liechty
Bud and Anita Marble
Garry and Elaine Mikesell
Steven and Lucinda Miller
Herb and Fancheon Resler
Doug and Denise Scheiderer
Mark and Linda Settlemyle
Mike and Gloria Smith
Roger and Kim Young

SUSTEN (at least \$25)

Donavon and Ladonna Gerig
Denny and Melanie Affolder
Richard and Margaret Beitler
Betty Bixler
Fred and Janet Bixler
Jim and Marjorie Bowman
Don and Sherry Burke
Arleen Conrad
Jean Conrad
Glen and Grace Dubach
Ron and Celia Dull
Harlow and Carolyn Fletcher
Rev. Gerald and Coyla Gerig
Kris and Rhonda Grandlinard
Robert Hegnauer
Brent and Chris Hyman
Nancy Kuhn
Wilmer and Maxine Lehman
Alice Liechty
Rev. Bob and Peggy Liechty
Fred and Magdalene Liechty
Howard and Gyneth Luginbill
Bill and Linda McKean
Tillie Neuenschwander
Doug and Carla Noll
Neal and Marcia Rich
Jim and Amy Rife
Karl and Christine Schmitz
Joe H. and Frances Schwartz
Barbara A. Sprunger
Don and Betty Sprunger
Eric and Jean Sprunger
Tim and Suanne Sprunger
Frank and Corrine Steury
Ray and Marcia Van Gelder

Edward and Marjorie Von Gunten
Curt and Jeannine Wurster
Sarabelle Zeigler
Edward and Francille Zimmerman

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Alpine Falls/Kinetico Water Systems
American Graphics Group
Amishville USA
Bank of Geneva
Baumgartner & Beitler
Berne Ready Mix
Berne Rotary Club
Berne Garden Club
Bing Assembly Systems
Bixler Insurance
Black Bear Inn and Suites
Clauser Furniture
CTS Resistor/Electrocomponents
East of Chicago Pizza Company
Edelweiss, Inc.
First Bank of Berne
Habegger Furniture
Hitzer, Inc.
Jay County REMC
Joe H. Construction
Johnson Junction
Judge, Robert MD
Keller Lawn & Landscaping
Lehman & Bixler Optometrists, PC
Liechty Bros., Inc.
Liechty Management
Marquis Builders
McKean's Barber Shop
Micromatic
Moser Motor Sales
Newton Associates
Parkway Chalet Restaurant
Potter Lock & Safe
Print Source Corporation
richard's
Schwartz Marathon
Smith Brothers of Berne
Smith Veterinary Hospital
Sport Form
Sullivan Rothe Design
Tri-County Land Title
United States Postal Service
Visual Changes
WZBD Radio
Yager Furniture
Yager/Kirchofer Funeral Home

CDC Holds Contests

During the summer months, Berne CDC held two contests, a Clock Tower contest and a "Display to Play" contest.

For the Clock Tower contest, both *The Berne Tri-Weekly News* and *The Berne Shopping News* printed a weekly clue for four weeks giving information that would lead to the site of a photo of one of the replica keepsake clocks.

Each week a new clock photo was hidden in addition to the ones previously not yet found. Once a laminated photo was found of the replica keepsake clock, the sleuths were instructed to go to the Chamber office to claim the prize of an actual keepsake clock.

The winners in the Clock Tower contest were Jim and Tanya Fox, Steve Haines, the Randy Kistler family, Hannah and Natalie Lautzenheiser, Lori Liechty, Emily and Erika Miller, Ryan Schwartz, Lynn Sprunger, Wayne Sprunger, and Holly Yoder with Alissa and Taylor Miller.

The second contest was "Display to Play." To be eligible, an individual needed to display a Berne CDC license plate on the front of their vehicle. Each week a board member searched for a vehicle on the streets of Berne displaying the license plate. Upon finding one, the CDC board member left a laminated note under the windshield of the vehicle. The note instructed the "winner" to go to the Chamber office to randomly select a question related to Berne's history.

The contestant had 72 hours to find the answer to the historical trivia. Winners returned to the chamber office within hours of selecting their

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(260) 589-3139



Muensterberg Plaza—A Berne Landmark



Above are depictions of the planned Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower. As shown in the map on the right, the clock tower will be situated approximately in the middle of present State Street. To the east of the tower will be north and south event greens as well as a cobblestone walk and water feature with a bear sculpture. To the south of the tower where the original Muensterberg cemetery was located, will be a monument commemorating the original settlers of the community.



David Baumgartner receives donation from Ron Nussbaum.

Major Donation Made

In July of 2004, Berne Apparel Company donated its office and factory building on Main Street to Berne CDC who is committed to utilize the property in a manner that will benefit the community.

Berne CDC will soon seek a planning grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce to assist in deciding the best use of the space which could include offices for Berne CDC and the Berne Chamber of Commerce, as well as possible new retail space, areas for not-for-profit organizations and community space.

Contest

Continued from page 3

question and were awarded a Berne sesquicentennial license plate.

Winners in the "Display to Play" contest were Randy Culver, Susie Fabricius, Charles and Louise Lehman, Daryl Martin, Karen Moser, Louise Neuenschwander, Barb Sprunger, Lillian Sprunger, Verna Sprunger, Nancy and Erik Subler, Karmin Yoder, Jamie McDonald and Doyle Lehman.

TOWERING THOUGHTS!

"Decision and determination are the engineer and fireman of our train to opportunity and success.

Burt Lawlor

Historical Plaques to Highlight Berne Businesses

The Berne CDC board has initiated another project of historical importance to the Berne community by placing historical plaques at the entrances of Berne businesses.

These plaques will indicate all of the businesses that have been located at each given location. Ben Sprunger, a recent Anderson University history graduate, has been doing the research on the businesses.



Helen Woodard, owner of Yager Interiors, and Kirk Lehman, who graciously offered to install the historical plaques.



Jilaine Graber, manager of Provident Bookstore, and Ben Sprunger, who is doing the historical research.