

2023 Year In Review

Happy New Year, Friends! We hope you had a great holiday season with family and loved ones. As we gear up for this new year, we cannot help but look back on 2023 and all of the accomplishments we had and how grateful we are for our community and the overwhelming support we continue to receive.

Here are just a few highlights from Friends of Berston's 2023:

1. Next 100 Breakfast

FOB hosted its Berston NEXT 100 Breakfast at Mott Community College Events Centre to help kick off Berston's 100th anniversary and inform community leaders on Berston's master plan.



2. Free Cancer Screening

Berston Field House hosted a free cancer screening and Health Fair put on by the National Minority Quality Forum, where the mayor and Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist helped pass out bags of food to community goers.



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3. New Facility Ground Breaking



Friends of Berston officially broke ground on the new facility in October. Amongst the community leaders to speak was Governor Whitmer. During the ceremony, CS Mott's Ridgway White committed the foundation to match up to \$5 million! (Please head to berstonnext.org to see the various ways you can give.)



Governor Whitmer



Ridgway White

4. Candy Giveaway

Berston hosted its 15th Annual Halloween Candy Giveaway.



5. Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner was hosted at the Field House for the community.



6. Celebrating 100 Years

To end the year, Berston celebrated 100 years by hosting "Berston's Boom Boom Room" gala at the Flint Institute of Arts. We celebrated in true 1920's style and it was a night to remember!



Need Legal Services?

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan is now offering its services right here at Berston every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 10am-1pm (walk-ins available). Individuals will be able to speak with a project attorney on the following:

- Bankruptcy
- Expungements
- Evictions
- Housing discrimination
- Mortgage foreclosure
- Consumer law
- Unemployment appeals/denials
- Wrongful termination
- IEP School issues
- Driver's license restoration
- Wills & power of attorney
- Probate and uncontested guardianship
- Water bill issues
- Consumer energy issues

Here 4U Notary Services, LLC will also be at Berston during that time to help with the following services:

- Oaths & Affirmations
- Affidavits
- Acknowledgements/Jurats
- Warranty Deeds
- Quit Claim Deeds
- Business Documents

For more information, contact Kamilah Horne at (810) 377-6033 or Khorne@lsem-mi.org

Leading Ladies

Our Leading Ladies mentoring program is back in action! The ladies had a wonderful year with various workshops including one with Dr. Sierra Cuthpert



on feminine hygiene. They finished the year out by volunteering

at Sugarbush Manor and donating gifts to the facility.

Berston Bus Stop



Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) honored Bryant "BB" Nolden in the dedication of an MTA Bus shelter at the Berston Field House bus stop on January 25th. The shelter displays his name and image. There will also be an MTA bus wrap in honor of Black History Month that will feature "BB" and his favorite quote.

It's a Circus

Last month, the Friends of Berston teamed up with the local Shriners to help take four buses of families, with over 100 children, to the Shrine Circus – and they had all kinds of fun! And to top it all off, our beloved "BB" was honored at the beginning of the show.





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Upcoming:

Expungement Workshop

Attorney Kamailah Horne of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan will take place on February 5th. Please call the office for more information.



EmpowHER Berston Women's Day Summit 2024

Friends of Berston will host a Women's Day Summit on Saturday, March 19 from 11am-3pm at Berston Field House. To celebrate all the incredible women there will be multiple vendors offering self-care services, food, and a special guest speaker. If you would like to sponsor a vendor table, please call the office at 810-787-6531. Look out for more information regarding this event on our website.

Friends of Berston Construction Update



Construction is moving along at the new Berston building. Please head to berstonnext.org to learn more about Berston's masterplan and how you can help!



Be sure to follow us on Facebook (Friends of Berston Field House) and Instagram (@friendsofberston)



Programs and classes that are supported and discounted through the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage.