

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2011

THIS WEEK'S BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BUSINESS	10
LIFESTYLE	27
CALENDAR	30
CLASSIFIED	30
CROSSWORD	30
SPORTS	30

WINNER: 10 LIFESTYLE: 27

Take charge in 2012

Take charge in 2012

Take charge in 2012

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Worcester County Veterans Memorial at OP remembers**

Hundreds turn out to show their gratitude to fallen first responders

By Tony Russo

OCEAN PINES — On September 11, 2011, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines was dedicated. The memorial is a tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United States Marine Corps. The memorial is a tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United States Marine Corps. The memorial is a tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United States Marine Corps.

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Winterization

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Town to get tough on its negligent landlords**

Rental licensing may be Berlin's best chance to enforce better upkeep

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — It's a problem that's been plaguing the town for years. The town's rental market is plagued by negligent landlords who don't maintain their properties properly. The town's rental market is plagued by negligent landlords who don't maintain their properties properly. The town's rental market is plagued by negligent landlords who don't maintain their properties properly.

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Planning to be an issue as OPA gets started on budget**

Only the best local news budget has

By Tony Russo

OCEAN PINES — When Ocean Pines Association President Tom Thompson gave his opening remarks at the town's annual meeting, he made it clear that the town's budget was a top priority. The town's budget was a top priority. The town's budget was a top priority.

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Businesses weigh in on power rates**

Chamber discusses Berlin's future electric use with Mayor and staff

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — The town's electric rates are a hot topic. The town's electric rates are a hot topic. The town's electric rates are a hot topic.

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Alcohol rule exception brewing in Berlin**

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — A new exception to the town's alcohol rule is being considered. The town's alcohol rule is being considered. The town's alcohol rule is being considered.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Golf Course condition a sore subject**

Members tired of bad publicity for OP Golf

By Tony Russo

OCEAN PINES — The town's golf course is a sore subject. The town's golf course is a sore subject. The town's golf course is a sore subject.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**HOA at Decatur Farm gets a lesson in civics**

After extended debate the HOA will be open Halloween only

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — The town's Homeowners Association (HOA) at Decatur Farm is getting a lesson in civics. The town's Homeowners Association (HOA) at Decatur Farm is getting a lesson in civics.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Overnight repairs planned for Main Street in Berlin**

Planned work to minimize disruption to businesses in the Downtown area

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — The town's Main Street is getting some overnight repairs. The town's Main Street is getting some overnight repairs.

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Third time is a charm**

Sunday's Berlin Peach Festival expected to be even better than before

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — The town's Berlin Peach Festival is expected to be even better than before. The town's Berlin Peach Festival is expected to be even better than before.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Bronze Star winner returns home**

1st Lt. Ryan Daniel cited for helping gather Afghan intelligence

By Tony Russo

OCEAN PINES — A Bronze Star winner is returning home. The town's Bronze Star winner is returning home.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Post storm cleanup to be a snap**

Well being is halfway done for public works

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — The town's post-storm cleanup is well underway. The town's post-storm cleanup is well underway.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Minor change causes major disagreement**

Hall questions Purnell's motives during Berlin

By Tony Russo

BERLIN — A minor change has caused a major disagreement. The town's minor change has caused a major disagreement.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The other day Mark Huey, production chief at the Bayside Gazette, by the force of his sneeze, initiated a brief reflection of barbarism.

For all of the H1N1 mocking that went down after the pandemic's non-occurrence, we have changed the way we deal with sneezing. In the 1970s children were taught to cover their coughs and sneezes with their hands. Less than half-a-century later this seems like advice only a witchdoctor would give.

After all we know about germs and how they are transmitted, why would we expectorate germs onto the one part of our bodies capable of spreading the most germs the farthest?

Held up to the modern (or, I guess, more modern) way of coughing and sneezing, which is into your elbow, it is as if we up until recently had been promoting not bathing as a way of repelling germs.

It's astounding how these things work in such short periods of time, which is why it is a perfect anecdote to preface the 2011 Year in Review.

What follows is a long editorial with the benefit of hindsight. Over the last six years I have come to see this kind of as a fulfillment of a contract with those of you who are kind enough to give this paper your attention every week.

"Objective" is a tricky word; like any other kind of perfection is it both worth pursuing and pointless to pursue at the

same time. We at the Bayside Gazette try very hard to remain dispassionate. The reward for our dispassion, we hope, is a little more credibility than those who are, let's say a little less dispassionate in their reporting.

But part of the continued maintenance of dispassion in the pursuit of objectivity must be an acknowledgement that we at the paper and I as a reporter feel one way or another about what is going on around us. The Year in Review is where we acknowledge that will to bias.

I personally hold the Year in Review out as a reminder when I have to report on something I feel strongly about one way or the other. If I'm going to earn and keep a reader's trust it is critical not to tell them what to think. No matter how desperately I want to nor how satisfying I believe I would find it.

In the pages that follow I'll share insights that would not have been appropriate or even germane to the story at the time as well as little reminders about some of the stories you, the readers, seemed to respond to the most.

A note on the "Tweet of the Month" feature. Most of these tweets are from our (shameless plug) @baysideoc twitter account, which should not be confused with the news twitter handle @baysidegazette.

Finally, let's use this final issue as a way of coughing 2011 into our sleeves so

Continued on Page 4

# HEADLINES

## salon



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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<h4>THE PARKE</h4>  <h5>62 HATTERAS LANE</h5> <p>On a Great Lot. Loft + BR/BA on 2nd Level. 3BR/3BA w/Breakfast Area in Kitchen, Sunroom w/2-Sided Fireplace. Master BA w/Tile Upgrade. Extended 2 Car Garage. Dehumidifier &amp; Sump Pump in Crawl Space w/Moisture Sealed Foundation. Programmable Thermostat on Ground Flr. Multi-Zone HVAC w/HWP Upstairs. Borders Conservation Forest area for Privacy.</p> <p><b>\$290,000</b></p>	<h4>SADDLE CREEK GEM</h4>  <h5>11106 CATTAIL COURT</h5> <p>Queen Anne Victorian on 2+ acres in Saddle Creek Estates. Upgrades thru-out. Custom designed 4BR/4BA Home. Lovely gardens w/ vinyl screened gazebo. Surrounded by over 60 large evergreens. 2-car detached garage w/storage. Hardwood &amp; tile in living areas. Full bath on 1st floor. Formal living &amp; dining rooms.</p> <p><b>\$550,000</b></p>	<h4>A HARBOR VILLAGE DREAM</h4>  <h5>31 BOATSWAIN DRIVE</h5> <p>Picture perfect waterfront. 3 BR/2.5 BA - appealing details everywhere! Upgraded cabinetry, granite countertops, ceramic tile flooring &amp; spacious 3-season Vinyl-tech porch w/peaceful water view. Gracious entry leading to a wonderful open floor plan, built-in window bench in dining area &amp; plantation shutters. Stainless steel appliances, eat-in breakfast area in upgraded kitchen. Shared boat dock for 20-24 ft. boat. Outdoor deck for entertaining. Come and live where you play!</p> <p><b>NOW \$659,000</b></p>	<h4>ELEGANT COLONIAL</h4>  <h5>10689 CATHELL RD.</h5> <p>Overlooks Golf Course. 4BR/2.5BA with Cozy family room w/lp &amp; Lg Sunroom that opens to deck &amp; private patio w/new gazebo. Master bdrm has walk in closet/private balcony. Hardwood floors in kitchen &amp; foyer. Beautifully landscaped yard. Detached shed &amp; 24ft round above ground pool. No HOA Fees here!</p> <p><b>NOW \$370,000</b></p>	<h4>SUPER WATERFRONT</h4>  <h5>20 SEABREEZE LANE</h5> <p>Sandy beaches surround this contemporary style waterfront 4BR/3BA home. Shared boat dock w/8000 lb lift. Direct access to bay &amp; no bridges! Upgraded Kraftmaid custom cabinetry &amp; Corian countertops. Hardwood flooring in Living &amp; Dining areas. Delightful Fl/Sunroom with ceramic tile. New HVAC system &amp; new ductwork. 1 Yr AHS Warranty</p> <p><b>NOW \$342,750</b></p>	
<h4>MARINA VILLAGE</h4>  <h5>959 YACHT CLUB DRIVE</h5> <p>Thinking About A Townhome Not Far From The Beach? Visit This Wonderful Queen Ann Model-End Unit In Marina Village. 1st Floor Master, 3 BR/2.5 BA Unit. Living Area W/Cozy Gas Fireplace. Very Nice 3 Season Room Plus Great Deck. Private Rear Yard.</p> <p><b>PRICED RIGHT &amp; READY TO GO AT \$282,000</b></p>	<h4>EASY ACCESS TO BAY</h4>  <h5>16 WATER'S EDGE CT.</h5> <p>Waterviews from every room! Immac. 3BR/2.5BA, 1-level living w/split bdrm floor plan. Recent updates incl. hrdwd. floors in great rm., granite kit. countertops, gas FP, vaulted ceilings. On cul-de-sac where 2 canals merge. No bridges &amp; easy access to river. Dock w/boatlift, garage. 1 Yr AHS Warranty.</p> <p><b>NOW \$600,000</b></p>	<h4>PRICE IMPROVED</h4>  <h5>8 GRICE STREET</h5> <p>You must see this well maintained 3 BR/2 BA Rancher with a wonderful side deck located on Corner lot with a short walk to downtown Berlin. Unbelievable Family Room with wood stove perfect for family fun. 1 car garage. Convenient pantry, eat in Kitchen &amp; a formal dining room.</p> <p><b>NOW \$179,900</b></p>	<h4>SALT AIR &amp; SUNSHINE</h4>  <h5>412 OCEAN PARKWAY</h5> <p>Nice waterfront 3BR/2BA w/garage plus carport. Bright &amp; sunny Florida/Sun room. New kitchen appliances, counter-top, laminate floor &amp; cabinets painted. New tile &amp; sinks w/granite counters &amp; toilets in baths. Gas log FP in Living Rm. Dock with lift. Gutter helmets. 1 yr Home warranty incl.</p> <p><b>NOW \$325,000</b></p>	<h4>DON'T MISS THIS!</h4>  <h5>1216 OCEAN PARKWAY</h5> <p>Cute &amp; cozy 3 BR/2 BA, 1-level living larger than it looks. Great room w/cathedral ceiling. LR w/gas log FP. Bright &amp; sunny sunroom w/hardwood floors. Gently used. Nice high wooded lot. Furniture negotiable.</p> <p><b>\$187,500</b></p>	<h4>PLAY WHERE YOU LIVE</h4>  <h5>3 THE POINT</h5> <p>3 BR/3 BA Salt Grass Townhome with fantastic water/ marsh views down Manklin Creek &amp; O.C. skyline! Low maintenance building, balconies, lrg. room on 1st level could be combined BR/Fam. Rm. or guests quarters w/gas FP. Polaris gas fired hot water heat system.</p> <p><b>\$359,000</b></p>



YEAR IN REVIEW



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Team Karson, Shane, Suzie, and their son Clay run the show at Frontier Town when they aren't traveling around with the rodeo.

Continued from Page 3  
as not to transmit too much of it into 2012.



Tweet of the month:  
"Working on my slots story. Looks like I'll be writing out the full title "Casino at Ocean Downs" a lot 'cause C.O.D. just won't cut it."

When I started working for the Bayside Gazette in 2006 I inherited a few file folders full of backstory for "Important Issues". The folder was monstrous and filled with the kind of technical detail that is generally reserved for astronauts except that no one that does anything important like fly to the moon would need thee-year-old information about an ever changing issue like slots.

My editor at the time said it wouldn't kill me to hang onto it because the slots issues wasn't going to go away. The statement was true and fair and, also, a little bit obvious. Anyone who bothered to wade through the backstory of the slots could have saved the paper and the trees and their own precious time by reducing the information contained to a simple observation:

Some people think slots will benefit the area, and have a lot of numbers to back up their beliefs; other people think slots will hurt the area and have a lot of numbers to back up their beliefs.

What the numbers didn't show and what the written reports tend to dismiss, was that here on the Eastern Shore we have — and to be fair, with pretty good reason — a deep seeded mistrust of the "State". There is a fear that we on the Eastern Shore tend to be forgotten when it comes to divvying up the money the state has to distribute.

The truth or falsehood of this belief isn't the point, it is merely worth saying that — after all the reports and numbers and testimony and attack ads on both sides of the issue, once the County money was divided up sufficiently and by law, slots passed easily and overwhelmingly in Worcester County and the end of 2010 saw the issue shift from what to do with the slots to how to spend the gobs of cash pouring in monthly from the Maryland Lottery.

And so the story of 2011 begins with the opening of the Casino at Ocean Downs, which was a festive affair and was the first time my face appeared on the front page of any newspaper — it was a "Where's Waldo" moment, the result of the kind of crossfire the occurs at any bigtime media event.

In this case, the big time media event was the fact that, in addition to Gov. Martin O'Malley, all sorts of political bigwigs showed up to endorse the opening of the slots parlor, have their pictures taken and generally pat one another on the back for persevering through the difficulties of wearing nice suits and convincing other people to give them money to do it.

The most staggering fact that came from the Casino at Ocean Downs' opening was that 87 cents out of every dollar goes to prize money. In fact, the Lottery Commission can have some of the machines set as high as 90 percent, and many at the Casino at Ocean Downs were set that way for the inaugural weeks.

On the face of it, it seems as if the odds favor the players, but if you are willing to give me a dollar and get 85 cents and the pleasure of my company in return, give me a call.

QUIT SMOKING

The first week of January also featured the end of a series on quitting smoking. I'd covered my experience quitting using Chantix as part of the Worcester County Health Department's fantastic cessation program. A big part of the program is the support group aspect of it.

If you have never participated in a support group and you have any reason to, let me assure you that as someone who participated as part of my job and would never have otherwise, they are a for-real worthwhile experience.

Portrayed in the movies as touchy-feeling whinefests, in real life it is simply a group of people who have a similar problem and goal and who help one another

deal with the problems of overcoming a particular hurdle.

There as — and remains, I'm sure — a persisting case of the TMIs (Too Much Information) but for the most part there is a lack of judging and an acceptance of failure and backsliding that people who have never experienced a particular struggle are not capable of providing.

Anyway, the big story for last January was that I had succumbed to the Chantix depression that — according to the Bayside Gazette — I expected to be immune from.

The depression was real and as someone who has always half poo-pooed the notion of serious drug-induced depression, it was a chastening experience to find myself unable to change out of my pajamas for days at a time without knowing why.

The tough thing about writing about January is there are a lot of stories that continue to develop through the end of 2010. The news cycle is really inconsiderate when it comes to calendars and whatnot.

BEC/ HOTEL WINDOWS

The other stack of information in the "Important Issues" folder was the Berlin Electric Company (BEC), which at the time had just been ordered sold by town referendum.

Many people, and I am among them, kind of smell a rat when it comes to the collapse of the deal to buy the BEC. It was a collapse that was, by sheer coincidence, concomitant with the shift of regional power-buying mandates. The point is it didn't get sold because of EPA concerns that were never heard about again.

Fast forward to 2011 and against all odds, the year started out with the real and distinct possibility that the BEC was being well run and that its ratepayers might actually reap the benefits of three years worth of logistical and economic tweaking.

The irony in this is the people most responsible for the work were demonized, shouted-down and generally abused for suggesting that they — mere experts in the field — might have a better notion for running the electric company than the angry, well-overcharged ratepayers and the Town Council that had used the BEC as a political football for decades.

!!SPOILER ALERT!!!

In January of this year the first whippers of a potential rate reduction appeared in print. As of this writing, while Delmarva Power prepares to jack up area rates yet again, Berlin ratepayers are no longer paying among the highest rates in the region and Berlin commercial concerns have been fast tracked for a Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing because the town is requesting a rate reduction for them as well.

Continued on Page 5

New Year's Eve

2012

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Continued from Page 4

**SPOILER CONTINUED...**

Also, contrary to the potential for disaster widely reported — elsewhere, because it never made this paper — the fact that the Town of Berlin didn't shut down the Atlantic Hotel over the window debacle had absolutely no affect on the town's ability to get grants, loans, tax breaks, etc. for the rest of the year.

As briefly as possible: The Atlantic Hotel has windows replaced in a manner not consistent with historic district guidelines and lots of people were very upset about this

In fact, by the spring the state would absolutely be throwing money at Berlin. The office that produces this paper — more on that in "November" — is open as almost a direct result of a grant program administrated by the same department other papers reported would never touch Berlin again. Not that we're an "I told you so" kind of publication, but paying attention is kind of important.

That said, the worst thing about the entire project was the pretense that the same rules apply to everyone. The fact is they don't. They never have. They never will. The Atlantic Hotel is kind of the town's centerpiece and driving the current owners a little closer to having to shut the project down, was just a plain stupid idea.

Unfortunately, that doesn't really count as a reason, even if it is a reason, so we spent the better part of the end of 2010 and the early part of 2011subjected to a dialogue that mentioned everything but the most salient fact of the argument.

The other fact that wasn't really considered in the public debate is that, for all its charm and old-timey aesthetic, Berlin is a really dynamic town. As such, it has to negotiate the 21st Century carefully to avoid becoming a museum. It has done so nicely whether or not the windows in one section of the Atlantic Hotel are the kind conceived of during the Cleveland Administration.

**GOOBER'S NON-STORY**

In fact the strongest piece of 19th century infrastructure that remains is the grapevine, which again proved its reliability by reporting that Goobers had fallen down. Or that the wall next to Goobers was in danger of falling down. Or that the building next to Goobers was preparing to be demolished.

The grapevine, like television news, doesn't issue corrections. That's apparently what the Worcester County Press Corps (WCPC) is for.

To be clear, there's no such thing as the WCPC but its fun to say.

Once a rumor passes through the second level of being repeated, the WCPC has kind of an obligation to deal with it. We tend to attack these stories with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

The range of lackluster reporting on things like "Goobers' wall is not even kind of close to sort of falling down" has to do with the space between what we like to do and what we know we ought to do.

Stories such as the erroneous one about Goobers' wall from early 2011, make reporters the equivalent of a bet cop, walking along behind the ropes assuring onlookers that there's nothing to see. When people generally think of headlines, "Nothing continues to happen" usually doesn't top the list, but really it should.

Community papers, such as this, have a kind of responsibility to sort out the gossip, doing as little as possible to sustain the error without being to dismissive of it.

The Goober's story was that way, with the owners reaching out and asking the WCPC to let everyone know that the restaurant wasn't closed, hadn't fallen down, was in no danger of being condemned, and was perfectly safe to eat in.

It's tough for someone who in their personal lives dismisses gossip immediately to see why we cover someone of the things we do without this kind of background. So the next time you see a story here that takes the form "Nothing continues to happen" know that there was some underlying gossip that properly needed squelching.

**DRINK AND BE MERRY**

Also, early in 2011, the first shots were fired against the Liquor Control Board, and what looked to be a battle ensued.

There will be more about this later.

**!!!SPOILER ALERT!!!**

There's no such thing as the LCB anymore. It's now the BLC.

So here's kind of an interesting potent-potable-related story. The Eastern Shore probably has the best wines in the state, or at least will before too long but few people know it.

The reason is, the area is better suited to more varietals than our neighbors across the Bay, so the braver wineries can take a few more chances.

But this makes things a little difficult for two of the oldest reasons in retail — popularity and cost.

People will tell you that Maryland wines are too sugary. What they won't tell you is that since this is not Napa Valley, Calif., wineries have to rely on lower-costing, easier to turn over wine in order just to stay afloat. This is starting to change as the grapes mature around the peninsula, but from the very start Costa Ventosa has had an equal mix of "accessible" wines and wines for people who can tell the difference between better wines.

They're not all the way there, yet, but they've taken more chances than many places and are starting to reap the rewards beyond the Shore area.

**YIPPEE KAI YAY!**

Every now and again a story just wants to be what it wants to be, which was the case with the feature of Team Karson. The pitch was that there is a family living in Frontier Town that travels the country performing at rodeos. The centerpiece was to be Shane Karson,

Continued on Page 6



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kathryn Danko-Lord, who owns Costa Ventosa Vineyard and Winery in Whaleyville, participated in a state-wide promotion called the Maryland Wine Passport Program.

# Osteria Frascchetti

**SUNDAY NIGHT SPECIAL**  
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 5

an honest-to-goodness cowboy who literally grew up in the business at the local western park and went on to become a famous and sought-after rodeo performer. He was to be the centerpiece of the story until his son kind of stole the show.

What's cooler than a professional trick rider? A three-year-old who is a professional trick rider. Shane and his wife, Suzy, have a son whom they've been teaching to rope and ride pretty much since birth. He can crack whips, command horses, and upstage his parents as if he was born to it, which he pretty much was.

I didn't get much out of him quote-wise but there was enough description of his performance to make heading out to the rodeo — held at the Wicomico Civic Center last January — a worthwhile enterprise.

OUTRAGE

Several years ago I had the pleasure of writing the oral history of the Berlin Volunteer Fire Company. During that research, I came across a story by a young reporter named Tom Stauss about how outraged the people in Ocean Pines were about the proposed \$45 assessment increase. It was in a paper from 1986 or so.

Stauss eventually came to own the Ocean Pines Progress and, like me, annually writes about how outraged some of the people in Ocean Pines are about the annual fee increase. So when the

OPA announced their proposed \$45 increase last year I wondered who was more tempted to run his 25-year-old story, him or me.

That, for the most part, takes care of January which, as it turned out, was one of the more news-heavy months this year.



Tweet of the month:  
"Local Politics = Bad community theater minus enthusiasm"  
Although I'd just as soon not start this way, it turns out I have to:

!!!SPOILER ALERT!!!

The Bayside Gazette will, in April of the story, be acquired by Flag Publications, which owns the Ocean City Today among other papers. The reason this is an important fact to share at this time was because, not long after the acquisition, it was decided — and brilliantly so — that both the Bayside Gazette and the Ocean City Today didn't have to cover the Worcester County Board of Commissioners.

Simply put, Commissioners' decisions can be broken into three categories — do nothing, blame the state and do nothing, and postpone a decision. Sometimes, it appears as if a Magic 8-ball would be as reliable a form of government. The biggest bi-monthly challenge reporters in the area face is trying to justify the

hours they spend at commission meetings with proportionate text.

The front page headline on the Bayside Gazette Feb. 3 edition reads:

County delays decision on LCB  
The front page headline on the Bayside Gazette Feb. 10 edition reads:

County may abolish LCB  
In the six-ish years I've been covering the County they have made a major decision in the presence of a significant number of people maybe once. Generally, they postpone decisions until the interested parties become exhausted and stop showing up at meetings. This is why lawyers tend to get their way. Since they're paid to show up they never get exhausted.

Anyway, the County would continue to hem, haw, and dodge the LCB decision until people stopped caring one way or the other. Then they would disband the LCB in favor of the BLC (Board of Liquor Control).

It's hard to tell whether the Commissioners have a super-heightened sense of irony or none at all.

POSITIVE DRAIN

And this, really, is why politics and politicians should be viewed with general disdain. While the commissioners were setting fire to the productivity hours of anyone associated with the sale or consumption of alcohol with their LCB or BLC show, good and real people were doing good and real things around the county.

The premier February event each year is the Beach Blanket Blood Drive, sponsored by the Blood Bank of Delmarva and run and organized by the Coastal Association of Realtors. Every year these people take a day out of their lives to help secure the area's blood supply as much as possible.

Recently, there has been a dire drop

in donors and the only part of the story that is often repeated but never tedious, is that the region's blood supply is almost perpetually, dangerously low. Keep your eyes out for the chance to participate this year and do your best to make it out.

TWEET OF THE MONTH:

"Local Politics = Bad community theater minus enthusiasm"

Another positive drain on society was accomplished by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services WYFCS, which secured a home

at an affordable rate for one of their clients who had been homeless, living with friends and family as long as she could.

WYFCS does this all the time, or much or the time, taking just enough pressure off of families to make a tough life a little bit better.

They do it primarily on donations, for terrifyingly little money, and as quietly as possible. For them, and the many similar area charities, getting the work done is way more important than the accolades.

Ocean Pines doesn't lack volunteer organizations either and many of the residents spend their formidable about of spare time doing good and helping wherever possible. This year in review will be filled with them and will start with the recognition of the AARP-Tax-Aide program.

Each February locals put their tax preparation experience to good use by donating their time to help people get ready to file their annual taxes. The training takes place at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library and is the regular go-to place for hundreds of local people who would have to otherwise pay to get their taxes done.

A LITTLE UNITED

The difficult part for many non-profits, however, is in attracting volunteers who were born after the Kennedy Ad-

Continued on Page 7

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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 6*  
ministration. It isn't that younger people are flat-dead-set against volunteering. The problem has more to do with the interminable meetings that tend to come along with being part of a volunteer group.

In February a group formed to counter this fact had their coming out party at Berlin Intermediate School — the Young Leaders Society.

An offshoot of the United Way, the Young Leaders Society are comprised of members under 40 who are interested in the networking and volunteering aspect of the United Way, but not as enthusiastic about attending regular meetings.

Run primarily on Facebook, the group was able to coordinate the Valentine's Day Carnival by dividing into sub-groups and counting upon one another to get the job done. The group became a regular feature at several of last year's public volunteerism events.

MAIN STREET HEATS UP

I have been spreading a nasty rumor about Berlin Director of Community and Economic Development Michael Day since February that goes like this:

Michael Day has a train set of Berlin that he uses to design the town's business district.

The reason I can print and say borderline-libelous things about Mr. Day is because he is so fantastic at what he does as to be unassailable. While the Mayor and Town Council get and deserve credit for giving him the kind of leeway they do, the guy is just indefatigable when it comes to making the town both business and tourism friendly.

Over the last year, Day set his sights on filling and diversifying the Downtown and was wildly successful. It is not unreasonable to expect that by May 2012 there will be few, if any, business vacancies in Downtown Berlin.

The first completed piece of his hypothetical train set, however, was kind of a gift. After an immense amount of haggling and searching, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce was able to broker a deal with the town that would allow them to open in the former Dennison's Trackside Hobby building on Main Street, officially anchoring the business district on the south side.

The deal was structured in such a way that the Town officially owns the property — making it available for civic grant funding, etc. — but the Chamber of Commerce will pay off the mortgage and fund the renovation.

To date, the Chamber has made some exceptional and unique design choices but we'll cover that more as the year progresses. For now, suffice it to say that it was a wise move by the council and afforded Day an opportunity to be even more aggressive when it came to wooing businesses to the town.

BEERMAN BEGINS

Day and Berlin Mayor Gee Williams happen to be the unsung heroes of the Town's newest and possibly biggest destination attraction — the Burley Oak

Brewery.  
Brewery owner, Bryan Brushmiller, had hoped to open a production brewery on Old Ocean City Road and had received a ton of assistance from both Williams and Day in finding state aid and loan programs that would help him realize his dream.

Although he had been working on the building for months by February, as it turned out if he wanted to serve beer from the brewery — according to state law — he would have to also serve food.

Brushmiller, along with Day and Williams, began the process for re-writing town, county and state legislation in order that he could be exempt from the restaurant rule.

The process, which ended up taking just under 6 months, marked Berlin as the first Eastern Shore town to have a brewery without a restaurant.

While it might not seem that big a deal, Evolution Brewery, now the second biggest craft brew producer on the Eastern Shore behind Dogfish Head, walked away from opening in Salisbury and moved their business into Delaware because they couldn't strike a deal with the Salisbury City Council.

And this is where Day, as well as Williams and the Town Council, deserve way more credit than they get for their work.

At the county level there would be a few more weeks of debate about the LCB or BLC which essentially should have

*Continued on Page 8*

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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 7*  
taken place when Prohibition ended — as it did in all but one other county in the State — and the result of which would still be a state controlled liquor distribution system.

In Berlin it took about 20 minutes to decide that improving the Town's business profile by passing new legislation and endorsing the change at the state and county levels was a worthwhile use of public time and resources.

Also, and since I'm running out of county stories to feature, the runner-up for the Tweet of the Month for February was this:

"The Worcester County Commissioners will begin to legalize solar energy today. Welcome to the 20th Century, guys!"

It didn't make the cut because it was an unnecessary cheap shot. Worcester County didn't have a ban on solar panels or anything of the sort. It was merely that they didn't have zoning rules for how to put up solar arrays. The new rules, as it turned out, were partially in anticipation for the solar panel field that will open just north of Berlin over the next 18 months.

To be clear, it isn't as if the commissioner's lack foresight, which is why it can be frustrating to see them use it so infrequently.

THE LONG VIEW

Wind turbines are one of those long-term issues that I am almost positive will

play out as poorly historically as the fossil-fuel based electricity it will surely replace. Just like the tragedy of the Tennessee Valley Authority — a concern that demonstrated the possibility of really inexpensive energy for all and was therefore prevented from spreading — future generations are almost certainly going to wonder how they ended up paying so much for wind.

This will be true of the people in Worcester County by the middle of the century because by then the turbines that will likely be along the coast will have already paid for themselves several times over.

That said, credit should still be given the attempt Sen. Jim Mathias kicked off last February as a member of the Senate Finance Committee looking into wind power for Maryland generally and at the coast of Ocean City specifically.

More steps have been taken recently, but try and remember: public land and public money are going to be a huge factor in the construction of whatever facilities the state manages to secure. [See W. Guthrie circa 1940.]

Also, if there's a downside to not covering the county very closely it is that either this year or next the Commissioners are going to find themselves in a pickle when it comes to funding the Worcester County Board of Education.

February saw the opening salvo from the Board as they prepared to cut services and textbooks so they wouldn't have to eliminate 18 jobs. While it might have

been rhetoric last year, this year looks less promising.

Last month the Board heard testimony about how a tax increase is more economically sound than an education funding cut. Barring the Commissioners providing an opposing study — which is surely at least possible — some meeting of the minds has to be reached before this gets too ugly, not that that wouldn't be really entertaining.

I have a friend who grew up in a Central New York town that had a similar problem. There the school board put a tax increase to referendum saying that there would have to be an increase or school sports would be eliminated. It wasn't even close. Sports were eliminated and stayed that way for decades.

And nobody really cared.

This isn't a suggestion or even a supposition, because it is really unlikely that anything like this would ever be considered. But what the Commissioners know and the Board of Education seems to miss is that most of the people who contribute to the tax base either don't live in Worcester County or don't have kids school district.

By those lights, it is likely that the fight over whether to tax or cut based on economic value is one the Commissioners would love to have because, in practical terms, this means that the argument will be about the wrong thing.

Also, and to be fair, the Commissioners did have the courage to enact an election year tax cut just in time for the economic crisis to begin, so it's not as if they don't have their fingers on the pulse of good economic practices.

It's probably best to move on to March before this gets a little too sanctimonious.



Too late.

Tweet of the month:

"Worcester County Breaking news: The Commissioners have proclaimed February Black History Month. How timely in the land of Jim Crow."

That tweet comes from the — I swear, and I have the documentation to back it up — March 15 meeting of the Worcester County Commissioners. The only reason I mention this is, maybe it's my own white guilt, but I couldn't find a way to put it in the meeting story at the time without making it look, um, unflattering.

I'm certain that there is an excellent

reason for proclaiming February Black History Month on March 15 but I was suspicious that whatever the answer was it was really irrelevant to the public interest so I just let the whole thing pass. Almost, I guess.

SURPRISE

For as maddeningly circular as they can be at times, it is generally a pleasure to cover the Town of Berlin because they tend to get to the right place well before their counterparts. In March, they took what, on paper, looked to be a bit of a chance by designating funds for an event coordinator to hiring a youth coordinator instead.

The youth coordinator position ended up being filled by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services who used the funding opportunity to do way more than could ever have been expected of one person.

There will be plenty more on this as the year continues, but the fact that they endorsed this kind of public/private partnership says a lot about the kind of town they hope to be.

That said, March wasn't the Town of Berlin's finest political month as the Mayor and Council made two significant decisions that were really, really, really, unpopular.

Any political body that can be lambasted for their actions, as opposed to their lack of action, is probably doing their job. This is why Berlin gets things done. Whether by accident or not, the Mayor and Council has tended to separate governance from campaigning.

Paula Lynch is an excellent example. I agree, personally, with her decisions half the time but if I were in her district, I would vote for her twice because she has a vision for the town that goes beyond maintaining her popularity as do many of her counterparts on the Town Council. Williams is the same way, for better or worse.

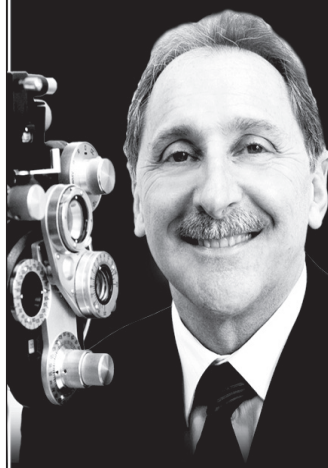
This is why it wasn't a complete and total shock when the Town disbanded the Berlin Utility Commission or dared the Historic Commission to sue them over the Atlantic Hotel window debacle in March.

There is no gentle or kind way to comment upon the supra-facts of these choices which were both the right decisions and both handled in such a way as to make even the most hardened PR professional lose a few night's sleep.

The people who volunteered their time and expertise on the Berlin Utility Commission really got the short end of the stick in the deal and were really and unacceptably mistreated in the process. Also, full disclosure and all that, I hold many of them in the highest esteem.

They went pretty much uncredited for their successes, including holding back several of the town's half-baked ideas about refitting the wastewater treatment plant from 2004-2008 but they outlived their usefulness

*Continued on Page 9*



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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 8*  
and were summarily dismissed.

The supra-fact I mentioned is that the changes that were needed, specifically for the Berlin Electric Company but moving forward with stormwater and wastewater as well, were too complex and fast changing to be made by committee.

The Mayor and Council got lucky — Luck (according to Seneca, according to the Internet) is where preparedness meets opportunity — and the electric utility is already much better off a mere 9 months later.

What was a little unsettling about the process is that, although there was a “public hearing” the BUC members saw the writing on the wall. Their protests rightfully took the form of, “I don’t know why we’re bothering with this when we all know it is a done deal” and provided a black eye to the administration that probably still stings a little bit today.

It certainly stings more than the one provided later in the month when the Mayor and Council deftly dodged having to make a decision in the Atlantic Hotel windows debacle.

How’s this for tricky?

The Historic Commission had been arguing for months that the Atlantic Hotel ought to be forced to undo a recent window replacement because they didn’t follow the correct procedures or use the proper materials in the replacement.

*Continued on Page 10*



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Bryan Brushmiller unpacks is brewery gear in March and says he hopes to be open in “Two Weeks”.

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YEAR IN REVIEW



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Herb "Flight Time" Lang captured the attention and imagination of millions as the Globetrotter featured on last season's of CBS Television's "The Amazing Race"

*Continued from Page 9*

ment.

As it turned out, however, the Commission rendered their original decision against the window replacement without a quorum, casting doubt on its legitimacy. Since this came to light after the appeal period had passed, the Commission had the opportunity to force the Mayor and Council to demand the hotel remove the windows.

If they took that route they would have to also make their case in court that their decision was valid even though it was without quorum.

Everyone decided the easiest thing to do was blame the Mayor and Council for a couple weeks and then go back to enforcing signage issues.

Window debacle epilogue:

Although much was made at the time about the Maryland Attorney General's opinion that Berlin could be disqualified from future grants in the historic district, it is worth noting that several redevelopment projects undertaken in 2011 and slated for 2012 were or will be funded in part by state grants.

In fact, Donaway Furniture was already working on the facade of 11 South Main Street before the month was out. Another grant would help them transform their substantial warehouse space, both in the Main Street buildings and their Pitts Street building into retail and office space.

Globetrotter-ing

I interviewed a Harlem Globetrotter — Flight Time — who also participated in The Amazing Race.

To be fair and honest I have yet to see an episode of the show but as it turned out, the Globetrotter team placed second.

It was a little frustrating interviewing Flight Time because he had already completed the race and knew how he'd done but was under a gag order for obvious reasons. Still, his coyness really gave me the impression that he'd won and I was genuinely disappointed to hear he didn't.

I have a topic I would like to suggest to any macro-essayists who may be reading:

Reality Television and Misguided Democracy, compare and contrast.

GAS ISSUE ARISES

Natural Gas could be the big story in the 2012 Year in Review, but it started with the announcement in March that natural gas was a legitimate option for Ocean Pines residents. A group, headed by Bud Shea, began petitioning local companies for a commitment to bring the alternate utility to Ocean Pines and was eventually successful.

One of the main points that came out of the ensuing coverage is that there are two companies — one named Eastern Shore Gas and another named Eastern Shore Natural Gas. One is the Ocean Pines propane provider and the other a natural-gas-providing subsidiary of Chesapeake Utilities. This caused just a little bit of confusion among local politicians and normal people alike.

There was plenty of hubbub over the long awaited announcement, much of which has died down as Chesapeake Utilities slogs through the federal approval process. Eventually, though, the energy costs in Ocean Pines and much of the rest of Northern Worcester County will drop as section by section natural gas comes online.

NON-SPENDING SPREE

The Local Development Council for the Ocean Downs Video Lottery Facility (LDC) had its first meeting in March, though they didn't get a ton of things done.

Ocean City, Worcester County and Berlin have to report the way they intend to spend their share of the slot machine revenue. To refresh your memory, 5.5 percent of lottery money is dedicated to local government with 60 percent going to Worcester County, 20 percent to Ocean City and 10 percent each to Berlin and Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines' money is designated for road and infrastructure improvements so they do not participate in the LDC, which ostensibly approves spending plans for local governments. Ostensibly is the appropriate term because the heads of the towns are among those approving the town expenditures.

What will be interesting to see in the coming days is how much road work Ocean Pines will do with the money they've already received.

From an outsider's point of view the only town that legitimately benefitted was Berlin, since they put a plan together that would spend as much money as the slots can generate for them over the coming decade.

Berlin bought some land and will use the bulk of the slot revenue to pay for a new community center and police station near the corner of Route 113 and Bay Street. This is an allowable and acceptable use of the slots funding.

Ocean Pines and the County have a particular problem that might not be as easy to fix. Both get an amount of road money from the State and the OPA gets additional funding from the County. If they start using slots money to fix roads there is a real and legitimate concern that they won't get as much funding as the economic recovery continues — or when it commences, depending upon your view.

Either way the people who are supposed to benefit from the infrastructure improvements might still have to wait while the authorities eye each other mistrustfully and the roads crumble.

Or not.

Here's hoping for the best.

WHAT IT WAS

After several months of preparation and promotion, the Salisbury Roller Girls made their debut to a packed house at the Crown Sports Center in Fruitland. In the ensuing months the sport attracted a legitimate following. The girls, no doubt, played up the sala-

Continued on Page 11

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 10

cious aspect of the sport, but in a tongue-in-cheek enough fashion that no one was really deterred from coming out.

No one except me. I try not to leave the house on Sundays, the dates of the bout, for any reason whatsoever.

In other leisure news from that week, Chickenstock Live! was announced to all sorts of media frenzy. The organizers managed to get Kenny Loggins and Dionne Warwick to headline.

## MUSH!

For the second March in a row we got a little insight into the exotic world of competitive sled dog racing as Ocean Pines resident Linda Powers announced that she had completed the 30 mile Can-Am Crown International Dog Sled Race.

It's more than just a big deal, though it certainly is that, it was also the fulfillment of years of hard work, dedication and training by dogs and musher alike.

Linda and her husband, Kevin tend to winter in the extreme north so they can work their dogs more often than they can in the balmy Februaries on Delmarva.

## TWO WAYS ABOUT IT

Here is the lede from the March 24 front page story on the OPA:

"The Ocean Pines Association board of directors last week decided to begin resolving the question of whether or not Carrollton Lane, which connects Yacht Club Drive to Ocean Parkway, should be a one way street."

This was written in March. After deciding definitively both ways — leaving it and changing it — the directors elected to have it be a two-way road. Work was completed in early December.

If you recall from several paragraphs ago, and here it is easy to assume that if you've made it this far you have a reasonably good attention span, it was suggested that Worcester County and Ocean Pines might not get along as well as could be hoped when it comes to decisions about what to do with which roads.

Connecting the dots in a mildly conspiratorial way, the transcripts that were made public as the county and the OPA punted this one road back and forth as to which of them had what powers to make decisions about it, getting together to get the roads in order seems a dicy proposition.

But maybe it's just me.

## Y.M.C.A.

The OPA, as it turns out, didn't have a much better March than did the Town of Berlin. After spending years and a serious chunk of money suing the Med-Delmarva Y.M.C.A. over land it felt rightly belonged to it, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals sided, as all the lower courts had, with the "Y".

Do you know who is really easy to get on the phone when you are a reporter? The lawyer representing the winning side of a lawsuit. The Y's lawyer, Robin Cockey, was forthcoming and helpful when it came to the decision and its implications.

Continued on Page 12



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Salisbury Roller Girls inaugural bout was Sunday, March 20 at the Crown Sports Center in Fruitland.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 11*

The only recourse left the OPA was an appeal to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state supreme court, and the association deemed the continued prosecution of the case not worth it.

SPEAKING OF NEW LAWS

Bryan Brushmiller got his brewery law passed at the state and county levels in March, officially clearing the way for me to write about my two favorite subjects: business development in Berlin and beer.

As a result I dropped by the brewery a lot, checking up on it because for both of the above reasons I wanted to break the story. The brewery wouldn't open for another five months but the party line and eventual inside joke became "Two Weeks" and remained so until Hurricane Irene hit.

SLOOF LIRPA

This year we came out on March 31 and decided to run our April Fool's Day feature then rather than wait the week.

Each year we run fake stories in the style of The Onion newspaper and can almost always count on someone to take the bait and call.

This year, however, we got our first angry letter over the matter. I'd written a satire about a guy who drove around all day following the speed limit precisely and calling the police on people who weren't.

The letter said that mocking the police for "just doing their jobs" was inappropriate for a newspaper.

What I didn't tell the woman was that this was a quasi true story.

I drive on the back roads to avoid the Route 50 speed traps and the only people who ever tailgate me are State Troopers who go nuts having to drive the speed limit and accelerate past me the first chance they get.

The irony is, both of us could easily do 65-70 mph safely on these long lonely stretches, but since only one of us can pull the other over for doing so, we both have to drive 48 mph instead.

The March 31 edition was the last paper Bayside Publishing put out. By the next week we were all working for Flag Publications, the company that owns the Ocean City Today, among other newspapers.



Thomas Melville, who was the editor of the Bayside Gazette for Bayside Publications didn't make the transition to the new company.

**Tweet of the Month:**

"It would be so cool to write public meetings as if they were entertainment reviews. Plus I'd know every conceivable synonym for tedious."

The primary upside to running a slimmed down office is that there is no need to cover things just because they are there. To that end the decision was made, and don't kid yourself I lobbied pretty hard for it, that news about the Worcester County Commissioners wasn't relevant enough to our readership to warrant meeting coverage.

GOODBYE

During the first week in March I was across the street at Women Supporting Women when coordinator Emily Karnbauer got the call that Eunice Sorin had taken a turn for the worse and would probably not survive the evening.

I was there to do a story about a cruise sponsored by CraZy LadyZ WSW was to benefit from. We were waiting on Jan Patterson-Hohoman, a partner in the West Ocean City women's boutique when Karnbauer got the call and was immediately reduced to sobs.

It was the kind of rare, intimate moment that for reasons of taste and objectivity tend not to be written about. Plus, only a total idiot would put the supposition of an imminent death in print.

Sorin lived another month and a half and her death was widely mourned in Northern Worcester County.

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

The most fulfilling part of my job — besides getting to vent in this Year in Review — is doing the brief profiles of locals who have done something interesting enough that someone thinks it is noteworthy and tells me about it.

Without getting too morose about it, many times I get an obituary, read some of the colorful lives people have led and think to myself, "I wish I'd had the chance to do a story on this person."

I'm not knocking the job the obit writers do by any means. I'm just pointing out that it would have been a lot cooler for the decedent if they'd had a chance to see in print how rich someone else thought their life was.

The point is phone and e-mail are free and I don't have anything better to do than to talk to people — it's kind of my job — so if you know someone who does or has done something other people will find interesting, reach out to the paper and I'll come out and take a listen.

That said, in April I got to do two such stories. One was on a recent graduate from Wor-Wic Community College, Dan Norris; a 50-something framer who

was pursuing his degree in history and won the Portz Award for outstanding honors student.

As a former non-traditional student with a handful of pointless degrees myself I could appreciate how earnest Norris was when he spoke about his love for learning and his respect for the professors.

The other fantastic story that fell into my lap in April was about a Bishopville man who was a heart transplant recipient. One of the frustrations about it, though, was there is a way better story about the person whose heart Allan Hooper is walking around with now.

I know it, I just can't tell it.

What I can say is that the person whose heart Hooper now has was a full donor. This means the donor saved dozens of other's lives as well and even restored someone's sight. There are tons of great stories and info on [www.donatelifemaryland.com](http://www.donatelifemaryland.com) and you would do well to check them out.

COVERAGE SHIFT

One of the aspects of Worcester County that I wasn't available to cover was high school sports. The super-short version is that there just aren't enough hours in the day to get all the other stuff done and still spend three or so hours at a high school sporting event.

Fortunately in April, baseball started and I was able to cover Berlin Little League, which is easier than high school baseball because I just had to take a photo and call the coaches the next day for the score. The guys at the Berlin Little League were quite cooperative and as a result they got a ton of coverage.

Not only that, but as luck would have it, the Berlin Little League would go really far in the All Star Tournament and thanks to the coaches, we were kept up to date on their progress.

But more on that later.

I am no sports photographer, but I did get several good shots of kids playing baseball this summer. Little League sports photography should be a specialty though because your knowledge of the sport can actually hurt you.

One of my fondest memories of covering the Berlin Little League this year:

It was in the middle innings, there were bases loaded, no outs and a dribbler was hit down the third base line. I stood down the first base line — they were always kind enough to give me field access — and had already had my camera trained on home for just this situation. I knew it would be really cool to get a shot of a play at the plate.

Unfortunately, the thing about Little League is that the players are still learning the fundamentals and as a result the third baseman scooped the ball up and threw it to first to both mine and the coach's chagrin.

*Continued on Page 13*

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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 12*

For now, suffice it to say that I reached out to both of the local high schools to see if they had any budding sports writers available and sat back and waited.

Merle Marsh, from Worcester Prep said she has someone in mind for the fall but not the summer. Mary Berquist said she had someone in mind for both the summer and the fall.

FACILITIES PLANNING

This is a story that took all year to play out and when it did the solution was essentially that it will take all next year to play out.

Bob Thompson deserves a lot of credit and does a wonderful job but after six years covering the OPA I've learned something: the board of directors, no matter what they say to the contrary, do not want the association run like a business. They want it run like THEIR business.

This is a problem, since the board changes every 25 minutes or so according to the bylaws.

Additionally, there are a number of full time residents who also want the OPA run like THEIR business as opposed to A business.

So, (and no one especially Thompson would ever really admit to this) the General Managers job is to try and run the OPA like a business in spite of the business owners.

Thompson's successes so far have been as a direct result of his ability to juggle what ought to be done with the conflicting and often contradictory wishes of the, let's say, 450 or so owners who take an active interest in the way the place is run.

I think the best example of getting things done in spite of the ownership was the Facilities Planning Group.

It's weird, but no one cares that the OPA has other contractors advising the GM as long as they are overpaid to do so. But the minute a group of experts stands up and says they will advise for free, it becomes a conspiracy and a power grab or whatever the accusations about the FPG were.

People actually threatened to sue over the matter.

So Thompson gets credit for underplaying it and — for all the cheap shots I've already taken — the board gets credit for having the courage to give him a free hand.

Anyway, the FPG got to work in the spring. We'll have to wait another couple of pages to talk about their findings and the implications thereof but for now we'll just call it a chance worth taking and leave it at that.



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Catcher Stephen Bontempo blocks the plate but can't prevent a run as the ball comes in late during one of the many exciting games in what turned out to be a historic season for the Berlin Little League.

ALSO:

It is impossible to communicate how uninteresting the LCB/BLC distinction is. I wrote (apparently) a longish story about their structure and plans but frankly can't bring myself to read it. So the BLC did something quasi-newsworthy in April.

In fact, as I go through the year it's interesting to see how many "big" stories went nowhere. There have been several I skipped already just because I knew that they ended up having no legs.



Tweet of the month:  
"The best thing about being a reporter is you never have to clap."

I feel as if I have to defend myself on this one. When a kid is getting an award — or really when a kid is involved in any way doing something neat — I clap just like everybody else because I'm a human

and have empathy.

But.

I (we, really, I had a lot of colleagues reply to me agreeing wholeheartedly) hate hearing an "official" speak and double hate when they take a break to allow for applause. As if being a public official doesn't tend to make a person self-serving enough, when a speaker extends the spaces between their talking points to allow for applause I want to un-applause.

I've tried un-applauding, which isn't really possible.

Anyway, I don't have to clap and being excused from that social norm makes me (and a lot of other reporters, I swear) really, really happy.

SCHOOL DAYS

May is the time when it gets to cutting school budgets. After three years of watching the poorly-contrived show wherein the Commissioners pretend to like the schools and the Board of Education pretends to like the Commissioners it was a blessing not to be too involved in the controversy.

But what really, really irked me — and I frankly don't know how I keep confusing public officials with being good people — was to hear Commissioner Virgil Shockley, who happens to be a school bus driver when he's not being a successful chicken farmer, or politician, complain about proposed cuts to the transportation budget.

No books aren't a problem because, really, how much has changed about math since last year? But when you start talking about not increasing the trans-

portation budget when you know how much gas is costing two of the Worcester County Commissioners, it borders on insulting.

Have I mentioned how little I miss watching all this go down each year? Good thing there aren't any other people — cafeteria workers, for instance, who make money from the board of education budget on the Commission or the schools would have to be closed to make sure that all the service people maintained their livelihoods without interruption.

BEER FOR STRANGERS

For the last several years I've had a podcast — kind of an Internet radio show — that I've run in conjunction with the paper. About one per year we did a broadcast calling for the easing of the open container laws in Berlin.

Unfortunately, the only public officials who listen regularly, as I understand it, are members of the Berlin Historic Commission so we can't take any credit for affecting the change in the law we'll talk about as the year comes to a close.

The only reason I even brought the fact up was because about three years ago, we had on Raquel Orsini to talk about the Berlin Jazz and Blues Bash. There were several problems with the event that we addressed on this podcast no one was really listening to.

The main problem was that there was what I called at the time and anti-Globe public stance on beer in the streets.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 13*

Another problem was that the events started and ended outrageously early. It was as if the plan was to get people to come to town after breakfast and let them leave before lunch. Moreover, May or not, it was generally stiflingly hot during the event.

This year the pushed the start time back, which increased attendance a tad but more importantly, increased patronage at the local shops and restaurants significantly.

This year there will almost certainly be beer. Of course there was beer and other alcohol on the street last time, just not legally.

IF THEY DON'T WIN...

it doesn't really matter. Another aspect of being sports-reporter-less was that I would occasionally cruise by the Shorebirds Stadium to cover the games not only for copy but also — I gotta confess — to hang out in the press box.

First of all, they feed you, which is cool. While I never took advantage of the food the provided because of certain dietary restrictions that are even more boring than this sentence, the fact that it was there was cool enough for me.

Second of all the behind the scenes stuff that's involved with actually running a game is as fascinating as anyone could want it to be.

The only problem with my coverage was that, just as I was too advanced in my baseball knowledge to effectively shoot Little League I didn't have the kind of knowledge required to effectively write baseball game stories.

For example, I'm a Mets fan so obviously don't know that much about baseball.

What baseball I do bother to follow before the Mets disgust me too much to continue, is National League.

So try as I might I didn't have the time to devote to learning the Orioles organization and just settled for feature stories about up-and-comers, which were still worth reading.

Another bald-faced pitch for stories: If you and some friends are season ticket holders or members of the Silver Sluggers package program, gimme a holler because I'd like to get a sotry about that aspect of the Shorebirds.

STEP RIGHT UP

There ain't nothin' like a geek, nothin' in the world.

While Spring Bike Week was getting organized, Bobby Riccio at Oasis decided to take advantage of the fact that his was already a pretty popular biker bar and hole his own hub style event. In addition to bands and women in various states of undress, he signed up the Scarborough Sideshow, a full-on, old timey geek performance group.

Chris Scarborough and his emcee and cohort Dangerous D performed all the old classics — eating glass, spitting flames, having cinder blocks broken with a sledgehammer on their prone bodies.

You know, the things that counted as good old family fun after public hangings were banned.

In order to earn a few extra bucks, and bring something different to the table, Scarborough ended his show by collecting tips. But rather than passing the hat, he walked around and encouraged people to staple bills to his bare chest.

I got a great shot of it that you probably won't see because it is really just too horrific.

As I understand it, though, he'll be back this year so mark your calendars.

SEWER RATES RISE...

in Berlin. There's really not much more to say than that.

HIGHER THAN A KITE

In preparation for their grand opening, Jolly Roger's Speedworld had a press event to promote their new zipline attraction. Now, I'm not what you would call zipline-sized, so I didn't take part in the actual riding, but watching was almost as much fun.

In addition to my then-fellow employee Christine Cullen, and now-boss Stuart Dobson, there were all sorts of political bigwigs from Ocean City riding the lines and having a blast.

I guess it is appropriate to mention at this point that, as I don't cover Ocean City generally, I know very little about their politicians, except for the fact that some of them have ziplined. I still sleep well, believe it or not.



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Chris Scarborough fires flame into the sky during Spring Bike Week at Oasis Bar and Gill in Whaleyville.

Susan Jones and Mary Knight were my main photo subjects for the day. Not only because they are more photogenic than Mayor Rick Meehan (no offense, your Honor) but also because they went first and, frankly, ziplining isn't much of a spectator sport unless there are obstacles like alligator pits or such.

CONGRATULATIONS

At some point over the summer I got new business cards indicating I was now the editor of the Bayside Gazette, which was cool. Until then I'd been fielding the phone calls directed to the editor. We get important calls, too, often involving the details of an e-mail we'd deleted as pointless months before.

But I'd also get the occasional complaint. Once there was screaming and threats but for the most part people were kind as I found (and continue to find) my feet. So thanks for that, guys.

YAY!

Next to not having to clap, the best thing about being a reporter is you can call pretty much anyone and ask them pretty much anything and get an answer.

I feel as if this is an important part of the public service community papers like our provide and no one else, really, does.

Although I wasn't really perplexed or interested at first, I started getting calls and e-mails about purple "kites" in trees around the area.

To be fair, if they were Homeland Security monitoring devices it wouldn't have been as easy to get a handle on the story, but a quick call to the State Highway Administration led me to the Department of Natural Resources where I — and you, if you got a chance to catch

the ensuing article — learned way more about the ash borer scourge than most people.

The "kites" were traps, and the traps were empty, and the emptiness indicated that the ash borer, which is causing all sorts of horticultural trouble across the Bay, remains a Western Shore Issue.

And so, a quick PSA:

Take the warnings about traveling with firewood seriously. Buy it where you burn it.

If you're an entrepreneur with a ton of land, consider planting some ash trees. If the Eastern Shore remains ash borer free it could become the country's top baseball bat producer in the coming decades.

MAJOR MAJOR MINOR

The running joke is that Berlin got a house band when they debuted the all-school-kid group Major Major Minor at the inaugural May Day Play Day. Wedged neatly between the Jazz and Blues Bash and the Fiddlers' Convention, May Day Play Day was conceived as a rock festival and it went over swimmingly.

Major Major Minor would return later in the year for Octoberfest (more on that after September) earning them the title house band. The title was bestowed by Todd DeHart and since he's not Mayor of Berlin (just yet), I don't think it counts.

RAISING THE BAR

Earlier I mentioned that much of the time I don't agree with Berlin Councilwoman Paula Lynch's arguments. This is because I'm generally not very worried about fiscal things and she is. It's what

*Continued on Page 15*

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YEAR IN REVIEW



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Susan Jones flies high above Jolly Rogers as Speedworld introduced its zipline attraction.

Continued from Page 14  
she is good at.

So when Lynch voted with the majority to give the Town of Berlin employees a pay raise, that really should have settled the matter.

It is not an overstatement to point out that if Lynch endorses any payout whatsoever the math behind it is likely unsalvageable.

The really disturbing thing about the meeting were the number of people who were against giving the staff raises, not based on the fact that they weren't deserved or that they couldn't be afforded but merely on the fact that most people aren't getting raises nowadays.

The amount of money that the town staff saved, plus the revenue that they help to generate by facilitating all of the festivals and other public events is astronomical and it would have been a crime to tell them that there will never be a reward for their efficiency because other, less efficient businesses and governments continue to do things poorly.

The following is not a cheap shot:  
If even Paula Lynch sees that, it's obviously a fact.

IRRESPONSIBLE?

Speaking of efficiency issues, as I page through my reporting on the Ocean Pines Association, I'm beginning to feel as if it is wrong to ever report what happened at a given meeting as more than a temporary fact.

In May, after hours of debate, the board of directors voted to continue Carrollton Lane a "true one-way street." Ugh.

It occurs to me that I've used recalcitrant a lot in this Year in Review. Broadly, it could be said that rather than a

Democracy we live in a Recalcitrancy.  
The decision was an open punishment to the dissenters who didn't want the street made into a two-way street.  
The notion behind it was to make those against the two-way street so miserable and inconvenienced that they would relent. How this counts as responsible decision making when dealing with people over the age of four I will never know.

But I guess it's easier than making what you think is the right decision and standing by it.

DONE ON PRINCIPAL

Although they tend to be my specialty, the header here is not a typo. At the end of May I had the privilege of meeting, Mrs. Stroh, who was the first administrator of Showell Elementary and the person most kids who grew up in the area think of when they hear the word principal.

She created "Willit the Sandpiper" the schools mascot, about whom she also wrote a story. Each September from the late 70s through the early 1900s she read the story to the incoming Kindergarten class as a way of making them feel welcome and a part of something bigger than themselves.

This year, she had the book republished and donated it to the school for them to use as a fundraising tool.

A LITTLE JUSTICE

Alli Justice, former SDHS student athlete, was recommended by Mary Burquist for an internship at the paper and made her debut in May covering her alma mater's baseball team.

She spent her summer covering all  
Continued on Page 16

# Celebrate NEW YEAR'S EVE in Berlin

## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

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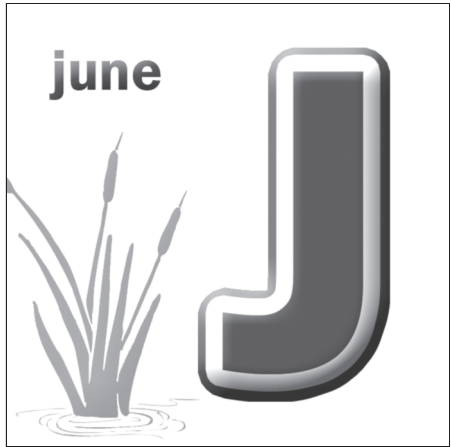
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YEAR IN REVIEW

sorts of sporting events and even did some news features. It was a pleasure to have her and people seemed to get a kick out of her stories, so everybody won.



**Tweet of the month:**  
“I’m pretty sure covering local politics has given me intellectual cancer. Who can I sue?”

One of the fun parts of going back and correlating the tweets with their stories when possible is that sometimes I

*Continued from Page 15*  
can’t tell what event I was referencing. This one was selected, in fact, on that basis.

The headlines from the June 9 paper are as follows:

“HDC closes hotel windows debate/Williams expresses hope that future renovation fights are avoided”

And  
“Commissioners pass \$163.5 million budget/Still no solution on proposed Solid Waste fee increase”

And  
“Liquor Board settles up”  
It was the perfect storm of government wasting my time and your money on continuing pointlessness. Also, I was getting a little burned out by June.

REAL PUBLIC SERVICE

But fortunately, sometimes good stories happen just in time to keep you from going mad.

I don’t remember who threw me this story — thank you though — but someone put me on to Ryan Daniel, a returning vet who was awarded the Bronze Star for his work in Afghanistan.

If you have read this far and wondered why my hatred is so deep for people who take taxpayer money to sit around and complain about how hard it is to govern, it’s because every few months I run into someone like Daniel or one of his fellows who serves or has served this country practically and for real.

Daniel was awarded the Bronze Star for, of all things, his political prowess. He helped the Afghani villages he dealt with build more sustainable economies, viable police forces, and eventually winning enough of the elders’ trust that he was able to provide valuable intelligence to the higher-ups and still maintain the re-



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Any child who attended Showell Elementary between 1976 and 1992 is familiar with The Tale of Willit written by then-principal Wilda Stroh.

lationships he built.

Although it was technically an end of May story, the Memorial Day Service at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines was in a June paper. Although the ceremonies don’t often change radically from year to year, the fact of the event never gets stale.

This, again, is because the focus is al-

ways on the kind of pure things — loyalty, respect, patriotism — that make a difference in both the country’s history and the experience of its citizens.


THE NEW MIGRANTS

Throughout the summer we ran a series called “Buy Local”. The phraseology  
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 16

troubled Mark Huey, the paper’s graphic artist, who felt it should have been “Buy Locally”. Buy Local is a kind of short hand for buy local X where “X” is corn, or meat or toys or whatever. We focussed on sustainable agriculture profiling the people who sell at Farmer’s Markets and other local producers.

Among the highlights was a story on college kids who work organic farms during the summer for food and shelter. It’s kind of like a domestic Peace Corps except they go to learn to grow things rather than to teach people how to grow things.

Christie McDowell, who owns The Good Farm was a great source for these stories. She had several of the migrants and some made for better stories than others. The story I got, as it turned out, wasn’t the best one.

There was another collective — a boy and a girl in their very, very early 20s —

who were traveling around the country playing hyper avant garde music and working on organic farms. It was the funkiest tour any band had ever been on.

They were making their way to De-troit where they expected to squat with other avant garde artists in one of the hundreds of abandoned factories. He played the guitar and she the bass drum and various wind chimey instruments.

My story was on a couple of spoiled kids from D.C. who obviously regretted their decision to work with their hands immediately. As it turns out, working in the sun for 12 hours a day is better left to the Joads.

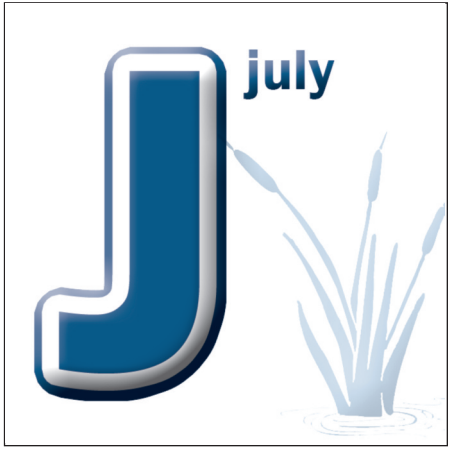
Even more colorful than the traveling mistrals, though, was the Egg Man Bob Harrison. For years a staple at the Berlin Farmers Market he built in Whaleyville a self-described Taj Mahal chicken coop.

He prides himself in the care he takes of his birds and in the superior quality of the eggs they produce in return. He has

regular customers who seek him out either at his Whaleyville stand or at the Berlin Farmers Market.

I heard he’s given up his spot at the market but not why. He’s been having run-ins with the powers that be. It’s odd to think of “powers that be” at a Farmers Market but what are you going to do?

To hear him tell it — and I haven’t heard it from him alone — there is something sinister afoot at the Farmers Market. Maybe I’ll do an investigative report for the spring.



Tweet of the Month

Safety file: “Lightning is Extremely Dangerous on the Beach” <--falling is extremely dangerous from great heights

There was a link to a newspaper story attached to that. I won’t say which paper and will not throw the first stone when it come to fatuous headlines. But it really amused me and I thought it would

amuse you.

July was brutal and I remember pretty little of it but according to the Bayside Gazette tons of things happened in July.

One of the things that happened is the ladies at Baked Desserts were homlessed — a phrase I’ve coined — and had to re-group. Because they are who they are, they did it in style.

If you told Robin Tomaselli and Shelly Eppard that losing the lease on their Main Street shop would have been among their biggest turns of fortune they would have, let’s say, disagreed. In April they celebrated their first year in business as Baked Dessert Cafe but would be looking for a space before too long.

Still, they celebrated their first anniversary in April by supporting one of the local food banks with a canned food drive. Spring isn’t the time of year when the food banks get their heaviest amount of support so the ladies at Baked decided that inducing people to donate with the promise of cupcakes was a good way to help get the food banks back on people’s minds.

Some people just attract good.

So when they took over Patrick Henry’s old Bay Street Studio, there was a ton of concern that they would be hard to find. They weren’t, as it turned out. Since Baked Desserts is both active in local charities as well as highly visible participants in things such as the 2nd Friday Art Stroll, the Peach Festival and Halloween no one assumed they just

Continued on Page 19



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YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 18*  
walked away from their business.

The new place has plenty more space and their menu expanded to meet the Downtown demand. So things went well enough for them.

Also, they caused a significant amount of controversy when they won the....

BATHTUB RACES

They won in a canoe which is where the controversy began. How a canoe on wheels — the canoe was provided by their team partner Ayers Creek Adventures — is somehow less a tub than a beer cask on wheels is difficult to tell.

Two other more significant things occurred at the Bathtub Races.

The first was that Greg David, of the Globe, had his first big win, beating Jeffery Auxer and sparking a rivalry that would spill over into the Peach Pie Eating Contest in August.

The second was that Bryan Brushmiller, who finished poorly in the race, had a conversation with one of the local fire marshals resulting in his being able to open the brewery he'd envisioned a little sooner.

Technically, the glass behind the bar is supposed to be smaller, or laced with wire in case of fire. The safety official in question bumped into Brushmiller not long before his race began and hipped him to a roll down fire suppression system that would let him keep the glass he already had in place.

MORE OF THE SAME

The big political hooaha of the month was probably the Bay Bridge Toll Hike.

Here's a little Eastern Shore math for you: Ocean City bumps its hotel tax with no change in tourism. The state bumps the toll rate and all of a sudden people are going to stop "goin' down the oshun, hon."

Course they will.

Maybe it's just because I stopped expecting something for nothing long ago, or possibly it has to do with the fact that, since I'm not from here I don't see any difference between the local political

crooks and the state political crooks.

I don't know why politicians wanting more money to do less with even counts as news anymore.

But there were a lot of people there and they were upset.

The Town of Berlin started drawing up rules for getting landlords to comply with the courteous behavior normal people have.

!!!SPOILER ALERT!!!

They did it, but it took until late October. I had to find a hundred different way to write "Landlord rules" into headlines. It was almost as tedious as the process itself.

LEGLESS

Earlier I mentioned that stories that I thought would have legs turned out to not.

The big one in July was a rash of misplacing at stores all over the state. Staples was caught and fined but it appeared as if it was an accident and, given that no further reports were issued, it is likely that it went away.

There were Western Shore stores, however, that seemed to mis-price more than they paid in fines. Someone oughta look into that.

THE CANDIDATE

When Dan Stachurski announced he would seek a seat on the OPA Board of Directors I did a kind of mental double take.

First off, and to be fair, I thought he did a good job as a director back when I first started with the paper, but I was under the impression that his neighbors hadn't been too thrilled with his performance. We'll talk about this more later.

NO PLEASURE CRUISE

The big story from July, though, bigger than the dollar toll increase or the new grass height proposal, bigger even than the Bathtub Races was the Berlin Little Leaguers winning the State Championship for the first time in 50 years.

The team was primed and on a roll but suffered defeat in the Rhode Island

regional tournament finals. It was a heck of a run though and the boys, their parents and the town were understandably proud.

In fact...



**Tweet of the Month**  
"Officials at the Berlin Peach Festival continue to maintain the rain is about to stop."

They were so proud, the town gave the Berlin Little Leaguers a prime spot in the Annual Peach Festival. The festival began with a parade and an awards ceremony.

Then the rain started.

For the first few hours the weather held out hope that there would be some relief but the precipitation was relentless. My daughter, Melissa, won the adult Peach Pie Eating Contest, which was pretty cool.

The biggest deal of the day, though, was the Celebrity Peach Pie Eating Contest — the eaters, not the pies, were celebrities.

In the interest of adding a little zest to the proceedings, Greg David, of the Globe and local glass studio artist Jeffery Auxer (neither the studio nor the artist is glass) had been fomenting a rivalry ever since the Bathtub Races.

Both men, as we say in the Todcast, had their irony hats on and the really had fun with the entire process. Neither won, which was the biggest surprise of all. In fact, it wasn't even that close. Joe Wink, who was representing the Coconut Bay Trading Company, bested them both.

LITTLE CHICO

Nice story this month as a local kid had his first big art opening at the Baked Dessert Cafe and Gallery. Little Chico is both a student and a bit of an acolyte of Patrick Henry and so was honored to be showing next to him at the 2nd Friday Art Stroll. A ton of people came out to the show.

If you're looking to catch up with his work he has stuff on permanent display at the Six-Eleven Gallery near Trader Lee's in West Ocean City.

AND THE WINNERS ARE

In the OPA Board of Directors election, Stachurski didn't just win, he did so convincingly getting nearly 300 more votes than the second place finisher.

The board members — Stachurski, Terri Mohr and Bill Wentworth — were all elected pretty convincingly.

And that's something worth remembering.

I was at a function several years ago, maybe as many as five, and I ran into some casual friends for whom I had a significant amount of intellectual respect. I told them about my new job covering Ocean Pines and they quickly made it clear that they "weren't like that".

Here's something I've learned over the past six years covering Ocean Pines — none of the people there are "like that" the meetings just sometimes get a little frenzied. People sometimes suffer a momentary loss of perspective.

I have yet to meet a boardmember away from the meeting and not find them charming and lucid. Maybe there's something in the coffee.

Anyway, I write this or something similar every year. I feel as if you get the point.

**Tweet of the Month runner-up:**  
"MACo=All the least interesting aspects of public life under one roof."

MACo stands for the Maryland Association of Counties and they hold a meeting annually in Ocean City. It's weird, they never hold it in the winter when the rates are down, but hell — it's

*Continued on Page 20*

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 19  
not as if they're paying the bills.

Anyway, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center is packed with all the most exciting talks on stormwater management, planning, zoning, etc.

That is not what we're here to talk about.

Since MACo occurs every summer we get at least the one gubernatorial visit. Gov. Martin O'Malley, it must be said, seems to genuinely like it here. I get that impression because he's one of the few politicians that (I didn't put "who" on purpose) comes to town and has no press event.

And, since he can always be counted upon to be here for MACo Berlin tends to plan accordingly.

Although it had been open for some time, the new Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center had its grand opening and ribbon cutting when O'Malley was down for MACo.

DISCLOSURE

My boss, Elaine Brady, is now the Chamber president and had a part in securing and conceiving of the building. I don't know how much of a part.

RETURN TO STORY

I would still gush about the genius of the new Berlin Visitors Center because I'm a "spade a spade" kind of guy and also, anything that helps Berlin is OK in my book.

The building, in addition to having all the information a stranger needs and tons of informations locals need but don't know it yet, has six artist studios and had become an anchor for the revitalization of South Main Street.

More on that in November.  
After the ribbon cutting O'Malley swung by the just-about-to-open Burley Oak Brewery. The story of the opening is pretty epic but the fact that it eventually opened and has since been wildly successful is the other boon for Berlin.

It's amazing how long the building took to prepare and even more amazing, given the obstacles — including the need for new laws and the special building requirements — that it opened at all.

My biggest concern, however, was that the beer wouldn't be any good. I'd been covering the progress all year and even into the previous year. I'd become pretty friendly with the owner and didn't want to have to tell him that I didn't like his beer.

He had two on tap for O'Malley's visit



and neither of them were world beaters but both were acceptable. I discovered later that they were rush jobs, the precursors to the fantastic beers Burley Oak produces daily now.

But I'm gushing.

**Tweet of the Month:**  
"Just got the nicest compliment on my radio show. Take THAT @bryanrusso #vindication"

Mrs. Russo had a really crappy day so I invited her to join me in Berlin where I was going to cover the 2nd Friday Art Stroll. We met at the Atlantic Hotel for a drink and a snack and a little decompression.

Upon hearing who I was one of the staff members complemented me on my radio show. I have no radio show.

Bryan Russo, who used to cover Ocean City, does have a radio show. He works for NPR doing a magazine style public affairs show called Coastal Connection noon Fridays on 88.3.

We've become friendly over the years mainly because people tend to confuse us because of our complicated, foreign-sounding last names. It's become kind of a running joke.

The Pizza King of Ocean City's name is also Tony Russo. For awhile I went through an ultra-obnoxious phase wherein I'd introduce myself as "Tony Russo, no relation" to preempt the follow up question. It became a little too contrived so I knocked it off. Now I just answer the inevitable question.

I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS

Hurricane Irene. Yeah.  
I've said it before and I'll say it again. Mandatory evacuation for residents should never be done so far in advance. It costs credibility.

I'm from New Jersey and you know how we and pretty much any rational people along the Mid-Atlantic Coast decide whether to evacuate or not? We see what happens in North Carolina.

It made sense and a ton of it for the Town of Ocean City to cut the students and the tourists loose in a better safe than sorry kind of way. But if you came and kick me out of my house, if you shut off the sewer so as to make it unlivable just because I don't want to hop on the panic train with you a week in advance it's gonna be a tough sell next time if nothing happens.

By tough sell I mean, bring guns.  
On the upside the gods showed their disfavor with Ocean City's decision by sending a tornado followed by an earthquake. Hopefully they got the hint.

HURRICANE PARTY

Fortunately, Berlin didn't shut off the sewer and in a story that you'll have to hear elsewhere, Bryan Brushmiller finagled a certificate of occupancy and opened Burley Oak officially just as Irene came rolling in.

I didn't make the opening party but I heard it was worth attending.

FOND FAREWELL

We lost Ed Hammond in September

to a car accident. If you didn't know him he was a really likable guy. He wrote his own obituary and I ran it unchanged even though I remain firmly in the Burleigh camp.

There is some debate about whether the Town is named after the Burley Inn or the Burleigh Inn. Both names appear in the historical records and since the language hadn't been standardized yet it caused some debate. Hammond took the debate seriously enough and was an ironic enough person to include his position on the name in his obituary where no one could ever dispute it. That fact alone sent him up 20 fondness points in my estimation.

FOND HELLO

Casey Knerr, a Worcester Prep junior, came on in September as our sports intern. She is 17 and enthusiastic about her work. Over the past few months she's really started to come into her own. Recently Knerr has started writing news and lifestyle features as well, so keep an eye out for her at the AGH Penguin Swim.

Speaking of interns, Alli Justice returned in September to profile a NYFD member who retired just before 911 and lost a great deal of his former colleagues in the terrorist attack.

For her part, Knerr covered the Ocean Pines remembrance ceremony very well and got her first front page photo and story and the odd compliment from readers, which is always so cool.

BTW

If you've made it this far, thanks for reading.

GO FIGURE

Someone missed their annual sacrifice because not only did the rain plague the Peach Festival, it also plagued the Berlin Fiddlers Convention.

In the preview story I spoke with the Lilley-Billies, a group of local kids who perform in the group category each year hoping to win.

The kids perform under the direction of their sister Monika Lilley, who owns and runs the Upper Room Studio in Berlin.

The Lilley's also sponsor Farm Day each year concomitant to the Jazz and Blues Bash and are photogenic and friendly enough that I can always get a story out of them at the last minute.

OH OH OH oPA

In my mind, you knew to sing the header so I just added the lowercase as a suggested stress point.

Although I haven't been covering Ocean Pines as long as (I think) three other reporters on the beat, I have attended more meetings than any non-member, possibly in the history of Ocean Pines.

I have written about and/or attended

nearly every meeting in the last six years including Town Hall meetings, the annual MediaCom bloodbath and, for a tragic year or so, the work session meetings that were different from the actual meetings but just as long and even less productive.

As the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Country Club and Golf Course debate begins in earnest and will almost certainly be a recurring theme in in 2012 unless the world blessedly comes to an end, it is useful to look at the dismissal of Joe Reinhart in September and make some significant insinuations that are not quite unfounded but do not admit of demonstrable facts.

When it was suggested that Billy Casper Golf (BCG) be contracted to run the food and beverage operations as well as the golf there was a huge uproar and dozens of people came out against the notion worried that the very popular Joe Reinhart would lose his job.

The prevailing notion was that Reinhart had never been given the proper opportunities and, if given a free hand, he would do wonders for the Yacht Club operations. The board relented, costs spun out of control and Reinhart was dismissed.

Going forward, it is important to separate what is comfortable for the few regulars at the Yacht Club — and, brace yourselves, the Gold Course — and look at what is best for the thousands of members who not only can't or don't attend the 9 a.m. Wednesday meetings but who also continue to pay so a vast minority don't have to accept change.

We'll just leave it there.

SPEAKING OF SAVVY

I have teased both Bob Thompson and OPA Marketing Director Teresa Travatello about the board's decision to become more news friendly and ruin what I called my pajama time. Up until last this year, the OPA Board of Directors met on Wednesday missing the deadlines of the two most widely distributed papers in the Pines — the Bayside Gazette and the other one, um... you know, the Gannett one.

Anyway. This appealed to my lazy side as I could decide either to try and hold space on Wednesday morning — which took an amount of convincing before I was editor and impossible afterwards — or I could watch the video in my pajamas during the week and report on the meeting a full week late.

This was always a bit of an irritant to me, except for the pajama part, because the fact is people do tend to count upon this paper for objective board news that is also somewhat readable.

Now they meet on Tuesday and as a result when Ocean Pines residents get their paper delivered not too much time has passed since the meeting and the report on it. Sometimes I have to do some followup the next week because of time

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 20

and or space constraints, but for the most part, the change in meetings has made my reporting much more relevant which is cool.

Maybe I'll just attend the meetings in my pajamas and split the difference. Probably not.



Tweet of the Month:  
“How much beer can I drink responsibly? Let's find out.”

Berlin had an Octoberfest, which we'll get to in a minute, but the above tweet was referencing the Good Beer Festival, held on my birthday weekend in Pemberton Park. As far as I can tell it is one of the purely good things that happens in Wicomico County annually. It draws thousands of people and dozens of beer and food vendors. Also, they show all the football games on Sunday. Wow.

**GIMME A “C”**

In an effort, I guess, to be able to distinguish themselves from the other Oktoberfests, Berlin decided to go with Octoberfest for their inaugural year. What really distinguished them, however, was the fact that the local brewery, Burley Oak, had created a beer especially for the event. It was super accessible so that anyone who was worried about craft beer being too strong or too complex had their fears allayed.

For his part, the owner Bryan Brushmiller, was coaching his daughter's soccer team and arrived embarrassed and a bit late. But the team won, so it was cool with everyone.

Also they rant through twice the beer they'd anticipated and eventually ran out of beer. So much for overcoming the craft beer fear factor.

The most important thing to come out of the event was the confusion over who could drink where. Over the next few months

**!!!SPOILER!!!**

the Town would consider this problem as it move to and eventually enacted legislation to occasionally suspend open container laws.

Fiddlers, and all the other street fairs are going to get a lot better attended. You heard it here first. Also, I predict there will be no riots or even untoward behavior as a result of the change.

Continued on Page 23

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OPINION

BAYSIDE

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

Independently Owned

ELAINE BRADY

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MARK HUEY

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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STAFF WRITER

TONY RUSSO

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Happy to be Downtown  
in time for the New Year

As the paper looks back this week on the major stories we covered in 2011 it seems appropriate to reflect on the paper's year as well.

On April 1, the Bayside Gazette was bought by Ocean City Today. It was a good move then and one that has proved successful for us and for our advertisers. The merger allowed us to offer targeted coverage to the Ocean City and bayside business communities, providing advertisers with saturation coverage in their prime market areas.

As part of the new approach it only seemed appropriate that we find a place closer to the heart of Berlin. After some searching, we found a new home on South Main Street where we've already found better ways to connect to the community.

In addition to being able to respond more quickly to Town happenings, the Bayside Gazette is one of the many storefronts lit up for the 2nd Friday Art Stroll event each month.

Moreover, in addition to having a nice warm place to watch the Christmas Parade, we look forward to being good hosts for all of the annual events, from the Spring Celebration to the Fiddlers Convention.

The office has become what we hoped it would be – a place for people to stop by and chat, pass along some local news and give us an opportunity to keep connected to the community.

That's what a community newspaper is all about – connecting people to the places that they live.

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HAPPY HOUR: It was huge.

**By Tony Russo**

Mark Huey made a terrible mistake. The Bayside Gazette graphic designer was in the office this week while I was preparing for the big "Year in Review" Todcast and told me he thought it was canceled since Todd DeHart, my co-host, had been out of town.

The next thing he knew, he was co-hosting the Todcast at Burley Oak, sipping his root beer and giving one word answers to my leading questions.

Example:

Me: "I know you're kind of into the extreme sport scene, what was it like to get the opportunity to shoot the Dew Tour?"

Him: "It was huge."

Me:....

Him:...

By now I've edited out all the dead air but since he wasn't prepared to be the co-host and since he doesn't do a podcast every week, the first few minutes were a little awkward until he found his feet. After that, it was actually a pretty good show.

Since it was a Year in Review, though and since the paper is already filled with a Year in Review, rather than break down the highlights as I usually do here, I'll give the State of the Todcast.

The State of the Todcast is returning to normal. It's been a wobbly month for us and we're still working on the live streaming aspect of it but we should be back to our old selves again by Tuesday and have new site, format and all sorts of cool stuff to speak about by February.

When we started in April, there was a lot of dead air and "ums" and disorganization but over the ensuing months — and especially since finding a home at Burley Oak Brewery, we've really hit our stride and can be counted upon to produce a listenable show every week.

We've grown to just about 300 listeners per week and a lot of them are regulars and listen to the show the whole way through.

In this week's State of the Beer, Bryan Brushmiller said he's got a ton of plans for their big New Years Eve party. He said he doesn't expect to have a ton of people until after the Ball Drop but insists he'll be open as late (early?) as legally possible and looks forward to kicking off the New Year in a big way.

As for us, we'll keep plugging along and hope to be more interactive as the year goes on. We might even have a party for our 53rd show in April, so stay tuned and have a happy and safe new year.

Feel free to join us 6 p.m. each Tuesday for the Happy Hour Todcast at Burley Oak Brewery. If something tragic keeps you from coming out, you can always check out the resulting recording Thursday afternoon by subscribing on iTunes. Just type GCFL into the search bar at the iTunes store to subscribe. We're now also on the Stitcher app, which smart phone users can download free using the promo code 'Todcast' and have the show streamed directly to their phones. Fair warning before you listen: Put on your irony hats, kids. It's all in good clean fun.

Please send all letters, notices, and community announcements to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday to make sure your ideas and events are printed.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 21

CHEF PAUL

The author of each week’s cuisine column is kind of a big deal, but he doesn’t like to talk about it really. While it fits his personality sometimes it can be a little frustrating to receive press releases about his awards, or him being invited to cook at the Presidential Inauguration, or any of the hundred things he’s done and been recognized for.

Earlier this year (in April) he won “The Presidents Medallion, for his skills and service and was only the 43rd person to have this honor bestowed upon him.

In September, not long after the staff member misidentified my as Bryan Russo, Chef Leo D’Aleo sidled up to me at the bar with a story idea. He and some of the staff at Worcester Technical High School had just been recognized for a program wherein they take special education students and give them jobs to see if they are interested in the food industry.

As a result of this conversation, I ran a story in October about Craig Mason, who could easily be the poster boy for the transition from special ed to the workforce.

Open and successful as a prep cook

his bosses think he does a fantastic job and his coworkers are always pleased to be in his company.

Two guesses who is teacher is. I made an appointment to go see Paul in his office at Worcester Tech. While I was there he finally broke down and gave me a news tip: he’d be participating in the Tough Mudder Event in Englishtown N.J. in support of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Paul served as a Marine and lost his brother to the war in Afghanistan in 2006. He has been a major, if quiet, supporter of veterans programs for the better part of his adult life.

Englishtown isn’t far from my folks house, so I took the weekend to cover the event, which Paul estimated would have about 2,000 attendees.

It was a typo on his part, there were about 20,000 attendees. It was a mad-house of pain and torture as people ran through fire, electricity and freezing cold water in support of a good cause and just to prove they could do it.

Four ambulances passed me as I waited to leave, Paul said when the night came on and the temp dropped the number of ambulances increased proportionately.

Everyone from his team made it

TWEET OF THE MONTH:

“How much beer can I drink responsibly? Let’s find out.”

Continued on Page 24



MARK HUEY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Professional BMX rider, Coco Zurita, flies high above the vert ramp, at this year’s Dew Tour.

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YEAR IN REVIEW



TONY RUSSO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The guys from Burley Oak Brewery were bested by their SuperFun EcoTour counterparts at the 2011 Bathtub Races in Berlin.

*Continued from Page 23*  
successfully and they raised nearly \$5,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Keep your eyes on the paper this spring as they intend to try again in the hopes of raising \$10,000.

36-AND-OUT

Dr. Jon Andes, superintendent of schools, announced his retirement at the end of this year. There was enough speculation that he had his eyes on the State Superintendent's job that he had to release a statement to the contrary.

NO REST

Not content with drowning the Peach Festival and the Fiddlers Convention, Mother Nature interceded to ruin the inaugural Haunted Hallway Extreme Scream Edition conceived by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services as a major fundraiser.

After the wild popularity of their Haunted Hallway last year, which was a legitimately scary event during Trick or Treating, WYFCS upped the ante and made a big-kids only terrorfest designed to keep people talking well though Victorian Christmas.

After spending a significant amount of money funding all the costumes and props and promoting the event, they were ready. Then the temperature dropped and the rain began and, while they didn't take a loss on the project, they barely recovered their costs.

It was kind of tragic.  
If the wether cooperates this year, though, they will be ready so mark your calendars and get your heart medicine out.

MORE POLITICS

I've been waiting a month to type this sentence:  
What you read about Andy Harris

isn't true because the press is bad at their job.

I was covering Harris — as I always do when he has an event — but was forced to leave when he started rambling about how unfair the press had been to him and how terrible reporters are. I didn't leave because I was offended, I left because I didn't know what would happen to the universe if I wrote that everything I was writing about Harris was wrong.

It hurts even to try and conceive.  
What his handlers told me was that he meant everyone except me treated him unfairly, so that's good to know. I guess I'll go on living now that I have his confidence.



**Tweet of the Month:**  
"UH OH Here comes Michael Day... there goes Michael Day. #BGeye  
The biggest new news by far for November was the Bayside Gazette office opening at 11 South Main Street.  
Everyone was very, very excited about the big move even after I pointed out that we were going to be more than 50 feet from the brewery.  
Mark Huey and I conceived not too long after of the #BGeye hashtag. A

hashtag is a tool you use on Twitter to set aside a category for tweets. We try and tweet regularly about the goings on Downtown using the view from our big storefront window. If you're into the twitter thing check it out.

SOLAR POWER

I said it then and after being less than kind in this Year in Review, I'll say it now the County Commissioners did a really good job in pre-zoning the area outside Berlin in a way that would attract a solar power company.

It won't mean a ton of money for the County but there is a real chance that the Berlin Electric Company could benefit from the installation in the future, which means so could the rate payers.

A GOOD JOE(L)

Joel Todd was given the Berlin Award, the equivalent of "Citizen of the Year" by the Berlin Lions Club. What was particularly nice about the totally deserved award was that as a hometown kid, Todd truly appreciated what it took to be honored in that way. He was also a little humbled by the list of names to which his was added.

METAMORPHOSIS

Now that I've said it to him, I can say it out loud.

When I got an assignment to write a story on Patrick Henry's new opening, I groaned internally. I've done several features on him as his career has progressed and was pretty sure there was nothing interesting left to say.

I knew I'd be able to pull a story together because Patrick is always a great interview but I didn't want to have to force a story. Frankly, he's savvy enough to know forced writing when he sees it and I didn't want to disrespect his work with bland stuff.

As it turned out, this wasn't even kind of a problem.

His new show "Amusement" was an even greater departure from his comfort zone than was his last and it was astounding in the truest sense of the word. If you told me two years ago that Henry's next big show would contain unsettling and even bizarre works I wouldn't have even kind of believed you.

Catch the show if you can before he moves it to a big city — I story I hope to write in the coming months — gallery.

HOW I NEARLY RUINED CHRISTMAS

Michael Day was sitting in front of the Atlantic Hotel stringing together ornaments for the Town Christmas Tree so, since I was wandering around Downtown, I stopped by to chat with him. It was Wednesday and I was still short a front page photo and I figured before too long there would be a good opportunity around the tree.

Robin Tomaselli and Jill Hoshal swung by to help with the decorating. They said later in the day children would be by to help so I decided to come back and get a nice kid photo for the front

page.  
During the decorating I tried to plug the tree in with no success, but got the photo I wanted. I took it and we got the paper out with the kids decorating the tree on the front. As I drove past the tree on my way home, I saw it light up. As it turns out it's tied to the street lights.  
I pulled over and unplugged it and (until now) no one was the wiser.  
Holiday Arts night wasn't ruined. In fact, it was a huge success. Again.



**Tweet of the Month**  
"There are 52 papers to read, it's light out, and I'm wearing regular glasses. Hit it."  
December has come and almost gone and there isn't a lot left to say about it. Bob Thompson revealed his concept for the Yacht Club, Country Club and Golf Course to the predictable melange of outrage and enthusiasm. This one is going to take awhile to shake out and besides observing that it is refreshingly aggressive I don't really have and opinion one way or another about it.  
What is worth saying though is, until or unless he succeeds in alienating whichever board of directors is thrown at him, Thompson will continue to push for a rational approach for Ocean Pines' present as well as its future.

As with Paula Lynch, I don't necessarily agree with his conclusions but am comfortable that he comes by them honestly and with the community's best interest in mind.  
Berlin finally pulled the trigger on the open container law, I'm sure this New Year's Eve will prove their decision the correct one.

It's kind of a ritual for me to sit down with the year's papers and read through them all. My kids see the stack in the living room and know there will be a lot of mess on the kitchen table as I slog through the months.  
This is my sixth Year in Review and they've all kind of had the same tone — borderline flip. There's a reason for this.  
In retrospect, which is really the only way we know things, the minutia is important and the seemingly important stuff I write is, in the end, not all that critical. So, if you'll forgive me my tone this just one week I year, I'll consider it a favor.  
Let's pack this one in and try again in 2012 to better separate what and who matters from what and who doesn't.  
Happy New Year.



FINANCIAL ADVICE

Get back to investing in 2012

2011 was a very volatile year in the stock markets, and for our economy as a whole. While many people weren't happy with their portfolios, many of those that were diversified didn't suffer to terrible a loss.

I'm often asked what I think of a particular stock, and my answer is always "that depends." While I'm not going to attempt to give you investment or stock advice, I'm going to try to explain the different classifications of equities and how they may help diversify your stock holdings. Please remember that diversification and asset allocation strategies do not assure profit or protect against loss. The science of modern portfolio management calls for trying to minimize most of the structural risk of a big loss by spreading your stock holdings out over many different asset classes. While you can't minimize your risk completely, here are some areas to consider when spreading your stock investments out.

When diversifying in the equity market, diversify among the different sectors:

Consumer Discretionary: Restaurants, retailers, broadcasting, and homebuilders.

Consumer Staples: Food, beverages, personal care products, tobacco.

Financials: Insurance, Banks, and Real Estate Investment Trusts.

Industrials: Engineering, construction railroads, trucking, and aerospace/defense.

Energy: Coal, oil, gas, exploration and refining.

Materials: Chemicals, metals, fertilizers, and forest products.

Information Technology: Computer software and hardware, data processing and internet software.

Health Care: equipment, biotechnology, facilities, HMO's and pharmaceuticals.

Telecommunications: Wireless and integrated telecommunications services.

Utilities: Electric, water and gas.

Spread your investments over different company sizes (as defined by multiplying a company's stock price by the amount of shares outstanding): Large Cap: More than \$3 billion; Mid-Cap: Between \$1 billion and \$3 billion; and Small Cap: Less than \$1 billion. Invest in different "styles": Value: Typically lower revenue growth (usually less than 15%), a low price to earnings ratio (usually below 15), many times thought to be more conservative than their style peers. Growth: higher revenue rates (over 15%), a price to earnings ratio above 15, and the "potential" to grow more.

Investments in other geographic areas besides the United States: The final component of stock classification comes down to where the company is based. International, Europe, Asia, developed countries, under or less developed countries (also called emerging markets) are examples of this classification.

Diversifying your stock portfolio among the aforementioned areas is one way to help minimize your risk; but there are other factors as well. The best way to determine how much risk you're willing to take, where to invest, and how your investments may affect your current situation, it makes a lot of sense to get the help of a financial professional. And since we're starting a new year, now may be the best time to get in touch again with your financial advisor to start the year off right.

*Chip Gordy, MBA, CRPC is a Financial Advisor with Coastal Wealth Management, LLC, specializing in Wealth and Retirement Planning. He can be reached at 410-208-4545 or [chip@coastalwealthmgmt.com](mailto:chip@coastalwealthmgmt.com). Registered Representative, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Coastal Wealth Management LLC & Cambridge are not affiliated.*

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**BJ's on the Water**  
75th St. Bayside  
410-524-7575  
FRIDAY – Chest Pains, 9pm.  
SATURDAY – New Year's w/ DJ Fast Eddie  
WEDNESDAY – Simple Truth, 5-8pm.

**Clarion Resort**  
10100 Coastal Hwy. Ocean City  
410-524-3535  
FRIDAY – First Class  
SATURDAY –Power Play, Rhondels, First Class  
SUNDAY – First Class

**Cottage Café**  
Route 1, Bethany Beach, DE  
302-539-8710  
SATURDAY – DJ Bump

**DeNovo's**  
South Gate – Ocean Pines  
TUESDAY – THURSDAY & SATURDAY – Al Prescott

**Fager's Island**  
60th St. & the bay, Ocean City  
FRIDAY – DJ Rob Cee, 9pm., No Pets for Noah, 10pm.  
SATURDAY – Everett Spells New Years Jazz, 7pm., DJ Hook, 9pm., No Pets for Noah, 10:30pm.  
Sunday – Everett Spells, 11am.

**Green Turtle – WOC**  
9616 Stephen Decatur Hwy.  
West Ocean City  
410-213-1500  
FRIDAY – DJ Soulfinger, 5-8pm., Kaleb Brown Band, 9pm.  
SATURDAY – Galaxy Collective, 9pm.

**Harborside Bar & Grill**  
12841 S. Harbor Rd.  
West Ocean City  
410-213-1846  
THURSDAY – Opposite Directions, 9pm-1am.  
FRIDAY – DJ Billy T, 9pm.-1am.  
SATURDAY – Simple Truth...and friends, 2-6pm., DJ Jeremy, 10pm.-2am.

SUNDAY – Opposite Directions, 2-6pm., DJ Biggler, 9pm.-1am.

**Harpoon Hannas**  
142nd Street Bayside  
800-227-0525  
FRIDAY – Dave Hawkins, 7-11pm.  
SATURDAY – Dave Sherman, 5-9pm., New Year's Party w/ DJ Jon Boi, 9pm. NO COVER!

**House of Welsh**  
1106 Coastal Hwy., Fenwick  
FRIDAY - DJ Norn, 3-6pm.; Tony Vega, 6-10pm.  
SATURDAY - Tony Vega, 6-10pm.  
MONDAY - DCHDC w/ music by DJ Norn, 6-9pm.  
WEDNESDAY - Bob Hughes, 6-10pm.

**Seacrets**  
49th & the Bay, Ocean City  
410-524-4900  
FRIDAY – Joe Bachman & the Crew, 10pm-2am.  
SATURDAY – Full Circle,4-7:30pm., Jon Maurer Band, 8-11:30pm., S.T.O.R.M., 12-3am., Second Majesty, 1-4am, Joe Bachman & The Crew, 8pm-12:15am

**Smitty McGee's**  
Rt 54  
West Fenwick Island, DE  
302-436-4716  
FRIDAY - Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys, 8pm.  
SATURDAY – New Year's Eve party w/Randy Lee Ashcraft & The Saltwater Cowboys.

**Steer Inn Tavern**  
Rt 589  
FRIDAY – Sean K. Preston  
SATURDAY – New Year's Eve Party with Loud Love..Complimentary Champagne at Midnite. NO COVER!

**Yacht Club**  
Ocean Pines  
FRIDAY – Tear the Roof Off, 7pm.



CALL  
410-723-6397  
BY MONDAY  
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CLASSIFIED

MARKETPLACE

Classifieds now appear  
in Ocean City Today &  
the Bayside Gazette  
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at [oceancitytoday.net](http://oceancitytoday.net)  
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**Taxi Drivers Needed** New Year's Eve. Friday and Saturday. Must have taxi permit. Call Wayne @ City Cab, 410-726-5166.

RENTALS

**Ocean City YR** 139th Street Bayside. 1BR/2BA Unfurnished Condo. No Pets. No Smoking. \$750/month + utilities and sec. deposit. Call Larry 410-250-2700.

**YR Rental** 1BR Apartment, 43rd Street. \$600/mo. plus utilities. Call Dale 443-736-5589 or email: [Dale@OCROOMS.com](mailto:Dale@OCROOMS.com).

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**Winter Rental** 72nd St. 3BR/2BA Apartment. \$800 a month or Roommate \$250 a month. No deposit. 443-856-8537.

**YR Rooms.** \$100. North OC. Utilities includes, W/D, cable. Furnished. Move in Today! Call 410-250-0050.

RENTALS

**Ocean Pines YR** 3BR/2BA, eat-in kitchen, dining room, living and screened porch with large deck. All appliances. Separate large outdoor shed. Pets negotiable. Rent or rent to own. Lease security deposit and credit check required. 410-562-1351.

**YR Berlin** 4BR/3BA, C/A, W/D, dishwasher. Storage shed. Call 443-880-4053.

**2BR Apartment** 2nd floor. First and last month's rent required and security deposit. \$725/month. Must have references. 443-664-2992 or 410-289-5335.

**Year Round Apt.** in WOC, 2BR, 2nd floor. \$650/mo. plus utilities. No pets. Adults only. 410-213-1769.

**Rooms for Rent!** First week FREE! Furnished and all utilities and cable TV included. Only \$85 a week! Call 410-430-1746.

**Year Round Rentals** in Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Salisbury. Please call 410-524-0900 or visit our Web site at: [www.oceancityresortproperties.com](http://www.oceancityresortproperties.com).

RENTALS

**Montego Bay** 2BR/2BA Over-sized lot with shed & many amenities. \$950 monthly rent OR option to buy. Pets welcome. 410-446-0065.

**YR Berlin** 1BR/1BA, Pied-à-Terre. 2nd floor. Private entrance w/deck. Fab vus. Off-street parking. Full kitchen. W/D, A/C. Unfurnished. Non-smoker. No pets. \$950/mo. Incl. CATV, WiFi & all utilities. Credit check & security deposit req'd. 443-856-5362.

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RENTALS

**Rental Starting** at \$900 a month in Berlin. Call Bunting Realty, Inc. 410-641-3313.

**Oyster Harbor YR House.** 3BR/2BA on pond. Fireplace, screened porch, 2 car garage, fenced yard, appliances. No smoking/pets. \$1400. 410-596-7873.

**4BR/3BA Townhouse.** Fireplace, parking, all appliances, \$825 per month. Available now through April 30. 443-235-2556.

**Winter Rental** Rooms & Apartments on 8th Street. Starting at \$115/week. Includes utilities. Call Shery 443-664-2379.

**3BR Units,** furnished. Available now thru May 1st. \$750/mo. or YR for \$1,400. Call Bill 301-537-5391.

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RENTALS

**CHARMING COUNTRY BUNGALOW:** 2BR/1BA. Avail. Dec. 18. W/D, Gas Heat, C/A. No smoking/pets. Berlin/OP area. \$750 month. Y/R 410-430-0587

**West OC,** private rooms for rent in beautiful home. Must see! Includes utilities, cable TV and wireless Internet. \$400-\$600 per month. Call now 410-422-7321.

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AIN’T HE SWEET? By Elizabeth C. Gorski / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across

1 Arthur Honegger’s “A Christmas \_\_\_”

8 Staring intently

13 “Scrooged” actor Robert

20 Add a musical track to, e.g.

21 Destroyed

23 Noted bride of 1969

24 Model for an art class, say

25 “Stop stalling!”

26 Approach like an eagle

27 Baptism, e.g.

28 Kid’s block

30 Cozy footwear

31 “I could \_\_\_ horse!”

33 Japanese stringed instrument

34 Journalist Joseph

36 Clearly happy

39 Goes for the gold?

40 Spice organizers

43 Lose intensity

44 Fencing position

47 Crunchy snack bit

50 Storage units

51 Piccadilly movers

55 Roman “olive”

56 “Make \_\_\_!”

58 “Unto us \_\_\_ is given”

59 Salt flats locale

60 Carnivore’s love

62 Components

68 Getaway planner?

70 Newfangled

71 Actress Andie

73 Like some lines

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 each minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
- 74 Pola of the silents

76 Decoration on a 91-/100-Across

77 Mistreat

79 Predispositions

82 Score after deuce

84 “Hairspray” role

86 Young business partner?

90 Bay Area airport, in shorthand

91 With 100-Across, image revealed by connecting the circled letters alphabetically

95 Mozart’s birthplace: Abbr.

96 “Miracle on 34th Street,” e.g.

99 Medium skill

100 See 91-Across

101 Cold war fighter

102 2001 film in which 91-/100-Across is a character

104 Horsed around?

106 Shake up

109 Special \_\_\_

111 Chess champ Mikhail

112 “Honey in the Horn” trumpeter

113 “\_\_\_ framed!”

115 Some toy batteries

116 Beta preceder

119 Tone quality, in music

121 Stuck

123 Wall St. deal

126 Singer Mitchell

128 Bronx and Central Park attractions

129 \_\_\_ good turn

132 Prepare, as eggnog

133 Partridge’s preferred tree

134 Navigational aid
- 136 Fictional planet in “Flash Gordon”

138 “Incidentally ...

140 Drive-thru sandwich order

141 Crudité’s platter centerpiece

145 Delicious

146 Org. in Tom Clancy novels

147 Maternity ward figures

149 Coffee order

151 Stipulations

153 Pacino and Bundy

154 Eponymic town of Cambridgeshire

155 Mediterranean capital

156 Skip across the water’s surface

157 Certain pass: Abbr.

158 Radio abbr.

159 Guinness suffix

160 1-Down’s warning

161 Mandatory coll. course

162 Capt.’s guess
- 15 Ref’s decision

16 Aid for making a 91-/100-Across

17 Cyclist’s offer

18 Merge

19 Vintage records

21 Fan’s fixation

22 Popeye’s \_\_\_ Pea

29 Fun-house sounds

32 Elves, to Santa: Abbr.

35 \_\_\_-12

37 Part of many a science course

38 “\_\_\_ Misérables”

39 ’70s TV production co.

41 Mao contemporary

42 “Santa Baby” singer

45 Camaro \_\_\_-Z

46 Paradise

47 Bulbous plant part

48 Butter alternative

49 Actor Foxx

52 Bickering

53 High praise

54 Storage unit

57 Friend \_\_\_ friend

58 Deaf talk: Abbr.

61 You are: Sp.

63 Serving well?

64 Public health agcy.

65 French pronoun

66 Have

67 Composer Max

69 Sit still?

71 Calf-length dresses

72 Hawaiian porch

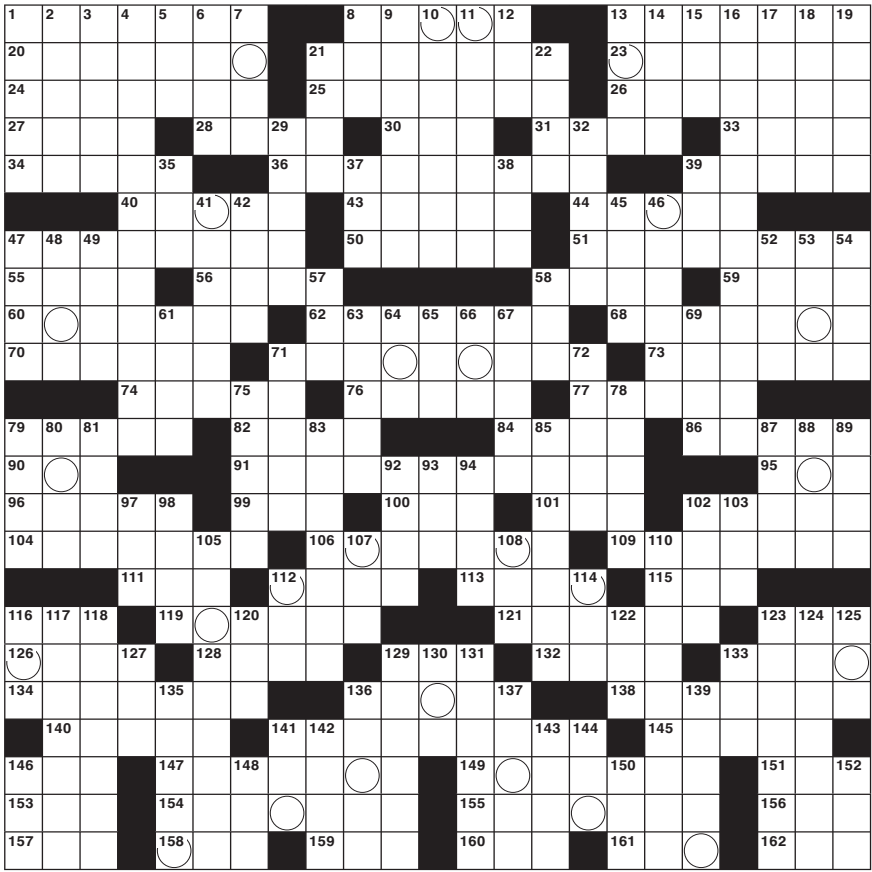
75 Stormed

78 Star of “Gunsmoke”?

79 Cellar, in classifieds

80 Get an \_\_\_ effort

81 De \_\_\_ (anew)



- 83 How Santa’s reindeer are harnessed

85 Sights, say

87 Buster?

88 Winter bird feeder food

89 Terse reproofs

92 Radiate

93 Mob turncoat

94 \_\_\_ B’rith

97 Cousin \_\_\_

98 Californie, e.g.

102 Tunisian seaport

103 Males
- 105 16th-century monarch credited with presenting 91-/100-Acrosses to guests

107 Sr.’s test

108 Light head?

110 “The 91-/100-Across,” for one

112 “John Adams” airer

114 Plopped down on Santa’s lap, e.g.

116 Slumber party togs
- 117 Relaxer for Santa

118 Recovering after injury, say

120 Swab

122 White lie

123 Small boat danger

124 Some pudginess

125 Arm extension?

127 Sale item abbr.

129 Fails to

130 Carry-\_\_\_

131 Spies, e.g.

133 Chem. class measures
- 135 Capital of Belarus

136 Boss’s notes

137 Bouquets

139 Iraq’s Aziz

141 Roman 950

142 Table d’\_\_\_

143 Nile deity

144 Baby boxer, e.g.

146 Bopper

148 Maven

150 Brit’s oath

152 Masseur employer

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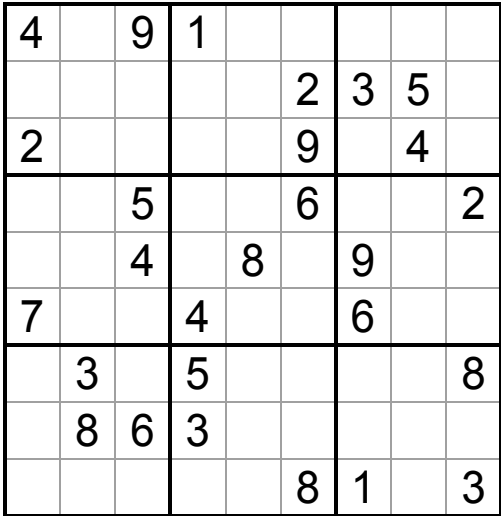
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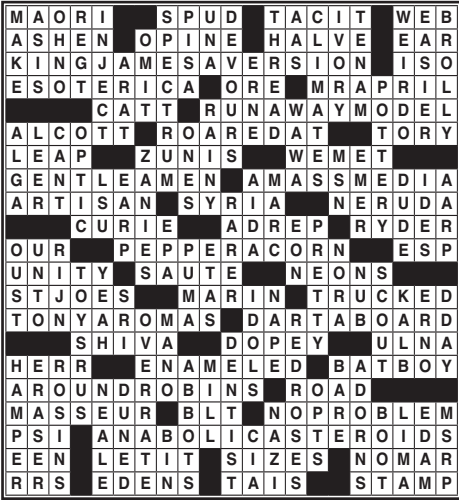
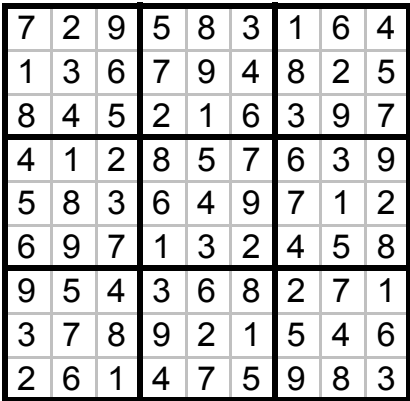
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MEDIUM - 47

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.



Answers to last week’s puzzles





CUISINE

BAYSIDE

# Start the New Year right with a brine pork

**Edible** (adj). Good to eat and whole-some to digest, as a worm to a toad, a toad to a snake, a snake to a pig, a pig to a man, and a man to a worm. Ambrose Bierce



By Paul Suplee,  
CEC PCIII

As we celebrate the New Year, new friends, new enemies and newer members of the family, I find that it is also the time of year to never forget those who have gone before us.

None are safe from the one certainty of life, as so eloquently phrased by Franklin so long ago. We can only hope that our time comes when we have had a chance to change something for the better; to fix something we may have broken or to lend a hand to someone in need.

As the 31st of December comes and goes a deep reflection passes through my mind; the leaves are long gone, the earth is slowly cooling to its normal threshold of temperature, and there are mosquitoes in our back yard. Not normal seems to be the new normal.

Is it global warming or is it the natural cycle of our great earth? Is it mankind's contribution to the ozone, or is it merely time again for the polar cap to melt? Fairly convinced that smog and pollution were not responsible for the first ice age, I wonder what the new year will bring in condemnations and tips on how to live our lives so as to keep the melting at bay.

Either way, New Year's Eve will come and go, and will stop for no one person in particular. As we prepare for the festivities, we also are reminded that while there are few things in life we can control, there is at least one self-inflicted wound that we can all avoid. If for some personal reason we find that it is unavoidable, we will at least have the power to nurse and nurture ourselves from the beast; the hangover.

As revelries go, New Year's Eve tops the list, with amateur and professional alike vying for the leader's spot on the scoreboard of fun lovers. But as many of us know, the day after seems to be a bit tough.

Not to fear, if you are a Bloody Mary lover and a carnivore. While I won't address the former in today's column, I am happy to tell you of a tradition, with a twist, that knocks out the greatest of hangovers with the ease of an acrobat at le cirque.

Roasted pork loin with sauerkraut and mashed potatoes is the shell for this New Years Nosh. Add a roasted vegetable ragout (with fennel which is great with its high levels of phytonutrients in defending



our body against certain side effects of too much celebration) and fresh herbs.

Seasoned ever so gingerly to meet our own demands and tastes, we are left with a dish which will elevate us to new heights of vigor on a day on which we would rather crawl back into our couches.

Hangover or no, enjoy this festive tradition, making it your own to suit your tastes. Just don't let it get past you. After all, it is our job to feed to worms well.

## Roast Pork Tenderloin

4-6 oz. per person of Pork tenderloin  
Brine (recipe follows)

S&P to taste

Butter and EV Olive Oil for Sautee

Stewed Veggies (recipe follows)

Mashed Spuds (recipe follows)

Sauerkraut

Brine the pork for 2-3 hours

Remove from brine, rinse and pat dry

Salt and pepper and heat butter and oil in a pan

Sear the outside of the loin on all sides

Place into a 450F oven to finish. Take it to 140F internal temperature and let it come up on its own. This will give you a tender and moist meat

Serve with stewed vegetables, Mashed potatoes and a pan sauce

## Pork Roast Brine

1 gal. water

1 ea. lemon, quartered

½ c. Kosher salt

¼ c. Sugar

10 ea. Black peppercorns

1 Sprig Rosemary, fresh

2 Sprigs Thyme, fresh

Fresh oregano as needed

Combine ingredients and soak the roast(s) in the brine for a couple of hours or as needed

## Stewed Vegetables

serves 6

1 ea. Large eggplant, peeled and diced

2 ea. Large Rutabagas, peeled and cubed

1 Bulb, fresh fennel, julienne

EV Olive oil as needed

Fresh garlic as needed

Diced tomatoes as needed

Sherry Vinegar as needed

Fresh or dried herbs to taste

Heat the oil in a pan large enough to accommodate the vegetables

Sautee the rutabagas, the eggplant and

then the fennel

Add the tomatoes, vinegar and herbs and stew until everything is tender

## Mashed Potatoes

makes enough for 6

1.5 # Russet potatoes, peeled and large dice

Butter as needed

Half & Half as needed

S&P to taste

Steam or simmer the potatoes until fork tender, and I mean completely fork tender

Allow the potatoes to sit out for 10 minutes after straining to allow moisture to escape through the steam

Place potatoes, some butter and dairy in the bowl of a stand mixer and start spinning slowly. Turn up the speed and whip the potatoes for no more than a minute and a half, adjusting seasoning as you go

*Paul G. Suplee is a certified executive chef and ProChef certified Level-3. He is a writer and culinary instructor. His ePortfolio can be found at [www.heartofakitchen.com](http://www.heartofakitchen.com)*





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