



SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Left, Michael Diehl greets his 14-year-old daughter, Madilynn, last Wednesday at Stephen Decatur Middle School in Berlin after returning home from deployment with the U.S. Air Force. Right, Michael later that day reunites with his 11-year-old son, Mason, at Berlin Intermediate School. Center, Mason, Michael and Madilynn Diehl are together again in a posed photo taken last Friday at the middle school.

A soldier, and father's, homecoming in Berlin

After six-month tour, dad surprises daughter and son at school last Wednesday

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 31, 2019) Last Wednesday started like any other for 14-year-old Berlin resident Madilynn Diehl, until she got an unexpected visit in the cafeteria from what she thought was the Stephen Decatur Middle School "Bulldog" mascot during her lunch period.

"I was like, 'why is he coming in here?'" Madilynn said. "The mascot

never comes in usually, so I was just surprised."

But surprise wouldn't adequately describe her reaction when the mascot removed the costume head to reveal who was behind the masquerade: her father, Michael Diehl.

The 33-year-old had just returned from a six-month deployment with the Air Force in Qatar.

"I couldn't wait to give her a hug," he said.

The reunion was captured on video and posted to the school's Facebook page, where it received thousands of views, so far, as well as

hundreds of comments and shares.

"I just really want to thank everybody for the warm welcome and all the appreciation and gratitude and support that we've received," Diehl said. "It's amazing to get such a warm welcome back."

Pulling off a surprise like this was a first for the middle school.

"That is the first time of anything of that magnitude, where a father or a mother would surprise their children like that," Assistant Principal Mark Shipley said. "It was a great moment."

The setup began when Diehl called the school while driving from the air-

port and asked if it would be possible to see his daughter.

Shipley was on lunch duty when he heard about the call from the school secretary. Having seen this type of surprise visit on television before, he greeted Diehl at the school and mentioned the mascot costume.

The video shows Diehl walking through the cafeteria as the Stephen Decatur Middle School Bulldog, waving and giving high-fives to several students before approaching his daughter. When he took off the mascot head, he said it was as if "time stood still."

See HOMECOMING Page 16

Assessments surge in latest OPA budget draft

If unchanged, fee would increase \$127; members can weigh in on Saturday

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Although the proposed fiscal year 2020 Ocean Pines budget released on Jan. 4 did not include an assessment increase, the more recent "recommended" budget

published on Friday did include one and, if it survives, would represent the second-largest in association history.

The \$127 increase to the \$951 basic annual assessment would second only to the \$150 increase approved by the board of directors in 2008.

From 1971 through 1977, Ocean Pines assessments remained flat at \$50. The first increase, by \$10, oc-

curred in 1978.

After that, assessments grew steadily, hitting \$103 in 1980.

The annual fee was \$215 in 1983, \$305 in 1986, \$435 in 1994, \$515 in 2002, and \$575 in 2007, before jumping to \$725 the following year.

Assessments during this decade were \$763 (2010), \$808 (2011), \$843 (2012), \$873 (2013), \$914 (2014), \$909 (2015), and \$921 each year from 2016-2018.

In an executive summary of the recommended budget published Friday, General Manager John Bailey said the fiscal package would "accomplish many things that will be new to the association's budget and very good for the long-term health of the Association."

"That's the upside," Bailey said. "The downside is that to fund those items, there is now recommended to

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‘Snow Hill Now’ group recruiting candidates

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Snow Hill Resident Edward Lee has formed a new group, Snow Hill Now, to help recruit candidates for the upcoming election on May 7.

“It’s a nonpartisan group of residents that have come together to engage the community in helping the town to thrive and grow. That’s who we are,” he said. “Why we’re doing this, is we want to ensure that forward-thinking candidates are encouraged to run for office in the upcoming election.”

Lee said Mayor Stephen Mathews agreed to add the town’s 2025 strategic

plan to the agenda for an upcoming work session, adding that the plan should be “a baseline for discussion” going forward.

“It will give the residents and candidates – candidates in particular – an idea of what it is that we should be doing to revitalize and create a new birth for Snow Hill,” Lee said. “That’s non-confrontational and we do not want to be confrontational – it’s not our purpose to say anything about anyone in government, only what we’re looking for from government.”

“We want to create an opportunity for candidates to come before the people of Snow Hill and let them know our expect-

tations,” he added.

So far, Lee said, public response to the group’s activities has been good.

“We’re very pleased,” he said. “There’s going to be a town hall meeting on Feb. 6 at the Snow Hill Middle School, and we’re inviting all residents – this is not for candidates, this is for residents – to come to let them be heard of what their ideas are, what’s their input to moving Snow Hill to its next level,” Lee said.

He said the town hall is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Lee also encouraged residents to join the “Snow Hill Now” group on Facebook.

“I’m excited about the people who are

coming together and their belief in that we can make a difference – and the courage, it takes courage,” he said.

“The thing that I would want to encourage is participation in the electoral process for Snow Hill for this coming election,” Lee continued, “and to let candidates know ... you don’t have to be a Rhodes Scholar to be a candidate – you have to be concerned, you have to have commitment to people and understand it’s people’s government that you represent. That’s what we want to do – we want people to be involved and get involved in their government, and to have a say in their government.”

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OPA budget draft has big increase

Continued from Page 1

be a significant increase in the annual assessment. In order to understand these major considerations, and to generally understand the entirety of the budget, one must look strategically at what the recommended budget accomplishes and how it creates a foundation for a healthy future – financially and for an improvement in the maintenance, and thus value, of the community’s assets.

“It should be noted that this budget includes the full, properly calculated reserve contributions; updated and current depreciation calculations; funding of over \$600,000 in new capital (for the Police Department/Admin building; and a room addition at the Sports Core pool); deferred operational maintenance; and drainage.

“It does not arbitrarily attempt to avoid addressing OPA issues in favor of assessment calculations. This approach provides the community with the opportunity to participate in the decision process and allows the Board of Directors to specifically identify which areas will not be funded, if any, and why, in the next fiscal year.

“The budget development process is one of collaboration – by many of your fellow members, in addition to

See PUBLIC Page 5

ASSESSMENT RATE HISTORY					
YEAR	NON-WATER	WATER		WATER NON-BULK	OWNERS
		DIFFERENTIAL	WATER		
1971	50	30	80		
1972	50	30	80		
1973	50	30	80		
1974	50	30	80		
1975	50	30	80		
1976	50	30	80		
1977	50	30	80		
1978	60	30	90		
1979	85	30	115		
1980	103	27	130		
1981	140	45	185		
1982	170	50	220		
1983	215	50	265		
1984	215	50	265		
1985	260	55	315		
1986	305	65	370		
1987	320	100	420		
1988	340	200	540		
1989	340	200	540		
1990	340	250	590	390	
1991	370	400	770	450	
1992	370	400	770	450	
1993	370	400	770	450	
1994	435	400	835	515	6,929
1995	435	400	835	515	6,936
1996	450	400	850	530	6,950
1997	465	400	865	545	6,965
1998	465	400	865	545	7,115
1999	465	400	865	545	7,228
2000	475	400	875	555	7,343
2001	475	400	875	555	7,530
2002	515	410	925	595	7,649
2003	530	410	940	610	7,793
2004	545	410	955	625	7,941
2005	545	410	955	625	8,098
2006	545	450	995	635	8,282
2007	575	450	1,025	665	8,389
2008	725	450	1,175	815	8,427
2009	725	465	1,190	815	8,435
2010	763	465	1,228	853	8,441
2011	808	465	1,273	898	8,442
2012	843	465	1,308	933	8,446
2013	873	465	1,338	963	8,446
2014	914	465	1,379	1,004	8,447
2015	909	465	1,374	999	8,452
2016	921	465	1,386	1,011	8,452
2017	921	465	1,386	1,011	8,452
2018	921	465	1,386	1,011	8,452
2019	BUD	951	1,416	1,041	8,452

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Public meeting Saturday at Pines Community Center

Continued from Page 4

the OPA staff. The Budget & Finance Committee members, those who are specifically dedicated to helping manage the financial affairs of the community, have spent many hours of volunteer time reviewing the operating budget and the reserves.

“The B&F Committee conducted three days of intense and detailed budget meetings. Their effort was followed by two days of budget discussions by the Board of Directors. Those five work sessions yielded a lot of modifications and questions that created further significant changes to the Proposed Budget and have now led to the Recommended Budget.”

Bailey said the \$951 assessment in the Jan. 4 proposed budget was increased \$31 “As a result of many review meetings and discussions with the Budget & Finance Committee” and presented during a public budget hearing Jan. 12.

Of the changes that factored into the initial increase was \$10,000 added to marina revenue, which subtracted \$1.18 from the assessment, as well as four items that added to it: a \$133,000 increase to the fire/EMS capital replacement contribution (\$15.74), a \$50,000 increase for legal services (\$5.92), a \$40,000 increase for deferred maintenance (\$5.37), and a \$50,000 increase for “IT Redundancy, Depreciation” (\$5.90).

“Conversations and discussions have continued over the last two weeks at the Board level and with additional input from the General Manager, the B&F Committee, the Treasurer, and the Assistant Treasurer. As a result of everyone’s collaborative effort, we have made some additional recommended changes to the budget as of January 24, 2019,” Bailey said.

Of those were \$650,136 more for the capital reserve contribution, \$237,038 more for deficit recovery, and \$25,000 for new capital debt service.

Included in the \$650,136 capital reserve contribution additions were \$400,000 for road reserves, \$160,000 for bulkhead reserves and \$89,548 for replacement capital reserves.

Related to new capital debt services was \$400,000 to expand the police and administration building, borrowed from reserves at a 3 percent rate, and a \$200,000 room expansion for the sports core pool, to be borrowed from a third party at a 6-percent interest rate.

The recommended budget also includes \$337,098 toward the remaining \$1 million deficit.

Total proposed drainage spending is \$915,000 – a nearly \$800,000 in-

crease over the previous year. Total deferred maintenance spending is \$465,000, said to cover among other things the beach club parking guard shack, small playground equipment, playground mulch, additional stone dust for trails, basketball goals and backboards, and “many exterior signs throughout the community.”

Bulkhead collections of \$19 for all homeowners and \$465 for waterfront lot owners, previously waived in the proposed budget, was put back into the recommended budget.

Additionally, “The Recommended Budget fully funds the pay adjustments identified in the Pay Study,” Bailey said. “The study found that we had 35 positions that are currently under funded, thus the Recommended Budget includes approximately \$128,000 to bring those positions into better alignment with the competing marketplace.”

Bailey said the adjustments include a 2-percent labor pool increase “to be distributed based on merit achievement,” and medical benefits budgeted to increase 10 percent “based on the advice of the insurance professionals.”

Also in the recommended budget, as in the two previous drafts, most amenity user fees would increase about 3 percent.

“As the budget schedule indicates, this is a process, a collaborative one,” Bailey said. “We started with staff and the General Manager to create multiple drafts leading to a Proposed Budget. We have had three Budget & Finance Committee budget work sessions, a member hearing on the Proposed Budget, two Board of Directors budget work sessions, and lots of effort by many members, committees, and staff. We now have a Recommended Budget.”

Bailey said the board would conduct a budget hearing on Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the community center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

“The Board of Directors will hear your comments and will then take two weeks to provide the General Manager with budget adjustments they would like to consider,” he said. “Amendments to the Recommended Budget will be voted on by the Board on February 16, at which time the Board of Directors will adopt the Final Budget and set the annual assessment for the next fiscal year. Please do share your thoughts with the Board by attending the member hearing and/or by email at directors@oceanpines.org.”

To view the recommended budget, visit www.oceanpines.org/forms/docs-cat/budget-for-fy-2019-2020.

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Parks: ‘I’m not going to support \$127 increase’

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) It didn’t take long for news of the second-largest assessment increase in Ocean Pines history to hit social media, where reaction was, unsurprisingly, negative.

A press release and statements from General Manager John Bailey on Friday showed a proposed increase of \$127 per homeowner in the recommended budget, which is essentially the second-to-last draft before final approval.

On Saturday, a post on the “Ocean Pines Exchange” Facebook page quickly caught fire and had more than 60 comments as of Monday afternoon. Some suggested halting all new spending while the association is still paying off \$1 million in debt, while others said Ocean Pines had never done a good job of using assessment dollars to fix ongoing problems like drainage and general maintenance.

Many pointed to the public budget hearing on Saturday, at 10 a.m. in the community center, as a time to give the board of directors a piece of their minds.

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Monday released a statement that the latest budget numbers – including the large assessment surge – were not yet final.

“The budget that has been shared with the membership is the recom-

mended budget presented by the GM for the Board’s consideration and is by no means the final budget,” the statement said. “The Board is evaluating a number of items included in the capital expenses, reserve contributions and salary adjustments. Other considerations are being given to the priorities of major projects and the expense associated with among other items, drainage, deferred maintenance, deficit recovery and road reserves.

“The intent is to determine what our operations team can realistically be expected to complete in the upcoming fiscal year, and only fund those initiatives in this budget. As a Board we fully expect additional changes to the recommended budget as we continue our review and make these determinations.”

The statement added the budget hearing on Saturday would serve to “review the recommended budget, explain the projects and work associated with the noted expenses and get feedback from the membership.”

“We encourage everyone to share their thoughts on the budget by attend-

ing the meeting on Saturday the 2nd or via email at directors@oceanpin.es.org,” the statement said.

Association President Doug Parks on Monday went one step further, saying, “I will go on record as saying I’m not going to support a \$127 increase in the assessment.”

“We’ve got to do a better job in prioritizing and funding accordingly,” Parks said. “There’s a lot of scrutiny that the board needs to do that’s directly related to that big of an increase in the assessment.”

“Personally, it’s certainly something that’s aggressive ... but I can’t see trying to pin the kinds of things that we want to do solely on the association,” he continued. “I’d rather do it in a much more conservative fashion and really take a closer look at true needs, versus needs that may be not as high priority as others.”

Parks said he understood the public opposition to the increase, including some criticism that placed the blame on the board of directors. The Jan. 4 “proposed” budget developed by General Manager John Bailey did not include an assessment increase, while the “recommended” budget developed with board input incorporated a near-record assessment hike.

“I can’t control how people perceive and where they want to place blame,” Parks said. “Maybe it was a little premature to presume there wasn’t going to be any changes in the budget but, as in past years, it’s a process. Things go through several iterations, starting with the GM and staff, then you’ve got the budget and finance committee, then you’ve got the board, and then you’ve got the final re-review after that.

“Remember, it goes from draft, to proposed, to recommended, to final,” he continued. “Those are the four iterations of the process and we’re at the recommended stage and, certainly by

the press release that the board just sent out, this is not a final budget.”

Parks added, “just speaking for myself, I can’t see us increasing the assessment by that much.”

“The press release hopefully synthesizes some of the things that may be on [the membership’s] mind. I think the most important thing is to just make sure they understand there’s a lot of other areas that we’re looking at – we’re not just sitting on our hands going, ‘Oh well, it’s \$127,’” he said. “That’s not what we have been elected to do.

“We have to look at prioritizing, understanding the financial toll on those priorities, and [come up with] a reasonable approach on what can and cannot be done – in other words, setting expectations,” Parks continued. “It’s great to say I can get 10 projects done and we’re going to fund them all, but ... I wouldn’t want to be in a position at the end of the fiscal year to say, ‘Well, we started 10 projects, we finished one, nine [will be done] at some point, but we’ve charged everybody for it.’

“I’d rather charge everybody for one or two projects – or two or three projects – that we know we can get done, rather than four or five or some number greater than that,” he said. “I’d rather under-promise than over-deliver.”

Parks also said comparisons to dues paid by other homeowner’s associations could be valid, but difficult to quantify because of the unique nature of Ocean Pines.

“I think it’s difficult to try to compare a 100-unit high rise with an 8,452-unit small city that has public works, a police department and a lot of other things that really don’t relate,” he said. “It’s a reasonable question – I would just want to make sure that we classify the comparisons directly.”

As for the budget overall, Parks said there was still “a lot of work to be done.”

“I’m not happy that we are where we are,” he said. “There’s a lot of intent there and my goal is to turn that intent into something that is far more pragmatic.”

‘There’s a lot of scrutiny that the board needs to do that’s directly related to that big of an increase in the assessment.’
Ocean Pines Association President Doug Parks

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Gruesome sight greets motorists

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Motorists traveling along U.S. Route 50 and U.S. Route 113 near Berlin may have seen a gruesome sight during the last several weeks.

Near the turnoff from eastbound Route 50 to Route 113 toward Dover, in the wooded area along the on-ramp, were what appeared to be several large mounds of earth surrounded by a number of deer carcasses, some of which looked to have been there for some time.

One Berlin resident, who asked not to be named, said the remains have been there for a month or more and described the scene as “three piles of dead deer mixed with wood chips and who the f knows what else.”

Upon inspection of the woods, there were several large sawdust hills and a number of deer carcasses in varying states of decay. Some were mostly intact, while others were merely skeletal.

Sgt. Colin Schweitzer with the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack on Monday said the Maryland State Highway Administration was using the area to store the remains, but had not yet gotten to bury them.

“We got ahold of the state highway administration and that is an actual dumping site or burial site for deer that have been struck on the road,” Schweitzer said. “A supervisor advised he will have somebody out there tomorrow to cover them up.”

“For whatever reason, they haven’t been disposed of how they normally have been, but that’ll be taken care of tomorrow,” he added.

Charlie Gischlar, media relations manager with the State Highway Administration, on Tuesday said that agency “is responsible for maintaining all of the State’s numbered routes and interstates.”

“Part of this maintenance is removing deer and other wildlife that were unfortunately struck. There are limited options as to what to do with the carcasses,” Gischlar said.

“We have basically two options for deer disposal on the shore: Option # 1 – Take deer to the landfill. This is our preferred option. Option # 2 – Bury deer on MDOT SHA right-of-way away from any residences or businesses. This is done using Maryland department of the Environment guidance.

“The carcasses are buried beneath the ground surface at an appropriate depth within MDOT SHA right-of-way near the point of impact. Caution is paid to underground utilities and infrastructure before digging and sometimes lime is added to accelerate natural decomposition. This option is used if taking deer to a landfill is not suitable.”

Gischlar confirmed the Route 113 and 50 interchange is an example of the latter.

“The deer were placed there last week with the intention to bury them,” he said. “They are being buried today. This location is on MDOT SHA property and there are no residences in the area.”

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BFC gives report, gets grilled on library plans

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2109) Town of Berlin officials accepted a quarterly report from the Berlin Fire Company Monday, and asked President David Fitzgerald to make sure he was doing all he could to make his dollars go further.

Quarterly reports in January, April, July and October are part of a new \$605,000 funding agreement the company and town struck last year.

The new contract represented a significant increase in funding from previous levels, as town funds for fire and EMS from 2015-2017 averaged \$400,000 per year, according to a Matrix Consulting Group funding study.

Fitzgerald, accompanied by Assistant Chief Robert J. Rhode and EMS Captain John Holloway, presented slides showing fire and EMS activity from July through December.

He said 123 fire calls were received in town during that period, accounting for 44.5 percent of all calls. During the quarter, 50 calls were in town limits or 46.72 of the total.

The average response time was 5.79 minutes, slightly under the 6-minute county goal, Fitzgerald said.

He said the fire company took part in “numerous Fire Prevention Week activities,” including visits to local schools and school visits to the station

on Main Street, although the company exceeded its budget for period in part “due to requests for educational supplies.”

The most serious fire during the period occurred at Apple Drugs on Nov. 10, Fitzgerald said.

Overall, Fitzgerald said company revenues during the quarter accounted for 27 percent of yearly estimates, while expenses were at 37 percent. He said some transfers from contingency funds were necessary because of “the way the funds are being paid by the town, quarterly.”

Mayor Gee Williams said that sort of thing was normal for town governments, as well as for many businesses.

“Sometimes a lot comes in and then nothing ... and it’s very uneven,” Williams said. “Some projects we don’t start until the spring even though the fiscal year ends July 1, just

to make sure that everything is working out as best we can.”

Fitzgerald said 540 in-town EMS calls were received from July through December, accounting for 58.5 percent of all calls. He said during the quarter 290 calls and 65.1 percent

were in Berlin limits.

EMS response times were 7.53 minutes, but those numbers were offset by second and third-response calls that included unstaffed units, Fitzgerald

said. He said the standard for staffed first-responder calls was 60 seconds.

Fitzgerald said there was no contingency fund for EMS, “so we need to make sure we have the actual cash to pay the last payrolls.”

He also promised to provide more information for John Stern of PKS & Company, who oversees the annual audit of Town of Berlin finances. A similar audit of fire and EMS financials is part of the new funding agreement.

Pressed by Williams and Councilman Thom Gulyas, Fitzgerald said Stern had so far only received a hard copy of the fire and EMS report.

“Our goal is [to get that to PKS] as soon as the information is given,” Williams said.

Gulyas also asked what the plans were for the old Berlin library building on Main Street, which is now controlled by the fire company.

Fitzgerald said the fire company would use it for meeting, training and office space to free up room in the main station building, but Gulyas said it was his understanding the fire company “were going to do that in that

room on the second floor” inside the station.

“If you remember, we discussed there’s quite a few agencies looking for space,” Gulyas said. “I know two of them that were interested in that library that are paying several thousand dollars a month where they are now.”

Fitzgerald said having employees upstairs hurts response time, while Williams encouraged him “not to act too fast.”

“There is a demand out there for space for a variety of things, from the private sector, nonprofit sector [and] public sector, that you can have a source of additional income, right there, guaranteed,” Williams said. “I would ask that, before you move over into additional space, that you consider your revenue potential from that building. There’s not many places available right on main street, with parking.

“I think it’s also important to ensure that everything is being done with what you have, because obviously to maintain the level of funding that you currently have, we’re going to have to raise more funds ourselves,” he continued. “If everybody is doing everything they can ... then I think it’s much more understandable to the public.”

Gulyas asked if any bunkrooms, kitchen or office space were being built into the new Station Three on Ocean Gateway near Stephen Decatur High School. Fitzgerald said there was not.

“The new station is strictly for apparatus bays, two bathrooms and a mechanical room ... and a small, little radio room where you have a computer and [can] answer the radio,” Fitzgerald said. “No offices.”

“I wanted to agree [with] and emphasize what the mayor told you,” Gulyas said. “I really think you guys are missing the boat on leasing that unit that you’ve got in that old library. You’re looking at probably \$3,500 to \$5,000 a month income from that.”

He also asked Fitzgerald to let town officials know when Stern had received the additional information requested.



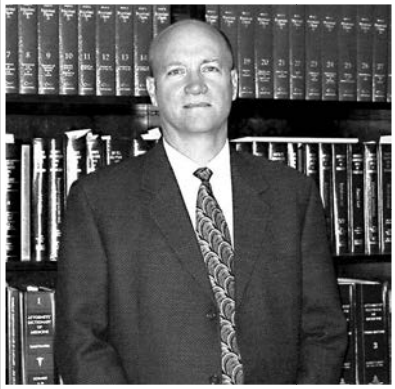
Berlin Fire Company representatives present a quarterly financial report during a Town Council meeting on Monday night.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE


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Snow Hill PD Chief announces resignation, may pursue music

(Jan. 31, 2019) Snow Hill Police Chief Tom Davis may be trading his badge for a trumpet.



Tom Davis

“Yesterday, I resigned as Snow Hill’s Chief of Police. I will be seeking the next chapter’s opportunities,” Davis said in the post.

According to his professional website, Davis began playing trumpet at age 9 and today performs in styles ranging from big band and jazz, to classical and ceremonial wedding music.

Davis had a 26-year career with the Maryland State Police and held the rank of first sergeant before retiring in 2014. He returned school to pursue a bachelor’s degree in music performance at Salisbury University and in Dec. 2016 graduated with honors.

A month earlier, in Nov. 2016, he was named Snow Hill police chief, succeeding former Chief James Pilchard.

Davis elaborated on the reasons for his departure during a phone interview Monday.

“I believe that I pretty much accomplished the things that I could get done as far as improving the quality of life for the benefits ... for the officers,” Davis said. “I don’t see a possibility as to making any more headway with things such as retirement benefits. And I’ll leave it at that.”

Davis wanted to see the department covered by the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System, or LEOPS, program through the State of Maryland, but town officials apparently decided it was too expensive.

“That’s why we keep losing people,” he said. “We lost a 10-year veteran and a five-year veteran in the last two years because of not having LEOPS, and we just can’t keep them.”

“We can’t compete with the bigger departments and until the town decides to take the step [that will continue]. And it would be fairly inexpensive at this point, because we only have one person that we’d have to buy the LEOPS for,” Davis continued. “It would be minimal to do it and now’s the time to do it.”

Despite that difficulty, Davis said he would miss “just being the chief in general.”

“I really enjoyed the job. I enjoyed accomplishing a lot of things. I made a lot of improvements,” he said. “I took morale from the pits to as high as I could get it, [and] made massive improvements to the department and its standards.”

He said the department had been “way behind” in training standards in particular.

“I got us all up to speed, so I feel really good about that. I created the two-manual system – an operations manual and an administrative manual,” Davis said, adding there previously was a manual, but “nobody could really find it.”

“The guys weren’t held [accountable] and hadn’t seen it, so I had to basically start from scratch,” he said. “The previous chief, Pilchard, who was here for 18 months, had begun the process and I took it over and actually got those things completed. It was a lot of work, but it was a big accomplishment and they needed it – we have to have rules and regulations.”

Davis said he also instituted an annual awards program for the officers to help boost morale.

“I also helped improve reporting requirements, report writing [and] I think basic professionalism throughout the department with contacting the community, and I’ll miss all of that,” he said. “I’ll miss giving the best that we could with what we had and bringing everybody up to their highest level possible.”

As for what he would do next, Davis is undecided. He added, with a laugh, that he was “a very young 58.”

“I am looking into several possibilities and it could be in or out of law of law enforcement – and there is a music job that I may be auditioning for,” he said.

He could not comment further because the position had not yet been made public.

“As far as the vacancy that’s going to take place, actually that came to my attention after I posted [the announcement] on Facebook,” he said. “I’ve already had a couple offers in law enforcement, with potentially a couple more spinning.”

“The music thing, once I posted that somebody called and said they were going to be leaving a job and recommended me for the trumpet spot,” he continued. “It’s a professional gig and he’ll be making that announcement this week. He has to recommend two people to fill in and that’s what’s required from his position. I was the top nominee and we’ll see if I get it. I’ll be auditioning and it’s big-time thing, and we’ll see what happens.”

“I’m open to all kinds of possibilities. I just decided it was time to leave,” Davis said.

Whether he will stay in the area also remains unknown.

“My wife and I – we’re just going to throw it all out there and see what sticks and see what doesn’t,” he said. “We’ve discussed moving and we just don’t know until we know. But, it definitely could be out of the area – particularly if this music thing happens.”

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Chamber awards include check presentation

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce welcomed a new president and board, honored several local people, and handed a \$5,000 donation to the Town of Berlin during its annual installation dinner last Tuesday at DiFebo's Restaurant.

Long-time volunteer and event planner Steve Frene was sworn in as president.

Frene said last Thursday he hoped to bring "optimism, positivity, excitement and enthusiasm for another good year ahead."

He's been involved with the chamber for more than two decades, dating back to his days working as a sale manager for local radio stations.

Frene recalled being asked to connect with local chambers of commerce when he was working for WRXS. One night, he heard about a fundraiser near the station and decided to attend.

"Lo and behold, the lovely and freshly divorced Debbie Parker was the chamber president. So, that's where I met Debbie," Frene said of his future wife. "We hit it off and I was instantly smitten, of course. And after several years of dating and courtship and all of that, we ended up getting married.

"I remember telling my general manager, 'Remember when you told me to get involved with the Berlin Chamber? I'm getting married to the president of the

Berlin Chamber.' So, when I get involved, I get involved!" he added with a laugh.

Frene has helped organize events for many years, including the annual Fiddler's

Convention and Jazz & Blues Bash.

Debbie also organized many of the events. "At one point, between Debbie and her daughter running Spring Celebration and Victorian Christmas, and I was running Jazz & Blues and the Fiddler's Convention, I think the only event we didn't run as a family was one called Village Fair

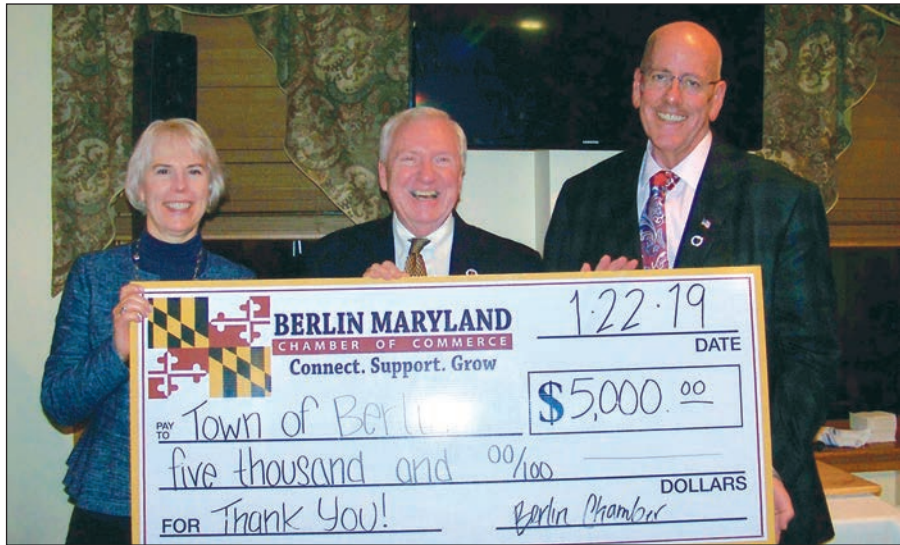


PHOTO COURTESY MIKE WILEY
Berlin Town Administrator Laura Allen, left, Mayor Gee Williams and Councilman Thom Gulyas receive a check from the Berlin Chamber of Commerce during an installation dinner last Tuesday.

that we used to have in June," he said.

"We kind of stepped back for a while and let some other people have some input at the chamber," Frene continued.

"There were a couple of years where we were just good supporters, but we weren't actually on the board."

About three years ago, he decided to again become involved.

"I just saw a couple of things ... the board of the chamber was so new, no one really had any knowledge of some of the reasons we did things on certain dates and how we did them, and I saw that they kind of needed some help and some guidance of someone who'd been around," he said. "I got back involved and experienced a whole different thing."

Frene said the chamber of old was largely volunteer-run and kept its office supplies in a stockroom at Town Center Antiques. Today, the nonprofit has an executive director, Larnet St. Amant, and an assistant director, Jess Hall, as well as an office in the town welcome center.

"Now, under the current configuration, really Larnet and Jess take care of a lot of the day-to-day stuff and I can still focus on the events," Frene said. "There's dedicated, paid help.

"I've had an influence over the last several years on the board of directors to kind of ... preserve the integrity of the events –

the dates and the times and the substance – and give some input on that and just some general guidance," he continued. "I kind of go where I'm needed and do what needs to be done, and just kind of help out."

Also sworn in at the dinner were Treasurer Brian Roberts and Secretary Cate Nellans, as well as board members Shelly Bruder, Donna Compber, Charles Adams, Michael Queen, Denise Gottloebe, Ivy Wells and Tori Grundman.

Also recognized were Volunteer of the Year Kim Frasier and Artist of the Year Patrick Henry. Additionally, Berlin Economic Development Director Ivy Wells was given the New Idea Award for helping to organize a shoe drive in honor of the late Jesse Turner.

Wells said it was ironic she received the award exactly one year after announcing the campaign: to collect new or gently used shoes for Diakonia using Turner's winning entry in the annual Berlin Bathtub Races as a collection vessel, placed at the welcome center.

"The idea was to keep Jesse's legacy alive and the Shoe Box alive by using the tub to collect the shoes," Wells said. "And the campaign is going really well. We just called them again to collect another full bathtub."

The Town of Berlin, which offers staff and other assistance for chamber events, was given an oversized \$5,000 check as a thank you. Town Administrator Laura Allen said that money would "go to the Main Street program to help offset the cost [of] town's support."

Frene said chamber events greatly benefits from town help, and notably from Wells herself.

"We have great support from the town, more so than ever before," he said. "With Ivy there, we have her support and promotion, and help marketing and planning, and the town really supports us.

"These events cost a lot of money for the town, because all the guys have to hang out for hours and clean up and it's overtime ... and it's expensive," he continued.

"We just felt like we should share some of the revenue and present it in a way to show our support and help the town. And it's something we hope to continue to do," Frene said.

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Rebranding to reinvent ‘Jazz & Blues Bash’

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) New Berlin Chamber of Commerce President Steve Frene plans to overhaul at least one major event during the coming year.

The chamber event season kicks off on April 20 with the Berlin Spring Celebration, an “Alice in Wonderland”-themed event for children and families timed to coincide with the Saturday before Easter.

Frene said the event would remain the same for the most part, but the May 4 Jazz & Blues Bash would get a rebranding.

“We’ve got a huge enhancement to the Jazz & Blues Bash this year,” he said. “We’ve got a name change and we’re going to call it ‘Jazz & Blues, Wine & Brews,’ which is something I’ve been wanting to do for many years.”

He said the change was tried on smaller-scale using local wines, but was unsuccessful. However, after talking with Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, things started coming together.

“She offered her assistance because, in her former job with Sykesville, she had done a wine festival,” Frene said. “In a couple weeks, she came back and she had met with John Fager at the Atlantic Hotel ... and he was quite familiar with wine tastings [as well].”

Wells said she was more than happy to help.

“When Steve came and asked, I immediately said I would love to help, let me make some calls,” she said. “I worked with John Fager, because he had wanted to bring a wine festival to downtown, so instead of doing a separate festival I thought it would be a good idea to combine the two, if it worked for us.”

After meeting with Fager and his wine representative, Chad Newberger from the Republic National Distributing Company, Wells presented her notes to Frene and the chamber board.

“Everybody just loved the idea,” she said. “What a lot of people don’t like about the Maryland wine festivals is that it’s typically only Maryland wines. We’re going to have wines from around the world.”

Republic National, Frene said, “has 10 wineries that will each have six different wines, and they’re domestic and international.”

“It’s going to be fine wines from all over the world, with the best variety from 10 different companies,” Frene said.

He said tickets for the wine tasting would be sold in advance and come with a lanyard that doubles as a wine glass holder.

“It’s cool, because it keeps your hands free, plus it’ll help so you’re less apt to have wine glasses in the street breaking,” Frene said. “And it’ll be unlimited tastings from the 10 wineries. We’re setting up a website at the chamber now [to sell tickets], so people can come online and pay \$35 in advance or \$40 on the day-of the event.”

Wells said the main event would continue to be free and guests would be welcome to buy a beer or a glass of wine – only the tasting component would be ticketed and a wristband would identify participants.

What’s more, she said downtown businesses with wine licenses such as Baked Dessert Café and the Globe would also play a role.

“Everyone’s involved in it, which was extremely important to me,” Wells said. “I’m very happy that all of the businesses are involved.”

Frene said additional “to-go” wine sales would be handled through the Atlantic Hotel.

“If you taste this wonderful Argentinian Malbec and you wanted to buy a bottle or two or a case, you could do that,” Frene said.

Because of the expected additional revenue from the event, Frene said more money would be spent this year to pull in bigger entertainment acts for Jazz & Blues.

“It’s going to help us book some talent from bigger markets,” he said. “I’m in negotiations now with the entertainment ... and it’s going to be a mix of local and regional bands.”

Local acts Lower Case Blues, and Earl Beardsley and the Dixieland Heritage Band, will again play the event, as will a jazz band from Snow Hill High

School. Frene said he’s also in talks with three other groups: A 40-year blues vet from Washington, D.C. in the tradition of James Cotton; a Latin jazz big band fronted by a Cuban musician also based in Washington; and the return of the U.S. Navy Jazz Band Commodores.

“That’s an 18-piece jazz orchestra, and they were here two years ago,” Frene said. “I really feel like this is the best mix ever, from a full-on orchestra, to the Dixieland, to straight-ahead blues and now a Latin jazz component.

“It’s just a little something different and offers a little diversity, and because of the wine it really ties in nicely, doing international wines and to have a little international entertainment is just kind of different,” he continued.

“That’s kind of what we’re most excited about. I’ve always wanted to, for all these events, take it to the next level and

try something different,” Frene said.

Additional chamber events in 2019 include the Spring Cruisers (May 18), Bathtub Races (June 14), Fiddler’s Conventions (Sept. 20-22), and Fall Cruisers (Oct. 12).

Also this year, Frene plans to help overhaul the chamber bylaws.

“The bylaws haven’t really been rewritten since 2010, prior to the addition of the director and assistant director [positions],” he said. “It’s a minor thing. The chamber is just going to keep doing what it’s doing and we’re going to get those bylaws to really reflect the current configuration of the chamber.”

He said there would also be a push for more educational components for membership, including social media assistance and seminars.

For more information, visit www.berlinchamber.org.

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More on Berlin Falls park developments

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Earlier this month, Berlin Mayor Gee Williams commented publicly, “This is the year when we’ll probably see more visible impact [at Berlin Falls].”

The Berlin Falls Park Committee, during its most recent meeting, hinted at several new developments, from building demolitions and interactive sculptures, to firming short and long-term priorities and recommending a permanent name for the park:

Demo update
Park Coordinator David Deutsch said bids to demolish nearly all of the smaller buildings on the more than 60-acre former industrial property would be opened Feb. 8.

“We’ll know in a few weeks what those prices are ... for the demolition of

the small buildings throughout the site,” he said.

He said a former laboratory building “which [has] the potential for a restroom” and a tower were not among the structures listed for demolition, nor was the largest building on the property, which one estimate suggested would cost \$600,000 to bring down.

Fire sculptures
Planning Director Dave Engelhart weighed in on a fire sculpture previously proposed by committee member Joan Maloof.

Engelhart said he spoke with Worcester County Fire Marshal Chief Deputy Matt Owens, who asked for more specifics.

“The thing that Joan had brought in last time, I sent him ... I approximated [it to be] thereabout five feet tall,” he said. “I wanted him to tell me what he would have to see to permit these or say, yeah, they’re safe.”

Owens’ reply, according to Engelhart, was that the “proposed outdoor fires” would have to be constantly attended “by a competent person until such fire is extinguished.”

“He’s not opposed to it – he would just want to see what we would propose,” Engelhart said.

Committee member Kate Patton said the fire sculptures ought to be part of an overarching park development plan.

“I don’t want it to disappear,” she said. “We could have a summary of, essentially, the bonfires or a special sculptural project like this [that] could be

done with specific guidelines.”

She added, “If we want to do an event, either for the Spring Equinox or Summer Solstice or something, we could apply for a permit, whether it’s a bonfire or one of us could bring one of these special fire spears ... and then just do it as a special event, one time.”

Park naming
Councilman Zack Tyndall and committee member Roger Fitzgerald up-

Tyndall said the subcommittee would develop it and have a hard copy ready for the next meeting. Town Administrator Laura Allen said when the survey was “ready to launch for real,” the town could help promote it using newsletters and the online marketing tool Constant Contact.

Planning update
Fitzgerald is also part of a “physical subcommittee” that met on Jan. 9 to discuss short, mid and long-term park priorities.

In the short term, before March 31, he said the group wants to finish an annotated park map to include locations for a bandstand, amphitheater, viewing areas around the ponds, bird viewing blinds, and a bridge over a stream in the woods.

He also mentioned water safety kits and park benches, as well as space for pollinator gardens and “an area that would be used in the future for a skate park ... [to include a] skate park, roller skating [and] ice skating.”

For mid-term priorities, by Dec. 31, Fitzgerald said the committee wanted bird-viewing blinds, the bridge, benches, water safety kits and a permanent restroom in place.

In the long term, by June 30, 2020, he said the group recommended construction of a bandstand and amphitheater, and piers for water access.

“I love it,” Chairwoman Amy Field said. “Roger sent me that and I thought it was perfect.”

Also discussed
Allen said about \$259,000 remains in the budget for park development, left-over from the bond used to purchase the land. She said the funds paid for Deutsch’s consulting salary, but would not necessarily be used for the proposed YMCA feasibility study.

Field said the committee would meet again on Feb. 21 to discuss the study and go over a calendar for potential spring events at the park.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

While initial Berlin Falls park developments have focused on passive-use items, like this interpretive signage unveiled last year, the Berlin Falls Park Committee earlier this month discussed more active development.

dated the group on activities of the park-naming subcommittee.

Tyndall said the ideal would be to decide on a name sooner rather than later, “so that we kind of have a clear name moving forward as we start to brand.”

Patton said she was under the impression that Williams “wanted to reserve the name for a funder.” She noted the three existing parks in town were all named after historical figures, including Commodore Stephen Decatur and Dr. William Henry.

Both Tyndall and Fitzgerald suggested some means of public outreach to gather naming ideas. Fitzgerald then proposed a practice survey with committee members taking part in a trial run.

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Nonprofit grant policy gets slight ‘tweaking’

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Four alterations to the Town of Berlin’s nonprofit grant policy were approved by the Town Council Monday.

The policy was adopted last year and, according to an executive summary, provided \$30,000 to six organizations that applied.

Human Resources Director Jeff Fleetwood said some revisions were necessary after the first year.

Changes included removing the eligibility for faith-based organizations, eliminating “community engagement and economic development” from the list of eligible categories, requiring a Maryland Charity ID number in compliance with state law, and requiring the business to be in good standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Contributions made to Atlantic General Hospital, the Berlin Fire Company, Town of Berlin’s Energy Assistance Program and Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services are exempt because “The Mayor and Council have determined that the services provided by these organizations warrant a different approach.”

The criteria for approving grants includes “an identifiable benefit to the Town or the community at large,” or organizations that provide “a service

that complements or enhances a service that the Town of Berlin also provides to its residents or businesses,” or when an organization “provides a

to persons in need; those that provide physical or mental health services to people with special needs; those that educate residents; and those that pro-

mental entity or 501(c)(3) nonprofit or 501(c)(6) chamber of commerce.

Funding cannot be used for existing obligations, debts or liabilities, and should not be used to support national or regional charities. Grants may not be used for political campaigns or to support attempts “to influence the legislature or any governmental body.”

Grantees “shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, weight, height, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability or other characteristic protected by law.”

Mayor Gee Williams, on Monday, said all the changes fell under the category of “learn by doing” and that “modest tweaking was ... important to make the processes fair.”

Councilman Zack Tyndall moved to approve the changes. The vote was 4-0 in favor with one member, Troy Pur-nell, not present.

“It’s nice that we’re learning what works and what doesn’t work,” Tyndall said.

To apply for a nonprofit grant through the Town of Berlin, an applicant must first submit a request for determination of eligibility through the town administrator. To download a form or view the entire policy, visit www.berlinmd.gov/town-department-services/town-forms-permit-applications.



Local people are recognized as “Outstanding Supporters” and “Outstanding Contributors” during a ceremony at Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin, last year. The nonprofit is one of a handful of organizations exempted from having to apply each year for Town of Berlin nonprofit grant funding.

service that the Town could provide to its residents or businesses but chooses not to.”

Funding categories include groups that provide shelter, food, or clothing

provide services “that supports, complements or enhances a service or program that the Town of Berlin provides to its residents or businesses.”

Grants can be made to a govern-

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Mayor Williams weighs in on Berlin leash laws and Airbnbs

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 31, 2019) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams on Monday had a few more things to say about a pair of resident complaints made at the Jan. 14 Town Council meeting.

Pam Hay, earlier this month, spoke about town leash laws and potential Airbnb operations in the town.

On Monday, Williams said town officials “take these suggestions very seriously” and urged residents in both instances, “if you see something, say something.”

Williams said any rental operation in the town must have a rental license. He added, “We really have no way of finding out ... unless somebody calls either Town Hall or the police department.”

“I don’t think any of us want government employees, even the friendly folks from the town level, coming into your homes and checking to see if you’ve got anybody staying over,” Williams said. “That’s just not the way it works.”

He added, “We want to do the right thing. We may, as we get experience and we see other communities that have a much more impact from

Airbnbs, we’ll find out how they’re tweaking their ordinances and regulations, and we’ll certainly look into that. But it doesn’t matter what we have on the books if we don’t have citizens telling us where the problems are.”

Berlin leash laws, he said, have “been on the books since 1980.” According to Williams, walking a dog without a leash violates town code and could lead to fines.

He said incidents involving unleashed dogs seem to happen in sprees.

“There are periods where we have no problems at all and then ... you’ll have a period of two or three months when there’s two or three instances,” Williams said. “We have the ability to enforce those things, but I can’t see where we’ll ever have enough law enforcement officers that we can have people literally patrolling the dogs.”

“We can’t be the citizen and the town public servants at the same time – we can’t be both,” Williams continued. “If either one of those things is bothering you ... you need to call somebody.”

“If you’re seeing something, call the town and we can respond as immediately as possible,” he added.

‘We can’t be the citizen and the town public servants at the same time.’

Berlin Mayor
Gee Williams

Community Briefs

Representing Worcester

Worcester County Public Schools announced that Stephen Decatur High School senior Isabel Emond will serve as the Maryland General Assembly Page during the 2019 session.

Emond will serve two non-consecutive weeks in either the House of Delegates or the Senate while the Maryland General Assembly is in session where she will fulfill a variety of Page responsibilities including running errands for officials, answering phones, assisting visitors and distributing materials.

Emond is a member of the National Honor Society as well as a founding member of the school Birding Club. She also serves as a community intern for Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Airman graduates

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class Haley Mills graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Mills is the daughter of Kimberly Owens of Berlin, and Chris Mills of Altamonte Springs, Florida, and stepdaughter of Kenneth Seig of Berlin.

She is a 2015 graduate of Susquehanna Township High School, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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*2018 OPA Survey

Bingo fundraiser tonight for ‘Mighty Max’

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 31, 2019) Show support for children’s cancer awareness and a local boy who has battled the disease during the Mighty Max Bingo Fundraiser, tonight, Thursday, from 6-10 p.m. at the Greene Turtle in West Ocean City.

In October 2017, Scott and Chandi Long, of Ocean Pines, received the worst diagnosis any parent could hear from a doctor; that their child has cancer. Their then 4-year-old son Max was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Long spent a total of 126 days at Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C. for treatment, with his mother, a personal trainer at Power House Gym in West Ocean City, by his side the whole time. Currently, Long is in remission.

However, there have been countless weekly trips to the hospital for treatments, tests and lumbar punctures as well as some emergency transports due to spiked fevers and other infections. The treatments that Long will receive on this maintenance phase will last for three years and have been very costly.

Five friends who exercise at Power House Gym – Kathy Winte, Joan Gadowski, Vickie Brady, Ardella Anderson and Lynn Bush – joined to-

gether to help the Long family financially.

“The five of us are part of what we call ourselves, ‘the Posse.’ We all train with Chandi, his mom, and we de-

For a \$10 entry fee, guests can enjoy appetizers, happy hour prices on drinks and receive a door prize ticket. Tickets for bingo cost \$2 each and the event will also offer a 50/50



Ocean Pines resident Max Long, 5, is in remission of B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, and will celebrate during the Mighty Max Bingo Fundraiser at the Greene Turtle in West Ocean City next Thursday, Jan. 31.

PHOTO COURTESY CHANDI LONG

cided that the timing was right to do something for the family,” Winte said. “Max, he’s our superhero in the community fighting leukemia ... he’s given so many people so much inspiration to fight like a champion and fight like a hero to overcome his adversity.”

raffle and Chinese auction. In addition, there will be a basket of hope raffle for \$5 a ticket or get five for \$20.

“What an amazing community that we’ve moved into,” Chandi Long said. “We moved out to Ocean Pines about three and half years now, and we

moved out here because we were looking for a tight-knit community, somewhere a little different from where we’ve lived before. We have just been completely overwhelmed by the amount of community support that we’ve received since Max’s diagnosis. It’s just been an outpouring of love and support.”

The event is family friendly and welcomes children to participate in bingo as well.

Prizes for bingo include gift cards, T-shirts and prizes from local restaurants and businesses. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Long family.

“The event feels bigger than just Max,” Long said. “They’re raising money for our family, but ... in addition to that, it raises awareness for childhood cancer. People see [cancer] as something that is extremely rare and although it is rare, it’s something that affects kids in every single community. For me, the financial part is phenomenal and greatly needed and appreciated, but it’s also getting people together to talk about pediatric cancer and to see Max as a member of their community, somebody who has actually been going through it and personalizes it.”

For more information, call the Greene Turtle at 410-213-1500 or visit the Mighty Max Bingo Facebook page to make a monetary donation.

Homecoming surprises children

Continued from Page 1

The video shows Madilynn screaming with excitement and then jumping up to hug her dad.

“It was mixed emotions,” she said. “I felt ... shocked and happy and surprised at the same time.”

Madilynn had been sitting with her friends and talking with them about her father’s deployment. She said her friends loved the video.

“They wanted to see the video again and again and again,” Madi-

lynn said.

It also was a memorable occasion for the roughly 150 students and staff in the lunchroom.

“There weren’t too many dry eyes in that cafeteria that day,” Shipley said. “It was one of the greatest moments I’ve experienced here at the middle school.”

After Diehl’s visit with Madilynn, he headed to see his 11-year-old son, Mason, at Berlin Intermediate School. Diehl also has a 2-year-old

son named Camden.

In the six years Diehl has been in the Air Force, the Qatar assignment was his first overseas deployment, which included trips to Germany and Estonia in support of military operations.

Now that he’s stateside, he’s glad to be reunited with his family.

“I am very excited to be home. To me, nowhere compares to America!” he said. “I look forward to spending time with family and visiting our favorite local places.”



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PHOTO COURTESY JEANENE GWIN

PAJAMA DAY
Berlin Intermediate School collected pajamas, books and donations for its second annual Pajama Day Drive. Pictured are Sophia Ferrante, Makakai Mason, Nicholas Morales and Brody Olsen.

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Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Not quite yet time for pitchforks and torches

As Ocean Pines property owners prepare for Saturday’s budget session, they might temper their outrage at the proposed \$127 increase in assessments by accepting that this financial package is still in the preliminary stages.

Considering the observations offered this week by Association President Doug Parks, it’s apparent that this level of increase will not stand and will be scaled back considerably, as the directors separate its proposed expenditures into three categories — what must be done, what could be done and what isn’t necessary in the coming budget year.

This document, apparently, is all-inclusive, as it touches on every possible project and expense the Ocean Pines Association might encounter, consider or pursue in the next year.

Some of the budget entries obviously involve policy decisions, rather than management recommendations, and those will be made by the board after the public makes its opinion known.

Also to be considered, however, is that no matter what the budget’s final numbers turn out to be, the financial sins of budgets past will have a major impact.

It’s tough to retreat from previously established payroll, benefits and hiring policies, just as it is impossible to turn back the clock and undo money-draining pursuits that might have been done better or not at all.

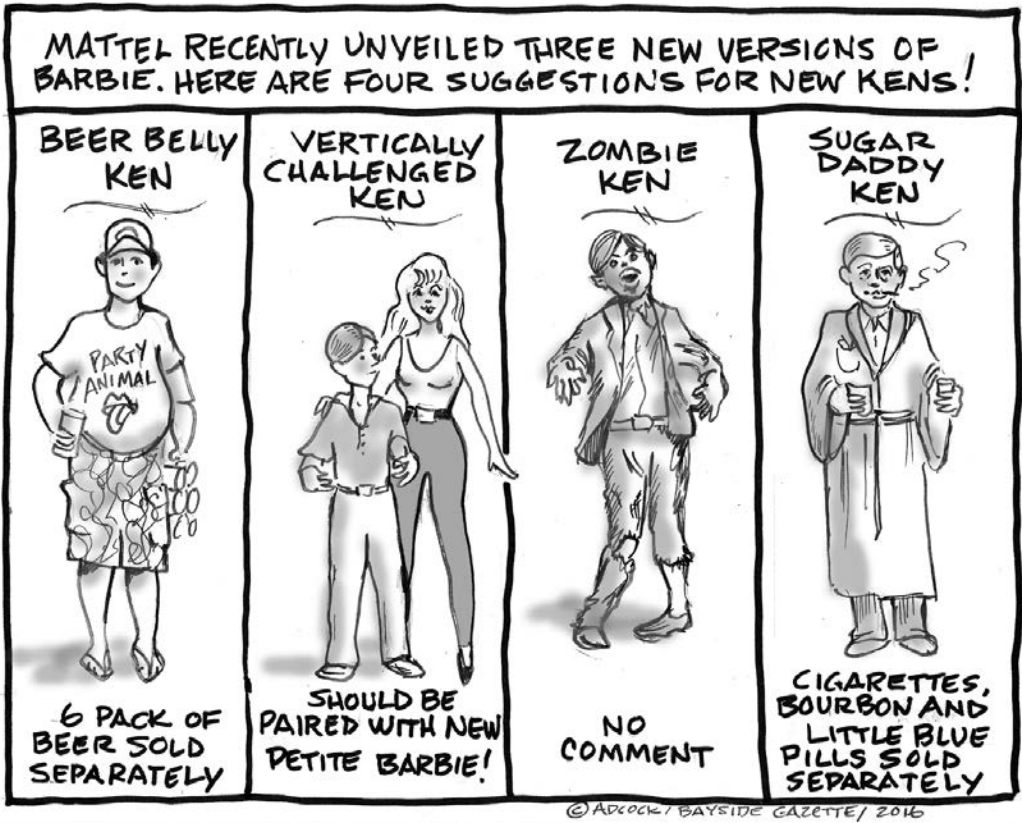
There’s no such thing as a clean budget that starts from zero, and this one attempts to take the past and future into account all at once. But it’s an ala carte monetary menu, that will allow the board and association members to pick and choose between what they’re prepared to pay for and what they have to do, like it or not.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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‘Women Who Care’ donations continue

(Jan. 31, 2019) The success of the first two years of the 100+ Women Who Care on the Shore can be measured in many ways, one of which is the \$20,100 that was raised by the average of 26 members who regularly attend the meetings.

The six local charity organizations who have directly benefitted from the donations of the members include the Cricket Center, Stephen Decatur High School Band Boosters, Women Supporting Women, Atlantic General Hospital’s Healthway Drive Community Garden, Germantown School Community Heritage Center, and Hope4Recovery.

The 100+ Women Who Care on the Shore consists of a group of local women interested in making an immediate, direct and positive impact within Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties by contributing 100 percent of their donation to local charities. Currently there are more than 400 active chapters throughout the world.

“The approach is fast and simple,” said Janelle Mulholland, one of the three organizers of the 100+ Women Who Care on the Shore. “The impact is immediate. If



The 100+ Women Who Care on the Shore group recently presented \$2,200 to Hope4Recovery.

there are 100 of us at a meeting, that’s \$10,000 for a local charity in one hour.”

The group meets three times a year for one hour and learns about local non-profit agencies, nominated by members. Voted on by the group, one agency is selected to receive individual checks of \$100 from the members. The checks are written directly to the local agency, so there are no administrative fees.

Members contribute a tax-deductible donation of \$100, three times a year.

The group is open to all women interested in donating

to local charities. All agencies nominated must be 501(c)(3) and community organizations benefitting Worcester, Wicomico or Somerset counties.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at Fins Raw Bar in Berlin, 119 N. Main Street. The 100+ Women Who Care on the Shore committee members are Mulholland, Anna Newton and Michelle McGowan.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/100WomenWhoCareOnTheShore/ or contact Mulholland at mjmulholland@mchsi.com or call 410-352-3910.

Must be 21 or Older to attend. ID required at door.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WEBSTER HONORED

The Worcester County Commissioners honor Emergency Services Director Fred Webster, on Dec. 18, who retired at the end of the month, after leading the 911 Communications Center and all aspects of emergency management operations for the county for the past 17 years. Webster began his career in Emergency Services as the assistant director on July 17, 2002. In 2013, the Commissioners promoted him to direct the department. He was also instrumental in instructing the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch Basic Telecommunicator classes and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Emergency Response Team program in Worcester County.

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Business Briefs

Ott joins EXIT

EXIT Realty At The Beach in Ocean Pines announced the addition of Bob Ott to its team of real estate professionals.



Bob Ott

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EXIT Realty At The Beach is located at 11002 Manklin Meadows Lane #3, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811. For more information, call 410-208-EXIT (3948).

Top agent

Nancy Reither has been selected among America's Top 100 Real Estate Agents for 2019.



Nancy Reither

Selection to America's Top 100 Real Estate Agents is by invitation only and is reserved to identify the nation's most esteemed and skilled real estate agents and brokers with a history of routinely selling homes above market value.

Members are selected through a comprehensive multi-phase selection process involving proprietary algorithms using advanced data analytics to assess a broad array of criteria and data for each candidate, including (but not limited to) the real estate professional's total yearly sales volume, notable above market value sales, luxury home sales, efficiency rating for closing sales, lifetime professional experience, client satisfaction ratings, and other notable recognitions, among many other proprietary factors.

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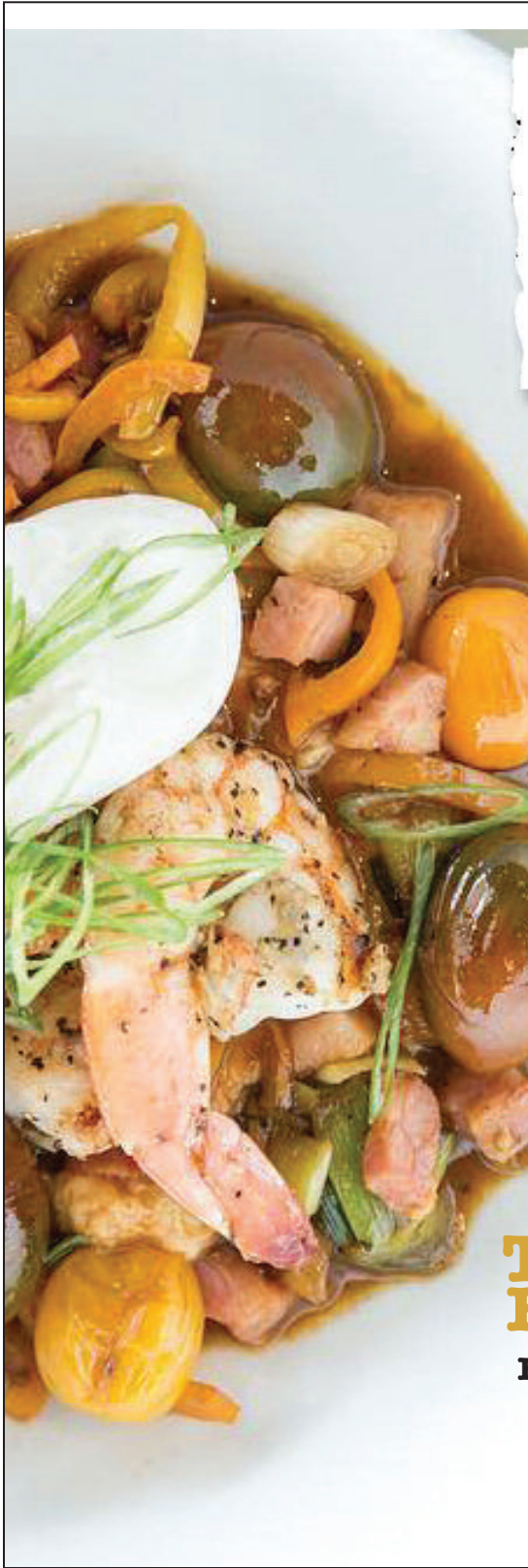
Only the Top 100 qualifying real estate professionals in each region will receive this honor and be selected for membership among America's Top 100 Real Estate Agents. Less than 1 percent of active real estate professionals in the United States will receive this honor.



PHOTO COURTESY JEANENE GWINO

OPIOID DISCUSSION

Jackie Ball met with Berlin Intermediate School's sixth grade students to help educate them about the harmful effects of opioids. Ball is a member of the Worcester Warriors. She is pictured with Berlin Intermediate School's SADD members (Students Against Destructive Decisions).



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EDUCATION DONATION

As a way to give back to the community, Drs. Chris and Tracy Rush of Healing Hands Chiropractic did not charge for appointments on Oct. 31, but instead asked their patients to make donations to the Worcester County Education Foundation. Pictured with the \$1,796 donation check are Dr. Tracy Rush and Lou Taylor, superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools. For more information on the Worcester County Education Foundation, visit www.wced.foundation or call Hope Palmer at 410-632-5038.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECENT GRADS

Worcester County jail and correctional officers who graduated in the 103rd entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, from left, are Mary R. Chaney of the Ocean City Police Department and Yashawn R. Cuffee and Yasmine R. Jenkins of the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOOD DRIVE

It's the time of giving and the Stephen Decatur High School community has answered the call with over 2,000 pounds of canned goods collected during the annual Student Government Association food drive during American Education Week. Donations were given to Diakonia shelter in West Ocean City. Pictured are students Elizabeth Pivec, Paige O'Brien, Lily Clark, Connor Carpenter, Alexis Black, Grace Schwendeman and Kaitlyn Peters



PHOTO COURTESY DJ LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brian K. Roberts of Tax & Financial Services LLC, right, visited the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City meeting on Dec. 12. He is pictured with Club President Dick Claggett.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

YOUTH PHILANTHROPIST

Worcester Prep junior Abi Plylar was named a 2018 Youth Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Maryland Chapter. During the Nov. 14 awards ceremony, Plylar talked about the tennis fundraiser "Love for Lungs," she started at the age of 13, in honor of her grandfather who passed away from pulmonary fibrosis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SOCK HOP

The Ocean Pines 50th Anniversary Committee, under the guidance of event organizer Cheryl Jacobs, held a sock hop dance party on Dec. 14 to wrap up the community's year-long celebration. More than 110 people were in attendance. Cutline information will go here. Cutline information will go here.

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
www.bjsonthewater.com
Feb 1: Thin Ice, 9 p.m.
Feb 2: The Girlfriends, 9 p.m.
Feb 3: Teenage Rust & the Fabulous Rustettes, 2 p.m.
Feb 6: Identity Crisis, 6 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Feb 1: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci, 7-10 p.m.
Feb 2: Chris Button, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Feb 3: Vincent, 6 p.m.
Feb 6: Reform School, 6 p.m. & Open Mic 9 p.m.
Feb 7: Chris Button, 7-10 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-7192
www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday:
Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the

Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449
www.duffysoc.com
Feb. 1: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.
Feb. 2: Karaoke w/DJ Chuck D, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
www.hootersofoc.com
Feb. 1: DJ Wax, 4-8 p.m.
Feb. 2: DJ BK, 6-10 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
www.clarionoc.com
Every Friday and Saturday:
DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Feb. 1-2: New Censation 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-4891
www.picklesoc.com
Feb 1: Beats By Jeremy, 10 p.m.
Feb 2: Beats By Adam Dutch, 10 p.m.
Feb 4: Karaoke with Jeremy, 9 p.m.



RICKY & LENNON LARICCI
Skye Bar: Saturday, 4-8 p.m.

Feb 7: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
www.seacrets.com
Feb. 1: DJ Cruz
9 p.m.-1:50 a.m.
Feb. 2: Opposite Directons
5 p.m.-9 p.m. DJ Cruz
6 p.m.-1:50 a.m.
Believe In Tomorrow Prom Night
7 p.m.-11 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Feb. 2: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci,
4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922
www.whiskersbar.com
Feb. 1: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

CLAYTON THEATRE

302/732-3744

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Children \$8.50

Children \$7.50

Seniors \$8.50

Seniors \$7.50

\$8.50 MATINEES

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call: 302-732-3744 or

visit: www.ilovetheclayton.com

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*EXCLUDES VALENTINE'S DAY

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16oz.	\$32.99	\$16.50
22oz.	\$38.99	\$19.50

www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com

302-539-3095

Rt. 54 and The Bay, Fenwick Island DE

Cuisine

Pickled green beans: a bloody mary's BFF

Temperatures in the teens, the polar vortex splitting arctic air into pieces that are saturating us with frigid weather, and firewood that just won't light despite every effort are all playing their role in this being a chilly morning in the homestead. [Pause]



By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

OK, I was able to get the fire started and the room has that smoky hint, warming nicely. The weather a balmy 23-degrees outside, I am going to knock this out before I go to school to wrestle that gorilla.

For the time being I, like so many of you, am dreaming of warmer climes – of warmer days and of course of days in and on the water. I reminisce of lovely trips last year to the Keys and New Orleans, and of upcoming work and military reunion trips both in Florida. Of course, the convention trip is in Orlando in August, so I imagine I will be shedding a few pounds in water weight down there. But the April trip to Madeira Beach to see some Marine buddies that I haven't seen in 26 years will be a welcome respite from The Shore.

Honestly, as long as I get to travel, the weather doesn't bother me one bit. I have always suffered from wanderlust, as you may well know if you have been reading these scintillating musings for more than a few months. There is simply too much to see out there in this big, beautiful world to stay put for too long. And as much as the Eastern Shore has grown on me, and as much as this will more than likely be my home base for the rest of my tiny amount of time on earth, I still plan to see much, much more.

For me, it is not just "getting away" from responsibilities that does it for me. If it was, then staycations would be a regular thing for me. No, I just know that I don't know what I should yet, and if I can see it, live it, experience it and then share it with my children and anyone else, than I have lived a pretty darn charmed life. Of course, this "charmed" life comes at a cost, hence working around the clock to build the war chest so that such extravagances can be afforded, but I digress.

One of my favorite trips is to New Orleans. I have been five times, and went last July for conference, being lucky enough to have my girlfriend accom-



pany me. It was her first time to the Big Easy, and it did not disappoint. There is just something about this ancient town, with its smells and sights, memorials and haunting cemeteries and of course the locals; vibrant and colorful in tradition, music, food and soul.

An incredibly diverse population lives in the French Quarter (our stomping grounds for the duration of the trip), and I have never been anywhere that is so invigorating and lovely, to be frank. When middle school children can march down the street in unison as a rag-tag band playing better than some university marching bands, there is simply something unique and precious in that. Then again, I am a music person, so it could mean a great deal more to me than others.

As far as food and drink go, we ate everything from old school New Orleans (K. Paul's and Arnaud's) to new school (Longway Tavern). Of course, we had to eat Beignets, but then it really is nothing more than overpriced funnel cake and we get enough of that down here, don't we?

However, from bar to restaurant, breakfast to dinner, even I was surprised at how ubiquitous the bloody mary had become. Not only that, but spicy pickled green beans were the required garnish, period. I don't remember them from my last trip six years prior, but I was not disappointed. Neither was Dawn, as we started asking for extras.

Something as simple as a pickled green bean was transformative. I guess you could say that it does for the drink what the Big Easy does for us. It's just that certain something that we need to elevate ourselves – to learn a little more and to enjoy life, and to make us just a little bit better.

Pickled Green Beans

makes 1 quart
1 pound Fresh green beans, whole & snapped
2 cups White vinegar
1 tsp. Fresh dill
1 Tbsp. Yellow mustard seed
1 tsp. Crushed red pepper flake
1 whole jalapeno, sliced

6 peeled cloves fresh garlic
1 cup Sugar
2 Tbsp. Salt

1. Clean the green beans and set aside in a container that has the beans standing straight up, but with enough room for the remaining ingredients
2. Combine the remaining ingredients and bring to a rolling boil and remove from heat immediately
3. Adjust seasoning if you like, and then pour over the green beans
4. Ensuring that the beans are covered in liquid, cool them completely. Either can them (you can find procedures for that online) or vacuum pack them

If you have access to a vacuum chamber, you can start eating these on day two. otherwise, you're looking at a two-week wait before you dive in. They will be edible before then, but the will not be as good.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

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Calendar

Please send calendar items to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

Thurs., Jan. 31

REGISTRATION ENDS FOR ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, 12:00 AM. The Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department welcomes adults, 50 year and older, to this event held on Feb. 14 from 5-9 p.m. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a sit-down dinner and dancing. Music provided by On the Edge. Cost is \$32 for Ocean City residents and \$43 for non-residents. All tables and seats are reserved. Registration ends Jan. 31. Anna Paterson, apaterson@oceancitymd.gov or call 410-250-0125.

STORY TIME 'TURTLE TIME'
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Children, ages 2-5 years, enjoy stories, movement, songs and crafts. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'JUNGLE ANIMALS'
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

VIETNAM WAR TET 51ST ANNIVERSARY
Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, 11144 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 12:00 PM. This year the TET 51 Wreath will be placed at the Memorial recognizing the 51st Anniversary and to honor those who fought in the TET Offense of 1968. Also, a moment will be taken for those who did not return from this victory. Held rain or shine.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Providing physical and emotional support for survivors and caregivers to share personal experiences and challenges. Coping strategies also discussed. Anne Waples, awaples@atlantic-general.org, 443-614-5720

FIRESIDE CHAT
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:00 PM. Explore new authors and genres. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COOKING FOR A FURRY FRIEND
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 PM. Learn how to make some homemade dog biscuits. Take them home to your dog or donate them to a local animal shelter. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

MIGHTY MAX BINGO
Greene Turtle West, 9616 Stephen Decatur Highway, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Proceeds from this event benefit Max, 5-year-old son of Scott and Chandi Long. Max was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2017. A \$10 donation at the door includes one door prize ticket, complimentary hors d'oeuvres

and happy hour drink prices. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a Basket of Hope raffle. Tickets for the Basket of Hope are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The event also features a family-friendly bingo game.

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Ropewalk Restaurant, 8203 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577 or Kate, 410-524-0649. [BeachSingles.org](http://www.BeachSingles.org), <http://www.BeachSingles.org>

GRIEF SUPPORT
Thursdays - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education. Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

Fri., Feb. 1

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION AT THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th Street Bayside, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Join us on opening night for our new exhibitions for February! 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

Sat., Feb. 2

INDOOR FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - Northside Fire House, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Featuring quality fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, poultry and daily products, as well as, baked goods, jams, cider, wine, honey, maple syrup, coffee, sauces, soups, kitchen ware, treats for pets, unique finds and live music. Open to the public. 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006,

Mon., Feb. 4

CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive. All day. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

HYPERTENSION CLINIC
Apple Discount Drugs, 314 Franklin Ave., #600, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Monday of every month. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Michelle, 410-641-9268.

5TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL PROJECT
Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM. The project begins with bowl-making sessions and cul-

minates in a soup dinner. All ages get involved by hand-making ceramic soup bowls during bowl-making sessions held now through February. The cost is \$25 and includes the bowl and admission to the soup dinner on March 29, 2019. A complete schedule of sessions is available at www.artleagueofoceancity.org. Proceeds benefit Diakonia. Open to the public. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Champion, 410-641-0157.

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Open to the public and meets the first Monday of each month. Speaker and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761.

DELMARVA A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. All levels of singers and drop-ins welcome. Carol, 410-641-6876.

Tues., Feb. 5

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and health lifestyle. jeanduck47@gmail.com

WED., FEB. 6

GRACE PARKER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Eggs any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, ham, biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee, tea. Cost is \$9 to eat in or \$7 to carry out. Milk, soda and orange juice available. 410-289-9340.

HYPERTENSION CLINICS
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place at Rite Aid, 10119 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin and at Rite Aid, 11011 Manklin Creek Road, Ocean Pines. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Michelle, 410-641-9268.

FREE HEALTHCARE LECTURE
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. The Live Well Academy is a free, year-long lecture series on a wide range of health-

care topics. This month's topic will be Heart Health. The lecture is open to the public. Advance registration is required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

FREE HEART HEALTH FREE SEMINAR
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Peninsula Regional Medical Center will discuss heart health in conjunction with American Heart Month. Open to the public. Advance registration is required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052, <http://www.OceanPines.org>

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital, the group is open to the public and meets on the first Wednesday of each month. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education program, 410-208-9761.

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP/OC
Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB
Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities. Members and their guests welcome. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OC/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Wednesdays - Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St., 6:00 PM. 302-540-2127

ONGOING EVENTS

FREE WELLNESS WORKSHOPS
Free workshops dealing with hypertension, chronic pain self-management, chronic disease self-management, diabetes, fall prevention and cancer. If you would like to register for one of these workshops or you would like more information about bringing any of the workshops to your business or group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-0505, Ext. 159.

'ACHIEVING SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS SUCCESS' SEMINAR
Atlantic General Bariatric Center Conference Room, 10231 Old Ocean City Blvd., Suite 207, Berlin. Takes place the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m. This is a free, in-person seminar. Additional opportunities are also available in the form of an online webinar. Register: 410-641-9568.

Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID CARROLL

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

The Parke Wine Appreciation Group and Montclair Court neighbors celebrated Joe Green's 90th birthday on Jan. 20.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BLOOD DRIVE

Stephen Decatur High School senior Tara Fischer lends a helping hand to donor Sarah Beesley during the bi-annual Key Club blood drive. Over 100 donors were on hand during the Blood Bank of Delmarva's visit to the school on Nov. 9.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ENSEMBLE PERFORMS

Worcester Prep Middle and Upper School Music Director Christopher Buzby and his Select Vocal Ensemble treated residents of three local retirement homes in Berlin, Snow Hill and Salisbury, to singing performances on Nov. 30. Following their annual tradition, the Ensemble pulled off another successful flash mob in The Centre At Salisbury during their lunch at the food court.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AGH DONATION

The Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary presented hospital officials with a check in the amount of \$40,000 toward the hospital's annual appeal during its annual membership meeting on Dec. 11. Members of the AGH Auxiliary Executive Committee presenting the donation to Atlantic General Hospital representatives, from left, are Barbara Lischak, Auxiliary treasurer; Jackie Choate, Auxiliary secretary; Lois Sirman, Board of Trustee member; Michael Franklin, AGH president and CEO; Kitty Reeves, Auxiliary president; Margie DiNenna, Auxiliary recording secretary; Janet Mengel, Auxiliary past president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DEMOCRAT CLUB

Members of the Democratic Club of Ocean City and Berlin gather at the group's winter luncheon on Jan. 10 at The Inn on the Ocean, where Go Green OC board members spoke about efforts toward recycling, composting and waste reduction in the Ocean City area. Pictured, from left, are Sandy Sribnick, Lanny Hickman, Jim Richardson, Barbara Richardson, Howard Sribnick and Kaye Hickman.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STATE CHAMPS

Stephen Decatur High School sophomores Billy Fisher and Ian Ramnarain earned the title of Fall Stock Market Maryland state champions after participating in the Economic Education Stock Market Challenge through business teacher Kurt Marx's class. The money-savvy duo took first place out of nearly 500 teams, earning a 13 percent interest rate off a virtual \$100,000 investment over a 10-week period. Fisher, Ramnarain and Marx will be recognized at special banquet sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation in the spring. Also pictured is Principal Tom Sites.

CALL

410-723-6397

BY MONDAY

5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE

Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com and baysideoc.com.

HELP WANTED

**MARINE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN**

Position includes health benefits, bonus, paid vacation, 401k, paid holidays, and paid sick days. Year round full-time position! Established Marine dealership in Ocean City, MD is looking for an experienced Marine Mechanic. This is not an entry level position. Extensive outboard experience is a must and will be compensated accordingly. Salary determined by experience and qualifications.

Send resume to: Andy@TaylorMarineCenterOC.com

HELP WANTED

SPRING LACROSSE COACHES

Worcester Preparatory School, a coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK-12, is currently seeking a Head Coach for Middle School Girls Lacrosse. **Minimum of 2 yrs. experience and CJIS Background Screening required. EOE**

Contact: Matt McGinnis
410-641-3575
mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org

HELP WANTED

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?
BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!**

**OCEAN CITY TRANSPORTATION
2019 "SEASONAL" EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Bus Drivers, Bus Maintenance Techs, Dispatchers, Tram Conductors, Tram Drivers & more. For a complete list visit Oceancitymd.gov

For additional information, or to apply, contact
**Dianna Davis, Tuesday through Thursday between
9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., at 410-723-2174**
EEO ~ Veterans Are Encouraged to Apply

HELP WANTED

Accounting Clerk Wanted

Full Time - \$14-\$15 per hour

Responsible for providing accounting support to accounting supervisors and other managers within the department. Keys daily worksheets to the general ledger system, ensures files are complete and maintained as needed, handles accounts payable duties, and assists accounting personnel.

Job Tasks and Responsibilities:
Perform accounting and clerical functions to support supervisors.
Research, track, and resolve accounting problems.
Compile and sort invoices and checks.
Issue checks for accounts payable.
Record business transactions and key daily worksheets to the general ledger system.
Record charges and refunds.
Support accounting personnel.
Input type vouchers, invoices, checks, account statements, reports, and other records.
Provide front desk customer service.
File and tally deposits.
Work with adding machines, calculators, databases and bank accounts.
Match invoices to work orders.
Process bills for payment.
Open mail and match payments to invoices.
Arrange for money to be delivered to bank.
Utilize computer systems to run databases, pay bills and order supplies.
Contact individuals with delinquent accounts.
Ensure customers accept payments or refunds.

Email Resume to: dunkindonutjobs@gmail.com -
Subject Line: Accounting Clerk
or Apply in Person @
9919 Golf Course Rd., Ocean City, MD

Serious inquiries only, must live within a 30 minute radius of West Ocean City Maryland.

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME CUSTODIAL POSITION

Worcester Preparatory School is seeking a part-time 12-month employee. Applicant must have experience in the maintenance, care, and cleaning of a large building. Candidate must be able to crawl, stoop, and lift a minimum of 50 lbs. and dexterity to perform all required tasks indoors or outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and temperatures. Approximately 25 hours per week.
CJIS Background Screening required. EOE

Heather Parsons
Director of Human Resources
410-641-3575 ext. 146

HELP WANTED

**Work At The BEACH...
Work With The BEST!!**

Top wages, excellent benefits package and free employee meal available to successful candidates.

Employment Opportunities:
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Sat. & Sun. 11-2pm	Muirfield Lane., River Run	3-4BR/2-3.5BA	Single Family	\$399,900-\$479,900	Ed Wehnert/Coldwell Banker
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