

## Opposition grows for tax and fee increases

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) A crowd in the hundreds attended the public meeting Tuesday night in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium to discuss proposed property tax and utility fee increases in the Town of Berlin.

Along with many of the same speakers and public comments that have dominated recent Berlin public meetings were several new voices, including many senior citizens, several business owners, and one woman representing the local real estate industry.

Town officials have said property taxes would likely go up anywhere from 20 to 34 percent, while stormwater, water and sewer fees would also need to increase to offset several years of overages that have been covered by the town's general fund.

Don Fletcher asked how, if town officials were monitoring audited financial statements each year, they got to this point.

"You should know whether you have enough funds to cover the operations," he said. "When you keep track of costs per enterprise fund, you

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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A large crowd gathers inside the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium on Tuesday night to oppose proposed property tax and utility fee increases in conjunction with the Town of Berlin's still in development fiscal 2020 budget.

## Taxes and roads take over council public comments

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Two men familiar with the Berlin Town Council dominated the public comments portion of a meeting Monday night, hammering elected officials on issues of taxes and roads.

First was Jason Walter, a Berlin resident who in 2008 ran for the District 2 council seat. He and current At Large Town Councilman Thom Gulyas both lost their bids that year to Lisa Hall.

Walter, an outspoken social media critic of the mayor and council said he was unhappy with Gulyas' recent behavior.

According to Walter, Gulyas called

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## Merchants also weigh in on budget

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(March 28, 2018) "Our chief of police does not make \$175,000 a year, councilmembers do, in fact, pay taxes and I've got the bills to prove that, and the sky is not falling and we're not running out of money," Berlin Town Councilman Thom Gulyas said during a merchant meeting last Thursday evening.

Gulyas addressed those and several other rumors during a session at The Globe restaurant that included several dozen downtown business owners.

Globe owner Jennifer Dawicki said people were concerned by reports of significant property tax increases. She pointed to a recent letter mailed to citizens and business owners in which Mayor Gee Williams indicated tax increases would be higher for commer-

cial properties than for residential ones.

She also recalled a March 11 Town Council meeting, when Williams and other elected officials said they had

not heard many citizens weigh in on the big issues.

"Our ... absence at Berlin Town Council meetings is approval that our local government is serving us 100 percent correctly," she said.

Dawicki compared not speaking up during council meetings to not calling out a barber for a bad

haircut. She also used her own restaurant as a metaphor.

"If you don't tell me your cheeseburger isn't cooked right, I'm going to

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Berlin Town Councilman Thom Gulyas addresses proposed property tax and utility fee increases, as well as several less substantial rumors, during a merchant's meeting at The Globe last Thursday.



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# Seniors, business owners protest increases

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should know how much revenues you need, instead of borrowing it from the general fund all the time.

"The rates would've been better going up from year to year, if you looked at it from year to year, than all at one time," he added.

William Campion, a Bay Street resident, said he came to the town in 1973 as a locksmith. He's now 85 and is a retired member of the U.S. Air Force.

"I've got nothing left. I finally just a couple of months ago got an \$850 dollars a month [check] from the military, for my service," he said. "Now, your taxes are going to push me out. I can't stay here. I can't do it. I'll become a charge of my kids, which I don't want to do.

"I want to hold my head up too," he

said. "You should have raised [taxes] every year, 2 or 3 percent. You shouldn't have waited this long. And the only thing I can say about it all, is there's an election coming up."

Barbara Ogurcak from Powell Circle said she put her house up for sale and had a contract on it, but the buyer backed out after they learned about the tax increases. She said if things don't change, the housing crash of 2008 could repeat in Berlin.

"You can't do this all in one tax increase. It's not fair to us," she said. "People who have lived here their whole entire lives are not going to be able to live here.

"I'm begging you, look at this! Really look at this," she continued. "I can see a tax increase, yes, but not this much, not all at one time. Spend your money wisely - spend our money

wisely."

Nelson Street resident Barbara Gallagher said she is a widow and retired, and living on a fixed income.

"I can't afford this, yet I couldn't afford to sell my house," she said. "Who is going to buy my house when they see what our tax rate is? You've got us captured. What are we supposed to do?"

Mayor Gee Williams said if she lived anywhere else in the county, except Ocean City, she would already be paying more.

"That's not the tax rate I moved into," she said. "When I bought my house here, it was affordable ... I'm going to have to lower the price of my house to get anybody that's dumb enough to want to move into it."

Baked Dessert Café owner Robin Tomaselli said she is not only a busi-

ness owner, but also the mother of "two adult children," a son who is a firefighter and paramedic, and a daughter who works for Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

"A property increase will price them right out of their homes," she said.

As a business owner, Tomaselli said she employs two women who live in town and are the sole providers for their households. She said because of the seasonal nature of the town, her business makes the majority of its money during the summer.

"I have to save every dime I can from our busy months in the summer to survive the winter - and I when I mean survive, I'm telling you there are times in January, February, March and April that I'm not making enough money to even make payroll," she said.

"Berlin is not insulated from us being a resort town ... and I save from the summer, so I can keep the two women that have been working for me and who live here in town employed. So, if you increase property taxes, that's definitely going to effect me," Tomaselli added.

She said some landlords have already jacked up their rents and forced out local businesses.

"I think that's something to consider and understand," Tomaselli said. "With the increases that you guys are talking about, you're not only going to price people out of living here, you're going to price like me out of being able to do business here."

Cameron Drew said she serves on the Coastal Association of Realtors Board of Directors and represents more than 1,000 members of that organization "who depend on the health and vitality of the housing market in order to make a living."

She said increasing property taxes and utility fees all at once and at the rate proposed could have a devastating impact on local residents and businesses.

Drew said a \$265,000 home on Upshur Lane, which is close to the average home price in Berlin, would see a tax increase of about \$300 a year with a 20 percent property tax increase, and by nearly \$500 with a 34 percent increase.

"I sold a home earlier this year to two Worcester County teachers in the Town of Berlin who are very upset," she said. "This really changes their budget and it could cause them to have to sell within their first year of owning a home, which is just really unfair and makes me very mad for them."

Drew said higher taxes would affect the buying power of new homeowners, because they would face higher monthly mortgage payments. For existing homeowners, she said increases

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# Burrell encourages continued participation

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would impact escrow calculations and push some people into the red.

“Your market is recovering, just like everyone else’s, but it’s a slippery slope, especially when you’re possibly pricing an entire income bracket out of your market,” she said.

“We recognize that prices go up and you need to cover your expenses. We also recognize that property taxes have not increased in some time,” Drew continued. “However, you need to give your people time to figure out where this extra money is going to

come from. You need to make incremental increases, so you don’t see more homes go onto the market in Berlin. Your town will become a very hard sell once people see these numbers.”

Councilman Dean Burrell admitted town officials might have been slow to react to water and wastewater overages, and that hindsight is 20/20.

“God knows I wish that we had been getting this type of input for those years that have passed,” he said. “But, when you have ... two public

meetings a month and except for the newspaper your attendance is three or four individuals, we think your silence is your approval. That has been, evidently, a misconception.

“Whatever comes out of this meeting, I ask for your continued support on a bimonthly basis,” Burrell continued. “I know we’re not going to have town meetings this big every other week, but I sure would appreciate to hear what you think, to hear what you want, to hear your ideas and suggestions, and all that can do is make us a

better town.”

Upcoming budget meetings include a general fund work session on Monday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m., and a utilities fund work session on Monday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m., both at Town Hall on 10 William Street.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

For a full list of upcoming public meetings, visit [www.berlinmd.gov/maryland-government/council-meetings](http://www.berlinmd.gov/maryland-government/council-meetings).

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# Walter confronts Gulyas, council over tax increases



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin resident Jason Walter confronts Town Councilman Thom Gulyas during a public meeting Monday night.

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one or more Berlin residents after Walter criticized the council's handling of the fiscal 2020 budget, and Gulyas pointed certain off-color language at Walter.

"It's great to hear you welcome comments and criticism," Walter said on Monday. "It's also good to meet new people, but when you meet new people because a councilman calls them to trash your character for having a differing view than the town might have on its spending is not really appropriate.

"Mr. Gulyas, do you have anything to say about that?" Walter continued. "I'll add I also don't like ... when I ask you budget questions and you ignore them. I think that's your job as a councilman, is it not?"

Gulyas did not comment during the meeting, but later forwarded a statement:

"Everyone is welcome to come to the council meetings and voice their concerns - we encourage it. It's an opportunity for us, as a mayor and council, to listen and sometimes ... it's better to listen than speak ... often my votes are my voice on the council," Gulyas said.

Asked a question about proposed property tax increases on Monday, Mayor Gee Williams said he would recommend one rate for both residential and commercial properties.

Williams added "mutual respect and civility is so important," and the council welcomes public comments.

He said of a public hearing on property taxes and utility fee increases scheduled the following day, "Any question you have is fair game and we're not trying to restrict anyone."

"We're encouraging participation," Williams said. "The last several years ... I think a lot of people basically said, 'I just don't want to get involved.' And that's not helpful either."

Walter replied that, "A lot of people don't feel that you really want to hear from them."

"That's from talking to people in my neighborhood, that's from talking to my

former chairman from the [Berlin Utility Commission]. He doesn't think you really want to hear from us," Walter said. "I'm still here, despite the efforts of Gulyas. I'm still going to express my opinion. And we can have a dialog. But a lot of people ... don't think that you want to hear from us."

"That's the impression that they formed on their own, because we have never told people that they just can't speak to us," Williams said.

Williams said the town is looking at new ways of getting information to people better, later mentioning the possibility of live streaming public meetings.

Walter said one problem with public participation is that meetings are not adequately advertised in advance. The agendas for Monday Town Council meetings are generally released on the prior Friday.

"We can't be the elected public servants and the citizens too," Williams said. "We're ... trying to experiment with trying new ways of pushing more information out by social media."

Williams added, "rather than bemoan change, we're going to try to adapt to it."

"We're trying to get information out to the public, it's just how to get people's attention when they're so busy," Williams said.

"I think the tax increases got some attention!" Walter said.

Walter and Williams later tangled on a tax rate study that included Worcester County, Snow Hill and Pocomoke among the list of comparables, as well as Salisbury and Princess Anne.

"Worcester County is not a municipality, so, in my mind, that shouldn't be on the sheet," Walter said. "Salisbury is small city, it's not a small town ... and Princess Anne's a bigger town than we are," Walter said. "I think you could pick better comps."

Water suggested instead looking at Chestertown, where he said, "There are a hell of a lot of tax rates that are lower than ours as they are now, with similar property values."

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# Smith unhappy with town's handling of road repairs



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Larry Smith sits before the Berlin Town Council on Monday to complain about the lack of roadwork on his street, which he said was in poor condition and full of potholes.

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"This looked like a sales pitch to me," he said. "If you broaden the horizons, it's gonna show that our existing tax rate is already significantly higher than most small municipalities in the State of Maryland, especially if you consider the revenue generated off the assessed value of our property."

Later during the meeting, resident Larry Smith presented photos of potholes on his street, Cape Circle, and said he doesn't believe those who conducted a road survey last year even bothered to cross Route 113 to do inspections.

"I drove some of the roads that were on that list and they're not even as bad as mine," he said.

Smith said town workers eventually did respond to his request to fill one pothole on his street, but left another next to it untouched.

Addressing Williams directly, Smith said, "When I talked to you the last time on the phone, you said that you would get that pothole fixed, which you did, and you were going to see what they could do to stabilize that street, because the Town of Berlin couldn't afford to fix that street unless you raised taxes."

"That's exactly right," Williams said.

"Well, now, you're getting ready to raise taxes – when are you going to fix my street?" Smith asked.

Williams said many of the older streets in town were originally built below current standards and were therefore costly to repair. Some of those streets need to be rebuilt from scratch, including the base layers, he said.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said there were 10 streets ahead of Smith's on the priority list: Bottle Branch Road, Grace Street, Harrison Avenue, Showell Street, Stevenson Lane, Tingle Road, West Branch Street, Decatur Street and Flower Street.

When the Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. road report was released last year, Allen said about \$1.2 million worth of roadwork would need to occur to address

those streets labeled "poor." Typically, she said, the town budgets \$100,000 to \$200,000 for road repairs each year.

Still, Smith said some residents were being ignored.

"If you're that side of the highway ... we're like the red-headed stepchildren over there," Smith said. "I brought this up two years ago when I was here – it depends on who you are and where you live [before] anything gets done in this town."

"You're entitled to that opinion," Williams said.

"I'm going to pay all this extra money, when am I going to get a benefit out of it?" Smith asked.

Councilman Elroy Brittingham said he and Smith had spoken about the subject for many years, and Smith said he and Williams also "go back a long way."

"It's so many streets right now that need to be repaved, and we took the professional advice of our engineers ... and that's what we're going by. It's not where you live," Brittingham said.

"I got on the council because of streets," he continued. "I fought streets, I fought the street I live on, and my street takes more traffic than any street in Berlin – it takes 30 school buses a day, and not counting the parents that go from school to school. You can't even get out of my driveway in the morning and the afternoon."

Brittingham, now the council vice president and longest-serving member, said he joined the council to fight for repairs on Flower Street.

"I know how that street is and I know how bad some of the streets were, and I know how bad my street is now," Smith said.

He later added, "If you fixed all the potholes on [his] street, you'd have it repaved ... what do I gotta do, go to [Domino's Pizza] to get my potholes fixed?"

"I just think this town is bleeding money and it's bleeding in the wrong places," Smith said. "They have too many white elephants that they purchased or expanded to or whatever, and it's costing the town dearly now."

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# Merchants Q&A with Councilman Gulyas

Continued from Page 1

think you had the best meal of your life," she said.

During the last merchant meeting, Dawicki said business owners were angry.

"We were pissed," she said. "We were mad and angry and didn't understand and didn't know what to do, and everybody said it out loud. As a business community ... we cannot conduct ourselves that way, in my opinion ... you have to present yourself kindly and respectfully and participate, and I think that's how this process might move forward better."

Gulyas said he's not just a councilman, but also has run a Berlin business, Ace Printing and Mailing, for more than three decades.

"Like you guys, I've got a lot of vested interest in this town," he said.

He said many of the recent rumors posted on social media were "just way out there."

"I even heard when I came in here the mayor's selling his house [and] the town's gonna buy it," he said. "None of that is happening."

"Just like Jen said, you guys need to show up and we need to hear you," Gulyas continued. "There's five of us [on the council] and the mayor – five people to make the decisions ... but if no one shows up ... we figure you guys are happy."

He said the audience during public meetings generally includes "the same five or six people," including two reporters and a handful of spouses of department heads and elected officials.

"That's it. That's all that comes," he said. "I'm not trying to chastise anybody ... but we need your input. We don't have all the answers."

Gulyas said misinformation is swirling about the proposed property tax increases.

"I promise you, I am not voting for a 25-cent increase – I'm not going to do that. I have to pay just like you

guys do and I don't think it's right to do that to any of us," he said. "I'm also not voting to split the tax rate to make it different for corporations ... and lower for residents."

"We're too small. It's not going to do anything except drive businesses away, especially the small businesses like yours and mine," Gulyas continued. "But, unless you come and you tell the four other [council] members sitting up there, I've got one vote. You guys need to show up."

Wooden Octopus owner Matthew Amey asked how the town got to the point where fees were now projected to increase so drastically.

"Why now? Why hasn't it been incremental?" he asked.

Gulyas said when the town sewer plant was expanded – at a cost of about \$18 million – "the company at the time that helped [the town] with that to come up with, these rates missed the target."

"What they've been doing is they've been taking money out of this pocket to pay the bills out of this pocket. That's all that's happened," Gulyas said. "We've got to put money back into this pocket to pay back the general fund."

He added, "I don't think it needs to be done overnight – I don't want to see it done overnight. I think it's too much of a stress for all of us."

Gulyas said the town has been covering utility losses with money from the general fund for several years now, and the blame rests on the mayor and council.

"This is why we're trying to rectify this now," he said. "Taking care of

sewer and water – especially sewer – is expensive ... but as I say to some folks, when you hit that little handle you don't want that coming back. It's gotta go somewhere, and we can't keep dumping it into Kitts Branch, which goes back into the bay."

He said the State of Maryland years ago ordered the town to stop discharging into Kitts Branch.

"They came in and they said, 'You will do [something different] or we will shut you down,'" he said.

Asked about annexation, Gulyas said he initially voted against adding the Ocean's East apartment complex to the town, because "residential annexation does not pay for itself."

Gulyas said the town is considering two separate commercial annexations, and that when new

utility lines need to be run the developer and not the town or taxpayers must pay for that to happen.

"I know a lot of people are scared about annexation," he said. "If you don't grow in the right directions, you're going to die. Costs are going to continue going up [and] we're going to continue having these kinds of meetings. If you don't spread the costs out in some way, what are we going to do? What are the alternatives?"

Salt Water Media co-owner Patty Gregorio said there was a rumor the town is planning to charge business owners and their employees to park downtown, and that "there is going to be a special surcharge on businesses to pay for a parking lot."

Gulyas said it's obvious the community has parking issues – namely, not having enough space.

"That shouldn't be government's

job to take care of that," he said, adding "some type of a metering system" similar to Ocean City was likely. Gulyas said he would favor special parking permits or exceptions for business owners.

"There was a parking study done. It has not been released yet, but I can tell you there is a ton of information," he said.

Gregorio said Town Administrator Laura Allen told her the two options being discussed were business owners being charged for parking permits for their employees, or face "a special assessment for businesses only" for a new parking garage.

"With all due respect, Mrs. Allen does not make those decisions," Gulyas said. "We've not even discussed anything like that. It's not even come up. We've not even looked at the parking study, except individually on our own, so I can't say where that information is coming from. But, I can honestly tell you I've never heard it before."

Gulyas said the town is constantly looking for ways to increase public participation, including live streaming future Town Council meetings and adding some level of interaction for people watching at home.

"There's a lot of folks that can't attend and they want to attend, and I understand that," he said. "We are going to take a good look at that real soon."

Dawicki again encouraged business owners to attend Town Council meetings and make their voices heard. She said anyone at any time can asked to be recognized and to speak.

The next Berlin Town Council meeting is Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on 10 Williams Street.

For a list of upcoming public meetings, including budget work sessions, visit [www.berlinmd.gov/maryland-government/council-meetings](http://www.berlinmd.gov/maryland-government/council-meetings).

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Berlin Town Councilman  
Thom Gulyas

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# Committee hopes to revitalize town 2nd Friday events

By Josh Davis  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Just a few years ago, downtown Berlin bustled with life during monthly 2nd Friday art strolls, with virtually each shop offering some kind of display of local artwork, as well as refreshments and special sales for visitors.

More recently, the events have been limited to just a few venues, including the Worcester County Arts Council and Wooden Octopus galleries on Jefferson Street, and Baked Dessert Café on Bay Street.

Members of the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee last week discussed revitalizing the event – and dropping the “art stroll” tag – during a downtown merchant’s meeting held at The Globe.

Specifically, committee members asked merchants to stay open during 2nd Friday events held April through October. Chairwoman Heather Layton on Monday said that largely went over well.

“For the most part, I took it as a consensus that everybody was on board,” she said. “People seemed excited or at least were more willing to stay open six nights a year, versus year round.”

Layton said several merchants complained they previously stayed open until 5 or 6 p.m., but then closed on a 2nd Friday after not seeing many shoppers.

“People don’t even get off work until 5 and then they’re having dinner,” Layton said. “I feel that they don’t even get out and get strolling until 7 – there’s always that little lull.”

“We’ve tried so many different ideas and I truly believe consistency is key,” Layton continued, adding several prior attempts to boost participation and attendance were not met as well. “We [had been] taking ideas from everybody and constantly switching it up, and I think we’re trying to make everybody happy, but also to find something that works.”

What has been consistent, Layton said, is the Maker’s Market held jointly on Jefferson and Commerce streets during 2nd Fridays each May through October. The event allows local artisans to set up handmade items for sale, with portions of each street being closed to help boost pedestrian traffic.

“That has just been amazing,” Layton said. “It took several years to get the town to agree to close the street for the Maker’s Market, but we’re super thankful [they agreed to].”

She said that portion of 2nd Fridays would return on May 10, in conjunction with the Reggae Play Day concert hosted by the town.

Layton said committee members and merchants also discussed why the annual Holiday Arts Stroll, held each

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<b>DEAL #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Piece Chicken</li> <li>• 1/2 Pint Baked Beans</li> <li>• 1/2 Pint Cole Slaw</li> <li>• 4 Piece Cornbread</li> </ul>	<b>\$24.95</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Pieces <b>\$18.95</b></li> <li>20 Pieces <b>\$29.95</b></li> </ul>	<b>DEAL #2</b>	<b>\$36.95</b>
<b>DEAL #3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Piece Chicken</li> <li>• 1 Pint Baked Beans</li> <li>• 1 Pint Cole Slaw</li> <li>• 6 Piece Cornbread</li> </ul>	<b>\$29.95</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 Pieces <b>\$69.95</b></li> <li>8 Pieces + 1 Lb Spiced Shrimp <b>\$24.95</b></li> </ul>		

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# Mayor sends letter to citizens, businesses

**By Josh Davis**  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) In an apparent first, Berlin Mayor Gee Williams last week sent a letter to all Berlin citizens and property owners regarding recent reports of property tax and utility fee increases in the coming fiscal year budget.

“This is the first mailing of a letter to all Berlin citizens and property owners from the Town of Berlin that I am aware of,” Williams said last Thursday.

He anticipated the letters would be mailed by the end of last week and delivered in Berlin this Monday, at the latest. Williams said it cost about \$1,000 to print and mail the letters.

The letter follows:

“To All Berlin Citizens and Property Owners:

“The underlying premise of our Town budgets for the past 10 years has been to keep property taxes and utility fees as low as possible. Our current budget decisions are the result of the Town of Berlin experiencing greater expenses in the past 5 years than we expected.

“To make up the difference we have been tapping into the town’s savings (our reserves). The Mayor and Council needs to both reduce the budget, increase property taxes and increase the fees for our water utilities

to bring revenues and expenses back into balance.

“The Town’s total annual budget for all departments peaked at \$20.2 million in FY 17. The total current budget is \$18.2 million. The new FY 20 budget is proposed with a 10 percent cut which would bring the total to \$16.4 million for the next fiscal year.

“Each department provides a different service. The general fund pays for Administration, Finance, Customer Service, Building and Grounds maintenance for the Town’s public buildings, Police protection, Fire and EMS Services, Public Works, Sanitation, Streets, Economic Development, Planning, and Parks and Recreation.

“In addition to these general fund expenses, the Town also operates utilities with their own separate budgets.

**THE TOWN’S CURRENT BUDGET FOR THESE DEPARTMENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**GENERAL FUND:**  
\$7.2 million

**SEWER/WATER/STORMWATER:**  
\$5.3 million

**BERLIN ELECTRIC:** \$5.7 million

**TOTAL FY 19 BUDGET:**  
\$18.2 million

“Here is why the Town has been borrowing from our reserves.

“Over the past five years the Town has borrowed \$3 million dollars from the general fund to cover the higher than budgeted expenses of the Sewer Utility.

“These increased Sewer Utility expenses are the direct result of the higher costs of operating Berlin’s new spray irrigation site in Newark. The Town has used spray irrigation to enable Berlin to release our treated wastewater back into the environment for many years rather than discharging this water into our Coastal Bays.

“The addition of a second spray site was necessary to accommodate the greater outfall of Berlin’s expanded Wastewater Plant that was upgraded eight years ago.

“The Town’s Stormwater Utility has also borrowed \$535,068 from the general fund’s savings (our reserves) to ensure we successfully obtained significant grant money for our stormwater projects. Our utility generates about \$170,000 per year. By dipping into our reserves, we were able to obtain approximately \$2 million in grant funding from the state and federal governments.

“These two major efforts are at the heart of most of the borrowing from our reserves in recent years. And both are responsibilities that I believe are essential to maintaining an acceptable level of quality of life in our town. The remaining amount of borrowing from reserves (our savings) have been for essential public services.

“These include a \$205,000 increase in the Town’s annual grant to the Berlin Fire Company bringing the total for this year to \$605,000.

“The irony is that by trying to keep property tax rates and sewer and water fees lower than they otherwise would have been — we now have created the necessity to increase both at a higher percentage than we could have by spreading these increased

costs, — in smaller increments — through a couple of tax and utility rate increases over the past five years.

“Either approach would have not eliminated the necessity of having to raise town revenues to cover these expenses. The amount of revenue needed is the same regardless of which of these approaches we could have taken.

“The tax rate for the past eight years for residential and commercial property has been .68 cents per \$100 of real estate property valuation. Prior to 2012, the property tax rate for residential and commercial properties in Berlin was .73 cents per \$100 of valuation, or five cents higher than it is today.

“The range of property tax rates that are being considered for the next budget year for residential property owners is from .78 cents to .93 cents. The range of property tax rates that are being considered for the next budget year for commercial property owners is from .83 cents to .98 cents.

“I trust each of you will form your opinion on the town property tax rates that are under consideration based on facts...and not solely on the rumor of the day or internet post of the moment. The 2020 Budget Schedule is available to everyone on Berlin’s website: [www.berlinmd.gov](http://www.berlinmd.gov). The Town Council recently approved an additional budget listening session on Tuesday, March 26th at 6 p.m. in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium.

“Please note that public participation is welcomed throughout this process except during the two budget work sessions on April 1st and April 15th. The public, as always, is welcome to attend the work sessions, but the work sessions are not public hearings. They are public meetings that enable the Mayor and Council to go over each proposed departmental budget in detail with the supervisor of each department and utility.

“I hope you have found this information helpful.”

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# 2nd Friday revitalization underway

Continued from Page 7

November with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, was so singularly successful.

"I think we all said at the same time, 'participation.' Every single shop is open for that stroll, not to mention it's tree lighting" that each year draws several thousand spectators, she said.

For future events, Layton said most merchants have agreed to stay open later, until 8 or 9 p.m. The Burley Café will start booking live bands from 5-8 p.m. on 2nd Fridays, and Victorian Charm co-owner Steve Frene regularly has his band playing outside of the Main Street shop during the warmer months.

"It still has so much potential ... and I felt good leaving the meeting the other night," Layton said. "There's going to be shops that simply say it's not worth it to them, and there's nothing we can do about that and we understand.

"I think Maker's Market is definitely where it's at for the actual artisans, and we're encouraging the shops that stay open to either offer refreshments, offer a discount, or just be there, be present," she added.

Committee secretary Stephanie Fowler came away from the merchant's meeting similarly optimistic. She said communication between the two sides has not always been ideal.

"The point was, merchants and A&E were actually talking," Fowler said. "We were face to face, ideas were being exchanged [and] no one was yelling.

"It seemed like everybody wants the same thing and has had the same experience, but we weren't having that shared conversation," she continued. "From my perspective, it was good at least to get everything opened up."

She compared the idea of reinvigorating 2nd Fridays to an "if you build it, they will come" scenario.

For several years, Fowler has put together a 2nd Friday map of activities,

sales and specials at downtown shops and restaurants that's promoted on social media and in local newspapers.. She hopes to continue doing that, but also to increase participation.

"If you're having a sale, if you have live music, if you've got someone in your store, if you're doing anything interesting, please tell me and I will put it on the map," Fowler said. "There was kind of a group consensus that people

purpose is to serve the artists in this community," she said. "Our goal is to support this town looking like a place where artists would be happy and where they would be embraced, and a big part of that is merchants.

"I know that the politics of this town are a light fraught right now, but at the end of day I feel like the community here is still strong and I feel like the heart of the community is still good, from the



Berlin Merchants last Thursday consider changes to the monthly 2nd Friday event overseen by the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

would like to see the map earlier, and I kind of let them know I'm pulling teeth to get the information the day before it's due, so it's a 'help me help you' kind of thing."

Fowler added the committee is happy to help any time a local businesses is having an event related to the arts.

"The A&E Committee welcomes input and help and ideas, and anything from the merchant community. If they have ideas, if they want to do fundraisers - anything they have going on - our

A&E committee, to the merchants, to the artists, to the town - we all want to make it work," Fowler continued. "If anyone has ideas and feedback, we're open to hearing it working with them. That's just how things get done.

"I, personally, walked away from that meeting feeling hopeful," she said.

For more information on the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee, visit [www.artsinberlin.org](http://www.artsinberlin.org) or [www.facebook.com/artsinberlinmd](http://www.facebook.com/artsinberlinmd).

The next scheduled 2nd Friday falls on April 12.

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# Saleh presents mid-year report on budget

By Josh Davis  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) A mid-year budget report provided Monday night by Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh suggests the town is being conservative while facing certain property tax and utility fee increases during the next fiscal year.

Town officials are also facing higher levels of criticism from an increasingly engaged public.

Saleh said the town is trying to be frugal, because "any extra [funds] will basically go back to reserves."

According to slides shown during the presentation, total revenues for the year were at 68 percent of what was budgeted, about \$3.8 million, while expenses so far, through the first six months of fiscal 2019, were 45 percent, or roughly \$3.2 million.

Electric fund revenues to date were at 44 percent of budget, versus expenses at 40 percent. Water fund revenues were 41 percent of what was budgeted, while expenses were 39 percent, and the sewer fund showed six-month revenues at 32 percent of budget and expenses at 38 percent.

Bucking the trend was the stormwater fund, where only 6 percent of projected revenues had been collected and 5 percent had been spent. Saleh said that was because the

budget included grants for capital projects that had not been received. She said about \$1.3 million was budgeted for revenue and \$1.6 million was earmarked for expenses, but so far only about \$77,000 had been collected and \$83,000 spent.

is the money will eventually come.

Resident Jason Walter said it was unusual for a small municipality to have a stormwater utility and asked just how competitive those grants are.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said two grant applications were sub-

mitted last summer and included in the budget. One of those was a \$1 million application with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for improvements around Graham Avenue, Grice Street and Nelson Street.

that was one of 26 applications," Allen said. "We're optimistic that over time we're going to get the money that we need, it's just not something we can automatically count on," Williams said. "I don't think we're thinking we're ever going to be shut out, because part of what they take into account is what we've done so far."

Williams said about \$3 million had already been spent on stormwater improvements, with at least \$3.5 million more in improvements needed.

Allen said that number is closer to \$10 million. West Street improvements alone, she said, were estimated to cost about "\$3 million plus."

Walter asked about stormwater improvements near Henry's Mill, and Councilman Zack Tyndall said a grant application was submitted, but was not successful.

"But, it's still on the list of things to be completed," he said.

Water said stormwater management systems in his neighborhood had largely failed.

He also asked about town personnel expenses, which he said were just shy of \$4 million.

"We're very high on state averages for personnel costs," Walter said.

"That's a matter of what you think is a correct percentage," Williams said, adding the total budget was more than \$18 million.

Others were critical of stormwater spending while the town is considering annexing new property, and raising some taxes and fees.

Williams said there were previously no stormwater standards in the town, and any new annexed properties would have to adhere to new, much stricter, standards.

"We have to ... spend a long, long time fixing all the places that need stormwater upgrades, but anything that comes in new can't add to the problem, because they all have to meet new, higher standards and be self-contained," Williams said.

"Even if it meets your standards, it's still going to put more strain on the system that's already in place, if you annex," resident Larry Smith said.

"You're perfectly entitled to believe that," Williams said. "[But assuming] that nature is going to fix these things all by itself, regardless of [what] is annexed or not, is just not happening."

Williams later said the town is struggling to meet "much higher expectations" than were present just a few years ago.

"That's fine. There's nothing wrong with that," he said. "I think it's good that we are challenged to meet higher expectations ... it's a moving target, but I think whoever is sitting here will have that same challenge."

"The public input is, the more you know, the more you can provide helpful feedback. We encourage that," he added.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

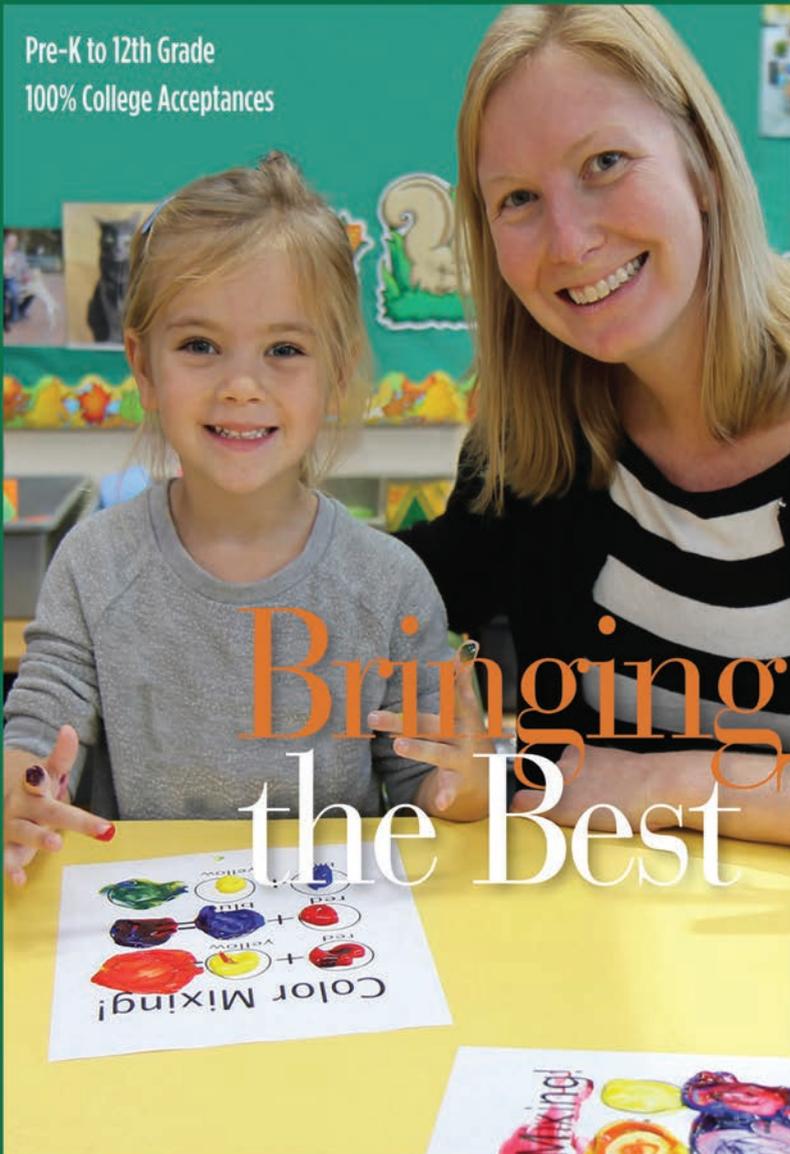
Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh on Monday provides a mid-year budget report.

Mayor Gee Williams said money collected each year through the stormwater utility had during the last several years been leveraged into millions in state and federal stormwater grants. The town's efforts to obtain grants this year was mostly unsuccessful, but Williams said the expectation

was that the money would eventually come. Resident Jason Walter said it was unusual for a small municipality to have a stormwater utility and asked just how competitive those grants are.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said two grant applications were sub-

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# Public hearing on new Comcast agreement

**By Josh Davis**  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) A public hearing for a new cable television franchise agreement between Comcast and the Town of Berlin on Monday night included calls for a higher reliance on fiber optic networks and free hookup to town emergency services.

Neil Winn, a South Main Street resident, said speed and latency for Comcast internet is good, but he is unhappy the company is apparently adding 1 terabyte data caps.

Winn added removing cable television service from his billing package was difficult, and took about six months.

He also said the Maryland Broadband cooperative had installed fiber optic internet lines along Route 113, and wondered why fiber internet service was not yet available in the town.

Town Administrator Laura Allen read into the record comments from Cards Technology founder Sam Card, who said weather can affect cable internet lines, while fiber lines are much more reliable.

"There's nothing faster than fiber [and] it is not susceptible to temperature fluctuations that affect coaxial cable," Allen said on behalf of Card. "While coaxial cable service has im-

proved in speed over the years, it offers a limited amount of bandwidth."

Card added, "Fiber is the clear choice in reliability. Lots of municipalities with remote sites are moving to fiber connectivity to tie their offices together for more effective communication ... [and that] fiber can be utilized to more tightly integrate utility systems, for example modern equipment for water and electric infrastructure can be connected by fiber and instantly alert an engineer who is responsible for maintaining these systems, and can provide remote access to these systems."

Councilman Elroy Brittingham said a resident told him her basic cable package is now \$65, and with taxes and fees was nearly \$100.

Councilman Zack Tyndall said he received an email from the Berlin Fire Company, who asked for a cable hookup for their stations, as well as cable incentives for Berlin firefighters.

Human Resources Director Jeff Fleetwood said the town did receive a limited number of free hookups, which he believes currently include the electric, water resources and police departments.

Councilman Dean Burrell added if he had any concerns with Comcast, they are related to customer service.

**'When you call Comcast and you're put on hold, and this recording will come on and say that you are eighth in line, it's going to be 10 minutes. Well, you'll proceed to hold a half hour [and] by the time somebody gets on the phone I'm just as hot as I can be.'**

Berlin Town Councilman  
Dean Burrell

"When you call Comcast and you're put on hold, and this recording will come on and say that you are eighth in line, it's going to be 10 minutes. Well, you'll proceed to hold a half hour [and] by the time somebody gets on the phone I'm just as hot as I can be," he said.

Burrell said, in his experience, customer service will then schedule a technician visit five days later, and he'll then have to wait around for them to arrive.

"It just burns me to no end," he said.

Resident Jason Walter said a misleading article in a local newspaper made it seem like a Comcast franchise fee to the town was a gift, when in reality it's "a tax on top of our bill that comes from the Town of Berlin, so each user pays that fee on behalf of

the town – it's an extra charge, it's not a requirement."

Allen said all of the information gathered during the public hearing would be forwarded to Comcast and Town of Berlin attorneys, who continue to negotiate toward an agreement. She said that process could last several more months, and would require another public hearing and a period of advertising before a new deal is signed.

A Comcast representative could not attend the hearing, but his information was provided.

To comment directly, contact Chris Comer, director of government regulatory affairs, at [chris\\_comer@cable.comcast.com](mailto:chris_comer@cable.comcast.com), call 443-286-2509, or mail to 253 Najoles Road, Millersville, Maryland, 21108.



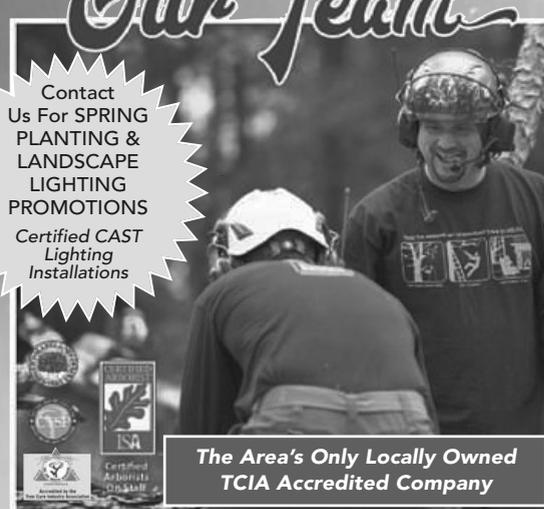
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\*2018 OPA Survey

# Berlin park naming effort now has timeline

**By Josh Davis**  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Heron Park, Legacy Park, Adventure Park, Pride Park and Boulevard Park are among the alternate names being considered for what's currently known as Berlin Falls, the 64-acre former industrial site on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Town Councilman Zack Tyndall and other members of the Berlin Falls Park Committee last week discussed a rough timeline to release naming options in the form of a public survey.

Tyndall said public comment on the renaming has so far been underwhelming, with an online campaign only drawing about five submissions – and two of those were made by committee members, he added.

Plans are to release an online survey to the public in time for Take



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Berlin Falls Park Committee last Thursday go over a list of potential new names for the property, a former industrial site on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Pride in Berlin Week, April 20-27. The survey will also include the current park name, Berlin Falls, as well as a write-in option.

After the public has a chance to weigh in, committee members will make a recommendation before the mayor and council. Tyndall said ideally a name could be selected and announced in

time for the annual Berlin Peach Festival, this year scheduled Aug. 3.

“Make it a cool summer event,” Tyndall said.

Committee members, meanwhile, have discussed a social media campaign to increase awareness of park developments and upcoming events. Public tours of the park and an infor-

mation booth are planned to coincide with Berlin's Clean-Up Day, April 27.

“It really would be nice to be able to promote it better,” committee member Kate Patton said of social media efforts.

The park currently has a Facebook page viewable at [www.facebook.com/BerlinFallsPark](http://www.facebook.com/BerlinFallsPark).

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## BFPC to consider building rental

**By Josh Davis**  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Berlin Falls Park Committee members last Thursday asked town officials to explore rental options for the large, former industrial building near the entranceway to the site.

Committee members said they'd fielded several inquires about renting the space.

Roger Fitzgerald added the former owner, Town Councilman Troy Purnell, was getting about \$3,000 a month in rental revenue shortly before he sold the property to the town in 2016.

“There's parts of that, that are intact. He said he was renting it to somebody for storage,” Fitzgerald said.

“There's a revenue stream of money coming in. Everybody's fighting about money for the park and, if money could come in and we're not tearing it down ... there's a usable part of that building.”

Town Administrator Laura Allen said insurance is a concern with regard to anyone using the space, which committee members several months ago voted to condemn.

That has not been done, however, because demolition estimates were seen as cost prohibitive. The Town Council recently approved the demolition of seven smaller buildings and a digester on the property.

“We are super-deep pockets to some people, who would just love the oppor-

tunity to sue the pants off of us,” Allen said, adding, “This is the first I've heard of it,” referring to people wanting to rent the building.

“If you're getting folks that are contacting you ... then pass it onto us, because no one's saying that to us,” she said.

Allen said Berlin Falls Park Coordinator David Deutsch would contact the town's insurance carriers and find out if it is feasible to rent the space.

Also during the meeting, Fitzgerald moved to instruct Deutsch to explore costs to hang banners on the large building. Committee members said the banners could welcome people to the park, and also to potentially advertise upcoming town events.

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# Fire co. house raffle hopes to raise funds

**By Victor Fernandes**  
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2019) The popular “Cash & Bike Bash” event has annually been a profitable day for the Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company.

Yet the fundraiser’s 15th anniversary, set for June 1 at the firehouse on Snow Hill Road in Girdletree, features a grand prize four years in the making, literally and figuratively. Less than 10 miles south of this tiny Worcester County town, and just across the state line in Greenbackville, Va., lies a home that was built with one purpose — to help the fire company continue to protect the few hundred residents of Girdletree.

It took raising money through fundraisers since 2015 to construct the home that one lucky raffle ticket holder could win, which was difficult, fire company treasurer and fundraising committee chairman Jeff McMahon said, because “we don’t have a very big base to be able to raise funds.”

The Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company, like several other Worcester County fire companies, receives government funding on state and county levels. The rest comes from ingenuity and hard work, which is why volunteers tackled a challenging fundraising campaign that has grown in popularity through social media marketing they hope stretches from Girdletree to major metropolitan areas in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

“About 15, 20 years ago, a group of us got together and we decided if we’re going to raise funds we’re limited, [so] we have to think outside the box,” said McMahon, a Girdletree volunteer for 39 years. Ocean Pines Fire Department President David Van Gasbeck, a longtime volunteer firefighter, said additional funding maintains, if not improves upon, emergency vehicles and equipment that play key roles in providing high-quality support.

“That money doesn’t always come operationally from the municipality,” Van Gasbeck said.

A raffle with a house as the grand prize isn’t necessarily unique, McMahon said. McMahon said the fundraising committee copied the idea from Ocean Pines Fire Department, which held house raffles for many years through 2017.

“We were very successful for a number of years, not only getting the community to support us, but to get the tourists that come here from May through October to support us,” Van Gasbeck said. “The house was done early enough in the June or July timeframe that individuals could come in and look at the house.”

Girdletree’s groundbreaking occurred last fall and the house was completed two months ago. It’s a short walk from the plot of land that



The Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company paid to construct this home in Greenbackville, Virginia, to include it as the prize in a raffle being held June 1 in hopes of raising additional funds for the fire company. PHOTO COURTESY GIRDLTREE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

could be home to Girdletree’s next house raffle prize in two years if, McMahon said, “if we feel as if it was worth the effort and we made enough money.”

Van Gasbeck said Ocean Pines Fire Department’s board of directors voted against continuing house raffles after 2017, when the fundraiser grew less cost-effective because of increasing costs to build homes. After holding a cash raffle in 2018, OPFD is holding a truck raffle this year, with the winner taking home a 2019

Chevrolet Silverado in October.

Since government money can’t be spent on organizing fundraisers, Girdletree’s fundraising committee relied on funds raised through other fundraisers held in the past four years to cover construction and other costs.

McMahon said he’s hopeful Girdletree’s fire company will sell at least the 2,000 of the \$100 tickets needed to break even financially or, better yet, turn a profit. The raffle winner can choose between accepting the house, valued at \$170,000, or a

cash option totaling \$100,000.

“It’s a huge event,” McMahon said of the Cash & Bike Bash day, also headlined by a raffle featuring a Harley Davidson motorcycle valued at about \$24,000. Other local fire companies hold raffles with cash and guns as prizes. Whatever it takes, local fire companies do it to raise money.

“You have to be able to earn some of that money ... because municipalities nowadays just simply can’t afford to it,” Van Gasbeck said.

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# Madison Avenue Boutique, Dusty Lamb open

**By Josh Davis**  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Two new shops, Madison Avenue Boutique on 11 South Main Street and The Dusty Lamb on 12 William Street, opened with great fanfare in downtown Berlin Saturday.

Family, friends and local business people gathered to welcome the boutique clothing store, which held a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

“The store is basically [size] 0 to 18 contemporary, ready to wear with a bohemian flair,” owner Jeseka Tucker said. “We’ll have jewelry [and] we have name brands like BB Dakota, Show Me Your Mumu, Dex and Dex Plus.

“Everything is going to be about the modern-looking woman, so it’s going to be somebody that’s just like the everyday person, and then we’ll have some cute little dresses as well,” she added.

Tucker previously worked in Ocean City and joked she’s probably tried to sell everyone in town something, from wine to makeup. She said opening the store was a lifelong dream come true.

Mayor Gee Williams said it was a beautiful afternoon to welcome a beautiful new business.

“We are so excited that Jeseka and her family have been so thoughtful and so foresighted in creating Madison Avenue Boutique,” he said, drawing a

cheer from the audience.

Williams said it was an example of how far the town has come.

“I think even 20 years ago if anybody said that Madison Avenue would come to Berlin, they would’ve laughed,” he said. “They’re not laughing anymore.”

“We think this is a wonderful addition and compliment to our downtown and that it will bring so many more folks, not only to live here, but to visit here in our community, and we wish you all the best,” Williams added.

Crowds also packed into The Dusty Lamb to welcome artist Patty Backer, who has displayed her work throughout the Berlin area for many years.

Her store is a showcase for her quirky and whimsical paintings and sculptures, and also carries small gift items of the same manner.

Backer, a Berlin native, was clearly moved by the early response. During her first hour of business, the store was overflowing with well wishers.

“This is amazing! It’s great. I’m super happy,” she said, adding the idea for the store was to carry “a crazy mix of everything that makes me happy.”

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larnet St. Amant said both shops would benefit the town.

“We’re so thrilled to have two brand-new businesses in town, doing everything from art to clothing,” she said. “Patty has been a member of this community for a really long time, and her

art has been all through The Globe and Baked Desserts and different venues. Her work is beautiful, and she’s got every price point in here and covering everything from socks to art, so we’re thrilled to have her.

“Jeseka, with her new spin on fashion, is also going to be a great addition

to our town. She’s going to bring a whole new clientele and we’re thrilled,” St. Amant added.

For more information on Madison Avenue Boutique, call 443-235-2188.

For more information on The Dusty Lamb, visit [www.facebook.com/thedustylamb](http://www.facebook.com/thedustylamb).



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Top, Berlin Mayor Gee Williams and business owner Jeseka Tucker prepare for a ribbon cutting for the new Madison Avenue Boutique on Main Street, last Saturday. Bottom, Patty Backer is all smiles during a busy opening last Saturday for her new William Street shop, the Dusty Lamb.

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# Tranzfusion to headline 'Rock for Recovery'

By Josh Davis  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Discounted tickets are on sale for the third annual "Rock for Recovery" concert, featuring live music by Tranzfusion and benefiting the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction.

Online advance tickets for the April 28 event at the West Ocean City Greene Turtle are \$8.79, until April 12. Tickets will then be \$10 at the door. The event is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Two local mothers, Jackie Ball and Heidi McNeeley, founded the Worcester County Warriors in 2016 after learning each had children who struggled with heroin addiction.

That year, the nonprofit's initial public meeting in the Ocean Pines library drew about 50 people. By their second meeting, held a month later, attendance had swelled to several hundred, solidifying both the Warriors as a group and the belief that the opioid epidemic had indeed reached Worcester County.

McNeeley said Rock for Recovery was started after one of the Greene Turtle managers reached out to her husband, Jamie.

"He had possibly some personal connections to addiction, and he talked about having customers come



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Tranzfusion play for a packed crowd on the docks at M.R. Ducks, last year. The enduring local classic rock group has been a mainstay in the resort area for more than four decades. The band in April will headline the third annual Rock for Recovery benefit for the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction.

in that were obviously using and he wanted to give them some information and some help," she said.

Funds raised during the event help local people get into treatment – and to stay there.

"We continue to get requests from

people who are living in a sober home and have lost their jobs, so they're unable to keep up with the rent. Or, they're just moving in and looking for a job, so we'll guarantee a couple weeks' rent," McNeeley said.

For years, McNeeley has stressed the urgency of an addict who is asking for help, and much of the work the Warriors have done involves getting people into treatment before they get cold feet or use again.

"I think our biggest thing is we don't want [to see] people who have that window of opportunity where they say they're ready to get help, they're ready to go into treatment, but they can't get there," she said. "If they can't find a ride there or they can't afford whatever the associated costs are, we've purchased plane tickets to get people to a rehab [facility] and we've found ways to get them where they need to be.

"That's really become our primary focus," McNeeley continued. "We added it up last year, and we've spent almost \$20,000 helping 60 people

into recovery. We're pretty excited about that."

"Addiction affects all of us. We have to lose the stigma, so that we can all just help each other," she said.

Rock for Recovery will feature door prizes and silent auctions, including hotel and golf packages, restaurant gift certificates and other items donated by local businesses. For information on donating door prizes or silent auction items, call or text Jamie McNeeley at 202-409-6537.

Several local restaurants have also committed to donating food for the event, McNeeley said, and information about the Worcester County Warriors will also be made available.

McNeeley said she's excited this year with the addition of popular local classic rock group Tranzfusion to the entertainment lineup.

The band began in 1977 in Cambridge as "Just Us," and was renamed Tranzfusion in 1983. They've been playing classic rock by The Doors, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and The See EVENT Page 17

## 2019 Worcester County

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# Event will benefit Worcester County Warriors nonprofit

Continued from Page 16  
Who in the resort community for four decades.

Drummer Bobby Malaby said the band has played with virtually the same lineup since it began, with Hank Koenig on lead guitar and Bob Davis on keyboard. Al Cook joined as the bass player about two years ago, replacing original bassist Tom Malaby, who is now working fulltime as an electrical engineer for Northrup Grumman at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

He said the band has endured because they're always learning new songs and buying new and more modern equipment to improve the audio quality of the band, and because they all just enjoy playing music together.

"We constantly practice," Malaby said. "I feel like a lot of bands get as good as they're going to get and they don't worry about getting better."

Lately, he said the band has added several songs from 1980s to their set list, including Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" and "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic" by The Police.

"The '80s stuff seems to go over really, really well," Malaby said. "We've gotten back to doing a couple Billy Idol songs, and we still have stuff in our arsenal that we've had since the '80s.

"We're always trying to bring new stuff in. Even if maybe we did it a long time ago, we'll bring it back and it's still new to our audience. I feel like in the last couple years we've really built a lot in our audience ... and I feel like we've developed a whole new following [in North Ocean City]," he added.

Last month, the band held the "Dancing for Diana" fundraiser for The V Foundation for Cancer Research. Malaby said Tranzfusion enjoys playing those kinds of benefits.

"We like to give back to the community and we feel like [The Worcester Warriors] are a real worthy cause," he said.

Tranzfusion will next perform during the M.R. Ducks opening party this Saturday, March 30, from 4-9 p.m.

Additional upcoming dates include a "Live Aboard the Harbor Queen" performance Saturday, June 8 from 8:30-11:30 p.m. in Annapolis, and performing during a "Raven Cruise on The Bay" on Saturday, Aug. 17 in Baltimore.

For a full schedule, visit [www.tranzfusionband.com](http://www.tranzfusionband.com) or for more information visit [www.facebook.com/tranzfusionband](http://www.facebook.com/tranzfusionband).

For more information on the Worcester County Warriors Against Opiate Addiction, visit [www.wocowarriors.org](http://www.wocowarriors.org) or [www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyWarriors](http://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyWarriors).

# Obituaries

## FRIEDA A. BRUCE Ocean Pines

Frieda A. Bruce, age 102, of Ocean Pines and formerly of Baltimore, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019.

Born in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Anna (Schultz) Sadofsky.

Frieda was a secretary at United Iron and Metal before retiring to the Eastern Shore in 1975 alongside her husband of 51 years who preceded her in death, Gifford H. Bruce.

Frieda loved spending time with her family and always looked forward to her weekly visit with her dear friend, Joel Gorgodian, who shared in her passion for singing, laughter and good wine.

Frieda had lost her eyesight and become housebound during her final years but always remained a devoted member of Atlantic United Methodist Church of Ocean City.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her sons, Wayne and Larry.



Frieda Bruce

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Bruce of Ocean Pines. She was an adored grandmother to Kim Armstrong of York, Pennsylvania, Kieth Nicholls and his wife, Bonnie, of Westminster, and Ryan Bruce and his family of Wilmington, Delaware.

She was great-grandmother to Brendan Byrne and his fiancé, Brittany Wilkerson, of Ocean Pines, Zachary Armstrong and his fiancé, Alisa Markley, of York, Pennsylvania, Faye Holland and her husband,

Daniel, of Pittsville, and AJ Armstrong and his wife, Noel, of Glen Burnie, and great-great-grandmother to Kylie, Addison, Natalie, Layne, Trace and Cadence.

Please join our family on Sunday, March 31, 2019, in attending the Traditional Worship Service from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Atlantic United Methodist Church, Fourth Street, Ocean City, Maryland.

A Memorial Service will immediately follow in the Fellowship Hall beginning at noon. We welcome all who knew and loved her to join us in celebrating the life of Frieda Anna Bruce.

## OBITUARY NOTICES

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# Opinion

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

## Tax increases arrived with town's success

One of Berlin's problems — and it doesn't have that many — is its own success. While most other small towns on the Eastern Shore continue to suffer from an economic malaise that began decades ago, Berlin's economy has surged in the past 20 years.

An empty space in the business district isn't empty for long, and no town on the peninsula has received as much positive recognition as this town has, with a dozen major endorsements of one kind or the other bestowed upon it in the past several years, and real estate values that have gone beyond what the average Berliner could have paid 20 years ago.

That's the downside of the town's increasing desirability: it's become more expensive.

According to City-Data.com, which compiles information and statistics from a host of sources, the median home value was slightly more than \$237,000 in 2016 as compared to \$97,600 in 2000. Median household income rose more than \$20,000 to just shy of \$54,000 from \$33,400 in the same period.

By contrast, the median 2016 home value in Chestertown, which has the Chester River and Washington College in Kent County, was \$225,200, having risen from \$127,900 19 years earlier. And median income in 2016 — \$13,700 less than Berlin's at \$40,200.

This doesn't change the fact that Berlin's elected officials erred when they failed to address the need for tax increases and higher fees years ago. They should have seen it coming, but as public officeholders are wont to do, they probably put it off because they knew they would have been roundly criticized for it anyway, regardless of the percentages.

It could be argued that the town's need for more revenue wouldn't be as great if Berlin's revitalization and subsequent surge in popularity had never occurred. Then again, given the option, most people would prefer to deal with today's problems of success than they would the difficulties of years past.



## Delmarva Power giving out free trees

### Arbor Day initiative helps customers with energy conservation

(March 28, 2019) Delmarva Power is giving away 1,000 free trees to residential customers through the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees program.

This initiative helps customers conserve energy and reduce household energy use through strategic tree planting.

For the eighth year, Delmarva Power is stepping up to support this environmental and energy saving program. Customers can reserve one free tree per household by visiting [arborday.org/delmarva](http://arborday.org/delmarva).

"It's always exciting to partner with the Arbor Day Foundation and provide our customers additional tools and resources to help them save," said Gary Stockbridge, Delmarva Power region president. "Planting a tree is a tried-and-true method for saving money and energy at home and over the years these plantings have both enhanced the visual appeal of our neighborhoods and helped our communities be-

come cleaner and more sustainable."

Customers will have the ability to choose from a selection of trees, including Bald Cypress, River Birch, White Dogwood, and White Oak, most available in varying sizes.

One-gallon trees will be delivered to customers' homes between April and May. All three- and five-gallon trees will be available for pickup only during company planned events in May and April.

More information on these events can be found online during the reservation process.

Through the Arbor Day Foundation's website, customers also have the power to explore interactive tools, including a tool to help customers determine the best location on their property to plant their tree for energy savings benefits.

Properly planted trees can provide a homeowner many benefits, such as reducing energy use through summer shading and by slowing winter winds.

Throughout a tree's growth period, trees have the potential to lower energy bills

by 15 to 30 percent.

Additionally, trees provide benefits to a community by improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, and adding to the visual appeal of a neighborhood.

In fact, since 2012, Delmarva Power customers have planted more than 9,400 trees, saving nearly 20 million kWh, and removing close to 150,000 pounds of air pollutants from the atmosphere.

Prior to receiving a tree, Delmarva Power reminds customers to call 811 to have utility-owned underground lines marked before they start to dig. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811.

Customers unable to reserve a free tree through the internet are encouraged to call 855-670-2772.

To learn more about Delmarva Power, visit The Source, Delmarva Power's online news room. Find additional information by visiting [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/delmarvapower](https://www.facebook.com/delmarvapower) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/delmarvaconnect](https://twitter.com/delmarvaconnect).

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## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# Decatur renames athletic complex after Knox, Taylor

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2019) What started as a standard Board of Education meeting on Tuesday turned into a celebration of two local educators, who each became emotional, as they learned a soon to be renovated athletic complex would be renamed in their honor.

Stephen Decatur High School's athletic complex will be renamed the Robert G. Knox Field and Louis H. Taylor Stadium, after football head coach Bobby Knox and Worcester County Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor.

Stephen Decatur High School Principal Tom Sites and Worcester Technical High School Principal Tom Zimmer, who is a former Stephen Decatur principal, jointly made the announcement.

"We're proud of the traditions coach Knox has brought to our school," Sites said. "Many of our student athletes, such as our current superintendent Mr. Lou Taylor, have prospered under his leadership. Coach Knox has taught Stephen Decatur High School for 46 years, serving as a role model to many teachers."

Knox was in the room during the announcement, but was asked to attend the meeting under the guise of a completely different topic.

"They tricked me," Knox said. "[Sites] told me that they needed me to say some good words about the new athletic field."

Knox has been a teacher with Stephen Decatur High School since 1974, when he began his career as a social studies teacher and assistant football coach to then head coach Tim Moore. He took over the head coaching position in 1983.

During his tenure, Knox's teams have won 25 championships, nine conference championships, made 10 state playoff appearances, and earned four regional championships. His teams reached the state semifinals twice, in 1998 and 2004.

In 2018, Knox was inducted into the Maryland High School Football Hall of Fame.

The room was filled with emotions as Knox struggled to speak after being surprised with the dedication.

"I don't have any words," he said, clearly moved. "I thank the board, thank the Toms and, especially, I thank all the players that played for me."

Knox pointed out several people in the room who taught under him or worked as coaches alongside him. Some were in the audience as teachers and parents. Others were members of the board, including Taylor and Barry Q. Brittingham, Sr.

He also thanked the people behind the scenes that led to this moment.

"I'm overwhelmed. I'm thankful of



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Celebrating the renaming of the Stephen Decatur High School football stadium during the monthly Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 19 are Stephen Decatur Football Coach Bob Knox, left, and Superintendent Lou Taylor. Knox started as a teacher at the school in 1974 and took over as head football coach in 1983. Taylor also has a long tenure with the school system, beginning as a student, and later as a teacher, coach and principal.**

so many great assistant coaches I had work with me, and players play for me, and to be able to teach [and coach] in Worcester County Schools," Knox said. "I have to keep pinching myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming the whole thing."

"I'm the one getting noticed here, but there are a lot of people behind the scenes, like assistant coaches, administrators [and] former players who are part of this award too," he continued.

Taylor, who was formerly a student, teacher, coach and principal at Stephen Decatur for several years, was also humbled by the announcement.

"This is the greatest honor that I've ever received in my years [with] this school system," Taylor said. "One of the things that Tom [Zimmer] shared was that I was the number-one cheerleader for Stephen Decatur High School. I'm also the number-one cheerleader for this school system."

Taylor said he was honored "To be associated first and foremost with Stephen Decatur, and be associated with Bob Knox, my football coach, my boss as an assistant when I worked with Bob for 11 seasons, and then to have the opportunity to work with him for 17 years as a principal, and now the role that I play."

The superintendent was so touched by the decision that he was left speechless. A running gag with the board claims Taylor can't stop talking when it comes to Worcester County Public Schools.

"It does go very deep with me and [is] very personal for me. It's like a dream come true," Taylor said. "I just can't fathom the thought of my name being on something that I care so deeply about and have cared over the years."

The complex is expected to be completed this fall.



**The grand prize is a Husqvarna Spring Cleaning Package.**

**The package includes: zero-turn lawn mower, trimmer, backpack blower, and a 6x12 enclosed trailer.**

Earn entries March 1 – April 26 at 7pm  
Every 10 points earned = 1 entry  
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# Snapshots



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## STUDENTS OF HISTORY

Students in Melissa Vit's fifth grade social studies class at Berlin Intermediate School learned about battles during the American Revolution. Pictured are Mya-Johnson-Guerrero, Cullen Wilkins and Makenzie Hitch.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## TOP READERS

Berlin Intermediate welcomed Key Financial Services, sponsor of the school's Prizes for Pages Reading Contest, to celebrate its top readers. Pictured, from left, are Avery Lorah, fifth grade, Tyler Kim, fourth grade, Collin Macomber of Key Financial Services, Samantha Ruppert, fifth grade, sixth graders Emmlyn Fetters and Logan Donmoyer, and Principal Ryan Cowder.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## HEISER VISITS

Worcester County NAACP welcomed Worcester County States Attorney Kris Heiser to its February meeting at Snow Hill Library. She discussed current issues and her goals for our county. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Roxie Dennis Ancholonu, second vice president; Heiser; Laurie Brittingham, first vice president; Linda Hilliard, secretary; and Ivory Smith, chapter president.



SUBMITTED BY: D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## CAMP DONATION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Dick Clagett presents a \$400 donation to 4STEPS Executive Director Sandy Winters. The funds will support two children to attend the local equine summer camp. The 4STEPS program helps children and adults with disabilities with emotional and educational growth and development through experiences with horses.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Past and present members of the Commission for Women join the Worcester County Commissioners to recognize March as Women's History Month in Worcester County on March 5. Pictured, in front, from left, are Eloise Henry-Gordy, Tamara White, Liz Mumford and Theresa Shockley; middle, Vanessa Alban, Beth Rodier and Commissioner Joe Mitrecic; and in back, Commissioner Josh Nordstrom, Hope Carmean, and Commissioners Jim Bunting, Chip Bertino, Ted Elder and Bud Church.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## THESPIAN SOCIETY

Twelve Worcester Prep students were inducted into the school's chapter of the International Thespian Society on Feb. 26. The International Thespian Society is the Educational Theatre Association's student honorary organization to recognize high school student achievement in theatre. Pictured in front, from left, are McKenzie Blake, Quinn McColgan, Rylie Carey and Annika Larsen; middle, Kelly Polk, Abi Taylor, Hana Miller and Ellie Todorov; and in back, Noah Hudson, Frank Carter, Jacob Meakin and Devin Wallace.

# NOW PLAYING

## BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay  
 Ocean City  
 410-524-7575  
 www.bjsonthewater.com  
 March 29: Full Circle, 9 pm.  
 March 30: Bird Dog and the Road Kings, 9 p.m.  
 April 3: Ricky LaRicci, 6 p.m.

## BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium  
 Ocean City  
 443-664-2896  
 www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com  
 March 29: Ricky LaRicci, 7 p.m.  
 March 30: Baltimore Boyz, 8 p.m.  
 March 31: Bob Hughes, 6 p.m.  
 April 3: Reform School, 6 p.m.; Open Mic, 9 p.m.  
 April 4: 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  
 March 29: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.  
 March 30: Karaoke w/DJ Chuck D, 8 p.m. to midnight

## HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road  
 West Ocean City  
 410-213-1846  
 www.ocharborside.com  
 March 29: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 March 30: DJ Billy T, all day; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 March 31: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 April 4: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.

## HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway  
 West Ocean City  
 410-213-1841  
 www.hootersofoc.com  
 March 29: DJ BK, 4 p.m.

## OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

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 In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel  
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Ocean City  
 410-524-3535  
 www.clarionoc.com  
 Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 March 29-30: First Class, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave.  
 Ocean City  
 410-289-4891  
 www.picklesoc.com  
 March 29: Beats By Jeremy, 10 p.m.  
 March 30: Rogue Citizens, 10 p.m.  
 April 1: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m.  
 April 4: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

## PURPLE MOOSE SALOON

108 S. Atlantic Ave.  
 Ocean City  
 410-289-6953  
 www.purplemoosesaloon.com  
 March 29: Sonic Daze, 10 p.m.  
 March 30: CK the DJ/VJ, 2 p.m.; CK the VJ/DJ, 9 p.m.; Sonic Daze, 10 p.m.

## SECRETS

49th Street and the bay  
 Ocean City  
 410-524-4900  
 www.secrets.com  
 March 29: DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Event Horizon, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.  
 March 30: The 19th Street Band, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Bobby-O, 6 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.; DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Flowers for Taco, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
 Gypsy Wisdom, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.  
 April 4: Opposite Directions, 5-9 p.m.

## SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside  
 Ocean City  
 410-723-6762  
 www.skyebaroc.com  
 March 29: Marky Shaw, 4-8 p.m.  
 March 30: Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.

## TRADER LEE'S LIVE

9935 Stephen Decatur Highway  
 West Ocean City  
 443-614-4119  
 March 31: Sunday Jam Sess, 7 p.m.  
 April 3: Open Mic Night, 7 p.m.

## WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17  
 Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines  
 410-208-3922  
 www.whiskersbar.com  
 March 29: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



**BIRD DOG AND THE ROAD KINGS**  
 BJ's On The Water: Saturday, 9 p.m.



**BALTIMORE BOYZ**  
 Bourbon Street On The Beach: Saturday, 8 p.m.



**FLOWERS FOR TACO**  
 Secrets: Saturday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

# BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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[www.BaysideOC.com](http://www.BaysideOC.com)

\*2018 OPA Survey

# Worcester Cares, Berlin Social Sec. Day coming up

By Josh Davis  
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2019) Town of Berlin officials are spreading the word on two upcoming events in the area, a social security seminar scheduled for April 18, and the Worcester Cares event, which returns this weekend.

Human Resources Director Jeff Fleetwood said a representative from the Social Security Administration would be at the seminar, titled "Social Security Day in Berlin," and held at Town Hall on 10 William Street.

"We'll have a representative here from Wilmington, Delaware. They will be here from 10 [a.m.] to 12 to do a presentation ... to discuss social security as a whole, and then they will take individuals one on one, as needed," Fleetwood said.

The event is free and open to the public, but Fleetwood asked attendees to pre-register. Seating is limited to 50 people, plus an additional 25 spaces reserved for town employees. To register, call 410-641-2770.

The Worcester Cares event will be held this Saturday, March 30, at Berlin Intermediate School on 309 Franklin Avenue. The event is also free and open to the public.

"All of our partners that are helping us with this event are creating a one-stop shop for individuals or families looking for support or assistance," Town Administrator Laura Allen said.

She said Worcester County residents would be able to learn about local "services they need the most."

Allen said the event would include free health screenings by Atlantic General Hospital, and Choptank Electric Trust will provide vouchers for a Maryland Food Bank drop on April 3.

Also during Worcester Cares, the Lower Shore Enterprise will shred papers and documents in exchange for a donation to the Worcester Technical High School's "Coveralls for Careers" program. The cost is \$5 per box.

Additionally, the Evergreen Lodge will sponsor a child identification program, the Blood Bank of Delmarva will host a blood drive, and Anchors Aweigh Entertainment will provide a mobile video gaming trailer.

Lastly, Allen said the Town of Ocean City would fund free shuttle service to and from the event, from the multipurpose building on 130 Flower Street in Berlin.

The event is schedule from 9 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Debbie Smullen at Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin at 410-641-4598.



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SCOUTS DONATION

Anna Foltz, left, presents an \$841 check to Beverly Meadows of the Worcester County Girl Scouts at her Ocean Pines home on Wednesday, March 6. The money was raised during a recent fundraiser for the Scouts, overseen by Foltz.






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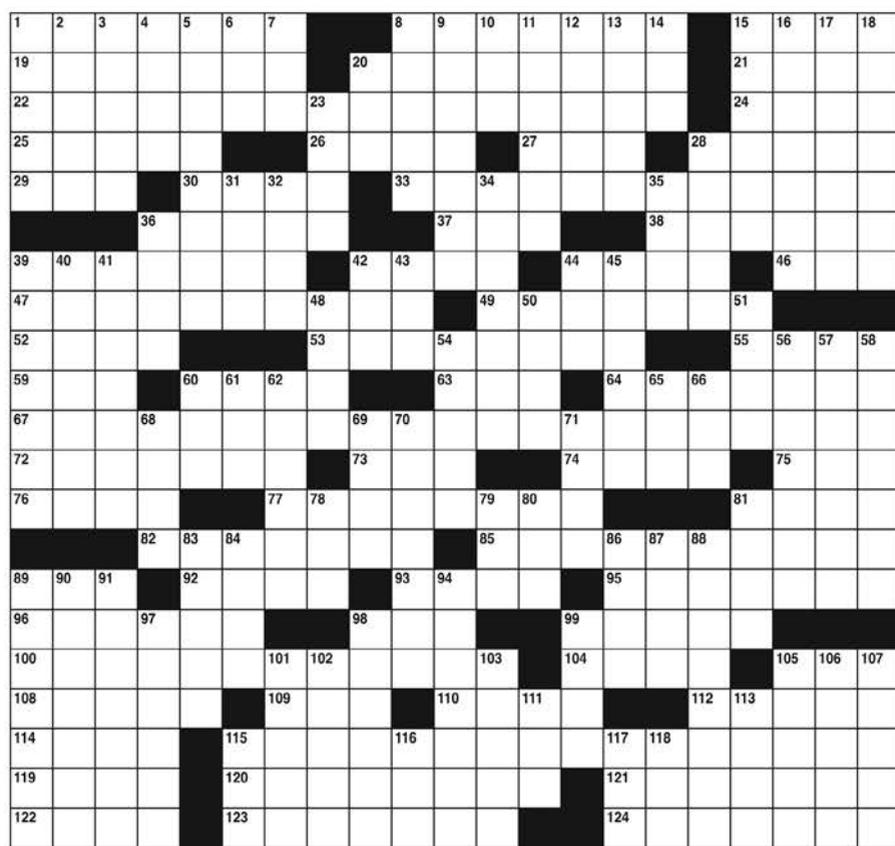
# Puzzles

## CODE SWITCHING

BY TRENTON CHARLSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Trenton Charlson is a 2018 graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in English and a concentration in creative writing. "Sadly," he says half-jokingly (I think), "there is no crossword-puzzle major at Ohio State." Five of Trenton's previous nine crosswords in The Times were named "Puzzle of the Week" by the blog XWord Info. This is his first Sunday puzzle. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Metaphor for an aggressive political arena
  - 8 Puts away
  - 15 Source of fries
  - 19 One who didn't even show?
  - 20 Frame part
  - 21 It stayed in Pandora's box
  - 22 \*Ballroom dancing event for Beantown residents?
  - 24 Takes a course
  - 25 Relatives of foils
  - 26 Shade of green
  - 27 Dundee dissent
  - 28 Mother-of-pearl
  - 29 Imperfect service
  - 30 Climax
  - 33 \*Annoying member of a New York baseball team?
  - 36 Thrills
  - 37 Family moniker
  - 38 Hydrocarbon gas
  - 39 World capital known as Batavia until 1942
  - 42 "Witches' Flight" painter
  - 44 Sparkling white wine
  - 46 Pesticide banned in 1972
  - 47 \*Wager in which the loser's pants and jersey?
- DOWN**
- 9 Like child's play
  - 10 Artist Jean
  - 11 Defeats soundly
  - 12 Greek goddesses of the seasons
  - 13 Signature scent since 1968
  - 14 Total mess
  - 15 Sword holder
  - 16 Took stock?
  - 17 Good news for a stockholder
  - 18 Early name for Utah
  - 20 Forensic material
  - 23 Does some grilling
  - 28 What a stiffed server receives
  - 31 \_\_\_'acte
  - 32 Noted exile
  - 34 Falls for someone who's already married?
  - 35 Testing stage
  - 36 Bread box?
  - 39 Sport that emphasizes pinning and throwing
  - 40 Terse bar order
  - 41 Traps
  - 42 Former G.M. make
  - 43 First N.L. player to hit 500 home runs
  - 44 Laila of the ring
  - 45 Big maker of lawn care products
  - 48 Like-minded voters
  - 50 Secretary on "The Office"
  - 51 "Hold it!"
  - 54 Mañana preceder
  - 56 Inundated with
  - 57 Five-star
- ACROSS**
- 49 They're not hard to swallow
  - 52 \_\_\_ Cuervo (tequila brand)
  - 53 Casanova
  - 55 Slapstick actor Jacques
  - 59 "\_\_\_ over"
  - 60 Contingency phrase
  - 63 Man's name that's the reverse of 60-Down
  - 64 Don hastily
  - 67 \*Duo ruling a kingdom on Take Your Daughter to Work Day?
  - 72 It's higher on the Scoville scale than a jalapeño
  - 73 Skin pic?
  - 74 Pallid
  - 75 Certain 35mm camera
  - 76 Major or minor in astronomy?
  - 77 Like chewing gum in Singapore or wearing blue jeans in North Korea (seriously!)
- DOWN**
- 1 Early tower locale
  - 2 Skip the ceremony, in a way
  - 3 Strong point
  - 4 Mechanical
  - 5 Shakespearean sorcerer
  - 6 Janis \_\_\_\_, singer of the 1975 hit "At Seventeen"
  - 7 Earth-shattering invention?
  - 8 Unpleasantly wet



- 58 Furious
- 60 Man's name that's the reverse of 63-Across
- 61 End of a French film
- 62 Snobbish
- 65 L.B.J.'s veep
- 66 "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" heroine
- 68 Idiot, in British slang
- 69 "\_\_\_ Kett" (old comic strip)
- 70 Something taken in by sailors
- 71 Infant's early word
- 78 \_\_\_ Nautilus
- 79 Ring letters
- 80 Make a wrong move
- 81 Change one's mind about changing
- 83 Source of many an imported boot, appropriately
- 84 Site of a 1796 Napoleon victory
- 86 "\_\_\_-voom!"
- 87 Patron saint of Norway
- 88 One fighting an uphill battle?
- 89 Altar offering
- 90 "C'est magnifique!"
- 91 Official with a pistol
- 94 Pygmalion's beloved
- 97 Stews (over)
- 98 One of 32 for Ireland
- 99 Reformed demon on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
- 101 Edith Wharton's "\_\_\_ Frome"
- 102 Composed
- 103 Having less vermouth, as a martini
- 105 Shul scholar
- 106 Dancing partner for Fred
- 107 Fire extinguisher
- 111 Puts on a show, for short
- 113 Plows (into)
- 115 Vietnamese noodle soup
- 116 Poet's "before"
- 117 Kind of screen, in brief
- 118 Maven

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### HARD - 6

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

								2
	9				1			
7			2					3 1
		6	5				4	
4		8					5	9
		9			3	8		
3	2				5			6
			3					4
	8							

### Answers to last week's puzzles

3	8	5	4	9	6	1	7	2
6	7	1	5	2	3	4	8	9
9	4	2	8	7	1	5	6	3
5	1	4	2	3	7	6	9	8
8	3	7	9	6	4	2	5	1
2	9	6	1	5	8	7	3	4
4	5	9	6	8	2	3	1	7
7	2	8	3	1	5	9	4	6
1	6	3	7	4	9	8	2	5

L	I	S	A		F	I	N	K		P	O	O	P		L	E	S	T				
E	C	I	G		O	L	S	O	N		S	H	R	U	B		O	T	T			
S	E	L	A		M	A	R	L	E	Y	A	N	D	M	E	R	O	E	G			
		C	E	M	E	N	T		A	L	I	T	O		P	E	R	D	U	E		
G	O	N	E	G	I	R	L		T	P	S		L	I	F	E	O	F	P	I		
A	R	T	O		A	A	S			G	O	T		O	F	F	E	D				
R	E	E	F	S		T	I	T	O		A	L	O		S	T	E	N	O			
P	S	S	T		S	E	R	I	F		N	A	P	P	Y		H	E	S	S		
				H	B	O		S	E	M	I	D	R	Y		O	W	E				
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S	T	O	O	D	O	U	T		C	O	E		O	P	E	N	L	A	T	E		
C	A	N	N	Y		N	I	K	E		N	I	N	E		D	I	J	O	N		
A	C	M	E	S		G	P	A			N	Y	C		F	E	I	N	T			
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# Cuisine

## Soup that puts 'pho' back in phenomenal

*This column originally ran in a March 16, 2017 edition of the Bayside Gazette*



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Star anise and cinnamon perfume the air, but not in the manner in which we might think of Christmas potpourri or a random autumn's candle. The aromas wafting through the air are intermingled with

nuances of beef, ginger, onions and myriad delights that you may or may not be able to discern at first whiff.

By the time you reach the kitchen, you should be able to tell what I'm cooking; I am making a big batch of pho, that magical and nourishing, ubiquitous Vietnamese soup of which I could probably never tire. I am trying to perfect my recipe, as I want to mimic as best as I can the one that is made at my favorite Vietnamese restaurant, Simply Bahn Mi.

After long and arduous stays in our Nation's Capital recently, I have found myself heading down to Georgetown Proper on more than one occasion to enjoy a much-needed respite and a quick bowl of this refreshing, vibrant and (quite frankly) curative dish.

The owners of the restaurant Simply Bahn Mi are John and Diana (brother and sister), and they are always smiling and friendly when I enter. I have eaten there four times, and have yet to be disappointed. I've been there when they are slammed, and also during Georgetown University's spring break when it was slow, and the food was consistently worthy. About a month or two ago, I asked John to sell me a bahn mi like he eats it, and I received the most amazing sandwich with homemade Vietnamese pâté, braised pork belly, pickled vegetables, greens and herbs on a crusty, but soft baguette. Wrapped in butcher paper stamped with an artisanal stamp, it satisfied all senses.

But I digress; back to the pho.

I have made pho before, and in fact I've made some delicious pho, but I have never feigned to be at the Vietnamese-grandmother-cooking-in-the-basement-kitchen level of pho cookery. I would never raise myself up to that level of hubris. I may never get there, but that's just fine. When I can't eat at Simply Bahn Mi, I'll just have to do with making pho myself.

There are a few things to remember when making the broth. First, you must start with a high-quality veal or beef broth, assuming that your finished product will be a beef pho. To start with a cheap bouillon or carton-stock would be a short-coming in this dish. You can certainly fortify any of these to make them presentable, but fresh stock is the way to go. There are plenty of recipes online and in books, so you can do that research on your own.

Second, make sure that you cut your vegetables large at this part of the race. If you cut them too small, they will disintegrate over the period of an hour or two at an active simmer, leaving you with a cloudy broth. Enrich your stock according to the recipe below, strain (discarding these vegetables), and then have fresh, crisp vegetables on hand for the finished bowl of soup.

When I use garlic, ginger and lemongrass in recipes such as this, I typically "bruise" them, or hit them repetitively with the back of a chef's knife. This will allow for the water to enter these fibrous ingredients and leech out what we want: their essence and their flavor.

Simply Bahn Mi may be my favorite restaurant in DC, as much for its delicious foods as for the laid-back atmosphere and friendly demeanor of the owners. In our business, it seems to be getting harder and harder to find places like this. And since we're called the "hospitality Industry," you would think that being hospitable would be a given. It's not. But the good folks here have it down pat, and I can't wait to go back for another bit of R&R.

### Beef Pho

*\*\*This is my recipe, not SBM's makes about 1 gallon*

- 5 quarts beef or veal stock
- 1 daikon or radish, peeled and chunked
- 6 scallions, charred under broiler or on flame
- 2 carrots, roasted and chunked
- 6 cloves of fresh garlic, bruised
- 2 inches of lemongrass, bruised
- 3 inches of fresh ginger, peeled and bruised
- 1 Large red onion, large chunk
- 4 Whole star anise
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- 1 tbsp. Black peppercorns OR Szechuan peppercorns, whole

1. Combine ingredients and bring to a boil



2. Turn down to a simmer and cook for about an hour and a half. Keep a lid on it so the steam goes back into the broth

3. Adjust seasoning and strain. Set aside and keep hot, or chill and reheat at service time if enough time elapses

4. Follow instructions below for assembling your finished pho

### For The Finished Bowl

*enough for 6 servings*

- 12 ounces Shaved sirloin
- 1 package rice noodles, soaked, cooked and cooled
- 2 Carrots, peeled and shredded
- 6 eggs, poached soft
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 18 Basil leaves (at least)
- 12 Mint leaves (optional)

- 3 Scallions, fresh and sliced
- 2 Shallots, shaved fine
- 6 Lime wedges
- 3 Jalapeno, sliced
- 1 bag bean sprouts

1. When you are ready to assemble your pho, lightly poach the beef while the broth is piping hot

2. Divide noodles evenly between six bowls

3. Top with fresh vegetables, egg and beef

4. Serve with lime on the side, and of course Sriracha or another chili sauce

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at [www.heartofakitchen.com](http://www.heartofakitchen.com).

# Calendar

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

## Thurs., March 28

### PLAY TIME

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Children learn the meaning of words, how to express themselves and other early literacy skills by playing with educational toys. For infant to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### STORY TIME 'BEDTIME'

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

### REPUBLICAN WOMEN MARCH LUNCHEON

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 11:00 AM. The guest speaker will be Melody Clarke, Senior Regional Coordinator, Heritage Action for America. Cost is \$20. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Reservations: Ann Lutz, [annlutz60@gmail.com](mailto:annlutz60@gmail.com), 410-208-9767.

### 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@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:awaples@atlanticgeneral.org), 443-614-5720

### FIRESIDE CHAT

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:00 PM. Join this lively chat about favorite reads. Get some ideas for exploring new authors and genres. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### FAMILY TIME 'PAINTING WITH CARS'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 PM. Drive toy cars and trucks through trays of paint to create your own masterpiece. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, Asateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:30 PM. The Worcester County Democratic Club will hear from James Fisher, the Communication Director for the Delmarva Poultry Industry association. Fisher will address the importance of impacts on the poultry industry in the local economy. Open to the public.

### 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 Hos-

pice 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., March 29

### FIBER FRIENDS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work to this informal get-together. Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, etc. welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, [moonlightknitting@gmail.com](mailto:moonlightknitting@gmail.com), 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### RAG RUG WITH UPCYCLED FABRIC

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Learn how to make a rug out of left over bits and pieces of fabric, old sheets, shirts or dresses. Register: 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### HOMESCHOOL MEET-UP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. The library will provide craft items, toys and building materials. All aged homeschoolers and their caregivers welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### MAKERSPACE

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Use the 3D printer and learn about StudioC, a digital media lab. Users can explore virtual reality, podcasting, stop motion animation and green screen video production. Note that some of the equipment is for ages 13 years and older and requires parental permission. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### ART COMPETITION DEADLINE

The Worcester County Arts Council invites all interested artists to participate in a juried art competition and exhibit to be presented during the month of April at the WCAC Gallery in Berlin. Open to all artists, 18 years and older, professional or amateur with work in photography and digital media. All work must be original and completed within the last three years. Entries will be accepted March 27-29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Entry guidelines: [www.worcestercountysartsCouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountysartsCouncil.org).

### 5TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL PROJECT DINNER

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM. The project begins with bowl-making sessions and culminates in a soup dinner. The dinner will feature soups, breads and desserts. A cash bar, a soup-to-go station, a silent auction and live music are also included. Guests are asked to keep the bowl as a reminder of all of the empty bowls in the world. Guests do not need to have previ-

ously made a bowl to attend, but can purchase a bowl and soup for a \$25 donation at the door. Proceeds benefit Diakonia. Open to the public. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

### WOMEN IN ART PART III: 20TH CENTURY

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM. In the final part of this series, examine the changes during the 20th century and seek to understand the role of women within this modern art world. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### WOMEN IN ANIMATION: PART THREE

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 PM. A program featuring celebrated animated shorts from female animators, from the dawn of film to the Internet age. Viewer discretion advised. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

## Sat., March 30

### FLEA MARKET AND FARMERS AND ARTISANS MARKET

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The flea market will feature gently used clothing, children's items, household items, collectibles, delectable food and more. Admission is free and open to the public. Visit the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., located at White Horse Park. Featuring fresh produce, baked goods, meats and gourmet pantry and artisan-crafted items. Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052

### 2019 JOB FAIR

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Employees are needed in almost every business. Dress for success. Be prepared with pen, ID, resume, etc. No pre-registration required. 410-213-0552, <http://www.oceancity.org>

### CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE 'KEVIN HENKES'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Show off your creativity with this weekly themed craft. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### OCEAN PINES TOWN HALL MEETING

Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Ballroom, 1 Mumford's Landing Road, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Ocean Pines residents will get a chance to weigh in on current projects and community matters at the meeting. The Ocean Pines Communications Advisory Committee will host the event. Residents are encouraged to submit questions and comments to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and the committee in advance via email to town-

hall@oceanpines.org by March 27 at 5 p.m. The meeting may be viewed at [www.OceanPines.org](http://www.OceanPines.org) or on Mediacom channel 78. Denise Sawyer, [dsawyer@oceanpines.org](mailto:dsawyer@oceanpines.org), 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006

### COMMUNITY ACCESS TO RESOURCES EXPO

Berlin Intermediate School, 309 Franklin Ave., 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Worcester County CARE will provide answers to questions such as how to get utility or food assistance, child or adult care, help with health concerns, educational resources and more. There will be community service providers, educators and area businesses on hand. Debbie at Worcester Youth and Family, 410-641-4598

### MD CHIP PROGRAM

Berlin Intermediate School, 309 Franklin Ave., 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The Maryland Child Identification Program is provided free of charge by the Freemasons of Maryland. The program records all vital statistics of children and vulnerable adults. Participants are photographed, video recorded, digitally fingerprinted and a cheek swab of DNA is collected. Everything is then sealed in an envelope and given to the participants caregiver for safekeeping. A military sweep is done of the information after every participant. Pete Jones, [gjones21811@verizon.net](mailto:gjones21811@verizon.net), 410-726-3269

### FREE TAX PREPARATION

Ocean City Senior Center, 104 41st St., 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Call for an appointment: 443-373-2667. The service is open to all ages and non AARP members.

### FOLLOW THE DREAM LUNCHEON

Tyree AME Church, 9004 Germantown Road, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This is about women and the challenges they have had to overcome to achieve their dream. The keynote speaker is Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley. Guest speakers include Rev. Dr. Roxie Dennis-Acholonu, Dr. Annette Wallace, Dr. Barbara Dezman, Kristin Heiser and Karen Holland. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. Sponsored by Worcester County NAACP in honor of Black Women's History Month. Laurie Brittingham, 410-831-8926

### SATURDAY STORY TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Featuring books, singing, dancing and fun. Stay to do the Saturday Make and Take craft afterwards. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### 9TH ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH'S FESTIVAL

St. Andrew's Hall, 205 W 145th St., 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Admission is free and attendees can expect traditional Italian specialties for sale, such a ravioli

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and meatballs/sausage, subs, salads, minestrone soup, zeppole, cannoli, gelato, fried dough, homemade baked goods and a cheese and salami tray. The Mario Monaldi Band will provide music. There will be basket and silent auctions along with children's games, Italian speciality items and St. Joseph and other religious articles for sale. Al DiOrio, 302-430-1004, <http://www.sonsofitaly-oceancity.com>

## POCOMOKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS DINNER

Pocomoke Community Center, Grand Ballroom, 1410 Market St. Cocktails served at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m., awards presented at 8 p.m. and '50s theme band follows until 11 p.m. Featuring photo props and cash bar. Prizes for best male and female costumes. Tickets prices are \$45 for chamber members, \$50 for non-members, \$85 for couples and \$345 for full table of 8. Tickets available at the Chamber office, Woodforest National Bank and via online registration. 410-957-1919, <http://pocomokechamber@gmail.com>

## QUARTER AUCTION

FORGE Youth and Family, 7804 Gumboro Road, 6:30 PM. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Paddles cost \$10 for the first and \$5 for each additional paddle. Refreshments will be available. To contribute or info: Tara, 443-513-1048, [info@forgeyouth.org](mailto:info@forgeyouth.org).

## Sun., March 31

### PAUL BOLEN GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, 103 W. Market St., 5:00 PM. Snow Hill native, Paul Bolen, bring his unique style of gospel music back to his hometown. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments and reception to follow.

## Mon., April 1

### CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, 12:00 AM. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

### FREE TAX PREPARATION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Call for an appointment: 443-373-2667. The service is open to all ages and non AARP members.

### 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

### MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. A 30-minute, interactive session that uses rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instruments and more to stimulate the learning process of babies and toddlers. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### LAP TIME

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM. Children, under 2 years old, will be introduced to songs, stories, games and finger plays. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### TWEEN AND TEENS SPA DAY

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Make bath bombs and lip balm. There will be different essential oils and dyes to customize your products, music and snacks. For 6th-12th graders. Reserve your spot: 410-524-1818. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. The group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. Lisa Harrison, 410-632-3970, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### LAP TIME

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 PM. Children, under 2 years old, will be introduced to songs, stories, games and finger plays. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.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., April 2

### 'CHOOSING CIVILITY: THE TWENTY-FIVE RULES OF CONSIDERATE CONDUCT'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Discuss P.M. Forni's book on living a considerate and civil lifestyle. Books are available in advance at the library. <http://www.worcesterli->

brary.org

### STORY TIME 'BUNNY TIME'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### FAMILY TIME 'CRAFTS'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Join the group for crafts and activities. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### TED TALK 'JUST A LITTLE NICER'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. The first of the series explores compassion as a universal virtue. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### 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](mailto:jeanduck47@gmail.com)

## Wed., April 3

### WITTY KNITTERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts and needle artists of all skill levels are encouraged to join this casual morning of sharing. Work on your favorite patterns and exchange ideas. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### STEAM STORY TIME 'KINDNESS CRAFTS'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. Stories and crafts for your children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### COZY LAP QUILTS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. A four-week initiative held March 20 through April 10. Make lap quilts to deliver to those living in local nursing homes. Bring a sewing machine if you have one. All fabric and materials will be provided. Attend as many as possible. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### HYPERTENSION CLINICS

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, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. 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 healthcare topics. This month's topic will be Fighting Cancer with Immunotherapy. The lecture is open to the public. Advance registration is required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

### 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](mailto: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

### GARDEN TOUR

The Ocean Pines Garden Club presents a garden tour on June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. For those interested in showcasing their garden, large or small: Patti, 410-973-1243 or [plookner@gmail.com](mailto:plookner@gmail.com).

### BUS TRIP TO BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM

The Art League of Ocean City is sponsoring this trip to the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pa on April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. On the way home, the bus will make a one-hour stop in Newark, Del., and guests can choose shopping at Jerry's Artarama or eating dinner. The cost is \$70 and includes the bus, admission to the museum, plus water and snacks. Lunch is available at the museum or visitors can bring their own. Info: [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org) or 410-524-9433. Open to the public.

### BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Any branch, through April. Need some one-on-one help with your resume, job application, eReader or basic computer skills? Contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH - VOLUNTEER TRANSCRIPTION

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., throughout April. Help transcribe records into digital format to help researchers find them and learn something new about the library's collection at the same time. Records for transcription will include cemetery records and obituaries. This program is suitable for teens and adults. 410-632-3495

**CALL**  
410-723-6397  
BY MONDAY  
5 P.M.

# MARKETPLACE

## CLASSIFIED

Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) and [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com).

**HELP WANTED**

**Help Wanted**  
Must have Experience for the following positions:

- HVAC
- Project Managers
- Carpenters
- Loss Mitigation Specialist
- Carpet Cleaners
- Carpet Cleaning Foreman

Apply in person at 9939 Jerry Mack Rd., Suite 100, OCMD  
Or email resume to: [breck@royalplus.com](mailto:breck@royalplus.com)  
410-251-5264

**HELP WANTED**

**Comfort Inn Gold Coast HOTEL MAINTENANCE**

We are seeking to fill a hotel Maintenance position, full time, year round. Experience in hotel or condo maintenance preferred. Competitive pay and excellent benefits.

Please apply in person at  
**The Comfort Inn Gold Coast on 112th Street Ocean City, next to the Gold Coast Mall**  
No phone calls please

**HELP WANTED**

**JOB FAIR!**  
By Wyndham Vacation Rentals

**March 30 | 4-6pm**  
33260 Coastal Highway, Bethany Beach, 19930

302.541.9675 reserves YOUR spot for an immediate Job Offer!

**SATURDAYS ONLY**

- HOUSEKEEPERS: \$18
- ROOM CHECKERS: \$15/hour
- HOUSEKEEPERS: \$25-\$65/unit

Successful Applicants must be able to pass a criminal background check.  
ResortQuest is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**HELP WANTED**

**NOW HIRING!**

106 32nd St., Ocean City

- Housekeeping
- Maintenance
- Laundry
- Front Desk

Positions, full-time, part-time, seasonal or year-round. Must have hotel experience.  
Apply within, or call 410-289-5762  
Make sure to check out our job postings on Indeed.com!

**HELP WANTED**

**Property Management Assistant Needed**

We have a busy rental department. We are looking for someone to assist in organizing maintenance calls, dispatching vendors, and helping in the office. Maintenance knowledge a plus.

- Professional/Friendly
- Must travel to properties mostly in Ocean Pines and Ocean City.
- Must work most weekends as needed
- Minor maintenance abilities a plus.
- Good clear handwriting

Please fax resumes, letters, references & inquiries to  
**Hileman Real Estate, Inc.**  
Attn: Chris to fax # 410-208-9562

**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](mailto: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.

**NOW HIRING**  
**Awesome People**  
Apply Every Day  
Now through March  
11am-2pm

**Holding Open Interviews For:**

- Servers
- Bus Staff
- Host/Hostess
- Kitchen Staff
- Security

Come by and join our 2019 family!  
54th Street, OCMD  
(Behind Chauncey's Surf Shop)  
410-723-5565

**WORK ON THE BEACH IN OCEAN CITY, MD**

- Rent Umbrellas & Chairs to Beachgoers
- Now Hiring Students for Over 80 Positions
- Make Friends & Memories
- Earn Valuable Sales & Customer Service Skills
- Energetic Individuals Wanted
- Hourly + Commission + Tips

Apply at [EightyFiveAndSunny.com/Employment](http://EightyFiveAndSunny.com/Employment)

**Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel**  
**ON-SITE SUMMER JOB FAIR**  
Saturday, April 13, 2019 11 AM-3 PM

**Hiring:**

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Ocean City Career Fair at the Convention Center  
Saturday March 30th, 9:00 - 1:00 pm

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**Clarion Resort**

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ARK Systems

is looking for a Technical Manager for the Ocean City branch to manage installations and service projects. Ideal candidate: 5+ years of supervisory experience and electronic/electrical systems background.

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- Front Desk
- Maintenance

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Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel Attn: Human Resources Dept. 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842 Phone: 410-524-3535 Fax: 410-723-9109 EOE M/F/D/V

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Busy Hotel is seeking, a year round full time Sales Secretary. Must have hotel sales experience.

Applicant must be detail oriented and computer literate, proficient in Excel, Word & Publisher. Sales CRM experience a plus. Exceptional people skills, professional phone & email etiquette a must. Excellent benefits, working conditions and salary (commensurate with experience). Qualified applicants only, forward resume with salary requirements to:

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AUCTIONS

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Sat-Mon, 11-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat. & Sun. 11-2pm	Muirfield Lane., River Run	3-4BR/2-3.5BA	Single Family	\$399,900-\$479,900	Ed Wehnert/Coldwell Banker
Thurs-Mon 10-4pm	9800 Mooring View Lane, Unit 32, OC	3BR/2.5BA	Duplex/Townhouse	From \$299,900	Kathleen Clark/Monogram Realty
Saturday 11-1pm	120 70th St., 1 Bruff Isle	3BR/2.5BA	Townhouse	\$465,000	Lauren Waesche/Century 21 New Horizon
Saturday 12-3pm	2 Bimini Lane, Ocean Pines	4-5BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$357,900	Billy Barr/Keller Williams
Sunday 11-2pm	84th St #6, Surfside 84-2C	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$375,000	Billy Barr/Keller Williams
Saturday 11-2	28 Grand Port Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$499,500	John Houk/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sat. & Sun. 11-2	132 Park Side Crl., Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$424,900	LaTerra Wise/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 11-2	827 Little John Dr., Salisbury	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$228,900	Mark Decker/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 11-2	710 94th St. #106, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhouse	\$289,900	Dan O'Hare/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday 10-1	2 Burlington Ct., The Parke - OP	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$218,900	Cameron Drew/PO2-Hileman
Saturday 10-1	20 Sandyhook Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/BA	Single Family	\$234,900	Anna Spann/PO2-Hileman
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