



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLUBHOUSE

General Manager John Viola reported during the Board of Directors' meeting on April 1 that the OPA Golf Course Clubhouse project should be completed next month. See story on page 8.

OPA delays assessment date 90 days

Those who can pay should, others will have more time

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) With the covid-19 pandemic hammering the economy, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors last Wednesday voted 6-1 to delay annual assessment fees due May 1 for 90 days until the start of August.

Treasurer Larry Perrone, the dissenting board member, championed a 60-day window that could be extended as needed during the still-developing health crisis.

OPA President Doug Parks said the topic was broached during the board's last regularly scheduled meeting on March 7, with General See OPA Page 10



Larry Perrone

OPA meetings going online

Test runs completed, directors will convene in video conference

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) With innumerable adjustments underway globally in reaction to the covid-19 pandemic, the Ocean Pines Association Board held its April 1 meeting online to provide membership the ability to participate.

OPA President Doug Parks said ways to give membership real-time access to the board's sessions had been researched before the board convened last week.



Doug Parks

"The first iteration we wanted to make sure external folks could join the meeting and both see and hear what's going on," he said.

In a cost-conscious move, despite the wealth of web-based meeting formats available for purchase, the conclusion was reached to make use of an in-house video conferencing option, Microsoft TEAMS.

"First and foremost was, before we incur any costs to run a virtual meeting, let's

look at TEAMS because we're already paying for it," he said. "One of the reasons wanted to use [was because] it comes with the Microsoft licensing we have for Office 365."

Parks said to ensure the cost-effective measure was not penny wise and pound foolish, a test run was conducted followed by a practice session.

"This past Monday, we had a dry run with all seven directors tying in," he said.

To replicate the actual experience, Parks wore two hats during the dry run, logging in as a board member and also accessing the meet- See ONLINE Page 8

Berlin meetings will be public, virtually

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) The first online Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting will take place on Facebook Live Monday starting at 5:30 p.m. with a budget work session. Following the work session, the regular session will begin at 7 p.m.

"Town staff has explored our most readily available options for ensuring that our municipal business can be conducted as seamlessly as possible



Gee Williams

while maintaining the public's ability to be fully informed and to participate

under the circumstances," Mayor Gee Williams said in a press release.

The Town of Berlin will publish the meeting packets on the Town website by 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the meeting, allow- See BERLIN Page 8



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Berlin canceling events through June due to virus

(April 9, 2020) In light of the ongoing national and Maryland states of emergency, events in the Town of Berlin have been cancelled through June 2020.

The town had announced the cancellation of all April events, but has extended that cancellation through June to avoid confusion and uncertainty.

“The Town and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce are cancelling, or postponing, all special events through June, in an abundance of caution during this unique time,” Berlin Mayor Gee Williams said. “We feel it is the prudent decision to make this announcement of further event cancellations now, instead of waiting until the last minute.”

“If at all possible, some of these events may be rescheduled,” Berlin Chamber of Commerce President Steve Frene added. “We are also working with the Town of Berlin to help promote a new event to responsibly and safely celebrate the end of this very difficult time.”

This week’s announcement of cancelled events and activities include:

Saturday, April 11 – Spring Celebration

See FARMERS Page 4

Berlin online meetings start Mon.

Town services will continue amid coronavirus concerns; parks, playgrounds closed

(April 9, 2020) *Berlin Mayor Gee Williams issued his weekly statement on Monday with updates concerning covid-19 (coronavirus) and the town.*

The Town of Berlin continues to actively monitor the evolving situation regarding covid-19 (coronavirus).

All town services continue to be provided. Town employees are working on a modified work schedule to minimize the number of people working at town offices or utility departments. Employees are working from home by telework whenever possible.

Please note that all Town of Berlin and Berlin Chamber of Commerce public events have been cancelled through the end of June 2020. Berlin previously announced the cancellation of all events in April but has extended the cancellations through June.

Town parks and playgrounds will remain closed through the end of May at a minimum. This decision will be re-evaluated later this spring as the conditions of the coronavirus health emergency evolve.

Meetings conducted by the Town

of Berlin will resume next Monday, but in strict accordance with Gov. Larry Hogan’s stay-at-home order and guidelines.

Equipment has been secured to enable the town to have Berlin mayor and council meetings that are available to public access by way of electronic livestreaming format for immediately foreseeable future.

The first livestream council meeting will be next Monday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. This will be a General Fund work session, which is the next step in preparing our 2021 town budget.

Immediately after the work session on April 13, the regular session of the Berlin Mayor and Council will begin at 7 p.m., also on livestream.

Two weeks later, on Monday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. the council will livestream our Utilities Fund budget work session, immediately followed by a regular session at 7 p.m. that will also be livestreamed to the public.

The live video feed of the mayor and council meetings will be available on the town’s Facebook page, which is accessible by clicking on the Facebook icon at the top of our webpage or directly via Facebook by typing @berlinmd in the search bar.

Following the meetings, the video recording will be available for future reference via the town’s website. This information is also available on our town website: berlinmd.gov/news/, Berlin’s Facebook page and Berlin’s public access tv channel.

Only the mayor and council and up to three town staff will be in attendance at these meetings. Town department heads will be allowed to make presentations only one person at a time.

The public may submit comments and questions in advance prior to these meetings in four ways: electronically via email or text, fax, or by USPS mail. Please note any communications must be received by no later than noon on the day of a meeting.

Questions and comments will be compiled for the mayor and council to review and discuss during the meeting. Send these communications

to either of the following four ways: email: info@berlinmd.gov; please use M&C Comments in the subject; fax: 410-641-2316; In the drop boxes located behind Town Hall and at the corner of Bay and William streets; USPS mail: Town of Berlin, 10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811

Note: To reach the Town of Berlin in time, any traditional mailed communications must be in the USPS system by no later than the US Post Office’s close of business the Friday before a Monday meeting.

Any town notices and statements related to this public health emergency are distributed to all local news media, posted on our town website: berlinmd.gov/news/, Facebook page, public access channel and by notices displayed outside of Town Hall.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and any alerts or additional information about the coronavirus that pertains to Worcester County is also displayed on our town website.

Your mayor and council members are grateful that our community is following the “stay-at-home order” issued a week ago by Gov. Larry Hogan. The expected peak of the spread of COVID-19 in Maryland remains unknown. Updates of further orders from our governor will continue to be shared by the Town of Berlin.

We are encouraged by your actions in our community to take public distancing and minimizing exposure to others seriously during this emergency.

None of us has ever experienced a pandemic before, but by all of us following Maryland’s statewide order we can all do our part in minimizing the spread and horrible effects of covid-19.

There has never been a time since our community’s founding when our understanding that we are all part of the extended family of Berlin is of more importance. Please Take Care.

– Mayor Wm. Gee Williams III
Town of Berlin, Maryland



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OP Chamber joins cohorts seeking funding

Nonprofit business groups' classification would curtail access to stimulus money

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) As the covid-19 pandemic wreaks havoc with Maryland's economy, the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is working with similar entities across the state to ensure that business organizations are included in the next phase of federal stimulus money. Executive Director Kerrie Bunting



Kerrie Bunting

"Chambers don't get any money from the government at all unless you're a tourism center," she said. "They get town or county money to run the tourism side but not the chamber side." Bunting said the only groups in

said her organization is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization. But unlike groups and organizations with the 501(c)(3) designation, donations to the former aren't tax deductible.

Maryland meeting those criteria are in Ocean City and Garrett County, with chambers solely reliant on memberships and sponsorships for financial backing.

The recent third phase of federal emergency funding for small businesses and industry, in part through the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program, did not include 501(c)(6) nonprofits, because the designation includes larger membership groups.

"The reason that the federal government didn't include (c)(6) to begin with was because large foundations are in-

cluded, like the NFL," she said.

Bunting said financial markers could be established to differentiate chamber of commerce needs from those with larger bottom lines.

"We need to limit the (c)(6) who qualify to some strata such as certain gross or annual revenue," she said.

Bunting said the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program was discussed during a recent conference call with the Maryland Association of Chamber of Commerce executives.

"Under that, there's a loan but then See OP Page 4

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General Manager



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OP Chamber part of group seeking federal stimulus

Continued from Page 3
there's a grant," she said. "The only thing that a (c)(6) can do is just a one-time \$10,000 grant just for payroll and the utilities."

Bunting said those overhead costs generally account for the bulk of expenses paid by chambers.

"It's only \$10,000, it's one time and it is forgivable," she said.

Bunting said in addition to highlighting the need to Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Nicole Christian is planting seeds with Gov. Larry Hogan.

"She has been speaking directly with the governor seeing if Hogan, since he is on such a national stage, could do something or put pressure somewhere," she said. "The hope is that (c)(6) can get some relief in the phase four program."

Bunting said Christian also sent a formal communication to Hogan and encouraged cohorts to follow suit.

"She sent a letter to Hogan to see if he might be able to influence the phase four at the federal level, or is there's something within the state ... that he could create for chambers specifically," she said. "She wanted all of us to do something similar just to show him that all the chambers are in the same boat."

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OPA reviews strong YTD financials

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) While future financial challenges from the covid-19 pandemic are yet unknown, last week the Ocean Pines Association reported both favorable budget numbers during February and strong reserve fund balances.

General Manager John Viola presented current fiscal year ending totals for February during the OPA Board meeting on April 1.

Despite the cold weather time period, during February the association recorded revenues favorable to budget by roughly \$28,000, with the current year totals for the month just over \$174,000 compared to an estimated figure of about \$146,000.

Positive returns were also seen on the expense side, which closed February approximately \$33,000 below expectations, tracking at roughly

\$789,000 to beat the budgeted tally of about \$822,000.

Those figures combined for a positive net operating total of roughly \$61,000 for February.

Turning to cash on hand and short-term investments, OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone presented the fiscal totals to close February.

Perrone said the association ended February with approximately \$9.7 million in cash. The sum includes \$4.8 million in fully insured CDARs, with \$4.9 million split between money markets and operating accounts.

"The overall laddered investment rate of return for February was approximately 2.3 percent," he said.

Looking at reserve fund totals, including replacement, bulkheads, and roads, through the end of February, the overall balance of \$7.6 million is marginally lower than the \$8.8 mil-

lion on hand when the current fiscal year started on May 1.

Perrone said fiscal 2019/2020 opened with about \$5.2 million in replacement reserves, roughly \$2.5 million for bulkheads and about \$1.1 million for roads.

Though February the numbers balanced at roughly \$4.8 million in replacement reserves, about \$2 million for bulkheads and just over \$800,000 for roads.

Looking to the end of fiscal 2019/2020 that closes on April 30, Perrone said reserve accounts are forecast to close at just over \$5 million, including balances of \$1.2 million for bulkheads and approximately \$523,000 for roadwork.

"Our replacement reserve account, taking into consideration what we have spent and anticipate to spend on our projects, will have it at a balance of \$3.2 million," he said.

Farmers market set to open May 3

Continued from Page 2
Saturday, April 18 – Saturday, April 25 – Take Pride in Berlin Week
Saturday, April 18 – Clean-Up Day
Friday, May 1 – Reggae Play Day
Saturday, May 2 – Spring Just Walk Berlin
Saturday, May 9 – Berlin Jazz & Blues Wine & Brews
Saturday, May 16 – Berlin Spring Cruisers
Sunday, May 24 – Memorial Day at the Monument (Main & West Streets)
Monday, May 25 – Old-Fashioned Memorial Day and Parade
Friday, June 19 – Berlin Bath-

tub Race
All Business After Hours through June
All 2nd Friday Art Strolls and Makers Markets through June
The town has also decided to cancel spring bulk waste collection, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 and Wednesday, April 29.
Yard Waste Collection scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 13, will proceed as scheduled. Important information regarding Yard Waste Collection can be found on the town's website on the Public Works Department page.
As a food market, the Berlin Farmers Market will be able to open as

scheduled on Sunday, May 3 at 9 a.m.
"The Farmers Market will open on Sunday, May 3 and the town will be implementing social distancing and safety measures recommended by the Maryland Farmers Market Association as well as other farmers markets around the state." Ivy Wells, Berlin's Economic and Community Development director, said.
Reservations of facilities in town parks will also be canceled through May and the parks will remain closed to the general public through the end of May at a minimum. This will be re-evaluated later this spring as coronavirus health emergency conditions change.
Visit the town website at berlinmd.gov for more information.

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WCPS students using online learning guide

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) Ever since Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced on March 26 that schools would remain closed for an additional four weeks, Worcester County Public School officials have been preparing parents and students with online learning material they can use at home.

Using an online management system called Schoology, Worcester County Public School's Continuity of Learning Plan went into effect Monday, March 30, for high school students in AP courses or dual enrollment.

Remaining high schoolers began that Tuesday, and middle school and elementary school students began their own Continuity of Learning Plan courses on Monday.

"We firmly believe that every student deserves and needs to continue their education in whatever way we are able to provide it," Public Relations and Special Events Coordinator Carrie Sterrs said. "Just as we strive to meet students' basic needs through our feeding program, we must meet those more complex needs, like social-emotional well-being through our counseling services or instructional needs through Continuity of Learning."

The board of education has created

a parent guide on its website at <http://worcesterk12.org/home> named Parent Guide that lays out the groundwork to help parents understand the requirements of a Continuity of Learning environment.

For high school students, total time spent on each class, including reading, homework, and work towards long-term assignments, should not exceed 75 minutes for non-college-level classes and 90 minutes for college-level classes.

For middle school students, total class engagement time includes 60 minutes per day for literacy and mathematic courses, 30 minutes per day for science and social studies, 90 minutes per week for art, music, physical education, health and media, 30 minutes each Tuesday for Tech Tuesday and 30 minutes each Wednesday for Wellness Wednesday.

For elementary school students, online learning experiences per day are intended to not exceed more than an hour and a half, as the board recognizes families may have more than one child to guide.

"Our parent guide breaks out learning timeframes by grade ... indicating how much time per day or week will be dedicated to subject areas," Sterrs said.

Students will be graded by teachers based on their assessments of a stu-

dent's progress.

The guide also offers advice for what roles and responsibilities students and parents have supporting the learning environment.

Parents can help support their children in their studies by engaging in conversations on materials and assignments and monitoring time spent in online and offline learning.

The board has also considered the importance of providing computer technology for students who may not have internet or computer access at home.

On Wednesday, April 1, the principal and vice principal of Berlin Intermediate School signed out laptops to parents from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. In the future, it will also be handing out internet hotspot devices once they are made available.

"Each school has surveyed families to find out what students and teachers need devices and or connectivity, and we are working as quickly as possible to deploy devices to those in need," Sterrs said.

The board also is looking into options for those who do not have any internet access.

"We are in the process of acquiring additional hotspot devices to deploy to students and teachers that have limited internet connectivity," Sterrs said. "However, we understand that there are rural regions in our county that, despite having a hotspot and device, connectivity is simply not available.

"For these students, we are going to provide a paper packet option. We are also looking into expanding internet connectivity outside of our schools, including our parking lot areas."

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor addressed the technology issue during an emergency Board of Education phone conference on Tuesday, March 31.

"There's been a lot of work that goes into the distribution of computers, and making sure that we have Internet access," Taylor said. "That still seems to be one of our challenges, but

we're going to face it head on. We have approximately 180 hot spots available.

"We do have some challenges getting some of our kids who don't have Internet access and or have a device," he continued. "But our staff are working hard to make sure we're reaching out to individual students, not just making a blanket statement to get them the device, even if we have to find a way to deliver that. We're going to do everything we can to get that device to them immediately."

Sterrs and Taylor advise parents and students to continue being patient.

"We'd like to ask our families to please be patient with us and themselves," Sterrs said. "This is new territory for everyone, and while there will be challenges along the way, we will do the best we are able to keep our students engaged in learning for the duration of this closure."

Taylor also celebrated the first week of online learning for high school students with a message to the public last Friday.

"Being able to begin continuity of learning so quickly is a testament to the incredible work of our teachers, instructional and school leaders, and our staff, who truly mobilized our plans to launch us forward with device and hotspot distribution, trainings, and more," he said.

"Distance learning is new for all of us, and while our educators have been working hard to learn new techniques to provide ongoing, engaging learning experiences for your child, we also understand that many of you are navigating how to be facilitators of learning in your own homes," Taylor continued. "There will undoubtedly be challenges along this journey, but we will persevere through them ... together."

If parents or students have issues with Schoology or other technology-based problems, they can reach out to the Worcester County Public Schools website, www.worcesterk12.org to request assistance, or call 302-466-5329, 434-535-1477, or 410-635-1042 to reach a HELPDESK representative.

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Viola updates projects, pandemic response

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) In addition to reviewing the association’s responses to the covid-19 pandemic, OPA General Manager John Viola last Wednesday brought the board of directors up to date on building projects.

Viola reviewed the association’s efforts to encourage health safety measures with the OPA Board at its meeting on April 1.

Viola said along with daily monitoring of information from the federal government, the OPA continues to follow Gov. Larry Hogan’s media appearances, along with updates from Worcester County officials.

To ensure the community is pro-



John Viola

vided timely reports on the pandemic, the OPA has been providing constant social media updates and a covid-19 specific page on its website.

For the most updated information visit

<https://www.oceanpines.org/opa-news/covid-19/>.

Turning to capital projects, Viola reviewed cost and completion timelines for the OPA Golf Course Clubhouse and cart barn, as well as the police and administration building expansion.

Viola said the clubhouse is on schedule for completion next month,

with just over \$1 million of the estimated \$1.6 million cost spent by the end of February.

“This building was built and designed to handle and coexist for the community center, for banquets, as well as golf, without getting in each other’s way,” he said.

Viola also presented recent photographs of the construction to document the present state of affairs. The photos show that the golf pro shop is awaiting fresh paint before furniture is installed, along with nearly functional kitchen facilities.

Viola also said the new cart barn structure is complete and awaiting county approval prior to inhabiting.

Budgeted at \$430,000 the cart-

barn build is expected to wind up costing roughly \$300,000, Viola said.

“The cart barn is about to be used,” he said.

The police building expansion, budgeted at roughly \$1.2 million and slated for completion by September, is on track to wind down earlier than anticipated.

“We believe it will be done by summer,” he said.

Viola said as of the end of February roughly \$283,000 of the expected cost had been spent.

“The roof has been completed,” he said. “We are ahead of schedule on this.”

The roof replacement was done for the entire police and administration building to match the rest of the OPA campus, Viola said.

The estimated \$220,000 for the administration building updates has yet to be tapped, with Viola anticipating the final number to be below the estimated total.

“We’re keeping the windows we have,” he said.

Online sessions work in progress

Continued from Page 1

ing using the provided web link.

“I simulated myself being an external participant,” he said. “Somebody that would not have been on the invite list but clicked on the web link.”

The main concern was having an interactive medium for association members to provide public comments.

“How do you interact with those folks from, number one, identifying someone that wanted to make a public comment, and ... moderating it in such a way that you don’t have people talking over one another.”

In preparation for the April meeting, Parks said during an OPA Board special meeting on March 20 members were asked to email questions ahead of time to directors@oceanpines.org.

“For the meeting on the first, no

one had sent in any emails with regard to public comments,” he said.

Parks said it remains unclear if the absence of responses was indicative of membership’s lack of questions or if members were unfamiliar with the online process.

“We agreed amongst ourselves that I would read those comments that came into that mailbox,” he said. “All the directors will see the comment.”

Parks said although the directors concluded that the virtual meeting last week was acceptable, further refinements are being sought to improve the interactive experience for members.

“We’re trying to think of other ways they can submit questions,” he said.

Ideally, external participants could view the proceedings and chime in

during the public comment portion.

“There’s pros and cons to that, the pro being they can submit a question ... actually speak and everybody can hear them,” he said.

On the down side, Parks said the TEAMS platform is not presently configured to permit precise muting abilities to eliminate background noise from other participants.

“I can do that but there’s no way to mute everybody else,” he said. “You actually have to count on the folks ... to have the ... virtual meeting courtesy to mute their line.”

For now, the online meeting format remains a work in progress.

“Right now it’s in its infancy [but] I’d like to refine it to the point where it’s well run,” he said. “We’re not there yet, but certainly we’re not at a point where nobody can deliver a public comment.”

Election Comm. will hold virtual meeting Friday

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) Although social distancing requirements have halted advisory committee meetings, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee has scheduled a virtual meeting on Friday at 10 a.m. to address the 2020 OPA Board election and candidate filing deadline of May 10.

Elections Committee Chair Steve Habeger said although OPA President Doug Parks recently cancelled advisory meetings for 60 days, the mandate did provide flexibility for groups with immediate issues to address.

“Basically, this is a test drive,” he said.

Habeger said the upcoming election leaves the committee little choice but to work however it can to get the job done.

“Once the association secretary gives us the list of candidates, we have work to do,” he said.

The meeting will be conducted through Microsoft Teams video conferencing at the following link: https://www.oceanpines.org/event/elections-committee-2/?instance_id=172284.

Berlin to stream live to Facebook

Continued from Page 1

ing members of the public to submit questions and comments in writing up to noon on the meeting date. Submissions can be emailed to info@berlinmd.gov, faxed to 410-641-2316, dropped at Town Hall in either of the two drop boxes, or mailed to Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD 21811.

Any public hearing held during the online meeting will not be able to accept any live comment from residents during the actual meeting.

“Can residents chime in when the

meeting is being conducted? The answer will be ‘no,’” Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said. “What we’re going to do to accelerate the agenda, to make it available sooner than what we’ve done in the past, we are having the agenda available by close of business the Wednesday prior to the meeting. That way the public can take a look at the agenda if they have concerns, questions or any comments at all.”

Town officials recommend that comments be mailed no later than this Friday to help ensure receipt by the Town on Monday. The comments will

be compiled for the mayor and council to provide them the opportunity to review and discuss during the meeting.

The meetings will be then be streamed live on the Town’s Facebook page, which can be accessed through the town government’s website at www.berlinmd.gov by clicking on the Facebook icon at the top of the page, or directly via Facebook by typing @berlinmaryland in the search bar.

The council’s Enterprise Fund work session will take place Monday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. followed by a regular session at 7 p.m.



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Berlin employees operating through telework, in office

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) All Town of Berlin departments continue to be open for business, although their physical offices are closed to the public amid the coronavirus pandemic, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said.



Jeff Fleetwood

Of the 72 town employees, around 50 percent are working from their departments and the remainder are teleworking. This number also includes the 11-13 members of the Berlin Police Department, which is continuing to work on a normal schedule, Fleetwood said.

“We might be a little slow, but we’re still open for business and things are getting accomplished,” he said. “Please be patient if we’re slower than normal.”

Residents can still contact Administration, Human Resources, Economic and Community Development, Electric, Finance, Berlin Fire, Parks, Planning and Zoning, Berlin Police, Public Works and Water Departments with questions or concerns.

Visit the town’s department directory at <https://berlinmd.gov/department-directory/> to find the necessary department contact.

Town Hall office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. General contacts can call 410-641-2770 or email info@berlinmd.gov for more information.

Pines teenager’s birthday surprise

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) An Ocean Pines teenager received a surprise from the local fire department when her mother arranged to have a fire truck drive up to their house for her birthday on Sunday.

Mia Stubblebine’s 15th birthday was made even more special when her mother, Debbie, got in touch with Colby Phillips, asking for an opportunity to surprise her daughter for her birthday.

“Everybody’s stuck in the house and I couldn’t take her anywhere to celebrate or have anyone over so I just tried to think outside the box to make her smile besides just normal gifts,” Debbie said.

Phillips and her husband, Duane, who is an Ocean City Fire Department paramedic and part-time Ocean Pines volunteer, were more than happy to help.

“[Debbie] reached out on Saturday through a Facebook message and asked if I knew anyone in Ocean Pines that would be able to help get the fire truck to come by since her daughter was in love with fire trucks,” Phillips said. “I think right now people are just looking for any type of enjoyment and I thought it was really cute. And of course, the Ocean Pines Fire Department was 100 percent on board with accommodating us doing that, which was awesome.

“After we got the approval, my husband and I went to the North Gate Fire Station, got the fire truck, and we drove down Windjammer, which is a long road,” she continued. “As we approached their house, she had balloons outside. We pulled up and my husband blared the siren ... And I think we got all the neighbors out there too. It was quite fun. We also got a nice feel-good moment from that.”

Debbie knew how much her daughter loved emergency vehicles, and figured

she would try and make her birthday a little more fun, all while embarrassing her good-naturedly.

“There was a little bit of me wanting to embarrass her and do something for her to remember,” Debbie said. “We’ve always liked emergency vehicles and stuff, so to have one show up and surprise her was just so much fun.”

Mia said she was definitely surprised. “It was just a casual morning,” she said. “I opened some gifts and we were just chilling as a family. Then, all of a sudden, mom told me to go outside and then this fire truck pulls up with lights and sirens on. It was just really cool to see.

“I thought it was cool that my mom set it up and it was just so nice of her since I can’t have any friends over for my birthday,” Mia continued.

Videos and pictures were taken in front of the fire truck; Mia was not allowed inside as a safety precaution.

The day turned out to be even more of a surprise for another resident, according to Phillips.

“When we left her house, there was another little boy standing out because, of course, they see a fire truck and it was his birthday, too,” she said. “It was so cool that we got to see two people on their birthdays with a fire truck.”

Phillips was thrilled with the experience for two reasons: one, she had never ridden in the front seat of a fire truck, and two, she felt like she was part of a parade.



PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS

Ocean Pines resident Mia Stubblebine celebrated her 15th birthday on Sunday, April 5, with a surprise visit from an Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department fire truck, driven by local firefighter and paramedic Duane Phillips.

“This little trip I got to embarrass my husband, while she got to embarrass her daughter,” she said. “I embarrassed my husband by waving to everyone and yelling out ‘hello’ with my gloves and mask on. It was quite enjoyable.”

Duane, who was driving the truck, was more than happy to help, despite the embarrassment.

“It was a good experience,” he said. “Anytime we can put a smile on somebody’s face or do something good, that’s a good thing.

“I was thinking about it last night ... my brother [Darin] passed away a couple of months ago,” he continued. “We had so many people reach out to me and it’s something I’m never going to forget. So, if I can do something for someone else, I’m glad to do so.”

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OPA asks those who can to pay assessments

Continued from Page 1
Manager John Viola subsequently re-searching options to assist property owners facing an unanticipated monetary crunch.

Viola said the three-month delay's financial impact on fiduciary responsibilities and operations could likely be absorbed without tapping replacement reserve funds.

"If we had to go longer, it would have an effect," he said. "It would be tighter, but based upon the amount of assessments coming in now, we believe we would be okay."

While acknowledging that the association has enough cash to endure the 90-day revenue gap, the rapidly evolving situation remains riddled with uncertainties, Viola said.

Perrone, who conducted an in-depth look at budget figures with Viola, said no one knows how severe the financial hurdles will become over the next several months.

"I think it's clear we'll probably delay the due date some amount of time. The question is how long?" he said.

The overall goal would be avoiding dipping into the OPA replacement reserve account, Perrone said.

"As treasurer, my concern is, if this stay-in-place order stays in place past June, we're going to be in a little different situation than we would be if we're able to open up by the end of June," he said.

If pandemic restrictions continue into the summer and amenities can't generate revenue in July and August, the financial picture would become even more cloudy, Perrone said.

"If we extend it 90 days, we would be taking more risk because we don't have enough concrete information," he said. "We don't know for sure where we're going to be, but there is a possibility that we would have to go into our replacement reserve account for operations."

Perrone espoused providing a 60-day delay option for assessment payments and also noted OPA members who pay dues after July would be ineligible to vote for the 2020 board election.

"With all the uncertainty we have

around the numbers, we don't know for sure where we're going to be in 60 days," he said. "If things get shut down for the entire summer, and if it possibly goes into the fall, we could have some serious situations."

Perrone stressed that the delayed payment option would be intended for property owners suffering from financial distress, while members who can pay should honor the May due date.

Board member Frank Daly asked if additional financial data could be acquired before the board's May 2 meeting.

Viola said roughly 90 percent of fees are usually submitted by the end of May.

Daly also suggested any delayed payments should be tracked to differentiate between members who need assistance and the few who typically pay late.

"If you want to defer, have them contact the administration building," he said.

Daly said the May meeting date also could be delayed slightly to gain

a clearer picture of the association's finances.

"If we go to May, and things go to hell in a hand basket and somebody says, 'I think we're going to extend this for 60 days,' then we have a lot different discussion than at the end of May us being out of the woods," he said.

Board member Tom Janasek, while acknowledging the association's monetary uncertainties, expressed strong support for the 90-day window.

"This is an opportunity for Ocean Pines ... to be a community again that takes care of its own," he said. "It really goes a long way to the psyche of our community to let them know what we are planning as a board."

Board member Camilla Rogers backed the perspective shared by Janasek, while also supporting Daly's notion to track those needing help by offering to create an application form.

"We need to know how we can help them if more help is needed and direct them towards appropriate resources," she said.

Parks also expressed support for a 90-day grace period to pay dues, while simultaneously agreeing with Perrone the overall aim should be avoiding using replacement reserve funds to cover future revenue shortfalls.

"That's not unprecedented, that's been done in the past, but if we can avoid doing that, we certainly should set that as one of the goals," he said.

Parks cast doubt on the need to track members taking advantage of delayed payment options.

"If someone doesn't send in their assessment, the system will tell us that," he said.

Parks also noted the importance for members not experiencing financial uncertainties to meet the May due date.

"If you can still make the payment, please do so," he said. "We still have a fiduciary responsibility to our contractual obligations and our staffing."

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OP bulkhead work remains on course for fall

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) Despite the enforced lull in activities during the covid-19 pandemic, current and pending bulkhead repairs remain on track in Ocean Pines. General Manager John Viola said, in addition to the present maintenance efforts winding up by May 1, the next batch of repairs scheduled for the fall were approved last month.

“At this point, the bulkhead contractors are finishing up the work from the 2019-2020 fiscal year,” he said. “We believe we’re on plan at this point and the bulkhead team has confirmed we’re pretty much on track.”

The OPA Board approved a contract with Fisher Marine Construction for \$1.1 million to perform bulkhead repairs in fiscal year 2020-2021 during its meeting on March 7.

Viola said Fisher was selected among a trio of bidders because of its low price and its consistently reliable work in the past.

“Most of that work would start in September and we’re assuming everything will be back up and running by then,” he said. “Construction at this time does not fall under the executive orders issued by Gov. [Larry] Hogan.”

The bid terms from Fisher are for 3,330 liner feet of vinyl bulkhead, including 2,430 liner feet of along North Pintail Drive and 900 liner feet along Stacy Park Canal at a cost of \$355 per foot.

The repairs were required due to failing bulkheads, tied in part to worm damage.

“We expect the work to remain on schedule, even with everything else closing,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Fisher Marine Construction submitted the lowest bid, at \$1.1 million, for upcoming bulkhead repairs in Ocean Pines set to commence in September.

Md. Historical Society documents pandemic

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) While much of society focuses on the public health safety measures being considered and imposed during the covid-19 pandemic, the Maryland Historical Society is pursuing its “Collecting in Quarantine” initiative to capture in words and images the experiences of residents statewide.

Founded in 1844, the Maryland Historical Society serves as the principal repository of records and documents chronicling the state and is its longest continually operated cultural foundation.

Allison Tolman, Maryland Historical Society Vice President of Collections, said written and visual submissions of the challenges faced statewide during the covid-19 pandemic of 2020 are being sought.

“When the quarantine really started picking up pace, we turned to our collection to provide context for people,” she said. “As a history museum, that’s what we do all the time.”

Among the historical society’s collection, which includes more than 350,000 objects and roughly seven million printed volumes, are numerous artifacts documenting the 1918 Spanish Flu but scant details of more recent health scares.

“We have nothing from H1N1 swine flu or anything more recent,” she said. “In a hundred years [if] there’s another pandemic there’s nothing for anyone to look back on from the digital age.”

Tolman said due to the hyper speed of social media and the nonstop influx of information and commentary, Facebook posts and tweets are sometimes lost in the mix.

“We realized there’s no one to collect what’s happening right now,” she said. “We’re all just so in the weeds right now going through it, but no one is

slowing down to write it down.”

Collecting in Quarantine is comprised of two sections, “Letters From the Homefront” and “Business Unusual” to assure future generations can comprehend the experiences of average Marylanders navigating through

the pandemic response in 2020.

To this point, the “letter” submissions have largely consisted of journal entries capturing everyday existence during a time of widespread health fears.

“We’ve gotten some creative writing

where people are pretending it’s a different time,” she said. “Basically, documenting what their daily life is and what anxieties they have on a personal level.”

Input from Marylanders presently
See COLLECTING Page 16

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Opinion

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

Times like these show who deserves respect

Welcome to the dystopian future, when government officials are ephemeral figures that appear only on computer screens, finding food entails risk and the few souls who do venture out into an uncertain world do so with covered faces. The hottest commodity is toilet paper, so much so that it could become the preferred medium of exchange, as in twofold legal tender used to acquire scarce supplies and services. Even though these absurd apocalyptic science fiction scenarios do seem somewhat appropriate under our current covid-19 circumstances, they do not really apply. It is true that few people alive today have ever seen anything as unsettling as this pandemic, but the difference between fact and science fiction is that these films usually feature a small group of heroes who prevent humanity's collapse.

Real life, however, has thousands, maybe millions, of heroes. Many of them work in grocery stores, where, despite the risk, they continue to see that we can feed ourselves. Others work in fulfillment centers that supply online shoppers, while thousands more work in hospitals and medical centers, at communications companies, at fire, rescue and police departments, and in government offices. These are the people who allow the rest of us to work from home, largely out of harm's way. They deserve not just our thanks, but also our continued respect long after this episode is over. Most striking is the calm and logical approach of our state and local governing authorities. They have set the tone for our reaction to this madness by making difficult decisions and taking common sense actions as publicly as they can, given their technological capabilities and limitations. While they might not have been prepared for this specific crisis, they have always prepared for assorted worst cases, with their often maligned reserve funds and emergency response plans. We hate to see these things employed, but we are gratified that they are working as intended.



“Sir, crossing the State line to purchase tax free liquor is not essential.”

Letters

Coastal Hospice answers concerns

Editor,
Dear families, friends and supporters of Coastal Hospice, I write to you today, first and foremost, to reassure you that we are both following every precaution mandated and advocated by the CDC as we serve patients and families in our service. You may ask, “How is it possible to do both – take precautions and serve patients?” Frankly, no staff knows more about working with seriously ill patients and their families than hospice, as this is the definition of our job. Our mission statement reads that we promote “dignity and quality of life for patients and families who face life-limiting conditions.” And, while COVID-19 is a “novel” or new virus, we have faced some of the same issues before with seasonal influenza. We have learned a lot from 40 years’ experience. We are learning even more now, through this experience. Our leadership team meets daily to discuss new

recommendations and requirements, and to make sure everyone on our team remains informed. The Q&A below will help, we hope, allay some fears and communicate the steps we are taking. Please review it and if you have questions, send them to acapen@coastalhospice.org or call us at 410-742-8732. We are taking every precaution possible to keep our patients, their families, and staff protected. We remain diligent to assure that we are ready and able to serve those who need our services. We have always appreciated your confidence in us, and we work every day to continue to earn it. Good health to you all,
Alane Capen
CEO, Coastal Hospice

How are you monitoring staff?
We follow CDC guidelines for screening questions. Staff do not report to work if sick. They self-monitor for symptoms of sore throat, cough, fever, or shortness of breath. If they experience any of these, they report to the supervisor and to their health provider.

Are you worried about staffing shortfalls?
We are not. Right now we are well-staffed and we do have back-up staff opportunities if they prove needed.

Are you holding meetings?
Many of our meetings are happening virtually. We have also limited our own gatherings to eight or fewer individuals. Small committees will still meet observing “social distancing” of six feet of separation. No one with respiratory symptoms or fever should attend.

Are you still serving nursing homes?
Yes, we are serving all nursing homes across all four counties, using the protocols noted above.

What are the restrictions on visitors?
We screen visitors at both Coastal Hospice at the Lake and at the Macky & Pam Stansell House. At Coastal Hospice at the Lake, following the provisions set by Deer’s Head, we are allowing one visitor at a time. At Stansell House, small groups are allowed to visit.

Continued on Page 13

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Letters

Continued from Page 12
We suggest no more than three visitors at a time to a patient, but this may change as circumstances change.

Are you serving Palliative Care patients?

Currently, we are screening and seeing only new patients in an effort to keep our waiting rooms open. We are working with existing patients and families by phone to manage re-fills and questions.

Are your chaplains still available?

Yes, they are involved and providing emotional and spiritual support to patients, family and to our staff, through teleconferencing, and through visitations, depending on the circumstance.

Are volunteers still working?

We currently have a limited number of volunteers who choose to remain active visiting patients at Coastal Hospice at the Lake, at the Pam and Macky Stansell House, and in patients' homes as requested by patients and caregivers.

All volunteers have been screened prior to visits and are continuing self-monitoring practices. Volunteers choosing not to see patients at this time are still communicating with patients and or caregivers by telephone or with handwritten notes.

What will happen to the Taste

of Finer Things fundraising event in April?

We have rescheduled this event to be held Oct. 14.

Is the Thrift Shop open?

Yes, the thrift shop remains open. We will continue to monitor the situation and will adjust the hours or days of operation as required.

Golf course discussion

Editor,
There are 3 issues concerning its future:

The economic issue: The golf course lost \$549,779.00 in 2016, \$654,888.00 in 2017, \$396,587.00 in 2018 and \$509,381.00 in 2019. These figures include depreciation.

These figures are from the official audit reports. A new irrigation system is now being considered.

The estimated cost to install the proposed effluent irrigation system, based on a similar system installed on a nearby golf course, is \$2.7 million.

As I understand it; the majority of that cost will be paid for from our dues assessment. The rest will be added to our water & sewer bills.

If the golf course is repurposed, some of the depreciation costs will remain. But, a lot of the depreciable

equipment will no longer be needed and can be sold. If the course greens and fairways are replaced with natural vegetation no irrigation or fertilizer will be required.

I have seen ads stating the USDA is offering to pay up to 75 percent of the cost to create waterway protection on properties over 10 acres in size.

The environmental issue: A waterway resource specialist from the University of Maryland extension service gave a presentation in Ocean Pines in early March.

The issue was the dangerous amount of nitrogen going into the waterways. She stated that 40 percent of the nitrogen entering local waterways comes from lawns. A golf course uses a lot more nitrogen fertilizer than lawns.

The Ocean Pines golf course borders on the water. The golf course also receives a lot of runoff from nearby lawns and drainage ditches.

While the golf course was not directly discussed at the meeting, it became clear that it was a source of the problem.

The value of the golf course to Ocean Pines property owners today: 50 years ago every large Planned Unit Development (PUD) had a golf course.

The courses were built to encour-

age lot purchases. Today the popularity of golf is dying out. Many golf courses in PUDs and other communities are closing.

There are about 20 other golf courses in this immediate area competing for the lessening number of golfers. Many of today's OP residents are families with children. They have an equal right to decide the use of the membership land.

The BOD should authorize the formation of a work group to prepare an alternative use proposal for the land.

That proposal could then be sent out with the election ballots for the board of directors. If a majority of the membership voters wanted the revised use, it should be done.

Note: there has been a discussion of this issue on a website called OceanPinesforum.com. The title of the subject is "Local Waterway Pollution," under the General section. Login and read the comments.

If you agree that forming a work-group is warranted; email the board at directors@oceanpines.org and let your voice be heard. If this new irrigation system is installed the land will remain a golf course for decades. "Speak now or forever hold your peace."

*Harry Rutter
Ocean Pines*

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COOKING LESSON

As part of her lesson on the Chinese New Year, Worcester Prep Mandarin teacher Ashley Lin taught her students how to make dumplings. Pictured, from left, are Lin, Linley Hill and Kathy Zhang.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Bob Younglove, a certified health coach, was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. Pictured, from left, are Vice Regent Janet Simpson, Younglove and Regent Gail Weldin.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

READ-IN

To celebrate African American History Month, the Stephen Decatur High School National English Honor Society hosted its third annual African American Read-In, where students, teachers and parents had the opportunity to read and listen to excerpts from African American writers. Pictured are Decatur National English Honor Society officers Madison Munn, Lydia Woodley, Ulyssa Jacobs, Gavin Conner and Morgan Carlson.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AUTHOR VISIT

The Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County commemorated Black History Month at its February meeting with guest speaker Barbara Lockhart, author of "Elizabeth's Field." Lockhart, left, is pictured with Laurie Brittingham, DWC of Worcester County vice president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

INSPECTION

Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli poses with Stephen Decatur High School NJROTC members P03 Elijah Wiltbank, Lt. Junior Grade Matthew Miller, Ensign Zachary Fuchsluger, Lt. Commander Jacob Fuchsluger, Ensign Nick Cardamone, Lt. Junior Grade Taylor Takacs and P03 Maggie Herd after the annual inspection on Feb. 19.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VALENTINES

The Republican Women of Worcester County collected over 1,400 Valentine cards from schools and individuals to be distributed to Veterans' Homes and VA Hospitals in Maryland. Pictured are Linda Dearing of Copy Central, left, who boxed and mailed the cards again this year, and Vera Beck, RWWC Caring for America chair.

Puzzles

KEEP THE CHANGE
BY RICKY CRUZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ricky Cruz, 22, of Glendale, Calif., is a video game concept artist — a maker of detailed designs for other artists to use when creating 3-D game environments. He says this puzzle is an attempt to turn a crossword “into a fun visual experience.” The unusual grid alone tells you something novel is up. This is Ricky’s third puzzle for The Times, and his first Sunday. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Company often cited in business studies about disruptive innovation

6 Barbecue applications

10 Center of an ear

13 Authorized

18 Superman, for one

19 Bit of Q.E.D.

20 Brian who created the Windows 95 start-up sound

21 Time-machine option

22 Binary, as some questions

23 Settled on

25 “Here’s the thing ...”

26 Make heads or tails of a situation ... or an alternative title for this puzzle

29 Like a pigsty

31 What an aglet is for a shoelace

32 Some pain relievers

35 Sharer’s word

36 ____ parm

39 Give a talking-to

41 Bit of letter-shaped hardware

42 Food catcher

43 Got misty-eyed, with “up”

45 Tricky maneuver

46 Bearded beast

49 Satellite signal receiver

11 In addition to

12 [Out of nowhere!]

13 Nintendo character with a green cap

14 Summer complaint

15 State-of-the-art

16 Fuming state

17 X

21 Word before phone or book

24 Little salamanders

27 Word in the corner of a TV news broadcast

28 Paris’s Musée ____ (art museum)

29 No-goodnik

30 Pounds

33 Brooks & ____ (country duo)

34 Man’s nickname found in consecutive letters of the alphabet

37 Like about half of the OPEC countries

38 Danish tourist attraction since 1968

40 Tone down

43 Society at large

44 ____ ranch

46 Promoter of gender equality, for short

47 Like some tennis shots and most push-ups

50 No-frills

52 Strike out

53 Expert

55 Humdingers

56 The circled letters in the first shaded area

58 Title for many a W.H. aspirant

51 Orange County’s ____ Beach

54 Whistle-blower in 2013 news

57 Donkey Kong and others

59 Dresses’ upper sections

61 Cherry, for one

63 College town in Iowa

65 Units in linguistics

67 Selfish sort

68 Home to the Alhambra

70 Confused

72 The invaders in Space Invaders, in brief

73 Things held up to the ear

77 Nobel and Pulitzer winner Morrison

78 Part of a mission

80 Unfavorable

82 Some coolers

84 Surgeon’s tool

86 Slowpokes

88 “30 for 30” network

90 Lab noise?

91 Lazy ____

93 Relied on no one else

95 [That knocked the wind out of me!]

97 Free offering from a cafe

99 Certain colors in printing

102 Beyoncé’s role in 2019’s “The Lion King”

103 Having as a hobby

104 No-goodnik

107 ____-Tiki

108 One fighting against Thanos

110 Kind of visual puzzle ... or what to do with each line in this puzzle’s two shaded areas

115 Location in the Beach Boys’ “Kokomo”

117 Dog days of winter?

118 House-elf in the Harry Potter books

121 Any one of the Magi, to Jesus

122 Cousin of Inc.

123 Mount ____, much-hiked peak in Yosemite

124 Not hide one’s feelings

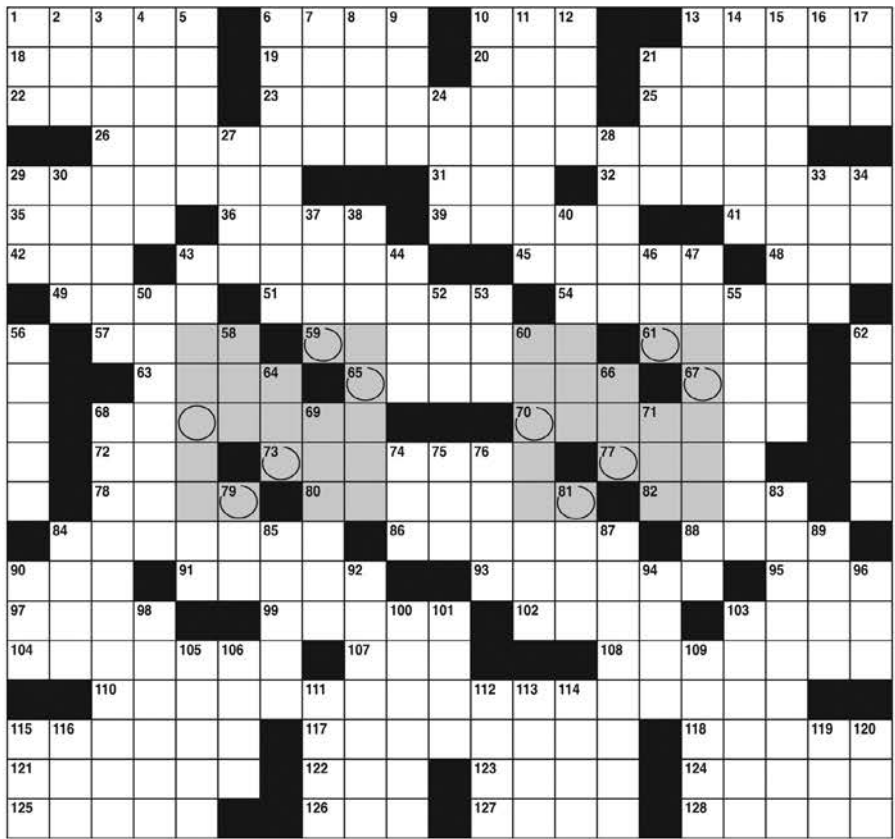
125 Applesauce brand

126 Drano component

127 Site for handmade goods

128 Introduction

Online subscriptions: Today’s puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 60 Substance discharged

62 The circled letters in the second shaded area

64 Ink container

66 Went unused

68 Manage to heave the ball before time expires

69 Dispense (with)

71 Hopeless from the start, slangily

74 Job seekers’ needs, in brief
- 75 Egg maker

76 Long stretches

79 The Golden Flashes of the Mid-American Conf.

81 Jazz’s Fitzgerald

83 Cartoon character who works at the Krusty Krab

84 Vim and vigor

85 Article of apparel that’s an anagram of other articles of apparel
- 87 Length of time between noons

89 Point out

90 Cries of disappointment

92 With full disclosure

94 Roof part

96 Supporting

98 Somewhat

100 “That didn’t work!”

101 Foul mood

103 Earnings

105 Sights in the Jerusalem skyline
- 106 One of six in Subaru’s logo

109 Over

111 Bit of raised land

112 Direction in a film script

113 ____ bro

114 Long stretches

115 Comic book onomatopoeia

116 Big whoop

119 A/C spec

120 Even so

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HARD - 52

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.

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

Answers to last week’s puzzles

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

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

‘Collecting in Quarantine’ seeks submissions

Continued from Page 11
living abroad and also the experiences of frontline healthcare workers are also welcomed.

Written content can be emailed to lettersfromthefront@mdhs.org.

The initiative is also seeking images that show how the present experience has altered life across the world.

The “Business Unusual” collection will feature snapshots that illustrate the spirit of survival at play across the state.

“We’re trying to collect both visual and written documentation of what’s going on right now,” she said.

While ample time exists to collect narratives, capturing visual evidence is more difficult.

“It’s been harder getting images because there’s so many less people out,” she said. “We’ve definitely gotten a lot more written content than we have images.”

With numerous industries facing economic pressures, and essential businesses adopting safety guidelines,

images of communitywide efforts to surmount life-threatening challenges are being solicited to help future generations understand the moment.

“Everyone is sitting in their homes right now but for the businesses ... or the healthcare workers who are out there in the world, how different our landscape looks right now,” she said.

Cameras nationwide are capturing an array of empty streets, solitary walkers, and the sudden explosion of curbside restaurant carryout service.

“There’s some very real things happening that should be documented,” she said.

To submit photos visit online at mdhs.org/webform/business-unusual.

Despite early responses favoring the written word over images, those figures are likely to even out eventually, Tolman said.

“We think that at the end of this, when we all come out the other side, that will be a time for us to get a resurgence of photos because everyone will

be able to breathe, relax and then send us what they documented,” she said.

Some submissions to the Collecting in Quarantine initiative could be used in future collections.

“When someone sends us a letter, we let them know this won’t go out to the public,” she said. “If we want to put it out, we’re going to contact you.”

Tolman said if an entry is shared with the larger public, the writer or photographer could decide if they wish to be identified.

“Some people will write in a very authentic panic,” she said. “Sometimes, we probably don’t want to put the name.”

Stories from the Collecting in Quarantine initiative will be shared on the Maryland Historical Society’s “underbelly” blog and social media pages using hashtags [#LettersFromtheHomeFrontMD](#) and [#CollectingInQuarantineMD](#).

For additional information visit online at mdhs.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Allison Tolman, Maryland Historical Society vice president of collections, said both written and visual representations of the covid-19 pandemic are being sought for a new initiative.

OP residents volunteer to make face masks

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 9, 2020) Ocean Pines residents have banded together to provide face masks to bolster supplies for the Ocean Pines Fire Department and Coastal Hospice staff members, whose jobs come with an increased risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Neil Gottesman, a Coastal Hospice volunteer and lifetime member of the Ocean Pines Fire Department, helped hatch the plan after learning supplies of safety masks at both entities could be stretched thin by the health crisis.

“It was my understanding they could use some additional masks, so they don’t have to go through supplies of the N-95 mask,” he said.

Gottesman, a member of the USA Pickleball Association, initially reached out to a tightknit group of fellow Ocean Pines racquet sport enthusiasts, with assistance quickly forthcoming from Pine’er Craft Club participant Carol

Quinto.

“She reached out and got some of the people involved there,” he said.

Gottesman said as news of the venture spread, and more specifically the need for quarter-inch or eighth-inch wide elastic, community support quickly followed.

“We have people, actually residents within Ocean Pines, who are helping out, whether with donations of elastic or helping to sew,” he said.

At this point, enough people have supplied elastic to get the production process underway.

“We probably have half a dozen people who are sewing,” he said.

Others have acted as conduits during the current social-distancing moment.

“We had four people within the [Ocean Pines] Pickleball Club who have been helping to pickup the material and drop it off,” he said.

Gottesman said although masks are being assembled, help is still being

sought.

“At this point, we need more sewers and if we can get them more elastic,” he said. “We’re hoping by this weekend to drop off a whole bunch for them to be able to utilize.”

Gottesman said the measure is meant to provide backup masks for Ocean Pines firefighters and Coastal Hospice staff who could be exposed to asymptomatic patients.

“It’s not an emergency situation down here, but they’re trying to position themselves so it doesn’t become a shortage of supplies,” he said.

Despite serving as point person for the charitable undertaking, Gottesman gave most of credit to Quinto and other residents toiling with thread and needle.

“Carol and the sewers are doing all the heavy lifting with this,” he said.

Anyone interested in donating time or supplies can email Gottesman at Ngottes@gmail.com.

“The good news would be if this



PHOTO COURTESY NEIL GOTTESMAN
Pictured is a small smattering of the home-made face masks produced by a contingent of Ocean Pines residents to provide backup supplies for the Ocean Pines Fire Department and Coastal Hospice.

thing abates and people don’t need it,” he said. “The bad news is we just don’t know where it’s going to go at this point.”

Worcester State’s Attorney Office gets grant

(April 9, 2020) The Office of the State’s Attorney for Worcester County has been awarded grant funding in the amount of \$136,600 by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

The grant will fund the purchase of a comprehensive case management software system capable of interfacing with the Maryland courts and law enforcement agencies throughout Worcester County.

This upgrade in technology will boost productivity for staff and will

give prosecutors more tools to address the underlying causes of crime through multi-disciplinary collaborations.

It will also allow for statistical tracking to ensure resources are being allocated properly, to evaluate the success of diversionary programs and to strategize with law enforcement on a comprehensive approach to fighting crime in Worcester County.

“My goal in requesting this grant funding was to make sure that our prosecutors and staff have the very

best technological resources,” said Worcester County State’s Attorney Kris Heiser. “We want to be ahead of the curve as technology advances so that we can serve our citizens as efficiently as possible.”

Heiser thanked the Worcester County Commissioners for their unanimous support of her efforts on this project over the past year.

“I commit to the taxpayers of Worcester County that I will continue to explore alternative funding sources

to make sure my office provides the best service at the least cost,” she said. “I also want to thank the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention for recognizing Worcester County’s needs in this area and for giving us the resources we need to meet them. Working together with law enforcement and our multi-disciplinary partners, we will use our new technological capabilities to increase our effectiveness both inside and out of the courtroom.”

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