



## Berlin's budget sees income drop

### Administrator Fleetwood expects 5 percent decline in FY21 revenue

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Berlin government unveiled a \$5.8 million general fund budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021 Monday during its first virtual work session meeting.

The total reflects a drop in revenue, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood told mayor and council, as he expects the town to see 5 percent decline in income from FY 2019-20.

"We're taking a conservative approach with revenues," he said.

While the town hopes to see a \$153,000 gain from assessment increases, a variety of other forms of income are expected to be reduced as a result of the impact of the coronavirus.

Fleetwood expects several delays or reductions in taxes as a result of the coronavirus, with property tax owners being able to delay their payments by up to six months.

"We might see a decrease due to late assessment extensions on the payments for all the property owners," Financial Director Natalie Saleh said. "Also, there is in place three appeals for assess values totaling over \$3 million within the town of Berlin to reduce the property values."

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### MASKS AND MEALS

Ocean Pines Yacht Club staff, from left, Chelsey Chmelick, Kearston Frey and Melissa Ruck, prepare to deliver an Easter feast for frontline health care workers at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin on Sunday afternoon. See story on page 12.

## OP residents produce masks for responders

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Hundreds of face masks were delivered to emergency responders and other essential workers last weekend, courtesy of Ocean Pines residents who formed a group to make them.

In addition to providing face masks  
See MASK Page 4



PHOTO COURTESY NEIL GOTTESMAN  
Coastal Hospice Volunteer Manager Renee Smith receives a batch of face masks on Monday for essential workers.

## Election Comm. brainstorms

### Body examines how to handle processes in light of restrictions

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Seeking transparency while also observing covid-19 health safety restrictions on public gatherings, the OPA Election Committee meeting was live streamed Friday as the group ponders strategy for conducting the upcoming 2020 Board of Directors contest.



Steve Habeger

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said although the groups' primary task begins after the May 10 candidate-filing deadline, last week's virtual gathering served as a brainstorming session for potential procedural adjustments.

"We talked a lot about how we could do things like the candidate draw for ballot

order or even a candidate forum under the current restrictions," he said.

The committee will resume its discussions in that regard at its next meeting on May 8. The finalized candidate list is due to be presented by the committee by June 1.

"Then we get to work and administer the election in accordance with [OPA Resolution] Mo6," he said.

While the future pandemic response remains uncertain,  
See ELECTION Page 2



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## Berlin Briefs

By Morgan Pilz

Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Several motions were approved by the Berlin mayor and Town Council during its first virtual meeting held at Town Hall on Monday. Council member Zack Tyndall was absent due to a family illness.

### PJM Policy

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood introduced and the council approved a renewed contract for a risk management policy by PJM, a Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland co-op. The policy, Fleetwood said, was getting old and needed to be updated.

"It's a housekeeping measure," he said.

The town purchases its electricity through the company. When the town generates its own electricity in the summer, it reduces the costs to the town by hundreds of thousands of dollars, Fleetwood added.

### Fourth of July

Fleetwood also recommended the town ask the county commissioners to move its annual Third of July fireworks celebration from Heron Park to Worcester County Park on the grounds that it had significantly more space.

The fireworks will be launched around the baseball fields and allow families to have a better view of the event, he said. The site was checked and approved by the fire marshal.

The overall costs for the event will be around \$10,000. The council approved the motion on Monday and received approval from the Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday.

### Tax Rate

Mayor Gee Williams announced that the property tax rate would remain .80 to every \$100.

"We keep the tax rate exactly where it is," Williams said. "The reason ... the question why we set the tax rate early in the process and not the end, there's a couple reasons. You have to advertise your tax rate in accordance to the state requirements. Once you advertise it, you can always go lower, but you can't go higher."

A public hearing for the tax rate will take place on Monday, May 11.

### Future virtual meetings

Shortly before the meeting closed, several members of the council agreed it would be beneficial to the town and its residents to continue posting live videos of the council meetings even after the coronavirus concerns end.

"It is my desire that ... with more live streaming, we get better at it and be even more flexible than what we have," Williams said.

The council will consider looking into the budget to find better equipment to use for future meetings, as the first one was done from Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen's cell phone.

# Lakernick announces OP candidacy

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) The OPA Board of Directors 2020 election became competitive this week after Dr. Stuart Lakernick entered the fray to expand the field to three candidates.

Lakernick, a chiropractic functional neurologist practicing in the Philadelphia area who is married to former OPA Board member Esther Dill, filed paperwork on Tuesday to run against incumbents Dr. Colette Horn and Doug Parks for a pair of open seats.

Espousing a firm belief in civic duty, Lakernick said while currently splitting time between the pines and Lakernick Family Chiropractic, the life-work balance is set to alter.

"I have a colleague that's taken over quite a bit of responsibilities in my practice," he said. "I plan on retiring there and to be honest ... I want to be involved with my community."

Pleased with the current OPA Board composition, Lakernick hopes to continue the positive direction the association governance has charted in the last two years.

"It's important that we concentrate on stability," he said.

## Lab services now available at AGH by appointment

(April 16, 2020) On March 20, walk-in services for the outpatient lab and imaging at Atlantic General Hospital were cancelled due to covid-19.

To accommodate patients of Atlantic General Health System, providers who need routine blood work ordered by AGHS providers, the following locations are offering lab draws, by appointment only:

Atlantic Health Center – Call 410-641-3340

Atlantic General Primary Care, Berlin – Call 410-641-0430

Atlantic General Primary Care & Endocrinology, Ocean Pines – Call 410-208-9761

Atlantic General Primary Care & Pediatrics, West Ocean City – Call 410-390-3341

Atlantic General Primary Care, Ocean View – Call 302-541-4460

Atlantic General Primary & Specialty Care, West Fenwick – Call 302-564-0004

Atlantic General Primary & Specialty Care, Pocomoke – Call 410-957-6622

This is for routine lab work only. None of the locations will offer covid-19 testing. Officials are asking that patients call the office to schedule a time for their blood work to maintain social distancing efforts.



Stuart Lakernick

Although complimentary of the work undertaken by the current board, Lakernick said new members could provide fresh perspective and innovations.

"Things are good right now, but I don't want to get lulled into a false sense of security," he said.

One key issue Lakernick hopes to focus on as a board member is deferred maintenance.

"From the beach club, to the club house, to the yacht club, every piece that we have," he said.

Without instituting a delineated maintenance plan for OPA amenity structures the cost is likely higher, Lakernick said.

"We're going to wind up just like we were with the yacht club, having to replace buildings because they're too expensive to fix," he said. "If we do the maintenance on an ongoing basis and put money aside for that, we'll save huge money in the long term."

Lakernick said in some instances revamping structures became inevitable.

"The police station was just a little cubbyhole," he said. "We developed into a larger community that needed a larger police station."

Another hot button topic Lakernick is focused on is drainage.

"We have some serious issues with drainage," he said.

Lakernick lauded the ongoing efforts of Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips

to address the issue.

"Colby has applied for a grant from the government ... to direct the drainage to make us more effective at remediating this, but when you're in a community that's at sea level, you're always going to have issues," he said.

Lakernick noted the larger solution should involve community members.

"Without our community chipping in to clean the swales out of the leaves and stuff, we're always going to have drainage issues," he said.

Another concern expressed by Lakernick included updating groundwater holding tanks at the Ocean Pines Water Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"They're the property and responsibility of Worcester County," he said. "I want to find out what's the deal ... and what do we have to do to get these old ones that are leaking sewage replaced."

Maintaining funding for the bulkhead replacement reserves to continue current repair work is also a priority.

"It's well-funded right now," he said. "I want to make sure it continues to stay on track."

Highlighting the presence of both EMS and police responders, Lakernick said in addition to maintaining an incredibly safe community, pines residents also have a wide array of amenities at their disposal.

"We get so much for our assessment dollars people don't realize it," he said. "Ocean Pines is a great place to live, work and play."

## Election body gives public access through live-stream

Continued from Page 1

Habeger said the May 8 meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m. and would most likely be live-streamed using Microsoft Teams video conferencing.

"Probably we'll do it online again," he said. "A reasonable person would plan for it."

Recognizing a lack of precedent for association meetings, Habeger broke new ground last month, when he issued a press release with web link for meeting access.

"I thought that was important to do so ... that [association] members or media can watch," he said.

Despite the switch in how meetings are conducted, Habeger said the election procedures would likely remain largely unaltered.

"We're going to put out paper ballots just like we did before," he said. "We'll get the mail back in and we'll gather together in August to count them."

While the pandemic is unpredictable, Habeger said adjusting OPA election procedures to accommodate health safety mandates has presented few hurdles.

"It's surprisingly adaptable," he said.

The most noticeable changes would probably involve OPA Board candidate forums.

"We're not going to have a table with candidates sitting next to each other, sharing the same microphone and probably not with a live audience," he said. "That's going to feel a little different."

Because the forums are not slated until June, the possibility exists some degree of normalcy will have returned by then. Even so, contingency plans will be in place, Habeger said.

"I don't think anybody knows where this is going," he said. "You always plan for the worst and hope for the best."



# OPA 2020 Board election process underway

Candidate filing deadline approaching on May 10, with final list due by June 1

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors 2020 election is coming into focus with the candidate application deadline coming up next month.

The deadline for candidates to file for election is May 10, with the OPA announcing the field of candidates no later



**Doug Parks**

than June 1.

In a procedural move during the most recent board meeting on April 1, OPA President Doug Parks, who is seeking re-election this year, resigned from a committee liaison position.

"I am stepping down as the liaison to the Search Advisory Committee and ... appoint Larry Perrone," he said. "I've filled out my candidacy for the upcoming election and plan to run again for another term."

other term."

Following suit, Dr. Colette Horn, who has served as board secretary, stepped down from the role in light of her recently announced intent to seek re-election.

"I have elected to resign as secretary because of the responsibilities associated with the election," she said.

Horn nominated Board member Camilla Rogers for the role, which was approved unanimously.

Parks and Horn are the current incumbents up for re-election for another three-year term.

To qualify as a board candidate OPA residents have to own property as on Jan 1, 2020 and be eligible to vote. Prerequisites to vote include paying assessment dues within 35 days of the July 1 deadline and not being found in continual violation of the Declaration of Restrictions.

The 2020 OPA Board candidates are slated to attend a public forum on June 17 with a second forum on June 27 if required. The cutoff date for voter eligibility is July 3 with ballots mailed out no later than July 10. The deadline for ballot submission is Aug. 5 with results unveiled two days later.

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# Berlin govt. looks at less income

Continued from Page 1

In addition, Saleh said municipalities had been warned to expect a reduction in highway user revenues. The town is also expecting to see slots revenue reduced by \$150,000 in the new fiscal year.

However, she was hopeful that taxes would be collected by the nearby hotels.

Earlier this month, Mayor Gee Williams announced that the town has abandoned plans for a previously discussed tax increase in an effort to ease the stress on property owners during the current economic crisis. The tax rate will remain at .80 per \$100.

Most departments have looked at several factors to try and reduce costs as much as possible, the council was told. The administration budget, for

instance, was estimated at slightly more than \$1 million, but is expected to decrease by nearly 40 percent because "there was no capital outlay," according to Fleetwood.

The police budget is set to increase by \$54,000, or three percent, with Chief Arnold Downing reporting that this was because a building maintenance expense had been added to the budget along with a 9 percent pay increase for officers.

Fleetwood said he was happy with the wage increase for police officers, as he had advocated for it in previous meetings and had expressed concerns that Berlin officers were being paid far less than those in nearby municipalities.

"If the town is not safe, nothing is worth being here, not our homes not our businesses, nothing," he said. "I

think it's [important] we move forward with this."

The proposed budget included few changes for economic development and finance. Ivy Wells noted that the town has almost used up all of its \$30,000 façade grant, which expires in fiscal year 2021. She said the balance will be used for a project that had begun but had to be halted as a result of covid-19.

As for the streets budget, the town is anticipating a 26 percent reduction in expenses. Fleetwood stressed, however, that some streets would still be paved, as prioritized by a street study the town completed years ago.

The next budget work session is expected to take place on Monday, April 27. Just like the session on Monday, it will not be open to the public and will take place via Facebook live.

# Mask making unites community

Continued from Page 1

masks for the Ocean Pines Fire and Police Departments, the volunteer group delivered masks to grocery store clerks and, on Monday, for Coastal Hospice staff members.

Helping to launch the effort was Neil Gottesman, a Coastal Hospice volunteer and lifetime member of the Ocean Pines Fire Department.

"We made close to 400 masks between all the people around that have helped out," he said. "It's been just incredible."

The effort came to life after Gottesman learned both the Ocean Pines Fire Department and Coastal Hospice needed backup face masks.

"I think at this point everyone has what they need," he said.

After recently issuing a call for vol-

unteers and materials, especially elastic, Gottesman said roughly five-dozen people signed up to participate.

"It's been a community-wide effort," he said.

Gottesman said after soliciting help from cohorts in the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club, Pine'er Craft Club member Carol Quinto enlisted fellow members primarily for sewing duties.

As word of the endeavor spread, other nearby communities got involved.

"Glen Riddle and River Run have folks helping us too," he said. "Then a woman who has a home up here but also lives down in Florida now is sending us up masks."

After the face mask production got underway, more needs surfaced, with the volunteers also sending supplies to

several OPA departments, including public works.

"We also dropped off some over at Food Lion for the cashiers," he said. "They're part of the community too."

After sending the last load out on Monday for Coastal Hospice, the volunteers will take a hiatus.

"Everyone has currently what they need," he said. "Hopefully, we don't get a second wave on this because then they're going to be needing more again."

Gottesman said if additional help is required, the volunteers are ready to shift back into action.

"A lot of the people that were doing it said, 'Gee, I'm glad to get a break, but if you need me we're here,'" he said. "Definitely everyone's willing to help out again if need be."



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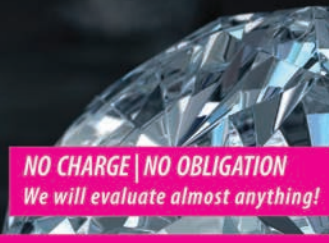
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# 'Community Over Covid-19:' working together

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Several owners of small boutiques from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to Salisbury, have banded together to help one another get through the coronavirus pandemic.

"Instead of worrying about competing against each other, we have come together to spread the awareness of 'Community Over Competition,' or in this case, 'Community Over Covid-19,'" Taylor Harman, owner of Magnolia Rifle in Fenwick Island, Delaware, said.

Harman and her mother, Pam, have teamed up with more than a dozen other local business owners, making a photo collage to spread their message across social media.

"We just wanted to come up with some way to unite all the stores and show togetherness, and that we're all in it together," she said. "Some of us have online shops that are allowing us to keep our doors open right now, like myself and a few others, but a lot of local stores don't."

Harman posted on Magnolia Rifle's Facebook page on April 3, a photo of 12 business owners each holding up a sign that shows they would overcome the adversity that is the coronavirus.

"If you aren't following those shops, give them a follow, a like or whatever



Twelve boutique owners with stores in locations from Rehoboth, Delaware, to Salisbury, have joined together to support one another during the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO COURTESY TAYLOR HARMAN

it may be, and open new customers up to these other stores that maybe my

followers don't know about or vice versa," she said. "These stores that

don't have online stores are either forced to make [one] or figure out new ways to keep the cash flowing in order to keep the doors open."

Magnolia Rifle is a bohemian-style women's clothing and accessories boutique that also offers baby clothes, decorations and gift items.

Harman, who was raised in Ocean City, knows how important it is to support local businesses and is encouraging as many area residents who can afford to, to help raise funds for these boutiques.

Now, the boutique owners are collaborating with one another to help teach some of them how to create a Facebook Live post, or where to apply for certain grants or even just promoting each other.

"People support local restaurants and the people who own the restaurants or work in the restaurants can shop locally, and we're really big in the community with giving back," Harman said. "So, the more people that are shopping local, the more we are able to give back as well."

For more information on Magnolia Rifle, visit its Facebook page or website, <https://magnoliarifle.com>.

The group has already helped some owners improve their stores' social media following, like Patty Jeans Bou- See LOCAL Page 8



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# Local boutiques helping one another during coronavirus

Continued from Page 6  
tique, a clothing store with locations in Berlin and Ocean City.

“We were contacted by Taylor Harman from Magnolia Rifle and we always had a deep relationship with local boutiques,” Co-owner Pam Houck said. “All of us are having the same issues and same problems – like online ordering, your rent’s due, bills and employees to pay. We can be stronger together if we all join forces in support of each other, rather than if we all did our own separate thing.”

One of the first tips Houck and co-owner Megan Cosman received was creating a Facebook Live post.

“Megan and I are not social media savvy,” Houck said. “So, through them supporting us, we did our first Facebook Live [Monday, April 6]. I think this whole community behind us is cheering us on.”

The online message was a huge success, she said, once they figured out how to maneuver the camera. This came at an important time for the company, which was planning on

opening a second Ocean City store on 67th Street this Easter weekend. They were forced to wait until the pandemic loses strength.

“It’s just keeping everything in the community,” Houck said. “I’ve always felt living here that any time there has been anything – a local fire that devastated a family or an illness that has hit a family unexpectedly and hard and put them in financial troubles – we as a community have always rallied around each other to create some sort of fund raising.”

For more information about Patty Jeans Boutique, visit its Facebook page or [www.pattyjeansoceancity.com](http://www.pattyjeansoceancity.com).

For long-time businesses owner like Michelle Bruder, who runs Bruder Hill & Bruder Homes in Berlin, it just ties together that connection of local businesses coming together.

“I’ve been so blessed here in Berlin,” Bruder said. “I’ve been here for 18 years with my business and pretty much everybody here in this community has always tried to help each other. Taylor reached out to me last week and I thought it was a great idea.”

Bruder Hill & Bruder Homes offers everything from clothes to furniture. Bruder has been sharing ideas and grant applications with the other members of the group.

“We went live on Instagram and we ended up getting a lot of orders,” she said. “I got that idea from one of the girls that previously did it herself.”

Bruder loves the idea because it supports area businesses, which helps boost the local economy.

Bruder said the group is working to create a large fundraiser that would benefit each store involved.

“We hire local people,” she said. “We keep local people on and keep them working. When you keep it in the community, you give back also. When you keep it local, you make your community much, much stronger.”

For more information about Bruder Hill & Bruder Homes, visit its Facebook page or <https://bruderhill.com>.

## PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

- Bleached Butterfly, Berlin
- Body Double Swimwear, Fenwick Island, Delaware
- Bomshell Boutique, Ocean City, Salisbury and Rehoboth Beach
- Bruder Hill & Bruder Home, Berlin
- Coral Cove, Rehoboth, Delaware
- Heart of Gold Kids, Berlin
- Hula Sue, Rehoboth, Delaware
- Indigo Octopus, Fenwick Island, Delaware
- Ish Boutique, Ocean City and Rehoboth, Delaware
- Magnolia Rifle, Fenwick Island, Delaware
- Patty Jeans Boutique, Berlin and Ocean City
- Water Lili – Bethany Beach and Ocean View, Delaware



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Offering locally-produced fruits and vegetables at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market in White Horse Park are David Joseph Deacon, left, and Dave Bean.

# Multiple markets in county to shop for fresh produce

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Many businesses have closed to the public because of the coronavirus; however, a number of local farms and grocery stores remain open to provide residents with home grown and organic options.

As a result of Gov. Larry Hogan’s directive, farmers markets can remain open for business, so small- to medium-sized farms are able to continue production and help support the local economy.

The Saturday market in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines, for instance, is considered ideal as it takes place outdoors with plenty of opportunities for social distancing, which is important for Delaware-based businesses like Stag Run Farm, since Gov. John Carney has closed the state’s farmers’ markets.

“It’s upsetting ... Delaware Gov. John Carney has not let the farmers markets open yet, which is not good

for the public, I believe, ... whereas Gov. Hogan, who recognizes how important farmers markets are, has told us all we need to stay open,” owner Lenore Brady said. “We feed the country, whether you’re a small-, mid- or large-scale farm, we feed the country with a number of different ways to keep the farms sustainable.”

Stag Run is the third-largest orchard farm in Delaware and grows everything from apples, to asparagus, potatoes, lettuce and even cultivates its own honey. Without retail options like farmers markets, Brady would face the difficult choice of closing her farm after 20 years.

“Thank you to our customers for your patronage,” Brady said. “We definitely need you to keep coming out and supporting us.”

David Bean, a mid-size farm owner who co-manages the Ocean Pines market with Brady, agrees.

“Right now, the food supply chain

See SUPPORT Page 10

## JIM ADCOCK ART



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2020

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# Support local markets during coronavirus

Continued from Page 8

is why farmers markets are remaining open in Maryland," Bean said. "This is an open-air environment so you're not confined. The ultraviolet light is considered good for you in this situation and we're out in the sunlight."

According to Bean, there is already signs of success, as the foot traffic in late March was equivalent to that seen in late April or early May.

"It's important now more than ever to support small farms, businesses and entrepreneurs," he said. "The bigger guys are going to survive. The little guys need the support of the community now."

The Ocean Pines market takes place in White Horse Park on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Only a few miles away, Bluebird Farms on 11207 Racetrack Rd., is offering curbside groceries with produce and other goods provided by six local vendors.

Owner Nancie Corbett knew she wanted to be able to help, especially when it comes to the safety of some of the older residents in the area.

"I think people feel in this environment the need to be around less people so there is less chance of spreading the virus," she said. "I just think people are really rethinking their health right now because they're trying to fight the virus."

Corbett, who owns a nursery and has been offering various baked goods from local vendors, is also including a variety of products like eggs, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots and other produce.

She is only accepting orders and payment over the phone and leaves the supplies on her property's porch upon the designated time of pickup.

Corbett credits the idea of the pickup service to her parents, who live in Ocean Pines.

"When I came up with the idea, it was because I was thinking there's so many people in the Pines like my parents," she said. "It takes a while for some people to understand that even though you don't feel sick, you could

still be endangering other people."

Corbett takes orders daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and posts what is available for pickup on her Facebook page around 8 a.m. each day. Call Bluebird Farm at 410-208-4475 or check its Facebook page for available items.

In Ocean City, Real Raw Organics, located on 34th Street, has been offering groceries to the public as well.

"Supporting small business is always important because you are putting money directly back into your community's economy and supporting the local job market," Owner Logan Willey said. "With everything going on, all of us who own small businesses are really feeling the financial hit."

"Those of us who own businesses in Ocean City are used to having to save our money from summer to get us through winter," she continued. "However, we are not prepared to lose all staff, have to throw away product and basically make 10 percent of what we usually make for months. If you want your favorite little shops to be open this summer please spend money at small businesses."

The store offers everything from fresh produce to dairy, to toilet paper and cleaning products.

The response has been overwhelming, Willey said.

"We found out that some people really depend on the kombucha to keep their immune system up and their digestion regular, so we are so happy we are able to still continue to produce it," she said.

Real Raw Organics is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., however, customers can place grocery orders any day. Customers are advised to give the store a 24-hour notice to make sure they are prepared. Supplies can be received through the pickup window on the patio.

"Calling in your orders help tremendously because it is a very small staff and we are limiting it to one to two people only working at a time," she continued. "If you prefer

curbside, then call the store phone when you get here and we will run it out to your car with no contact sale."

To place an order, visit [realraworganics.com](http://realraworganics.com) or text, call 443-783-7255 or 443-783-5374, or through Instagram direct message.

A little further away from the resort, OC Organics in West Ocean City is also offering a pickup service, which helps to support local farmers with their organic selection.

"We support local farmers when and where we can," Employee Heather Layton said. "We get fresh produce every Monday and Wednesday. There are several area farms that depending on the season, we do get local produce from them as well."

Everything in the store is, as the name would suggest, organically grown and ranges from spices to ice cream, grains, soaps, hair products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, vitamins and other supplies.

Customers can only order over the phone, through email or through the store's Facebook page and pick up their purchases during a designated time slot.

"We're trying our best to stay stocked and we are filling orders all day, every day," she said. "The shelves are pretty stocked. We get two grocery truck deliveries a week and we get two produce deliveries a week."

The store hours have been changed to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Delivery to West Ocean City, Berlin and Ocean Pines residents is available.

For more information, call 410-213-9818 or check the store's Facebook page for available supplies and updates.

Further south in the county, Pocomoke City-based Chesapeake Bay Farms is continuing to offer its delivery service, albeit with some changes.

Owners Daniel and Laura Holland, third generation farmers on the over 70-year-old farm, decided to bring back the milk delivery system earlier this year, which has made it an ideal location to order groceries instead of

traveling to a grocery store.

"By doing the home delivery, we can really limit the amount of contamination or possible contamination that it could possibly come in contact with," Laura said. "We make, pack and deliver it. It's not going through the whole normal supply chain, where it's going on different trucks to different shippers and different warehouses. A very limited amount of people are coming in contact with the product before it actually reaches your doorstep."

All of the products made at Chesapeake Bay Farms are FDA certified. Some of the products available for delivery besides milk are cheeses, butter, ice cream, beef, pork, jellies, jams, oysters, crab meat, artisanal breads, honey and, upon receiving FDA approval, yogurt.

All products are created at the farm in Pocomoke City, with the exception of the breads, which come from a local baker.

The main difference between the delivery service prior to the coronavirus is the farm will no longer be delivering the supplies in reusable hot/cold coolers and are currently offered in disposable bags.

Delivery options range from once a week, every other week, once a month or at specified dates. Currently, the farm delivers to Pocomoke City, Snow Hill, Fruitland, Salisbury, Willards, Berlin and Ocean Pines, though they do expect to expand into other locations and add even more products available for delivery later on.

There is also an option for customers to pick up their orders at the farm's Berlin location, 8905 Logtown Rd.

"We're just really appreciative for the support that we have got from local people supporting locals," Laura said.

To order or see what is available for delivery, visit [www.supportlocalcows.com](http://www.supportlocalcows.com) or call headquarters Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 443-373-8487 or the Berlin store at 410-629-1997.



The ReStore is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. All pick ups scheduled during this time will be contacted to be rescheduled.

We ask that no donations be left outside at the ReStore during the closure period.

We are still looking for Volunteers for when we open.

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# SonRise Church Storehouse offering meals

Berlin ministry providing nonperishable items in addition to frozen meats

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) SonRise Church in Berlin has been providing meals for the community for several weeks, and now, it has officially become its own food distribution hub.

The church, located at 10026 Main Street, has opened the SonRise Storehouse, which offers nonperishable foods like pasta, rice, beans, peanut butter, chips, canned meats, fruits and vegetables, in addition to frozen meats, such as chicken, beef, ham

and bacon.

During its first week in operation, the church received 5,000 pounds of chicken from Mountaire Farms in Delaware.

"We have so much food here and it's all free," Pastor Tim Robinson said. "We want to help out anybody who's in need at this time."

A family of four can receive a five-pound bag full of nonperishable items as well as a 10-pound bag of meats, he said.

"If we have a five-member family or more, they get two bags of groceries and meat as well," Robinson said. "People have been just blown away by the amount that's been given. 'This is all mine?' is some of

the responses I get, and, 'Are you serious? We get all this?' You absolutely do.

"If they need food again for the next week, we just encourage them to go back on the form and get another appointment schedule ... to pick up food for the next week," he continued.

The church is also in a partnership with the Maryland Food Bank, which is where it purchases a bulk of its supplies to be given to those in need. The remainder is donated by members of the community.

Currently, the church is involved with three meal programs.

The first is a collaboration with multiple local businesses in Worcester County to provide food for children who depended on school meal programs (called the backpack program).

The second is a ministry called Sharing the Harvest, which is a food truck-based program. SonRise Storehouse is the third operation conducted by the church since the pandemic began.

The SonRise Storehouse is providing meals for the community through appointments set up online at <https://sonrisechurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/840/responses/new>.

Appointments are made every 10 minutes, Tuesdays through Saturday

with morning times from 10 a.m. to noon and evening slots from 5-7 p.m.

So far, the response has been overwhelming, Robinson said.

"It's just incredible to see how much that God has provided through the Maryland Food Bank and through other donations from the community," he said. "It's just been astounding."

Through the backpack program, the church has given out around 200 bags, he said.

The SonRise Storehouse, which opened April 1, has provided 1,120 meals, with an overall count of 8,240 meals for all three ministries.

"I think the need is great, especially because we have so much here to give people who are especially at risk or have lost their jobs or are out of work," Robinson said. "We ultimately want to fulfill people's spiritual needs of the church, but we know that doesn't always happen right away. It's one of those things where we want people to know that they're loved."

"I want people to come here because they know we care about them as individuals and as families in our community, that we're in this together," he continued.

For more information, call SonRise Church at 410-629-1901 or visit [www.sonrise.cc/](http://www.sonrise.cc/).

## 'Flooding Awareness Live' online event set for May 12

(April 16, 2020) Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the flooding awareness and outreach event scheduled on May 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. has been postponed until later this fall.

In the meantime, and to still provide residents with valuable information about flooding ahead of the coming Atlantic hurricane season, organizers have scheduled a live, online-only event on May 12 from 5-6 p.m. called "Flooding Awareness Live."

The program, which will include a virtual question-and-answer session, is a joint effort of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Ocean Pines Association.

Ocean Pines will collect questions from homeowners that MDE experts can answer during the event.

To take part, email flooding-related questions to Ocean Pines Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips at [cphillips@oceanpines.org](mailto:cphillips@oceanpines.org) by Tuesday, April 21.

Topics to be covered during "Flooding Awareness Live" include knowing and understanding the risks: FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and related products, what the different flood zones mean, sea level rise vulnerability areas and storm surge mapping, and limitations of the various flood mitigation products.

Risk reduction steps to take also will be covered, including how to reduce a property's flooding risk and a

homeowner mitigation fact sheet, and how insurance works and the kinds that are available.

To sign up for the virtual "Flooding Awareness Live" event, visit [www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation) or use the event link <https://www.facebook.com/events/38691630390381/>.

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# Opinion

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

## Voting by mail seems to have worked well

As the national debate continues over the possibility of voting by mail in upcoming elections and how some see it as an invitation to commit voter fraud, one thing is indisputable: mail-in balloting has been fraud-free on the local level for decades.

Ocean Pines' elections are conducted exclusively by mail without much fuss, give or take disputes over whether the ballots should be opened and counted in public.

But never, in recent memory anyway, has anyone alleged that the course of democracy was subverted in Ocean Pines by mail-in voting fraud. The chief reason for that, of course, is if a person is not an eligible voter, he or she will not be sent a voting package.

If anything, the ability to cheat the system might be easier with traditional voting setups, where voter registration is not as tightly controlled as it is in the structured environment of a community association.

But even then, that would be a problem with voter registration, not the method of voting, whether that would be by mail, in person, or even a virtual polling place online.

The real fear opponents have of mail-in voting is that it makes participation in the election process easier and could lead to a much greater voter turnout. That, in some camps, is not viewed favorably. But again, that would be a mistaken assumption, at least based on the local experience.

In 2018, voter turnout in Ocean Pines was 41 percent via the mail-in method. That same year, Ocean City's municipal election required voters to cast their ballots at the polls in the convention center. The turnout in that instance: 41 percent.

The possibility exists, given the unpredictable nature of this foul virus, that voting by mail in local and national contests will be proposed as a safety precaution. If that is the case, voters and elected officials should look at Ocean Pines before the argument begins.



"No, she doesn't have a headache. She says it's that six foot rule."

## Yacht Club delivery, carryout records

(April 16, 2020) The Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Sunday shattered its own records for delivery and carryout sales.

On Easter Sunday, the Yacht Club sold 281 four-person family meals. That means the Yacht Club fed more than 1,100 people in a single day.

The restaurant temporarily moved to delivery and carryout only on March 18 to comply with state covid-19 restrictions.

Ralph DeAngelus, co-founder of the Matt Ortt Companies, which runs the Yacht Club, said Easter Sunday was especially gratifying.

"It was a grueling day, but the Matt Ortt management

team hung in there and is immensely proud, not only of this accomplishment, but of the whole three weeks of delivery service," DeAngelus said.

Along with setting sales records, the Yacht Club donated and delivered family meals to the Easter Sunday night shift working at the Atlantic General Hospital Emergency Room.

Additionally, DeAngelus said all tips received since March 18 would go to hourly staff laid off because of covid-19.

"Our goal from day one has been to acquire \$10,000 dollars in tips to give to the staff on their first day back to work," he said. "We can't wait

to see the look on their faces when they walk through the door on their first day of work and we hand each one of them an envelope with the tip money that we earned from all these deliveries.

"We want them to know how much we appreciate and missed them, and we think this will be a great start to their summer," DeAngelus continued. "We are absolutely confident we will hit our goal of \$10,000, as the Ocean Pines residents have been so very generous."

The Yacht Club is open for delivery and carryout from Wednesday through Sunday from 4-8 p.m. Orders may be made starting at 3:30 p.m. each day.

## Assessment due date moved to Aug.

(April 16, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association assessment due date has been extended to Aug. 1, based on a recent vote by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.

Board members approved the date because of concerns that some homeowners are facing unique and unprecedented financial difficulties

caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

Paying the assessment on or before Aug. 1 will prevent members from incurring late charges, but can affect their ability to vote in the 2020 board of directors election.

According to Ocean Pines bylaws, no member may cast a ballot if, 35 days prior to

the voting deadline, the member has failed to pay the annual assessment charge. This year, the voting deadline is July 1.

The board of directors strongly encourages those who can pay the assessment by May 1 to do so, to help continue funding Ocean Pines operations.

### BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# WCPS online learning challenges, successes

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Last Friday marked the end of the second week of online learning for Worcester County Public School high school students and the first week for middle and elementary school students.

Students, teachers and parents are using an online school management system called Schoology to remain academically involved while schools continue to stay closed under the orders of Gov. Larry Hogan and State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon.

High school students began online schooling on Monday, March 30 (for students in AP courses and dual enrollment) and Monday, April 6 for middle and elementary school students.

Within the first week of online learning, educators acknowledged there were some connectivity issues but have otherwise shown significant progress.

“The first week has certainly brought plenty of challenges, but so many rewards as well,” Chief Operating Officer and Chief Academic Officer Grades 9-12 Dr. Annette Wallace said. “We continue to face connectivity issues, which seems to be our biggest challenge thus far, which we will continue to address as additional hot spots arrive.”

The county is expecting a new shipment of either computers, iPads or



Dr. A. Wallace

other technology to be used for online learning, and are awaiting a ship date on the final installment of hotspots.

Despite these internet setbacks, Wallace said the teachers have been working hard to continue providing educational needs for their students.

“Our teachers have been absolute rock stars,” she said. “They have accelerated their own learning on our platforms all the while making significant changes to the way they are delivering content.”

It comes to no surprise, however, that many students are excelling at the online learning, if not for their well-versed experience with the online world, whereas some adults might be taking a longer time to adjust.

“We have to remember our students are digital natives, so as they are adjusting, in some cases, to our online platform many of our students are enjoying the new challenges and are asserting themselves as the digital learners that they are,” Wallace said.

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor praised the staff and students for their efforts during an online announcement Friday, April 3.



Lou Taylor

“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,” he continued. “There will undoubtedly be challenges along this journey, but we will persevere through them ... together.”

Taylor also took the time to thank the board, teachers, parents and students for their collaboration during the covid-19 pandemic.

“Thank you to our associations, our instructional and school leaders, and most especially – our teachers,” Taylor said. “Your love for and commitment to our kids is awe inspiring. I am humbled every day by your willingness to go above and beyond for the children of Worcester County.”

There have been concerns regarding the future for students who were expected to graduate this year. No plans have been officially made yet, as the schools wait for further instruction from Hogan and Salmon before making any decisions, though Wallace assures there will be a celebration for Worcester County students.

“As a former high school principal ... I can promise you that we will celebrate the Class of 2020, and we will celebrate them in a big way,” Wallace said. “Our seniors have led through the covid-19 challenge with bravery and compassion. This time has been difficult and scary for us all and I have watched our seniors face the unknown fearlessly while taking care of younger siblings and reassuring their classmates.”

Wallace added that while times might be difficult now, but the students (and rest of the world) will overcome it.

“The Class of 2020 has missed some instructional time behind desks in a classroom, as have all of our students, but I can tell you this, they will move past this and become very successful teachers, surgeons, builders, attorneys and leaders in our community,” she said. “The Class of 2020 will not be forgotten and when we are all allowed to gather together again, I assure you, we will celebrate the Class of 2020 with the celebration that they all deserve.”

# Pines volunteers form new Facebook group

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2020) Despite collecting a host of warm memories over her 50 years of owning property in Ocean Pines, Pat Veitenthal experienced a high mark last week.

“I’ve seen many acts of kindness in the Pines ... but this has to be one of the pinnacles,” she said.

Veitenthal, a retired nurse who treated patients for 45 years, offered that assessment after having groceries delivered to her home last week through a new Ocean Pines Facebook group, ‘Local Help for You Worcester County.’

“I can’t go out and do what I want to do,” she said. “If I had my way, I would be helping.”

Because of health issues, Veitenthal has exercised caution based on accounts from front-line responders to the covid-19 pandemic.

“I’m in touch constantly with colleagues that are still practicing in the field,” she said. “When my friends are telling me, ‘don’t go out, it’s very bad,’ I’m not going out because they’re up to their elbows in it.”

In mid-March, nearly two-dozen area volunteers led by Colby Phillips formed the local help group on Facebook. Although Phillips is the operations director for the Ocean Pines Association, the association is not connected to the site or

its network of volunteers.

“Right now it has a little over 400 members,” Phillips said.

Originally an email-based outreach effort to help elderly self-isolating community members acquire food or medicines, the undertaking quickly morphed into a private Facebook page.

“It’s a controlled open group,” she said. “People are reaching out in terms of different ways to help besides delivering items.”

Veitenthal, who lives on a fixed income, breathed a sigh of relief after the volunteer group helped her replenish the cupboards.

“I’m on Social Security now and I only get one check a month,” she said. “When the paycheck comes, that’s when you get your food.”

Concerned about potential covid-19 exposure, Veitenthal recognized that she couldn’t help, and decided to seek assistance.

“I thought to myself, if I had the opportunity ... I would be doing it,” she said. “I might as well reach out [because] if I was willing to do it, and have people reach out to me, then I shouldn’t hesitate.”

Veitenthal said after emailing for assistance she was contacted in short order by Phillips.

“I was afraid I was going to be asking them to get too much,” she said. “I’m thinking they’re going to get you essen-



PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS

**Colby Phillips made several doorstep grocery deliveries last week to elderly Ocean Pines residents self-isolating to avoid contracting the covid-19 virus, along with a bonus Lily just in time for Easter.**

tials, but she said, ‘absolutely not, if you need your monthly shopping done, I will do your monthly shopping.’”

Phillips said to this point the list of volunteers has outpaced the need for assistance.

“Lots of people have reached out to help [and] I’ve gotten food donations,” she said. “So far, we have helped seven people.”

Phillips said the scales could easily reverse depending on how long covid-19

health concerns persist.

“I think it’s going to be a matter of how long this goes on,” she said. “If it lasts long enough, all the volunteers will be needed.”

Community members requiring assistance can email their name, phone number and address to localhelp4youwc@gmail.com.

Because of safety precautions observed to minimize spreading the virus, volunteers will not enter homes to deliver items.



# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## HUMANE SOCIETY DONATION

The OC Jeep Club brought a large amount of food and supply donations to the Worcester County Humane Society on Feb. 22. About 60 Jeeps drove down Stephen Decatur Highway from the Teal Marsh Shopping Center in West Ocean City packed with donations for the no-kill shelter. The Jeep Club does this supply run for the shelter every year in February.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## MEDIA EXPO

Berlin Intermediate student entries from the Worcester County Media Expo are were displayed in the school's media center. Parker Brittingham shows off his entires.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## INVENTORY

The Republican Women of Worcester County's Literacy Committee did inventory of Showell Elementary's books in preparation of the school's move into a new building. Pictured are RWWC member Marge Matturro, left, and Liz Mumford, literary chair.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## LANYARD GIFT

Bruce Krasner, owner of the T-Shirt Factory, recently donated over 500 Maryland-style lanyards for the entire student population and staff of Snow Hill elementary and middle schools.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GUEST SPEAKER

Worcester County School Board member Elena McComas was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on Feb. 18. Also a member of the club, McComas updated the group about Worcester County Public Schools. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman.



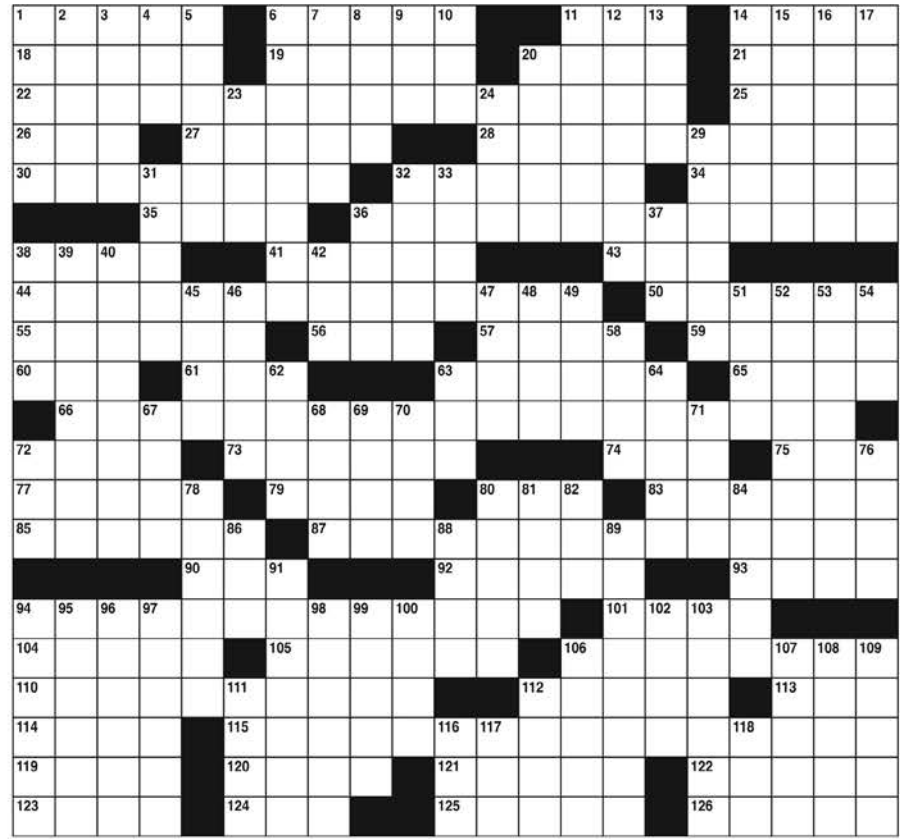
# Puzzles

## DOUBLE TALK

BY JIM PEREDO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jim Peredo of Lakewood, Wash., is a stay-at-home dad and former communications engineer in the Air Force. He got into crosswords by way of geocaching — posting puzzles online whose answers are geographic coordinates. (Search for “Team Peredox” for examples.) Jim counts himself as a Chamorro: Both his parents are Guamanian, although he himself has lived in Guam for only a year. This is his ninth puzzle for The Times and his second Sunday. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Orchestra heavyweights
  - 6 Mushroom in ramen
  - 11 When tripled, a comment of annoyance
  - 14 “Oh, my!”
  - 18 It has a very big bed
  - 19 One of a pair of explorers on the Missouri state quarter
  - 20 Spring feature
  - 21 Golden-rule word
  - 22 Run-on sentence?
  - 25 \_\_\_-by date
  - 26 Common female middle name
  - 27 Wax theatrical
  - 28 Sharply dressed, shoe-wise?
  - 30 Boring events
  - 32 Bit of conniving
  - 34 Five-letter world capital that locals spell as two words
  - 35 Tempe neighbor
  - 36 Passing comment?
  - 38 Riding the waves
  - 41 Something a bib catches
  - 43 Busy Bee, for short
  - 44 Single quote?
  - 50 Doesn't touch
  - 55 Head to bed
  - 56 Surreal finale?
- DOWN**
- 17 “Stop right there!”
  - 20 Adorable one
  - 23 \_\_\_ Research Center
  - 24 Org. tracking workplace accidents
  - 29 English setting for a series of Impressionist paintings by Monet
  - 31 Neighbor of an Emirati
  - 32 Young weaned pig
  - 33 Monk's digs
  - 36 Word with tippy or twinkle
  - 37 “2001: A Space Odyssey” computer
  - 38 Puts on ... or things put on
  - 39 Ugly ones sometimes come out in December
  - 40 Nosh at noon, say
  - 42 Diamond stat
  - 45 Second-most-common Vietnamese surname
  - 46 Home of Wichita Falls
  - 47 Magnum \_\_\_
  - 48 Game-ball material
  - 49 The scat got her tongue, you might say
  - 51 Where bills pile up
  - 52 Lower-extremity affliction
  - 53 Secret target
  - 54 Capt.'s assistant, maybe
  - 58 Milk: Fr.
  - 62 Where the meaning of life was sold in 2000 for \$3.26
  - 63 Part of a job application
- ACROSS**
- 57 Big name in student grants
  - 59 Order to attack
  - 60 \_\_\_ Paradise, “On the Road” protagonist
  - 61 Weapon associated with the film quote “Here's Johnny!”
  - 63 Sack cloth
  - 65 Hats, slangily
  - 66 Just saying?
  - 72 \_\_\_ Roddenberry, first TV writer on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
  - 73 Ancient Greek poet sometimes called the Tenth Muse
  - 74 Smear
  - 75 Preschooler
  - 77 Nickname for Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks
  - 79 When tripled, “etc.”
  - 80 Educational TV spot, for short
  - 83 Square dance move
  - 85 Fireplace item
  - 87 Stock phrase?
  - 90 Not commercial: Abbr.
  - 92 Briskly
  - 93 Bring in
  - 94 Self expression?
  - 101 Trade jobs
  - 104 Sports venue
  - 105 “Outta luck!”
  - 106 Magical powder
  - 110 Prepped for surgery
  - 112 Children's-song refrain
  - 113 Uma Thurman's role in “Pulp Fiction”
- DOWN**
- 1 Coverings on ancient Roman statuary
  - 2 Women's-basketball powerhouse, for short
  - 3 Gas-relieving brand
  - 4 “What a relief!”
  - 5 “4-Down-choo!”
  - 6 Poe poem about a mythical quest
  - 7 Scurriers near streams
  - 8 Minor cut, say
  - 9 Makeup holder
  - 10 Suffix with Black or brack
  - 11 “Can't deal with that right now!”
  - 12 Lacking focus
  - 13 Unbridled joy
  - 14 Composer Mahler
  - 15 Low tie
  - 16 Canonized fifth-century pope called “the Great”



- 64 European museum whose name means “meadow”
- 67 Sign on again
- 68 Another name for the moonfish
- 69 Common wedding hairstyle
- 70 Undergo rapprochement
- 71 Stern's opposite
- 72 “Today” rival, for short
- 76 “Old \_\_\_ Road,” longest-running No. 1 single in Billboard history (19 weeks)
- 78 You might open one at a pub
- 80 Kind of book or ad
- 81 Didn't just float
- 82 Home of 72-Down
- 84 Mortimer \_\_\_\_, dummy of old radio and TV
- 86 Newcomer, informally
- 88 Org. in charge of the 23-Down
- 89 Not worry
- 91 Country whose most widely spoken language is Wolof
- 94 Democratic politician Julián
- 95 Flower for a corsage
- 96 First name in the 1970s White House
- 97 Gets used (to)
- 98 Gopher, e.g.
- 99 Fighter pilot's wear
- 100 [head slap]
- 102 Masochist's pleasure
- 103 Generate, as suspicion
- 106 Peaceful protest
- 107 Brown shade
- 108 Evening hour in Spain
- 109 Cartomancer's deck
- 111 Pointed remark
- 112 Actor Morales
- 116 Rattle
- 117 “\_\_\_ voce poco fa” (Rossini aria)
- 118 One of the March sisters

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**HARD - 51**

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.

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

**Answers to last week's puzzles**

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

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# Cuisine

## Roasted spaghetti squash with brisket jam

Oh, what a wild ride this has been. My heart goes out to those north of us who were just battered by the recent nor'easter, but I am glad that we dodged the bullet on that one.

Minus some trees down, I know that many of us did not receive the massive punch that we were told



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

was coming.

But let's talk about the big issue at hand. Like everyone else, I have had a range of emotions on the current crisis, more than anything, it has given me the opportunity to eat more hot meals with my children than I have in years — the silver lining in a very dark cloud, indeed.

Being able to step away from the restaurant has given me the opportunity to work on side projects, concentrate my future efforts on menu, money management and personnel issues. And it has given me more than ample time to clear out some of the junk in my house.

After an especially long day last week, I sat on my back porch, my hair a disaster, unshaven, apparently having forgotten what a shower is.

I mean, you have seen the memes online, haven't you? I was nigh unapproachable in that state, and yes, I have certainly showered since. Have no fear.

The day before, I had smoked two briskets so that I could separate them, wrap and freeze three of the halves, and have the last half for a few meals here. And in one fell swoop, my life was forever changed.

For those of you who have been to the restaurant, or who are aware of these musings, you have heard me ramble on about bacon jam. Sweet, sweet bacon jam.

That ubiquitous topping on our menu that accompany anything that your little heart desires.

Yes, I indeed did want bacon jam but I had no bacon on hand. And, I am not sure why it never dawned on me, but it hit me like a lightning bolt and a lightbulb over my head simultaneously.

Brisket Jam.

Yes, my eyes rolled back in my head, I salivated like Pavlov's Dogs at just the mental mention of this finely crafted food, and I set out to experi-



ment a little.

Brisket, onion, vinegar and brown sugar. That's all that I would need, and sure enough, I had it all in the pantry.

Dicing the brisket, I chortled as I could already smell the crazy concoction and I was elated at such a simple creation. Bacon is smoked, brisket is smoked.

This should work. But I have no idea, as often some of the most disgusting-sounding foods are incredible and, of course, the inverse certainly holds true.

As the aroma of my new Easy Street treat wafted past my nose, I froze in place.

"This is going to be righteous," I mused internally. And I was right. Rather, my instinct was right.

Am I the true inventor of brisket jam? I doubt it. I can't imagine that it hasn't been done a thousand times, but I never heard of it, and once it entered my head, it was all over. It is killer stuff!

This will go great on a burger, chicken sandwich, a salad or in this case on roasted spaghetti sauce. Yes, indeed this was a good one.

Stay safe in these trying times and eat well.

### Roasted Spaghetti Squash, Brisket Jam

serves 4

1 Fresh spaghetti squash  
Olive oil, as needed if you halve before you roast

Trimix, as needed

2 c. Brisket jam (recipe follows)

- The squash may be prepared in one of two ways. The first is to prick the outside with a fork and roast whole, removing seeds later. The second is to halve the squash, remove the seeds, brush with olive oil and place face down on a roasting pan. The second method will give you more mess to clean up, FY.

- Place the squash in a 375F oven and roast for anywhere from an hour to 1.5 hours. It all depends on your stove's capabilities.

- When the squash is tender enough for a knife to easily pierce it, remove it from the oven and allow it to cool just long enough for you to handle it.

- When cool enough to handle (if roasted whole), halve it, remove the seeds and discard.

- At this point, you will have two beautifully roasted halves of squash and from here, simply use a fork to scrape out the strands of squash, dividing them among four plates

- Season accordingly, and top with hot brisket jam

This is definitely a revitalizing dish, as the flavors mesh beautifully.

Serve immediately

### Brisket Jam

makes about 1 quart

1 lg. Red onion, julienne  
10 oz. Smoked brisket  
1/2 c. Red wine vinegar  
1/2 c. Dark brown sugar

- Saute the red onion in a small amount of butter or oil until they are soft and translucent

- Dice the brisket and add to the onions and cook on a medium heat for about thirty minutes.

- Add the vinegar and sugar and cook for an additional 30 minutes, ensuring that it never gets to a rolling boil.

- Adjust to taste (you might like yours sweeter or more sour) and set aside until ready to use.

- Make sure to serve this hot or at least warm.

— 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).



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