



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## MOORED AND READY

Signs of life surfaced at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club Marina on May 1, when slips holders were allowed to prepare vessels for the upcoming summer.

## OPA finances remain strong and in black

As year concludes, revenue up, spending below budget

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) With one month remaining in the current fiscal year, the Ocean Pines Association operating budget continues to track more than a half million dollars in the black.

General Manager John Viola presented both year-to-date and monthly numbers for March 2020 during the virtual OPA Board meeting on Saturday.

Looking at fiscal 2019/2020 data, which launched on May 1, 2019 and runs through April 30, the OPA was \$398,000 ahead of revenue projections and \$268,000 under budgeted expenses.

"We're still favorable over \$600,000," he said. "We were favor-

See OPA Page 14



John Viola

## OP Flags For Heroes shifts focus

Ceremony won't happen, but organizers say star-spangled banners will still wave

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) Although the dedication ceremony slated for Armed Forces Day on May 16 was shelved due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines' Flags for Heroes display remains on track.

Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said despite health safety guidelines curtailing public celebrations, after consulting with project co-sponsors the Rotary Club of Ocean City and Berlin, maintaining the undertaking appeared vital.

"We didn't want to cancel this years flag display because we felt there were more people out there today than ever before that should be thanked for their positive influences on our lives," she said. "Flags for Heroes is about being an inspiration to somebody."

In total, 200 flags will shade the landscape to the west side of the Veterans Memorial near Route 589 in Ocean Pines with a patriotic mass of red, white and blue from Armed Forces Day on May 16 through Flag Day on June 14.

Gilmore said while the Flags for Heroes exhibition in Ocean Pines, now in its third year, is essentially un-



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines resident Mary Adair memorializes her husband, Robert, as her hero during the Flags for Heroes ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, last year.

changed the focus has also shifted to essential workers.

"We never give much thought to how essential they are," she said. "It's put them in a whole new light and they are certainly the heroes of right now."

Largely intended for U.S. Armed Forces members, during the past two years a smaller percentage of flags have

See VETERANS Page 6

## Farmers mkt. debut beats expectations

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) The first Berlin Farmers Market of the season was so successful that most vendors sold out within the first two hours, and more vendors and suppliers are expected at this week's market.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells was pleased with the turnout for the first market of the season amid the covid-19.

See FIRST Page 15



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LOCALLY GROWN

Craig Brady, of Stag Run Farm in Georgetown, Delaware, sells black plums to Ocean Pines resident Nancy Galvin at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market in White Horse Park on Saturday.

Berlin electric department installing software, engine

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) The Berlin Electric Department will be installing new software that will allow it to monitor the town’s generators remotely, as well as install a replacement engine by the beginning of July.



Tim Lawrence

Electric Director Tim Lawrence first mentioned the system during the utilities budget work session held Monday, April 27.

The program, created by Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, will allow employees of the electric department to safely monitor the output from the generator and the engines from their computers or even through their phones, Lawrence said.

“The way the plan is set up now is when the engines are running, a plant employee actually has to go to each engine every 30 minutes,” he said. “He basically records on a data sheet the water temperature, oil temperature, exhaust temperature, the KW (kilowatt) output of the generator and the horsepower of the engine ... he actually writes that down manually.

“It’s tedious, plus, it’s putting him in a position where it could be unsafe, because you’re right up against the engine that’s running 1,600 horsepower,” Lawrence continued. “If something fails in the engine, it could hurt somebody.”

With the new system, if anything is detected, the plant can be shut down remotely and safely. Overall, the installation of the new Schweitzer system will cost the town \$60,000.

In addition, the town will be receiving a replacement engine around late May or early June, and be running by July.

Last July, the second engine out of four that run the generator was taken

out of commission when a piston connecting rod failed on the 16-cylinder engine at the William Street plant and knocked a hole in the side plate of the engine. The engine was at least 20 years old.

The failure happened when the department was running peak shaving times. The engine typically runs from about 2-6 p.m., but because of high temperatures, the engine was working overtime and ran for eight consecutive days.

The department conducts peak shaving events when the draw for electricity for the town is unusually high, which occurs around 10 to 23 times during the summer.

Peak-shaving is a way for town ratepayers to save money because by using the local generators, the electric utility has to purchase less power from providers. Typically, the town saves around \$550,000 per year using peak shaving.

The new engine will run on natural gas instead of diesel like the other three engines, he added.

“When number two failed, I checked with the (Environmental Protection Agency) and Maryland Department of Environment and then all our consultants on what type of engine we should go back with, and everybody recommended natural gas,” Lawrence said. “It burns a lot cleaner. It’s a lot less maintenance to take care of and the fuel cost is a lot less than diesel fuel.”

Diesel fuel costs \$2.30 a gallon as opposed to \$1.80 for natural gas, Lawrence had said in a previous meeting.

In fact, when the department installs the gas line into the plant to feed into engine two, there will also be tap offs for the other three engines for when they eventually transition to natural gas as well.

The engine was built by Alban CAT Power, and will be delivered to Elkridge, Maryland a few weeks from now before being delivered to the Berlin power plant.



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# Signs added to Route 113, 818 intersection

SHA determined various safety measures following fatal car accident on Feb. 6

By Elizabeth Bonin  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) The State Highway Administration has started to add signs to the intersections of Route 113 and Route 818 after a deadly car crash on Feb. 6. Following the crash, Berlin residents asked Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) to seek a solution for the dangerous intersection. She contacted the administration to

begin determining the appropriate safety measures. After a traffic signal study was conducted, the administration decided that it would add speed limit signs to Route 113 in the southbound direction between Burley Street and Germantown Road, according to Carozza, who recently received an update from the district engineer. "And it looks like they're going to enlarge the one-way signs of the intersection and the yield sign, which would be added to the north bound ramp from U.S. 113 to Germantown Road," Carozza said. See SHA Page 5



ELIZABETH BONIN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The State Highway Administration has started to add more signage to the intersection of Route 113 and Route 818 after a fatal car accident on Feb. 6. It will continue to monitor traffic levels to consider a traffic signal in the future.

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# Ocean Pines Board passes minor resolution changes

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors approved amendments to three resolutions tied to the Architectural Review Committee and another related to the Golf Advisory Committee during its virtual meeting on Saturday.

With nary a word, on May 2 the board unanimously approved changes to Resolutions M-01, M-04 and C-02 that concern lot maintenance and C-11 to revamp Golf Advisory Committee membership.

Resolution M-01 outlines ARC procedures to document aesthetic violations. Under the guidelines, if a homeowner fails to address violations not granted an extension or variance ARC notifies the responsible party and OPA General Manager John Viola, with

the revised language now including a new reporting form for violations.

Resolution M-04 was revised to eliminate language permitting the Board of Directors to vote to authorize entry onto private lots to address refuse and debris.

The third resolution concerning ARC procedures was C-02 that was revised to eliminate the term “when appropriate” for referring violations noted by the Compliance, Permitting and Inspection to the OPA General Manager.

Lastly, the board also revised resolution C-11 outlining membership for the Golf Advisory Committee, which will now include one representative from the Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association, Ocean Pines Men’s Golf Association and the Ocean Pines Golf Course Members Council.

# SHA will consider traffic signal

Continued from Page 3

She added that the initial report concluded that the activity at that intersection did not warrant a traffic signal.

“However, given increased traffic on 113 north and south and given this recent accident, that has prompted SHA to in-

crease their monitoring of that part of 113,” Carozza said.

The possibility of a traffic signal at some point will depend on volume of traffic and safety considerations.

“Even if a signal is warranted, there also may be some budget challenges given covid-19,” Carozza said.

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## Veterans, other heroes will be honored with 200 flags

Continued from Page 1

been dedicated to heroes of a different ilk.

"It's an opportunity to say thank you to a veteran for their service and that's what probably 80 percent of the flags have gone to, but the other 20 percent have always been to other people who have been a hero in someone's life in some way, shape or form," she said.

Gilmore said those wider sentiments now include employees in the health care, food industry and shipping industries.

"This year we have that opportunity to say thank you to all those essential workers and hospital employees," she said. "It's more of an extension of the program than it is a change of course."

Appropriate safety measures will be followed during display set up.

"The only people that will be together at any time are the people that are installing the flags and we're going to take every precaution of social distancing as that procedure is done," she said. "We felt that it was super important for the display to go up this year."

The prior pair of Flags for Heroes endeavors, with individual sponsorships costing \$50 and corporate partners contributing anywhere from \$250 to \$2,000, have helped raise funds for the Veterans Memorial.

"That's not the main point this year because we're not even going back to businesses and reminding them that they supported us last year," she said. "We don't feel the economy is right to even ask that question."

Groups lending support this year include: American Legion Synepuxent Post #166, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #166, the Vietnam Veterans of America Ocean City Chapter #1091 and the Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645.

"We also have Delmarva Power that came right back in and gave us support," she said.

Gilmore said since sending correspondence in early March to some past sponsors about half of the allotted flags have been reserved.

"We're getting a little bit of that corporate support but most of what's coming back are individuals," she said. "That's the bread and butter of it, each individual \$50 sponsorship."

Gilmore said the focus shifted after the covid-19 pandemic tossed society a proverbial curveball and regardless of the level of participation the same size display is planned.

"We're going to put up the 200 flags we put up last year [and each] has a medallion that ... names the hero and the sponsor," she said. "Our focus this year is to have an opportunity to say thank you to all essential workers and let them know they are appreciated and are the heroes in our lives."

On a separate note, Gilmore said covid-19 pandemic has also delayed plans to mark the 15th anniversary of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines this May.

"Memorial Day is the 15th anniversary of the dedication of Veterans Memorial," she said. "It was dedicated on May 30, 2005."

Gilmore, who joined the Veterans Memorial Foundation in 2004, credited co-founders Roseanne Bridgman and Board Member Emeritus Sharyn O'Hare for envisioning the project that broke ground on Veterans Day in 2004.

"I was there for the groundbreaking," she said.

Contingent on ongoing developments, the intent is to mark the occasion at a later date.

"We hope to do that sometime in the fall," she said. "We still want to recognize the 15th anniversary, it's important."

To learn more about flag sponsorships visit [opvets.org/events/flags-for-heroes-2020](http://opvets.org/events/flags-for-heroes-2020) or contact Cliff Berg at 302-540-2127 or email [cliff0917@aol.com](mailto:cliff0917@aol.com).

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



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# OPA receives nearly half of assessment fees by April 30

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) Since granting a 90-day extension last month for annual assessment fees due May 1 in response to economic woes from the covid-19 pandemic, the Ocean Pines Association has received about half the overall total so far.

OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone updated both the status of assessment collections and reserve account balance forecasts during the Board of Directors meeting held online Saturday.

“As of the 30th, we received \$4,193,000 and that’s of our total due of \$9,126,000 [so] that is about 46 percent,” he said. “Our hope was to have about 25 percent to carry us to August, so we’re way ahead of that number.”

Since extending the window for assessment payments in early April, Perrone has been in regular communication with board members.

“I’ve been updating you every week on where we are on the assessments because we’ve moved the ... due date back 90 days,” he said.

Perrone said despite collecting about half of total assessments by the end of last month, the rate of return is down about \$1.5 million versus this point last year.

“What that says to me is that people are holding onto their money and, hopefully, the next couple of months people who can afford to send their us their assessment dollars will do it,” he said.

Perrone said further fiscal stability was gained late last month after the OPA was approved for a \$1.143 million loan through the Paycheck Protection Program.

“I think from a financial standpoint, a cash flow basis, right now we should be ok,” he said.


Although the ledgers remain balanced for now, Perrone stressed uncertainties surround future revenues whenever amenities resume activities.

“We don’t know at this point if people are still going to come to the beach [or] if they’re going to come to Ocean Pines,” he said. “We don’t know how long that impact will be or what the amount will be.”


Turning to short-term investment activity and cash on hand for March, Perrone said the association closed the month with roughly \$9.2 million in cash, split up to include about \$4.8 million in

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Larry Perrone



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# OP amenities await state reopen directives

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) Although a brief glimpse of customary activities was on exhibit Friday in Ocean Pines when boat owners were cleared to re-inhabit slips at the Yacht Club and Swim and Racquet Club marinas, timelines to reopen amenities and facilities remain in limbo pending state directives.

Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue said permitting boat owners to tie up this weekend and prep for summer proved feasible within social distancing mandates.

“Normally when we open the marinas it is on May 1,” she said. “Being able to open then was kind of giving people a little bit of normalcy.”

Donahue said with a careful eye on crowd sizes, numerous boat owners were able to fuel vessels ahead of state boating restrictions being lifted.

“We had a lot of traffic going in and out for the weekend,” she said. “It was a very active, kind of normal day, and normal weekend.”

Speaking on Monday, Donahue said the, sort of, soft opening this weekend at the marinas went off without a hitch.

“We’re glad that we did go ahead and allow people to put their boats in their

slips,” she said. “A lot of people cleaned them and wrapped them right back up.”

Donahue said appropriate precautions, including wearing face masks, ample use of hand sanitizer and recurring cleaning of surfaces were followed by marina staff and boat owners.

“It gave them an opportunity to get out and have a little bit of normal life and to see a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel,” she said.

In terms of a larger return to recreation programs, the picture remains cloudy until Gov. Larry Hogan offers further clarity regarding the proposed three-phase plan for reopening Maryland.

“Right now, it looks as though for me to get back to normal it’s probably going to be step two because everything is still more than 10 people,” she said.

Donahue said with phase one restric-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The new Ocean Pines Golf Course Clubhouse should be cleared for occupancy this week, while the actual opening date remains cloudy due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

tions likely to limit public gatherings to crowds of 10 people reopening facilities would be severely restricted.

“It’s all within what [Hogan] finally tells us we can do stage-by-stage,” she said. “I’m looking forward to it to figure out where we’re going.”

OPA General Manager of Golf Operations John Malinowski said although final inspections are being completed for the new Clubhouse building this week, it remains a guess when the facility could be put to use.

See TIMELINES Page 12

## OP reserve fund balances stable

Continued from Page 8  
CDARs, with approximately \$4.4 million stashed in money markets and other operating accounts.

“Our ladder investments are still growing about 2.5 percent,” he said. “Next month that number will be much lower because of the maturing of our CDARs and CDS.”

Switching to reserve account balances, including replacement, bulkheads and roads, about \$6.9 million was deposited among the trio of accounts for this fiscal year at the end of March.

“Our reserve situation is still relatively stable,” he said.

After opening the fiscal year with a total reserve balance of \$8.8 million, which included \$5.2 million in replacement reserves, \$2.5 million for bulkheads and \$1.1 million for roads, infrastructure work has dropped those figures to \$4.4 million, \$1.9 million and \$600,000 respectively.

Perrone said during the current fiscal year \$2 million was deposited in replacement reserves, as well as \$700,000 for bulkheads, which were both derived from assessment fees and interest earnings. Also more than \$300,000 was received for roads from state issued casino funds.

The anticipated expenditure forecast for fiscal 2020, which closed on April 30, is about \$3.5 million from replacement reserves, \$1.6 million for bulkheads and just over \$1 million for roads.



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# Berlin council approves lease agreements

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) Berlin officials approved two lease agreements within town limits at the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday, April 27.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the lease of 7,000 square feet of warehouse space and 15 parking spaces at Heron Park to Burley Oak Brewing Co. Councilmember Elroy Brittingham was unable to attend the meeting that night.

Burley Oak Brewing Co.'s owner, Bryan Brushmiller, had asked Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood several months earlier about renting the old Tyson processing plant for storage.

According to Mayor Gee Williams, Brushmiller has been the first person interested in "trying to generate revenue from those buildings until a permanent use is found or until they are leveled."

"I've been working with the town and if we can rent the same space now, it will cost me almost twice as much, but if we can, if we need to rent space, it's better to put money into the town's pocket," Brushmiller said.

Brushmiller has been interested in renting the space across from his brewing company for a few years, and after the town administration changed, he decided now would be a good time to request the lease.

"We thought, 'Hey, that's a great idea to put money in the pocket of the town and it's benefiting us,'" Brushmiller said. "It's a very symbiotic relationship"

See BERLIN Page 15

# Timelines vague to reopen Pines amenities

Continued from Page 11

"It still depends on what the restrictions are that Gov. Hogan puts out there," he said. "Everybody's waiting to see what's going to happen and what he's going to say."

The pending easing of crowd size limitations and food service restrictions will dictate when the golf clubhouse is open for community gatherings.

"It's up in the air as far as what we can and can't do," he said. "We're playing the waiting game."

While answers are still forthcoming from the state, Donahue said preliminary steps to hold Camp Ocean Pines, scheduled from June 22-Aug. 21 have begun.

"Over the weekend we got things rolling in terms of packets to get registration started," she said. "Then we realized we may need some clarification on numbers as far as how many we can actually register in June."

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regulate Camp Ocean Pines.

"We usually have approximately 130 kids everyday Monday to Friday for nine weeks," she said.

"I'm waiting for some more confirmations from our state as far as our summer camp is concerned."

Whenever the state guidelines for reopening facilities and resuming activities are issued, Donahue said creative solutions would likely be required to operate summer camp within a restricted framework.

"It's going to be a little bit tough with camp because there's no way to social distance," she said.

Turning to other events, Donahue said the Ocean Pines Bay Day scheduled for May 17, which is produced by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, has been postponed until the fall.

"We will have a confirmation on a new date in September soon," she said.



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# OPA finances solid as FY19-20 winds down

Continued from Page 1  
able for 11 months versus budget.”  
Through the end of March, the OPA net operating tally was estimated at \$842,000, while the actual figure sits at about \$1.5 million, for a positive variance of \$666,000.  
“Keep in mind \$250,000 of that was already earmarked for the budget for 2021 and we will be fine with that,” he said.  
Drilling down on March 2020 figures, Viola said lower than anticipated revenues were offset by reduced expenses to close the month favorable by about \$36,000.  
“The revenues were unfavorable to budget approximately \$60,000,” he said.  
During the ongoing covid-19 pandemic numerous departments have been shuttered, with losses in March

including about \$19,000 at the OPA Yacht Club, roughly \$13,000 for aquatics and approximately \$12,000 for compliance, permits and inspections.  
“It’s across the board,” he said. “The expenses are coming in favorable (so) there is a big offset there.”  
Viola said despite numerous amenities being closed due to coronavirus, construction activities have remained on track, with the Golf Clubhouse project on the verge of completion.  
“We’re hoping to get the CFO this coming week,” he said.  
In addition to fire department officials already completing a site inspection, Viola said the Worcester County Health Department is scheduled to review the project next week.  
“It’s looking good,” he said.  
Anticipated to be completed this month for a total of roughly \$1.6 million, as of April 27 the total spend for the clubhouse building is about \$1.2 million.  
“We’re estimating it will come in \$1.5 million [and] certainly under \$1.6 million,” he said.  
Viola said the associated golf cart barn project was wrapped up more than \$100,000 under the estimated cost of \$430,000, with occupancy paperwork mandated by Worcester County now in hand.  
The Ocean Pines Police building project, which was anticipated to wrap up in Sept. at a cost of about \$1.2 million, is on track to finish ahead of schedule, Viola said.  
Another initiative recently completed was addressing drainage issues near the Borderlinks and golf

course.  
Groundwork to reduce water runoff issues, which was finished on April 20, came in about \$1,000 over the estimated total of \$100,000.  
“We did do a lot of extra work there,” he said.  
Turning to the ongoing governmental covid-19 response, Viola said the OPA has continued to monitor federal and state updates, while sharing the latest developments on its website and social media pages.  
“There is no playbook for where we are right now,” he said. “Ocean Pines continues to share information with Worcester County, Ocean City, Berlin and others to supply benchmarking for closures.”

## Another worker tests positive for covid-19

(May 7, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Tuesday released a statement about a second employee who tested positive for COVID-19.

The association previously, on April 21, announced that a worker in the golf maintenance department tested positive.

The association notified staff earlier today of a second positive test, this time in Public Works.

The Board’s statement follows:

Symptoms of the COVID-19 pandemic have once again been recognized here in Ocean Pines, as a member of our Public Works Department recently tested positive for COVID-19. The employee was last at work on April 28 and also passed through the Administration Building for a brief period on April 22.

Other OPA staff who may have been in contact with this individual have been contacted and advised to take the necessary precautions per the CDC guidelines, including the 14-day quarantine requirement. The cleaning and disinfecting of work areas has been in place and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Again, we continue to emphasize sound hygiene and adherence to all state and federal guidelines for safety. Practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands often is of paramount importance, especially at this time. Let’s all step up and do our part in helping to prevent the spread of the virus to our family, friends and members of the Ocean Pines community.

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# First market of season beats expectations

Continued from Page 1

“It was very crowded early on,” she said. “There was a lot of seniors from 8:30-9 a.m. and the strawberries sold out at 9:07 a.m. and then pretty much everything else sold out within an hour after. Bay Water Farms actually did a second run to their farm to get more stuff and when they came back and they said they sold out twice.”

Opening weekend had 13 vendors: Baked Dessert Café, Baywater Farms, Cross Farms, DelVecchio, Gilbert’s Provisions, Una Bella Salute, Lyon Distilling Company, Cherry Walk Garden and Preserves, Home Canning Classics, The Bay Mushrooms, Splendid Earth Acres and Berlin Sconer.

The farmers market will take place every Sunday from May 3 to Aug. 30 on Pitts Street, where local farmers and other vendors will sell everything from fresh produce to spirits, flowers, baked goods and other materials.

According to Wells, the feedback

from the public has been positive. “It was extraordinarily positive,” she said. “Access to farmers markets and access to fresh local produce and food is a way to stay healthy in this environment. Gov. Hogan deemed them essential for a very good reason. The Town of Berlin think it’s very important to maintain the farmers market.”

As per the governor’s regulations, farmer’s markets are allowed to run provided they are outdoors and ensure that patrons maintain the six feet distance rule, as well as limit time and crowd size.

Shoppers and vendors must wear masks to protect themselves and are encouraged not to linger too long in the space. No more than two people may accompany each other, with the recommendation that children, senior family members and pets remain behind for safety’s sake.

Wells noted there were still several people who either brought their children or pets despite the warnings and reminds the public that the town is simply following the guidelines provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

“Please do not bring your dogs,” Wells said. “Some people did complain about dogs being there and we tried our best to monitor that.”



Dozens of people visit the first Berlin Farmers Market of the season, held on Pitts Street in Berlin on Sunday, May 3.

There will be an additional three vendors this weekend, plus the spaces will be spread out even further to avoid crowding. This will take the market into Commerce Street as well as the entirety of Pitts Street.

The market is once again offering an early bird half-hour for seniors ages 60 and older to shop from 8:30-9 a.m.

The market will be offering recyclable shopping bags for \$10. In addition, there will be a station set up that provides face masks for a donation to those who might not have one as well as hand sanitizers.

Wells asks that customers please bring exact change to minimize the

exchange of currency as much as possible, or bring other forms of payment like cheques or credit cards.

Wells warned that there will only be two entrances to the farmer’s market, as the bank parking lot will be blocked in order to follow regulations.

“You can either get there via the intersection of William and Pitt Street, or Main and Pitt Street,” she said. “I have signs being printed up with the market rules that will be placed at those locations you can’t enter.”

For more information, contact Wells at iwells@berlinmd.gov or call 410-629-1722.

## Berlin council OKs two leases

Continued from Page 12

where it’s benefiting the town with getting some revenue from a very derelict building.

“It’s important to have that buildings be used to have people around it, to have life in it because vacant buildings aren’t good for any town,” he continued.

Fleetwood said the town and Brushmiller had agreed to a lease of \$1,500 a month for the building space and \$400 a month for the parking space.

“On the north side of the processing building there’s a section of that building that has five bay doors that are non-functional as we speak,” Fleetwood said. “In my discussions with Bryan, what we think would be in the best interest of all ... at his expense ... he would install a functional garage door in the middle bay and then the 7,000-square-foot space that is immediately beyond that bay door is what he would utilize.”

Brushmiller expects to make some improvements as he creates usable space. Including the garage doors, he will also be putting in lights and other equipment, as the space has become what he says is “a concrete shell.”

The council also approved a lease agreement with Dr. Christopher Galuardi for additional parking space at the water tower on Route 346, with a rent of \$400 a month. The space would allow Galuardi, who has had an office on Old Ocean City Boulevard for 14 years, to recruit another physician to his practice.

“My largest impediment right now to having him join the practice is the inadequate size of my parking lot,” Galuardi wrote in a letter to the council. “I only have 10 spaces and eight employees.”

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Understandable why OPA took PPP loan

Let’s face it: every revenue-dependent entity in this country, from penny-scrappers to industrial giants, are facing serious shortages of cash this year, and most of them are looking for help from the federal government.

As of this week, the automobile industry is being considered for another federal relief package, the airline industry took a \$25 billion federal handout because no one is flying, and millions of enterprises, large and small, took Payroll Protection Program money to cover their projected shortfalls.

And why wouldn’t they, considering that the PPP loans, while well-intended, were unfettered by rules and stipulations to prevent this flow of nearly free money from being diverted into inappropriate revenue streams.

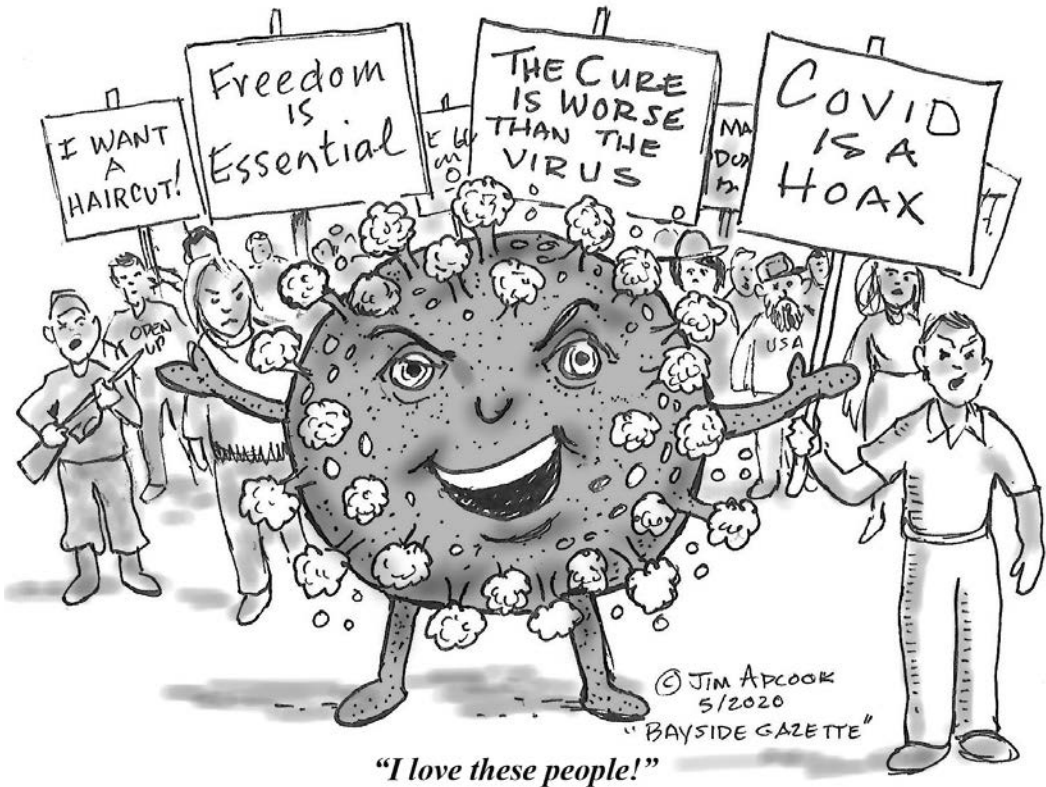
This absence of restrictions is why the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors did nothing wrong by applying for and receiving \$1.1 million in the first round of the Small Business Administration program. It qualified for a loan as a non-profit organization, the money was there, and it was available.

In that sense, the OPA board’s actions were perfectly legitimate and done according to the letter of the law. The problem is that the letter of the law did nothing to distinguish between declining financial circumstances and urgent need.

What the PPP loan allows the OPA to do is continue on its budgeted path without having to revise its assessments or fees.

That’s the difference between the OPA and the small businesses for which this plan was supposed to have been created. The OPA does have the option, however unpleasant it might be, of revisiting its chief source of income and making some changes, while a business that has lost its customers has no such recourse.

No, the OPA should not have applied for payroll aid from the SBA, but with so few strings attached to that big pile of money available for the asking, it’s easy to understand why it did.



## Letters

### Questions merits of OP PPP application

Editor,

We sincerely extend our apologies to any small businesses who have not had your PPP application for a loan/grant approved by the Small Business Administration because of insufficient available funds.

We are embarrassed by the actions of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors and their across-the-bay legal advisors in applying for and accepting \$1.1 million through the PPP Program.

While obviously the Association was somehow allowed to apply and receive these monies through the stimulus program, that doesn’t mean that it should have been done.

Just because you can do something doesn’t mean it’s the right thing to do! Many private businesses throughout our county - particularly in the northern end - have been utterly devastated by the closure of all “non-essential” businesses and have no means of receiving any revenue during this national health crisis which may last well into the summer.

And even those businesses that have been allowed to remain open are having to operate with a reduced clientele and have had to think out of the box

to find ways (and many have cleverly done so) to attract customers in order to stave off financial ruin.

We have been residents of Ocean Pines for over 43 years and are familiar with the yearly budget process, and how the Association receives its revenue. The source of that revenue remains the same and is unlikely to be seriously impaired.

The Association will continue to receive yearly assessments on its lots and revenue from its amenities (including fees for the use of its pools and golf courses, etc.) as it has done for decades.

The Association had already mailed out its annual assessments (we have already paid ours) before the impact of the health crisis. This is just a way to grab easy money before truly distressed private businesses could get their funding approved. In a short term, it is spelled “greed.”

If the Association couldn’t weather this “storm” with a “rainy-day” fund, shame on us. Ocean Pines has always wanted to be an integral part of the county, but by actions such as this, we are not showing that we care for the community and the businesses and citizens therein.

Dale and Charlotte Cathell  
Ocean Pines

### Be SMART program targets gun safety

Editor,

In response to the schools being closed in Maryland, countless children and teens are home for an indefinite amount of time.

As parents, we’re prioritizing keeping our kids safe from the effects and spread of covid-19, but we also must prioritize keeping them safe in our own homes.

An estimated 4.6 million children in the U.S. live in a household with at least one gun that is stored loaded and unlocked. It’s up to us as adults to make sure guns are securely stored so that curious children and vulnerable teens cannot get a hold of them while home from school.

And for those of us that do not own guns, we need to make sure our community is aware of the precautions we should take while kids are home, especially when it comes to securing guns.

There’s a lot that parents have to juggle as we deal with school closures and increased precautions around covid-19 that affect us all. But we can’t wait for another completely preventable, unintentional shooting by a child or a teen dying by gun suicide to be a wake-up call—we all need to take action now.

The “Be SMART” program  
Continued on Page 17

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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# Council approves program with conditions

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2020) The Berlin mayor and Town Council approved a request for youth basketball programs at Henry Park provided they could potentially reschedule the dates if needed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

During the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday, April 27, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood explained that the summer youth instructional basketball program is currently sched-

uled to take place at Henry Park located on Flower Street on Saturdays from June 6 to July 25 from 10-11:30 a.m. The event is open to children in grades 3-8 and will only cost \$5 per person.

"This is very similar to what Worcester Recreation did last summer in Henry Park, it was a very popular program," Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. "Obviously in light of the corona pandemic, this is what their plan is, that could very well change on what the situation is in June."

Currently, all local parks have been closed by Mayor Gee Williams to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. All town events scheduled into the month of June were cancelled. These circumstances made it difficult for the council to come to a decision.

Councilmember Zach Tyndall recommended the program be moved to July, but Bohlen explained that all the paperwork was submitted long before the pandemic became an issue.

"They haven't had a chance to look at

it from that point of view yet," she said. "However, if you want us to go at it with the approach that we have that no events shall take place, then we can ask them if they want to adjust those dates and bring it back."

Councilmember Dean Burrell suggested the motion be approved on the contingency that the dates can be adjusted.

"If they cannot [adjust those dates], that's on them," he said. "Tonight, we can still approve based on my motion."

# Agriculture easement applications

(May 7, 2020) On behalf of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Worcester County is accepting applications from interested landowners who may wish to participate in the MALPF program through the voluntary sale of an agricultural easement to the foundation.

Eligible properties must be at least 50 acres in size (unless contiguous to an existing MALPF easement), have subdivision rights available to sell, and meet a minimum soils requirement.

"The MALPF program benefits landowners by giving them an option to sell the development rights on their

farms, yet continue to own and operate the farms," said Katherine Munson, Planner V within the Natural Resources Division of Environmental Programs.

An agricultural easement is a voluntary, permanent agreement.

Development of land encumbered by the easement is strictly limited, but agricultural and natural resource uses and activities are allowed, including crop production, timber harvest and hunting.

The value of the easement payment is determined by property appraisals conducted at the expense of the state. Payment is a one-time per acre payment. Payments range from \$1,000 to \$3,000

per acre and depend on multiple factors.

Over 8,700 acres in Worcester County are permanently protected from development with a voluntary MALPF easement.

To be eligible for participation this year, applications must be submitted to Worcester County by May 8.

Since preparation of this application can be a lengthy process, potential applicants are encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible.

Worcester County landowners interested in selling a voluntary perpetual agricultural easement or learning about other land conservation options may contact Munson at 410-632-1220, extension 1302.

**Letters**

Continued from Page 16

was created to keep unsecured guns out of the hands of children and teens.

We encourage parents and caretakers to "Be SMART" and take these simple steps to help prevent unintentional shootings:

- Secure all guns in homes and vehicles.
- Model responsible behavior.
- Ask about firearms in other homes your child visits.
- Recognize the role of guns in suicide.
- Tell your peers to Be SMART.
- Let's all do our part to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, including our children's, and Be SMART.

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# Cuisine

## Grow your own veggies in victory gardens

As the pandemic trudges on, it becomes obvious that our lives simply will not be the same even after all of this blows over.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

There could be a miracle cure in a matter of weeks, or as has been the case with other viruses and bugs, a cure may never be found. Who am I to pretend that I understand a thing

about this mess?

All I know is that we have to take precautions, be responsible and try to survive what has become the greatest economic and public health disaster that we have ever seen.

But through the mud and muck, the name-calling and finger-pointing and through the smoke that has amassed on our viral battlefield, arise a great many positive changes in the way we live our lives.

Truth be told, I believe that these changes will be around for a great many years. I was raised to look at the silver lining in the clouds (not to wear rose-colored glasses as that may at least involve a small amount of naivety).

Imagine my surprise when I found out that victory gardens, an age-old practice with its roots in times of war when people grew their own produce to help take at least a little burden off the supply chain, would be a theme this week. But, we'll get back to those in a second.

On top of victory gardens, we have seen a sharp spike in a few other self-sufficient practices: home-brewing and distilling companies have noted a sharp increase in kit and ingredient sales.

I have a fair number of friends and colleagues who have even gone so far as to build chicken coops and bring in chickens and guinea fowl. I love this notion, and my kids have asked about it.

Maybe after we build the tree-house, guys. Priorities.

Small farms are packed on the days they are open for retail sale. To me, this could be the greatest positive result of the quarantine in that small farms have always needed our help.

And now, many people feel obliged to spend as little time packed into the box and grocery stores and more time with the small producers in the open-air markets, buying locally.



And at last, we come to my kitchen garden. We purchased this house 4 years ago, but never fully moved in.

There is a raised bed in the side yard that measures 5 feet by 24 feet. That is a sizable garden and throughout our tenure on this property, I have never taken the time to weed, till, root, fluff, fill and primp the box for a proper garden. Now she is ready.

When we lived in Baltimore on a small, 1/4-acre lot, we grew a mountain of produce. In Ocean Pines, we had a hard time with all the pine trees. But here, we are in good shape.

The end result is a garden full of heirloom tomatoes from Chesterfield Heirlooms and other vegetable plants from East View Farms.

It will not be long before I am pulling round zucchini, seven varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs and Swiss chard from my own yard.

Having gone through a binge cleaning with a very large dumpster last month, I did lose some great pots and containers, but I have plenty more where they came from.

So, fresh lettuces and spring mixes will abound, and I will be able to harvest as I like.

Yes, overall this is a nightmare.

This is a terrible setback to us personally, financially, in health and in sanity. But, there are also beautiful things happening as a result. Build a garden.

Even patio container gardens can yield massive amounts of food. People do it all the time. So go. Grow, eat and do what you can to stay safe.

### Oil-Roasted Heirloom Tomatoes

serves 4

2# garden-fresh cherry and grape tomatoes

1/4 c. EV Olive oil

Coarse sea salt, as needed

Fresh cracked black pepper, as needed

1/4 c. Roasted whole garlic cloves

3 Tbsp. Freshly grated good parmesan

Fresh basil for garnish

1. Pick some ripe tomatoes and try to get them all around the same size.

2. After washing and patting dry, place in a ceramic or glass bowl (easier to cleanup and to sop the juices and goo out with fresh bread).

3. Top with oil, salt and pepper and place in a 425F oven until they start to wilt.

4. Add the roasted garlic at this time, and top with the parmesan.

5. Return to oven for an additional few minutes or until everything just looks done. There is no other way to put it.

6. At this point the kitchen is going to smell amazing, and use this time to shred the basil into little ribbons, a technique we nerd-chefs call chiffonade.

7. As you pull the tomatoes out of the oven, sprinkle with the basil. The herbal aromas will immediately fill the kitchen, and you will be glad that you did not cook the basil, as you would lose a lot of that.

8. As the cook, it is your moral imperative to rip a piece of Italian bread that you are serving this with and sample the wares.

9. Season accordingly, splashing some sherry vinegar on as a finishing touch, but this is entirely optional.

10. Serve with aforementioned Italian bread (sans one chunk) and eat away. The perfect summer starter.

— 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).



# Puzzles

TURN, TURN, TURN

BY ROYCE FERGUSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Royce Ferguson, 34, is an American living in London, currently between jobs. He says one perk of residing in Europe is that the international edition of The New York Times prints both the Saturday and Sunday puzzles on Saturday, "enabling a regular Saturday crossword binge." He got the idea for this puzzle while on holiday in Switzerland, a nation known for its 47-Acrosses. This is Royce's crossword debut. — W.S.

ACROSS

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1969 hit for Neil Diamond

6

Big dipper?

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Event at a convention center

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Statement that may precede "Wish me luck!"

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Former Saudi king

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Alan who directed "All the President's Men"

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Sedate state

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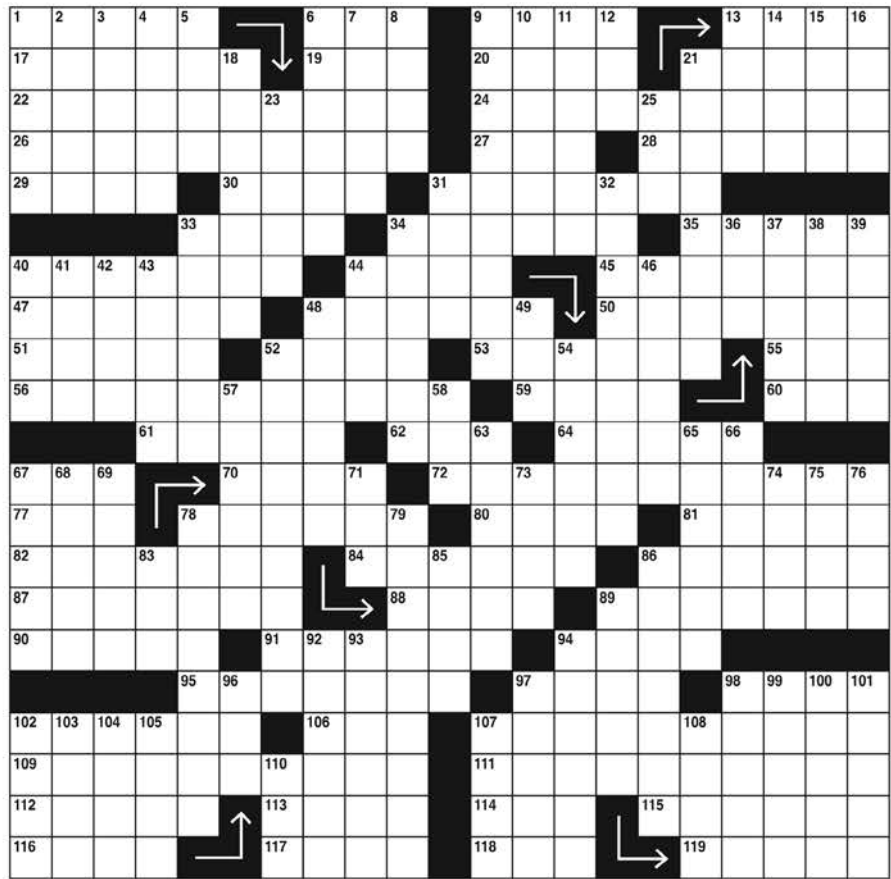
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Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



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Sedate state
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- State

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HARD - 48

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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H	E	P		W	A	L	N	U	T		N	O	T	U	P	T	O	P	A	R	
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HELP WANTED

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