



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## Berlin tax rate will stay same as last year's

Council votes for no change as decision goes to hearing

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) The Berlin Town Council on Monday voted to stick with last year's real property tax of 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value as pursues its budget for the Fiscal Year 2020/21.

Despite being limited to less than 10 people in the actual Town Hall location, residents were provided 15 minutes to ask questions regarding the town real property tax rate.

According to Mayor Gee Williams, the council will be "cutting the general fund budget," a major portion of which is dependent on property tax revenue.

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Gee Williams

## FOR YOU, MOM

Ocean Pines Yacht Club staff, from left, Chelsey Chmelik, Kearston Frey and Melissa Ruck, ship out Mother's Day feasts complete with fresh flowers and mimosas.

## Election Committee gets ready

As OP filing deadline nears, officials hope to see more candidates join board race

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) With the candidate-filing deadline for the 2020 Board of Directors contest arriving Monday, the members of the OPA Election Committee discussed their next steps during a virtual meeting last Friday.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said following the deadline for candidates to enter the contest, OPA Secretary Camilla Rogers would be responsible for submitting the list of names on the ballot.

"We're getting ready to get ready,"



Steve Habeger

he said. "We're waiting for the letter from the association secretary and then we're off and running."

OPA President Doug Parks and Director Dr. Colette Horn, both of whom were elected to their first terms in August 2017, have filed for reelection. In addition, only one other candidate, Stuart Lakernick, had entered the fray.

Habeger said a recent status update regarding newly acquired election apparatus, including a laptop and ballot scanner, was provided by OPA IT Manager Steve Grabowski.

"All the equipment that we've ordered is in, checked out [and] ready to go," he said.

Habeger said the committee would consult with ACE Printing & Mailing in Berlin, which has again been retained for ballot election and mailing services.

"They plan to lock up what ballots could look like for us ... since we're going to print our own ballots this time," he said.

New business addressed during the May 8 committee meeting included approving correspondence to be mailed to candidates no later than June 1.

Habeger said committee member Carol Ludwig had proposed revisions to one of a trio of questions included in the letter mailed to candidates.

"Carol had suggested a different statement for the question about finances, which ... is really the number

See CANDIDATE Page 10

## Pines Yacht Club comes back with tip for its workers

Prepares for multi-phase reopening of restaurant

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) Nearly two months after being laid off with two days notice due to the covid-19 pandemic, Ocean Pines Yacht Club staff members were welcomed back to work last week with warm sentiments and cold cash.

Anticipating Gov. Larry Hogan's multi-phase re-opening plan to permit outdoor dining service, two rounds of employees, 22 in sum, were brought back on board the past two Wednesdays, with each receiving a

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# Yacht club returning staff gets cash surprise

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share of a \$10,000 tip pool raised by management during their absence.

Matt Ortt Companies cofounder Ralph DeAngelus, which operates dining services at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Beach Club and Golf Clubhouse, said the plan was hatched shortly after Hogan enacted pandemic-related health-safety measures in March.

“He closed everybody on the 16th, so we opened up for deliveries on the 18th,” he said. “The staff got 48-hours notice not to come into work.”

DeAngelus said after swiftly shuttering dining services, the 11-member management team, which then assumed delivery duties, hatched a plan to collect future financial rewards for hourly staff.

“They’ve been working this whole seven weeks to acquire their goal of \$10,000 in cash tips from all these deliveries,” he said.

Speaking on Monday, DeAngelus said the benchmark was reached the previous Sunday, just three days before the first wave of staff returning on May 6.

“They had no idea they were getting that on their first day back,” he said. “The next phase of employees to get their envelopes comes back this Wednesday.”

DeAngelus said after the Yacht

Club tip drive was publicized on social media, the outpouring of support was stunning.

“The Ocean Piners who ordered from us ... were unbelievably generous (and) they over-tipped,” he said. “Some people said they knew the food would be good and abundant, but they literally just ordered to donate for the tips.”

Looking forward, DeAngelus is hopeful Hogan will opt to include outdoor dining services in phase one re-opening plans anticipated to be unveiled this Wednesday, following a concerted lobbying effort by the restaurant industry.

“Originally, it was in stage two, but we think that the Restaurant Association of Maryland put together a good package on how to do it safely,” he said. “Truthfully, it’s a solid, serious plan with a lot of safety precautions.”

While immediate plans to resume indoor dining remain uncertain, DeAngelus said the exemption for outside dining would permit operations to resume at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, and, in short order, at the Beach Club, Coastal Salt and Ralphie’s Rum Shack and the new Golf Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

“The Clubhouse does have an outdoor seating area that we would be



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
To welcome back hourly staff laid off in mid-March due to covid-19-related closures, Ocean Pines Yacht Club management amassed \$10,000 in delivery tips during their absence and distributed the first shares last Wednesday.

able to serve,” he said. “Since all of our units have outdoor seating, we would definitely without question open every single one of them.”

DeAngelus said permitting outside tables distanced six feet apart and served by staff wearing face masks, is a sensible first step as society gradually reopens.

“If [Hogan] says on Wednesday

outsides are ready to go, we are ready ... starting Friday,” he said. “Forty-eight hours later we’ll be open outside.”

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club remains open for delivery and carryout each Wednesday through Sunday, from 4-8 p.m. To order, call 410-641-7501 or order online at [www.opyachtclub.com](http://www.opyachtclub.com).



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# Berlin businesses share PPP loan experience

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) As the federal government continued its Payroll Protection Program loans from the Small Business Administration, Berlin businesses joined many others in the area seeking to keep their doors open and employees working.

The SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used primarily for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months.

For some members of the Berlin



Michelle Bruder

community, obtaining the loan was quick and easy with the right help, in the case of Michelle “Shelley” Bruder, owner of Bruder Home & Bruder Hill.

“I was one of the ones in the first round to receive it in mid-April,” Bruder said. “I was very blessed because I have a woman that I worked with very closely — she’s now at Providence State Bank in Salisbury — and she was on it right away. Getting all the paperwork together was



B. Brushmiller

kind of annoying, but it was good for me ... it gave me an opportunity to get all the paperwork together and be more organized.”

Bruder, who has two full-time employees including herself plus three part-time employees, believes the process has helped her learn more about her business. Especially since Berlin is so reliant on small businesses to survive.

“Right now, with most of the small business community being closed or not

being able to have any kind of revenue coming in, small businesses are the backbone of all communities,” she said. “And if we lose small businesses, then we’re going to be it’s not going to be good. Any kind of help we can get from anyone is wonderful.”

While Bruder was able to receive a loan fairly quickly, others had a difficult time obtaining one. For Robin Tomaselli, owner of Baked Dessert Café, she might have well have been decoding a foreign language.

“I found the application to be so confusing because I am not an attorney or  
See BERLIN Page 4

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MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Heron Park officially reopened for public use on Wednesday, May 6, by Berlin Mayor Gee Williams following an address from Gov. Larry Hogan.**

# Heron Park open for public use once again amid virus

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams announced the reopening of Heron Park last Wednesday, following Gov. Larry Hogan’s address that afternoon.

Heron Park, on 0009 Old Ocean City Blvd, is now available to the public seeking exercise and some fresh air.

“I decided to open Heron Park immediately after Gov. Hogan’s address to the public,” Williams said. “Heron park meets all the criteria – an open park space with limited outdoor areas. The

park isn’t holding any events at this time and most of the groups who go there are small. Heron Park is ideally suited at this given time.”

However, Stephen Decatur and Henry parks, which have playgrounds and other equipment, will remain closed until further notice.

“With the playground equipment, it would be very hard to manage little children during this time,” Williams said. “The governor allows tennis and other activities, however, our tennis court at Stephen Decatur is directly in the middle

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# Berlin businesses applying for federal aid

Continued from Page 3

an accountant,” Tomaselli said. “However, I am so grateful to Taylor Bank who has been super helpful during this process.”

Tomaselli, who has just recently reopened her café on Fridays and Saturdays and will be offering baked goods at the farmers market on Sundays, knows that every dollar counts, especially with the threat of losing summer income.

“This [pandemic] has been a huge

blow to us small businesses who count on festivals and other events,” she said. “Everyone knows around here that the summer is where we receive most of our income.”

Tomaselli also went on to explain that in order to survive in the winter, she had to depend on the income she took in from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Having been approved for her loan recently, she is hoping it will be enough to hold out during the pandemic.

“I’m so relieved to get something,” she said. “I hope it’s enough to get through the months ahead until everything is normal again.”

Some business owners have even more on their plates, especially when they own more than one business, like Bryan Brushmiller, who owns Burley Oak Brewing Co. and Viking Tree Trading Co.

Brushmiller, who is also in the process of renovating The Globe (and is expecting it to reopen and offer delivery by June 1), had to apply for a loan for each business separately. He has received a loan for each company very recently.

Brushmiller felt that the process to apply was pretty typical, if not tedious as the application process changed multiple times in the past month.

“I think the process is just typical process of filling out all the applications, you just had to stay on top of it,” he said. “[However,] I think it’s important to have seen a small business sector be

propped up by these funds.”

Between both of his businesses, Brushmiller had previously employed 18 people, and had to lay off four people, but is already in the process of hiring them back now that he has secured his loans.

Despite the difficulties caused by the virus, following the closure of so many small and local businesses, Brushmiller has faith that Berlin and the surrounding area will survive the pandemic.

“We’re pretty resilient people,” he said. “We’ve dealt with nor’easters and hurricanes. This isn’t the first time the town has shut down and, you know, kind of in a positive light. We’ve practiced for it.”

“I think the typical small business owners are pretty resilient,” Brushmiller continued. “And I’d say I can speak for all of us when I would say that we’re all fighters. That’s just kind of the nature of being an entrepreneur and just the nature of small business ... you always have to adapt and overcome.”

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# Berlin council considered increase of fees

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) The Berlin mayor and Town Council considered but took no action on a proposed \$50 increase in stormwater utilities for residential properties and \$10 increase for commercial properties at its meeting on Monday.

Members of the council listened to a stormwater utilities presentation that explained the history of the budget, what projects have been completed and what future projects the town has and revenues produced by the fees.

The presentation was made by EA Engineering, Science and Technology Inc. representative Darl Kolar.

The stormwater utility was created by the town in 2013, and receives its funding from the fees based on the equivalent residential unit (ERU), which is comprised of 2,100 square feet of “impervious surfaces.” In previous years, the fees for residential ERUs was \$50 per ERU and \$25 for nonresidential, or commercial, ERUs.

Since the utility was created in 2013, the program has completed eight projects since 2014, with the latest project being completed in December 2019, Kolar said.

These projects include replacing box culverts with natural stones and boulders on West Street (2014); creating a wetland along Hudson Branch for water quality (2016); installing two



Jeff Fleetwood

culverts on Flower Street (2017); an emergency storm drain replacement on West Street (2017); creating an additional wetland along Hudson Branch through William Street (2017); stormwater improvements in the area of William Street to the intersection of Graham Ave. and Nelson Street (2018) and created a gravel submerged wetland on Graham Ave. (2019).

The overall capital costs for these eight projects was \$2,273,000, with a majority of the funds coming from FEMA or Department of Natural Resources grants.

The program has four additional projects it plans to complete, begin or create the concept layout. Many of the later projects will heavily rely on grant applications to receive the funding needed to finish the job, Kolar said,

with the estimated total budget being \$3.7 million.

The costliest project is a storm drain replacement for the intersection of West Street and Abby Lane at an estimated budget of \$1.8 million. However, the council agreed it would be best to try and break up the project into smaller phases in order to use funding from grants and alleviate the financial burden for the town.

According to Kolar, the initial annual revenue estimation for 2019-2020 was \$70,000 for residential ERUs and \$200,000 for nonresidential ERUs and an additional \$300,000 from the general funds.

The actual budget for 2019-2020 saw revenues of \$169,550 and expenses of \$129,550 with available capital funds of \$40,000.

Councilmember Zackery Tyndall expressed concern about an unreported \$100,000 that was not mentioned in the presentation.

“The other \$100,000 is when the utility was established,” Kolar said. “It was the ERUs for residential [fees]. When we were going through the utility, we decided that for the nonresidential, \$50 ERU would be very stressful on those businesses, so the town decided to [reduce] their ERU. So, the actual revenue that was collected was \$100,000 down, which was that decision.”

The initial estimates included the \$100,000 that did not actually happen, Financial Director Natalie Saleh explained.

The proposed increase of \$50 for each ERU would provide the town with an estimated additional \$75,200. EA offered two options for an increase of \$10 for nonresidential stormwater utility fees for an increase in revenue by \$41,000 or a \$15 increase for an estimated additional revenue of \$61,500. These numbers were based off audited results from the previous years.

## Public hearing scheduled May 26

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) The Berlin mayor and Town Council on Monday read the first reading of the ordinance to adopt next year’s \$5.9 million general fund budget.

Unveiled at a work session meeting in April, the financial package proposed for FY 2020/21 is 4 percent less than the current budget, and represents the third decline in the budget over as many years.

According to Financial Director Natalie Saleh, little has changed in the budget draft since it was introduced in the April work session. That excludes two transfers from the sewer and

stormwater funds to be allocated to the general fund.

These two departments would be expected to contribute \$50,000 from sewer and \$25,000 from stormwater.

The public hearing and final vote on the budget are scheduled to take place Tuesday, May 26, the day after Memorial Day. Once again, the meeting will accessible through Facebook Live on the Town of Berlin Facebook page.

Fleetwood recommends residents begin sending in their comments and questions regarding the budget as soon as possible.

Written questions will be accepted to provide the mayor and council the opportunity to review and discuss by

noon on the day of the meeting. Submit the questions via email at [info@berlinmd.gov](mailto:info@berlinmd.gov), with M&C Comments as the subject line, or fax to 410-641-2316.

Questions can also be Mailed to Berlin Town Hall, with the subject of the letter M&C Comments to 10 Williams St., Berlin, MD 21811. Mail should be posted no later close of business on the Friday before the meeting to help ensure delivery.

Mail can be dropped off in one of the two drop boxes at Town Hall – one is at the rear of the building behind the stair tower, and the other is at the corner of Bay and Williams Street on the building.

## Berlin park open by mayor for use

Continued from Page 4  
of the park ... it would be impractical to reopen just the courts, so it made sense to wait a little longer.

“We put a lot of money into the courts last year,” he continued. “We have done a lot of work, so we hope people are pleased with what they see and enjoy the tennis courts without reservations.”

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood is also pleased with the decision to reopen Heron Park.

“I have not heard a lot of comments, but the ones that I have heard, people are glad that it’s open because it gives them a chance to go back down and enjoy the springtime weather,” he said. “I’m personally glad it’s open, so that people can go down and enjoy it. It’s as clean as it’s ever been down there and if citizens have any concerns or comments about anything down there, give us a call.”

All personal safety and social distancing requirements will still remain in effect. These measures include wearing masks and maintaining at least six feet of distance from others as well as limiting groups of people to no more than 10 per gathering. Pets with leashes will also be allowed at Heron Park.

For more information, call 410-641-2770.



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# Berlin expands market to Main St.

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) Members of the Berlin Town Council on Monday voted to expand the town's Sunday farmers' market to a portion of Main Street.

The motion was made by Councilmember Zackery Tyndall, after he observed that the previous Sunday market had become "somewhat congested."

"We have more vendors than we have the space. We also have several businesses that want to participate and may not have the space to be able to accommodate that," he added. "I was talking to [Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells] and I said, 'Why don't we incorporate a little bit of Main Street?'"

Tyndall mentioned that in the past, Main Street has been shut down for several events and it would be very similar.

The council agreed that the entirety of Main Street would not be shut down and used for the farmers' market, which would go only to the section that intersects Pitts and Commerce Streets. That would allow residents and drivers to be able to still use Main Street and get to their destinations, the council agreed.

"It will provide extra revenue to our shops, and it will provide extra revenue downtown," Tyndall said. "It will also provide more room for people to social distance."

Wells is thrilled with the idea. "We love that the market is growing," she said. "It shows the commitment to supporting our local farmers and businesses."

The farmers' market will take place every Sunday from until Aug. 30 on Pitts Street, Commerce Street and now the section of Main Street that intersects the two other streets. Local farmers and other vendors will sell everything from fresh produce to spirits, soap, coffee, baked goods and other materials.

As per the governor's regulations,



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Market Coordinator Garrett Neeb and Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells display one of the recyclable Berlin Farmers Market shopping bags available for \$10 during the opening day of the market on Sunday, May 3.

farmers markets are allowed to be open provided they are outdoors and ensure that patrons maintain the six-foot 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 reminds the public that the town is simply following the guidelines provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and ask that residents do not bring their dogs to the market.

"Please do not bring your dogs," Wells said. "It totally kills me, because we are so pet friendly. But unfortunately, for this period of time, not to the market."

According to Wells, more vendors are being added to the market, including Mumford Shellfish, which is well known for its oysters sold at various local restau-

rants and scallops from a local aqua-farmer. In June, the market will be expecting Bennett Orchards to join as well, which offers a variety of fruits but are most famous for its blueberries and peaches.

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 reminds residents that customers should bring exact change to minimize the exchange of currency as much as possible, or bring other forms of payment like checks or credit cards.

The council voted unanimously to expand into Main Street, with the exception of Councilmember Dean Burrell, who was absent.

For more information about the Berlin Farmers Market, contact Wells at iwells@berlinmd.gov or call 410-629-1722.

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# Ocean Pines Golf Course comes back to life

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) The Ocean Pines Golf Course sprang back to life this weekend following Gov. Larry Hogan's decision last Wednesday to include 18-holes on the links among expanded outdoor activities permitted under the current stay-at-home order.

Starting May 7 in Maryland, a slight return to normalcy went into effect that broadened the range of allowable outdoors recreational pursuits, including golf, tennis and other solo or small group sports. Additionally, the state action opened up outdoor fitness lessons, recreational boating, fishing and hunting, as well as reopening closed facilities at state parks and state beaches.

General Manager of Golf Operations John Malinowski said players began teeing off again on Saturday, with extra care taken to adhere to covid-19 related health safety mandates in place, including proper social distancing.

"Everyone's trying to do as much as they can to lessen the touch points," he said. "When we're sanitizing the golf carts ... that's easy to do, but every time someone touches something ... you have to sanitize it again."

Malinowski said to reduce repeated surface contacts, hole depths have been tweaked to eliminate the need to pull flagpoles.

"We put a piece of foam on the bottom [so] that the ball doesn't go down in the hole all the way," he said. "You easily retrieve it without touching the flag."

The golf course guidelines issued for resumption of play limit bag checks to within 15 minutes of tee time. At this point, only credit card payments are allowed, with no cash accepted. In accordance with Worcester County liquor laws, alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the course.

The golf shop and clubhouse remain



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Adhering to covid-19-related health safety mandates, this foursome closes out the back nine at the Ocean Pines Golf Course on Sunday afternoon.

closed until further notice.

The guidelines for member play limit its groups to foursomes, who can either walk or ride in separate carts.

Two people residing together can share a cart, which will be sanitized after each user.

Ocean Pines Golf Committee member Olga Novy, who ventured out for a round with her husband on Sunday, found the experience uplifting.

"It was good to get out there," she said. "It's healthy out in the fresh air."

Novy noted proper social distancing was followed during bag check and all attendants wore facemasks.

"It feels like it's a safe environment," she said.

Outside of maintaining health safety mandates, Malinowski said the next challenge involves Mother Nature, with chilly and windy conditions on Saturday slightly tempered by Sunday.

"The weather this week now is looking a whole lot better than it was last week," he said. "It was too bad that it was sunny and warm, then we get the go ahead order and it turned kind of cruddy."

OPA Board member Larry Perrone visited the course on Monday and was impressed with ground conditions following offseason improvements to reduce wet spots.

"The golf maintenance people put in several drains within the golf course," he said. "The whole area between the 18th to 10th hole was a wet area."

Perrone also noted the cart path was

updated to reduce rough spots from tree roots.

"The pavers did a great job," he said.

Perrone credited General Manager John Viola and the golf maintenance staff for ongoing work to selectively remove trees.

"It helps air circulation which helps dry out the course after rains," he said.

With course activities authorized to resume, the phones have been abuzz, Malinowski said.

"We're starting to get filled up for this coming week and weekend," he said. "Each day the weather looks like it's getting better."

Malinowski said the unsurprising general sentiment last weekend was jovial.

"It's been fun seeing people ... get out and do some stuff with their buddies," he said. "Even if they're standing six feet apart, they're having a good time."

To book tee times call 4-641-6057 x2. Currently online reservations are suspended. Updated modifications will be posted on the Ocean Pines Golf Clubs Facebook page and Twitter feed and also at [oceanpinesgolf.org](http://oceanpinesgolf.org).

## Ocean Pines Memorial Day event canceled due to virus

(May 14, 2020) Memorial Day services at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines have been canceled, because of executive orders limiting gatherings in Maryland.

The annual service had been scheduled for Memorial Day, May 25.

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation will hold a modified Flags for Heroes display in the field between Route 589 and the veteran's memorial.

Each year, flags are placed in honor of local heroes, including servicemen and women, first responders, teachers, family members, doctors and hospital workers, or anyone who has been an inspiration. This year, the Memorial

Foundation will also honor those on the front lines of the covid-19 response.

Flag sponsorships are \$50, and flags will be on display from Armed Forces Day, May 16, through Flag Day on June 14.

The project is co-sponsored by Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin and Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

For sponsorship forms, visit [www.opvets.org/events/flags-for-heroes-2020](http://www.opvets.org/events/flags-for-heroes-2020). The Memorial Foundation is also seeking corporate sponsors, with sponsorship levels ranging from \$250 to \$2,000.

For more information, contact Cliff Berg at 302-540-2127 or email [cliff0917@aol.com](mailto:cliff0917@aol.com).

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# Windmill Creek hosts weekly farmers market

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery is expanding, in a way, with the addition of its own farmers market from 4-7 p.m. every Friday.

Located at 11206 Worcester Hwy, the vineyard already sells wine and offers community gardening, but more can be done with the 12.5-acre property, owners Barry and Jeanine Mariner, along with daughter Brittany, said. To that end, they have been inviting local vendors to sell everything from cookware, paintings to self-care products and, of course, wine.

“We thought about doing it last season, but we were so swamped when we opened,” Brittany said. “Then this whole coronavirus thing came out and obviously we had a little bit more time on our hands. So, we were able to put all this into effect.”

The family wanted to hold an open market in the afternoon, since most other markets take place in the morning.

“I’m encouraging people to go to all the markets,” Barry said. “I think the open air is the way to go.”

The Mariners have been making the best of the covid-19 situation, selling their wines and homemade meals through carryout and delivery and allowing 69 10-foot x 20-foot plots to be used for commercial farming.

The first market of the season took place last Friday with 10 vendors, though a few more had arranged to participate



Brittany Mariner

but canceled because of the weather. Still, Brittany said the inaugural edition was successful.

“We had an awesome turnout, honestly ... way more than we expected,” she said. “But we were able to manage the crowd and keep social distancing in mind. All the vendors seemed very happy. I knew a couple of them completely sold out.”

More vendors are expected to join, with the family planning to have anywhere from 15-20 participants, including some vegetable farmers, at each market regularly. As the market grows, the Mariners plan to work on better parking and location spaces for vendors and customers.

The Mariners are following the guidelines created by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, with attendees being advised that they must wear masks at all times and should not bring their pets or children to the market space. Guests are advised to bring no more than two people per group during the restrictions.

“We are trying to keep with the regulations and keep everybody be safe and healthy,” Brittany said. “We’re not telling them that they can’t bring them, but it’s discouraged ... we want to keep the market as limited in crowds as possible.”



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Esthetician Christy Stone, of Berlin, sells natural skin care and spa products at the first Windmill Creek Farmers Market, Friday, May 8.

This being said, the market is being kept primarily on the right side of the property, so those who do have children or pets may bring them to the winery, but must remain on the opposite side of the market space.

“We don’t want to discourage people from bringing out their kids to get some fresh air,” Jeanine said. “We just don’t want them all congregated together inside the market area.”

The Mariners plan to continue with the farmers markets every Friday after the stay at home order and other restrictions are

lifted, and hope to make it a permanent part of their Friday activities, where they usually have live music and wine tastings.

“We’re going to actually be doing the Friday night music like we usually do and we’ll have that going on during the market so people can wander around, drink wine on the property, do some shopping ... it should be a good time,” Jeanine said.

For more information about Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery, visit [www.windmillcreekvineyard.com](http://www.windmillcreekvineyard.com) or call 410-251-6122.

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# Berlin's general fund less than last year's

Continued from Page 1

"It's being considered ... we're not doing anything [about the general fund] tonight," he said. "The general fund budget is being considered for the new fiscal year at \$5.9 million, that's a reduction of \$244,600 or 4 percent below the current budget."

Williams also mentioned that this would be the third straight year the general fund budget would be decreasing.

Resident Marie Velong asked via Facebook Live messaging what the revenue difference would be if the property tax rate remains the same as last year, even though the town's assessable base did increase in 2019.

Financial Director Natalie Saleh replied that the town would see an increase of about \$153,000, or 4 per-



Zack Tyndall

cent more.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the town's cash flow is going to be "significantly delayed or decreased" as a result of this pandemic, meaning the numbers

originally estimated in the budget may not be what the town originally anticipated.

Property owners have been offered an extension up to six months without penalties for late filing or payment of taxes, which could affect the assessable base by up to \$3 million, Saleh said.

As a result of the pandemic, councilmember Zackery Tyndall recommended that the town reduce the rate

to the state's constant yield rate estimate of 78 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The constant yield rate is the state's estimate of what a jurisdiction would charge to bring in the same revenue in brought in the year before.

"If we can provide that little bit of economic relief, in a time where there's a lot of uncertainty and a lot of things that people ... just don't know if they can [afford] sometimes ... I would like us to at least take a serious look at the constant yield rate," he said. "I think that it's doable and people won't lose their jobs, I don't think any services would be cut."

If the number was adopted, according to Tyndall, the results would have made a 2 percent decrease in property taxes "for the people of Berlin whole keeping the revenue of

the town unchanged from last year."

This suggestion, however, was not ideal for Fleetwood and Williams.

"We hear about all this financial relief [but] it does not affect small towns," Williams said. "We are not part of that. We don't get diddly. People pay more because the property values went up and they have to, by law, to appeal that. If they feel that the assessed value should go up, that's between them and the county."

"We have to pay our bills," he continued. "Holding the rate is responsible ... we didn't create the problem ... but protecting Berlin is our commitment."

The council voted in approval of the plan with a vote of 3-1, with Tyndall in opposition and Dean Burrell absent from the meeting.

# Candidate questions made more specific

Continued from Page 1

one topic in the association," he said. "It begins and ends with money."

Ludwig said the query should include mention of the OPA budget.

"The budget is very cumbersome for people the first time they have to go through it," she said. "Just mentioning that word may get them to look at the budget instead of just an individual item."

Committee member Mark Heintz said in an earlier email Ludwig had proposed inserting the term to revise the previously used question to state: What do you think about Ocean Pines budgeting and finance? Do you have suggestions on improvements?

Ludwig said in past board elections candidates often focused answers on individual topics, such as

assessment fees or bulkhead funding.

Habeger said the questions included in the candidate letter are intended as a precursor for expanded discussions during an election forum.

"We want to encourage the candidates to think as broadly as possible at this time and then in the forum we'll have the opportunity to have read their input and ask more specifics," he said.

Further modifications were put forth by Committee member Mary Anne Whitcomb, who took exception to a question that asked what candidates would bring to the OPA Board.

"Do we have anything more hard hitting or topical?" she said. "That's kind of a softball."

Whitcomb noted another question previously included about each candidate's top two priorities is of a sim-

ilar vein.

Habeger proposed asking candidates to describe talents and skills they would bring to the board if elected.

The committee voted unanimously to approve both suggested revisions to questions included in the candidate correspondence.

Following the letter's mailing, the Election Committee is scheduled to meet on June 12 for a candidate workshop.

"The workshop is for us to talk to the candidates and tell them about the rules, the schedule (and) all that stuff that they need to know," Habeger said.

Varying topics will be divided among the election committee members, including reviewing governing resolutions.

Details for a candidate forum set for June 17 at 7 p.m. will also be reviewed, with a second forum set for June 27 at 10 a.m. if required.

"The candidates don't have to participate in anything but they're certainly invited and encouraged," he said. "We want to tell them what the schedule looks like so we can give them a chance to engage."

During the June 12 meeting, a candidate draw will be conducted for forum seating assignments and question order.

Habeger said depending upon covid-19-related restrictions on public gatherings, the candidate workshop could be a virtual event.

"We could do the same meeting as today where candidates could watch and participate virtually if we're under the same restrictions we are now," he said.

Committee board liaison Steve Tuttle said unless more candidates file by the deadline, the board would be required to seek other entries to meet the bylaws' requirement to have at least two more candidates than vacant seats.

Habeger said if that should happen, the board would have to solicit candidates.

"It's interesting how some people start talking about being a candidate months early and others wait until the last minute," he said. "Our target is to get the ballots and all the material out no later than the 10th of July."

The deadline for voters to submit ballots is Aug. 5, with results compiled two days later and validated during the OPA annual meeting on Aug. 8.

As of close of business on Monday no additional parties filed candidacy paperwork for the 2020 OPA Board election.

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# PPP funds aid Pines businesses

East Coast Construction, 5 Star Plumbing, Heating use money to retain staff

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) As numerous enterprises flirt with economic disaster during the covid-19 pandemic, the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program has kept two small business owners in Ocean Pines fiscally sound.

East Coast Construction owner Dale Christensen was able to maintain operations after receiving close to \$100,000 through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.

Christensen said the low to no-interest loan has enabled his dozen employees to keep earning and avoid the unemployment rolls.

"We didn't want to let our people go, we wanted to keep everybody working," he said.

Congress released \$349 billion on April 3 for the first round of PPP funding, following the March passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

The financial relief has also assisted West Ocean City based 5 Star Plumbing Heating & Cooling, with owner Joe Magnolia able to bolster staffing levels after initially laying off four of 15 employees during the pandemic.

"We applied for the PPP right away and we ended up getting it about two and a half weeks ago," he said. "We've already used it for two payrolls."

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kerrie Bunting said the initial PPP funding, and a subsequent allotment, were both quickly depleted.

In response to the inability of many businesses to initially access the loan program, on April 23 Congress approved a second round of funding, including \$310 billion for PPP, \$75 billion for hospitals, \$25 billion for covid-19 testing and addi-

tional funds for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

"We knew it was going to go fast because so many people got shut out that first time," she said. "The first time that this [second round] went through, of course, the web site crashed."

For his part, Christensen said being approved for the first round of funding was a matter of timing.



Dale Christensen

"We heard about it and put in our application right away because we wanted to get our people working," he said.

After working closely with M&T Bank on Manklin Creek Road, in short order East Coast Construction was notified funds were available.

"It took about two weeks and the money just got put into our account," he said. "We had to sign paperwork because there's no guarantee it's going to be forgiven [but] they said part of it could be forgiven."



Kerrie Bunting

Under the PPP guidelines, loan amounts used for payroll costs are forgivable, as well as less than 25 percent

of awarded sums for mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs incurred before Feb. 15 and paid over the eight-week period after loan receipt.

Magnolia said in addition to returning staff, the funding would likely help to offset decreased profit margins.

"Since we've gotten the PPP ... people have retuned," he said. "The PPP is going to help supplement rent (and) utilities, which is going to help with lost revenue."

Christensen said the financial windfall has proved vital to keep operations rolling.

"It afforded the ability to keep our contracts with people and continue

working," he said. "We were able to give our customers the same service and explain to them it's going to take us a little bit longer because we can't put our guys on a job together [as] we're trying to keep all our guys separate."

Despite the array of safety mandates issued in Maryland, select industries have been permitted to maintain business practices.

"Construction workers in Maryland were allowed to keep working, but we as owners had to very cognizant of our employees and our customers," he said.

The coronavirus has severely altered work procedures, Christensen said.

"We're not putting people in houses," he said. "Unless it's an emergency, we won't put people in homes where there's a lot of people."

Safety precautions have also dramatically slowed the number of projects being completed.

"It takes a lot more time and our guys have to wear masks," he said. "We disinfect things before we go in there and we keep guys pretty much by themselves."

Further slow-downs have been experienced while trying to source supplies.

"You've got to wait in line just to get in the store because they're only letting so many people in now," he said. "We might wait an hour [or more] to get one of our guys in to get some materials."

Magnolia said 5 Star has run up against comparable challenges with suppliers.

"They weren't letting us in the door, so we were having to wait in parking lots and have material brought out to us," he said.

Christensen said without PPP funding keeping the business open would have been less feasible.

"We would have worked just to break even or lose money if we wouldn't have had the help," he said. "Even if they don't forgive it all it becomes a two-year loan at 1 percent interest."

# Md. Food Bank aided by Choptank Electric with funding support

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) Recognizing food insecurity issues have heightened during the covid-19 pandemic, Choptank Electric Trust recently donated \$10,000 to support nutritional assistance campaigns operated by the Maryland Food Bank.

Eastern Shore Food Bank Director of Programs Jennifer Small said the financial backing would bolster the Maryland Food Bank's Mobile Pantry-on-the-Go and School Pantry Programs.

"For Worcester County, this gift provided nearly \$1,000 towards food purchases in response to expanded community distribution efforts and heightened demand expected as a result of COVID-19," she said.

The extra funds earmarked for Worcester County are supporting the School Pantry Program at Buckingham Elementary School, conducted with network partners from Sharing the Harvest and Sunrise Church.

"MFB partners with schools to provide a reliable source of healthy food to families and surrounding communities throughout the school year," she said. "The School Pantry Program minimizes the stigma sometimes attached to food assistance by offering it in a familiar setting that is already part of families' everyday lives."

Small said the program has been run for over eight years in the Eastern Shore, with participating schools employing numerous means to distribute sustenance to children and families in need.

"It helps to provide much needed food to food insecure families, individuals, children and seniors ... on Maryland's shore," she said.

During the covid-19 pandemic extra effort has been required to meet the Food Bank's mission.

"As second responders, the Maryland Food Bank is continuing to operate normal food distribution programming, albeit in a customized way, and is working hard to continue core operations amidst this public health crisis," she said.

Small said the Food Bank has been able to leverage its distribution system to maintain food supplies.

"We're buying food by the truckload to ensure

See SHORE Page 13



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# OP PT owner, mother create masks for essential workers

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) A local physical therapy business has been providing masks for essential workers through the northern Worcester County communities since mid-April.

William "Billy" Hamilton, who owns Hamilton Physical Therapy in Ocean Pines, and his mother, Carol, have been providing hundreds of homemade masks for protection against spreading covid-19 through Ocean Pines and Berlin.

"My mom ... she's always had an interest in sewing," Hamilton said. "She's been sewing my whole life. So, when this whole thing started some of her friends that worked at hospitals in the D.C. area (the Washington Hospital Center), they asked for masks. She started making masks for them with whatever material they needed to be made out of."

Most of the masks people are required to wear when going out in public will not prevent the wearer from getting the virus, but they can help stop the spread of the virus, which is why the governor has required masks when going out in public.

Carol began creating masks for her friends and her son and daughter-in-law, Jen, but eventually she began making masks for her son's older clients.

Carol and her husband moved to Ocean Pines two years ago and she wanted to help make a difference in her community.

"When all of this happened, I was already in some sewing groups on Facebook and everybody was talking about making these masks," she said. "I'd always wanted to somehow give back to the community, but I didn't know how. I got on YouTube and looked at all the different ones they were doing and I thought, 'I can do that.' So, I pulled out all my scraps and I started making them too."

Carol has even begun receiving donated materials who are a part of her Facebook groups, sending fabric and even elastic, which makes creating the masks much easier, she said.

Hamilton has been taking the masks made by his mother and delivering them to essential workers throughout Berlin and Ocean Pines, especially for town employees and nursing homes like Gull Creek Senior Center and The Woodlands in Ocean Pines as well the Berlin Police Department.

"The masks are going to help you stop spreading it to anybody else," Hamilton said. "It's necessary, especially for these Woodland and Gull Creek employees so that they don't spread what they may

See HAMILTON Page 15



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## Shore school pantry program

Continued from Page 12  
our shelves and the shelves of our community partners are stocked," she said.

Other emergency means deployed by feeding partners include drive-through pick up in school parking lots and home deliveries for self-isolating individuals or families.

"Many school pantry coordinators cannot get into their schools due to closures and are creatively working in collaboration with teachers, community members and volunteers to continue to serve children and their families," she said.

Choptank Electric Cooperative Trust Vice Chairman Tom Terry said the nine-member board approved the donation that would assist approximately 5,000 families in its service region at 14 different distribution points through next month.

"This was an exciting time for the Trust where it could, in a special way, leverage Choptank Electric member Round-Up donations to work with other nonprofit organizations to focus on a region wide major project to meet a critical need for our communities and families," he said.

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# Hamilton provides masks to Berlin PD, caretakers

Continued from Page 13  
have gotten when they've gone out, gone home and come back to work ... it's necessary they don't spread to the residents because those residents are at high risk."

According to Hamilton, his mother has made well over 400 masks since she started three or four weeks ago.

"She was just making masks for friends and for our company," he said. "And then she started reaching out to other people that were letting her know that they needed some, so she just started making more. Now it's kind of snowballed where she was making a few a day and now she's making masks nonstop all day."

In fact, Carol has been working so diligently on the project that she has acquired a treadle machine and an additional five sewing machines to keep up the work. She has begun teaching her granddaughter how to sew so that she would be able to make masks for her friends.

In Berlin, Hamilton has delivered 40 masks to Town of Berlin employees and 11 to the Berlin Police Department.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen was appreciative of the generosity of Hamilton and Carol.

"Our Town employees, particularly

our sanitation and utility personnel, were very grateful for the donation," she said.

Police Chief Arnold Downing was also pleased with the donation, especially since his department has been in constant need of supplies for themselves and their Adopt a Senior Program since the pandemic began affecting Worcester County. Some of the masks they received even went directly to that program.

"Roughly eight subjects are on that [Adopt a Senior Program] list," Downing said. "We go to the assisted living community, and we find out what the individuals living there might need. Quite a few of them don't have vehicles and others are afraid to go out."

Downing and his crew collected more supplies on Wednesday to provide for the seniors in the program, and was grateful for the supplies provided by Hamilton and other members of the community.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we're doing without the support and help from the community," he said. "There's been a whole lot of businesses and individual members assisting us realizing how difficult this actual situation has been. So, again, we're just truly blessed to have a supportive community."



PHOTOS COURTESY BILLY HAMILTON  
**William "Billy" Hamilton, owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy Cares in Ocean Pines, holds dozens of homemade masks that his mother, Carol, made for essential workers throughout Worcester County.**

Overall, Hamilton and Carol are just happy to be able to help their community in any way they can.

"I don't want anything for this," Carol said. "I'm seeing people selling them on the Facebook groups and I just don't think that's appropriate. Everybody I know personally is really thrilled to get these masks. I hope everybody's able to use them."

For more information or to ask Hamilton about receiving a mask, contact Hamilton at [Billy@hamiltonpt-cares.com](mailto:Billy@hamiltonpt-cares.com).

# Police look into fatal accident

(May 14, 2020) Maryland State Police continue their investigation into a crash that killed one person and injured another early Tuesday morning in Worcester County.

Around 5 a.m., troopers from the Berlin Barrack responded to a reported crash in the area of southbound Route 113 at Shad Landing.

According to a preliminary investigation, a male was driving a 2020 Hyundai Elantra, when for unknown reasons, he drove off the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver, whose identity has not been confirmed, was pronounced deceased at the scene by emergency medical service personnel.


His body was been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore for an autopsy.

A passenger in the vehicle, a female from Norfolk, Virginia, was transported via Maryland State Police helicopter to Peninsula Regional Medical Center for treatment of her injuries.

The roadway was partially closed for approximately five hours in the area of the crash. The Maryland State Crash Team is investigating the crash.

Deputies from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and personnel from the Snow Hill Fire Department assisted at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation.




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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.

## Constant yield rate discussion platform

With the arrival of every new year and the government budget planning process that begins shortly thereafter, we hear the term “Constant Yield Rate.”

Unfortunately, it’s frequently misrepresented as the gold ring that every budget planner should aim for, even though that is not the case.

The constant yield rate is more of a budgetary guidepost than it is a goal, since it has no bearing on what the tax rate might or needs to be. In one respect, it’s a number that results from looking forward and backward at the same time.

The constant yield rate is computed by the state Department Of Assessments and Taxation every year for each of Maryland’s taxing authorities — the 23 counties, every municipality and Baltimore City.

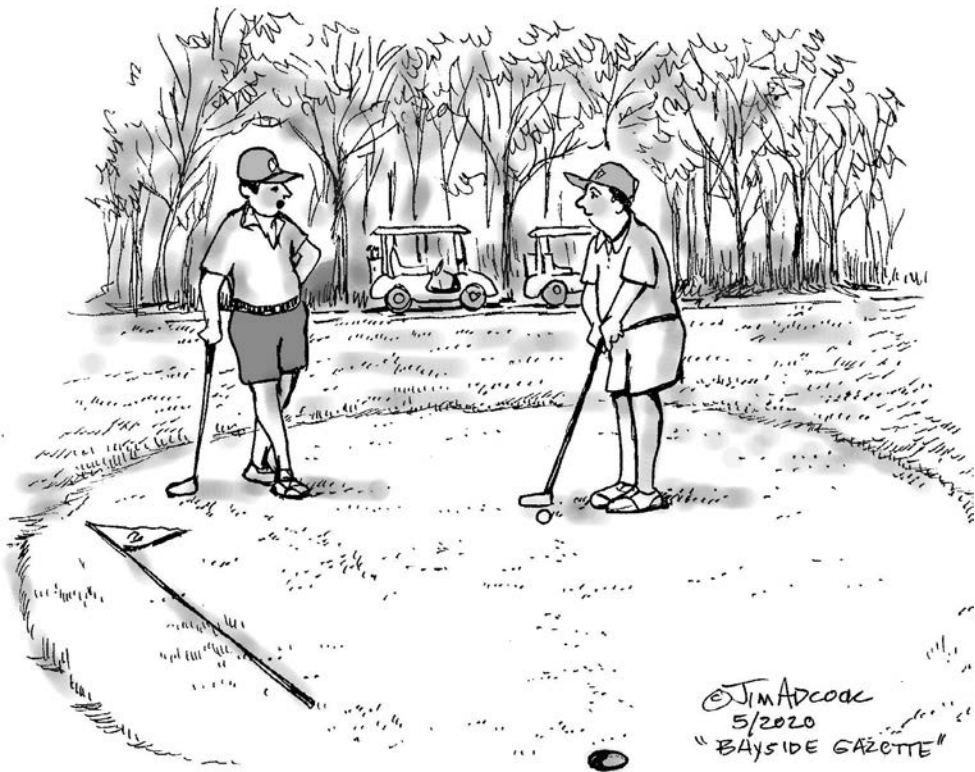
To produce the number, the office looks at a jurisdiction’s tax revenue and the assessed value of all its property, or tax base, for the year just ending.

It then factors in the changes that will occur in the tax base for the year ahead. New properties added to the rolls are part of that, as are the reassessments the state performs every three years, and all the adjustments in between.

Using the earlier year’s tax revenue and the upcoming year’s tax base, it calculates what the tax rate would be to generate the same amount of tax money as the year before if applied to the new assessed value of real property. In other words, the constant yield rate could also be called the “constant income rate.”

That would make for a much clearer picture, as most people accept that no government — just like households and businesses — can operate on the same amount of income year after year. Expenses, including those government can’t control, generally go up.

The constant yield rate is the state-provided starting point for local government budgeting. What happens after that — whether the local rate goes up, down or stays the same — is between government and the public. The constant yield rate itself is just the launching platform for that discussion.



“No, Governor Hogan did not say every 6 foot putt was a gimme.”

## Pines second safest ‘city’ in Maryland

(May 14, 2020) Once again, Ocean Pines is being recognized as one of the safest communities in Maryland.

The latest report from website Safewise, published on April 20, lists Ocean Pines as the second safest “city” in Maryland, just behind Taneytown. Ocean Pines ranked number seven on the 2019 list of “Maryland’s Safest Cities.”

This year, no other community in the area made the top 10.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings. The 2020 rankings were based on

2018 FBI crime reports, the most recent available at the time.

In compiling its rankings, the site considers both violent and property crime rates, and then averages those against the total population, per 1,000 people.

According to Safewise, Ocean Pines had a violent crime rate of 1.1 instances per 1,000 people and a property crime rate of 4.2 per 1,000. Both of those figures are lower than the prior two years.

Taneytown had a higher property crime rate, 7.2, but reported no incidences of violent

crime in 2018, according to Safewise.

Nearby Salisbury ranked 34th on the safest cities list, followed by Cambridge at 35 and Ocean City at 38.

“We’re proud to serve the citizens of Ocean Pines, where the goal is always to keep crime as low as possible,” Police Chief David Massey said. “It’s a great community and we get a lot of citizen involvement that helps us continue to be one of the safest communities in the state.”

To view the full report, visit <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-maryland>.

BAYSIDE

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P.O. Box 3500, Ocean City, Md. 21843

Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

EDITOR ..... Stewart Dobson

MANAGING EDITOR..... Lisa Capitelli

STAFF WRITERS ..... Greg Ellison, Morgan Pilz,

..... Joshua Kim, Elizabeth Bonin

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER ..... Elaine Brady

ACCOUNT MANAGERS..... Mary Cooper

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS MANAGER .... Nancy MacCubbin

SENIOR DESIGNER ..... Susan Parks

GRAPHIC ARTISTS ..... Kelly Brown, Kyle Phillips

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## Deadline for art competition May 21

(May 14, 2020) Congressman Andy Harris (MD-01) announced that the deadline for the 2020 Congressional Art Competition has been extended to May 21.

The competition recognizes talented high school artists from around the country, and is supported by the entirety of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Winners from each congressional district will have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for one year.

All high school students in Maryland’s First Congressional District are encouraged to apply.

“I am pleased to announce that the House of Representatives is once again sponsoring a nation-wide high school art competition this spring, and I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the talented young artists of Maryland’s First District,” Congressman Harris said. “Each year I am thoroughly impressed by the submissions we receive and am

honored to display the First District runners-up in my offices. I am excited to see the winning piece from the First Congressional District hanging in the U.S. Capitol.”

Since the first Congressional Art Competition in 1982, over 650,000 high school students have submitted their art work to the competition judges.

For full competition guidelines, visit <https://harris.house.gov/services/art-competition>.



# WCAC and WCDC partnering to raise awareness of autism

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(May 14, 2020) The Worcester County Art Council and the Worcester County Developmental Center have created an art exhibit that can be viewed from the art council’s website.

The exhibit does not officially have a theme, according to Executive Director Anna Mullis, however, it does focus on educating the public about “autism as a mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people.”

Twenty-five pieces were created by members of the Worcester County Developmental Center and will be on display at the arts council website: [www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org) until the end of May.

“The Worcester County Arts Council collaborated and partnered with the Worcester County Developmental Center to highlight the importance of community inclusion, to raise public awareness about the challenges people with intellectual and developmental disabilities encounter on a regular basis, and to celebrate our differences through the creative process of art,” Mullis said. “People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often



Anna Mullis

have difficulty communicating in conventional ways.

“Creative art expression allows them to relay their feelings, and empowers them with a way to display ideas and vision with visual and tactile aids,” she continued. “The art has often become a tool for communication and the arts council wanted to provide a platform for them to express their creative voices.”

The virtual exhibit features 25 pieces of artwork created by the Worcester County Developmental Center’s clients and showcases the talents of residents with disabilities who participate in various art programs and activities at the center.

Originally, the exhibit was going to be displayed at the Worcester County Art Council’s gallery located inside the Worcester County Berlin library branch. However, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the physical libraries have been closed.

Instead, the council created a video of the exhibit that can be viewed from their website or from the Worcester County Library’s website.

“This exhibit focuses on ability, not disability, and, through those creations



PHOTO COURTESY TINA JOHNSON

This art piece, created by Brandon Lawson, a client of Worcester County Developmental Center, will be on display with 27 other pieces through a virtual exhibit held in collaboration with the Worcester County Arts Council.

of artistic expressions, viewers get an insight into the artists’ capabilities,” Mullis said. “At the time of distancing and isolation, I feel it gives us (the Arts Council) an opportunity to promote inclusion and social connection.”

The artwork is for sale, and the Worcester County Arts Council has provided financial support in form of the Arts in Education grant to the Worcester County Developmental Center for the purchase of art supplies

for their clients to “allow them continue their art classes online and express their creativity at home.”

For more information about the Worcester County Arts Council, contact Mullis at [curator@worcester-countyartscouncil.org](mailto:curator@worcester-countyartscouncil.org). For information about the Worcester County Developmental Center and artwork inquiries, contact Art Program Coordinator Tina Johnson at [johnson@wcdecservices.org](mailto:johnson@wcdecservices.org).



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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## NJROTC PROGRAM

A Black Hawk downing on the grounds of Stephen Decatur High School was not the only exciting event that students and staff members experienced in late February. The NJROTC program hosted several military personnel of all ranks to discuss leadership skills and career opportunities with the armed forces.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## CLUBS REPORT

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is supporting Student Leadership Program (SLP) clubs in the local schools. During the March 4 meeting, the Kiwanis Club advisors to these SLP clubs reported on activities and accomplishments of each SLP club. Pictured, from left, are Skip McComas (Berlin Intermediate School Builders Club), Wilma and Ralph Chinn (Buckingham Elementary K-Kids), Candy Foreman (Showell K-Kids) and Roy Foreman (Stephen Decatur High School Key Club).



PHOTO COURTESY MAUREEN BALL

## FAMILY FUN

Steve Ball and his three children, Ava, 11, Lila, 7, and Ryan, 5, of West Ocean City, made the best of the day on Sunday, March 22, with a Christmas party. They wore Christmas pajamas all day, baked cookies, listened to Christmas music and watched a holiday movie.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## ART AWARDS

Students from Worcester County high schools received awards in the annual art competition organized and sponsored by the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club. Judges Geo McElroy, left, and Thomas Hogan, right, are pictured with the winners.



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

## WINNER

Elizabeth Thornton of Snow Hill High School won first place in the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club's art contest.



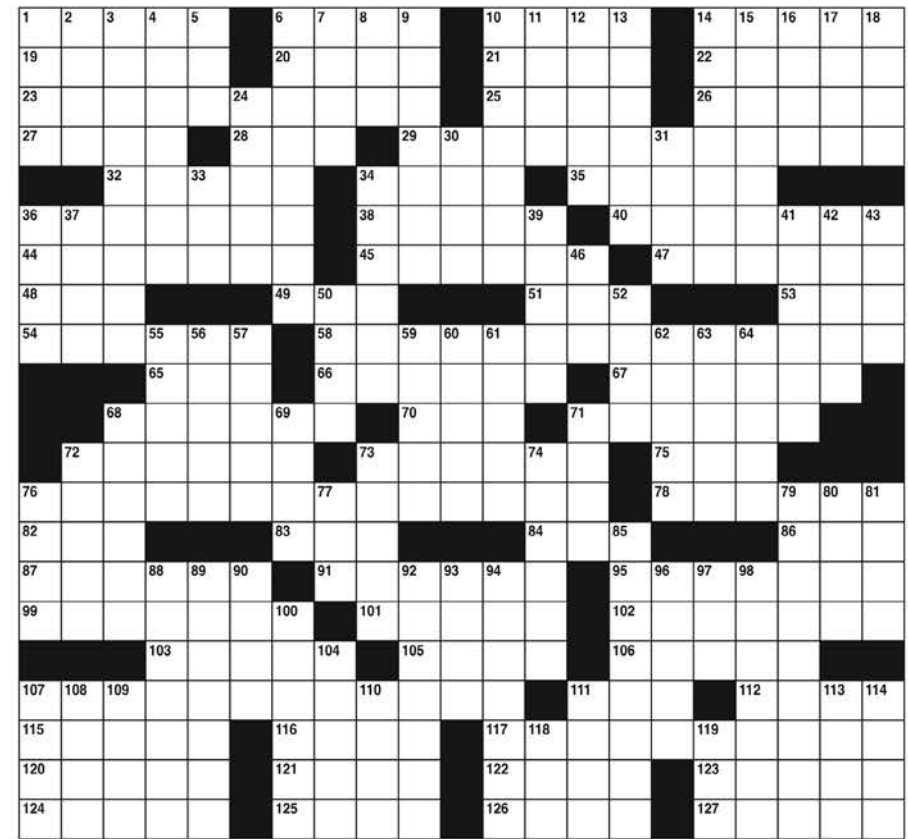
# Puzzles

## SHIFTING SOUNDS

BY BEN ZIMMER AND BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ben Zimmer is the language columnist for The Wall Street Journal, a contributing writer for The Atlantic and a former language columnist for The New York Times. Brendan Emmett Quigley is a professional crossword constructor. They met some 12 years ago when Brendan began contributing crosswords to the Visual Thesaurus, where Ben was the executive editor. The making of this puzzle — brainstorming the theme, filling the grid and writing the clues — was a full collaboration. Brendan has had many puzzles in The Times. This is Ben's debut. — W.S.

- ACROSS**  
1 Smashing  
6 Wide-eyed in wonder  
10 Woofer output  
14 Casual vodka order  
19 Bubbling  
20 Pricey  
21 Alma mater of Grant and Lee: Abbr.  
22 Board-game piece  
23 Dog's order at a malt shop?  
25 The "day" in "seize the day"  
26 "Arrival" visitor  
27 You can see right through it  
28 Part of H.M.S.  
29 "Game of Thrones" patriarch has difficulties?  
32 Zora Neale Hurston's "\_\_\_\_ Eyes Were Watching God"  
34 Stand-up comic Kondabolu  
35 Drum heard in raga music  
36 Creator of Christopher Robin  
38 Beat out by a hair  
40 Big name in ratings  
44 Male sailors  
45 Words of affirmation  
47 Upscale  
48 Android alternative  
49 \_\_\_\_ Mahal  
51 Kind of diet
- 53 Chest muscle, informally  
54 The "S" of 48-Across  
58 Advised a chess player to attack the king?  
65 Spanish unit of time with a tilde  
66 Yoda, to Luke  
67 Shows as an encore presentation  
68 A fingerprint can leave one  
70 Cell no., say  
71 Strips of weapons  
72 Coming from two speakers  
73 Frequent choice for maid of honor  
75 Deg. for an aspiring attorney abroad  
76 Part of Disney's advertising budget?  
78 How some pranks might go  
82 Constellation with a palindromic name  
83 Scat syllable for Sinatra  
84 Hula loop  
86 Academy Award winner for "Moonlight" and "Green Book"  
87 Dr. Seuss character who becomes "King of the Mud"  
91 Sushi condiment  
95 Birds that can recognize themselves in mirrors  
99 Beyond sad, or beyond happy  
101 Some piercing spots  
102 Categorically stated
- 103 Indubitably  
105 Bellybutton fluff  
106 Bordeaux wine region  
107 Decisively defeat a cabinet department?  
111 Musical knack  
112 Share on social media  
115 Like a zealous fan base  
116 School attended by 20 prime ministers  
117 Feeling one gets under anesthesia at the dentist?  
120 Rat in "Ratatouille"  
121 Word before or after run  
122 Memo heading  
123 Prize for a doc, maybe  
124 Stick a fork in  
125 Weapon with a bell guard  
126 Loathsome person  
127 Indra Gandhi's father
- DOWN**  
1 Comedian Mort  
2 Instrument from the French for "high wood"  
3 Bad shot by Dracula?  
4 Affinity  
5 Lacking originality  
6 Follower  
7 Prepare, with "up"  
8 Symbol of sturdiness  
9 \_\_\_\_ launcher  
10 Close pals  
11 "Yeah, right!"  
12 Process, as ore
- 13 Language with only 14 native letters  
14 He made his final cameo in "Avengers: Endgame"  
15 Spilled one's soul  
16 '30s migrant  
17 Unwelcome look  
18 Places to exchange dollars for quarters  
24 Stand out from the crowd  
30 Little bits of energy  
31 Competitor of eBay  
33 Tree that lines the Central Park Mall  
34 Debut single for both Jimi Hendrix and Patti Smith  
36 Flaws and all  
37 Shout for 44-Across  
39 Put off for another day  
41 Building caretakers  
42 Higher-ups in a hierarchy  
43 Part of a guitar  
46 One on the road in "On the Road"  
50 Maker of Instant Feathers and Hi-Speed Tonic  
52 Laura of "Marriage Story"  
55 Does some broncobusting, e.g.  
56 Accustom (to)  
57 Broadband device  
59 Loosen, in a way  
60 Banned display of firepower, informally  
61 Conductor Georg with 31 Grammys  
62 Passed out in Vegas



- 63 Gambino crime family patriarch  
64 Attractive but vacuous guy, in slang  
68 Mary, Queen of Scots, e.g.  
69 Prod  
71 Prod  
72 Philosopher Kierkegaard  
73 "Salud!" cousin  
74 Heed an army poster  
76 "Will you allow me to demonstrate?"
- 77 Plane-ticket info  
79 Comfy seating at a carnival?  
80 Downwind, at sea  
81 New England art inst.  
85 "Mind. Blown."  
88 Shot served with salt and lime  
89 Clean  
90 Lexicographer Partridge  
92 Singer Knowles with a 2016 No. 1 album  
93 Ever so slightly
- 94 Perk from work  
96 Tex who animated Bugs Bunny  
97 Diploma equivalent, in brief  
98 Make an engaging offer?  
100 British spy Christopher in 2016 news  
104 Legally prohibit  
107 Parisian equivalent to "molto" or "muy"  
108 Increase, with "up"
- 109 Stage prize since 1956  
110 It distinguishes meaning in many East Asian languages  
111 Fitch of Abercrombie & Fitch  
113 Red carpet interviewee  
114 Traffic-sign word  
118 Card-game call  
119 Sun follower?

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HARD - 47

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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



# Cuisine

## Eggs, bacon, potatoes in breakfast skillet

As things move slowly toward re-opening, and I mention this tongue-in-cheek, since no one really knows what that means, I look with a forlorn eye to my dog.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

If you do not know already, I love my dog Winston. He is the most pitifully adorable maniac of a doodle who has adorned and blessed our home for almost three years.

Every time I look at him, my mind immediately goes to two thoughts. First, he is beside himself with having a house full of humans at his beck and call. He is friendlier, more gregarious and now will sit with us, unlike the days of yore when we were at school and work all day and night. Perhaps it was out of spite, but he was not the friendliest of dogs.

Nevertheless, having us all back around has been a godsend for the mutt. So far, so good, right?

Well, the second thought that crosses my mind, especially with those pitiful puppy eyes of his staring straight through me, is how absolutely heartbroken he will undoubtedly be when we are once again only around on occasion.

In the grand scheme of things, this is hardly the least of worries, but it still makes me sad for the little guy.

So many things have changed since the pandemic started, and we can all but wonder what the end result will be.

Some know for a fact (read believe) that this is all a hoax, while others lean much further to the other side of that argument.

This has, in many ways, become more divisive than politics, with politics naturally at the basis of many of these discussions.

It is all so tiring, and by the end of the day, I often find myself wanting a drink ... or two. Then we have our Zoom happy hours (who ever thought this would be a thing), laugh and talk to friends, many of whom I haven't talked to in years.

And by the end of it, I realize that there is a distinct possibility that I just might have a hangover in the morning.

Many mornings pre-pandemic, I would venture to a local diner to get that skillet full of eggs, meat, vegeta-



bles, cheese, butter and hot sauce as the cure-all, of course with a mug o' joe, reminiscent of my military days.

As we used to say with great confidence, "Yes, you can run 6 miles at 5:30 in the morning, still drunk. It is a thing."

And at the end of said runs in the glory days, we would clean up and head to the chow hall.

Invariably, this was the hearty meal that we fed our starved bodies on the regular. It was filling, would get us ready for a mundane morning of weapon cleaning, comm gear maintenance and even a trip to the motor pool if we were super lucky.

Ah yes, the halcyon days of 95 percent ennui, 5 percent action. Usually, we were fortunate enough to have afternoon PT sessions at the pool or in the ocean.

On some occasions, we could even be found at a skate ramp in the middle of the desert. That was bizarre, but still a welcome break from the boredom.

But it always came back to the hearty breakfast. Regardless of where we were stationed, we were always going to have to run, go on forced marches (rucks or 'humps' as we called them), swim countless miles

while being put in near-death drowning and rescue scenarios, and then hit the e-Club or the beaches in Southern California for a little R&R.

And when the morning would swing back around, that 'skillet' would be there; hearty, delicious, unwavering in creativity and perfect in every way.

I guess in a way this stay-at-home reminds me of days on-base. We are just sitting and waiting for the word.

What that word will be, who knows? But for my beautiful boy Winston, it could be only a matter of time before he is once again as bored as we now find ourselves.

But for now, I'll give him all the attention he needs. And he can lick the skillet clean when I'm done.

### Breakfast Skillet

*per skillet*

- 1 Tbsp. Clarified butter or ghee
- 1 Tbsp. Olive oil
- 2 ea. Blanched red potatoes, large dice
- 1/4 c. Julienne red onion
- 1/4 c. Julienne red peppers
- small handful kale
- 2 strips cooked bacon, chopped
- 3 cloves roasted garlic

3 farm fresh eggs  
1/4 c. Shredded Tillamook Cheddar Tri-mix, as needed

1. Heat a pan with the butter and oil, and when this is sizzling, add the potatoes, cooking and turning until they are nice and golden.

2. Add the onion and pepper and cook for two more minutes.

• Add the kale, bacon and garlic and cook for another two minutes.

3. When the vegetables are cooked through, add the eggs whole and break up with a fork or rubber spatula. This is the way that my mom used to scramble eggs, and I guess that I am a wee bit nostalgic on occasion.

4. When the eggs are cooked, sprinkle the cheese on top and serve in a skillet. If you don't have one, you might just have to go pick some up. Somehow, it transports you to that ubiquitous American diner known for these culinary morsels of delight.

5. Serve with Hank's Hot Sauce ... the best!

— 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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