



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA election heads toward its final week

Ballots to be tallied Aug. 7, validated at Aug. 8 meeting

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) With the deadline to submit ballots arriving on Wednesday, the 2020 Ocean Pines Board election should be concluded by next weekend.

This summer's OPA Board election pits incumbents Doug Parks and Dr. Colette Horn, and newcomer Stuart Lakernick in a three-way battle for a pair of open seats.

Ballots were mailed to more than 6,500 association members earlier this month and should be received by the OPA, not postmarked, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

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

OPA declaration of restrictions permits members to serve two consecutive three-year terms followed by at least one year on the sidelines.

Parks, who was elected in August 2017 and is vying for a second term, highlighted past accomplishments as a board member, including outsourcing food operations to the Matt Ortt Companies, negotiating a service contract with Comcast and completing capital improvement projects such as the new Golf Clubhouse and in-



Colette Horn



Stuart Lakernick



Doug Parks

DOMESTIC BLISS

No wild goose chase here — these are domestic geese that have taken to the pond in Ocean Pines. The one in the center could be a feral greylag goose or one that wandered away from its domestic confines.

Berlin schedules Peach Day for one day only, Aug. 1

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) The 12th annual Peach Festival in downtown Berlin has been shortened to a one-day celebration because of coronavirus concerns.

The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum on North Main Street in Berlin will hold a Peach Day on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Museum curator Susan Taylor said the Peach Festival is one of the biggest fundraisers for the museum and surrounding nonprofit organizations.

Melissa Reid, president of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, said last year they raised \$4,000 at the Peach Festival. This year, the museum

See BERLIN'S Page 7

Berlin mayor, council weigh proposed reserve fund policy

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council discussed a proposed reserve policy and a memorandum to reduce the sewer fund balance owed to the general fund during the Monday meeting.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood and Finance Director Natalie Saleh presented a draft of a resolution that establishes a general fund reserve policy.

The proposed reserve policy would not affect the tax rate.

In compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards, the town's general fund must contain reserves, which are classified as restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance or unassigned fund balance.



Jeff Fleetwood

The general fund balance as of June 30, 2019 was \$5,163,000, which was divided into \$3,431,000 of non-spendable funds (due from other funds), \$4,000 of restricted funds (slots revenues), \$921,000 of committed impact fees and \$791,000 of assigned funds and \$16,000 of unassigned (spendable) funds.

Councilman Zackery Tyndall expressed concern about the lack of unassigned funds.

"All we really have, if an issue that's not budgeted came up, all we really have is \$16,000," Tyndall said. "All we have

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The Department of Natural Resources has awarded Ocean Pines \$549,000 in grant funding to complete drainage projects around Bainbridge Pond.

OP drainage project funded over half million from DNR

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) A Department of Natural Resources grant to help pay to complete drainage repairs in Ocean Pines has been approved, giving the Ocean Pines Association more than a half-million dollars to spend on the project.

Altogether, \$549,000 was awarded to the community by DNR, which worked through the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund to help cover the cost of reducing flooding in Bainbridge Park by retrofitting Bainbridge Pond.

Ocean Pines Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said the goal is to address Bainbridge Park and pond where se-

vere flooding and groundwater over-flow occur.

“The grant money will assist in the project we’ve been working on putting together for the last year at Bainbridge Pond down to Beauchamp Road,” she said.

Last fall, Phillips and Public Works Director Eddie Wells began working with Vista Engineering consultants and went on to establish a drainage workgroup with support from General Manager John Viola and the board.

Phillips said the focus would be on neighborhood sections two and three, which comprise roughly 10 percent of landmass in Ocean Pines.

“This is just deemed the worst, because it affects 761 lots and three parks,” she said.

The results of a 1997 drainage study also deemed these areas, which drain through Bainbridge Pond down to Beauchamp Road, as the highest priority.

Drainage solutions could include expanding the adjacent retention pond and installing one or more culverts under Beauchamp Road.

Phillips said in addition to Worcester County Commissioners Jim Bunting and Chip Bertino back-
See OCEAN Page 4

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Fifth candidate joins Berlin fall mayoral race

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) Ronald Bireley, 78, became the fifth candidate to join the 2020 Berlin mayoral race after filing for candidacy last Friday.

Bireley is running against incumbent Mayor Williams, Councilman Zackery Tyndall, The Globe General Manager William “Bill” Todd and Jennifer Allen.

This is one of the largest mayoral races Berlin has ever experienced.

Bireley is a former two-term mayor of Berlin from Nov. 1995 to July 1996

and 1988 to 1992, a former finance director of the town and was previously on the town council.

With the recent tax increases, Bireley said he was motivated to file for another term as mayor.

“When I was mayor previously, I came up with a lot of ideas that I thought were good and would help the people of Berlin,” Bireley said. “I did not get a chance to implement all of those, and I intend to go back and finish those now.”

As an example, Bireley said he will work to repave Harrison Avenue.

“Part of it has been paved,” he said. “There’s another section that for some inexplicable reason was not paved, and it’s got so many potholes. It’s ridiculous.

“I’m going to be looking at all the streets myself, and I will determine what has to be done,” Bireley continued.

He said he is also concerned with reducing the electric bill of the town’s citizens every month.

“Even my adversaries gave me credit for saving the electric department once before, and I intend to continue to improve that as long as I can do so and reduce the electric costs of

people of Berlin,” he said. “I’m also going to be looking at water and sewer projects.”

Bireley was born and raised just outside of Berlin near the current location of Ocean Downs Casino. He moved to Berlin after completing his military service in the 1970s.

Now retired, Bireley dedicates his time as a courier at Atlantic General Hospital.

He said he will be creating a Facebook page for Berlin citizens to learn more about his campaign for the Oct. 6 election.



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Ocean Pines receives DNR grant to address Bainbridge

Continued from Page 2
ing the project, Worcester Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell was instrumental in securing the state funds.

“Worcester County Commissioners Bunting and Bertino were heavily involved because this is their area and they care about the community and what happens with drainage,” she said. “Commissioner Bunting is a huge part of this because he started the project in that area decades ago by getting the culvert pipe run under Beauchamp Road.”

Bunting headed a task force that championed drainage upgrades in the early 2000s that was subsequently dissolved.

Bunting said the current work proposed has been under consideration for an extended period.

“Ocean Pines has a lot of low spots,” he said. “That was one of the first projects we were trying to get the drainage working a lot better in that area.”

Phillips said to piggyback on earlier efforts, a second, or possibly third, culvert could be installed to address storm water runoff in the section, in addition to retrofitting the retention pond to include outfall upgrades.

“We’re looking to increase the water quality and outfall capacity with the retrofitting,” she said.

Increased downstream flow through swales and ditches could alleviate pond overflows, which drift towards homes west of the park.

Bunting said finding solutions to excessive water runoff in Ocean Pines is a daunting task.

“You have to watch it after heavy rains and then go look at it and make decisions on what to do,” he said.

Phillips said the grant application was facilitated through Worcester County since Ocean Pines is a homeowner’s association and not a municipality.

“It’s going through the county so the funds are specific to this project,” she said.

Phillips said in addition to county officials, Kevin Smith and Steve Farr with Maryland Coastal Bays would continue consulting on the upcoming project, along with engineers Rich Polk and Eric Jones from Vista Design.

“We’ll be working closely with the county, Maryland Coastal Bays, DNR and Vista Engineering throughout this project,” she said.

Phillips said the infrastructure work, which is initially slated to commence this winter, would not be the last drainage related undertaking.

“People may think we’re just focusing on one area,” she said. “We’re looking at all the areas [but] obviously we need to start somewhere.”

Phillips said the Bainbridge Pond project provides an ideal starting point.

“There’s a lot of focus on drainage and water quality,” she said. “Obviously we want to keep our bays clean and a huge piece of the project is the water quality.”

Phillips said the grant proposal received unanimous support from the Worcester County Commissioners.

“There were a lot of pieces to this puzzle to put it together,” she said. “Having everybody on board and supportive made it achievable.”

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Berlin Fire Co. gives updated report on budget

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) Berlin Fire Co. President David Fitzgerald presented the quarterly report from April 1 to June 30 to the Berlin Mayor and Council on Monday.

Between April 1 and June 30, the fire company responded to 25 in-town fire and rescue calls, making up almost 30 percent of total calls.

“That’s a lower number than usual,” Fitzgerald said. “With covid-19, we find that people just aren’t having the accidents here in town or anywhere because that travel is restricted.”

According to the report, the busiest days were Saturday, then Sunday and Monday. The busiest times of day were 2-3 p.m. and 12-1 p.m.

The calculated response time is about nine minutes for the fire crews to be on scene. The county response time standard is six minutes, and the Matrix report states the response should be nine minutes or less, Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald also provided budget highlights from the fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). The donation drive was \$3,000 less than budgeted this last quarter. However, fundraiser revenue was up slightly from rentals prior to covid-19 closures.

The fire company experienced some unexpected expenditures this past fiscal year, including a replacement gear

washer costing \$9,500.

“That’s a requirement,” Fitzgerald said. “They can’t have carcinogens on their gear. It needs to be clean before they wear it next time or go in their vehicle or store it.”

Unplanned tires, pump and valve repairs brought vehicle maintenance and repair costs to \$10,000 more than budgeted.

As for an update on the 2020-21 fiscal year budget, the fire company needs to plan for funding for future breathing apparatus from 3M Scott and capital equipment that will not be fully covered by grants.

“These need to be purchased all at one time,” Fitzgerald said for the safety and consistency of operations.

In addition, town cuts will result in reduced state aid funds in next budget. Fitzgerald said he will update the mayor and council about the impact of cuts on the budget during the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Fitzgerald also provided a quarterly update for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at the Berlin Fire Co.

Between April 1 and June 30, the EMS staff responded to 170 in-town calls, making up 51.5 percent of total calls, and 160 calls outside of town.

The EMS staff also conducted 116 transports and 54 non-transports in town that period.

The busiest days for EMS were Sat-

urday, then Tuesday and Thursday. The busiest times of day were 12-1 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The average response time of the EMS staff is nearly one and half minutes, which includes the second and third run calls that may be full volunteer response from home.

For the 2019-20 fiscal year revenue budget, donations were \$700 less than budgeted. However, annual donations rose \$549 and invoices were an additional \$9,872 than budgeted.

“We had some expired items and things needed to be replaced, and then our payroll was slightly higher and that’s due to we have employees that are having children and change plans,” Fitzgerald said.

The cost of medical supplies was \$5,800 more than budgeted and payroll/benefit costs were \$7,600 higher than budgeted. The cost of fuel was also slightly more expensive than projected in the budget.

With a decrease in volunteers for EMS, the voluntary incentives were \$6,546 less than expected.

“EMS is definitely not a volunteer interest across the nation, and then you put covid-19 on top of it, you really don’t have volunteers want to come because they can’t take a chance on getting infected and being quarantined or restricted from their duties to affect their paying job,” Fitzgerald said.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Berlin Fire Co. President David Fitzgerald provides a quarterly report about budget and responses to emergency calls to the Berlin Mayor and Council on Monday.

The Berlin Fire Co. had to take a \$100,000 loan for a new ambulance in service and is paying back the loan from county allocation for ambulances.

As for an update on the EMS 2020-21 fiscal year budget, there will be an immediate elimination of second EMT to make second crew.

This will likely result in delayed response and need for volunteers or other companies to respond.

With monitoring the budget, the next cut will be no backfill of personnel, Fitzgerald said.

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Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) The following took place during the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Monday:

Unity celebration

Jeron Whaley and Adrian Bowen proposed a Berlin Unity Celebration on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 1-4 p.m. at Dr. William Henry Park at 123 Flower Street.

According to the special event application to the Town of Berlin, the event is designed to “bring our community closer [and] create a positive vibe during a time where current events have impacted our communities’ moral.”

The African American Coalition of Worcester County and Solid Rock Ministries estimate 70 people will be present for the event.

With the cancellation and postponement of other town gatherings, the

mayor and council asked Whaley and Bowen to consider a date in the early fall when it is hopefully safer.

The mayor and council approved the unity celebration in concept and the event leaders will return with a set date and time.

Grant application

The mayor and council unanimously chose to reapply the project for permanent restrooms at Stephen Decatur Park for Program Open Space funds under the Community Parks and Playgrounds program for the next fiscal year.

The project is estimated to cost \$110,000. Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen will present the application at the next mayor and council meeting on Aug. 10.

Park use approved



As the resurfacing of Flower Street continues, the driveway entrances to Dr. William Henry Park are being repaired as well.

The mayor and council voted 4 to 1 to waive the fees and allow Worcester County Recreation and Parks to use

Stephen Decatur Park on Tripoli Street for tennis clinics on two Tuesdays, Sept. 15 and Sept. 22 from 6-7 p.m., as well as for a drop-in tennis program on Tuesdays from Sept. 29 to Oct. 20 from 6-8 p.m.

Departmental reports

According to Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director, new trash cans are coming to Berlin soon. New trash cans were purchased through a grant, but the manufacturer made an error on the logo and is correcting the mistake.

Wells also said the Small Town Throw Down, a free outdoor music event with food and beer, is still scheduled for Sept. 12 from 1-6 p.m.

In addition, Life’s Simple Pleasures, a gift and clothing shop, is moving into 10 S. Main Street.

The mayor and council are invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony and lunch on Sept. 9 to see the town’s first natural gas generator.

During the Aug. 10 mayor and council meeting, two public hearings will be held regarding the rezoning classification of two properties, 115 Broad Street and the former Harley Davidson property at 10712 Ocean Gateway.

Lastly, the resurfacing of streets in Berlin is underway. Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said three streets are nearly complete as of Monday night.



Choptank Electric Cooperative Establishes COVID-19 Guidelines for a Safe 2020 Annual Meeting

For the continued safety of our members during the Annual Meeting, and in light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Choptank Electric Cooperative is changing how we are conducting business at the Annual Meeting this year.

Live participation at the August 13th Annual Meeting at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center will be by **advanced registration only**. Local ordinance limits the number of participants to 200 members. The meeting will be streamed live via YouTube and Facebook Live for members to virtually attend. Details on the broadcast will be posted on our website, www.choptankelectric.coop.

Must Register

- Members may register by calling the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 or by emailing 2020AnnualMeeting@choptankelectric.coop.
- Registrations must be made by **Thursday, August 6, 2020**. Only registered members will be permitted to participate in the live meeting. Meal service will be limited.

Health Guidelines

In addition, members will have to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Masks are required inside the facility. Masks are highly encouraged when interacting with our outdoor vendors or staff.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be set up and available for members to utilize at entrances.
- COVID screenings that will consist of health-related questions will occur for the protection of our members and staff as they enter the facility. This includes filling out paperwork regarding their COVID contact.
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Berlin's Peach Festival one-day-only event

Continued from Page 1

staff hopes to raise \$3,000.

“The money raised at the Peach Festival goes to the general operating expenses of the museum, including upkeep of the house itself,” Reid said. “The nature of a historic house is such that repairs are always needed, for example, the side porch is in need of repair, and at some point soon our central air will need replacing; it is about 30 years old.”

To promote social distancing, non-profit vendors and local businesses will sell their products on their properties instead of on the museum lawn this year.

Stevenson Church will sell crab-cakes for \$10 and peach cobbler for \$4, Buckingham Presbyterian Church will sell pies for \$15 and Baked Dessert Café will sell its famous peach dumplings—what the museum staff calls “the official treat of the Peach Festival.”

The bakery will also have Peach Melba Bread, Peach Blackberry Cobbler, Peaches and Cream Bread Pudding and Peach Bourbon Pork BBQ Stuffed Croissants.

“We will be in the bakery, but also at our tent, along with The Buzz Mead-

ery and Anchor Wood Creations in the outdoor eating area located adjacent to our building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,” said Robin Tomaselli, owner of Baked Dessert Café.

In addition, Island Creamery, On What Grounds?, Sisters, Uncle Jon’s, Beach Memories and Bruder Hill will be offering peach-flavored treats, candles and soaps throughout the celebration.

According to the museum’s Facebook page, the following local business will also be participating this year: Dream Weaver, The Buzz Meadery, Una Bella Salute, Greyhound Independent Bookstore, J&M Meats, Heart of Gold Kids, Gold Crafts, Church Mouse Thrift Shop and House Furnishings & Décor.

The Berlin Maryland Chamber of Commerce contributed by decorating lampposts downtown with light blush-colored ribbons in honor of Peach Day.

Visitors can stop by the museum to pick up a map of all the participating shops and the scavenger hunt questionnaire.

The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum will sell peaches on the lawn by the bag for \$8, homemade peach jam for \$8 and museum totes filled with



PHOTO COURTESY ROBIN TOMASELLI

Baked Dessert Café will be offering these folded-in puff pastries with homemade caramel and peach reduction during Peach Day on Saturday in Berlin.

books about Berlin and Worcester County and jam for \$30.

Touch-free pickup is available.

“On Peach Day, they can drive down Baker street from Main Street, and we will place their peach order in their trunk,” Reid said. “Or they can absolutely still walk up to the lawn and buy bags of peaches.”

Masks are required when on the museum lawn to pick up peaches and visitors must be six feet apart.

The George and Pat Bilenki Duo will perform on the lawn, providing background music for shoppers.

For more information, call 410-641-1019 or visit www.taylorhousemuseum.org.

OP board election voting nears final week

Continued from Page 1

progress Police Building expansion during a candidate forum in June.

Horn, who also won a first term in 2017, said in the forum held in June that her initial involvement as a board candidate was based on what she perceived to be dissension within the group and questionable financial directives.

Lakernick, a Pines property owner

since 2013, is approaching retirement after operating a chiropractic functional neurologist practice outside Philadelphia and specializing in traumatic brain injuries.

During the election forum in June, Lakernick proposed developing marketing plans for golf operations and the recreation department, as well as highlighting the importance of preventative maintenance to alleviate

drainage problems from excessive storm water runoff and preserving bulkheads.

OPA board election ballots can be returned by mail to the Berlin Post Office located at 20 Broad Street or dropped off in person in the ballot box inside the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway.

Returned ballots will be counted on Aug. 7 with results validated the following day at the OPA annual meeting.

The annual meeting takes place on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial located by the South Gate Pond. Property owners are requested to bring identification for verification purposes, with a minimum quorum of 100 required to stage the meeting and validate vote totals.

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Sun seekers recreate on the beachhead by the Ocean Pines Swim and Racquet Club on Tuesday.

Ocean Pines water bacteria levels drop down to end July

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) Recently elevated bacteria counts in the St. Martin River next to the Ocean Pines Swim and Racquet Club declined by roughly 80 percent last week, after exceeding EPA safety standards early in the month.

An enterococci bacteria test of the river just offshore of the club conducted on July 3 resulted in readings of 108.4 per milliliter, which was above EPA guidance that requires an advisory for results above 104 organisms per 100 milliliters.

The counts had improved to 86.6 per milliliter by July 10, with the most recent samples collected on July 23 reflecting a further reduction to 20 organisms per 100 milliliters.

Assateague Coastkeeper Kathy Phillips oversees weekly testing at the swim and racquet club from May 15 from Sept. 6.

Phillips works with Assateague Coastal Trust to perform weekly water quality monitoring in the St. Martin River at the club and 10 additional sites in the northern coastal bays and tributaries.

Environmental causes, such as variable weather patterns, can lead to quick shifts in water quality, Phillips said.

Since 2010, weekly water test results for enterococci bacteria levels and other water-quality parameters at bayside recreation areas have been available online through the Swim Guide.

Phillips said the beach monitoring data is also available through the Swim Guide smartphone app.

Good guidance for water recreation if bacteria levels are slightly elevated include showering with fresh water after returning to shore, Phillips said.

Spread primarily through improper hygiene, enterococci bacteria are organ-

See CDC Page 14

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Berlin mayor, council consider reserve fund

Continued from Page 1
is \$16,000 without going into things that are already committed, and that is factual.”

Fleetwood agreed.
“We’re not in as good of a financial position as we need to be,” Tyndall said.

The resolution would establish minimum fund balances that the Town of Berlin should maintain.

According to the proposed document, the restricted fund balance should be maintained as required by grantors, bondholders and higher levels of government.

As for committed funds, the draft establishes an Employee Healthcare Reserve no less than \$300,000 to mitigate the increase in employee health care costs.

“They’re committed in the sense that they have to be used for appropriate services,” said Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen. “They can’t just be shuffled into the general fund and become part of the overall budget. I just wanted to clarify that.”

Saleh added that they are not readily available funds.

“Impact fees were established here many years ago, so that we have income that can then be used to offset impacts from growth and development,” Mayor Gee Williams said.

“I suspect in the next year or two

we’re going to have some significant needs for impact fees because of the developments and growth we have experienced,” he continued.

The unassigned fund balance should consist “of all amounts not otherwise expended, encumbered or reserved.”

The Reserve Categories and Target Balances section of the draft states, “The Town shall transfer \$100,000 per year from unassigned fund balance to obtain minimum fund balances according to the requirements and in order set forth in this section.”

First, a budget stabilization reserve should be established to continue the town’s general fund operations for a three-month period. Secondly, a capital reserve of \$100,000 should be dedicated “to pay for unplanned but essential capital projects.” Both funds would be classified as assigned fund balance.

Thirdly, a debt reduction reserve should be established to pay Berlin’s debt service (principal plus interest) on any outstanding, long term debt instruments for one year. Lastly, a disaster response and recovery reserve of \$250,000 should be allocated to pay Berlin’s cost of emergency repairs to or replacements of parts of the town’s infrastructure damaged in any natural or man-made disaster, or to prevent further damage to life or property. Both funds would be designated as commit-

ted fund balance.

While reviewing the 2020 fiscal year general fund balance and the projected general fund balance, Councilman Dean Burrell asked Saleh to describe the differences between non-spendable, restricted, committed and assigned funds.

“[Non-spendable amount is] the interfund transfers, so basically it’s a sewer fund what owes back to the general fund,” Saleh said.

The mayor added that it is money loaned from the general fund to a utility fund that over time the utility fund will pay back to the general fund. It is simply money the town owes itself.

“Then, we have restricted,” Saleh said. “Basically, [they are] restricted by somebody else outside of mayor and council.”

Currently, the only restricted funds are slots revenues because they must be spent for specific purposes, Saleh said.

Williams said the slot revenue each year is allocated to paying off the debt of the new police department.

“Assigned monies, which could be spent by you just simply authorizing to spend them, and they are health insurance and community center as of today,” Saleh said.

Tyndall asked for a summary of the current general fund before responding to departmental requests. He also expressed concern about adopting a re-

serve policy with set minimum fund balances. Instead, he suggests a simpler model that is more easily comprehensible that follows the three-month period practice.

“If we enact a policy about reserves with these goals and benchmarks in place, when something gets below that level, we have an obligation by the policy we adopt to refill that bucket,” Tyndall said. “And what I’m asking is that if we have that information at the start of the budget, we know what that pot of money needs to be refilled at and it helps us make good decisions, I think.”

Saleh said the reserve policy is a goal to be pursued.

“What we’re trying to do here is establish a policy where, when things go bump in the night, we know we have the reserves on hand,” Williams said.

It will be a gradual process of putting money into the reserves over several fiscal years, Saleh added.

“There are things you can predict and there are things you cannot, but you don’t stop planning for future and investing in the future of the town just because life can happen,” Williams said.

The town aims to make its reserves stronger.

“We have to set achievable goals, I think,” Tyndall said. “And I really think that if we were really good and in a de-

See TOWN Page 12



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Town looks at fiscal strategy

Continued from Page 10

cent financial position to be able to fill these different buckets that are recommended, it would be great. But we're not."

The current mayor and council cannot legally bind future councils to the reserve policy.

"So, I mean it's a goal. It really is. We can call it whatever we want, but it's a goal," Tyndall said.

Along with the proposed reserve policy, Saleh and Fleetwood suggested a repayment plan for the money the sewer fund borrowed from the general fund.

The sewer fund balance due to the general fund as of June 30, 2019, which was the last day of the fiscal year, is \$3.4 million.

The sewer fund is now operationally self-sustaining.

Sewer and water rates were raised based on projections to cover the operational side of expense. The plan is not to increase those rates again.

"The plan is to reduce that note and have a schedule to repay, let's say \$150,000 a year, back to general fund, so we can basically commit this money or assign the money on the general fund as a repayment back and start building a little stronger reserve of the general fund," Saleh said.

Saleh and Fleetwood recommend allocating the remainder of the sewer fund amount due to the general fund as an interfund loan to the general fund, causing an established and formal repayment plan, establishing an attainable 10-year repayment schedule to repay the interfund loan to the general fund, and include payments in the annual budget as debt service.

"If we're using that money to pay ourselves back, when we were presented the report with adjusting the rates, that was just to offset operational costs, which you've mentioned, but it does not take into consideration the capital expense and the capital improvements that need to be done," Tyndall said. "If we're paying ourselves back at a rate of, let's just use \$100,000, couldn't that money be better served in investing in the capital things that truly need to be addressed?"

The mayor said the discussion on Monday was mainly to figure out what strategy to pursue regarding the money the utility funds owe to the general fund.

"The utilities are supposed to be self-sufficient and when they aren't, then they have to be subsidized temporarily," Williams said. "Then, we go back to adjust the rates and get them back in line and then we go forward. That's what tonight's critical decision will be."

The mayor and council could decide to write it completely off or half of it off for \$1.7 million.

"I think better off is having the scheduled repayments, so then we can look at [the] proposed structure of general fund and assign that [\$100,000 or \$150,000] what would be available and assign to something on the general fund as a repayment plan," Saleh said.

For several years, there has been a constant deficit in sewer funds.

Burrell asked what to do to try to mitigate a projected deficit and to not have to borrow from the general fund.

The mayor said we need to know projected deficits during the budget process.

"Yes, we need these policies and procedures and this understanding of this plan going forward, but we also need an operational part of that that's going to support this," Burrell said. "So, if we're going to have a plan, it needs to be a complete plan with these policies in place, and this look toward the future. But it's going to take day-to-day operations to get us there."

Williams followed, saying the quarterly reports need to include the projected deficits of the reserves and the council has to consider how much of the debt that has been accumulated should be written off.

"We're not in some sort of financial crisis," the mayor said. "That's one thing people need to understand about all this. What we're trying to do is come up with a policy that we can predict in each budget what the reserves will look like at the end of the year and not find out in the audit months later."

Saleh said the next step is to work on a sewer plan.

The mayor and council will further discuss the general fund policies at upcoming meetings.

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Programs respond to food insecurity in Wor.

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) As a result of the covid-19 crisis, unemployment and food insecurity rates have risen in Worcester County, just as they have across the country.

In response, meal programs and food drives throughout Worcester County continue to provide nutritional resources for residents.

From March 17 through June 19, the Worcester County Meal Distribution provided 126, 461 meals.

The school system's Summer Meal Program continues weekly Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Aug. 13.

According to Odtis Collins, the coordinator of Food Services at Worcester County Public Schools, about 526 students are served every week.

Since June 19, about 30,781 meals have been distributed.

The summer feeding program is only available for children under the age of 18, who must be present at the time of pickup.

In addition, the public is not permitted inside the six feeding locations in Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Berlin. A staff member will be prepared to bring bagged lunches outside.

Hot and cold meals are rotated throughout the menu for the open meal sites. A typical lunch includes one of the following: roast beef sub, turkey and cheese sandwich, nachos and Tex-Mex

food, chicken sandwich, Italian sub or cheeseburger.

"Each main entrée comes with a fruit and/or vegetable and milk," Collins said.

Collins added that a typical breakfast includes one of the following: muffin, cereal, strudel, breakfast bread or Mini Cinnis (all items are whole grain), juice/fruit and milk.

To reduce waste, daily meal counts are completed at the feeding sites.

Collins added that a second meal may also be offered as closing time approaches if there are leftovers.

Monetary donations can be made to benefit the feeding program.

For more information, contact Collins at 410-632-5015.

When schools closed in the spring, Baked Dessert Café Owner Robin Tomaselli began providing lunch bags.

"My group does continue to provide grocery store gift cards to families in need," Tomaselli said. "Our group alone estimates that since the end of March, we have provided more than 4,000 lunches along with thousands of dollars in food gift cards to those struggling. We continue to accept donations in the form of Food Lion gift cards and those can be dropped off or mailed to the bakery at 4 C Bay Street."

Tomaselli predicts such programs will continue to fill a need in the community with the likelihood that schools may not return to in-person instruction this fall.

"It is truly unfortunate, but many children rely on the school system for so much more than education, [including] safety, food [and] socialization," she said. "Children unable to physically attend school, is in my opinion, one of the saddest consequences of this pandemic."

See CHURCHES Page 14

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- Ebenezer United Methodist Church (107 S. Collins St.)
- Snow Hill Elementary School (515 Coulbourne Lane)

POCOMOKE

- Pocomoke Middle School (800 Eighth St.)
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Churches, businesses provide bagged food

Continued from Page 13 demic.”

Tomaselli works with Hope Palmer, the coordinator for the program at Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin and director of Strategic Projects at Blue Water Development Corp., to provide meals.

Palmer said when they started providing meals in March, she contacted several schools in the region, including Ocean City Elementary School, Berlin Intermediate School, Stephen Decatur Middle School and Showell Elementary School to see if any families were in need of nonperishable food items.

“We provided a bag of nonperishable food items for 150-175 families each week through the month of May,” Palmer said. “This included the help of donations from the community and SonRise Church and the Maryland Food Bank. We picked back up the first week of July after each school reached out to the families to see who wanted to continue the program in the summer months, and we are currently assisting 60 to 75 families each week.”

Palmer added that she has about 10 to 15 volunteers who help deliver food to the families because many do not have access to transportation.

“The team of volunteers bag prep every Tuesday and the food is delivered Thursday each week,” Palmer said. “The food items include breakfast foods as

well as food items for lunch and dinners. Peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce and pasta, mac and cheese, applesauce, juice boxes [and] granola bars.”

Also, bags are prepared for Buckingham Elementary School, so when families pick up hot meals at the school on Buckingham Road in Berlin, they can take additional food items.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church also helped to end food insecurity in Worcester County during the end of the 2019-20 school year by feeding families of Ocean City Elementary School. Each week, the church provided families with bread, sliced cheese, lunch meat, milk and eggs, said Lindsay Ashton, youth

group coordinator and events and activities director for the church.

Ashton said the church also supplied the Spirit Kitchen drive-through food pantry with eggs.

“Then, we’ve also taken on the backpack program for Ocean City Elementary once it starts up again, and people can contact the church if they’d like to sponsor a child,” she added.

The backpack program provides meals for students Friday through Sunday.

In addition, the church is collecting supplies for Buckingham Elementary School.

“It doesn’t matter if they return or if they don’t return,” Ashton said. “So far,

[the school needs] hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, tissues, disinfectant spray, disposable masks and individual pencil boxes filled with supplies.”

The church also has a community garden and a blessing box set up outside of the property on 20 S. Main Street in Berlin.

The community garden features green beans, zucchini, squash, red peppers, green peppers, squash, basil, thyme, tomatoes, jalapeños and cucumbers.

“The youth group built a vegetable stand ... and people can take whatever they need,” Ashton said.

“If you don’t have a garden at your house, and you go the grocery store and

See BLESSING Page 15

CDC guidance for water recreation

Continued from Page 8

ically occurring in gastrointestinal tracts and associated with diarrheal illness.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention the primary risk from exposure to elevated enterococci levels while swimming is contracting recreational water illnesses.

The CDC defines recreational water illnesses as diseases transferred through pools, hot tubs, water parks, and natural waterways, be it fresh or saltwater, due to germ contamination.

Symptoms typically include diarrhea, coughing, skin rashes, ear pain, congestion and eye pain.

The CDC website cautions that ingesting even a mouthful of contaminated water could cause illness.

Statistically, the CDC estimates people have on average roughly 0.14 grams of fecal matter on their bodies, which is often transferred during water-based activities.

Water safety tips from the CDC include showering prior to spending time in pools, rivers or oceans; refraining

from entering the water with open wounds or if experiencing diarrhea; avoiding defecating while swimming; not swallowing water; and providing children hourly bathroom breaks.

More information about recreational water illnesses is available by visiting the CDC online at www.cdc.gov/dotw/rwis/

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Blessing box on Main Street offers canned food, toiletries

Continued from Page 14
there’s no tomatoes, go get a tomato from the garden,” she continued.

As for the blessing box, residents can take what they need or drop off donations of nonperishable foods and everyday necessities, such as toiletries and school supplies.

“The community can leave things in there any time,” Ashton said. “The youth check on it when they’re there. They have youth group Wednesday nights and then they’re there Sundays. And other people in the church also check on it. [Almost] daily it gets checked on just to make sure things aren’t out of date.”

The blessing box has been successful in the community since it became accessible earlier this year, Ashton said.

“The neighbors that live by the church, they tell us all the time that they just constantly see people up there,” Ashton said.

She added that when Stevenson United Methodist Church has leftovers from its drive-through pantry, the leftovers are donated to restock the blessing box.

For more information, visit Buckingham Presbyterian Church on Facebook or buckinghampcusa.org.

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main Street in Berlin, has been hosting a drive-through food pantry called Spirit Kitchen twice a month since March.

According to a post on the SUMC Spirit Kitchen Facebook page, the pantry served 153 families on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Head Start Center at 130 Flower Street. The families received various canned goods, new toothbrushes, toilet paper, fresh produce and chicken.

The next Spirit Kitchen is scheduled for Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

It is first come, first serve. Charlotte Powell, the food pantry manager, encourages people to come early to receive groceries.

Drivers are advised to open their trunks but remain in their cars. Spirit Kitchen volunteers will place groceries in the trunks.

For more information about the Spirit Kitchen, visit SUMC Spirit Kitchen on Facebook or contact the spiritkitchen@yahoo.com.

Similarly, SonRise Church, 10026 Main Street in Berlin, has had food ministries for years, said Pastor Daryl McCready.

“We do the backpack food ministry, which provides food and meals for kids in schools that are at risk of not having the resources they need,” McCready said. “So, normally, even pre-covid, we were packing [and] delivering breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks for the weekend for kids every week.”

SonRise Church also has a food ministry called “Sharing the Harvest,” which is a monthly mobile food pantry.

“When covid hit, obviously, we adapted that to realize that the need was going to be much greater than once a month,” McCready said. “So, we challenged our church people to give so that we could provide enough food to really



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Buckingham Presbyterian Church has a blessing box filled with nonperishable foods and toiletries on its property at 20 S. Main Street in Berlin for anyone in need among its other initiatives to end food insecurity in Worcester County.

make an impact on the need in the community. We began doing five days a week, morning and night [with] two-hour distribution. You could come from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and then 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.”

Recently, the demand has decreased, so SonRise Church is returning to two-hour food distributions every month at this point. Anyone in need can also contact the church for donations.

SonRise Church is a member of the Maryland Food Bank, but also works with Mountaire Farms in Delaware, Clemens Food Group in Pennsylvania, and local bakeries and grocery stores for donations.

“The bags were about 25 pounds worth of dry goods, so it had canned vegetables, canned fruit, beans ... and then there was some chili sometimes, beans and rice,” McCready said.

He added that pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice and peanut butter were often included, depending on what the Maryland Food Bank had available. Any donations from the community were also packed in the bags.

“Our church has a core value called open-handed living, and we just believe that God blesses us, so that we can be a blessing to others in His name,” McCready said. “So, that’s kind of what drives our church in every aspect. We try to give generously, serve and love people in the name of the Lord.”

For more information, visit SonRise Church – Berlin Campus on Facebook or www.sonrise.cc/.

Worcester County residents can also apply for financial assistance to purchase healthy food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Currently, the Worcester County Department of Human Services office at 299 Commerce Street in Snow Hill is closed to the public due to the pandemic.

To apply for food stamps online, visit <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us>.

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Women’s suffrage group alters celebrations

Continued from Page 16
the years after the U.S. declared independence from Britain.

“When a woman got married in those days, you gave up rights [and] ... you couldn’t decide anything,” Linzey said. “Your husband could beat you with impunity and women were not even allowed or expected to speak in public.”

Linzey said the voting activism born at the Seneca Falls conference was the stock from which many other activist movements sprang, including Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and LGBTQ.

“Those are all within a long historical continuum of people trying to gain their full citizenship rights in the United States,” she said. “It was a fight to the very end and a lot of people died,” she said.

Some of the earliest women involved with equality issues, such as Lucy Stone, fought against slavery in addition to gender discrimination.

“They were originally abolitionist supporters,” Linzey said.

In some instances the fight was joined by male counterparts who also yearned to change the rigid, white-male-dominated structure of society.

“They weren’t all women,” she said. “They were joined by progressive men who realized that they were being disenfranchised also.”

That included statesman Frederick Douglas who was invited to speak at the Seneca Falls event.

After Suffrage Centennial Committee members participated in several events earlier this year, plans to mark the 100th anniversary was delayed after the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic.

Buyer said despite blustery temperatures a strong contingent was on hand for the Fourth annual Ocean City Women’s March in January.

“We had (about) 150 people turning out in the freezing cold,” she said. “People stayed until they were frozen.”

Along with guest speakers, the Boardwalk march also included voter registration efforts.

“We were able to get that in and a visit to the International Women’s Day celebration in Georgetown, Delaware,” she said. “It was sponsored by the Freeman Foundation on March 8.”

Buyer said after donning period clothing for the Georgetown venture in early March the group put a hold on activities slated for this summer.

“Then, at that point, life started closing down,” she said.

Linzey said the Suffrage Centennial Committee had anticipated stag-

ing a pair of events to celebrate the 100-year anniversary.

“On the 22 of August, over at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin, we planned a huge family free fun day to celebrate and recognize the passage of the 19th Amendment,” she said.

Linzey said another gathering was scheduled on Aug. 26.

“We were going to have an event on the Boardwalk, probably partnering with the [Ocean City] Life Saving-Station Museum,” she said. “That’s all cancelled until next year.”

“We’re definitely going to reschedule it for next year,” she said. “We didn’t want that day to go by without the community being reminded of the importance of that day.”

Buyer said the committee would continue researching historical records in the hopes of locating descendants of women who cast votes a century ago in Worcester County.

“We would love to find some,” she said.

Buyer said to this point a limited number of historical voting rolls have been located.

“The only voter register I have found for Worcester County for that year was the Bishopville area,” she said. “It did list about 100 women from the northern part of the county who voted in 1920.”

Linzey added that the voter rolls were multi-racial.

“We were surprised to find some African-American women had registered to vote in Bishopville,” she said. “You just think back in 1920 what an African-American female’s life was like and that she got herself to the polls to register.”

Linzey said if further information could be unearthed about early, particularly African-American, women voters in Worcester, their legacy could be honored with a monument

or plaque.

“We haven’t been able to find any of those descendants but we’re still searching,” she said.

Linzey said the struggle to extend voting rights to women and minority groups didn’t end in 1920.

“Voting rights has always been a state thing,” she said. “Many of the states refused to recognize that the 19th Amendment passed.”

Linzey said the gradual shift to equality for other groups continued over the decades with passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, the Magnuson Act in 1943 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965 that granted Native Americans, Chinese Americans and African-Americans the ability to be participants in democracy.

“The Women’s Suffrage Movement was basically upper class white women,” she said.

Regardless of good intentions inequities existed within suffragette factions.

“The women in the original movement were products of their own upbringing and social class at the time,” she said. “They discriminated against the black women.”

Linzey said in some instances racial divides caused schisms, such as African-American women in Baltimore forming a splinter group to battle for voting rights.

“There are now suffrage heritage markers all around some of these places where meetings were held,” she said. “It’s a correct rewriting of history.”

For now, however, committee members are focused on promoting voter registration.

“We’re certainly working to encourage everyone to get out and vote,” Buyer said. “Voting rights is very much still a critical and hot issue.”

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OP, Pocomoke libraries open by appointment

(July 30, 2020) Worcester County Library will begin “Library by Appointment” at the Ocean Pines and Pocomoke branches to bring back several services on Monday, July 27. Computer reservations (45 minute sessions) as well as appointments to use the copier or obtain a library card can be made by calling 410-208-4014 for the Ocean Pines branch or 410-957-0878 for the Pocomoke branch. Appointments will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. One appointment per person per

week at this time. The library cannot guarantee the cleanliness of materials or equipment as public libraries are high-touch facilities. The risk of entering a public facility is your own. Staff will clean high-touch surfaces every hour as recommended by the CDC, however the availability of cleaning supplies is limited. At this time, no browsing of the stacks is allowed. Contactless pickup of library materials will continue and is available Monday through Saturday at all branch locations. Depending on the number of cases

in Worcester County, the library may be forced to return to previous restrictions. To maintain a safe environment for patrons and staff, all will be required to wear face coverings. Six-foot social distancing is also required. The library will have limited capacity with only a certain number of people allowed in the building at a time. Hand sanitizer is available for staff and patrons to use as they enter and leave the building. Computers and table surfaces will

be disinfected after each use. Materials may only be returned to the exterior bookdrops to enable proper quarantine. Anyone who has a fever or is not feeling well, should not visit the library. Library staff will continue to revisit guidelines as the State of Maryland progresses further into the Roadmap to Recovery. For more information, visit <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org/article/library-appointment-ocean-pines-and-pocomoke-branches-beginning-monday-july-27>.

Community Briefs

Happy Birthday

Long-time First Presbyterian Church member Dorothy (Dot) Ross turned 100 years old on Friday, July 17. Ross was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the oldest of six children. Her father owned a small restaurant on the north side of the city. She graduated from Perry High School with honors in 1938. On Dec. 6, 1941, the day before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, she married Chester Ross, the love of her life. They raised four children (two girls



Dorothy Ross

and two boys) in Pittsburgh before moving to Salisbury in 1969, where Chester joined an architectural/engineering firm. There they became members of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church, where both were actively involved. Dot also served as a very creative and well-respected pre-school teacher for almost 20 years. They retired to Ocean Pines in

1997, joining First Presbyterian in Ocean City, where Dot was active in the WOW women’s group and Grace Parker Breakfast activities. They were married for 57 years before he passed away in 1999. Dot currently resides at The Woodlands in Ocean Pines and loves hearing from her friends, and is a role model for many. **Dean’s List** Worcester County residents named to the Dean’s List for their respective

schools are: Jillian Griggs of Berlin, Adelphi University; Whitney Van Kirk of Ocean City, James Madison University; and James Church of Ocean City, McDaniel College. **President’s List** Worcester County residents named to the President’s List for their respective schools are: Caroline Pasquariello and Corinne Krasner, both of Berlin, James Madison University; and Tara Fischer of Berlin, University of Alabama.



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Opinion

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

Mayor, council weigh reserve fund's needs

One testament to the success of Berlin over the last two decades is how many people now want to be a part of its government. This fall's election ballot is burgeoning with candidates — five for mayor alone — showing how much more attractive public service is when a town's image is overwhelmingly positive.

That was not the case years ago, when holding office was more like standing watch on a ship anchored in the moment. As Berlin residents now know, the town endured some rough seas in its return to local and then regional prominence. And now the job of an elected official has some cachet to it.

Still, whoever wins a position in town government should be aware that no major changes in direction are needed, although some course corrections would be appropriate.

Such is the case with the proposed budgetary policy the mayor and council discussed this week. Recognizing that town government is hardly awash in money, it's obvious that creating a decent reserve of unencumbered funds is vital to the town's stability.

One truly rough patch — an accident, a weather disaster, multiple equipment breakdowns — could wipe out the town's fragile finances and force it to seek loans or try to recoup that loss through various other unpopular means.

Although it is true that the current mayor and council cannot obligate future officeholders to follow any fiscal plans they might create, it would be better to have one that their successors could ignore, at their own peril, than to leave them with no chart to follow.

Whether the council repays or writes off the debt it owes to itself — the loan from the general fund to the sewer fund — is nowhere near as important as establishing a mechanism to build the reserve fund.

That, to continue the nautical metaphor, is the ballast that keeps the ship upright and plowing forward in the stormiest of waters.

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PEACH SCENTED CANDLES AND SOAP

DECORATIVE PEACH CRATES FROM ANCHOR WOOD CREATIONS

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OP BNI group keeps up networking

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) One year after launching an Ocean Pines Business Network International chapter and reaching an initial benchmark for success this April, the groups' weekly meetings have shifted to a virtual format because of coronavirus restrictions.

BNI Chapter Area Director Consultant Anita Hicks, who relocated to the Eastern Shore three years ago, founded the Ocean Pines chapter last April.

"I moved to the beach to live a longtime dream and quickly realized there were a large number of businesses and community members in Ocean Pines without a BNI chapter," she said.

Hicks, who started a web design company with her husband a dozen years ago, joined BNI shortly thereafter.

"After a few years, I recognized the value of BNI and subsequently became an ambassador, director and now area director," she said.

In addition to founding the Ocean Pines group, Hicks works with Eastern Shore chapters in Ocean City, Queen Anne's County and

two in Salisbury.

"We have four other chapters that all met for breakfast, so I decided to offer a lunch option in Ocean Pines," she said. "This was an opportunity specifically for Ocean



Anita Hicks

Pines but we serve areas all around."

With more than 270,000 members worldwide, BNI is a net-

working and referral organization for business, which Hicks said operates by two principals.

"First and foremost it's always about networking," she said. "We've been around for 35 years and it's about networking with members of our community."

Secondly, BNI is a member-based group that provides professionals from varying industries the opportunity to have exclusive license for their area of expertise.

"If you're a real estate agent, insurance agent or auto salesperson, you lock out your competition and you're the only one in that chapter," she said.

Additionally, BNI members can visit neighboring chapters for other networking opportunities.

"We also offer all community members, whether you run a non profit or business, you're welcome to visit two times to network with us," she said. "Talk about what you're passionate about before you are even asked to make a decision about membership."

Hicks said after starting the Ocean Pines chapter with a handful of participants, the group mushroomed.

"The BNI 30-year platform says once you reach about 15 members, then you'll have longevity and be successful," she said. "We have 16 members now and we had six visitors last week and eight visitors the week before."

The BNI Ocean Pines chapter meets online (for now) every Tuesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

"It's not perfect," she said. "It's not as good as an in person meeting but it is ... a solution at this weird time."

Hicks said the weekly networking sessions help establish confidence among

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Givers gain sums up philosophy for business faction

members, which lead to trusted referrals.

“We are a community resource,” she said. “In the Worcester County area, it’s a small local community and everyone knows everyone.”

Hicks said BNI meetings begin with a 15-minute networking session.

“We can’t exchange business cards like we used to do but its still open networking,” she said.

BNI meetings also include networking tips and one-minute slots for individual business pitches.

“We end our 90-minute meetings with a positive quote to send our members and visitors off for the week to have a positive thought to keep them in a good place,” she said.

Noting the collaborative nature of BNI chapters, Hicks said the trademarked phrase “Givers Gain” embodies the groups’ philosophy.

“When you give back to the community you will receive in return,” she said. “It may not happen today ... or tomorrow ... but eventually that’s the way it works.”

For more information about BNI visit online at bni4shore.com/en-US/index or email anita@bni4shore.com

Burn in Berlin closes indoor dining

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) Burn Wood Fired Pizza announced on Facebook on Monday that it would be closing indoor dining because of a spike in positive cases of coronavirus in Worcester County.

“It was a tough decision to make, but we felt like it was necessary,” said owner Vincent Sebastian.

As of Wednesday, 508 confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported since March in the county.

The post on the restaurant’s Facebook page stated that the decision also came upon receiving many “out of state and in state visitors from high risk areas.”

“A big part of the problem with indoor dining is people get to sit down at the table, and they don’t have to wear their masks ... but our servers, who are all wearing a mask, aren’t being protected because the people at the tables aren’t wearing a mask,” Sebastian said.

Sebastian said the restaurant staff is following all guidelines from the CDC and the health department about disinfecting and social distancing, including using an anti-bacterial spray on hard surfaces and in the bathrooms.

No employees have contracted the coronavirus so far.

“We just felt like it was an unnecessary risk. We’ve made it this far, why take the chance?” Sebastian said.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Vincent Sebastian, owner of Burn Wood Fired Pizza on Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin, announced on Monday that the restaurant would be closing indoor dining for the foreseeable future due to a spike in positive cases in Worcester County.

Visitors are encouraged to use the outdoor dining space and curbside service at the restaurant located at 10019 Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin.

There are 10 picnic tables that seat six people and are spaced seven feet apart, Sebastian said.

“We saw the effectiveness of doing curbside [and] doing dining outside, and we just don’t feel like we’re creating the safest environment for our employees and our customers by allowing indoor dining,” Sebastian said.

Visitors should wear masks until seated at a table.

Sebastian added that hand sanitizers are available for visitors and visitors will still have access to the bathrooms at the restaurant through an entrance in the back.

“They can access the bathrooms without having to go through the bar or dining room area that we previously had seating in,” Sebastian.

As of Wednesday, all other Berlin restaurants are operating as normal.

For more information about the restaurant’s operations, visit Burn Wood Fired Pizza on Facebook or call 410-973-2038.

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Stover named Crafter of the Month

(July 30, 2020) The Pine’er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced the Crafter of the Month for July is Mary Stover.

“I have always admired people who are able to create beauty from their craft, as I never considered myself as an artist, but had an eye for beautiful crafts,” she said.

Stover said she had dabbled in selling antiques and glassware, and that was when she fell in love with stained glass lamps and panels.

“I was hooked on this craft after speaking with a friend who explained all about the art,” she said. “Even though I mostly use patterns, selecting different types of glass for beautiful color, drama, texture and sparkle to make unique designs, also you are not limited to just one category of art glass.”

Stover said she enjoys making Tiffany-style lamps along with night

lights, sun catchers and fused jewelry, as well as creating large nature panels, such as a soaring eagle, pileated woodpecker and roosters.

“When the panels are luminated by the natural light, the colors come alive and your eyes are drawn to it,” she said. “Working with my craft has kept me busy, so I don’t worry so much about having to stay in during the pandemic. My other passions are my love of God, family and country.”

Stover’s creations, along with other artisans’ works are available at the Pine’er Artisan and Gift Shop, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 239 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.



Mary Stover was named Crafter of the Month for July by the Pine’er Craft Club of Ocean Pines. Stover’s creations, along with other artisans’ works are available at the Pine’er Artisan and Gift Shop, 239 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.

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Wor. homeowners can receive funds for critical repairs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) Worcester County homeowners in need of exterior home repairs can apply for the Critical Repairs Program through Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County by July 31.

According to its website, the non-profit is accepting inquiries for critical repairs for homeowner-occupied homes only.

Examples of critical home repairs include roofing, exterior painting, accessibility, weatherization and repairs of structural issues such as porch, stairs, siding and gutters.

Funding is limited and will be based on third party partner approval, in addition to acceptance first in the Habitat program, the website states.

“We have minimal grant funds to help reduce the overall costs, and partial donations of labor and materials from construction partners and sponsors further assist to make the repairs more affordable,” said Executive Director Andrea Bowland. “Due to the ongoing pandemic, many of our resources such as donations and volunteer support have been greatly reduced. In most cases, a third party funder such as the USDA, will be required to complete repair projects for the foreseeable future.”

Projects may not start until 2021. To qualify, homeowners must be physically or financially unable to complete the work themselves or obtain a loan to make the repairs.

In addition, homeowners must have valid homeowner insurance and must meet the minimum and maximum income qualifications and credit scores.

Homeowners will also be subject to background checks.

“Once pre-eligibility is determined, the next steps would be the application phase, a scope of work to determine the critical repairs needed (conducted in the home), and a budget determined,” Bowland said. “The final step would be project approval from the Board of Directors before repairs begin.”

The program accepts applicants quarterly. After July, the next funding round is October 1 through October 31.

“We encourage all who may be interested to first spend some time looking over the Family Services section on the website to become familiar with our programs and requirements,” Bowland said.

For more information, visit habitatworcester.org/family-services/critical-repair-program.html. Then, email families@habitatworcester.org to begin the application by the July 31 deadline.

The application fee is \$30.

Berlin Farmers Market continues

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 30, 2020) The Berlin Farmers Market is expanding its schedule to meet demand, and will now run until Sunday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is not the first year that the farmers market has been extended because of its popularity, said Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells.

“The farmers have an extended season, and they also grow in greenhouses now,” Wells said. “I surveyed the farmers to see if they would like to extend the season, and they all said yes.”

In addition, The Berlin Farmers Market Facebook page is hosting an event through Aug. 10 called “Recipes from The Berlin Farmers Market.” Social media users may post recipes with ingredients from the market with a photo. Prizes will be awarded to the

most liked recipes.

The market is located on Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street in downtown Berlin.

Visitors can find locally grown and produced fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers, baked goods, jams, salsas, mead and tea.

According to the Berlin Main Street website, special senior shopping time is 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. amid coronavirus concerns.

Masks are required and visitors should practice social distancing standards.

For more information about the



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Brett and Megan Hines opened The Buzz Meadery in Berlin on June 25 and are regulars at the Berlin Farmers Market, selling honey mead with locally sourced ingredients.

market, visit www.facebook.com/theberlinfarmersmarket.

Virtual conference about autism

(July 30, 2020) Atlantic General Hospital is presenting the fourth annual Autism Awareness Conference on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 4-6 p.m. The conference will be held virtually this year.

This event is free to the community; internet access is required to participate in the conference.

Guest speakers include Katie Busacca, licensed and registered dietitian at Atlantic General and the John H. “Jack” Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center. She will be discussing “Autism and Nutrition Research: Fact or Fiction.”

Maureen van Stone, Esq., director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger In-

stitute, will discuss “Special Education Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Dr. Deepa Menon, assistant medical director at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute, will focus on “Behavioral and Medical Challenges in Children with Special Healthcare Needs during covid-19.”

Advance registration is required by Aug. 5. Call 410-641-9268 or email gblake@atlanticgeneral.org to register.

Atlantic General Hospital has been providing quality health care to the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland and Sussex County, Delaware since May 1993.

Built by the commitment and gen-

erosity of a dedicated community, the hospital’s state-of-the-art facility in Berlin combines old-fashioned personal attention with the latest in technology and services.

It provides quality specialty care such as weight loss surgery, orthopedics, outpatient infusion and chemotherapy for individuals with cancer or blood/autoimmune disorders, and a comprehensive women’s diagnostic center.

Atlantic General Health System, its network of more than 40 primary care providers and specialists, care for residents and visitors throughout the region. For more information about Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlanticgeneral.org.

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SHRIMP BOAT
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Cuisine

Grilled burger topped with fried tomatoes

We truly live in a wonderful time of home gardening.

So many people are returning to the ways of yore, raising chickens, eating yard-fresh eggs, sauteeing vegetables recently plucked from the backyard and otherwise enjoying the classics.



And no where is this more true than in the tomato patch. Luckily, I happen to know someone who is an amazing gardener and tomato-tender.

Her little patch yields hundreds of pounds of produce per season, and not much of it goes to waste. And those tomatoes.... Oh man, those tomatoes!

When I was a wee lad, I was known for my affinity for tomatoes and clams.

I know that I have written about the latter, but in 15 years, I am not sure that I have ever written about my tomato obsessions. And yes, it is an obsession.

In my high chair, I was tortured by my siblings (so the story goes) as they would pretend to steal my steamed clams and tomatoes. And quite frankly, if you tried to steal them from me today, we would probably find ourselves going head to head.

Of course, as luck would have it, this season has been incredibly dry.

As I don't have the attention span to remember watering the garden daily in the middle of a drought, my garden has not been quite as productive as others, but that is just fine.

On the rare occasion that I can walk out and grab a Green Zebra or Cherry Chocolate Sprinkle Tomato, it makes me happy, indeed.

Recently, we had hamburgers and my girlfriend brought a batch of heirloom tomatoes over, preparing for us her world-famous fried tomatoes.

I believe her recipe is her mother's, so I won't share that. But I believe that I got it as close as possible to the original to at least get you started.

The main part of this tome is the tomato itself. I believe the varieties that we had ranged from German Johnson to Green Zebra to a Peach Tomato.

The Peach Tomatoes are the absolute best, as they have the two flavors that I favor the most: sweet and



tart. Together in the same bite, it is delicious in a salad, hot off of the vine, or as we did here, fried and served atop a delicious burger.

When it comes to the burger, you can do as we do at the restaurant, and use a good blended burger. Ours consists of chuck, short rib and brisket and it is an outstanding patty.

But as we have seen in the midst of all things pandemic, we can't always get the beef that we want.

In the case that you have to use a lesser blend, or if you just want to spruce things up a bit, add a spice or dressing blend to your liking and elevate the burger.

One thing that my girlfriend likes to do, and I might get in trouble for sharing this (not all chefs like to have their secrets shared) is to mold a patty of butter into the middle of the burger patty. Oh man, this does wonders to make a juicy, buttery and ridiculously tasty morsel.

Back to the tomato, since she uses ripe tomatoes, these will not hold their shape as a green tomato will, being unripe and much firmer. What you get in return, though, is a mountain of flavor from the vine-ripened fruit in all of its splendor.

There is something to be said for this, in that sometimes we must sacrifice the one in saving the other.

To add to this mayhem of flavor, we also added some Hungarian hot peppers that Dawn made last season as well as some bread and butter pickles made fresh this year.

As you can see, there are so many things that we can do with a garden.

I haven't even scratched the surface either.

Shishito Peppers are growing like mad (flash-charred and served with a spicy mayonnaise is my favorite way to prepare these), the round zucchini, fresh herbs including mint for a mojito or two, Swiss chard, Jimmy Mardello peppers and the list goes on and on.

Once I get through this year (the first time that I have had a garden in the four years of living here), I will till the soil and clear some tree branches in preparation for next season.

And who knows? Maybe by that time I'll have some chickens as well. It has become a thing, you know?

'The Burger' with fried tomatoes

- per burger
- 1 burger patty of your choosing
 - 1 ea. Potato roll
 - 3 slices fried tomato (recipe follows)
 - Lettuce, as needed
 - Duke's mayo, as needed

- 1. Build the burger
- 2. Eat the burger

Fried Tomatoes

- makes about 6 slices
- 1-2 heirloom tomatoes, sliced about 1/3"
 - 1 c. AP flour
 - 1 tsp. Trimix or seasoning of your choice
 - 1 c. milk
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 c. Panko bread crumbs
 - 1. Mix the flour and trimix on a plate
 - 2. With the sliced patted just a little bit to dry them, dust with seasoned flour
 - 3. Combine the milk and eggs well, and dip the floured tomato slices in the eggwash
 - 4. Coat in the panko and set on a paper towel
 - 5. Fry the tomatoes in clarified butter until the tomatoes are golden
 - 6. Serve immediately as they do not retain their shape as do green (unripe) tomatoes

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

Puzzles

DOUBLES PLAY
BY WYNA LIU / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Wyna Liu, of New York City, is an artist and jewelry designer working with magnets and tensgrity. (You can see examples of her craft at wynaliu.com.) She has been solving crosswords for more than 10 years but just started making them recently. Liu says 91-Across is a shout-out to her parents, who own and operate a chain of radio channels. They made up the name Wyna (pronounced "WIN-uh") to mimic radio call letters — "Y 'n' A" for the initials of their names, Yvonne and Arthur, and the starting "W" because they're on the East Coast. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Ones out of this world, for short

4 Club setting for scenes in "GoodFellas" and "Raging Bull"

11 Something pressed in an emergency

19 ___ Lee (dessert brand)

20 Gets better

21 Oppressive dominance

22 *Performers who set the bar high?

24 *Go-getter's maxim

25 In a way

26 Eves

28 One-named Grammy-winning singer

29 Worried exclamation from Astro on "The Jetsons"

30 Writer and film critic James

31 Platinum-selling rapper-turned-TV-cop

33 Sr.'s hurdle

36 English cathedral city

37 Brand with a jingle to the "Dragnet" theme

39 *Public health agency's mission

43 Part of a ventilation system

46 Actress and civil rights activist Ruby

47 Boors

48 *Feature of a Chippendales show

51 Fix the colors on, say

54 Boor

55 Special orders on new autos

56 It means well in Italy

57 P.R. event

59 Smooth sailing

60 Gas numbers

63 Bug

66 Stand-up comic Wong

67 *Places for coasters

70 Move in a hurry, quaintly

71 Best horse of the 20th century, per The Associated Press

73 Language spoken on Easter Island

74 Jazz's Jackson

75 Matriarch's title, maybe

78 Chats away

79 Large musical combo

80 Spud

82 Palette cleansers between courses

84 *How to screw in a light bulb

86 Common chords

88 "I didn't need to know that"

89 Tries hard

91 *What keeps up standards in the radio business?

94 Temple cabinets

95 End of many addresses

98 Pioneer of detective fiction

99 Reed in a pit

100 A while back

103 Author/magazine editor Welteroth

105 Singer/activist Horne

107 Half of a record

109 Celebrity ... but just barely

110 *"Holy moly!"

114 *Occasion for hiding in the dark

116 In trouble, metaphorically

117 Genre for the Smashing Pumpkins and Liz Phair

118 Beat poem allegedly inspired by a peyote vision

119 Carpentry contraption

120 Words of understanding

121 Italian diminutive suffix

11 Snap

12 Inverse trig function

13 Choking-hazard label

14 How TV shows may be shown

15 Some Montanans

16 Plant part

17 ___ king

18 Spanish chess piece

19 Put away for later

23 Expert advice

27 Evaluate, as an opponent

30 Phoenix sch.

32 Like polka

33 What sheep participate in

34 Plant part

35 Alternatively

38 Summer hrs. in Colorado

40 Words of commitment

41 Pyle's portrayer on "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C."

42 Pang

43 Love, in Lyon

44 Defeat soundly

45 Couple of fins

48 Head of ___

49 Happy refrain

50 National economic prosperity, metaphorically

52 Adolescent

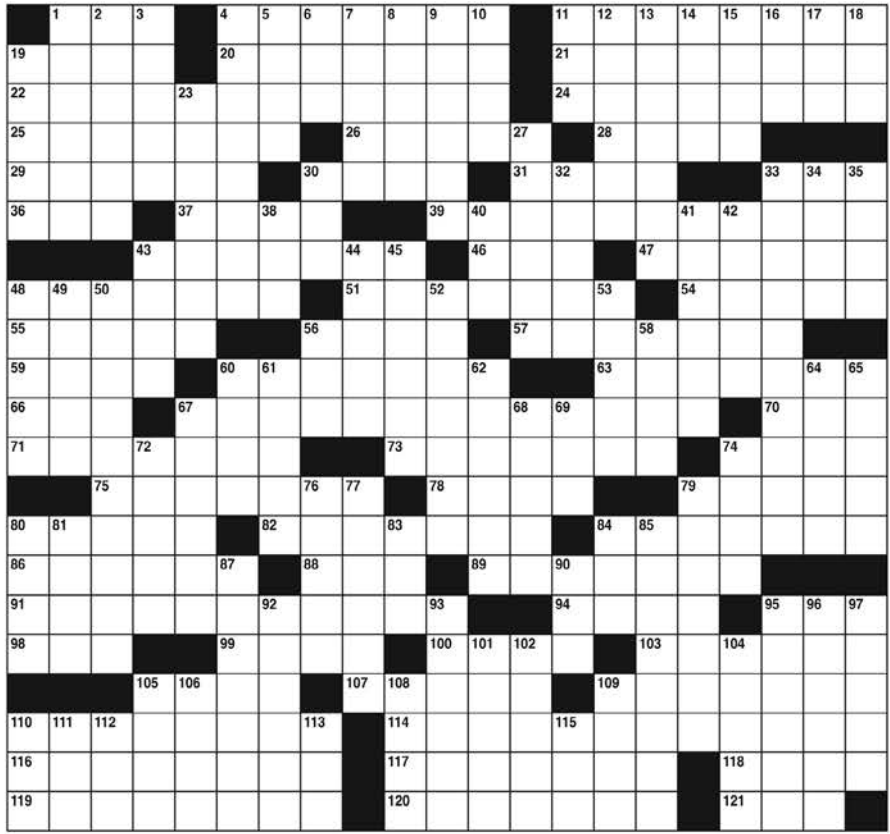
53 "What's up?" in textspeak

56 A.C. measure

58 First man, in Maori mythology

60 Oil-rich nation that's not in OPEC

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



- 61 Sour milk product

62 Cathedral in N.Y.C.

64 "Revelations" choreographer

65 Small, in a way

67 Oscars, e.g.

68 Blue Ribbon brand

69 It's found in a key: Abbr.

72 Mountain nymph of Greek myth

74 Comfy shoes, for short

76 Writing on many a license plate
- 77 Opposing forces in Risk

79 Preventing spills, say

80 Sporty option

81 Folk singer Guthrie

83 H.S. class

84 Monopoly token

85 Have a serious crush on, informally

87 Less expressive

90 Issa of "Insecure"

92 Puts down

93 Little bump
- 95 Ancestor of the modern lemon and lime

96 Ring combo

97 She played "the devil" Miranda in "The Devil Wears Prada"

101 "Dagnabbit!"

102 Kind of pants

104 Japanese beer brand

105 Partially landlocked bay
- 106 Drachma replacement

108 "My word!"

109 Five of these are needed to play Yahtzee

110 Astronaut Grissom

111 Transcript fig.

112 Topic discussed by the bar

113 Barely manage, with "out"

115 Children's author Asquith

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© Puzzles by Pappocom


HARD - 36

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Calendar

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

Thurs., July 30

FREE FAMILY BEACH GAMES
Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums, 11700 Coastal Highway, 6:30 PM. Held Thursdays through Aug. 27. Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/family-beach-games2020Hel>

ED STIVENDER ‘THE ROBIN WILLIAMS OF STORY TELLING’ (YOUTH)
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 7:00 PM. Ed Stivender, the Banjo playing storyteller, delights audiences from age 3 to 83. See it Drive In style, register to see the show on Zoom or watch the recording on the library’s Facebook page from July 31-Aug. 3. <https://worcesterialibrary.libcal.com/event/6780552>

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Grab a bite to eat from the food truck and enjoy music by “Kittyback” (country/classic rock). Admission to the park is free, while beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. It is recommended to bring your own seating. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/sunset-park-party-nights020>

CONCERT IN THE PARK
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., 7:00 PM. Music provided by “Uprizing,” featuring funk, R&B, reggae, hip hop and rock. Pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and practice safe social distancing. Free to the public. Organizers will be keeping a log of attendees for COVID-19 tracking purposes. Email your name and phone number to karah@pocomokemd.gov if you plan to attend. 410-957-1333, <http://DowntownPocomoke.com>

FREE OC BEACH DANCE PARTY
Caroline Street Beach, 8:30 PM. Each week a new DJ hits the Caroline Street Stage where participants can dance under the lights on the beach. The event leads into the fireworks at 10:30 p.m. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/oc-beach-dance-party2020>

THURSDAY’S DOWNTOWN BEACH FIREWORKS
Talbot Street Beach, 10:30 PM. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/thursday-s-downtown-beach-fireworks>



OFFICERS
The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently installed its 2020-21 officers. Pictured, from left, are President Cliff Berg, Secretary Dr. Larry Michnick, Treasurer Margaret Mudron, Past DG Bill Ferguson, Sargent at Arms Frank Baker and Vice President Brian Shockley.

Fri., July 31

‘LAST FRIDAY’ VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR
The Art League of Ocean City’s 100 Pieces of heART Benefit Art Auction closes at midnight on July 31, and the nonprofit is celebrating with a free virtual happy hour on Facebook Live and Zoom, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. All are welcome to join in. The online auction can be accessed at www.bidingowl.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity. The happy hour will include a live emcee, cocktail ideas, music, discussions with artists and chances to win prizes. Guests may join by going to the Art League’s Facebook page or to Zoom meeting ID 821 6213 7135, passcode = heart. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

FREE MOVIE ON THE BEACH
27th Street Beach, 8:30 PM. Sit in the sand and enjoy a free movie. Featuring “Monsters University.” Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. All titles are subject to change without notice. All movies are weather permitting. Attendance is at your own risk. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

GREEN MARKET
Fridays through Nov. 20 - Trimper Rides under the Ferris Wheel, 600 S. Atlantic Ave., 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Local Farmers Market featuring fresh everything and more from our local farmers. The market is agriculture based only. There will be live music and weekly drawings. Sally Kneavel, Sally@Trimperrides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

Sat., Aug. 1

BEACH 5 SAND SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Beach at Dorchester St. beach5sandsooccer@yahoo.com, 919-607-0864, <http://www.beach5sandsoc>

cerseries.com

OCBP PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING
Ocean City beach at Dorchester Street, 9:00 AM. There are no pre-certification requirements and experience in ocean rescue is not necessary to apply. On the day of testing, each candidate must have a mask and proper proof of age. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by visiting www.ococean.com/ocbp. Info: 410-289-7556.

RAT PACK TOGETHER AGAIN
Roland E. Powell Convention Center Ocean City Performing Art Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Doors open at 7 p.m. A toast to the original Rat Pack, “Rat Pack Together Again,” takes you on a musical journey featuring the greatest hits from the legendary Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. Tickets available online <https://www.ticketmaster.com/the-rat-pack-together-again/event/15005754AB95240B> or at the Convention Center Box Office during regular business hours. Tony Sands, croonersinatra@gmail.com, 410-289-2800, <https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com/upcoming-events/ratpacktogetheragain2020a>

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Aug. 2

SUNDAES IN THE PARKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 7:00 PM. Featuring free music by “Sapphire” (the ‘80s) and various free activities and entertainment for children. Prepackaged ice cream will be available for purchase. Take a picnic basket and beach chairs. The night will

end with a fireworks display at 9 p.m. Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <https://ococean.com/events>

THE BERLIN FARMERS MARKET
Sundays through Aug. 30 - Located on Pitts Street and Main Street, 9:00 AM - 1:00 pm. Special senior shopping time from 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM. www.berlin-mainstreet.com

Mon., Aug. 3

BULBASUR BOOK CLUB
Let’s discuss picture books, 10:00 AM. For ages 3-8 years. Register: <https://worcesterialibrary.libcal.com/event/6867864>.

47TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN
Harbour Island, 419 14th St., 4:00 PM - 9:15 PM. The world’s largest billfish tournament. A new family-friendly viewing experience will be located at the Third Street Bayside Ballpark where people can cheer on the boats as they head to Harbour Island, view a live stream of the weigh-ins, shop vendor booths and purchase concessions and official White Marlin gear. Gates open at 3 p.m. The entire event will also be live-streamed daily at <https://whitemarlinopen.com>. 410-289-9229

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring “Moana” (107 minutes). Movie audio is via FM radio frequency (monitor your car’s battery). Participants are reminded to stay inside their vehicle unless using available amenities. Portable restrooms will be available. All movies subject to weather-related conditions. 800-OC-OCEAN or 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/drive-in-movies2020>

Calendar

Tues., Aug. 4

SEAFOOD NIGHT

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Call the Knights of Columbus at 410-524-7994 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays to place a “take away” order of steamed crabs, steamed shrimp and more.

47TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN

Harbour Island, 419 14th St., 4:00 PM - 9:15 PM. The world’s largest billfish tournament. A new family-friendly viewing experience will be located at the Third Street Bayside Ballpark where people can cheer on the boats as they head to Harbour Island, view a live stream of the weigh-ins, shop vendor booths and purchase concessions and official White Marlin gear. Gates open at 3 p.m. The entire event will also be live-streamed daily at <https://whitemarlinopen.com>. 410-289-9229

YOGA FOR OLDER ADULTS

Join Natalie Bennett for a three part yoga series designed for positive aging, 5:00 PM. Yoga increases flexibility, immunity, sharpness and helps with insomnia Registration ends 24 hours before program begins. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6886336>.

FREE FAMILY BEACH GAMES

27th Street Beach, 6:30 PM. Held Tuesdays through Aug. 11. Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/family-beach-games2020Hel>

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring a film about the White Marlin Open as well as entries from the 3rd Annual Ocean City Film Challenge 2020. Movie audio is via FM radio frequency (monitor your car’s battery). Participants are reminded to stay inside their vehicle unless using available amenities. Portable restrooms will be available. All movies subject to weather-related conditions. 410-524-9433, <http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org>

Wed., Aug. 5

TEEN & TWEEN CRAFT HANGOUT

Chat (or not) while crafting, 7:00 PM. Bring whatever creative project you are working on and hang out with other teens and tweens. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6867379>.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR 4TH ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and held virtually on Aug. 11 from 4-6 p.m. Guest speakers include Katie Busacca discussing Autism and Nutrition Research: Fact or Fiction; Mauren van Stone, Esq. discussing Special Edu-

cation Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic; and Dr. Deepa Menon discussing Behavioral and Medical Challenges in Children with Special Healthcare Needs during COVID-19. Advance registration required: 410-641-9268 or gblake@atlanticgeneral.org by Aug. 5.

OCBP PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING

Ocean City beach at Dorchester Street, 9:00 AM. There are no pre-certification requirements and experience in ocean rescue is not necessary to apply. On the day of testing, each candidate must have a mask and proper proof of age. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by visiting www.ococean.com/ocbp. Info: 410-289-7556.

47TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN

Harbour Island, 419 14th St., 4:00 PM - 9:15 PM. The world’s largest billfish tournament. A new family-friendly viewing experience will be located at the Third Street Bayside Ballpark where people can cheer on the boats as they head to Harbour Island, view a live stream of the weigh-ins, shop vendor booths and purchase concessions and official White Marlin gear. Gates open at 3 p.m. The entire event will also be live-streamed daily at <https://whitemarlinopen.com>. 410-289-9229

FREE MOVIE ON THE BEACH

Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums, 11700 Coastal Highway, 8:30 PM. Sit in the sand and enjoy a free movie. Featuring “Frozen 2.” Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. All titles are subject to change without notice. All movies are weather permitting. Attendance is at your own risk. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

ONGOING EVENTS

LIBRARY BY APPOINTMENT

Ocean Pines and Pocomoke branches will pilot the “library by appointment.” Visitors will have to call to make an appointment and face coverings will be required. A screening form will also be mandatory. The risk of entering a public facility is your own. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org/article/library-appointment-ocean-pines-and-pocomoke-branches-beginning-monday-july-27>.

FREE OC LIFE-SAVING STATION MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Held at 10 a.m., Monday through Saturday, through Aug. 22 on the Ocean City Boardwalk near the museum, 813 S Atlantic Ave. Programs include “History of our Surfmens” on Mondays; “Beach Safety” on Tuesdays; “About Sharks” on Thursdays; and “Land, Sky, & Sea” on Fridays. Also featuring “Salt Water Fishing Then & Now,” Monday through Saturday at 11 a.m. <https://ococean.com/events/oc-life-saving-station-museum-programs>



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Guests enjoy food and drinks at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club tiki bar and pool area on a warm, sunny Sunday, June 21.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FAMILY TIME

Peg Spangler and her daughter, Carie-Anne, sip on iced tea and indulge on a treat from Baked on Bay Street in Berlin, June 13.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

REUNION

Emily Faubion of Virginia Beach, left, and Kathleen Sabatino of Philadelphia, decided Berlin was the best midway spot for a reunion on June 20.

CALL

410-723-6397

BY MONDAY

5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE

Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com and baysideoc.com.

HELP WANTED

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No Experience Necessary.

Training and equipment will be provided.

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HELP WANTED

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Looking for experienced personnel with customer service skills. Must be flexible with hours. Email resume to jobs@carouselhotel.com or stop by and complete an application at the Front Desk. We require satisfactory pre-employment drug testing and background check.

Carousel Resort Hotel & Condominiums

11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

EOE

HELP WANTED

Seacrets

Hosts (\$13), Cashiers (\$13), Kitchen (\$15), Expo (\$15), Office, Boutique, Food Runners, Bar Hosts, Servers, Door Staff, & Tour Guides.

Apply in person or online at seacrets.com

HELP WANTED

Home Instead SENIOR CARE

Hiring experienced care givers with flexible availability, weekends required. Must have vehicle, pass drug & background checks.

Call office Mon.-Fri., 9a-3p 410-641-0901

HELP WANTED

URGENT!

Immediate Hire for Hostess/Front Desk Person for answering phone calls and drive thru duties.

Blue Fish Restaurant & Sushi Bar

Call 410-524-3983 or apply within, 94th St., OCMD

HELP WANTED

FISH TALES IS HIRING

Kitchen positions are available. Line Cooks - Prep Cooks - Dishwashers. Restaurant Positions include: Hostess - Door Staff - Bussers - Food Runners - T-Shirt Shop.

No Experience Necessary

Please come to the Tackle Shop located on the property to fill out an application.

For more info, please call Susan at 410-289-0990 x115

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Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel

Attn: Human Resources Dept.

10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Fax: 410-723-9109, lwatson@clarionoc.com

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