



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Seating arranged to accommodate social distancing requirements at the Ocean Pines Association annual meeting Saturday seemed pointless, as only a little over two dozen members attended.

No quorum, no meeting in OP

With only few members present, annual session doesn't satisfy bylaws

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The socially distanced seating provided at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial for the Ocean Pines Association annual homeowners meeting on Saturday was far more

distanced than needed, as the session failed to attract the 100 members it required for a quorum.

OPA bylaws require a quorum of 100 voting-eligible members to make the annual meeting official, with its most important task being to recognize and accept the election results.

Along with closing out the 2020 board election, the meeting also provides a forum to present the annual Sam Wilkinson Volunteer

Award, as well as updates from General Manager John Viola, OPA Attorney Jeremy Tucker, OPA President Doug Parks and Auditor Paul Shifrin.

After confirming the 100-member mark was not reached, Parks requested a motion to close the meeting within minutes of it having started.

Parks said the reports from Viola, Tucker, Parks and Shifrin
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OP voters re-elect two incumbents to board of directors

Parks leads pack with big majority of all votes cast in Pines election

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The 2020 OPA Board of Directors election results were compiled on Friday, with the ballot count adding up to make incumbents Doug Parks and Colette Horn the winners in the three-way race for a pair of open seats.

Parks garnered 2,206 votes, or 80 percent, followed by Colette Horn with 1,801, while newcomer Stuart Lakernick finished with 1,149 votes.

On Friday, Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger reported 6,975 ballots were mailed out to OPA members with 2,759 returned and counted. The rate of return for ballots topped 39 percent.

The Elections Committee rejected 20 ballots, largely for being improperly marked. Another 60

See PINES Page 10



Doug Parks



Colette Horn



Stuart Lakernick

Berlin expands street work list

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council will be able to expand the work of the street improvement projects while remaining within budget.

As of Monday, the following street improvement projects have been completed: Harrison Avenue, Tingle Road, Upshur Lane, Middle Street, Buckingham Road, Cape Circle, East Burley Street, the north part of Flower Street, East Railroad Avenue, Flower Street going to

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ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The repaving of Showell Street in Berlin is among the completed projects being conducted to improve many streets and sidewalks in town.

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OPA GM reports strong financials

Viola posts ending figures for fiscal 2019-20 budget due to no annual meeting

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) Despite revenue reductions related to the covid-19 pandemic, the Ocean Pines Association 2019-2020 operating budget finished roughly \$570,000 in the black.

Although General Manager John Viola was unable to present an official financial report at the OPA annual homeowners meeting on Saturday because there was no quorum, the information was subsequently posted on the association's website.

Viola revealed the 2019-20 budget year, which closed on April 30, reflected a positive variance of \$570,660 over estimates.

Among the departments ending the year with a positive balance were Public Works at \$381,358, followed by the Yacht Club at \$201,650.

Negative balances were recorded in Golf Operations at \$73,303 and Aquatics at \$46,182.

Turning to reserve accounts, the balance in replacement and major maintenance ended at \$3,486,000 on April 30. With roughly \$1,800,000 anticipated in additional



John Viola

funds and more than \$1,082,000 in expenditures during the present fiscal year, the account is expected to reach \$4,242,000 on April 30, 2021.

Bulkheads and waterways closed at \$1,649,000 on April 30, with \$917,00 in additional money and \$1,800,000 in expenditures expected this year, which should leave a balance of about \$766,000 to end the current fiscal year.

Roads and drainage closed fiscal 2019-2020 at \$506,000, with a negative balance of \$130,000 anticipated to end this fiscal year based on additional funds of \$335,000 counterbalanced by expenditures of \$971,000.

Lastly, the recently established new capital reserve account is earmarked to receive \$167,000 in funds, with \$67,000 in expenses, and should close with a balance of \$100,000.

Viola also reported the annual assessment rate for non-waterfront properties remains unchanged at \$986 this year. Over the last five years, the assessment fees have risen by a total of \$65, for a \$13 annual increase, compared to the \$921 rate charged in 2017.

Among the priorities established by Viola for the current year are employing teams or workgroups to study specific issues, along with developing communication protocols among team members.

"In general, we have a team that wants to develop and do what is best for Ocean Pines," he said.

Looking at capital initiatives, Viola said many projects, including the recently completed golf clubhouse and police building expansion, were wrapped up under budget for a savings of more than \$453,000 over budget estimates.

The clubhouse was completed for a cost of \$1,496,653, compared to a budget of \$1,600,000, for a savings of \$103,347.

Additional savings of \$117,817 were recorded for the newly constructed Golf Cart Barn, which was budgeted at \$430,000 but completed for \$312,183.

The police and administration building expansion, which were estimated at a combined cost of \$1,496,000, were wrapped up for a total savings of \$232,108.

Looking ahead, Viola said in addition to continuing to address operational modifications due to the covid-19 pandemic, the association is in the process of forming a strategic and long-range planning work group.

Berlin's Summer Sidewalk Sale to offer markdowns

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Summer Sidewalk Sale, Berlin's longest running event, having begun more than six decades ago, is expected to bring hundreds of visitors and residents downtown Aug. 14-16 to take advantage of discounts.

Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director, said stores have been putting racks outside almost every weekend due to the pandemic, but the annual sale will bring a larger volume of markdowns.

"What makes it even sweeter is that it falls during Maryland's tax-free week," Wells said.

Shoppers can take advantage of tax-free sales on clothing and footwear priced at \$100 or less as well as tax-free sales on the first \$40 of a backpack. According to the Comptroller of Maryland's office, the state's tax-free shopping week ends on Saturday.

Downtown businesses will stay open until 8 p.m. on Friday as part of the 2nd Friday festivities that will include wine tastings at Sisters, 113 N. Main Street, and live music.

Stevenson's Crossroads will perform on Commerce Street and Xander Jett will perform at the Atlantic Hotel.

The following stores are confirmed to have discounts this weekend:

Treasure Chest Jewelers will have 50 percent off select items in the store.

World of Toys will have tables outside with products up to 50 percent off.

Bruder Hill will offer 50 percent off all summer apparel, 50 percent off shoes and 10 percent off jewelry.

Bruder Home will have up to 50 percent off of select items in the store.

Una Bella Salute will offer a buy six get the seventh bottle of olive

See SHOPS Page 3

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10211 Hammond Rd Bishopville

New Listing

\$429,900

Stately 3BR/2.5BA on a 4+ acre lot. Foyer w/tile floors & soaring ceiling. Formal dining room w/arched window & cathedral ceiling w/exposed beam. Living room w/vaulted ceilings & gas fireplace. Kitchen w/hardwood floors, upgraded cabinets & SS appliances opens to breakfast nook. 1st-floor master suite w/vaulted ceiling, his & her closet, dual sink vanity, & jetted tub. Unfinished room can be converted into any desirable space. Office/study w/French doors & storage shed. No HOA or city tax.

Lot 1 Kennebunk Ct Ocean City

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Shops discount apparel, jewelry

Continued from Page 2
oil or balsamic vinegar free (mix and match) sale with some restrictions.

Fathom will have a small discounted apparel rack.

East and Main will have 50 percent off summer styles and new fall arrivals.

Patty Jean's Boutique will have a rack starting at \$5.

Victorian Charm will have 30-75 percent off select items. All Ugg pajamas, robes and slippers will be 40 percent off and all Tidewater flip flops will be 30 percent off.

Heart of Gold Kids will offer 40

percent off all summer clothing, 30 percent off bookbags as well as a 50 percent off rack.

Emily Cook Vocke, Heart of Gold Kids owner, said it's her biggest sale of the year.

Viking Tree Trading Co. and Dreamweaver are also participating.

All of those who click going or interested in the Berlin Summer Sidewalk Sale Event on Facebook will be entered into prize drawings for Berlin gifts donated by local businesses and the grand prize of \$100 in "Berlin Bucks" to be spent downtown.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Patty Jean's Boutique on North Main Street in Berlin will have an apparel rack starting at just \$5 as part of the annual Summer Sidewalk Sale downtown this weekend.

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Armed forces couple launch GI Jane's Resale store in OP

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) Hoping to turn inflated costs to a net positive, the owners of JDog Junk Removal and Hauling have launched the GI Jane's Resale shop in the Manklin Meadows shopping center in Ocean Pines.

Paul and Carol Vaillancourt, both members of the Army National Guard, opened an Eastern Shore-based JDog Junk Removal franchise in November 2019.

"We were doing residential and commercial junk removal and then we expanded into dumpster rentals," Carol Vaillancourt said.

The Vaillancourts, along with eight-year-old daughter Isabella, relocated to Ocean Pines from Michigan in 2019 partly because Carol's sister lives in Ocean Pines.

The couple's business venture got off to a quick start last year with JDog thriving before the onset of the covid-19 pandemic.

"One of the main tenets of our business model is to recycle, reuse and repurpose as much as we possibly can," she said. "Obviously, we want to be good stewards of our environment but also we have a lot of overhead."

Principal among the expenses are

landfill-tipping fees.

Before the state's coronavirus restrictions limited social interactions, the JDog proprietors worked with area nonprofits, such as Diakonia and the Coastal Hospice Thrift Store, to reduce the volume earmarked for the Worcester County Landfill.

"Donating helps us keep things out of the dump to keep our junk removal a little more affordable for our customers and also gets things into the hands of people in need," she said.

Since March, when retail operations were largely shuttered throughout Maryland, the ability to donate items became significantly reduced.

"Our dump fees tripled," she said.

In addition to hauling inquiries plunging, the couple realized that without an outlet for a percentage of their materials, profit margins would not be sustainable.

"We can't just throw everything away in the dump because it doesn't match with my business model," she said. "It goes against my integrity and it's just going to drive our costs through the roof."

In short order, the Vaillancourts hatched an expansion plan after discovering affordable retail space.

"I found this retail spot that was af-



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL VAILLANCOURT

GI Jane's Resale proprietors Carol and Paul Vaillancourt pose with their daughter, Isabella, while promoting their anchor business, JDog Junk Removal and Hauling.

fordable and we immediately filled it right up with the items that were reusable," she said.

Last month the Army veterans opened GI Jane's Resale, located next

See JDOG Page 5

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JDog owners open retail outlet

Continued from Page 4

door to the Sweet Shack in the Manklin Meadows Shopping Center in Ocean Pines.

“Our main mission with the shop is not necessarily to generate a huge profit,” she said. “Our prices are very low compared to what you’ll find in other resale shops.”

Although the principal financial goal for opening GI Jane’s was covering overhead costs, wages, insurance and assorted expenses, the motivation goes beyond fiscal matters.

“Really we’re trying to preserve the environment by getting stuff out of the landfill and saving our costs on our junk removal business,” she said.

The new retail venture is intended to keep hauling price points within reason.

“We would almost price ourselves right out of business because if we have to raise our price to cover the cost of throwing everything in a landfill it might not be as affordable of a service,” she said.

The average consumer typically fails to understand the financial impact of increased dumping fees.

“They say, ‘Well, it’s only going to take you 10 minutes to remove the item,’” she said. “What they don’t see is the 30-minute drive to and from the landfill, the cost of the landfill, the insurance, the truck and employees ... there’s a lot there.”

Filling the nearly 1,000 square feet of retail space after finalizing lease terms on July 1 proved easy.

“We filled it up the first day,” she said. “We could fill the store up every week even if it emptied out every week.”

Since opening last month, the shop has operated from Thursday-Saturday between 10a.m.-3 p.m.

“I know a lot of people want us to have expanded hours, but we just don’t have the staff capability at this point, so we’re kind of on yard sale hours,” she said.

In addition to the regular retail schedule, consumers have also been able to peruse items at GI Jane’s Resale via social media.

“What I do when I get new stuff in is post a lot of on Facebook,” she said. “We’ve already developed a pretty decent Facebook following.”

Living near the retail store also lends some flexibility for customer service.

“People have showed up at the shop and they’re standing outside the door,” she said. “They call me and I’m like, ‘OK, I can be there in five minutes.’”

The sneak peeks of stock available on GI Jane’s Facebook page and Facebook marketplace is critical during the health crisis.

“It’s nice because with the social distancing you can’t have the store packed with people anyhow,” she said.

To learn more about items available at GI Jane’s call 410-881-5364 or search for the GI Jane’s Resale on Facebook. JDog Hauling, which serves the entire Delmarva Peninsula, can be contacted at 844-GET-JDOG.

Historic district protocols amendment to town code

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Historic District Commission hopes to amend the town’s historic district code to be sure the public is informed about the obligations associated with buying a property in the district.

“We had some pretty unpleasant situations for the people purchasing ... and I never thought it made us look good as a commission,” said commission member Mary Moore.

Moore added that she was given a copy of documents given to Daniel and Denise Gauger of 19 S. Main St. upon purchase that stated their home was within the historic district. However, the homeowners were not informed about protocols for residing within the historic district.

Real estate agencies may list homes as historic, but there is a difference between historic homes and the historic district.

“We have historic homes outside the historic district,” Planning Director Dave Engelhart said. “They have to be made aware that whether it’s a historic home or not, they’re inside a historic district.

That’s the clarification that has to be made.”

Engelhart added that such disclosure should be part of standard operating procedures of the Coastal Association of Realtors.

The listing for 19 S. Main St. did state it was within the historic district, Engelhart said.

Moore argued that buyers need a better explanation of what the historic district is and what it requires.

“It says ‘historic district,’ but if you’re from Baltimore and you lived in a rowhouse or you lived in a tract house, ‘historic house’ ‘oh, it’s an old house,’” she said. “What’s old? To some people, it’s before 1940.”

If Realtors list the home as within the historic district, and the buyers sign the contract or listing agreement, it is the buyer’s responsibility to uphold the obligations of historic district living.

“If they didn’t read it, that’s their problem,” Engelhart said. “It’s not the real estate agent’s problem, it’s not the town’s problem. It’s the person’s problem as long as it’s listed there ... they should take the time to read the contract before they sign anything, and then ask, ‘What is the historic district about?’”

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Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The following took place during the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Monday:

Grant application

The mayor and council approved an application to the state's Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for money for permanent restrooms at Stephen Decatur Park on Tripoli Street. The project should cost a total of \$110,000. The application details the itemized costs as \$60,000 for building

construction, \$10,000 for site work, \$20,000 for utilities, \$10,000 for engineering design and permitting, \$5,000 for engineering CA and inspection and a contingency fund of \$5,000. The town is requesting a \$99,000 grant. Local funds will cover 10 percent of the cost at \$11,000.

Relay for Life event

They mayor and council approved the drive-through Relay for Life of North Worcester Luminaria event scheduled for Oct. 3 from 7-9 p.m.

The event would require on-street parking to be cleared from 3-10 p.m., according to the event application.

Participants will drive down North Main Street and Harrison Avenue near the Berlin Fire Company.

Mary Bellis and Dawn Hodge of the American Cancer Society plan to line both sides of the curb of the sidewalks along Main Street from the intersection of Main and West Streets to the intersection of Main and Jefferson Streets with luminaria bags with names of cancer sur-

vivors as well as individuals who died from cancer.

At-large Councilmember Thom Gulyas and Hodge discussed using battery-operated twist lights rather than votive candles for the safety of participants.

Hodge said she also hopes to work with Ocean 98 Radio to broadcast the event live on Oct. 3.

Donations for bags will be made in advance, according to the special event application.

Storm damage

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said Tropical Storm Isaias did some damage in Berlin last Tuesday, but nothing like that inflicted on nearby areas.

"In north Kent County and southern New Castle County, Delaware, as of [Monday night], they still have hundreds of folks without electricity," Fleetwood said.

In Berlin, trees fell throughout town and the average power outage of residents lasted about 46 minutes.

Water issues

The town of Berlin has two water towers. The one out on Route 346 was taken off line a couple weeks ago for interior maintenance as well as exterior painting, Fleetwood said. Since then, there have been problems with

pressure from the water tower on Franklin Avenue caused, presumably, by valve issues. Both towers were then put back on line. The external maintenance on the Route 346 tower will continue. The interior maintenance will be conducted after the valve issues are resolved.

Mask mandate

Gov. Larry Hogan's expanded mask order that became effective on July 31 requires Marylanders ages five and older to wear a mask or face covering in public areas of businesses and buildings and in outdoor public areas when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Gulyas and District 1 Councilmember Troy Purnell did not wear masks or face coverings throughout the meeting on Monday. Gulyas said he was not wearing a mask because he was actively drinking a coffee during the meeting and was following social distancing guidelines for government buildings with an expected occupancy or attendance of 10 or more people. Purnell said he did not intend to violate any directives and believed the chairs were arranged six feet apart.

"I have asked Jeff Fleetwood to measure the distance so we all can be assured we are [six feet] apart," Purnell said. "Also please note while arriving and departing I wore a mask."



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Mayor and Council approved the grant application to the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for \$99,000 toward building permanent restrooms at Stephen Decatur Park on Tripoli Street.



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Three requests approved by Historic District Commission

By **Ally Lanasa**
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Historic District Commission unanimously approved three requests for signs and a storage shed for downtown businesses during its meeting on Aug. 5.

The commission first met with a representative of Burley Café, Matt Burrier, to discuss signs for the rebranding of the property at 17 Jefferson St. to be known as The Lost Pantry.

The Brushmillers did not attend the meeting because it was their daughter's 16th birthday.

The idea behind The Lost Pantry sprang from the Brushmillers' realization that the covid-19 pandemic called for a different style of grocery shopping.

The Lost Pantry will be a specialty market and café, featuring breakfast and lunch items mainly for carryout.

"We're working with local farmers to bring in produce," Burrier added.

The commission approved the Brushmillers' plan to use the existing sign but repaint it and add the new name for operation.

Then, the commission approved the placement of a 71-inch-by-42-inch-by-21-inch outdoor storage shed on the Pitts Street side of J&M Meat Market, located at 101 William St. The lockable shed purchased from Amazon will be used to store outdoor umbrellas.

"I would prefer to put it where the outdoor tables are on the brick wall up against the building so, every night I can just take the umbrellas out of the bases and store them there over night so they don't get stolen," said owner Heidi Johnson.

Lastly, the commission approved a sign for Life's Simple Pleasures, which is moving from 10 S. Main St. to 1 S. Main St.

Owner Brenda Malone said a new iron sign bracket will be installed to match those at The Dusty Lamb and Dolle's Candyland.

In addition, the approved sign from the existing store front as well as the approved wooden sign at 15 Gay Street will be moved to 1 S. Main St. Then, the current sign for A Little Bit Sheepish above the door will be updated for new operation.

The commission was also scheduled to meet with Neil Winn and Heather Roades about the construction of a new art studio on their property at 202 S. Main Street. However, the applicants were not present.

According to the application, the art studio would be a 10-foot-by-12-foot lean-to style shed with wood siding and be placed within the boundary of the current privacy fence.

The studio would establish a creative space for Roades, an artist and



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The Historic District Commission approved the Brushmillers' request to alter the existing sign at 17 Jefferson St. in Berlin as the owners rebrand the property as The Lost Pantry specialty market and café.

a scientist. She sells her work through her Berlin business, Natural Histories.

The commission will make a decision about the studio request at its Sept. 2 meeting.

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Berlin sewer fund debt reduction approved

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council on Monday agreed to write off half the \$3.4 million the town's separate sewer fund owes the general fund, while committing to repay the remaining \$1.7 million to the general fund over 10 or more years.

Currently, the mayor and council receive quarterly financial reports, but the councilmembers asked for more detailed reports with suggested actions to prevent future interfund loans such as this one.

"We're on top of this a whole lot better than we were as far as quarterly meetings and knowing how we're doing," said District 1 Councilmember Troy Purnell.

However, District 2 Councilmember Zackery Tyndall requested an end-of-the-year analysis presentation. District 4 Councilmember Dean Burrell argued that was too late.

"If we get to the end of the year, and we don't know how much we're going to be over or under, it's too late," Burrell said. "That's the information we need while we're operating and during that operating time, we need to change what we do."

Finance Director Natalie Saleh recommended biannual reports in addition to the quarterly reports.



Jeff Fleetwood

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said he would also provide Saleh's perspective for improvements at the end of each quarter.

In addition, a virtual audit will be held with the mayor and council on Sept. 11, Saleh said.

Prior to the meeting, Tyndall submitted questions to Fleetwood about how much the enterprise (self-sustaining) funds owe to the general fund.

At the time of the meeting, Mayor Gee Williams said the sewer fund owes the general fund nearly \$3.4 million, the stormwater fund owes the general fund \$122,323, the sewer fund owes the water fund \$373,893 and the water fund owes the general fund \$74,954.

Tyndall asked if they could meet to discuss the repayment process of the other transfers, and Saleh agreed.

"We're going to have to make additional investments," the mayor said. "Are we going to repay ourselves and make that the priority or are we going to have the funds available to invest in the water, wastewater facilities to allow us to meet all the environmental and also the capacity standards that are required? You know, what's more

important? That's why I think you need to reflect on this some more."

The mayor and council also discussed the draft resolution to establish a general fund reserve policy with Fleetwood and Saleh.

Fleetwood said they are looking for suggestions to improve and finalize the resolution.

Tyndall said he would like it to be simplified with less confusing categories.

According to the draft resolution, the town should have a budget stabilization reserve "in an amount sufficient to ensure continuity of Town General Fund operations for a three-month period."

"I think we need to have, like we do with many ordinances and things, a summary at the top that anybody can basically understand with a basic knowledge of our financial system, including members of the public, that states the general three-month requirement and so forth. Just a simple statement at the very top and then you can have what I call the supplemental information," said Mayor Gee Williams. "But I think that needs to be at the top and not buried in here."

Based on the suggestions, the overall policy will be simplified to one reserve fund, said Fleetwood.

A resident also submitted a question for clarification about the follow-

ing statement under the purpose section of the resolution: "The Town will establish and maintain reserve balances to: (c) enable the Town to implement innovative opportunities for the betterment of the community."

Fleetwood said an example of that would be further growth opportunity. Another example he provided occurred about a year ago to correct issues in Heron Park.

"We beat around the idea of taking the money from one of the assigned funds, so when we did that, when we discussed that it was a consensus here that no, we're not going to touch that money. That money is there for that reason," Fleetwood said.

The reserve policy would establish a minimum of funds that are not assigned to anything and can be used for emergencies.

Currently, the town is looking at a roughly three-month equivalent of the annual general fund expenditures for a reserve balance, Fleetwood said.

According to its website, The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends "at a minimum, that general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain unrestricted budgetary fund balance in their general fund of no less than two months of regular general fund operating revenues or regular general fund operating expenditures."

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ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals approved Douglas and Suzanne Parks' request for a variance to build a carport and shed at their home on Baker Street to protect their 1971 Volkswagen Beetle during a meeting on Aug. 5.

Berlin BZA approves carport variance request on Baker St.

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals last Wednesday unanimously agreed to grant a variance that will allow a proposed carport and a shed to be built at 7 Baker St.

Homeowners Douglas and Suzanne Parks requested the accessory building to protect their 1971 Volkswagen Beetle. "Plus, we have sold 115 Broad Street, so we are losing sheds that we had for storage, and that's the reason for the shed that will be attached to the rear of the carport," Suzanne Parks said.

According to the town code, an accessory building within residential districts "is supposed to be six feet off the side property line, six feet off the rear property line and six feet from any other structure," said Planning Director Dave Engelhart.

The proposed carport would encroach on the minimum required yardage on the property line with the adjoining neighbor, JoAnne Wagner of 9 Baker St.

Wagner said in a letter that she has no

objections to the project.

The staff recommendation was to approve the variance because the impact was minimal for the adjoining properties and the neighborhood, Engelhart said.

"Where this is being placed, I don't think it's a detriment to the neighborhood or any other residences on Baker Street," Engelhart said. "I think it's a low impact addition, so I would recommend approval."

Vice Chairman Woody Bunting drew the site plans for the project and was compensated for the work.

"I did want the board aware, and if anyone does feel that I should recuse myself, that's not a problem," Bunting said. "I just wanted to make sure there were enough members here. I feel I can be impartial."

The board agreed he could make an independent judgment.

No questions or comments were made during the public hearing via Facebook Livestream.

With the board's approval, the homeowners will now obtain a building permit to begin construction.



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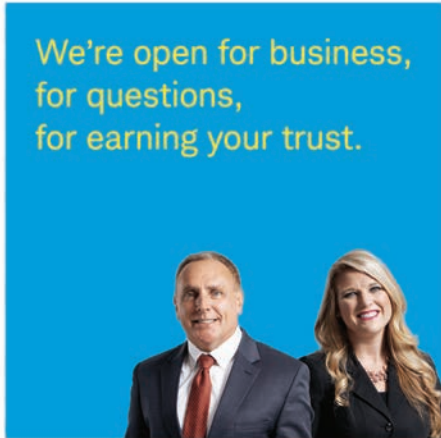
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Pines voters re-elect incumbents to board

Continued from Page 1
ballots received after the Aug. 5 deadline were not included in count totals.

The response was largely favorable for a ballot question concerning potentially employing electronic voting options in the future, with more than 65 percent, 1,581 votes, supporting the measure, while 822, or about 34 percent opposed the move.

Leading the pack was Doug Parks, who in a repeat from his first run three years ago, received the highest vote total.

“I appreciate being given another opportunity to serve Ocean Pines,” he said. “I still have the energy and desire, [which] leads to a responsibility to support and serve the community.”

Returned to the board, Parks expressed optimism about maintaining the momentum established during his

first term.

“I look forward to getting into the next set of issues to keep Ocean Pines moving forward,” he said.

Cultivating a culture of cooperation among board members was a primary objective for Parks after being elected to an initial term three years ago.

“I’ll pat myself on the back,” he said. “One of the areas I really focused on was to try to get the team to work together.”

Parks said the effort helped foster a free exchange of information while maintaining a decorum of professionalism.

“Every one of them (other directors) had different kinds of strengths and perspectives,” he said.

Looking ahead, Parks said the most pressing priority is monitoring budget numbers as the coronavirus pandemic continues to stifle society and commerce.

“Everybody’s paying close attention to expenses as they are right now and areas that we can work with the GM,” he said.

Second-place finisher Colette Horn expressed gratitude for being selected to retain a seat on the board.

“I appreciate the confidence that was placed in me and for the text messages, emails and calls I received wishing me well in my second term,” she said.

Horn is hoping to continue ongoing work undertaken by the board, including further developing the strategic planning process, addressing short-term rental concerns and plotting drainage improvements at Bainbridge Park.

Closely monitoring financial impacts from the covid-19 pandemic is also a priority for Horn.

“We need to continue good oversight to make operations continue to run smoothly and efficiently,” she said.

Horn said reduced income from amenities and its unknown impact on profit and loss statements is also a primary concern.

“It remains to be seen what that’s going to look like at the end of the season,” she said.

Lakernick, while not happy with his finish, was appreciative the contest was conducted amicably.

“I was a little disappointed, but it was a great experience,” he said. “My two running mates Colette and Doug, they’re ethical, good people, so I have no problem.”

Despite being denied the opportunity to serve on the board, Lakernick plans to stay involved with the OPA.

“I’m going to be on some committees this year and who knows what the future will bring,” he said.

Lakernick said taking another run at a board position is a distinct possibility.

“I’m mulling over running again, but I can’t commit to it,” he said.

Regardless of his own involvement, Lakernick expressed disappointment at the lack of participation from community members.

“The thing that surprised me the most about this election was in a town of 8,452 homes, I was the only person to volunteer to run,” he said. “That’s kind of weird.”

Street improvement projects added

Continued from Page 1
ward Oceans East subdivisions, Showell Street, Purnell Avenue, west German-town Road and Bottle Branch Road.

The contract for the street repairs was roughly \$349,000, which turned out to be \$201,000 less than the \$550,000 the town budgeted for the improvements.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood investigated the cost of additional street repairs and sidewalk concrete work, specifically to fix safety issues in Walnut Hill.

“I am well aware of some folks being

hurt out there,” he said.

There are different elevations in the sidewalks in Walnut Hill because of tree roots, Fleetwood added.

Other significant concrete work will occur on Pitts Street, Commerce Street and the aprons on Flower Street at Henry Park.

The current contracted company offered a bid of about \$31,000 for the sidewalk repairs.

Fleetwood said the streets to be repaved are Branch Street, Hudson Street, Flower Street by Dr. William Henry Park, Evans Road, Grace Street,

Decatur Street Extended and Mill Road based on the inspections of roadways by Davis, Bowen and Friedel.

Mayor Gee Williams said the additional work for streets and sidewalks would total about \$150,000.

The total expenses of the projects would approximately be \$500,400 with the additional work Fleetwood recommends, the mayor said.

“We’re getting, I’ll say, about 40 percent more streets work done than we originally had hoped for or planned for plus the significant sidewalk improvements,” Williams added.

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PHOTO COURTESY USDA

Four Worcester County residents have reported receiving unsolicited packages of seeds from China as of Monday, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Seeds of mystery planted with free packs from China

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) Residents of at least 22 states in the U.S., including Maryland, have received mysterious, unsolicited seeds allegedly mailed from China.

As of Monday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received four reports of unsolicited seed packages from Worcester County residents, said K. Cecilia Sequeira, a public affairs specialist with the federal inspection agency.

Maryland State Plant Health Director Matthew Travis said his office received two reports from Ocean City residents, one report from a Berlin resident and one report from a resident of the Snow Hill area. All said the seeds came from China, he added.

The Department of Agriculture is working with other federal agencies and state departments of agriculture to investigate the seeds’ origins and variety.

On July 29, Osama El-Lissy of the See SAMPLES Page 12

Correction

Ocean City Today and Bayside Gazette erroneously reported that Fisher Architecture was the purchaser of properties on Pitts and Main Streets that were being considered for redevelopment.

The purchasers, had the deal gone through, would have been Frank Willing of Paul Davis Restoration and Chris Davis of NAI Coastal. They withdrew from the project because of cost issues.

Fisher Architecture would have designed the project if it had proceeded.

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Samples may have plant pests

Continued from Page 11

Plant Protection program at the inspection agency said 14 different species of seeds had been identified through samples, including mustard, cabbage, morning glory, mint, sage, lavender, rosemary, hibiscus and roses.

Since then, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service identified some other species that have been mailed to residents throughout the U.S. as broccoli, kale, celery, coriander, cilantro, sunflower, basil and tomato.

The main concern is that the seeds may introduce damaging pests or diseases that could harm agriculture, the inspection agency's website stated.

All 50 states have issued warnings about the unsolicited packages.

At this time, officials believe the packages are part of a "brushing scam" to boost sales with false customer reviews.

As of Monday, the federal inspection agency had received more than 9,000 emails from people across the country who reportedly were mailed unsolicited seeds, and the agency had collected 925 seed packages, said Sequeira.

It appears that recipients recently made purchases online, according to the federal inspection agency's website.

Although there is no evidence of human health risks, the Department of Agriculture advises anyone who receives a package to wear gloves and limit touching the material.

Sequeira said not to plant the seeds, but to leave the packages as they arrived—unopened with the mailing label.

Maryland citizens who receive an unsolicited package of seeds are instructed to contact Travis via email at matthew.a.travis@usda.gov or call 410-288-5540 or Kimberly Rice, acting program manager of the Plant Industries and Pest Management of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, via email at kimberly.rice@maryland.gov or call 410-841-5920.

Reports can also be made to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Management program at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov.

In addition, there are options to submit reports online to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service or the state department of agriculture.

Then, Maryland residents should mail the unsolicited packages to the following address for USDA APHIS PPQ: 2400 Broening Highway, Suite 102 Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

For more information, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2020/sa-07/seed-s-china.

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Annual OPA meeting canceled

Continued from Page 1

would be immediately posted on the OPA website.

Procedurally, the cancellation obligates the board hold a special meeting, which was scheduled for Wednesday at the Golf Clubhouse.

In addition to accepting the 2020 board election totals, Parks said the Sam Wilkinson Award would be presented by the Recreation and Parks Department during the special directors meeting held on Wednesday.

Parks said also scheduled on Wednesday is an organizational meeting to select board officer positions, including president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

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Berlin mayor and council approve rezoning

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council agreed that rezonings were in order for two properties Monday, following findings by the Berlin Planning Commission that mistakes had been made in the original zonings.

The first case was to rezone the property at 10712 Ocean Gateway from B-1 Town Center Zone to B-2 Shopping District.

Attorney Joseph Moore of the Law Offices of Williams, Moore, Shockley & Harrison, presented the application to rezone the former Harley-Davidson facility, which is in the corporate limits of the Town of Berlin and is owned by Two Farms Inc. T/A Royal Farms.

“The reason we were zoned B-1 is because we got annexed at the same time as the Stephen Decatur High School property, and it was annexed B-1 because that’s all they needed,” Moore said. “In my application I have set forth what I believe is a mistake.

“And the mistake is that the two uses, after it was constructed, of course, as a supermarket, have been a proposed automobile sales facility and then the actual Harley-Davidson use. Neither of those uses are allowed under the Berlin code in the B-1 downtown district,” Moore continued.

Those uses are permitted under B-2 Shopping District, according to the town code.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Mayor and Council unanimously approved to rezone the former Harley-Davidson facility at 10712 Ocean Gateway to B-2 Shopping District during its meeting on Monday.

The subject property at the southerly side of U.S. Route 50 and east side of Seahawk Road is adjacent to a property that was annexed as B-2 Shopping District, which demonstrates that a mistake was made in the zoning classification.

In addition, the surrounding Worcester County properties are zoned as C-2 Commercial, “which in the county is the comparable zoning to B-2 in the town,” Moore said.

Furthermore, the rezoning classification is in compliance with Berlin’s Comprehensive Plan.

“It is not even in the comprehensive plan that we should be zoned the same as downtown,” Moore added.

Moore also pointed to the 8.5 percent increase in population since the original zoning classification in Berlin.

No questions or comments were submitted prior to or during the public hearing.

The mayor and council agreed with Moore that the property should be rezoned to be compatible with the surrounding properties and to comply with proper commercial uses.

The mayor and council also agreed with the testimony of David Diehl, the buyer of 115 Broad Street, and his attorney Mark Cropper to rezone the formerly Southern States location, from M-1 Light Industrial to B-2 Shopping District because of a mistake in zoning.

Diehl said present and future transportation patterns are consistent with the proposed uses upon rezoning.

Diehl also agreed with the Berlin Planning Commission’s findings that the original M-1 Light Industrial zoning was no longer a compatible use considering the adjacent properties and the neighboring area had seen significant changes over time with less industrial purposes.

The commission also found that the

proximity to the downtown commercial district made the uses permitted in the proposed B-2 zoning classification more appropriate for the Broad Street property.

Lastly, the rezoning was found to be in compliance with the town’s Comprehensive Plan.


During the Planning Commission meeting on July 8, Diehl said the proposed use of the property is a family-owned seafood market, which will offer crabs and a limited menu mainly for carryout.

Again, no questions or comments were submitted prior to or during the public hearing.

However, after the hearing closed resident Jason Walter asked on the Facebook Livestream thread if that end of Harrison Avenue is included as a contiguous part of this parcel. Planning Director Dave Engelhart replied that it was.


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Opinion

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

Property owners need to keep up with board

So much for community involvement. After Saturday’s dismal turnout for the Ocean Pines Association’s annual meeting, along with 39.5 percent voter participation in this year’s election, the Board of Directors could conclude one of two things: either its members have done such a good job that they have no worries, or property owners don’t care what the board does as long as it doesn’t cost them money.

After all, why should the directors pay attention to constituent needs when it appears that most of their constituents aren’t paying attention to them?

There’s not much else to take away from an annual meeting that failed to draw the requisite 100-member quorum out of the roughly 7,000 people who were eligible to attend and to ratify the new board.

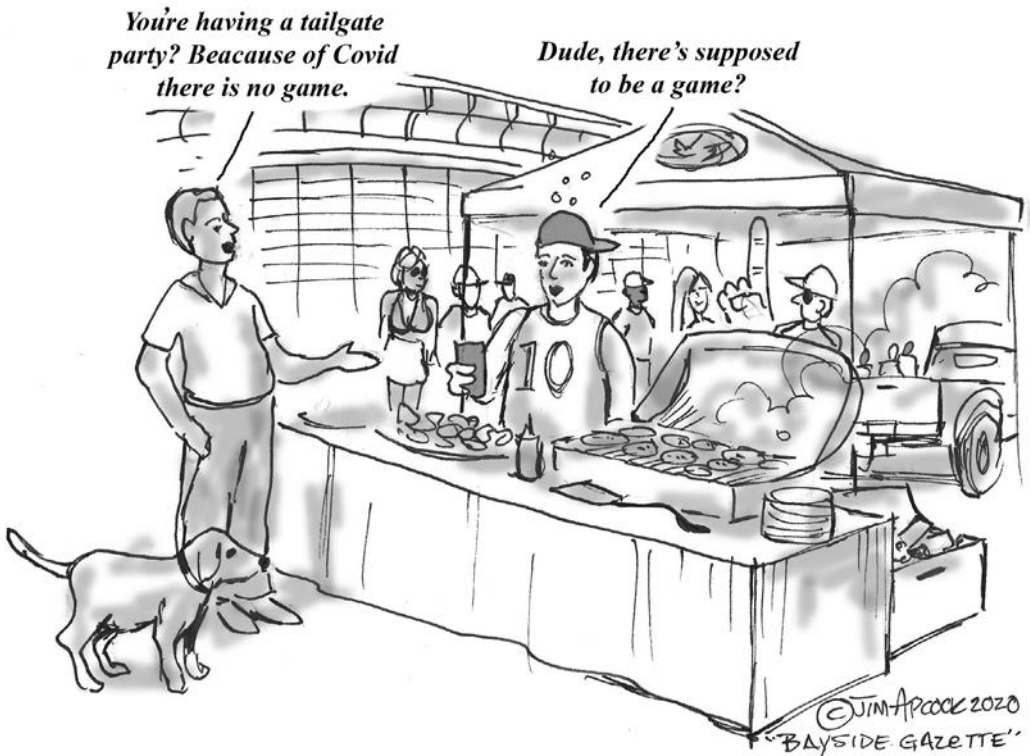
As reasonable and as diligent as this panel of directors has been, the community still needs to guarantee a continuation of that performance by at least showing that it cares.

That is especially important this year, as the full economic ramifications of the covid-19 pandemic have yet to be felt. Although the association ended its 2019-20 fiscal year well above its budgeted bottom line, the books were closed at the end of April, when restrictions on social activity had not been in effect that long.

The current fiscal year, however, will encompass a string of bad months that will deliver a more severe blow to revenue than the last month and half of the past fiscal year.

As newly reelected Director Colette Horn observed, it remains to be seen what the year-end figures will look like when the ledgers are closed out next April, or what the directors will be obligated to do if the numbers aren’t as rosy as they were in the year just passed.

Association members need to shrug off their apparent apathy and start following the action now, so the directors won’t be put in the position of “surprising” property owners with facts, figures and consequences they should have been aware of all along.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jesse's Paddle goes virtual, exceeds goal

Editor,

On July 18, people gathered “virtually” for the 12th Jesse’s Paddle, a fundraiser to support the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program and the Jesse Klump Memorial Scholarship.

We usually host 150-plus guests on the Pocomoke River for a day to celebrate life, but the pandemic prevented us from doing so this year.

We had no idea what to expect.

Would our supporters join

us on social media? Would the online silent auction, the online kayak raffle, and the online donations tab substitute for the many hugs and well wishes we enjoy at the river’s edge in Snow Hill?

The community responded in astounding numbers, an outpouring of generosity and love.

From as far away as Austin, Atlanta and Barcelona, people sent photos and videos of the day’s outdoor activities, live concerts, and messages of hope and caring.

We exceeded our fundraising goal of \$20,000,

donations which will be largely invested in suicide prevention education in this time of unparalleled crisis.

I speak for our board, our staff, our volunteers and those whom we serve when I say how truly grateful we are. The donations are wonderful, but as important is the affirmation that our work is valued and necessary that the gifts represent.

To the entire community – We are overwhelmed by your generosity.

*Kim A. Klump, President
The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.*

Volunteers remove tree debris in OP

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Aug. 13, 2020) In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isis, a group of chainsaw-equipped and work boot-clad volunteers organized through the “Worcester County Local Help for You: Facebook page went into last Saturday to remove tree debris from half a dozen yards in Ocean Pines.

In March, following the onset of covid-19 related restrictions, Colby Phillips organized the Worcester County

Local Help for You group to assist elderly community members acquire food, medicines and other necessities.

The effort built up a network of a few dozen people who were deployed last weekend to help Pines residents clean up yards strewn with trees and branches.

“There are people I know in the community who are on very strict fixed incomes and they also physically can’t get to their yard,” she said.

Helping Phillips corral help-

ing hands last weekend were Connor Braniff and Jimmy Parenti.

“The three of us were behind the scenes coordinating,” she said. “They got a lot of those people involved on Facebook.”

Before Saturday, a social media post that advised residents with storm-related needs that help was available solicited several calls.

“At first, it was just ‘Can you run by and check on my house because I’m not there?’ or

See SWEAT Page 15

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Sweat equity on display for storm cleanup Saturday

Continued from Page 14
‘Could you check on my parents because they’re saying it’s fine but I’m worried?’” she said.

The outreach effort got more hands on after 10 volunteers gathered at the Sports Core Pool Saturday morning to address yards cluttered with storm damage, with nearly half a dozen properties tackled in a few short hours

Among those assisted on Saturday were residents Jennifer and James Compston, whose property took a wallop from Isis.

“The storm brought down the neighbor’s trees into our backyard and one landed on our house,” she said.

The couple was relieved the wayward tree failed to dent their roof but backyard damage was still significant.

“It did crash through our deck and smashed the railing,” she said.

When the Compstons contacted their homeowner’s insurance company about the structural damage, they were dismayed to discover their policy does not cover removal of other storm-related yard debris.

“The whole backyard was almost completely coved with trees, not branches,” she said.

The couple was informed by their insurance carrier they would have to foot the bill for removing trees laying on the



Volunteers organized through the Worcester County Local Help for You Facebook page went to work on Saturday to clean up yards littered with downed trees and debris left behind by Tropical Storm Isis for a number of residents in Ocean Pines.

ground and not touching their home.

“My husband is disabled and we’re on a fixed income,” she said.

The assistance was greatly appreciated, as the damage was significant.

“Bless their hearts. They really helped me out greatly because the trees that were on the ground were like big, large whole tree trunks.”

Ironically, the couple had initially contacted the volunteer group out of concern for a nearby resident with comparable needs.

“Our neighbor across the street ... he’s actually the one I called about because he’s elderly and had lost an arm,” she said. “My husband went over and helped him pickup some branches but he, like-

wise, had a tree fall in his backyard.

“When the crew showed up, they came and looked at my yard and said, ‘We can take care of your yard,’” she said. “They brought their chainsaws and got to work.”

While the assistance was focused in Ocean Pines, the helping hands came from across the county.

“Half of the volunteers weren’t from the Pines,” Phillips said. “That’s always the beauty of this community as a whole. People come together ... whether its Ocean City, Ocean Pines or Berlin.”

Phillips encourages anyone looking to volunteer time and energy in the future to follow the Worcester County Local Help for You Facebook page.

“I post on that page as needs arise,”

she said. “Sometimes we need someone that might be able to fix a gutter.”

Phillips said some residents with needs might be hesitant to ask for help for fear of burdening others, but it is important to realize there are numerous community members willing to lend a helping hand.

“There’s a lot more people wanting to help than ... people get to see,” she said. “I’m blessed I get to see that.”

To learn more visit Worcester County Local Help for You on Facebook or email localhelp4youwc@gmail.com to inquire about assistance.

“I’m always amazed at the goodness of people and wanting to help others,” she said. “I’m not surprised because it never fails that people are always willing to help.”

At Your
SERVICE
A Guide to Local Businesses & Services

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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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., Aug. 13

ARTISTS PAINT OC: PLEIN AIR EVENT

Watch artists at work as they set up their easels along the Boardwalk, bay-side and beaches. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

FREE FAMILY BEACH GAMES

Carousel Resort Hotel and Condomini-ums, 11700 Coastal Highway, 6:30 PM. Held Thursdays through Aug. 27. Par-ticipants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/fam-ily-beach-games2020Hel>

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 Zydeco-a-Go-Go (Creole, Zydeco and Cajun dance band). Admission to the park is free, while beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. It is recommended to bring your own seat-ing. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical dis-tancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/sunset-park-party-nights020>

FREE CONCERT IN THE PARK

Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., 7:00 PM. Music provided by “Bayside Worship Team & Friends,” featuring gospel. Pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and practice safe social distancing. The CDC requires a list of attendees. Email your name and phone number to karah@pocomokemd.gov if you plan to attend. 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, <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. This week features DJ BK Dance Party w/BK and

Chrissy from 94.9 KHi. The event leads into the fireworks at 10:30 p.m. Partak-ers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Atten-dance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/oc-beach-dance-party2020>

THURSDAY’S DOWNTOWN BEACH FIREWORKS

Talbot Street Beach, 10:30 PM. Partak-ers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Atten-dance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/thursday-s-downtown-beach-fireworks>

Fri., Aug. 14

ARTISTS PAINT OC: PLEIN AIR EVENT

Watch artists at work as they set up their easels along the Boardwalk, bay-side and beaches. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive. Round One to be played at the Ocean Pines Robert Trent Jones Course either 8 a.m. or 2 p.m. shotgun start. The Ocean Pines Clubhouse and Patio will feature music, corn hole, putting contest and a special performance from MagicMan Michael Kaminskis World Renowned Magician. 410-213-7277, <https://esgmagazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-spon-sored-by-under-armour/>

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 every-thing 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, 4102898617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

FREE MOVIE ON THE BEACH

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

Sat., Aug. 15

ARTISTS PAINT OC: PLEIN AIR EVENT

Watch artists at work as they set up their easels along the Boardwalk, bay-side and beaches. The Wet Paint Sale Show & Reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the OC Center for the Arts on 94th Street. Be the first to view and purchase the work of artists who participated in the event. Free admis-sion and cash bar. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ocean City Golf Club, 11401 Country Club Drive. Round Two to be played on the gorgeous Lester George Design on the Newport Bay Course either 8 a.m. or 2 p.m. shotgun start. Lunch party catered by Sunset Grille from noon to 3 p.m. Music, cornhole and Drive Chip and Putt competition. 410-213-7277, <https://esgmagazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-spon-sored-by-under-armour/>

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.

OC AIR SHOW

Ocean City beach at 17th Street, 12:00

PM - 3:30 PM. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the show. Also featuring the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lighting II and A-10 Thunderbolt II. The VIP Viewing Areas open at 10 a.m. These include the VIP Penthouse, VIP Skybox, Flight Line Club and Corporate Beach Chalets directly at Show Center. The Drop Zone Beach and the new re-served beach Sand Boxes open at 9 a.m. All tickets purchased for the origi-nal dates in June will be honored on their respective day (Saturday or Sun-day). 321-395-3110, <https://ocair-show.com>

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. 16

TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, 12367 Ea-gles Nest Road. Final Round will be held on the town of Ocean City’s own Eagles Landing Golf Course either 8 a.m. or 2 p.m. shotgun start (Top 20 players in each flight will tee off at 2 p.m.) Crowning of the champions and magazine cover photo held at 7 p.m. 410-213-7277, <https://esgmagazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-spon-sored-by-under-armour/>

ARTISTS PAINT OC: PLEIN AIR EVENT

South Division Street and Boardwalk, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. The Quick Draw Painting Event takes place from 9-11 a.m. Artists race to complete a painting in only two hours. The judging and sale begins at noon. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

OC AIR SHOW

Ocean City beach at 17th Street, 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM. The U.S. Air Force

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Calendar

Thunderbirds will headline the show. Also featuring the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lighting II and A-10 Thunderbolt II. The VIP Viewing Areas open at 10 a.m. These include the VIP Penthouse, VIP Skybox, Flight Line Club and Corporate Beach Chalets directly at Show Center. The Drop Zone Beach and the new reserved beach Sand Boxes open at 9 a.m. All tickets purchased for the original dates in June will be honored on their respective day (Saturday or Sunday). 321-395-3110, <https://ocair-show.com>

SUNDAES IN THE PARKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 7:00 PM. Featuring free music by “Front Page News” (rock) 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>

ROCK AND RIDE ORIGINAL LIVE MUSIC

Trimper Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Every Sunday. Jessica Bauer, Jessica@TrimperRides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

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. 17

IVYSAUR BOOK CLUB (YOUTH)

Discuss easy chapter books, 10:00 AM. For ages 5-10 years. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6867913>.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

The meeting will be held via conference call, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring “SMALLFOOT” (96 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>

Tues., Aug. 18

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.

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY ONLINE COURSE

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offer this class online, Aug. 18, 19 and 20, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. The Maryland Safe Boating Certificate is required for all boat operators born after July 1, 1972 and is awarded after successful completion of the course. There is \$20 fee. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807 or CGAUX1205@gmail.com.

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE SEA

Featuring the music of Grieg, plus #Uri-PosteJukebox style gems, 7:00 PM. Register: <https://www.wced.foundation/events>.

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring “A League of Their Own” (128 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>

Wed., Aug. 19

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Now meeting via video call, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Call Women Supporting Women at 410-548-7880.

COLORING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY (YOUTH)

Beginning at 7:00 PM. Learn some new techniques with this course from Creative Gug with access to 30 printable coloring pages. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6867383>.

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 “Spider-Man: Far from Home.” 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>



JOSH KIM/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

JUST PEACHY

Barbara Kuhn, left, and Tina Quinn of Ocean Pines proudly show off their peach goods during Berlin’s annual Peach Day Festival on Aug. 1.



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL AQUARIUM

TURTLE RELEASE

The National Aquarium released a group of 10 sea turtles at Assateague State Park on June 25. Pictured are Colby Prokop, husbandry aide at the National Aquarium, and Marc Bunting, National Aquarium board chair with turtle Cotija.



COLLEGE SUPPORT

Ocean City Surf Club President Tommy Vach presents Stephen Decatur graduate Ellie Dutton with its 2020 College Donation in the amount of \$2,000. She will be attending Winthrop University this fall.

Cuisine

Tuna poke bites served with spicy mayo

What started out as a dry summer has certainly turned into a mental monsoon of sorts.



By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

With the storm last week and a new one brewing in the Atlantic, it only adds to an already exciting if not drastically different sort of year.

As election years go, this is an all-time low, with vitriol and venom at every turn. This is precisely why I do not watch the news, and why I have not in years.

I'll just keep up with the local events. If anything big happens, someone will tell me. Well, I'm pretty sure that they will.

But aside from all of the nonsense, I still regal in the thought that we at least have a few more weeks of summer. It is not quite over yet. You see, summer is a double-edged sword for me.

On the one hand, summer is a great season to live at the beach; fishing, surfing, swimming and all the assorted hobbies that are great when it's hot outside.

But from a business standpoint, when the island opens up, we slow down tremendously 12 miles inland.

That was a harsh truth that I learned last year, and it was only grossly exacerbated this year as I try to make up for four months of lost income during the dead season.

Needless to say, I did not lose too much sleep over it. I can't do much about the shutdowns and just have to prepare myself for wedding season.

Ah, wedding season. I love weddings. I cry at weddings; I am a hopeless romantic.

And while we still have several weddings to amaze and amuse over the next few months, the party sizes have obviously dwindled as restrictions are rampant and aplenty.

As none of us know what the winter has in store for us, the holiday parties haven't come to fruition yet, but I am sure that they will.

Most people understand that they just have to invite fewer guests (which could be a blessing for many who won't have to invite that one uncle).

But at the end of the day, whether it's a summer party, a wedding cocktail hour or a holiday party, there is one simple hors d'oeuvre that I love to serve; tuna poke bits.



glass of sauvignon blanc.

Two little tips on this recipe: While most people do not know this, the tuna needs to be frozen to kill parasites commonly found.

Don't believe me? Just look up 'sushi worms' one day and you'll see a ton of videos.

As much as I love my fresh, raw tuna straight from a kill, I am not opposed to getting rid of the worms. Call me old-fashioned.

As for the sushi, it is important to understand that different packers have different instructions. Some are so refined that you do not need to rinse tirelessly under cold running water.

Others, you must perform this aforementioned, dull process. So follow the instructions.

And in my case, I lean more towards a Korean-style rice, adding sugar, rice wine vinegar and a nice chunk of kombu to elevate the flavor of the rice.

Play with this, and find a combination that you like. And for the love of Pete, please ride out the remainder of summer safely, have fun and make some good food!

Tuna Poke Bites

makes 30 small plates

- 1 lb. Refreshed tuna (reference article)
- 1 c. Poke sauce (recipe follows)

- 1 c. Seaweed Salad
- 30 strips pickled ginger (recipe follows)
- 1 avocado, small dice
- 2 c. Sushi rice, cooked
- Toasted sesame seed & scallions as garnish
- Spicy Mayo (recipe follows)
 - Dice the tuna into small pieces, keeping them as uniform as possible. Also ensure that the tuna remains cold all of the way through this process
 - Toss the tuna in the poke sauce 1 hour before service
 - When ready to serve, merely place some sushi rice in a small serving vessel and top with the tuna and avocado
 - Finish it off with the seaweed salad, ginger, scallions and sesame seed
 - Serve immediately as it is best not to let the fish sit out of refrigeration for too long

Poke Sauce

makes about 1 c.

- ¾ c. Soy sauce of your choosing
- 2 Tbsp. Sesame oil
- 1 tsp. Srirachi Hot Sauce
- 2 tsp. Kewpie or Duke's Mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. Vinegar from the pickled ginger
 - Combine all ingredients and ad-

just to taste

Pickled Ginger

makes about ¼ c.

- 2" fresh ginger
- 1 c. Rice wine vinegar
- ½ c. Sugar
- dash salt, or as needed
 - Simply use a spoon to scrape the skin off of the fresh ginger. No knife and no peeler. It's a great trick
 - Thinly slice the ginger and place in a heat-resistant bowl
 - Bring the vinegar and sugar to a boil
 - Pour over the ginger and refrigerate, allowing the ginger to steep for at least an hour
 - Add salt only if necessary
 - Refrigerate until ready to use

Spicy Mayo

makes about 1 c.

- 2 tbsp. Sriracha
- Juice of 1 lime
- ¾ c. Kewpie or Duke's Mayonnaise
 - Combine all ingredients and refrigerate until ready to use

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

Puzzles

PUZZLIN'
BY DAVID LEVINSON WILK / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Levinson Wilk, of Brooklyn, works for television game shows. For the past year he was the head writer of ABC's "The \$100,000 Pyramid" and Bravo's "Cash Cab." For nine years he was a staff writer for "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." He creates original puzzles for The San Diego Reader and other weekly newspapers across the country. David sold his first crossword to The Times in 1996, when he was a sophomore in college, and he has been making puzzles ever since. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 What can fall off a shelf
8 Host of MSNBC's "PoliticsNation" beginning in 2011
16 Be profane
20 Something never seen at night
21 Beckoning words
22 For ____ amount of time
23 Nobody but the guy gettin' married on his feet?
25 Put up with
26 Captures
27 House vote
28 Gettysburg general George
29 Like screwball comedies
33 Pig food
34 Gish ____, novelist of "The Resisters" and "Typical American"
35 Sickly-looking
36 Olympic equipment weighing less than 770 grams each
38 Winter item you'll be wearin' for years?
42 Statistic tracked at census.gov/popclock
44 "Mixed Marriage" playwright St. John Greer ____
45 Reduced in rank
46 Receiver of an all-points bulletin

48 Longtime Yankees first baseman Mark
50 Simile's center
51 Row
52 God who becomes a goddess when an "r" is removed
53 Spam sender
54 James of "The Godfather"
58 Danger when walkin' in a silo?
61 One who delivers
62 Mansfield of old Hollywood
63 "Er, uh, that is ..."
64 Dada pioneer
65 ____ Paulo
66 Rock singers?
67 Hedge fund titan nicknamed "The Palindrome"
68 "Sorry, am ____ your way?"
69 Drivin' around the lot with pop-pop?
71 Overhead expenses?
72 Private Twitter transmissions, for short
73 "Absofrugalicious" cereal, in ads
74 Sponge alternative
75 Slangy possessive
76 What a pro bono lawyer provides
78 Very observant person
80 Shoulder blade
84 Pickup truck capacity, maybe
86 Detects
87 Sayin' "Look, here's the thing about dry land ...?"

90 To-dos
91 Batting ninth
92 The Children's Defense Fund, e.g., in brief
93 Medical breakthrough
95 "Ish"
96 Boiling mad
97 West Bank grp.
98 Realize
101 Kind
102 What was causin' the doctor to check for joint pain?
108 Very consequential
109 The North Pole vis-à-vis the South Pole, e.g.
110 Go as low as
111 French/Belgian river
112 Apollo and others
113 "Understood"

DOWN
1 Online exchange, in brief
2 Animal feared by an ailurophobe
3 "What's your ____?" (question to a guest en route)
4 Recycling container
5 Michael who wrote "The Neverending Story"
6 Restricts, with "in"
7 Washing machine setting
8 Windshield clearer
9 Certain earring
10 Singer Tori
11 "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?" band
12 Call of the wild?

13 One trading dollars for quarters
14 Paris suburb
15 French marshal in the Napoleonic Wars
16 Camila with the 2018 No. 1 hit "Havana"
17 Employ with regularity
18 Bird also known as a little auk
19 Scattered (about)
24 Blue Muppet with a pink nose
28 Obsidian, once
29 Aquarium creature with black-and-white stripes
30 Capital in the South Pacific
31 Teasing words when someone starts listing the digits of pi, say
32 Mythical creature seen on old Bhutanese stamps
34 Rock's Joplin
35 Hägar the Horrible's dog
37 Sure winners
39 Cross-country camping expedition, maybe
40 Treat as a bed
41 Hit the nail on the head, e.g.
43 Meager
47 Pope Francis' homeland: Abbr.
49 Modern library borrowing
52 Bring in
54 Longtime media columnist David
55 Mate's reply

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56 Basketball Hall-of-Famer who was the first woman to sign an N.B.A. contract
57 Single-serving coffee brand
59 Landlocked Asian country
60 ____ Gorbachev, former first lady of the Soviet Union
61 His tombstone reads "Workers of all lands unite"
62 Moves like Jell-O

65 Told
66 Hiccups
68 Coming-out announcement
69 Butinsky
70 Certain nest egg, for short
72 Blue-and-white earthenware pottery
73 Dramatic ballroom dance
76 Two-time Best Actress winner Rainer
77 Eva of "Desperate Housewives"

78 Ho-hum feelings
79 Opposite of exo-
80 Soft and wet
81 ____ oxide (red compound)
82 Egg-carton spec
83 Special dinner order
85 Boo-boos
88 Home past curfew
89 Like the Met Gala
94 Online notice for a party
97 Phnom ____, Cambodia

98 "____ to tyrants, and my country's friend" (words of Cato in "Julius Caesar")
99 Naval officer: Abbr.
100 Grandson of Eve
102 Budgetary excess
103 Make a decision
104 "There but for the grace of God ____"
105 Intel missions
106 Western native
107 About one inch of a foot

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HARD - 34

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

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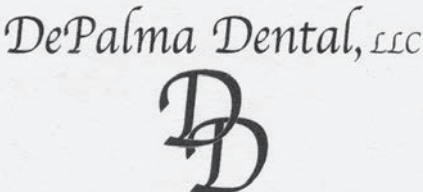
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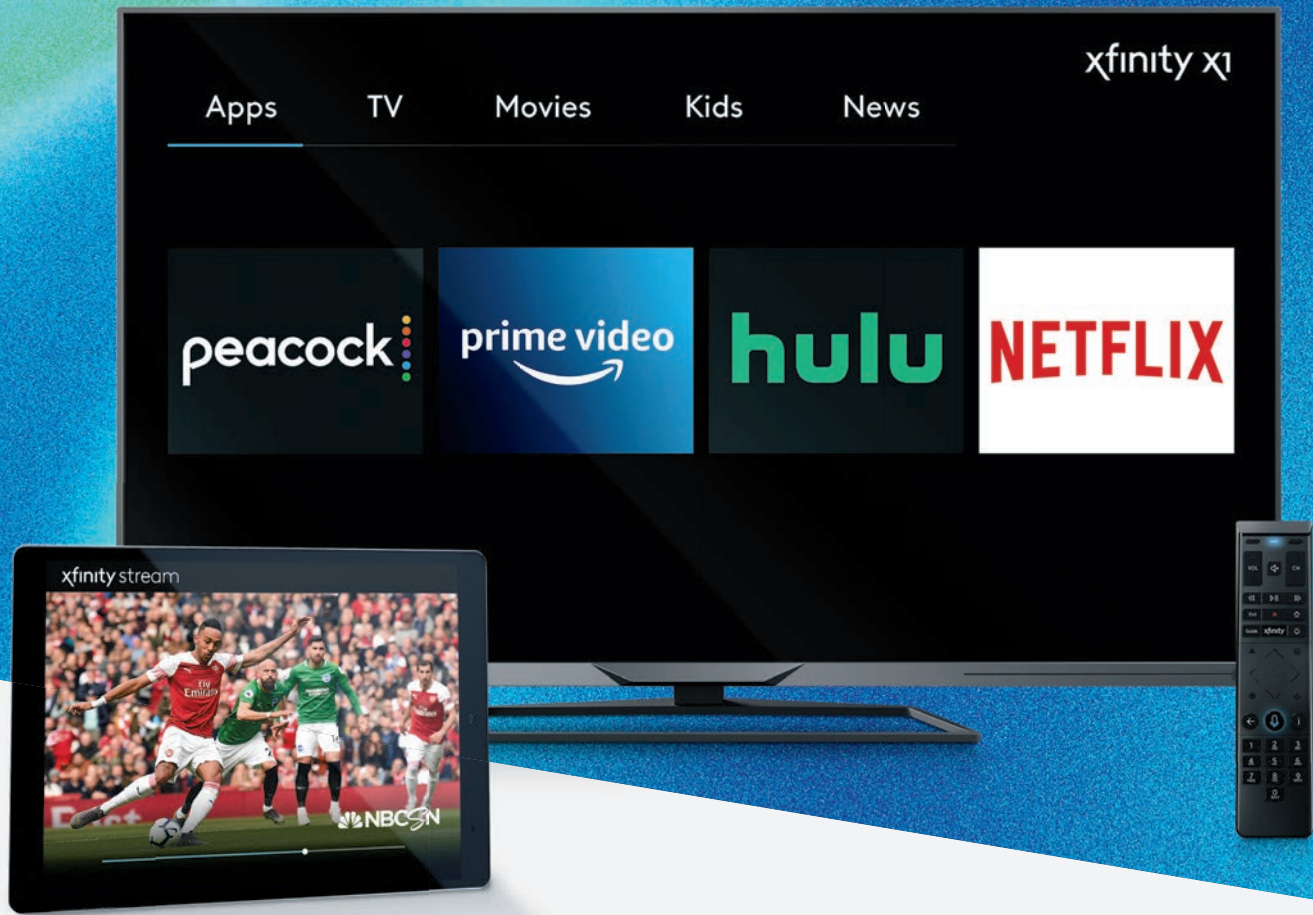
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