



Berlin parade, other events killed by covid

Inability to social distance causes schedule changes

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The covid-19 Grinch might not steal Christmas this year, but it has caused the cancellation of one of Berlin's signature Christmas events — the annual parade, which draws throngs of spectators from the area.



Gee Williams

The pandemic, and the town's efforts to curb its spread, also claimed Berlin's popular New Year's Eve celebration and ball drop, along with other events this fall and winter.

Berlin officials announced its revised event schedule last Friday to the disappointment of residents throughout northern Worcester County.

"Throughout this pandemic, we tried to take a very measured and reasonable response," said Mayor Gee Williams. "We followed the governor's guidelines throughout, and I think that

See SOCIAL Page 4



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Tandem chocolate Labrador retrievers rock the water at the Mumford's Landing Pool during Ocean Pines Doggie Swim fundraiser for the Worcester County Humane Society on Saturday.

OP creating succession standards

When time comes to hire new GM, directors will have guidelines and procedures

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) When the time comes to make changes in the Ocean Pines Association's top layers of administration, the board of directors plans to be ready by establishing an evaluation process for future hires at the general manager and top staff positions.

Board member Frank Daly provided an update on succession planning during the directors meeting on Sept. 9.

"The lack of succession planning in Ocean Pines administration has been identified both by management and the board as an area of concern that requires action," he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Board member Frank Daly, right, outlines succession planning documents under development while Director Steve Tuttle listens to the presentation during the OPA Board meeting on Sept. 9.

Daly said a pair of documents have been developed surrounding skills associated with the general manager position.

"The first document ... is a position description that has been somewhat modified to reflect skills," he said.

Daly said the second form was written by current General Manager

John Viola and reflects daily use skills for the position ranked in order of importance.

"Those two documents will be used for assessments," he said.

The succession planning includes criteria to review candidates for either general manager or employees

See DIRECTORS Page 4

Raccoon gets wires crossed, outage follows

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The raccoon did it.

That would be the culprit responsible for a power outage in Berlin last Wednesday, after one of nature's masked marauders apparently took the short-circuit route up an electric pole on North Main Street.

See RACCOON Page 5

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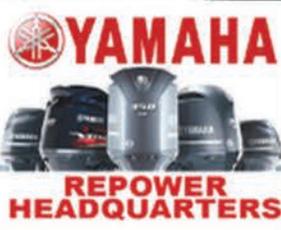
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Budget amendment approved for FY2021

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council on Monday approved the fiscal year 2021 general fund budget amendment, which increases the expense and revenue accounts associated with street improvements made this summer.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said money would be transferred from the impact fees for the street improvement extensions into the revenues portion of the general fund.

As of Monday, Fleetwood said the

town has approximately \$1 million in impact fees.

"We're asking the council to transfer \$350,000 from impact fees, which is another restricted fund to apply it toward the street improvements," Mayor Gee Williams said.

Fleetwood said the total amount for all street improvements and concrete work that have been completed is nearly \$550,000. The \$350,000 will balance the highway user fees, he added.

The State Highway Association indicated that the town would receive about \$240,000 through a letter of commit-

ment, then another letter stated the town could anticipate receiving \$222,000 after the covid-19 outbreak.

Fleetwood said he and Natalie Saleh, the town's finance director, are anticipating receiving at least \$111,000 in highway user money.

"The portion that comes in north of [\$111,000] in highway user revenues, will that be used to offset the amount of money that's been transferred from impact fees?" District 2 Councilmember Zackery Tyndall asked.

"Anything above [\$111,000] that we predict to receive in fiscal '21 would go

against the [\$350,000] you transferred or your proposed transfer today," Saleh replied.

Tyndall asked Saleh if the mayor and council would be notified about how much the town will receive in highway user revenues by the end of the 2021 fiscal year and to include that balance in the fourth quarter report.

"The quarterly reports are where Natalie and I will do a narrative that spells out, 'We're doing well here, we're not doing well here. This is the corrective action that we're looking at doing,'" Fleetwood said.

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Social distancing at big events too difficult

Continued from Page 1

this is just another example ...When the conditions are like this, we just think it's better to make a decision on everyone's behalf."

Williams added that the reason for the cancellations of the Christmas parade and New Year's Eve celebration is because it is impossible to enforce social distancing at those events.

"Historically, for many years, the sidewalks have been absolutely packed with children and their parents," he said. "That's a few thousand people. There's no way to social distance something like that ... I feel strongly that it takes the parents off the hotspot by making this decision that's in the best interest of the health of the community."

The town's annual "Celebrate Oktoberfest in Berlin" will still take place on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. but the layout has been modified.

"The tents and places to get beverages will be spread out," the mayor said.

According to a press release from the town, many of the downtown eateries will feature outdoor tents with traditional Oktoberfest fare.

The event posting on Facebook states that Baked Dessert Café will offer pretzels, strudel and German chocolate cake, J&M Meat Market & Grille will serve Knockwurst, sausage and sauerkraut, beer brats and pulled chicken barbecue sandwiches, The Buzz Meadery will sell local ciders and The Atlantic Hotel will have brats on a pretzel roll with homemade mustard and beer.

Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director, said the altered event will be similar to Peach Day.

"The Peach Day went very well," Williams said. "By following this plan, it allows for social distancing, which

obviously is very important, and, of course, we're asking everyone to wear a mask, except when they're actually eating or drinking."

Music will be provided for the event by Ocean98 DJ Big Al Reno.

Love Letters is currently offering pre-sale on its 22-ounce keepsake stein at a discounted price. For more information, visit LoveLettersOC.com.

The Berlin Fall Sidewalk Sale will also be held on Oct. 17.

The downtown roads will remain open, but there will be no parking on Main Street or any side streets.

"The town of Berlin is not sponsoring or endorsing any events on Halloween in our community," the mayor added. "This is not the year. We are asking residents —because many do not want trick-or-treaters at their door — that all residents in the town of Berlin simply turn off your porch light or your front door light on Halloween

night, and that all trick-or-treaters respect that."

For those who want to give out candy on Halloween against the town's suggestion, Williams urged them to practice social distancing.

As for the higher holidays, there will be no formal tree lighting ceremony this year, although the Berlin Christmas tree will be illuminated, and downtown shops will be open late on Friday, Nov. 27, from 5-8 p.m. Santa will also be offering carriage rides and local nonprofits, which have yet to be confirmed, will have food and hot chocolate.

In addition, town officials are considering an alternative plan for the New Year's Eve Ball Drop on Main Street. A decision is expected next month.

"In the greater scheme of things, it's better to sacrifice a few fun events to the overall safety of the community," Williams said.

Directors creating succession procedures

Continued from Page 1

reporting directly to that position.

Daly said internal candidates interested in either the general manager or other top roles should declare intent by Sept. 18.

The next step for general manager candidates includes completing a two-part skills assessment by Oct. 30.

"One part, the general manager will assess skills [and] the second part candidates will do a self-assessment of skills," he said.

The outcomes will be reviewed with Viola using the data to develop a plan for candidates.

"Covering areas where skills are required that don't currently exist in the candidate's inventory to move up

the ladder," he said.

Daly said the process for evaluating candidates for positions reporting directly to the general manager would involve Viola and department heads without board oversight.

"The general manager succession planning when the reports are done will be presented to the board ... by Oct. 30," he said.

Following this the board will hold closed session discussion about completed candidate assessments on Nov. 18.

"This is an open transparent process with the exception of the evaluation of skills," he said.

Daly said the next step involving board approval would be reviewing

input on succession-planning documents provided by consultants from the Sibson Group.

Board member Tom Janasek, after confirming the current succession planning for general manager is limited to internal association candidates, asked when the scope would widen.

"I know John's contracted for another year and a half," he said. "Do we have a timeline for when we jump outside of Ocean Pines and start looking for somebody?"

Daly said to this point outsourcing has not been discussed, while noting Viola's current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2022.

"He has the option of extending

it," he said.

Daly said if Viola opts out at that time the next general manager would need to be in place prior to the budget process launching at this point next year.

OPA President Larry Perrone stressed the discussion concerned candidate assessments not an application procedure.

"I'd like to make it clear to the community that the board is not trying to push John [Viola] out," he said.

Perrone said the process is needed to vet whoever succeeds Viola.

"So that we have a list of criteria, skill sets and experience for any general manager that takes over this position going forward," he said.

Directors suspend Clubs Committee for now

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) Based on perceived lack of need, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors last Wednesday voted to suspend the clubs committee, while leaving the door open to revive the advisory group if necessary.

Board member Tom Janasek, who serves as clubs committee liaison, introduced a first reading of a measure to consider suspending the group.

Janasek said the OPA resolutions state the entity's purpose is to advise the board and general manager on social activities at the Beach Club, Yacht Club and Golf Clubhouse.

Janasek expressed gratitude to committee membership for past efforts, most notably when the OPA had to run the Beach and Yacht Clubs before contracting with the Matt Ortt Companies for food and beverage operations.

"It's just a matter of the fact that we have a professional organization running it," he said. "As of now, Ocean Pines is contracted with Matt Ortt to manage the clubs and [they] make their own special decisions."

Janasek said since the Matt Ortt Companies have taken the reins, most suggestions from the clubs committee have been taken under advisement.

"They usually follow through with anything they feel needs to be taken care

of," he said.

Board member Colette Horn seconded Janasek's motion, but asked if suspending the committee would allow for its return, "In the event we need to revive it."

Janasek said his intent was to suspend but not fully eliminate the group, which could be reinstated if deemed necessary.

"If something happens and, God forbid, we end up that Ocean Pines is running [food service] again we want a committee to help us out," he said. "We've had it happen with racquet sports and we've had it happen with golf."

Board member Doug Parks asked

what the proper protocol would be regarding future reinstatement.

"If we have to reinstate it, what's the vehicle?" he said. "If we treat it as a first reading it gives us until the next [board] meeting to go and research the fact of does it makes sense to suspend versus change the resolution."

Janasek agreed the matter could be revisited for a second reading at a subsequent board meeting for a formal motion after further research.

"The clubs committee hasn't met in six to eight months anyway because of what's going on [with coronavirus]," he said. "At that time we had [a] discussion ... and they didn't think they were bring-

ing a lot to the table now that Matt [Ortt] and Ralph [DeAngelus] are doing such a great job."

Janasek told OPA President Larry Perrone his initial intent was for a motion to suspend.

"You had mentioned that it should have been a first reading, so I wrote it up as a first reading," he said.

Janasek agreed when Perrone asked if he wanted to amend the first reading into a motion.

"I want to thank Gary Miller the chairperson ... and the rest of that committee for putting in their time," he said. "It's always been so hard to get people to come and be on these committees."

Raccoon causes Berlin blackout

Continued from Page 1

Town Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said 600 customers were affected by the outage from parts of Flower Street, Branch Street, William Street, Harrison Avenue, Broad Street, Brittany Lane, Ann Drive, North Main Street and West Old Ocean City Boulevard.

He added that 95 percent of customers were out of power for one hour and the other five percent was out of power for two hours.

After some residents were quick to complain about the power outage on the same day the new natural gas generator was commissioned, Lawrence explained that generators do not help prevent outages.

"Generators produce electricity that goes into the lines," he said. "Breakers, reclosures, switches and cutouts help reduce widespread outages, prevent damage to equipment and help to contain the outage to a centralized area.

"It's basically the same as an electric

panel in a home. You have a 200 amp main breaker with smaller breakers protecting lines that feed to certain areas and receptacles in your home. If a 15 amp breaker trips in your panel, it only shuts power off the line that it is protecting and [the] 200amp main breaker continues to stay closed and feed the rest of the panel."

The protection scheme is similar, albeit much more complex, for an electric utility, although it is not, apparently, mammal-proof.



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Third aquatics staff tests positive for virus

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) Another Ocean Pines Aquatics staff member tested positive for coronavirus last week, while the bulk of pool facilities have now been shuttered for the season.

Last Thursday, General Manager John Viola issued a statement regarding an aquatics department staff member who tested positive for covid-19. It was the third member from that department among the handful of association employees infected during the pandemic.

"The employee has not returned to work and will not until it is safe to do so consistent with CDC protocols," Viola said. "We understand that the employee had no close contact with residents or other employees."

Prior to the latest case, an aquatics staff member tested positive on both Sept. 3 and Aug. 21. The trio of infections among aquatics staff was pre-

ceded by a Public Works Department employee on May 5 and a golf maintenance member on April 21.

"We continue to stress the need to practice sound hygiene by frequently washing hands thoroughly, maintaining 6 feet of separation between others, and wearing masks when indoors or [if] social distancing is not possible," Viola said.

With the summer over, pool facilities at the Beach Club, Mumford's Landing and the Sports and Racquet Club have closed until next Memorial Day Weekend.

Lingering for a bit is the Yacht Club Pool, which will be open this Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Yacht Club Pool is tentatively set to operate next Saturday and Sunday based on staff availability.

The Sports Core Pool is open year-round for recreational swimming and exercise classes.

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Yacht Club Pool is in operation this Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

and the general public are Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During the week the Sports Core Pool opens earlier for members, beginning at 6 a.m. for "Early Bird Lap Swim" with aquatics classes com-

mencing at 8 a.m.

Recreational swimmers are asked to call the Sports Core at 410-641-5255 to confirm availability.

Health safety requirements dictate that pool users must wear face masks at all times when not in the water.

OP drainage project scope revisions review

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The Ocean Pines Board reviewed proposed revisions for drainage upgrade plans around Bainbridge Park and improvements in other community areas, while also holding a ceremonial vote last week to ensure Worcester County officials would support receipt of state grant funding.

OPA President Larry Perrone said the update during the board meeting on Sept. 9 was due to concerns over the associations' cost to address stormwater runoff around Bainbridge Pond after the Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently

awarded a grant for \$549,000 out of \$1.58 million requested.

"The whole purpose of tonight's presentation on this project was to bring all the board members up to speed," he said.

General Manager John Viola reviewed revised financials for the Bainbridge work, which had been estimated at \$2.2 million, during a presentation of numerous drainage upgrades to be funded over the next two years.

"Some things have changed and we have a plan," he said.

Director of Logistics and Operations Colby Phillips, who presented a detailed drainage plan involving eight

project sections located throughout the Pines, said the Bainbridge updates have been needed for decades.

"The project has been a long time coming," she said.

Phillips said the first two project sections of the overall drainage plan include Bainbridge Pond and associated outfall areas.

"The original project scope submitted for funding was \$2.2 million," she said. "We were looking to put two more culverts under Beauchamp Road and the addition to the stand-alone pond that's ... over at Windmill."

Viola said a major cost cutting measure involved abandoning the

pursuit of drainage rights-of-way easements on the former Old Pine Shore Golf Course property north of Beauchamp Road.

"It drops the cost of sections one and two to about \$800,000 overall," he said.

Viola said that number includes about \$486,000 for the Bainbridge work and roughly \$318,000 earmarked to improve water outfall channels and replace failing metal culvert pipes along Beauchamp, Sandyhook and Pinehurst roads.

The cost balance beyond the \$549,000 DNR grant is about \$255,000, which the OPA intends to pay for with replacement reserve funds.

"We have an analysis and our controller has broken it out," he said. "We have about \$500,000 to \$510,000 left in there and we're going to use about \$250,000."

See PHILLIPS Page 7

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Phillips outlines multiple updates

Continued from Page 6

Phillips said the current scope of work around Bainbridge is intended to improve water quality and flood resiliency.

"We're going to retrofit Bainbridge Pond by making it current with [state] wet pond regulations," she said.

Plans include improving the gravel road by Bainbridge Park and building a new drainage swale downslope in the direction of adjacent private properties.

"That will help give some cushion to the water that flows in their backyard," she said.

Other upgrades include installing both a smaller pool pond in front of Bainbridge Pond and wetland aquatic benches, which are plants used to assist water filtration.

"It will reduce the shoreline erosion there," she said.

The project includes outfall structure upgrades such as building a small-scale dam, or weir, to control water flow during storm events.

"This will help control the water levels and can slow them down with potentially larger storms," she said. "We can control that ourselves."

Phillips said Bainbridge Pond affects roughly 12 percent of the Ocean Pines community.

Other upgrades include replacing a pair of 15-inch corrugated metal

pipes.

"They rust over time and deteriorate," she said. "They're going to be switched with a high density poly pipe."

Lastly, the drainage swale ditch connected to Bainbridge Pond would be improved.

"We'll be excavating the clay soils from the bottom and replacing it with sand and planting soil mix," she said. "Anything we disturb there will be replanted."

Phillips said Ocean Pines was awarded the DNR grant on the basis of lowering waterway pollutants.

"We're going to be reducing total nitrogen by 1,535 pounds a year, phosphorous by 174 pounds per year and total suspended solids by 90 tons a year," she said.

The culvert work slated for Beachhill Road and along Pinehurst includes installing reinforced concrete.

"The reason we're doing that instead of an actual pipe is because it provides flexibility to meet the design requirements and the site conditions," she said.

Phillips said concrete allows for narrower excavation limits and reduces compaction levels.

"With the retrofitting of the pond, we are slowing down the water and able to control the flow," she said.

Phillips said the overall drainage

plan also includes improving outfall swales at three sections between Sandyhook and Pinehurst roads, Beauchamp to Pinehurst Road and Beaconhill Road, with future grants required to cover the \$175,000 estimated cost.

"We are seeking future funding opportunities to continue work throughout Ocean Pines," she said.

Phillips said the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, whose officials helped sniff out the current DNR grant money, is continuing to look for financing.

"That would be retrofitting of the drainage swales to remove the limiting confining layers of silt, leaf and organic material by replacing it with sand, plant and spoil mixture," she said.

The material change would allow for seasonal runoff and provide improved resiliency during storm events.

"In the meantime, Ocean Pines Public Works will maintain those ditches," she said.

Viola said the next steps would include writing the particulars of a bid solicitation for Bainbridge Pond work, along with presenting project details to the Maryland Board of Public Works before approval and acceptance of grant funds from Worcester County.



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Berlin Planning Commission approves office building plan

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday approved a site plan with conditions to construct a two-story office building on the south side of Old Ocean City Boulevard directly across from the Barrett Building.

Old Ocean City Boulevard LLC., the owner and the developer, plans to construct a total 12,415-square-foot building on the parcel.

The applicants previously presented a concept plan for the planning commission's review on April 11, 2018.

Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the parcel is zoned B-2

Shopping District, and the proposed use is permitted by right.

Jeff Harman from the Becker Morgan Group represented Old Ocean City Boulevard at the meeting and presented the final site plan for approval.

"I think some of you are probably familiar with this project," Harman said. "It's kind of been around for a few years, probably 10 or 12 years since it first originally started. It had gone on hold for a little while, and a new developer picked it up and is completing it now."

Harman said entrance to the building is on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

See OFFICE Page 10

Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The following occurred during the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Monday:

Flu vaccines

Town Administrative Manager Kelsey Jensen said flu vaccines will be administered to town employees and anyone on their medical plans on Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in town hall, 10 William Street.

Finance

Natalie Saleh, the town's finance director, said Monday was the first day of the virtual audit for the 2020 fiscal year.

"The way it's going to work is we'll be communicating through the emails and the phone only with our auditors," she said. "They will not be present on site."

Saleh said the process is more time-consuming, but the first day was productive.

In addition, Blakely Shord, the town's customer service representa-

tive, will begin maternity leave later this month. The finance department will be slightly short-staffed, but Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood has arranged for two employees to assist with customer service.

Power outages

Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said the town has experienced a total of nine power outages over the last year. Three of the outages were caused by equipment failures such as overheated transformers, while two outages were caused by high winds and lightning related to hurricanes.

"Then, we had three non-Berlin contractors that damaged our power run," Lawrence said. "Two of them were created by the same tree company that were taking trees down. They dropped a limb into our power line and knocked out the power, and then they left a limb in one of the trees that they trimmed. When the wind got up, it caught the limb and then it flew it into the overhead power lines."

Continued on Page 11

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Ancient Peak Zinfandel 750ml
Bright boysenberry aromas with hints of sandalwood and vanilla. A juicy, jammy texture is loaded with generous flavors of wild raspberry, black cherry, plum, mocha and cedar. Spicy black pepper notes join mouthwatering acidity on a beautifully balanced finish.
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Caparzo Sangiovese 750ML
Bright ruby color with violet reflections. On the nose, this wine is intense, fruity, and spicy, with ripe blackberries, wild strawberries, spice and vanilla. On the palate, it is full, fruity, persistent, and soft, with ripe blackberries, wild strawberries, and spice and vanilla in the finish.
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GEMMA DI LUNA PROSECCO 750ML
Full of bubble goodness. It has notes of ripe citrus, lemon, apple, and grapefruit with finishing touches that are light, refreshing, and crisp.
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Conti di San Bonifacio Pinot Grigio 750mL
Amazingly refreshing and perfectly balanced Pinot Grigio has primary fruit notes of pear, white nectarine, apple and lime, notes of faint honey, aromas of honeysuckle and a distinct minerality, refreshingly dry with brilliant acidity and an almond note on the finish.
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Conti di San Bonifacio Montereaggio 750mL

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Cline Ancient Vine Zinfandel 750ml

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Carmel Road Pinot Noir 750ML

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Conti di San Bonifacio Docet Rosso 750mL

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Office building on Old OC Blvd. near Barrett property

Continued from Page 8

Harman added that the site has a storm water feature in the back—a natural constructed gravel wetland.

“Personally, what concerns me is the storm water,” said Commission member alternate David “DJ” Lockwood. “I know during typical storms, summer storms, it floods.”

Harman said one of the town’s storm water comments regarded removing the accumulated sediment and to clean the bank to help with drainage.

He added that the wetlands will reduce the run-off from the site as well.

“When a storm event comes, the water comes in on the surface and filters down through the surface soil and it pushes the water out that’s stored in the bottom,” Harman explained. “So, dirty water comes in [and] pushes clean water out. Then, that water sits there to be cleaned by the plantings until the next storm event comes.”

The parking lot and roof drain water to pipes and catch basins that go to the gravel wetlands in the rear, he continued.

As for landscaping, Harman said a two-and-half foot or three-foot berm



PHOTO COURTESY OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD, LLC.

The Berlin Planning Commission approved the site plan for a two-story office building on Old Ocean City Boulevard directly across from the Barrett Building with several conditions during its meeting on Sept. 9.

with plants will help shield the parking lot from view of the street.

“That was requested back originally when the site plan went through planning commission,” Harman said.

Commission member Pete Cosby requested more monumental trees on the site. Commission member Ron Cascio suggested planting willow oaks along the road front and serviceberry trees near the building.

Harman said sidewalks will also be added as well as shoulder widening from the State Highway Association.

The town code calls for 34 parking spaces on the property. The site plan

shows 50 parking spaces.

“We’re not going to be surprised by any HVAC stuff on the roof of this building, are we?” Cascio asked. “Because that’s not acceptable.”

Harman responded that the HVAC is limited until the owner secures a tenant, but he would ensure that the equipment is installed on the ground if it was a condition of approval.

The commission viewed the rendering of the building, which showed stone around the foundation of the building.

“We like to see brick,” Cascio said. “A red hue of some type.”

Engelhart said that the staff rec-

ommended approval of the site plan.

The planning commission approved the site plan with the following conditions: keep the building a light beige color, do not use vinyl siding, plant willow oaks out front and serviceberry trees around the building, do not have the HVAC system visible on the roof or it must be screened on the ground, incorporate red brick around base instead of stone and ensure the outdoor lighting is down lighting.

In addition, a subsequent application must be submitted for signage approval because the site plan did not depict the sign design.



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Candidate list certified for Berlin election set for Oct. 6

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The Berlin Board of Supervisors of Elections last Tuesday certified the remaining candidates for inclusion on the ballot for the municipal election on Oct. 6.

All the candidates met the minimum requirements to qualify for the election: residing in Berlin, being registered voters in the town and, if running for a district council seat, living within that district.

There are five candidates on the ballot for mayor: Jennifer Allen, Ron Bireley, Bill Todd, Zack Tyndall and incumbent Gee Williams.

Jay Knerr and Tony Weeg are running for the at-large council seat, while Shaneka Nichols and Dan Packey compete for the District 3 council seat.

Jack Orris is unopposed for the District 2 council seat. He will be proclaimed the winner unless there are any write-in candidates by Sept. 29 at 5 p.m.

Berlin residents are being encouraged to vote by absentee ballot this year as part of the town's effort to limit the spread of covid-19. Absentee voting applications are due to town officials by Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. A postmark date is not sufficient.

Absentee voting applications are otherwise due to town officials in person at Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, on Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.

Polling places will be open on Oct. 6 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors of Elections has said it will be taking safety precautions on election day to protect poll workers and voters. At a minimum, face coverings and social distancing will be enforced, Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said.

"Because government-issued recommendations and mandates can change quickly, it is important that

Berlin voters pay close attention to election information over the coming weeks," Bohlen wrote in a press release.

Bohlen informed the board during the meeting that the town is hiring poll workers for the municipal election.

"We do anticipate a fairly large turnout for the election," she said. "Past experience has shown the more contested the election is, the higher the voter turnout."

In addition to reviewing the election schedule, the board members were supposed to select a chairperson of the board. With Tony Bowen and Preston Whaley absent, there were not enough board members to make a decision.

The board members then updated their guidebooks with a list of current board members and their contact information, the process for voting by absentee ballot, a copy of the absentee letter form given to voters and copies of legal advertisements.

"Most of the stuff that goes into your books is really for information purposes just so that you have it," Bohlen told the board. "It's not necessarily forms or items that you will directly deal with."

She added that absentee and regular ballots will be printed on security paper.

"It's a different environment surrounding elections," Bohlen said. "We've developed a much more formal process for the absentee ballots. The primary difference is simply that the ballots are going to be identified ... identification is not going to be associated with the voter, but what it will tell us is if we receive any duplicates, so we know if there's been tampering."

The next Board of Supervisors of Elections is scheduled for Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

Continued from Page 8

A boring contractor bore through a secondary service on Decatur Street Extended, Lawrence added.

The most recent power outage occurred about 9 p.m. on Sept. 9 and all power was restored by 11 p.m.

Water valve repairs

The water resources department discovered a leak between Franklin Avenue and Bryan Avenue and replaced two valves, Fleetwood said.

Additional maintenance on three valves near the water tower on Franklin Avenue was scheduled to be completed this week.

"That will not cause disruption of

water," he said. "Those three valves will be replaced, and then we're well aware of two other leaks, one up in front of the fire company and one a little bit further north on Main Street."

Jamey Latchum, the town's stormwater and wastewater superintendent, will likely fix those leaks next week.

Street erosion

A Berlin resident sent a letter to town officials about street erosion on Evans Road caused by water and drainage issues.

"We did install a concrete rain gutter that goes down to the catch basin," Fleetwood said.

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Ocean Pines financials still trend positively

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) OPA General Manager John Viola, in addition to reporting overall positive budget numbers, highlighted several proposed amenities upgrades during the board of directors meeting last week.

Looking at July 2020 financials, net revenues were favorable to budget by \$326,000, with expenses unfavorable by \$8,000 for a net operating favorability of \$318,000 for the month.

“Last year we were \$55,000 favorable for July,” he said.

Viola also noted the current monthly totals were bolstered by Payroll Protection Program funding the OPA received earlier this year totaling \$1.14 million.

Looking at monthly department breakdowns for July, General Administration led the pack at \$283,000 favorability to budget, which included about \$398,000 in PPP funds with \$100,000 of the sum booked for bad debts.

Other departments with positive budget numbers during July included the yacht club at \$41,000, public works at \$32,000, marinas at \$32,000 and golf operations at \$21,000, while aquatics closed the month negative to budget by \$79,000 and the beach club was in the red about \$26,000.

Viola said year-to-date numbers are also trending positively at \$931,000 favorable to budget compared to \$309,000 favorability at this point last year.

Viola said general administration is favorable to budget by \$979,000 for the year due in large part to PPP funding.

“We basically at this point have utilized the \$1,143,000,” he said. “We won’t see that going forward.”

Viola also reviewed new projects, including soliciting bids for accounting and waste services.

“The ‘long range plan team’ is in place preparing information for the budget process and working with the Budget and Finance and Strategic

Planning committees,” he said.

Annual grounds maintenance work is underway on fairways and greens at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

“We are seeing positive results in the last couple days,” he said.

Viola said marina manager Ron Fisher is teaming with Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue, along with Director of Public Works Eddie Wells and Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante, to work with Worcester County officials on a proposal to install six additional boat slips, intended as non-rentals for visitors.

“That should definitely help with the food and everything else at the yacht club,” he said.

Viola said initial cost estimates are in the \$30,000 range with more details likely by next month.

Another expansion under consideration would add court facilities at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

“This proposal will not touch any of the other courts. They will still be in place,” he said.

The idea is to build combination courts to accommodate different racquet sports.

“Terry and Tim McMullen are talking about a court for junior tennis [that] would be a combination for four pickleball courts,” he said. The dual-purpose courts could be used for tennis instruction in the morning and pickleball competitions in the afternoon.

“Pickleball is ramping up and we have a lot of people playing so we do need the courts,” he said.

Viola said the proposed courts would be handicapped-accessible with costs estimated between \$40,000 to \$70,000 depending on available grant funding.

Parks updates OP financials for year though end of July

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) Recently ensconced OPA Treasurer Doug Parks reviewed short-term investments, annual assessment payments and replacement reserve fund balances during the Board of Directors’ meeting on Sept. 9.

Parks opened the report by updating investment numbers.

“The overall ladder investment rate of return on CDARs for July was approximately 1.9 percent,” he said.

Parks said as of this July 31 the association had roughly \$13.5 million in cash. Of that, approximately \$7.1 million is in CDARs (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) and about \$6.4 million between money market funds and other operating accounts.

Parks turned next to collection rates for annual assessments after membership was provided several extra months to pay because of the current covid-19 pandemic.

“I did some research and it was based on the fact that we had covid-19 this year and we made some adjustments in the way people are going to pay their assessments,” he said.

Parks said looking back over the past five years the association averaged about 95 percent rate of return for annual assessment dues.

“If you look at the 92 percent we have this year as of Sept. 1 ... it’s pretty good considering. However, please note that ... accounts for a \$708,000 shortfall in the amount of assessment money we would have budgeted to collect,” he said.

Parks also presented a chart outlining the collection rate of return over the past few months.

“You saw a big uptick in April, May and June [but] right now we’ve sort of leveled off,” he said.

Town of Berlin Public Notices



Town of Berlin

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Both polling places will open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. Absentee ballots will be accepted until the close of polls. For more information, please call 410-641-4314 or email mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

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Treasurer report for Pines strong

Continued from Page 12

Parks also covered reserve account balances, including replacement, bulkheads, roads and new capital.

"I will certainly continue the trend as we've done in the past and we will monitor our reserve funding," he said.

Parks said about \$1.6 million has been spent from reserve funds for projects undertaken this fiscal year.

"At the end of last fiscal year, there was \$5.6 million among all the different reserve funds," he said. "At the end of July, the current balance in our reserve funds collectively is \$7.2 million."

Replacement reserve funds sat at about \$3.5 million to close the last fiscal year on April 30, with \$1.9 million from assessment fees and \$900,000 expended for current projects since that point to leave a tally of \$4.4 million on July 31.

Bulkheads closed FY19/20 on April 30 at \$1.6 million, which was boosted by \$900,000 in assessment fees with \$500,000 spent since that point to leave a roughly \$2 million balance as of July 31.

Roads and drainage reserve funds sat at \$500,000 to end the last fiscal year, with casino funds contributing \$300,000 since that time and \$100,000 expended for a roughly \$700,000 balance on July 31.

New capital reserves had a \$100,000 balance on July 31 after \$200,000 from assessment fees was transferred in and about \$100,000 was spent since April 30.

Parks, while noting the association spent a large sum on capital projects this year, highlighted the importance of continuing to monitor reserve funds based on a motion the board passed two years ago to assure balances were maintained at prescribed percentages.

"These are projects that we have expended over this past year and we're starting to make sure that we manage both the expense side and where we are with the balance in the reserve funding with a target at the end of this current fiscal year of \$5.05 million," he said. "If there are unplanned expenses we'll certainly have to manage that."

Berlin comprehensive plan update

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission discussed the town's "Resilience Element" during its meeting on Sept. 9.

The Resilience Element will be a new section in the town's comprehensive plan, which is updated every 10 years and is due for review.

"We can make any changes we like to the comprehensive plan or none at all," said Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart.

A comprehensive plan is a state-required master plan that guides towns and counties with goals and objectives specific to future land use and development.

Because of the increasing debate concerning growth and development in Berlin, Engelhart advised the commission to focus on those topics in the update.

"I think the essence of all that is, is it inevitable that we physically expand our boundaries?" Commission member Ron Cascio asked. "I hear that it's inevitable, but I don't believe it."

Berlin aims to integrate climate change resilience into the comprehensive plan as well as other municipal planning documents and practices.

According to the town's website, "as towns adjust to increasingly extreme weather events, stress on public facil-

ities, and higher costs of services, there is growing need to reduce the impacts through conscious climate adaptation and resilience planning."

Towns like Berlin are encouraged to develop local resiliency long-term goals that will lead to a sustainable future and a healthy environment amid a changing climate.



Dave Engelhart

Berlin's Resilience Element will describe climate change impacts on the region, establish resiliency strategies and identify resources that can help strengthen the community's ability to prepare for and respond to such changes.

In 2019, Berlin received a \$20,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to prepare the Resilience Element.

The town then collaborated with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to conduct meetings and begin drafting the resilience document.

"This was developed with quite a lot of public input," Engelhart said.

The community was invited to comment on climate change, funding the town's future and the growth of

Berlin through a series of meetings in March 2019. Residents were also asked to submit comments this past April.

Commission member Matthew Stoehr observed that implementing some of the state's Resilience Element recommendations will cost more than the town can afford, but Engelhart reminded him these considerations are just that, and aren't required.

Commission member Pete Cosby added, "All we need to do is add a chapter to our comprehensive plan that says, 'Resilience is an important thing in these regards ...' "You want simple documents that are easy to read. This thing is longer than our comprehensive plan," he continued.

Approval of the final document and amendment to the comprehensive plan will occur later this year.

"Eventually, you'll have to have a public hearing because you're amending the comprehensive plan," Engelhart said.

At the public hearing, the planning commission would recommend the document to the Berlin Mayor and Council, who will also hold a public hearing to amend the comprehensive plan.

In addition, Worcester County government has to approve the changes to the comprehensive plan under state law.

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Opinion

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

A good contract also part of hiring top GM

As logical as it is to establish a succession plan for top administrative personnel in Ocean Pines, one thing over which the OPA Board of Directors has no control in its pursuit of great employees is ... the Board of Directors itself.

Over the years, the boards have hired administrators with impressive resumes and solid experience. Some worked out, some did not, and some shouldn't have been hired in the first place. Still others might have been good on all counts had they not been chewed up and spit out by the very people who hired them.

No such thing exists as a perfect hire as long as the people with the ultimate authority, the directors themselves, are rotating in and out, depending on the political vagaries of community politics.

In many respects, community and town administrators are political appointees, which is why turnover in management occurs more frequently when there is significant turnover of elected officials.

That's why establishing plans and procedures for hiring a general manager is just one half of the equation. The other half is coming up with an equally solid contract that a top-notch general manager can depend on in times of political conflict.

Luckily for OPA members, they have been spared the infighting and factionalism that marked some earlier boards. So far, the current board and its immediate predecessors have operated relatively smoothly. Members also are fortunate that the directors found in General Manager John Viola someone capable, someone with whom they would all get along and someone who knows the community well.

But that might not be the case when he steps down two or three years from now. Outside one or two good candidates from within, the caliber of the applicants from elsewhere will depend on the quality of the job being offered. As the board enumerates what it wants in a manager, it also ought to be enumerating the contract protections and considerations that should be a major part of any attractive offer.



Letters

Mayor clears up misinformation

Editor,

I feel it necessary to address some misinformed posts on the internet regarding the Town of Berlin's decision to cancel the Berlin Christmas Parade and our traditional New Year's Eve Celebration.

I also wish to comment on the decision to proceed with a modified version of Berlin's Oktoberfest.

The decisions and policies of the town since the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic have fully followed the guidelines and orders of Gov. Larry Hogan and his administration.

I stated early on during this crisis, and I know we have proceeded throughout this unprecedented medical challenge, to seek a middle road but when the path forward is not clear, to err on the side of caution.

The Town of Berlin has hosted only one event so far this year. That was a highly modified version of the Berlin Peach Festival which was promoted as Peach Day.

By spreading the offerings out along Main Street and

side streets we were able to accommodate the necessity of social distancing and required everyone to wear face masks.

Peach Day was a resounding success and serves as an example of what is possible for the re-organizing of some popular Berlin events during this ongoing pandemic.

This year's Oktoberfest is being restructured along the similar lines and not with the massive grouping of crowds in recent years.

It is not possible for Berlin Christmas Parade to be reorganized in a way to make it a safe public event.

Literally a few thousand people, many children, come to town from neighboring communities. Kids, parents and friends pack the sidewalks all along Main Street.

This is in no way conducive to social distancing in any manner. Some people say the town should just restrict the number of people who can attend. Really!

Many of the youth groups and marching bands are not meeting or practicing. And even if we should all be so lucky that somehow the pandemic magically disappears later this fall, then an event

as large and involved as Berlin's Christmas Parade cannot just be thrown together in a matter of a couple weeks or even a month.

The News Year's Ball Drop on Main Street presents similar crowding problems, just on a smaller scale in a much more confined area.

Once again, it is not conducive to setting up a safe setting or for social distancing in this time of the coronavirus.

The Town of Berlin is exploring an alternative for this New Year's Eve which would enable a fireworks display to be based at the Worcester County ball field at the southern border of our community.

If this is feasible, as we hope, it would be held early in the evening on New Year's Eve so children can see the fireworks from their homes, or from their parents' automobiles.

This approach is being considered by the Town of Berlin and a decision will come in a few weeks.

I know all of us are weary of this seemingly never-ending pandemic.

Continued on Page 15

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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GoFundMe page for Collins family

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) Coworkers of Destiny Collins organized a GoFundMe to support her family after a fire destroyed the family's house on Circle Road in Berlin on Labor Day.

Collins said the fire occurred when her father was grilling and went inside to use the restroom.

"I went outside to go get my clothes because I took my grandmom and myself to laundromat, and as I

was bringing our clothes in, the house was filled with white smoke," she said. "So, I looked out my window, and I saw that the fire was coming from under the hood of the grill."

Collins instructed her father to unplug the gas tank to avoid an explosion.

"He ran to go get the water hose, and I ran into the house to get a bucket, and I started trying to fill it up with water," she added.

But they were too late. The fire spread to the house.

Collins, her two children, her younger brother, her father, her mother and her grandmother were living in the single-story home on Circle Road and are now homeless.

The American Red Cross provided Collins' mother with Visa cards.

"We went to Walmart to go buy some clothes and stuff to last us for a couple of days," Collins said.

Her family first went to Microtel Inn & Suites, but relocated to La Quinta Hotel because it was too expensive. Fortunately, her relative worked there and was able to provide the family with a deal on rooms.

Collins said her family is most in need of clothes for her younger brother, parents and grandmother as well as basic necessities and house supplies.

She added that she attended the "Beep and Greet" event at Buckingham Elementary School on Buckingham Road in Berlin and received school supplies for her oldest daughter.

"When I went to get another iPad for my daughter because it got damaged in the fire, the school actually had donated some money to us and school supplies as well," Collins said.

In addition, Head Start provided supplies for her youngest daughter.

To collect monetary donations for the family, Collins' coworkers Abbey Gray and Jasmine Bateman organized a GoFundMe account on Sept. 9.

"Words cannot express enough of how appreciative I am," Collins said.

Currently, Collins works three jobs: Bath and Body Works, as a hostess at Hammerheads On the Beach, on 10th Street and the Boardwalk, and at Mountaineer.

On Monday, Collins' boss at Hammerheads On the Beach organized an event to raise funds for the Collins family. All bar proceeds from 4-6 p.m. benefited them.

To donate to the Collins family, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-destiny039s-family-get-back-on-their-feet?utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=pcpsshare-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_more.

Pair of Pines Golf Cmte. members quit over inaction

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) Recently resigned OPA Golf Committee charter member Olga Novy clarified this week that her decision to step down was not because of ground conditions at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

"The golf course is in terrible condition. However, this happens historically every summer," she said. "It is a matter of opinion if this year is any worse than previous years."

Novy said she joined the committee when it was reconstituted just over three years ago in hopes of having a positive impact on golf operations.

"When it became evident that I couldn't, I came to the conclusion I was wasting my time," she said. "Mr. Perrone and the board have my reasons for resigning. What they choose to do with that information is up to them."

Judging by user feedback left this month on the website golfnow.com, course conditions are ranking far below par.

Of the dozen reviews left online to this point in September, seven were

See COURSE Page 16

Letters

Continued from Page 14

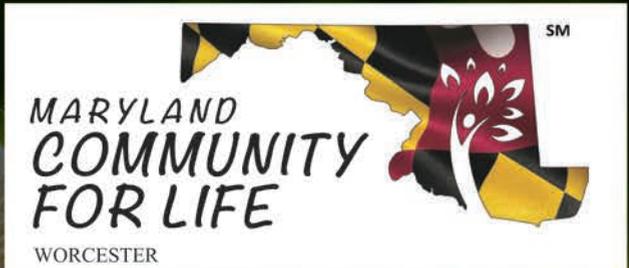
Opinions about its danger to citizens is a varied as anything I have ever witnessed. As the Mayor of Berlin it is my responsibility to not be swayed by either extreme, but to find a responsible middle course that gets our community safely through this disappointing and often frustrating year of 2020.

In the meantime, please do all you can within your control to keep your family, friends and your extended family of Berlin safe until this is all behind us.

*Mayor Gee Williams
Town of Berlin*



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Course conditions questioned

Continued from Page 15
 one star, with three other golfers rating the course two stars, while the remaining pair were only slightly better at three stars.

Three quarters of the reviews were from regulars, with five players visiting a few times per week and four others once a week.

One reviewer described conditions as deplorable, with dead spots and weeds abounding.

"About 10-15 years ago, the place was pretty good," the reviewer wrote. "Find the greens keeper who knew how to maintain the place, hire them back at whatever it takes and fix this mess."

Another review was titled "Don't Play Here" and suggested the course be shuttered for the season.

"Fairway lies played like first cut rough," the review said.

Another player who visits weekly wrote earlier this month promising to curtail the tradition.

"The worse course I have ever played [and] I will never come back," the reviewer said.

Another subpar review noted a proliferation of crab grass on the tees and fairways.

"There are bare spots on some greens where you cannot find 15 feet of puttable surface," the review stated.

One review claimed, "Fairways on

nearby courses roll better than these greens."

While another player pledged to forgo the course altogether despite living nearby.

"I've played public golf courses in much better condition," the review said. "I won't go back and I have a house in Ocean Pines."

Former OPA Golf Committee Chair Larry Davies, who resigned along with Novy, said significant improvements are required for golf operations.

"Those who want can 'spin' the facts any way they want or continue to put their heads in a hole and pretend everything is fine," he said. "The fact remains that the [course] condition is subpar and that a bottom to top evaluation for all aspects of managing and operating this amenity is needed."

Davies also questioned the wisdom of the proposed use of wastewater for course irrigation, noting the repurposed fluids contain elevated saline content and suspended solids.

"We can't keep our course in good condition with freshwater," he said. "Managing and controlling the use of wastewater on a golf course requires the correct soil/turf and an expertise that our OPGC staff does not have. Every resident should be laser focused on stopping this initiative"



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Now former OPA Golf Committee Chair Larry Davies, top center, ponders the discussion, while also recently resigned member Olga Novy, bottom left, takes notes during the groups meeting on Feb. 25.

Coast Guard offering virtual basic boating safety course

(Sept. 17, 2020) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a virtual Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, Tuesday through Thursday, Sept. 22-24 from 6-9 p.m.

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.

The class includes piloting in local waters, tying nautical knots, foul weather tactics, legal issues, updated

Maryland regulations and common marine maintenance.

The cost for the three-day course is \$20. To register or for more information, call Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05" and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

Other classes are scheduled for Oct. 20-22 and Nov. 17-19.

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Cuisine

Salmon or cod cakes perfect for autumn

Oh, these fickle times during which we reinvent the wheel, conforming this terrible fantasy into something a little tastier.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Right when things start to look better, new information comes down the pike that will change how we our lives and conduct business for another, unknown

and extended period of time.

With news coming out of Salisbury that they are mandating their own restrictions as the number of cases grows, we teachers and business owners (I happen to be both) are sitting here biting our nails and hoping for even a semblance of normalcy in this mad, mad world.

It is astounding to look back and truly absorb what we have been through since our state shutdown on March 12: six months of uncertainty, brazen business decisions and the ubiquitous reports of main-stay restaurants closing their doors for good. No, this does not look good for a great many people in our industry.

However, as it happens to go, many of us in the industry are certifiably insane, and we refuse to give up. We see new markets emerging, we embrace the most notable paradigm shift that hospitality has ever witnessed. And the crowning achievement?

The pandemic has given us the voice we always wished to have against the keyboard warriors out there, those nameless heroes who relentlessly leave nasty and unwarranted reviews.

Since the inception of online reviewing, we have been told not to respond defensively to bad reviews (luckily I don't get but a scant few) as it would make us look bad.

Now, however, it has become an enjoyable game of cat-and-mouse. While I personally do not partake, I have friends with multiple restaurants who do. And, they are becoming professional comedians in the process, roasting reviewers who took it upon themselves to leave a terrible, baseless complaint for the world to see.

Maybe this outlet gives those of us who have sold our soul to the industry a good laugh. Or, maybe it finally



lets us filter out the ridiculous and call them out. Yes, I like the latter explanation better.

Again, I am just fortunate that I don't have these issues. I mean, it's not to say that I won't. Never say never, I guess. And on a side note, if someone has a legitimate complaint, I address it wholeheartedly as do my friends and colleagues. I am not referring to these.

But I digress. Let's get back to a shift in how we do business. At the college, we are face-to-face for our labs, taking all necessary precautions so as to protect ourselves and those that we serve.

Since we cannot entertain in our dining room anymore, the students will be getting some lessons on carry-out foods. This is quite relevant, as many restaurants have changed their full-service model to one that is based on to-go foods and quick service.

As such, as we have labs four days per week and we produce a fair amount of food, we will be packaging it up to be carried right out the door. Back to people's offices they will go, armed with fresh and delicious scratch foods, such as this cod cake.

Since we are just starting American Regional Cuisine, New England seems like a fair enough place to begin our studies. Naturally the students learn about New England Clam

Chowder, lobsters, squash in many forms (roasted, in a bisque et al) and cod.

And while I have never been the biggest fan of cod, I appreciate its place in American history, especially as it relates to George's Bank and New England.

My favorite fish for this is grilled and chilled salmon. When I worked at the Polo Grill in Baltimore, Salmon was a standard banquet offering on Saturday nights.

As we would have some leftover, we would make these cakes with said salmon and they were divine. It is the same process, and the product with the forward nuances of the grill was unbelievably delicious.

Regardless, this dish is filling, warm and perfect as we head into the cooler season; a season that could be even more unusual than spring. At least we will eat good food.

Salmon or Cod Cakes

Serves 6

3 ea. Russet potatoes
1 med. Onion, julienne
1 # Grilled & chilled salmon or cod
1 tsp. Seafood seasoning
1 egg
1/2 c. Cream
1 c. Panko bread crumbs
3 Tbsp. Chopped parsley

2 eggs
1 c. Milk
2 c. Panko for breading

1. Peel and chunk the potatoes and place in water with the onion

2. Season with salt and pepper and simmer until ready for mashing

3. Strain and allow to steam out for ten minutes

4. Mash the potatoes until smooth and then add the chunks of the salmon, spice, egg, cream, parsley and bread crumbs

5. Gently fold this mixture so as to maintain the flakes/chunks of the fish

6. Press into patties and set aside

7. In a bowl, combine the egg and milk to make an egg wash

8. Dip the cakes in one at a time and coat in the second batch of bread crumbs

9. Bake in a 375F oven for about twelve minutes, depending on the oven. Basically, just make sure that they are golden brown

10. These are great simply drizzled with brown butter, or you can serve it with a tartar sauce of some sort. I stick with the butter.

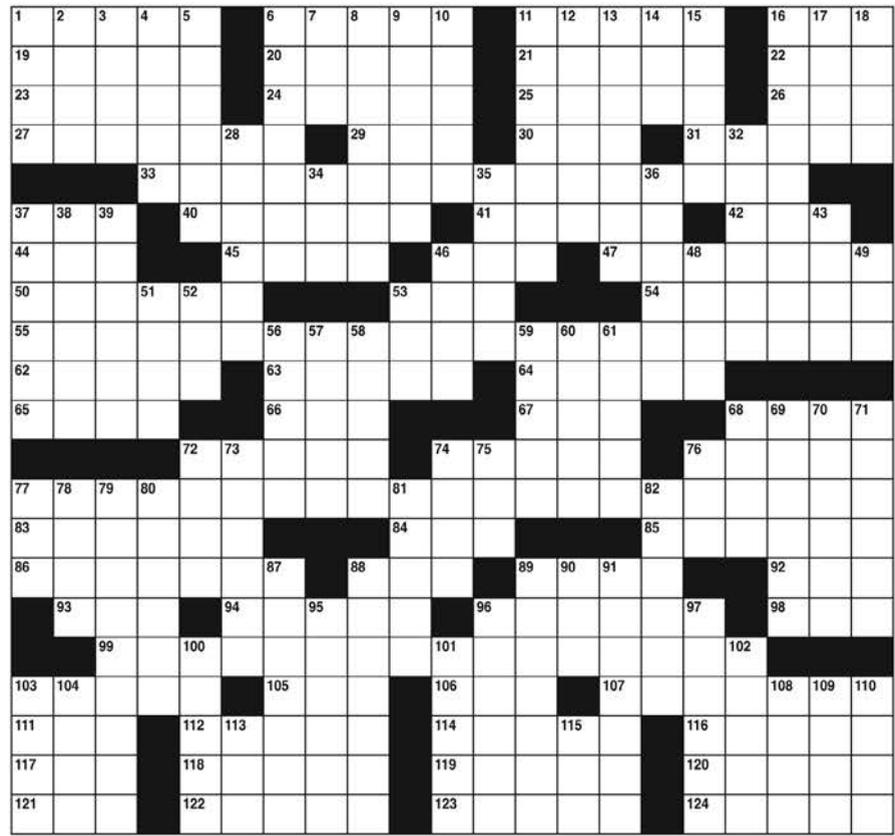
— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College.
Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

Puzzles

COULD YOU REPEAT THAT NUMBER? BY DAVID KWONG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Kwong is a magician and crossword constructor in Los Angeles who regularly combines puzzles and sleight of hand in his performances. His 2014 TED Talk (posted on TED.com) includes a trick with a New York Times crossword and has been viewed 1.7 million times to date. David has a new virtual show with puzzles, titled "Inside the Box," opening in a few weeks with the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. This puzzle is his 21st crossword for The Times. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Part of a backpack
 - 6 Pyramids, often
 - 11 Dutch requirements
 - 16 Evan : Welsh :: ___ : Scottish
 - 19 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
 - 20 Hunter of myth
 - 21 Bring to bear
 - 22 Result, maybe, in brief
 - 23 Many apartments in old warehouse districts
 - 24 Japanese comics style
 - 25 Labor Day baby, e.g.
 - 26 Shape formed by an extended thumb and index fingers
 - 27 Good person to believe in
 - 29 Switz. neighbor
 - 30 Writer Tarbell who took on Standard Oil
 - 31 Pins are placed at the end of them
 - 33 07 film
 - 37 Some E.M.T. cases
 - 40 Buying binges
 - 41 Count in music
 - 42 Logical start?
 - 44 U preceder
 - 45 Picked from a lineup, informally
 - 46 Hurt
 - 47 Proverbs
- DOWN**
- 50 Like puppeteers, usually
 - 53 Maven
 - 54 Leafy crown material
 - 55 Day competitor
 - 62 Bailiwicks
 - 63 Legal
 - 64 Chief Chirpa and others, in sci-fi
 - 65 Wastes away
 - 66 "Fantasy" Grammy winner
 - 67 Cool, in old slang
 - 68 "The way things are currently going ..."
 - 72 Muscle problem
 - 74 Muscular
 - 76 Grammy-winning country singer Black
 - 77 Play combo of old
 - 83 Mark ____, winner of the 1998 Masters
 - 84 George Carlin was its first host, for short
 - 85 State capital on the Colorado River
 - 86 Subject of Newton's first law of motion
 - 88 Dealers do this
 - 89 Have an in-tents experience?
 - 92 QB's pass: Abbr.
 - 93 "___ to My Socks," Pablo Neruda poem
 - 94 Larsson who wrote "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"
 - 96 Additionally
 - 98 Deletes, with "out"
 - 99 Tree alternative
 - 103 Kind of salami
 - 105 N.Y.C.'s first subway line
 - 106 Like some gas: Abbr.
 - 107 "Big Sur" novelist, 1962
 - 111 A suggestion
 - 112 World capital whose name comes from the Greek for "wisdom"
 - 114 Humble
 - 116 Jazz composer with an Egyptian-inspired name
 - 117 "___ your call"
 - 118 "Elements of Algebra" author, 1770
 - 119 First lady of the 1950s
 - 120 Kind of pear that resembles an apple
 - 121 Rapper with the 2003 hit "I Can"
 - 122 "Judge ___" (1995 Stallone movie)
 - 123 ___ and curl (salon treatment)
 - 124 Not interfere with
 - 7 ___ pro nobis
 - 8 Mixed together
 - 9 Gets one over on
 - 10 Junkyard warning, maybe
 - 11 Play back?
 - 12 Rust and quartz
 - 13 Equity valuation stat
 - 14 Tiny bit of work
 - 15 Vodka brand, informally
 - 16 She gained fame from her leading role in "Fame"
 - 17 Having the means
 - 18 ___ Lofgren, guitarist for the E Street Band
 - 28 Wolflike
 - 32 Great two-pair poker hand
 - 34 Once called
 - 35 Spanish resort island
 - 36 "Sure, I guess ..."
 - 37 Relating to egg cells
 - 38 Actor who won a 2016 Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - 39 Six-line verse
 - 43 Wilson of "Meet the Parents"
 - 46 Colloquial contraction
 - 48 Stops up
 - 49 Surreptitious
 - 51 Greek H's
 - 52 Golfer Ernie
 - 53 It ended on Nov. 11, 1918
 - 56 Swell up
 - 57 Laundry soap since 1908
 - 58 "___, all ye faithful"
 - 59 Classic fruity sodas
 - 60 Occupied, with "in"
 - 61 Accept as charged
 - 68 "How sad!"
 - 69 Liquor levy, e.g.
 - 70 Provoke
 - 71 Surgical inserts
 - 72 Painter José María ___
 - 73 Kind words
 - 74 "Va ___" (Italian "All right")
 - 75 Something to bookmark
 - 76 Film director Jon
 - 77 You, to Yves
 - 78 "___ doctor, but ..."
 - 79 Trait of a clingy romantic partner
 - 80 Lead singer of rock's Yeah Yeah Yeahs (who uses just the initial of her last name)
 - 81 Churchill's trademark gesture
 - 82 Author born Truman Streckfus Persons
 - 87 Not much at all
 - 88 Ballet attire
 - 89 Pig in a poke or pigeon drop
 - 90 "The Simpsons" grandpa
 - 91 "More of the ___" (1967 No. 1 album)
 - 95 Weepy 1954 Patti Page hit
 - 96 Haberdasher's clasp
 - 97 Of the ankle
 - 100 Stunned, in a way
 - 101 Walk heavily
 - 102 Contemptible sort
 - 103 Toothy smile
 - 104 Jazz's James
 - 108 Condo, e.g.
 - 109 Kaffiyeh wearer
 - 110 Christmas-tree hanging
 - 113 Just between us?
 - 115 Family nickname
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 82 Author born Truman Streckfus Persons
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HARD - 29

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

Answers to last week's crossword:

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

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., Sept. 17

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

27TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF CLASSIC DEADLINE

The 2020 Robert E. Warfield Memorial Tournament to benefit Atlantic General Hospital will be held on Sept. 24, rain or shine, at Ocean City Golf Club. Check-in begins at 10 a.m. with a noon shotgun start. Team reservations can be submitted online at www.agh.care/golf or by texting WARFIELD to 41444 and must be received by Sept. 17. Purchase raffle tickets by texting AGHRAFFLE to 41444 and reserve golf balls for the drop by texting DROPZONE to 41444. Kam LaBrunda, klabrunda@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9858

NEA BIG READ: CREATIVE WRITING WITH NANCY MITCHELL

Offered via Zoom, these multi-course workshops focus on fear, survival and the human spirit. Held Sept. 17 and 24, 2:00 PM. Register: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6934342>.

FLYING MACHINE STEM MEET UP (YOUTH)

Pick your kit up at the library. Meet up on Zoom at 4:00 PM as we put our flying machines together and watch them take off. Ages 8-12 years. <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6949195>

NAACP GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be held to elect a Nominating Committee for the 2021-2022 Elections. The group will meet via conference call, 7:00 PM. The sign in was sent to all members of record as of Sept. 1. Those who want to attend and join or renew member-

ships, can email charleseherbert@gmail.com.

NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER MONTH AND NO SENIOR EATS ALONE DAY CELEBRATION

Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Enjoy friends, food and fun.

Fri., Sept. 18

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH (ADULT)

Held at 1:00 PM and featuring "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. If you are unable to attend this one there will be a discussion in October and November. Books are available at your local branch or on Libby. <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6939546>

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 8:00 PM - 11:59 PM. Featuring "Facing the Giants." Bring snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, lawn chairs/blankets. Sit in your own family pod. Movies are free, but donations welcomed. Check for updates at [Facebook.com/caap](https://www.facebook.com/caap).

GREEN MARKET

Fridays through Nov. 27 - 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., Sept. 19

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., Sept. 20

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.berlinmainstreet.com

Mon., Sept. 21

DOC AND TALK (ADULT)

View The People Speak on Hoopla, <http://hoopladigital.com>, 2:00 PM, then join the group to discuss this captivating doc about America's struggles with war, class, race and women's rights. Register: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6940192>.

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

Tues., Sept. 22

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE (YOUTH)

Meet up and use your reasoning skills to deduce which events are true and which one is a lie, 2:00 PM. Create two truths and a lie about yourself to share with the group. For ages 8-12 years. Registration required: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6949249>.

NEA BIG READ: TED TALK: WHAT FEAR CAN TEACH US (ADULT)

Join the group for this viewing followed by a facilitated discussion with Elena, 2:00 PM. Register: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6949350>.

cal.com/event/6934749.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY (ADULT)

Join Barbara Crain from the League of Women's Voters to find out how to register to vote, voting options, mail-in/absentee ballots as an alternative to in-person polling and voter rights. Beginning at 5:30 PM. Register: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6980329>.

VIRTUAL MARYLAND SAFE BOATING COURSE

This is an interactive class offered by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, held Sept. 22, 23 and 24, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. Those attending and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states. Cost is \$20. Checks should be made payable to USCGAUX 12-05 and mailed to P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807 or CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

Wed., Sept. 23

OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 9:00 AM - 2:15 PM. Appointment are encouraged. Sign up at https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/6012. Face covering is required. Walk-ins will be accepted if social distance can be maintained.

THE WITTY FIBER FRIENDS

Join via Zoom for a combined group and yards of fun while knitting, crocheting and embroidering, 10:00 AM. All levels are welcome Register: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6940299>.

'BIRDS OF A FEATHER' (YOUTH)

Meet up on Zoom for a story and a craft based upon Susan L. Roth's book, 4:00 PM. For ages 3-10 years. Registration is required: <https://worcesteralibrary.libcal.com/event/6949350>.

Tyndall campaign sign raises ethics concern

By Ally Lanasa

Staff Writer

(Sept. 17, 2020) The ethics complaint filed against Town Councilman Zackery Tyndall earlier this month was discharged without comment last Friday by the Berlin Ethics Commission.

In a closed meeting, the commission determined that the complaint filed on Sept. 8 by Grice Street resident Carol Vaughan concerning the placement of a Tyndall campaign yard sign did not come under its jurisdiction.

"Candidate [Zackery] Tyndall's representative posted a sign on my lawn without asking permission," Vaughan

wrote in her complaint. "I told the rep that I was supporting a different candidate."

Tyndall said the campaign sign was intended for the neighboring homeowners, who had requested it.

"The representative was out knocking on doors on Grice Street and ... knocked on Ms. Vaughan's door," Tyndall said. "She expressed that she was supporting another candidate ... [my representative] went to the next house [and] knocked on the door. The next house said 'We love Zack. We've known him forever. We're supporting him for mayor. We'd like a sign.'"

The representative accidentally put the sign on the wrong property, believing it was the correct yard.

Tyndall said the sign was moved before he was even notified about the ethics complaint.

Tyndall said he was informed about the complaint by the press seeking comment on the ethics violation. He then contacted the town administrator for clarification.

Tyndall issued a public statement after learning about the error last Friday afternoon.

"To date, the campaign has received a request for 150 signs which have been

placed across every neighborhood," Tyndall wrote. "There was a request for a sign on Grice Street. Unfortunately, the sign was mistakenly placed on the property next to one of my supporters. It was a simple and unintentional mistake. My campaign's supporter moved the sign, and the property owner has been sent a handwritten apology."

Following the closed session, the Berlin Ethics Commission live-streamed the review of elected officials' and candidates' financial disclosure statements.

District 3 Candidate Dan Packey did not fully complete his disclosure statement and was notified of the omission.

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5 P.M.



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