



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SKATERS

Summer Jachimski, left, 2, contemplates sharing a snack with Damien Schwind, 3, while the youths skate by each other on the White Horse Park basketball court in Ocean Pines on Saturday.

Board finds ethics charge has no basis

Complaint against director dismissed without comment

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) After holding a pair of closed session meetings over an ethics and conduct complaint against an unnamed director the week before, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors last Thursday held a special meeting lasting only several minutes to dismiss the allegations.



Dr. Colette Horn

Director Dr. Colette Horn opened the brief virtual meeting on Feb. 4 by stating that an association employee had filed a complaint alleging a current board member violated Resolution B-08 - Director and Officer Ethics and Conduct.

Reading from a prepared statement, Horn said the matter was
See SPECIAL Page 3

Heron Park land sale possibility

Interest expressed in two parcels near entrance, but mayor, council undecided

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The town of Berlin has potential buyers for two parcels that sit in front of the entry to the paths and ponds in Heron Park, but the mayor and council have to decide whether they have any interest in selling.

Further, if they did decide to let go of one or both of the properties, the process of arranging a sale would be complicated by the town's needs for easements, its hopes to build a skate park, and the matter of its use of one of the affected buildings for equipment storage.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said during the Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday that an appraisal for the 10-acre



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Mayor and Council are contemplating selling parcel 57, which contains the former Tyson chicken processing plant in Heron Park on Old Ocean City Boulevard, after receiving written interest in the property.

parcel, 410, which sits in the middle of the 60-acre park property, was received from a potential buyer.

"We have had interest from multiple entities regarding parcel 410," he said. "One of those entities has actually put their interest in writing."

Fleetwood told that entity to pay for the appraisal of the property, which came back at \$770,000 for the land and the structures on it.

"I wish to make it known on that parcel, parcel 410, there are currently
See INTEREST Page 12



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ALL HEART

The Berlin Welcome Center on South Main Street will provide grab-and-go valentines for children this weekend as part of the Hearts for Heroes campaign.
See story page 5.

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Special meetings result in dismissal of ethics charge

Continued from Page 1 brought to the boards' attention on Jan. 26.

"A thorough investigation of the complaint was conducted by OPA Counsel," she said.

Within three days, another closed session meeting took place on Jan. 29 to review the results of the investigation.



Colby Phillips

"After reviewing the complaint and the results of the investigation the board found that there was no violation of Resolution B-08," she said.

According to reports from Ocean Pines Forum moderator Joe Reynolds, the complaint was filed against Perrone by Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips alleging he created a hostile workplace.



Larry Perrone

Association governing documents mandate that ethics and conduct grievances filed against board members are addressed within two weeks of receipt in a public meeting.

Further, Resolution B-08 states meetings to consider complaints can be held in closed session only if authorized by the Maryland HOA act.

"For the purpose of determining authority to hold such meetings in closed session, Directors shall be considered employees of the Association," the resolution states.

Reynolds, noting Phillips' charges were filed through the association's HR Department, wondered if qualifying Perrone as an employee created a conflict.

"Who did the HR lawyer investigating the charges for the board represent?" he wrote.

If a motion to remove a board member is introduced, an open meeting is required to allow testimony.

Remedies for violations include, but are not limited to, removal from the board for cause.

Resolution Bo8 also restricts board members from providing specific direction to association management, employees or vendors without prior authorization.

Additionally, Bo8 prohibits board members from retaliating against an employee alleging impropriety.

After Horn read the statement about the alleged violation into public record, Perrone moved to adjourn the meeting, which brought forth audible sighs of disbelief from among the roughly dozen online viewers.

Bayside Gazette reached out to Phillips who declined to comment on the case.

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Ocean Pines holds public hearing virtually for budget

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors held a FY21/22 budget hearing virtually on Saturday to update membership on the association's current and future financial challenges.

OPA Treasurer Doug Parks said the association's governing documents requires a public hearing to provide residents a status update on the proposed budget.

"We're still in the process of refining it [and] still in the process of getting input," he said.

Parks said the new fiscal year's budget is analyzed from both an operations and board perspective, with the community encouraged to pose questions and express concerns.

The budget proposal is posted on the association's website under the finance department tab.

Starting with the point of greatest community interest, annual assessment rates, Parks said a larger fee increase was avoided through extensive analysis by the Budget and Finance Committee, General Manager John Viola and the board.

"At this point we're looking at an assessment for the non-water lots of \$1,021, which ... is about a \$35 increase compared to last year," he said.

Parks said initial revenue projections for the current fiscal year had been roughly \$14.7 million, but more recently were lowered to about \$14.06 million.

On the expenditure side, the current fiscal budget had been estimated at \$14.7 million but is now forecast to finish close to \$14.6 million.

"The general manager and his staff have done a very good job in looking at controlling expenses," he said. "We're actually underneath where we're projected to finish in this current fiscal year to a savings of about a half million dollars."

While price increases are inevitable over the years, Parks said the board is generally hypersensitive to increasing assessment fees.

"Controlling the cost is a real important factor in operations, but not to control ... or cut costs just for the sake of cutting," he said.

Director Frank Daly shifted the discussion to drainage issues.

"In the current year that will end in April we've budgeted more money for drainage than we had in the past five years combined," he said.

The proposed budget continues the trend with \$900,000 earmarked for drainage work, more the triple the total designated this year.

Daly said those costs pale in comparison to the potential price tag

for replacing underground pipes throughout the community that are at or near the end of their useful lives.

"We have basically 30,647 feet of underground pipe that ranges in age from when the community started to recently," he said.

The average life span for corrugated pipe installed underground varies widely from 10-40 years based on site and use conditions.

"Even at 40 years, a significant number of those pipes are mid- to end service life," he said.

Daly said the price tag is estimated at about \$1,000-per-foot to replace the infrastructure.

Parks, while concurring with Daly See PINES Page 6



Frank Daly



Doug Parks

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Hearts for Heroes honors frontline workers

Chamber campaign also recognizes Valentine's Day for Berlin businesses

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce launched a Hearts for Heroes campaign to honor local heroes such as healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store clerks, firefighters, police, EMTs, food service and retail workers.

"When my wife and I owned Victorian Charm, we, of course, did a big promotion at the weekend of President's Day and Valentine's Day. They fall together," said Steve Frene, deputy director of the chamber. "Typically, we'd see visitors come into the area. So, after we left Victorian Charm and I started working at the chamber, I wanted to do a promotion around that, where all the businesses could participate."

Frene was inspired to tie the holidays together for an event.

"I thought about the heart representing our heroes and someone we love and support," he said. "The other side of the weekend is, of course, President's Day and you think about patriotism and ... fire, police, doctors and the people that are out there putting it out on the line for everybody every day during covid. I thought about a way to merge that would be a 'Hearts for Heroes' campaign."

Local businesses put heart decorations in their windows and around their workplace as a show of support from Valentines' Day to Presidents Day, Friday through Monday.

Red ribbons have been attached to lampposts downtown as well.

Berlin Intermediate School students also provided colorful "heartwork" for businesses to use as

decorations along with the official Hearts for Heroes poster. Frene is also taking some "heartwork" to the Atlantic General Hospital and the Berlin Police Department.

In addition, businesses and restaurants will have special offers between Friday and Sunday to thank people for shopping locally.

"We are not limiting the discounts and offers to just [essential workers]," Frene said. "We have taken it one step further and we say all customers are essential, and we want to show them love."

Pop's Kitchen on Gay Street will offer a small cheese pizza (toppings are extra, a quart of soup and a garden salad for \$20.95. The Treasure Chest at 20 N. Main St. will offer 20 to 50 percent off jewelry, while Beach Memories at 106 N. Main St. will give away free bracelets to the first 25 shoppers.

Victorian Charm at 100 N. Main St. will give away cash with a \$40 purchase, while, Heart of Gold Kids at 27 N. Main St. will offer 50 percent off fall and winter apparel.

Bruder Home on Main Street will have 50 percent off select items and Bruder Hill on Commerce Street will have large discounts and \$15 sale racks.

Patty Jean's Boutique at 110 N. Main St. as well as East and Main Shore Supply and Apparel at 17 N. Main St. will have 20 percent off new arrivals and 70 percent off winter clothing.

Beach Gypsy will also offer 25 percent off its Valentine's Day collection and self-care items this weekend. The Hearts for Heroes special is a free pink cheetah print tote with a \$50 purchase.

Additionally, Atlantic Hotel at 2 N. Main St. will offer food and drink specials, while Island Creamery at 120 N. Main St. will be open with



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The window of a former beauty salon next to Gilbert's Provisions on North Main Street features "heartwork" from a Berlin Immediate School student for the Hearts for Heroes campaign. The space is expected to reopen as a gift shop in the spring.

birthday cakes, quarts, pints and bags of waffle cone chips to go.

Frene has facilitated group advertising in *Bayside Gazette* and *Ocean City Today* for the campaign to divide the expense. Burley Oak Brewing Company, Viking Tree, The Globe, Fathom, Beach Memories, The Treasure Chest, Bruder Hill, Bruder Home, Victorian Charm, Heart of Gold Kids, Una Bella Salute, Life's Simple Pleasures, Patty Jean's Boutique and Beach Gypsy contributed \$50 for an advertising share.

The Hearts for Heroes campaign is sponsored by the Bank of Ocean City, First Shore Federal and Taylor Bank.

Through the sponsorships, Cupid and Uncle Sam are able to hand out free money with a presidential trivia contest on Saturday from noon to 3

p.m. Frene said it will take place rain, snow or shine.

Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director, added that grab-and-go valentines will be available for children in the foyer of the Berlin Welcome Center at 14 S. Main St. this weekend.



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EA Engineering to continue services at Central Landfill

By Ally Lanasa
 Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) EA Engineering will continue to monitor groundwater and provide analytical services at the Central Landfill Facility in Newark for the 2021-22 calendar years.

The Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday agreed to extend its arrangement with EA for approximately \$182,000. The amount is an increase of nearly 12 percent from the 2019-20 calendar years and results from the additional analytical and reporting requirements from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) along with the inclusion of Cell 5, said county Public Works Director John Tustin, P.E.

Tustin added that \$91,000 is budgeted annually for this effort.

To meet the Department of the Environment's requirements, Tustin listed the necessary efforts in his memorandum: "increased costs associated with laboratory analytical services and the expanded sampling, collection and reporting efforts to include the Method 8011 analyses; increased effort for field personnel and reporting requirements with MDE, which include an increase of approximately 20 additional hours per sampling event due to the additional monitoring efforts for the Method 8011 analyses; and increased effort for statistical analysis, interpretation of results

and report preparation, approximately 30 hours per sampling event."

Furthermore, as a result of assessment monitoring, groundwater protection standards were developed in 2017 as required by the Department of the Environment. Besides the statistical analysis previously performed, additional statistics are now performed to determine statistical increases over groundwater protection standards at each event.



John Tustin

Also, now that landfill cell five has been constructed, statistics for the cell five wells are now required and are performed at each sampling event.

Funding is available and will be included in current and future solid waste operating budgets.

Commissioner Anthony "Chip" Bertino asked if other companies could complete the work.

Tustin replied that in his memorandum he noted that the Public Works Department did bid the same type of groundwater monitoring services at the three closed landfills in the past and EA Engineering's bid was significantly lower than its competitors for the work.

The county commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Pines virtual budget hearing

Continued from Page 4

that the topic was outside the current budget discussions, also agreed the potential replacement costs, which could eclipse \$30 million, are overwhelming.

"The infrastructure is pretty old," he said. "The amount of money it would take to completely revamp ... is beyond what we could reasonably consider, even over a five-year span."

Daly said resolving the aging pipe issue needs to be discussed further.

"There's no immediate problem ... but over next decade or two, we're going to

be facing substantial infrastructure issues that cost a lot of money," he said.

Perrone said the association is awaiting price estimates to have repair linings installed inside failing drainage pipes, at a fraction of the cost for full replacement.

"The ones that have to be replaced will be," he said.

Residents with budget questions for the board should email to directors@oceanpines.org.

The board is scheduled to give final budget approval on Feb. 20 with the new fiscal year starting on May 1.

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Board of Zoning Appeals will revisit proposal for inn events

Bed and breakfast owners also requested to increase capacity of dinner guests

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals tabled a proposal to hold special events at a bed and breakfast until more information could be provided during a virtual meeting on Feb. 3.

Giovanni Pino and Karen Tomasello, who own The Inn Berlin at 15 Harrison Avenue, sought the approval of a special exception for a Conditional Use to hold outdoor events for up to 100 guests, temporary tents and mobile restrooms for special occasions such as weddings, retirement parties and graduation celebrations.

In addition, the Tomasellos, the former owners of Fresco's and Sello's restaurants, requested to modify a previously authorized Conditional Use allowing up to 30 dinner guests inside be increased to 75 guests at the bed and breakfast facility formerly known as the Waystead Inn to better meet the county's liquor licensing requirements.

"The previous owners of the bed

and breakfast, the Waystead Inn, had been granted a Conditional Use allowing up to 30 dinner guests inside that were not guests of the bed and breakfast," said Planning Director Dave Engelhart. "So, that Conditional Use continues, and the Tomasellos would like to ... increase the number of dinner guests allowable."

The Worcester County Commissioners on behalf of the Worcester County Library agreed that the inn could use up to 40 parking spaces on the library property at 13 Harrison Avenue for guest parking.

The inn must notify the library staff in writing at least three weeks in advance before the date and provide the date and time of the proposed use and the number of spaces needed. The inn may only use the premises outside of the library's hours of operation, subject to availability. The inn must clear the parking lot of all trash and vehicles after any use and the inn must provide the county and library with the name and phone number of a representative who can be reached at any time.

Furthermore, the county or library may deny the use for any reason.

The application also included signed approval from a neighbor at 304 N. Main St.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The owners of The Inn Berlin at 15 Harrison Avenue requested permission to host special outdoor events for up to 100 guests, but the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals tabled the proposal until more information could be provided.

The 10-room Inn Berlin is leased to the Tomasellos' son and daughter-in-law, who will run it daily.

Karen explained that potential clients could choose whether the temporary tent is in front of the inn or the in the backyard.

"Or it's also a Plan A/Plan B in case the back of the property does get a little bit soggy after a big rain," she said. "So, it would be a Plan B for an event if it didn't work out in the back. We could have the tent in the front."

Although the property will primarily be a bed and breakfast, they want to have the option to host outdoor

events occasionally.

"It's not going to be our focus. The focus would be the running of the actual inn itself, but we just feel it's a nice option, especially in light of covid, people are wanting to do more outdoor events. They're wanting to do smaller events," Karen said. "So, our ideal event might not be a hundred. It might be 50. We really don't want to be overwhelmed at all. We don't want to overwhelm the property at all."

As for the increased indoor dining capacity, the Tomasellos said they See CONCERNS Page 8

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Concerns of noise, parking spaces discussed

Continued from Page 7

were seeking a beer, wine and liquor license, which requires 75 seats.

“It’s not something we want to do on a nightly basis, but it would assure us the liquor option,” Karen said.

Joseph Moore, who was re-elected chairman of the board that night, said approval of the expanded indoor dining capacity is subject to the Worcester County Fire Marshal’s approval.

Pino added that having liquor makes the dining experience better.

“I’m not looking to have a full house every night, but we would like to have a liquor license,” he said.

Vice-Chair Woody Bunting, who was also re-elected to his position on the board on Feb. 3, asked how the property would accommodate parking for 100 guests and if there would be a site plan that illustrates the proposed parking layout.

“We are rearranging the parking in the back. There was a dumpster right in the middle,” Pino said.

By rearranging, Pino said 25 parking spots can fit in the back. He also acknowledged that a lot of people travel by Uber.

Engelhart said he’ll have to look into whether a site plan with the

parking illustrated is required for the Planning Commission.

“You could make it a condition of approval,” he added.

Board member John Apple expressed concern about commercial events being held in a primarily residential area because of noise.

“I know that living in Austin Circle we can hear the brewery,” Apple said. “We hear events up on Main Street. This is a change in the environment.”

Engelhart responded that the town code does have a noise ordinance controlled by the police department.

Karen added that someone would be on-site for every event to ensure there are no violations.

“We’ve held multiple liquor licenses in the county for the past 40 years, and we’ve yet to have a violation,” she said. “So, I feel as though we’ve shown we’re very responsible citizens and do not want to disrupt the neighbors. That’s not our intent at all.”

Moore added that the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners normally cuts off any outdoor entertainment or music by 10 p.m. He then asked Apple if the 10 p.m. curfew would satisfy neighboring Berlin residents.

“I would almost have to say that’s still somewhat hard to swallow due to the zoning of this location,” Apple replied. “You’ve got some quaint little neighborhoods here – Brittany Lane, Austin Circle, the historic homes down Main Street. Again, from experience sound travels far throughout Berlin.”

Bunting said he thought Apple’s concerns were legitimate. He added that he’d feel more comfortable about the proposal if the board knew how many events the inn plans to host and had more details about the parking situation.

Moore said he has known the Tomasellos for years and has witnessed the positive impact they’ve had locally.

Before the board agreed to table the proposal, Berlin resident Malia Ricks expressed concern about the proposal. She asked if the plan was to create a restaurant at the property. Karen said it was not and clarified that the inn already has approval to offer meals to 30 guests.

Ricks also addressed issues of parking and noise.

“We already have overflow issues on weekends when town events are happening,” she said. “Also, as a

neighbor, I do not want to hear music and partying every weekend for 100 guests.”

Karen replied that they plan to host more intimate events at the inn.

“We don’t plan to have a partying type atmosphere,” she said. “We’ll be interviewing these clients. We’re not taking everyone.”

Bunting agreed with Moore’s sentiments about the Tomasellos.

“They certainly are very well respected businesspeople,” he said. “I have no problem with what they are proposing to do. There’s a few details I would like to see if it’s possible if we could get more information on.”

Apple added that the Conditional Use was tied to the property, not to its owners.

“In the case of the Tomasellos, the previous Conditional use carried over because there was no lapse in the use,” Engelhart said. “It was still open as a bed and breakfast, and they were still allowed if they wanted to to serve up to 30 dinner guests or meal guests outside of the room guests.”

Bunting made a motion to table the proposal until more information was provided with a second from Apple.



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OP Bylaws Committee meets again virtually

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, which held its first meeting since coronavirus impacted society last March, reconvened last Wednesday to discuss governance documents updates.

Committee Chair Jim Trummel said a bylaws review work group was instituted in November, which consists of himself and Directors Doug Parks and Camilla Rogers, along with Jenny Cropper Rines.

During the committee meeting on Feb. 3, Trummel said the current bylaws verbiage was approved by referendum in 2008 following a multi-year vetting launched in 2005.

“It’s now the 13th year since bylaws were approved without revisions, amendments or a comprehensive review,” he said.

To this point the bylaws work group has held a pair of initial meetings and identified August as a soft target date to develop recommendations for updates on referendums.

“Amendments to the bylaws require a referendum and public hearing,” he said.

Trummel said the work group, which meets again this week, has proposed delivering recommendations to the Bylaws Committee that would then present the proposals to the

Board of Directors.

“We would take them to the board to consider for potential referendums,” he said.

Prior to that step, other procedural issues for the work group to consider include either proposing precise amendment language or earmarking provisions for the Bylaws Committee to review.

“Even with wording from the work group we would have to take it as a recommendation and develop our own thoughts about how resolutions be amended,” he said.

Conversely, Trummel said the Bylaws Committee might want to communicate potential revisions to the work group.

Committee member Keith Kaiser said extraneous back and forth between the committee and work group should be avoided.

“I think the assessment group should make a draft final product, even if it’s just bullet points,” he said. “It will also help the work group formalize thoughts.”

Committee member Bob Hillegass concurred.

“If they give us a good draft we’ll get a good basis,” he said.

The committee members also agreed it would be preferable to receive work group feedback in sections versus one giant document drop.



SCREENSHOT FROM MEETING

Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members, clockwise from left, Bob Hillegass, Jim Trummel and Keith Kaiser reconvened virtually last Wednesday.

Trummel said the insights would be shared with the work group at its next meeting.

“We would prefer as the work group develops recommendations on provisions communicate to us so we can get rolling,” he said.

The hope would be to avoid an entire bylaws package review in one lump sum, Trummel said.

The committee also highlighted several points of contention with resolution MO6 that outlines election and referendum procedures.

The first issue surrounds the election process and methods to avoid having duplicate or multiple ballots cast from the same address.

“It’s a cumbersome process,” Trummel said. “The committee has to exam duplicate envelopes and confirm no original ballots were returned from the same address.”

Bylaw requirements mandate any duplicate ballots requested be marked accordingly.

The contractor hired to print and See RESOLUTIONS Page 11

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

While still working to source potential grant funds to offset costs for property owners facing recurring flooding issues, the Ocean Pines Association opted against including \$20,000 in the FY21/22 recommended budget for engineering studies on private lots.

Drainage pilot project funds pulled from OP FY21 budget

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) Potential funding of \$20,000 for a proposed pilot project to help offset Ocean Pines property owners' out-of-pocket costs to address their own flooding problems has been removed from the recommended FY21/22 budget.

The association had originally included \$20,000 to pay back costs for engineering studies on private lots in the FY21/22 proposed budget but the allotment was deleted following a review by the Budget and Finance Committee last month.

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said General Manager John Viola and

Public Works Director Eddie Wells have had discussions with more than a dozen homeowners whose properties flood frequently, sometimes leaving them with standing water for prolonged periods.

In these instances, property owners would have to foot the bill to develop and deploy their own solutions.

The association has sought to assist property owners cover the costs to complete projects to regain regular use of their yards and to reduce flood-related property damage.

In addition to getting help identifying potential grants from Maryland Coastal Bays Program officials, federal and state agencies are also being contacted.

Resolutions work group formed

Continued from Page 10
mail election materials is responsible for opening returned envelopes and removing ballots, but also retains entries marked duplicate unopened.

Revisions to ballot materials for the 2020 Board election included adding matching numbers on ballots and envelopes to aid traceability.

Trummel said the Maryland HOA Act does not require an anonymous ballot process.

Kaiser said resolution Mo6 provides a certain level of anonymity but

in light of recent ballot revisions that intent should be articulated stronger.

Trummel also noted there are numerous effective dates listed among the governance documents that need updating to reflect revisions to resolutions.

Trummel said one current item of interest involves resolutions B05 conflicts of interest and B08 director and officer ethics and conduct.

"The board has formed a work group to review B08 and its provisions, in particular complaints about directors," he said.



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Interest shown in purchase of park parcels

Continued from Page 1

two out buildings, one of which was the old Tyson plant maintenance shop for their vehicle fleet and then there is a pole barn that sits to the northern end of the property that was used for storage," he said.

The reconciled value without the two buildings is \$660,000, according to W.R. McCain and Associates Inc.

Fleetwood reminded the council that there would be an "interruption of operation" if the two buildings are sold because they currently store the town's equipment.

"Prior to us acquiring that property at Heron Park, we were storing our snowplows, wood chippers [and] things of that nature ... out in the elements," he said. "Now, we have that luxury where they are being stored out of the weather, so that adds value to our equipment."

If the council had interest in selling parcel 410, Attorney David Gaskill said the council would need to make a finding that the parcel is not needed for public use.

"We'd have to advertise that and have the council pass a motion at a meeting that it finds that the parcel is not needed for public use," Gaskill said. "Thereafter, I believe we should

consider issuing a request for proposals to the public, who may be interested in purchasing that."

From conversation with Mayor Zackery Tyndall and Fleetwood, Gaskill said there are easements that the town may want on parcel 410 and six-acre parcel 57 to accommodate the remaining portions of the park.

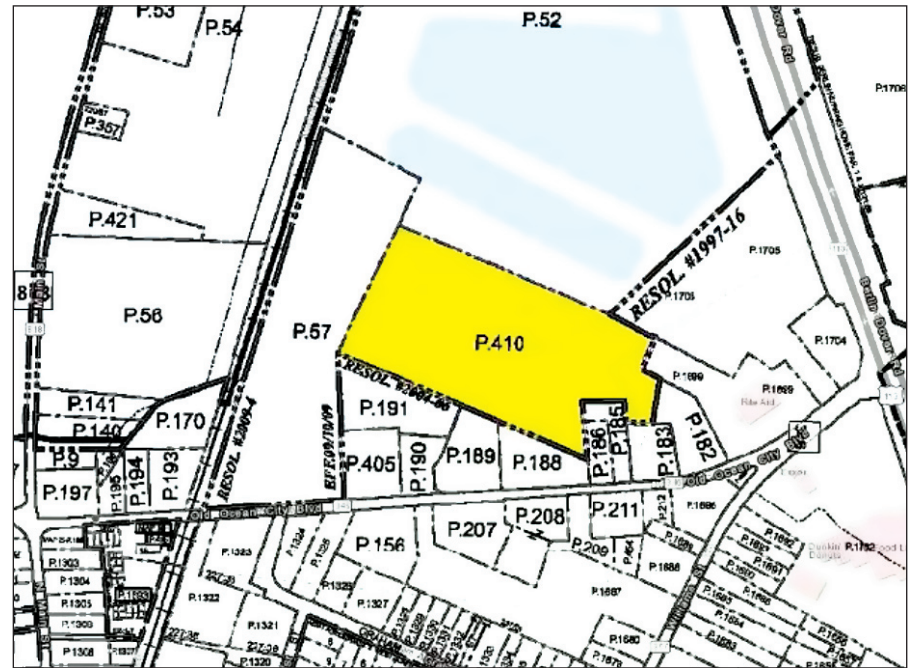
If the council is interesting in selling the land, Tyndall said town staff and elected officials are brainstorming the operational impacts.

The town could do a lot line adjustment for access to the ponds and paths if it plans to sell the parcels.

"Basically, you would be retaining access to the rear parcel, parcel 52, which is shown with the blue ponds on it, and not sell the entirety of either parcel," said Dave Engelhart, the town's planning director. "Really, it would be creating another lot or creating another portion of the rear lot, parcel 52."

He added that line adjustments would be similar to easements that Gaskill referred to on the east and west ends for circulation in and out of the park.

"One of the entities that has expressed interest in writing owns one of the parcels that sits to the south of



MAP COURTESY W.R. MCCAIN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

W.R. McCain and Associates, Inc. has appraised the value of parcel 410 with its two buildings at \$770,000, should the Berlin Mayor and Council decide to sell the property in Heron Park on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

410, so you could make it a requirement as well that we would want another easement off of 346 to the east side of 410, so that we have more than one access and entry from the back parcel 52," Fleetwood added.

As for parcel 57, one entity has expressed interest in writing and an appraisal is underway.

Parcels 410 and 57 are zoned R-1 Residence District.

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols asked if the town sold the parcels would parking spaces be included in the line adjustments or easements.

"You can do anything you want," Fleetwood replied.

Tyndall added that if council members are interested in selling the property, then proposed easements would be discussed.

"I view parcel 410 the more valuable of the two parcels to the town," Councilman Jay Knerr said. "I see it as a potential to add growth to the park, to build an entertainment venue, to build a skatepark – there's any number of things the town could use that clear parcel for ... I would

hate to see the town sell parcel 410. I would not be in favor of that."

Knerr said he did have some interest in selling parcel 57 to reduce the debt service of the town's budget.

"That's why we're here this evening. We really want to hear each one of yours' opinions as it related to those two parcels," Tyndall said.

Responding to Nichols' question, Tyndall said that the Town Council could decide how to sell the land, parts of the parcels or the whole parcels.

Burrell added that he'd like to hear the public's thoughts about the parcels before making a decision. He also would like to see the cost of the replacement vehicle storage.

Tyndall suggested having multiple public hearings to assess the public's opinion about selling the parcels, then to discuss the proposed easements.

Councilman Troy Purnell agreed with seeking more public comment before a vote about the sale amid discussions for recreational space at the park for skateboarders in town.

Arts & Healing contest winners listed by council

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced the winners of the Arts & Healing Online Contest, which promoted mental health awareness through art during the covid-19 pandemic.

Ashley Cuffee judged the works. First place was awarded to Joanne Guilfoil, "For Eva a Russian Win."

Mitzi Ash, "The Blue Butterfly," came in second place, and third

place went to Ashley Barton, for "Keep Looking for Sunshine."

Honorable mention was presented to Aaron Hoffman, for "Clamshell Beach Sun Reflection."

The artwork and stories/poems/messages relating to each piece of art may be viewed on The Worcester County Arts Council's website: <https://www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org/arts-healing>.



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OP Recreation Parks Cmte. reviews projects, challenges

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) Projects and potential enhancements were discussed during the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee virtual meeting on Monday.

Robin Hood Park

Planned upgrades for playground and basketball facilities are on tap next month at the roughly three-acre Robin Hood Park in South Ocean Pines.



Debbie Donahue

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said the previously budgeted improvements include installing new equipment and expanding the playground area.

"We'll probably start in mid-March depending on when parts arrive," she said.

The project includes upgrading benches and repainting the half-basketball court section along with general beautification of the Sherwood Forest-based amenity, which also features an intersecting trail that ends at Knight Terrace.

Donahue said Ocean Pines Public Works would perform initial demolition tasks to prepare the site.

"We will bring in a crew to do it within a week total time," she said. "The playground company does all the borders ... and landscaping."

Committee Chairman Steve Cohen asked if any consideration was given to holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony after the playground is installed.

Donahue said a celebration of some sort would be held to highlight the overall revamping of Robin Hood Park later this year while taking covid-19 restrictions into account.

Kayak rack

Rental rates for a proposed 18-spot kayak storage rack at the Swim and Racquet Club were also vetted.

Committee member Laura Scharle said initial estimates for renting a storage slot are \$100 annually or \$75 from May through September.

"We priced it at what we thought was reasonable," she said.

Committee member Martha Arthur noted Ayers Creek Adventures outfitters, which rents individual water equipment including stand-up paddleboards at the Swim and Racquet Club, charges \$100 for enclosed storage from May through October.

"Good paddling continues well into October," she said.

Scharle wondered if annual pricing would be warranted as demand would likely dramatically diminish in colder weather.

Arthur, concerned that one and a half dozen slots would not meet demand, asked if prices for nonresidents should be set marginally higher.

"Demand should be strong," she

said.

Committee Board liaison Larry Perrone said the associations' tax status would prohibit limiting access to kayak storage rack for only Pines residents.

"I think we're going to have a lot of people wanting those spots," he said.

The committee approved a motion to seek board approval for an additional storage rack if demand warrants.

Community bike ride

Hoping to spur new bicycle events this year, Ocean Pines resident Patti Stevens is planning on meeting soon with General Manager of Golf Operations John Malinowski about course access for riders.

"Not in peak golf season," she said.

Stevens said the hope is that open dates exist in the spring or fall when bike riders could be permitted to cycle along the golf course cart path.

Stevens also proposed the committee help develop a waiver form for a communitywide bike ride this spring, which could coincide with National Bike Month in May.

"Probably limit it to adults and older teens," she said.

Stevens said children should be prohibited from taking part unless the Ocean Pines Police Department escorted

See RECREATION Page 16



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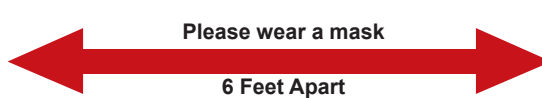
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While unable to hold its annual Arbor Day memorial tree-planting ceremony at Pintail Park in 2020, the Ocean Pines Garden Club is hoping to stage the event this year, although likely with less attendees than in the crowd pictured from 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES GARDEN CLUB

Recreation cmtte. talks new projects for '21

Continued from Page 13
riders or conducted road closures.

Scharle suggested the proposal to expand golf course access at select times should include hikers and joggers.

Cohen said the cart path is likely not wide enough to accommodate varied users.

Donahue suggested the mixed-use suggestion for the golf course would likely meet resistance.

“John [Malinowski] can explain why and share past experiences,” she said.

In terms of what course usages would be feasible and at what times, Donahue said golf play picks up early in the year.

“By March, it is the beginning of golf season,” she said.

Stevens suggested wider community usage would help build support for golf from non-players.

“The golf amenity is nice for the whole community,” she said.

Arthur agreed, while noting the proliferation of walkers when the golf course was temporarily closed last spring at the onset of the pandemic.

“There might be liability issues to do it when the course is open,” she said.

Perrone said the course makes the largest revenue from package play during shoulder seasons.

“People will be out there until dusk,”

he said.

Bat boxes

Cohen asked about reviving a bat box-building event held under the White Horse Park Pavilion in 2019.

Donahue said the activity got cancelled last year because of the coronavirus, with uncertainties remaining about holding the gathering done in conjunction with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program two years ago.

“We have put one bat box in the back of White Horse Park but we definitely need more,” she said.

The boxes primarily accommodate little brown bats, which measure about 4-6 inches with wingspans around nine

inches.

The wood frame boxes, which are coated with a special heat-absorbing paint primer, provide a safe space for bats during their cold weather hibernation cycle.

Donahue said the boxes could prove useful in other Ocean Pines parks to provide housing and keep bats away from playgrounds.

“There are few answers to stop them from coming,” she said. “They don’t bother anything, it’s just the droppings and when they fall.

Little brown bats typically devour over 1,000 insects, largely mosquitos, in an hour.



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OP Garden Club looks to spring

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) After adapting to largely online communications for coronavirus considerations last year, the Ocean Pines Garden Club is hoping to stage activities this spring following whatever safety restrictions remain in place.

Garden Club President Patti Lookner said after the group halted in-person meetings due to the pandemic an email alternative was quickly launched to keep members in touch.

"We started a monthly newsletter [The Bloomin' News] in May," she said.

Later last year the group reconvened monthly meetings via zoom.

"We meet the second Thursday of the month," she said.

Lookner said the club appointed 2021 officers during its most recent virtual gathering last month, along with a "gardening trivia game."

Although cementing details remains challenging the club continues to forge ahead with a slate of events on tap, in some fashion, through June.

"We're scheduling bit by bit because we're watching the restrictions," she said. "It's all a wait and see."

Principal on the list is the annual Arbor Day memorial tree-planting ceremony, at Pintail Park.

"We usually have the ceremony followed by a luncheon [but] last year it was completely canceled," she said. "This year we're hoping we can have the outdoor ceremony."

In an odd twist, after staging the Arbor Day dedication ceremony for roughly the past two decades, and earning a PLANT Award from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources last April, the Garden Club was forced to cancel the event in 2020.

The Arbor Day ceremony, which is typically held on the second Thursday in April, has been produced in conjunction with Kelly Romanowski from Ocean Pines Public Works.

Lookner said the Arbor Day planting is done in memory of people who are either Ocean Pines residents or family of ... residents who have passed away the year prior.

"We do one planting of a tree, bush or large plant for the whole group," she said.

In light of cancelling the event last year, the goal is to combine the prior list of departed loved ones with more recent entries.

"They announce each name, ring a bell and give a flower to the family

member there," she said. "They each come up and put a shovel full of dirt on the plant."

The following month the Garden Club will continue a more recent tradition.

"A couple of years ago we started having Mothers' Day floral arrangements at the [Ocean Pines] Farmers Market," she said. "A group of us get together and make arrangements the night before."

Lookner said production procedures would be adapted accordingly this year, in much the same spirit as the group's traditional Christmas undertaking.

"We do the Christmas decorations for the Pines," she said. "We were determined we would get decorations up this year."

While both floral-focused creative endeavors normally involve a wealth of club members gathering at the Ocean Pines Community Center gym, pandemic considerations have shifted the majority of participants to produce at home.

"Usually we all meet at the gym but we had to change this year, with some at home and a smaller number in the gym," she said.

Lookner said for the time being the club would continue virtual monthly meetings with the potential to shift



Patti Lookner

outdoors as warm weather returns dependent upon coronavirus restrictions.

"We'll just do what we can," she said.

With upcoming meetings delving into a variety of topics with varied presenters including Ocean Pines drainage issues, native plants and floral arrangements, Lookner encourages anyone whose interest is piqued to make contact.

"We have the whole realm out there from 'I don't know what to do' to 'master gardeners' in the group," she said. "You learn from one another ... (and) the speakers that come." For more information or to join the Ocean Pines Garden Club, email Lookner at plookner@gmail.com.

 '14 Ram Crew Cab Was \$29,789 \$26,995 <small>STOCK B201356</small>	 '15 Jeep Patriot Was \$14,995 \$12,995 <small>STOCK B201237B</small>	 '16 Transit 15 Passenger Was \$26,995 \$24,895 <small>STOCK B207161A</small>	 '16 Chevy Tahoe Z71 Was \$37,899 \$35,995 <small>STOCK B211055A</small>	 '18 Toyota Tacoma Was \$36,998 \$33,897 <small>STOCK B207440A</small>	 '15 Chevy Silverado Was \$33,995 \$31,875 <small>STOCK B211058A</small>
 '19 Fiat 500X Was \$23,275 \$19,995 <small>STOCK B1917361</small>	 '15 Ford Explorer Was \$19,995 \$17,897 <small>STOCK B207106B</small>	 '13 Chrysler Convertible Was \$11,969 \$9,989 <small>STOCK BP20253</small>	 '17 Honda Accord Was \$16,799 \$13,995 <small>STOCK B211058A</small>	 '15 Ford F-150 XLT Was \$30,995 \$28,499 <small>STOCK B211212A</small>	 '16 Ford F-150 Was \$32,675 \$30,954 <small>STOCK B207412A</small>
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Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VACCINATED

Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor receives his first dose of the covid vaccine on Jan. 29, along with other Worcester County Public Schools staff through the partnership of Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department.

FIRST DOSE

Dr. Annette Wallace, the county school system's chief operating and academic officer for grades nine through 12, receives her first dose of the covid vaccine on Jan. 29, through the partnership of Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department.



PHOTO COURTESY HOPE4RECOVERY INC.

LUNCH SERVED

Brandon O'Brien, executive director of Hope4Recovery, and Caroline Phillips, development officer at Atlantic General Hospital, provide boxed lunches from Pop's Kitchen in downtown Berlin to hospital caregivers on Jan. 28.



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

RECOGNITION

Mel Jones accepts an award from Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club President Bill Hickey in recognition of his long service on the organization's board of directors.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GOLF OUTING

Reasonably mild temperatures lured a smattering of all-season players to the Ocean Pines Golf Course on Saturday.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GAME TIME

Greg and Maria Leary, of Ocean Pines, have a front-row seat to watch Super Bowl LV on the large screen at The Globe on Broad Street in Berlin.



Wood duck boxes at Heron Park to be installed soon

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Berlin Mayor and Council approved a request for wood duck boxes at Heron Park during its virtual meeting on Monday night.

Ewan Betz, an 11-year-old home-schooler and Worcester County 4-H member in Berlin, proposed adding the boxes at the park on Old Ocean City Boulevard to attract more of the waterfowl.

"I love birding at Heron Park because it is near my house, and wood ducks are beautiful creatures and we could attract more of them to the park," he said.

Wood ducks have strong claws that allow them to perch on trees. They favor shallow inland lakes, ponds, slow-moving rivers and swamps, especially those surrounded by woods.

"It would also bring birders to town," Betz added. "They might stay and get some lunch and shop."

Mayor Zackery Tyndall explained to Betz that those are referred to as secondary economic benefits.

"So, your wood duck boxes could help drive some revenue for downtown businesses," Tyndall said. "That's good to hear."

Responding to Councilman Jay Knerr, Betz said the wood duck boxes will last about 25 years if properly maintained, which includes an annual cleaning out of the box and checking for repairs.

Betz personally committed to the maintenance of the boxes.

The wood duck boxes are made from cedar planks, salt-treated 4-by-4 lumber posts, Quikrete fast-setting concrete mix, wire mesh and predator baffle.

In his application, Betz stated that the town will not need to assist with personnel or equipment. He makes



PHOTO COURTESY EWAN BETZ

Worcester County 4-H member Ewan Betz and his father make wood duck boxes that will be installed near the ponds at Heron Park in Berlin for nesting season.

the boxes with his father in the garage.

"If you don't mind, take some pictures along the way too, so we can help share that to our social media platforms and with the press," Tyndall said.

The boxes will be mounted 6 feet off the ground on the 4-by-4 salt-treated posts a few feet from the edge of the ponds. The actual boxes are 29 inches tall and 9 inches wide and 13 inches deep.

Betz aims to have two to three boxes at Heron Park by mid- to late March for nesting season. He agreed to inform the town when he plans to install the boxes.

"Although the timing of this did not allow for the Parks Commission to review the request before this evening, this is definitely something that they would very much be in favor of, so I have no doubt about their support," said Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen.

Councilman Jack Orris moved to approve the request and it passed with a unanimous vote.

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Town Council talks FY21 general fund

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Berlin Mayor and Council reviewed the general fund and utility funds report with the FY20 second quarter update of revenues and expenditures against the FY21 budget from Natalie Saleh, the town's finance director.

The general fund balance consists of non-spendable fund balance, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and unassigned fund balance.

"Committed and assigned, they're very similar to each other, and they have a specific purpose," Saleh explained. "Unassigned is pretty much the spendable balance, what's left at the end of the year as of fiscal year [June 30] after all the expenses have been paid."

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood explained that the numbers in the presentation were as of June 30, 2020. After June 30, the Town Council agreed to reduce the non-spendable fund balance by half, which is not shown. It will be reflected in FY21.

The total general fund ending FY20 was \$6,168,192 with \$3.4 million in non-spendable fund balance, \$995,000 in restricted fund balance, \$791,000 in assigned fund balance, and \$1 million in unassigned fund balance.

Saleh then informed the council of the general fund revenues and expenditures over six months, showing the actual versus the budgeted amount.

For 2021, the town budgeted \$6.2 million in revenues, but from July to December in FY21, the town has only received \$4.7 million. For the remainder of FY21, 24 percent of revenues remain to be collected, Saleh said.

For expenditures, the town budgeted \$6.6 million for FY21, and from July to December in FY21 the town expended \$3 million for a difference of 53 percent.

"With that said, on the bottom we have several transfers as well as advancement from the impact fees for the street projects to show that we are running on a balanced budget," Saleh said.

As of Dec. 31, 2020, general fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$1.6 million.

The largest source of revenue for the general fund is taxes. Other sources include service charges, licenses and permits, impact fees, grants, and interest income.

As of December, the town has collected \$3.3 million in taxes of \$4.2 budgeted.

The town budgeted \$186,500 in revenue from licenses and permits and has collected almost \$80,000 as of December.

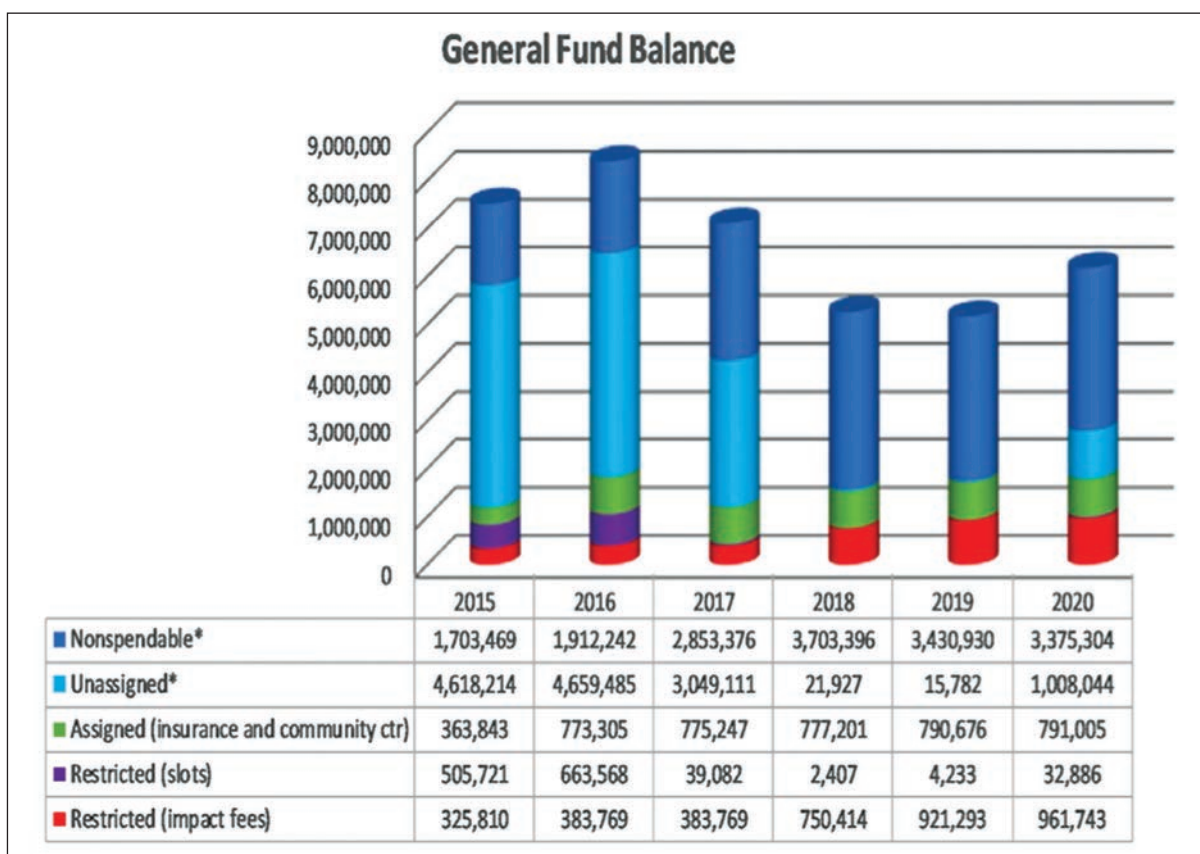


CHART COURTESY NATALIE SALEH

The Berlin Mayor and Council reviewed the FY21 general fund balance in comparison to the general fund balance over the past five fiscal years. The general fund balance consists of non-spendable fund balance, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and unassigned fund balance.

Grants, including highway user revenue, state police aid, main street tourism, slot revenue, façade grant and parks and recreation grant, totaled \$194,000 as of December, which is a 59 percent difference from what was budgeted.

Saleh noted that the parks and recreation grant for \$107,500 was not received by December.

Saleh said the Worcester County grant is normally \$465,000 each year. The town received \$636,000, which included the coronavirus relief grant.

Service charges, such as parking fines, waste collection, site plan review and grass cutting, were budgeted for \$835,000. The town has received about half of those charges during six months.

As for impact fees for residential and commercial, the town has only obtained \$4,000 of the \$30,000 budgeted.

"I'm hoping we will catch up by the end of the year," Saleh said.

The town has earned \$23,000 in interest while conservatively only budgeting \$10,000.

Lastly, the miscellaneous income totaled \$3,600 by December with \$5,000 budgeted.

"I think we will succeed by the end of the year to collect all the revenues," Saleh added.

Fleetwood said new residential and commercial

construction in Berlin like the Willows at Berlin and Oceans East will increase revenue as well soon.

As for the town's general fund expenditures, the police department, capital outlay and administration are the largest expenses.

"Overall, if we look at the differences of each department, we're on a good pattern of either at 50 percent or a little bit more to expend, which we should expect that to be at the six months mark," Saleh said.

The total expenses by department budgeted for the FY21 budget is \$6.6 million and \$3 million has been expended between July and December.

The total expenses budgeted for elected officials is \$183,000 with almost \$90,000 spent by December.

"Administration is a little larger department. We have more personnel included here and also we have fire and EMS allocation line item under the administration," Saleh said.

The town has spent \$493,000 of the \$1.3 million budgeted for the administration department, while \$129,000 of the \$295,000 budgeted for the finance department has been spent.

The customer accounts are usually absorbed by the utility funds, but Saleh showed them as a separate to examines the expenses of the general fund.





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Revenues, expenditures shown

“As of right now for six months, we’re at 54 percent, which is right where we need to be,” she said.

For building and grounds, the town budgeted nearly \$50,000 and has spent slightly more than \$8,000 in the first six months of FY21.

The Berlin Police Department has spent \$859,000 of its nearly \$1.9 million budget.

“You probably will ask me, ‘Why do we have negative of insurance?’ That was a refund for the vehicle that we submitted to be replaced,” Saleh explained. “The police department will replace that vehicle of that amount, plus the insurance refund will be applied towards the purchase of a new vehicle. That negative will not stay there.”

The recreation and parks department has 70 percent of its budget to spend in the remaining six months of FY21, while the economic development department has 63 percent of its budget.

The planning department has spent \$74,000 of its \$192,00 budget, and the public works department has spent nearly \$12,000 of its \$134,000 budget.

Originally, the town budgeted for a public works department head, but that role has not been filled.

The largest expense of the sanitation department is contracted services with \$131,000 budgeted for the fiscal year. The total budgeted for the sanitation department is \$376,000 with \$184,000 spent already.

The town’s streets department has 60 percent of its \$515,000 budget remaining.

The debt service for the general fund consists of bond principal and bond interest for an approximate budget of \$308,000. Twenty-two percent of the budget remains.

“Some payments are annual, several are quarterly and one is biannual,” Saleh said.

Capital outlay is divided into equipment for administration, police, streets and parks.

The capital outlay gained \$268,262 more than the \$219,500 budgeted.

Saleh said the electric fund has operating revenues budgeted at \$5.5 million with 60 percent remaining. As for the electric fund’s budgeted \$5.5 million operating expenses, the town has spent \$2.5 million.

“As of six months for electric, we’re a little bit over expensed or negative in the total, but we have some insurance proceeds,” Saleh said.

The town received \$99,000 for the engine being replaced.

Saleh added that collections for the electric fund are behind because of covid restrictions and the weather.

Revenues for the electric fund are the electric service, service charges and miscellaneous funds.

The largest expenses of the electric fund are purchased power and personnel expenses.

The water fund has operating revenues budgeted at \$777,250 with 55 percent remaining. As for the water fund’s budgeted \$941,000 operating expenses, the town has spent \$427,000. The operating income is at a loss currently.

“Then, we have special connection fees, \$17,000, which play into the whole fund balance,” Saleh said. “So, as of right now for six months we see a \$60,000 operating loss. Hopefully, the revenues will improve, and we will remain watchful for the expenses and the fund will not close on a negative.”

The largest source of revenue for the water fund is water service, while the largest expense is personnel expenses, followed by capital outlay.

The sewer fund has an operating revenue budgeted at \$2 million and the town has received slightly more than \$1 million by the six-month mark with 48 percent remaining. As for the sewer fund’s budgeted \$2.2 million operating expenses, the town has spent \$806,000 so far.

“We have special connection fees collected at \$47,000 at the six months mark,” she said, adding that the town expects more equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) to come this fiscal year for the local projects.

The largest sewer fund revenue source is sewer service, while the largest expense for the sewer fund is personnel

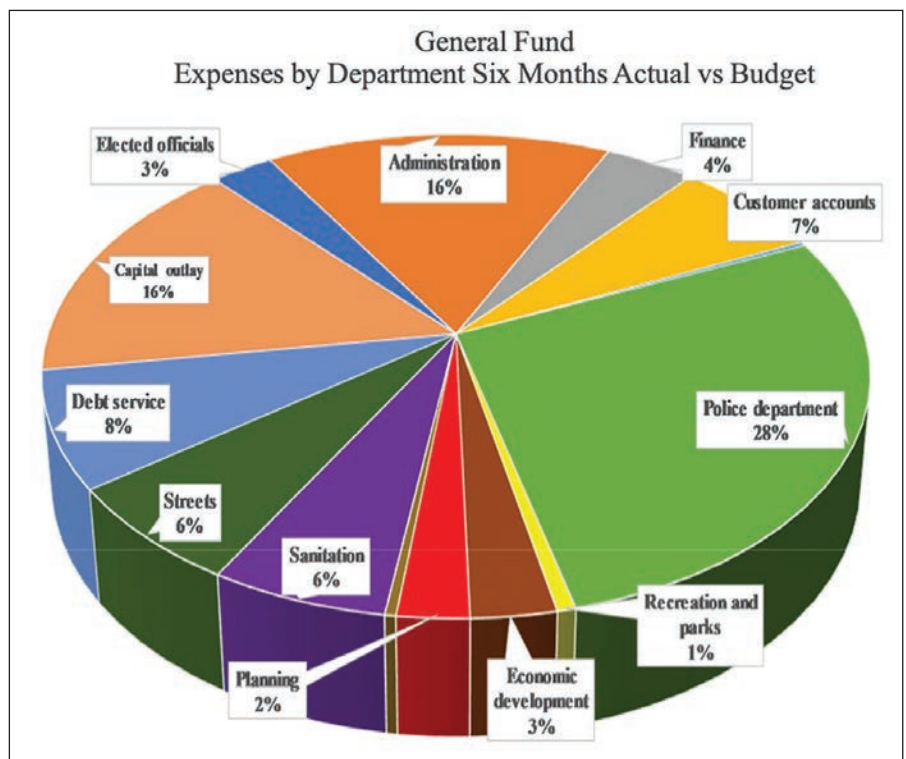


CHART COURTESY NATALIE SALEH

The Berlin Police Department and administration department have the largest expenses by department of the general fund from July to December 2020.

costs, followed by debt service.

“We have 63 percent remaining for the sewer fund expenses,” Saleh said. “Hopefully, this year we will close in green not in red.”

Lastly, the stormwater fund has operating revenues budgeted at \$168,650 with 50 percent remaining.

The stormwater fund’s largest expense is personnel costs followed by

supplies and operating costs.

The operating expenses are budgeted at \$144,000 with 50 percent remaining for the rest of the fiscal year.

Saleh added that there isn’t anything alarming right now about the expenses.

“I’m hoping the water services expenses will remain down, so we can

See TOWN’S Page 23

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Opinion

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

OP board may face major PR problem

Nothing fuels the speculative tendencies of the public better than a lack of information, which is precisely what is propelling the guessing game concerning the dismissal last week of an unnamed employee's charges that a similarly anonymous member of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors subjected her to a harsh work environment.

To be fair, not naming the accused after that person has been exonerated is, or should be, standard procedure. Otherwise, his or her reputation could be unjustifiably damaged.

The difference in this instance, however, is that the standard procedure followed by the board appears to side more with the accused than the accuser by treating both parties as personnel equals, when obviously that is not the case.

Regardless of what the association's bylaws say, or what personnel classification is assigned to which party, one of these people is management and one is an employee.

The validity of the employee's argument is not the issue here — it's the process that establishes how those merits should be evaluated and the public's supposition that the body charged with hearing the complaint, the board itself, will lean toward protecting its own versus a subordinate.

As it happens, an opinion piece by Joe Reynolds on his Ocean Pines Forum confirmed the rumors that the employee involved was Operations and Logistics Director Colby Phillips who accused board President Larry Perrone of fostering a harsh work environment and stacking the deck against her.

Maybe he did and maybe he didn't, but because the other board members elected him as their leader, his authority and board support far exceed that of any employee. That makes labeling him one for legal purposes tantamount to calling a wolf a cocker spaniel so the neighbors won't be upset.

Add to that the closed-door special meetings that did not include Phillips, and the brisk pace of the board's dismissal of her complaint and the result is a serious public relations problem for the entire board no matter what it does now.



Farmers & Artisans Market turns 10

(Feb. 11, 2021) Next year marks a major milestone for the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, as the marketplace will celebrate its tenth anniversary in the spring.

David Bean, who has served as the market manager in Ocean Pines for the last nine years, said an anniversary celebration is set for June 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in White Horse Park.

"We are ready to celebrate what we've accomplished over this past decade," he said.

Founded in 2012 as a small community farmers market, Bean said the Ocean Pines staple has grown to become the largest year-round farmers and artisans' market on Delmarva. In 2016, the market updated its name by adding "artisans," in recognition of the popular artisan and crafter section.

Bean said the anniversary event would feature live music. Other special activities are also being planned, dependent on the COVID-19 pandemic environment at that time.

"Where Weekends Begin in Ocean Pines" is the market's tag line, he said, and

that speaks to the market's success and support from its loyal shoppers.

One thing that makes the Ocean Pines marketplace so unique, he said, is how it has grown over the years.

"The market attracts an outstanding selection of merchants from Delmarva and beyond," he said. "It's one of the things we are proudest of."

Over the years, the Ocean Pines market has promoted awareness and educational programs through the "Kids' Market Zone," "Meet Me at the Market" DIY workshops, and the extremely popular "Open-air Marketplace Kitchen."

"We collaborate with our market merchants, local chefs, and culinary experts to put on free educational cooking seminars about how to cook with the high-nutrition and low-cost foods found at the market," Maggie Hearn, the market's resident chef instructor, said.

Bean said many who shop at the Ocean Pines market are from neighboring towns, but the draw has also expanded even farther because of the region's vast tourist

industry.

"The Ocean Pines market has always been a community hub with locals supporting locals, and we want to continue expanding our programming to grow with the Worcester County community," Bean said. "We're excited about our future."

He added that, because the market works to keep its merchant fees as low as possible, it allows virtually everyone to try their hand at selling their handmade artisan crafts at the market. That promotes the incubation of local small businesses.

"Over the years, we've seen several of our merchants grow their market business into local storefronts in surrounding small-town communities," Bean said.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market runs every Saturday, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through March 2021. In-season hours, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., start in April.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
at 8200 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

For Black History Month this February, African American artist Tina Lynn is featuring her canvas paintings in the Worcester County Arts Council Berlin gallery on Jefferson Street.

Town's enterprise funds discussed

Continued from Page 21
 kind of take a breather and say that we closed the year for water fund and sewer fund in good numbers," she said. "General fund overall is doing great. I am expecting the collections of all the revenues in full and even exceeding."

Councilman Dean Burrell asked Saleh to add an analysis component when the planned percentages are greater than 10 percent on line items of \$100,000 or greater. He also requested that the analyses come from department heads not Saleh.

Then, Councilman Jack Orris asked Saleh to provide more information about general fund transfers.

"The actual transfers are not in place. They're budgeted as projected on this specific presentation," Saleh replied. "There is a transfer from sewer fund created with the specification if the sewer fund would be able to meet that transfer by the end of fiscal year as discussed during the budget. Also, there is a small transfer under stormwater fund for \$25,000. The same pretty much scenario, if the stormwater will close the year with positive and excess, then that repayment or that transfer will happen. As of right now, there is no transfer, just the budgeted amounts."

Black History Month celebrated

By Ally Lanasa
 Staff Writer

(Feb. 11, 2021) The Worcester County Arts Council is celebrating Black History Month this February by showcasing the work of local creators Tina Lynn and Ashley Cuffee.

"The Worcester County Arts Council is proud to embrace and celebrate the diversity and inclusion by focusing on vital contribution of African American artists to our communi-

ties," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the arts council. "Black history belongs to all of us — black and white, men and women, young and old. The impact African Americans have made on this country is part of our collective consciousness. Contemplating Black history draws people of every race into the grand and diverse story of this nation."

The theme of 2021 Black History Month is The Black Family: Repre-

sentation, Identity and Diversity.

Lynn's artwork is influenced by her love of her family. She captures moments she spent with them, including portraits of her children or memories from her childhood.

Her artwork is featured at the Worcester County Arts Council's Berlin gallery at 6 Jefferson St. until the end of February.

The paintings on exhibit are all on See COUNTY Page 24



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OP will host virtual covid-19 Town Hall, Thurs.

Public may watch meeting through Microsoft Teams; tutorial offered for access

(Feb. 11, 2021) Ocean Pines will host a virtual covid-19 town hall meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

Worcester County Health Department Public Affairs Officer Travis Brown will offer a brief presentation

on covid-19 vaccine and testing efforts locally, and he also will be available to answer questions.

Ocean Pines Communications Committee Chairwoman Jennifer Cropper Rines will moderate, and Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino will attend and be available for questions.

Email advance questions to info@oceanpines.org. Questions will also be taken live, during the town

hall.

To join the town hall, use the invite link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTY5NmI4YjUtZWlXNSooZTNhLWEzYWQtMGUoMDNhNzk2NmYz%40thread.v2/o?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22625a6322-2b2f-40fa-94f8-d7dd44d78153%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bbe60bd4e0-49eb-b4c6-d257cae7f063%22%7d.

For a brief video tutorial on how to join a Microsoft Teams meeting, visit https://youtu.be/AL-OD3_yaOA.

The town hall will be recorded and posted to the Ocean Pines website within 24 hours.

For the latest covid-19 news and information as it relates to the Ocean Pines community, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/covid-19-announcements-and-closings>.

Laptops available to take home

(Feb. 11, 2021) Beginning this month, Worcester County Library will offer laptops that patrons can check out and take home.

At a time when so many activities require the use of a computer, this initiative will put useful tools into the hands of library users who need them most.

"These laptops will be a lifeline for the people who need to access email, complete homework, and apply for jobs," said Library Director Jennifer

Ranck. "They will also allow them to attend virtual classes and event job interviews conducted remotely."

The laptops do not include internet access, but patrons can also check out one of the library's Kajeet Hotspots if they need to get online.

A total 17 Dell Latitude laptops are available to check out for 30 days each. They can be reserved through the library's online catalog, or by calling any library branch. Visit worcestertlibrary.org for more information.

Cause under investigation after fatal crash on Feb. 5

(Feb. 11, 2021) A Berlin man died in a traffic accident on Route 50 last Friday around 6:10 p.m.

Troopers from the Berlin Barrack were call to the westbound side of Route 50 east of Friendship Rd. for a single-vehicle collision, and found James Eric Johnson, 62, trapped inside his overturned Chevy Tahoe.

Berlin Fire Department was able to extricate from the vehicle, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The westbound lanes of Route 50 were shut down for several hours because of the collision. The cause of the collision remains under investigation by Maryland State Police.

County Arts Council features Black creators

Continued from Page 23

canvas or canvas boards.

"My art is all about celebrating my Black roots. I love my brown skin, and I think that my brown skin is beautiful. [With] everything going on in the U.S. right now, I think it's important to know that brown skin is beautiful, and that brown people do matter," Lynn said.

"I come from a long line of beautiful brown skinned people. I come from curly roots and hips, and I believe that God put me here to inspire people and not just any people, but the ones here on the Shore. This is my home and knowing that I can touch the soul of one person and change things for the better means a lot."

Lynn also believes that Black History Month is about honoring the legacy of people from the local communities in addition to Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass or Rosa Parks.

"I hope that once I am flying amongst my [ancestors], that I leave behind one powerful legacy and amazing stories with my art and not just my words," she said.

The gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and during the 2nd Friday Arts Stroll on Feb. 12, from 5-8 p.m.

All artwork is available for purchase.

Lynn was born and raised in Somerset County. She graduated from Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree in 2D Designs.

Lynn went on to serve as an educator at the Ward Museum in Salisbury, then as an education program coordinator at the Dorchester County Arts Center. Currently, she is the creative arts manager at the Worcester County Developmental Center of Art in Newark.

Ashley Cuffee, also known as Ash'iz, is a writer and performance poet.

To watch Cuffee's spoken word performances, visit <https://www.worcestercountycouncil.org/ash>.

"I feel honored to display the gift God has given me. Through spoken word, I'm able to bridge gaps, give perspective and spread love so humanity can filter back in our veins. I feel the strength and blessings of my ancestors, which motivates my current and future endeavors of allowing my Black Girl Magic to permeate every space I enter," Cuffee said. "I love being Black, and I love how the sun kisses my brown skin and I love having the opportunity to share what Black means to me and offer perspec-

tive to those who don't see Black as beautiful and pride to those who already know Black is beautiful."

Cuffee teaches classes at the Ocean City Center for the Arts that introduce youth to writing and performing spoken word poetry. She has also hosted open mic events for the community at the Worcester County Library and the Zenna Wellness Center.

In addition, Cuffee is a holistic crystal practitioner and creates crystal jewelry.

She has taught this craft to adults via the Worcester County Library's programming both online and in-person.

This spring, Cuffee will be presenting online classes for children and adults through the Artist in Residence program sponsored by the Worcester County Arts Council and the Worcester County Library.

The Worcester County Arts Council is also hosting a contest to recognize Youth Art Month in March.

"Over history, both distant and recent, art has helped humans to peacefully navigate our differences, validate our self-worth and enable us to process the deepest emotions to make the sense of the world around us," Mullis said. "Arts and culture are integral to our lives because art builds a bridge that connects us with one another and our humanity. During these challenging times, arts play an essential role to help the community to strengthen and to heal."

All K-12 grade artists are invited to

submit artwork for the 2021 Youth Art Month Virtual Showcase: "Art Connects Us."

"We hope that the theme of the "Art Connects Us" contest, will spark an inspiration and provide a platform for students to express their creativity and emotions that reflect on how through the arts we make a connection with one another," Mullis said.

The artwork must be original in any medium, including 2D and 3D and must relate to the theme of "Art Connects Us."

Artwork for the contest may be submitted by an individual student or an art teacher if the submission is a collaborative class project. Entries for the contest should be submitted online at <https://www.worcestercountycouncil.org/youth-art>.

Students need to upload an image of their artwork (JPEG or PNG files) to participate in the contest.

Online submissions for the contest will be accepted until Feb. 22 at 2 pm.

All submissions will be judged by Tamara Mills, coordinator of instruction for Worcester County Public Schools. One winner will be selected in each of the following categories: Grades K - 4, Grades 5 - 8 and Grades 9 - 12. Winners in each category will each receive a \$100 prize.

In addition, winners' artwork will be featured on a banner to be hung outside The Worcester County Arts Council on Jefferson Street.

Winners will be notified on March 1.



Tina Lynn



Ashley Cuffee



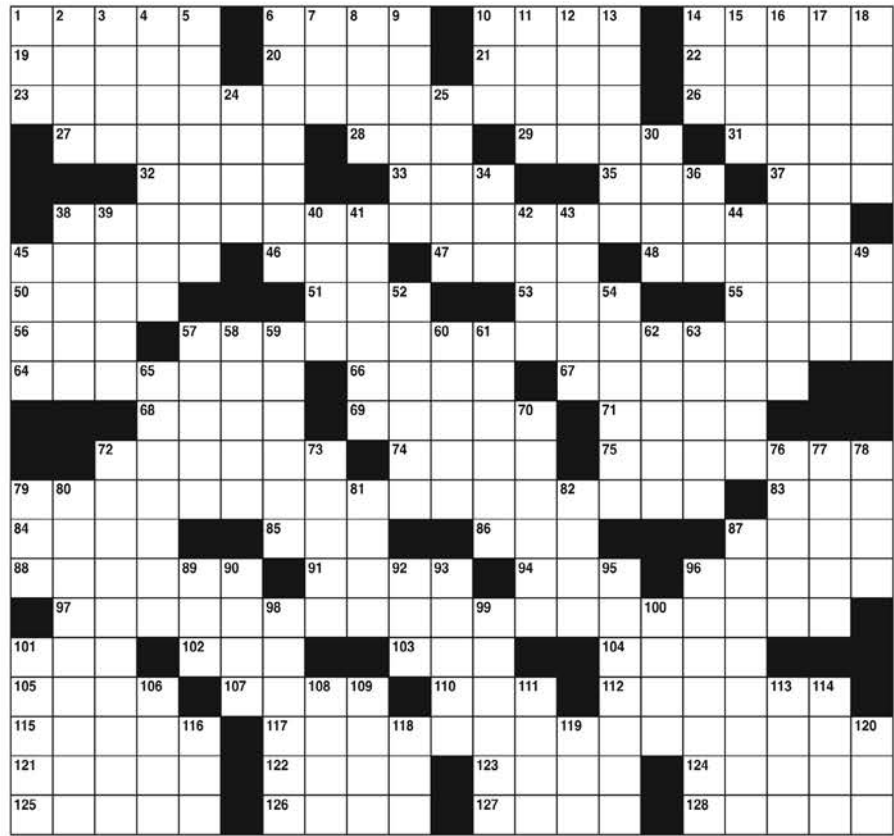
Anna Mullis

Puzzles

PRODUCT MISPLACEMENT BY JIM HILGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jim Hilger, of Amarillo, Texas, is a retired computer analyst and educator. Besides making crosswords, he enjoys collecting 45 r.p.m. records (he has more than 10,000 of them), cartooning and watercolor painting. "Most of my paintings end up looking like cartoons, however," he says. The starting point of this puzzle was 38-Across. Jim apologizes in advance to the maker of every product he has "misplaced" herein. — W.S.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ACROSS | 51 Oil-field sight | 96 Fool | 8 State symbol |
| 1 Mannerly | 53 It's symbolized by an elephant, for short | 97 Adding a historic ship as a deal sweetener? | 9 Sound from a marching band |
| 6 Philippine currency | 55 Theater seating option | 101 Campaign guru | 10 Pseudonym lead-in |
| 10 Just open | 56 Japanese honorific | 102 Super Bowl played in 2020 | 11 Ditch at the last moment |
| 14 Second socks, say | 57 Apology from a musician to the other band members? | 103 Past | 12 Leatherwork tools |
| 19 Offer a judgment | 64 Best Picture winner that was banned in Vietnam | 104 Get hold of | 13 Largest city on the Arabian Peninsula |
| 20 Thing with tags | 66 Lena of "Chocolat" | 105 Dry | 14 "Lionized" studio |
| 21 Fruit-salad fruit | 67 1957 Jimmy Dorsey hit | 107 Hiker's snack | 15 Neighborhood |
| 22 Sound of exertion | 68 "Lonely Boy" singer, 1959 | 110 Article from U.C.L.A.? | 16 Gift in "The 12 Days of Christmas" |
| 23 Huge celebration after L.A.'s football team wins the Super Bowl? | 69 Stiff | 112 Vatican ambassador | 17 Push |
| 26 Nice nicety | 71 Morally uncompromised | 115 Small versions | 18 Trap, of a sort |
| 27 Great shakes | 72 Many a summer position | 117 Story about a drinking binge? | 24 Sheikh's peer |
| 28 Oldest tech sch. in the U.S., founded in 1824 | 74 Like writing about how to write | 121 Frost lines? | 25 Free from |
| 29 Bygone royalty | 75 Eitome of herd mentality | 122 Awards feat, for short | 30 Aussie animals |
| 31 Oodles and oodles | 79 Volunteered at a nursery? | 123 Puccini piece | 34 Medal above plata |
| 32 Besmirch | 83 General practice? | 124 Really lift | 36 One-up |
| 33 Big fuss | 84 Idle of Monty Python | 125 Ed of "Elf" | 38 ___ cavity |
| 35 With 1-Down, address ender | 85 ___ Lou Who of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" | 126 Movement based on deliberate irrationality | 39 Bowl, e.g. |
| 37 Schlep | 86 Elton John or Mick Jagger | 127 Be really impressive, informally | 40 Prefix with nautical |
| 38 Reason that the prestigious scientific journal refuses articles from President Herbert's relatives? | 87 District on Hawaii's west coast | 128 Procrastinate | 41 One temporarily entrusting property to another |
| 45 Power symbol? | 88 Volcanic substance | | 42 Ink |
| 46 Senate support | 91 Person fluent in Quechua | | 43 Units in the life span of a galaxy |
| 47 ___ gras | 94 Et ___ (footnote abbr.) | | 44 Ad ___ tax |
| 48 Restorative indulgence | | | 45 Brink of transition |
| 50 Kind of bookstore | | | 49 Folksy possessive |
| | | | 52 Wilt |
| | | | 54 Magazine whose crossword is always accompanied by a photograph |
| | | | 57 Rigged card game |
| | | | 58 Hooked up, as oxen |
| | | | 59 Wolves (down) |



- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 60 Supergiant in Orion | 78 Gloomy, weather-wise | 93 ___-Norman French | 109 Move laboriously |
| 61 Hall of Fame quarterback for the Colts | 79 Place to surf | 95 Common call on a 3rd-and-1 | 111 Houston M.L.B.'er |
| 62 More balanced | 80 Haydn's "The Creation" and others | 96 Not black-and-white | 113 Stressed, in a way: Abbr. |
| 63 In ___ way | 81 Step on a ladder | 98 Sticker worn in November | 114 Multiple of tetra- |
| 65 Rail container for liquids | 82 The Berenstain Bears live in one | 99 How some practical jokes go | 116 Union member of the 20th century, for short |
| 70 Bakery buy | 87 "A merry old soul," in a nursery rhyme | 100 Burden | 118 Concern for one catching a connection, briefly |
| 72 Cloth woven from flax fiber | 89 Crack up, in textspeak | 101 Prairie east of the Andes | 119 Sound from a drunk |
| 73 So last year | 90 Bit of kindling | 106 Two-fifths of one quarter | 120 "Stop right there!" |
| 76 "You can't make me!" | 92 U.S. counterpart to Britain's MI6 | 108 Sitar selection | |
| 77 Female goat | | | |

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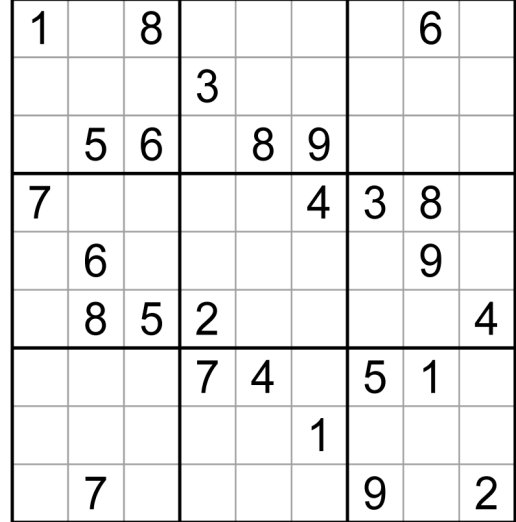
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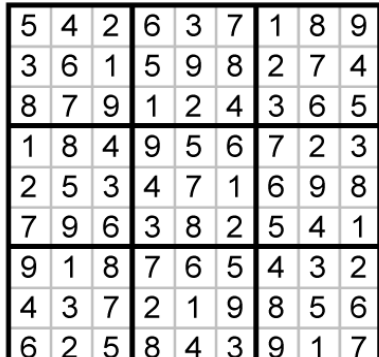
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su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 8

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles



Cuisine

Escargot served with garlic butter, toast

The weather is quite frightful out there. Snow, rain, sleet and more wintertime misery.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Pair that with this ridiculous pandemic, and it makes for a crappy winter afternoon. Personally, I'll take a foot of snow and a few cold days in which I can start a roaring fire and enjoy some hot cocoa and then

maybe some vino.

Down here, however, there seldom happens a storm such as the one I prefer. We get the slush.

Now, I know that I have complained about this before, but once a year, Mother Nature should be required to give us said blizzard. Just once per year. Is that too much to ask?

Be that as it may, it is still bone-chillingly damp these days — 37-degrees and raining is downright miserable. At least we have foods that can keep us warm while we wait for spring to sprout.

Of course, soups come to mind, but hearty foods abound as we spend more time in the kitchen just trying to entertain ourselves.

Recently, I took a trip to Boston with my kids. We ate out every day for five days (it was supposed to be three but we got snowed in for an extra day and a half).

I introduced the kids to Vietnamese, Spanish and the wonderful world of tapas, foods of Israel and Maghreb and China.

Tendon, tripe and duck hearts all found their way to the table. Despite trying even the tripe and tendon, they all refused to try the duck hearts. Personally, I was not a fan of them myself, but now I know that lock, stock and barrel.

I was surprised, though, to learn that none of them would try the escargots when they came to the table. They all wrinkled their nose and said "ewwww.....snails."

Of course, this only meant more for me. Embracing my French heritage, I supped on the slippery little helix pomatia and dunked the crusty, fresh toast in the remaining garlic butter. They were perfect. They were divine.

With garlic butter dripping down my hand coming off of the toast points, I could barely stop long enough to wipe it off.



At this point, I was stuffed. Earlier dishes of bone marrow, croquetas, Serrano ham, mushrooms, seared rare beef, beet salad, spinach salad and others adorned the table in a sublime mid-afternoon feast.

Regardless, nothing was going to stop me from eating all the escargots, especially as my children had no interest.

I had a Rioja reserve on the table, and as it was a veritable blizzard outside and I was driving, I stopped there. The snails would have paired better with a dry chardonnay, but the tempranillo grape worked just fine. The peppery notes played with the heavy garlic flavors in the melted butter and served me quite well.

The real kicker to this meal was that it was prepared for us by my nephew Matthew.

I received a text from my sister earlier in the day that he was training for the month in Boston about one mile from where my daughters are staying.

Had she not texted me as we were shopping at the Cambridge Target, I would have never known, or at least would have known only after I was 450 miles away.

Effectively developing my food coma, I realized that driving home in

the blizzard was probably not the best of ideas. As such, I got a hotel room a mile down the road and settled on taking the train into Boston Common to at least catch a glimpse of the snow, truly one of my favorite places to be when it snows.

What a fantastic trip. We needed to get out of the area for a few days, and then it turned into five. Next up is taking a puddle jumper somewhere ... anywhere. I am truly losing my mind.

Even without the pandemic, we haven't had a vacation in almost three years.

That changes now. It's time to focus on family and get a few more trips under our belts, but hopefully without the slush.

Escargot

serves 4
24 ea. Snails, canned
1 c. Softened butter
4 ea. Garlic cloves, fresh
3 Tbsp. fresh broadleaf parsley
Juice of 1/2 lemon
2 Tbsp. Dry white wine
Dash hot sauce
1 tsp. Cracked black peppercorn
salt, as needed

1. Rinse the snails and pat them dry. Set aside.

2. Smash or mince the garlic finely.
3. Mince the parsley.

4. Make a compound butter with these and all of the remaining ingredients.

5. The following process is the same whether you are using shells or an escargot dish.

6. Place some of the garlic butter in each shell or in each recessed spot on the dish.

7. Place a snail on each.

8. Smother the snail with more of the butter.

9. Bake at 400F until the butter is melted and the escargots are hot throughout. Do not overcook these as they will get overly tough.

10. Serve with a good toast for sopping up the melted butter. You simply cannot let any of that go to waste.

11. This pairs well with a white Burgundy (Chardonnay). Of course, it does not have to be a French wine to pair well. Just make sure that it is a nice, dry white wine. If you are solely a red wine person, a pinot noir would pair nicely as well.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

Calendar

Thurs., Feb. 11

OPEN SKATE

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Cost is \$2 per person for all skaters and skate observers. Price includes skate rental, 45 minutes of skate time and reserves your time slot. Time slots available each hour on the hour and are limited to 15 people. Participants must call ahead: 410-632-2144. Allen Swiger, aswiger@marylandscoast.org, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

ZUMBA FOR BEGINNERS

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. These classes uplift and improve mood. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice your moves without being seen. Register: worcesterlibrary.org.

WORCESTER FINANCIAL AID INFO SESSION

Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 PM. Wor-Wic Community College invites prospective students and their families in Worcester County to learn more about applying for financial aid and how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit the events section of www.worwic.edu to register.

VIRTUAL COVID-19 TOWN HALL MEETING

Worcester County Health Department Public Affairs Officer Travis Brown will offer a brief presentation on COVID-19 vaccine and testing efforts locally, and he will answer questions, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertaino will also be available for questions. Email advance questions to info@oceanpines.org. To join the town hall, use the invite link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTY5NmI4YjUtZWIXNSooZTNhLWEzYWQIMGUoMDNhNzk2NmYz%40thread.v2/o?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22625a6322-2b2f-40fa-94f8-d7dd44d78153%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bbe60b-d4e0-49eb-b4c6-d257cae7f063%22%7d. For a brief video tutorial on how to join a Microsoft Teams meeting, visit https://youtu.be/AL-OD3_yaOA. The town hall will be recorded and posted to the Ocean Pines website within 24 hours. For the latest COVID-19 news and information as it relates to the Ocean Pines community, visit

<https://www.oceanpines.org/covid-19-announcements-and-closings>. For the latest information from the Worcester County Health Department, visit www.worcesterhealth.org.

TEEN DISCORD GAMING SESSION

Held via Discord, 7:00 PM. Join the group on the library Discord server for a virtual gaming session. For 13 to 18 year olds. Register at least 24 hours before the program begins at <https://worcesterlibrary.libguides.com/discord-events>.

HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. Presented by Jessica

Gresczyk from Engel & Volkers Real Estate and Esther Lakernick from First Choice Lending. Mask required. Register: 410-520-4555.

Fri., Feb. 12

BERLIN'S "HEARTS FOR HEROES"

Berlin is hosting this event (Feb. 12-15) in recognition of modern-day heroes, such as healthcare workers, fire, police, EMTs, teachers, retail, grocery and food workers, to name a few. Berlin businesses will be decorating their windows and workplaces with colorful hearts to show support to these heroes as well as offering specials to their customers. The public is welcome to post photos of their own heroes on the Berlin Chamber Facebook page to be eligible to win a Berlin Gift Basket. chamber-info@berlinchamber.org, 410-641-4775

Sat., Feb. 13

BERLIN'S "HEARTS FOR HEROES"

Berlin is hosting this event (Feb. 12-15) in recognition of modern-day heroes, such as healthcare workers, fire, police, EMTs, teachers, retail, grocery and food workers, to name a few. Berlin businesses will be decorating their windows and workplaces with colorful hearts to show support to these heroes as well as offering specials to their customers. The public is welcome to post photos of their own heroes on the Berlin Chamber Facebook page to be eligible to win a Berlin Gift Basket. chamber-info@berlinchamber.org, 410-641-4775

GRAB N GO VALENTINES FOR KIDS

Visit the Berlin Welcome Center vestibule for a free grab n go valentine for kids. The vestibule is open 24/7 and is full of information about Berlin and surrounding areas.

HOMEBUYERS SEMINAR

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. Presented by Jessica Gresczyk from Engel & Volkers Real Estate and Esther Lakernick from First Choice Lending. Mask required. Register: 410-520-4555.

OPEN SKATE

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Cost is \$2 per person for all skaters and skate observers. Price includes skate rental, 45 minutes of skate time and reserves your time slot. Time slots available each hour on the hour and are limited to 15 people. Participants must call ahead: 410-632-2144. Allen Swiger, aswiger@marylandscoast.org, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

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., Feb. 14

BERLIN'S "HEARTS FOR HEROES"

Berlin is hosting this event (Feb. 12-15) in recognition of modern-day heroes, such as healthcare workers, fire, police, EMTs, teachers, retail, grocery and food workers, to name a few. Berlin businesses will be decorating their windows and workplaces with colorful hearts to show support to these heroes as well as offering specials to their customers. The public is welcome to post photos of their own heroes on the Berlin Chamber Facebook page to be eligible to win a Berlin Gift Basket. chamber-info@berlinchamber.org, 410-641-4775

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Mon., Feb. 15

BERLIN'S "HEARTS FOR HEROES"

Berlin is hosting this event (Feb. 12-15) in recognition of modern-day heroes, such as healthcare workers, fire, police, EMTs, teachers, retail, grocery and food workers, to name a few. Berlin businesses will be decorating their windows and workplaces with colorful hearts to show support to these heroes as well as offering specials to their customers. The public is welcome to post photos of their own heroes on the Berlin Chamber Facebook page to be eligible to win a Berlin Gift Basket. chamber-info@berlinchamber.org, 410-641-4775

AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Meeting via Facebook, 3:30 PM. President Lincoln answers questions about his boyhood, his favorite books, the Civil War and some difficult decisions he had to make during this presidency. Hear him deliver the Gettysburg Address. For ages 8 years and older. No registration required.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Meeting 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., Feb. 16

OPEN SKATE

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Cost is \$2 per person for all skaters and skate observers. Price includes skate rental,

45 minutes of skate time and reserves your time slot. Time slots available each hour on the hour and are limited to 15 people. Participants must call ahead: 410-632-2144. Allen Swiger, aswiger@marylandscoast.org, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

RETIREMENT SUCCESS CLASSES

The virtual webinars will take place in three parts, Feb. 16, 23 and March 2, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. The first class is titled, "Retirement Success/Planning." This is a detailed retirement planning seminar designed to educate those who are nearing retirement or who have recently retired. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.org>.

DOC AND TALK

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Watch John Lewis: Good Trouble and join the discussion. This documentary give an account of his life from a teenager helping with the civil rights movement to his adult life as a U.S. representative. Can be viewed on Hoopla (hoopladigital.com). Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

RETIREMENT BOOTCAMP: SUCCESS/PLANNING

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. This presentation covers some basic but powerful fundamentals about retirement and the factors that can positively or negatively affect someone over their retirement. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Wed., Feb. 17

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Babies under 2 years old and their caregivers are welcome of join in for songs, rhymes and stories. Optional: have a scarf and rattle/shaker handy for interactive rhymes. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Meeting via Zoom, 11:00 AM. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a question and answer session. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ZOOM Pictionary

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Take turns drawing people, places and things. Try to be the first to guess what others have drawn. For ages 11 years and older. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

VIRTUAL STORY TIME WITH THE TOOTH FAIRY

The Tooth Fairy will read several books and give advice for how to keep those teeth clean, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This event is free. Families are asked to register online at <https://tinyurl.com/yyqp5y37>. A Spanish interpretation will take place Feb. 19 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. To register for the Spanish version, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2mokh78>. Allen Swiger, aswiger@marylandscoast.org, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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Responsible and Reliable Person Needed Part-Time for Disabled, Pleasant Senior. Knowledge of hooyer lift helpful. Availability is for 9-15 hours a week, 3-4 hour shifts, 3-4 hours morning or early evening and possible fill-in. Fenwick Island.
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F/T, Y/R, 32-40 hrs./week. Dependable. Handyman w/good skills. Must have transportation/tools. Send resume to fred@paradiseoc.com.

Paramount Construction Services is seeking experienced professionals to join our organization in Ocean City MD. Applicants should have several years of experience with knowledge of kitchen and bathroom remodeling for residential homes and condominiums. Paramount is currently looking for Project Managers, cabinet installers, tile setters, painters / dry-wall, electricians and plumbers. **Please call 443-664-7689 or send resume to ocjobs@paramountserv.com**

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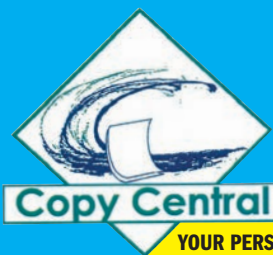
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