



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ocean Pines First Assistant Fire Chief Joe Widgeon crawls in with fellow first responders to inspect incinerated attic eaves after a home on Sandy Hook Road went up in flames on Saturday.

Hundreds lend aid to family after fire destroys residence

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Hundreds of people have given support to the Morris family after a Saturday morning fire gutted their home on Sandy Hook Road in Ocean Pines.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department responded just after 7:15 a.m. for a blaze that reportedly originated on the front porch and quickly spread inside the home, with flames eventually reaching the exterior of an adjacent residence.

The severity of the fire was such that neighboring fire departments — Berlin, Bishopville, Ocean City, Showell, and Selbyville — were called to assist the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Ocean Pines Fire Chief Steve Grunewald directed command operations at the scene and reported that rescue crews were hampered by heavy smoke inside the structure.

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office took over the scene to investigate cause once the flames were extinguished.

One firefighter was taken to Atlantic General Hospital after sustaining non-life threatening injuries and later released.

After learning the house fire left the Morris family, including both teenagers and grandchildren, temporarily homeless, members of the community quickly organized a campaign to help.

Colby Phillips said a Gofundme page was initiated and publicized on the Local Help for You Worcester County Facebook page.

"I set it at \$10,000 and it's already at just about \$9,000 in under a week," she said.

After making contact with the family, Phillips said the instant outpouring of aid stunned the children's mother, Ebony Morris.

"I've spoken to the mom a few times and she is just thanking the Lord and overwhelmed with people she doesn't know giving so much support," she said.

In addition to her teenage children, Ebony Morris also had house-

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Tyndall calls for maintaining 80-cent tax rate for FY2022

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Berlin Mayor Zackery Tyndall recommended to the Town Council Monday night that it maintain the property tax rate at 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value from FY21 to FY22.

Currently, the town is projecting revenues of nearly \$6.4 million and expenditures about \$6.5 million.

The 80-cent tax rate is about two cents more than the state-calculated constant yield rate of 77.9 cents, which would bring in approximately the same revenue as last year. By opting to stick with 80 cents, the town would realize an additional \$100,000



Zackery Tyndall



Troy Purnell



Jack Orris



Jay Knerr

in tax revenue because of growth in the town's tax base. Still, that increase would not make up the difference between revenue and spending.

"At this present moment with those rough numbers coming in, we do have about \$130,000 deficit between those two numbers, the revenues versus the expenditures," Tyndall said. "Despite the roughly \$130,000

shortfall, I'm very confident that we can close that gap without having to increase the tax rate, without anyone being in jeopardy of losing their job and without cutting any of our critical services that we provide to the com-

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Pines committee sends rule on rentals to bd. of directors

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Ocean Pines continued to inch toward short-term rental policies last week when the association's Architectural Review Committee signed off on a related proposal that now awaits action by the Board of Directors.

The proposed ARC rules governing short-term rentals was sent to board members several weeks ago, with OPA attorneys also reviewing them.

The amendment to association rules would supplement current county regulations to further delineate requirements for Ocean Pines



Frank Daly

properties offered as rentals for periods of less than 29 days.

The proposed rules would require Pines property owners marketing short-term rentals to obtain a Worcester County rental permit and an OPA permit and sticker to be displayed on the front door at eye level.

The rental rules would also require a responsible party associated with the rental to live within a 30-minute drive. Additionally, bed-and-breakfast establishments would be prohibited.

The annual permitting procedure would also require hiring licensed Maryland home inspectors to confirm that safety requirements such as adequate smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and functioning fire extinguishers are met.

An annual property inspection

See NEW Page 8



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Berlin mayor, Town Council consider new reserve policy

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) The Berlin mayor and Town Council reviewed a draft of a general fund reserve policy on Monday night as they set financial goals for the town's general fund budget.

A draft reserve policy that the mayor and council rejected last year has been improved and made more straightforward. Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood also told the council, in response to a question from Councilman Jay Knerr, one reason the draft did not pass last year might have been because of how it was presented.

Fleetwood and Finance Director Natalie Saleh reminded the council that the reserve policy is a financial guide, not law.

The town has been advised to establish a general fund reserve policy by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and external auditors PKS & Company, PA.

"I think we need it to improve the resilience of the town. We needed to have it to mitigate the revenue shortfalls and ensure that we can continue the service in case of emergencies or unpredicted situations," Saleh said.

According to the policy, the town will establish and work to maintain reserve balances to "guard its citizens against service disruptions in the event of economic uncertainties, local disasters, and other financial hardships."

It also can be used to ensure adequate cash flow when revenues and expenditures fluctuate and to boost bond ratings.

The reserve policy states that the committed fund balance of the general fund should maintain a recommended fund balance for disaster recovery of \$250,000 to help mitigate impacts of natural or human made disasters and a recommended fund balance for debt service is equal to one year of the general fund debt service (principal and interest) for any outstanding debt instrument.

For the next fiscal year, approximately \$310,000 will be needed for debt service, Saleh said.

As for the assigned fund balance, the recommended fund balance for a stabilization reserve is 20 percent of the current fiscal year's general fund operating budget, which is roughly \$1.1 million, according to Saleh's diagram. Capital reserve of \$100,000 should also be maintained to fund major infrastructure projects and equipment needs of all General Fund departments.

The assigned fund balance should also maintain a recommended fund balance for health insurance of 40 percent of the average of the last three years of health care premiums. Currently, the assigned fund balance has \$320,000 for healthcare as well as \$415,000 for the community center.

"If we decide to use any of the monies

See COUNCIL Page 4

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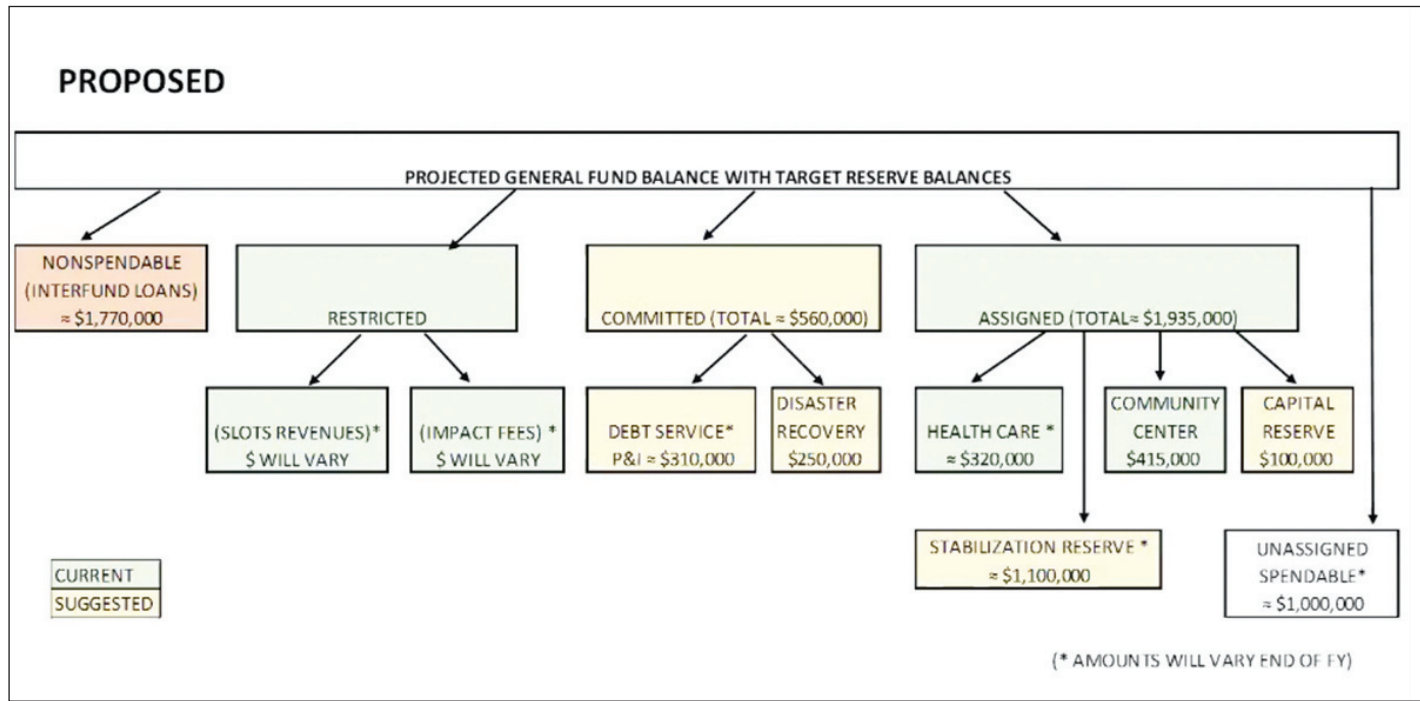
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Finance Director Natalie Saleh showed the targeted reserve balances for the projected general fund balance in FY22 during the Berlin Town Council discussion about adopting a reserve policy on Monday night.
CHART COURTESY NATALIE SALEH

Council to vote on final reserve policy soon

Continued from Page 3

or move from one assigned balance to committed, that would be also always discussed by mayor and council and approved by and we would report the balances during the budget. I would present the balances and recommend the levels,” Saleh said.

Were a catastrophic event to occur, money set aside for use in those circumstances could be transferred to the requisite department, although it must be reported to the mayor and council at the next public meeting within 30 days.

“I would like to see a number. I would like to see a number that would be the number for all categories and that number divided as Natalie has indicated in her spreadsheet or in her diagram,” said Councilman Dean Burrell.

I would also like to see a number associated even with those items that have percentages and a provision in this document related to the evaluation and update of those percentages. I think this

document needs to be a standing document. It needs to be a document that changes a little.”

Fleetwood explained that the total amounts of the committed and the assigned fund balances were included in Saleh’s diagram, but the restricted fund balance will vary.

Burrell asked if the council needs to have a provision to update those numbers in the reserve policy, to which Saleh said yes.

“With the updates and reporting, which is on the last page [of the policy], you would receive the actual numbers where we would stand. So, I can present that in the same format, which you see on the screen ... or it could be in any format that you would like to see,” Saleh replied.

Those numbers will be presented during the annual budget adoption process and audit presentation.

“So, we will present them to you as an attachment, but the policy itself as the body is actual guidelines for how we

should come up to those balances,” Saleh told Burrell.

Councilman Troy Purnell asked Mayor Zackery Tyndall if any of the revenues generated by the proposed property tax rate of 80 cents per \$100 would go toward the reserves. Tyndall replied that if FY21 balances close out as projected there will be funding for the reserves, but allocations have not been established for FY22.

The reserve fund balances are not budgeted. Rather, they are goals to work toward.

Saleh said the reserves are good to have in place, so the town does not have to rely on a tax increase or cutting capital improvement projects. Tyndall added that the town needs to increase funding in disaster recovery and capital reserves to react to a drastic event if one occurs.

Although the reserve policy could be one sentence, Fleetwood explained that the three-page version proposed allows the council to have more control of the

reserves.

Purnell argued that adopting reserves would be an additional expenditure in the budget, but Saleh said I depends on the council’s approach.

“If you want to be more proactive and going forward faster, you would be setting up a goal within a certain amount of time and then budget for that to be as a projection to have the balance completed,” she said.

For the town to obtain its goal, it could take several years. The council could plan to see how to reach those goals, but an expense does not necessarily need to be created on the next year’s budget, Saleh said.

“Understood, but if we want to obtain those goals, we’re going to have to put more money aside then what we’re currently doing,” Purnell said.

Furthermore, slot revenues could go toward the reserve goals.

Tyndall said the short-term goal for the council is to create the stabilization reserve benchmarked for \$1.1 million at this time.

A formal motion was required to move forward with the reserve policy, but the councilmembers agreed to wait to vote until a final version of the reserve policy was presented at an upcoming meeting.

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Pines Bylaws Cmte. reviews pending updates

Related work group status discussed during virtual meeting held last Friday

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) The Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee last Friday dove into the multiple updates to association governing documents that have been pending.

Committee Chairman Jim Trummel said a related bylaws work group held its most recent meeting the day before.

In addition to Trummel, the work group includes Directors Doug Parks, Camilla Rogers and Communications Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines.

To this point, the review group has assessed the first five bylaws sections, including details for membership, voting, meeting requirements, petitions, referendums and specifics relating to the board of directors.

“That’s basically the meat of the bylaws from the standpoint of the kind of review we’re doing now,” he said.

Trummel said the sections yet to be reviewed — association officers,

corporate records, finance, operations, administration, advisory boards/committees and amendment processes — would be less likely to generate proposals for change.

Trummel said Parks emailed members a summarized list of the work group’s proposed bylaws tweaks last Thursday.

“Once I get it, I will send it out to our bylaws committee members,” he said.

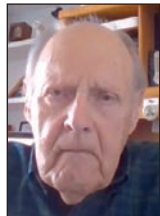
Trummel said the bylaws committee would likely examine the work groups’ suggestions at its next meeting

Bylaws Committee member Bob Hille-gass asked if the work group would provide a red-lined version of governance documents highlighting potential amendments.

Trummel said the work group report would be reviewed by Bylaws Committee members for input before suggestions are sent for board consideration.

“We can expect to see suggested wording,” he said.

Outside of the work group discussions, other resolutions gaining re-



Bob Hille-gass

cent attention include M-06 that involves elections and referendums.

Trummel said following an earlier Bylaws Committee discussion, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee on Feb. 12 mulled potential updates for M-06.

The issues at play include duplicate ballots and soliciting additional board candidates.

Trummel noted there was a discrepancy with resolution mandates and ballot receipt procedures during the most recent board contest.

“I’m not quite sure that there was an understanding that there’s a conflict with how duplicate ballots were accounted for or precluded,” he said.

Another conflicting interpretation involves M-06 timelines for soliciting board candidates.

“There was a difference between how the board publicized the need for additional candidates and when the cutoff date was,” he said.

The bylaws work group also vetted the deadline issue last week, Trummel said.

“The bylaws group understanding is that the M-06 provision of the third Friday in June being the cutoff was the proper interpretation,” he said.

Trummel said whether to publicize

the need for further board candidates to meet the required number is the board’s purview.

“It will be the responsibility of the board to accurately state the cutoff date when an announcement is made,” he said.

Trummel said Elections Committee members also concluded the M-06 requirement to alert residents more board candidates are needed by the third Friday in June should be followed.

“At this point and time ... the resolution stands as it is and it’s expected to be followed,” he said.

Shifting gears, Trummel highlighted previously discussed updates to F-02 concerning annual budget development, F-03 reserve accounts and F-04 delinquent assessments collections.

Trummel said an email would be sent to board liaison Camilla Rogers to confirm the F-series resolutions discussed at the Bylaws Committee meeting last month were intended as action items for consideration by Directors.

“I think it’s important that we maintain the integrity of the resolutions and just don’t let them slide and be ignored,” he said.

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Berlin Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) The following took place during the Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday night:

Grant awarded

Berlin received a Maryland Energy Administration grant of \$122,375 for a solar rooftop system on the main electric utility building on Schoolfield Street. “We were the first to apply. We were the first to receive approval,” said Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

Retirement ceremony

Councilmembers were invited to a retirement ceremony for Public Works Superintendent Dave Wheaton planned for March 29 at noon at the Public Works yard on William Street.

Fire drills

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing said his department is working with the schools to conduct fire drills and discuss safety plans, as most Worcester County public school students returned to the classroom full-time on Monday.

Public Works

Public Works employees recently powerwashed the Berlin Welcome Center on South Main Street and the sidewalk. Then, paint touch-ups were made to the building’s poles. In addition, a crew addressed a safety issue at Heron Park. This week, the Public Works Department mulched the local parks.

Grant apps

Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and

community development director, said more than 30 applications have been submitted from businesses for the Main Street covid-19 grant. Applications are due by March 19.

Arts and entertainment

Business owners and residents will receive a survey about what people would like to see in the arts and entertainment district in future years, Wells said.

Farmers market

The Berlin Farmers Market returns May 2 with CDC safety guidelines in place. “Maryland Department of Agriculture has actually offered some free signage and information for this year, so I went ahead and signed us up for that,” Wells said.

Berlin Parks Commission Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) The following took place during the Berlin Parks Commission meeting on March 2:

Commemorative program

The commission agreed to submit the final draft of the commemorative program to the Berlin mayor and Town Council. Through the program, individuals or organizations can memorialize a person or event at the parks. However, with the town entering its budget season, Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said she plans to present the draft after the start of the fiscal year.

2021 events

As a result of the pandemic, no events are planned, Bohlen said. “The chamber of commerce, for instance, will not be holding its traditional spring celebration event as they have done in the past,” she said. “So, we will not be doing a craft that day.” Crafts were ordered last year before the start of the pandemic, so Bohlen suggested coordinating with Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director, to have them in the foyer of the Berlin Welcome Center on South Main Street for children to grab and go. Normally, the town celebrates Take Pride in Berlin Week and Cleanup Day in April, but the events have been canceled for the second consecutive year because of covid-19. At this stage, National Night Out remains a possibility for August.

Upcoming meetings

The parks commission is scheduled to meet the first Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are planned for May 4, July 6, Sept. 7 and Nov. 2.

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County hears towns' budget pleas

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Worcester County municipalities Pocomoke, Berlin and Snow Hill, along with Ocean Pines, presented FY22 budget requests to the county commissioners last Tuesday.

Ocean Pines
OPA President Larry Perrone gave a brief overview of the homeowners association's expenditures dependent upon county funding, which totaled roughly \$1.45 million in FY21. He requested an increase to \$1.69 million for FY22.

Perrone said the bulk of funding is dedicated for public safety purposes.

Perrone said the community's emergency responders lent aid to regional partners 332 times, in addition to answering their own calls.

"Our fire and EMS services last year were involved in 13,193 service calls," he said.

Ocean Pines' request for FY22 funding for fire and EMS service remains unchanged from last year at approximately \$217,000.

Also essentially unchanged from FY21 is the roughly \$33,000 state

funding sought in FY22 for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

By contrast, Ocean Pines' request for police funding in FY22 is \$525,000, which reflects a \$50,000 increase from the \$475,000 received during the current fiscal year.

Additional money is also being sought for the association to stage an Independence Day celebration, with the \$10,000 tally Worcester budgeted in FY21 bumped up to \$25,000 for FY22.

Additionally, Perrone said a \$40,000 grant is needed to help fund the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

"Tourism, as we all know, is the economic driver for the county and it is for Ocean Pines," he said.

Highlighting significant advertising expenditures by the association last year, Perrone said financial backing from the county during FY22 would offset costs to publicize recreation and parks programs, as well as other Pines amenities.

"We spent \$30,000 for our local papers," he said. "We also spent \$12,000 for Google and Facebook targeted ads."

Perrone also noted \$31,000 was sunk into targeted advertising to promote the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

Other Ocean Pines FY22 requests

not incorporated in the FY21 budget includes \$150,000 to repair roads and bridges.

Snow Hill

Town Manager Gary Weber said the total county funding requested for FY22 is \$2.1 million, reflecting a slight increase over the \$1.83 million awarded for FY21.

The bulk of the increase is tied to a \$200,000 grant to perform repairs on the Snow Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant following a roughly 500,000-gallon overflow of untreated effluent on Feb. 16.

"This was a result of high water tables and higher rainfall coupled with the inflow and infiltration issues that come with an antiquated wastewater infrastructure," he said.

Weber said the treatment plant repairs are needed immediately, with the town first looking to finance a GPS mapping process to identify precise locations of fissures.

"This project will not only greatly impact the inflow and infiltration problem, it will also eliminate the leaching of sewage in the wetlands that drain into the river," he said.

Additionally, Snow Hill seeks a \$35,000 increase to its unrestricted county grant, which totaled \$465,000 in FY21 with \$500,000

See COMMUNITIES Page 8



Larry Perrone

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Communities give their pitch for budget help from county

Continued from Page 7

sought for FY22.

“This money will help fund transportation initiatives for our children to and from the rec center on Saturdays and throughout the summer,” he said.

Berlin

Mayor Zack Tyndall said the towns FY22 funding request is just over \$2.3 million, up slightly from the \$2.1 million Worcester budgeted for FY21.

Tyndall said most of the money would be dedicated to public safety, including police, fire and EMS service.

Although the unrestricted grant request from Berlin for FY22 was identical to the \$465,000 sum approved last year, the town seeks another roughly \$52,000 for three proposals.

Reflecting an overall 11 percent bump over the prior budget year, the total includes just over \$39,000 for the first phase of a Rails-To-Trails project that would connect Snow Hill and Berlin through a passive-use recreation pathway.

Tyndall said the project would make use of easements alongside rail-

road tracks to provide biking and hiking routes.

The project support request would be used as matching funds for a Maryland Department of Transportation grant.

Other new funding sought includes \$5,000 for a July 4 celebration and \$7,500 to fund a feasibility study for a Flower Street Community Center.

“There’s a demand for that ,” he said. “There’s been discussion in the community for a very long time.”

Pocomoke City

Pocomoke City Mayor Jeremy Mason said the total FY22 funding request from the county is about \$1.66 million, which is up about \$48,000 from the \$1.61 million approved for FY21.

Remaining unchanged from FY21 is a \$465,000 unrestricted grant request.

Mason said Pocomoke seeks new funding of just over \$32,000 from Ocean Downs Casino table game revenues paid by the state to Worcester.



Zack Tyndall

New rental rules go to directors

Continued from Page 1

would ascertain the maximum number of occupants a dwelling could accommodate and assure that the name and contact information of a responsible party is on record.

Violations could result in tenants being asked to vacate the property immediately.

The topic arose last summer because of recurring problems at a few properties that were advertised on web-based platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO, Flipkey or Homeaway.

Neighbors’ complaints about disruptive behavior led the board to create a workgroup of Directors Frank Daly, Camilla Rodgers and Frank Brown to investigate the situation.

After consulting with property owners and renters, the work group discovered roughly 180 properties in Ocean Pines that were advertised as short-terms rentals, principally in warmer weather.

During the research process, the workgroup met with the ARC members, representatives of the Ocean Pines Fire and Police Departments, as well as Worcester County zoning.

If the ARC rules amendment is approved by the board, the workgroup proposed asking the Worcester Commissioners to incorporate the Pines guidelines in the county’s rental regulations.

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Laurier Binet, a bartender at Burley Oak Brewing Company, pours a pint of craft beer in the taproom on Old Ocean City Boulevard on Feb. 19.

Vote Berlin best small town beer scene daily in contest

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer
(March 11, 2021) Berlin is in fourth place of a USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice 2021 contest for the best small town beer scene against 19 other nominations, including Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Each town nominated has a population less than 30,000 and was chosen by a panel of beer experts as having the best beer scenes in the U.S. for their size.
Berlin is behind Avondale Estates, Georgia, Maple Shade, New Jersey and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said this is the first time the town has been nominated for the contest.
"Berlin won best small town for shopping by USA Today in both 2018 and 2020, so we are thrilled to be nominated again for a new category," Wells said.
Berlin's beer scene really developed when Burley Oak Brewing Company, 10016 Old Ocean City Boulevard, opened in 2011.

Along with Pitt Stop Beer & Wine on Route 113, and Fins Ale House & Raw Bar, 119 N. Main St., Berlin has established a relatively expansive craft beer selection.
Wells added that craft beer is a big economic driver and factor for tourism.
"Most of our restaurants offer local beer now due to demand," she said. "People want to experience local beer and food."
In addition, the town has hosted Oktoberfest for nine years, featuring beers from Burley Oak Brewing Company and Big Oyster Brewery from Lewes, Delaware.
The event typically brings 3,000 to 5,000 visitors and residents downtown for the day.
Fans of Berlin's beer scene can vote once per day until March 16 at noon.
To vote, visit <https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-small-town-beer-scene/berlin-maryland/>.
Winners will be announced on March 26.

Pickleball tourney March 20-21

(March 11, 2021) Worcester County Recreation and Parks will host the Shamrock Slam pickleball tournament on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, at the recreation center in Snow Hill.
Saturday's activities will feature men's and women's doubles competition. Mixed doubles will play on Sunday. Doors will open and check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. Games will start at 8 a.m. The tournament is open to players 18 and older. The cost per person is \$40, which includes a T-shirt.
The registration deadline is Sunday, March 14. To register online, visit www.pickleballtournaments.com.
For more information, contact Allen Swiger at 410-632-2144 x2520 or aswiger@marylandscoast.org.

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PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Ocean Pines firefighters enlisted aid from a handful of neighboring fire departments on Saturday morning to extinguish a massive blaze that gutted a Sandy Hook Road residence.

Fire destroys home in Pines, hundreds join to help family

Continued from Page 1

guests last weekend, Phillips said.

“Her grandbabies, who don’t reside there, were also visiting,” she said.

After news of the tragedy spread on the Local Help For You page and elsewhere, community members obtained clothing sizes for the various family members with several drop-off sites established to collect donations.

“Immediately, Aunt Jenny’s Unique Creations and the Sweet Shack in Ocean Pines and the Sports Core Pool offered to be drop-off sites for clothing and necessities that the family needed,” she said.

Phillips plans to collect and deliver the donated items to the family this week.

Other Pines-based groups have also stepped up to the plate.

“The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis club has donated almost \$2,000 separate from the gofundme that they

actually hand-delivered,” she said.

At present, the Morris family has been temporarily relocated to a hotel and is receiving assistance from the Red Cross.

Although damages to the neighboring structure were limited to exterior sections, the Morris home was left in near ruins.

“I think it will definitely be a total rebuild,” she said.

Phillips said the response to the Morris’s plight by nearly 300 people is yet another example of robust community support in the area.

“Worcester County as a whole, when there is a crisis or a tragedy, everybody steps up,” she said. “We are so lucky to live here because people truly care about each other.”

To donate, search Sandyhook House Fire OP or visit gofundme.com/f/sandyhook-house-fire-op?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer.

Council wants more info on tax

Continued from Page 1

munity.”

Councilman Troy Purnell asked the mayor how the tax rate of 80 cents was determined because of the numerous capital improvements needed.

“We didn’t have anything in the budget, and we cut the budget by 10 percent in the last two years,” he said. “Is there any way you can share the figures you’ve used to come up with this because you just said we’re \$130,000 upside down.”

Tyndall replied that some of the requested capital improvements by town staff have factored into the deficit.

“We’re not going to be able to make up the years past ground all in one fiscal year, but there is a way that we are able to make some of the capital improvements that we need to make while still keeping within the tax rate,” he said.

With further requests to share figures, Tyndall told the council that town staff could share the real property tax calculations from Worcester County. However, the requests from the department heads are still in their “infancy” and further discussions with department heads were planned for this week.

“I think before we end up at the council adopting the tax rate, there will be some documentation that you’ll be able to base your opinion on,” Tyndall added.

Purnell replied that he wanted to see current documentation the mayor has that he based his opinion on to maintain the 80-cent tax rate. Tyndall offered to share the draft of the budget with the council.

Councilman Jack Orris asked why the tax rate is determined so early in the budget season.

“In the past, we’ve come to the decision to review the tax rate a little bit earlier than the workshop as a guideline or as a driving mechanism to see what the real estate tax revenues will bring to the general fund,” said Natalie Saleh, the town’s finance director.

She added that she would like to see a three-year plan for the tax rate.

“That’s definitely helping because knowing the revenue projections for the general fund is actually allowing us to know what capital projects we can structure,” Saleh said.

Responding to Councilman Jay Knerr, Tyndall said the tax rate is not tied to a balance budget, meaning he does not have to present a balanced budget to the council at the time the tax rate is set.

“So, you’ve had the privilege of seeing all these numbers. The council has not, so what were you thinking about cutting to balance this budget?” Knerr asked.

Tyndall and Saleh said department heads were asked to request only capital improvement projects that were truly needed. Those will be reviewed during discussions with department heads, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood, Saleh and the mayor.

“My professional opinion is to go with the incremental increase to close the gap and not to cut the projects,” Saleh added.

Furthermore, department heads will be integral in making the necessary cuts to eliminate the deficit in the budget.

Responding to Fleetwood, Saleh said expenses for FY22 are slightly higher than FY21 because of health-care personnel costs. Fleetwood added that fuel costs have also increased so, a 5 percent inflation was included in FY22.

“To be honest with you, I hope that is a good target number because it has already proved me wrong before we even get into the year with what gas prices have done,” Fleetwood said.

In addition, Saleh prefers to gradually increase the tax rate every year to have a balanced budget and funding for projects without financially hurting Berlin residents.

The council could propose a different tax rate at the public hearing on the tax rate and the adoption of the tax rate scheduled for March 22, which will be an in-person meeting with limited public attendance.

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Berlin Youth Club held online amid pandemic

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Like many other organizations, Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services adapted to the age of covid-19 by hosting its first virtual Berlin Youth Club summer camp last year.

Dr. Jennifer Leggour, executive director of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, told the Berlin Parks Commission on March 2 that each of the eight weeks of camp had a different theme. Children participated in a scavenger hunt, a fitness challenge, a kindness challenge and a no-bake treats week.

“On Mondays, we dropped supplies off and snacks off to all of the kids and families, and Tuesday through Friday, the camp was initiated,” Leggour said. “The children could log onto our YouTube channel and get a tutorial and see what the activity was for the day, whether it was a craft or an exercise, and then every afternoon all of the children and their families met with us on Google Meet for some socialization to share how they did with the activity and the project.”

Although 16 participants registered for the summer camp, Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services was able to serve closer to 60

people because members of each household took part in the activities.

“The other thing we really liked about it is that caregivers were very, very involved and willing to help the children and do the projects with them and get creative,” Leggour added.

The Berlin Youth Club summer camp may be virtual again this summer, depending on what pandemic restrictions remain in place.

In August and September 2020, Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services donated school supplies to camp participants and to hundreds of students at Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin in partnership with the Berlin Police Department.

“Anything extra was donated to Buckingham, and then we had extra backpacks that we also gave to Diakonia,” Leggour said.

Then, the agency participating in Ocean Pines’ Trunk or Treat event for Halloween in October 2020.

“We decked out the van and gave out hundreds and hundreds of pieces of candy,” Leggour said. “I would do that event again. There were a lot of kids, and they had a lot of fun.”

The following month, Worcester
See NONPROFIT Page 12



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES
Berlin resident Kendre Collick engages in a project during Berlin Youth Club’s first virtual summer camp, held from July 6 to Aug. 28, 2020.

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Featured gallery artists for March announced

(March 11, 2021) The Worcester County Arts Council will showcase two local artists and Gallery members, Richard Husband and Ellie Scott, in March.

Exhibited artwork is on display until March 30 in the Worcester County Arts Council's Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin. All artwork is available for sale.

The Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet the artists during Berlin's 2nd Friday, March 12 from 5-8 p.m.

To view their artwork and learn more about the artists, visit the Worcester County Arts Council's website at: [www.worcestercount-](http://www.worcestercount-arts.org)

[arts.org](http://www.worcestercount-arts.org) or www.worcestercount-arts.org/featuredartists.

Selected pieces of artwork, donated by each of the featured artists, are offered in a silent auction this month to benefit the Worcester County Arts Council's scholarship program. Visitors are encouraged to stop by to place their bid.

In addition to the featured artists exhibit, various media artwork by more than 25 artists and Co-Op members is also on the Gallery display.

For further information, contact Anna Mullis, executive director, at anna@worcestercountarts.org.

The Worcester County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization whose

mission is to support, promote and encourage visual, performing and literary arts in Worcester County.

As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community.

The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by the grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.

Welcome spring with virtual 5K run or walk March 14-20

(March 11, 2021) Register the whole family to participate in the Hello Spring! Virtual 5K Family Fun Run/Walk, taking place from Sunday March 14 through Saturday, March 20.

All registered participants will receive a Hello Spring! Virtual 5K Family Fun Run/Walk T-shirt and a race bib. Medals will be awarded to all participants who finish a 5K and raise an additional \$25 beyond the registration fee through sponsorships.

Since the pandemic prevents people from gathering in large groups for traditional fundraising events, Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County invites everyone to support its mission to build homes, communities and hope by participating in the Hello Spring! Virtual 5K Family Fun Run/Walk.

In addition, students can earn eight service hours for participation. Participants can run or walk the 5K anywhere, including the Ocean City Boardwalk, one of the trails and courses throughout Worcester County, or in their own neighborhood.

Competitive runners in all age categories will be recognized on social media and the habitat website. Runners can submit their times via screenshot from any fitness app.

To register, visit https://marketing2064.wixsite.com/hellospringvirtual5k/shop?blm_aid=296974.

Nonprofit participates in events

Continued from Page 11

Youth and Family Counseling Services gave away hundreds of craft bags and cups of hot chocolate during the Ice Ice Berlin Art Sculptures Stroll and Holiday Shop Night.

"We realized that families were still stuck at home essentially. There were a lot of travel restrictions, so we developed family game night bags for all of our youth club participants and were able to hand those out," Leggour added.

About 30 participants were given a variety of games in December 2020, such as bingo, checkers, Hedbandz and gingerbread house kits.

Currently, the agency is recruiting seventh and eighth graders to launch the teen groups.

"We're hoping to start that in a virtual format and then move forward to in-person if we're ever able to do that," Leggour said.

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WCPS seeks funds for construction projects

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday agreed to provide the local school system nearly \$1.5 million for the Pocomoke Middle School roof replacement project and \$109,000 to continue into the pre-construction phase and bidding process for the Stephen Decatur Middle School Addition project.

“The project to replace the 26-year-old at Pocomoke Middle School has been included in both the county and the board of education capital improvement plans to follow the completion of the Showell



Lou Taylor

Elementary Replacement School project,” said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor.

He said the Board of Education received and opened bids for the Pocomoke Middle School roof replacement project on Jan. 7. Then, the school board approved the \$2.6 million bid from Flynn Mid-Atlantic on Jan. 19.

The state approved \$1,275,000 for the project last May in the FY21 capital improvement plan.

“With your funding approval today, we will execute a contract with Flynn Mid-Atlantic and the work will be accomplished this summer,” Taylor said.

Additionally, design documents for the Stephen Decatur Middle School Addition project were completed with the design funding provided by the county in FY20 and FY21.

In December 2020, the state informed the school board that the Interagency Commission on School Construction staff recommended the approval of \$3.7 million of the \$4.8 million FY22 capital improvement request for funding the project.

“The final state funding amount for the project will be announced in May,” Taylor said.

The construction bidding process is expected to begin in August. Construction could begin on the addition in November, pending the county’s approval.

Following review of the bid documents and approval of bids by the board of education, Taylor said board members will request final construction and project funding for the project from the commissioners.

Both funding requests were approved unanimously without discussion.

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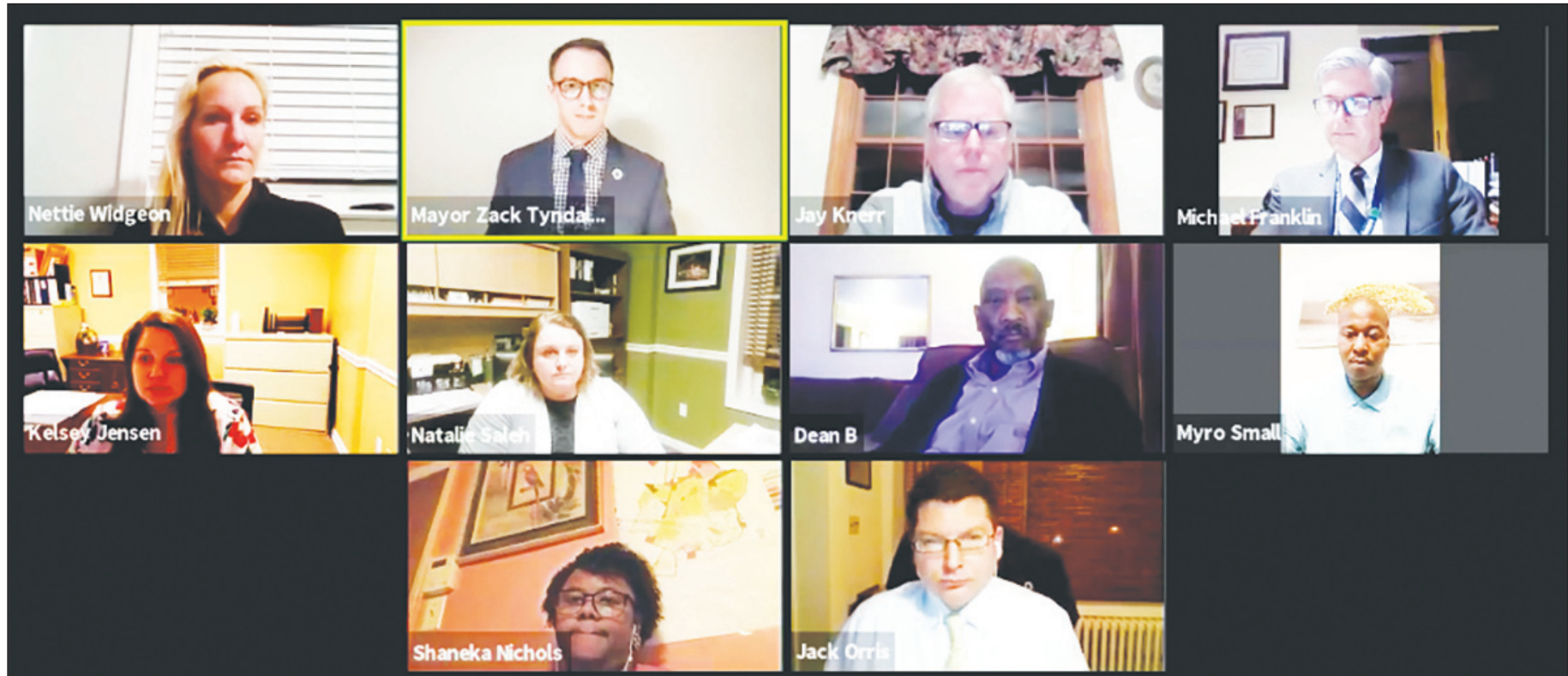
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The Berlin Town Council decided to transition to in-person meetings with limited attendance on March 22, while Berlin boards and commissions meetings started back in person this week.

Town Council meetings to resume in person

Berlin boards, commissions can now gather with limited capacity in hall chambers

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Berlin boards and commissions meetings resumed limited capacity in-person attendance this week following the Town Council’s approval on Monday.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleet-

wood asked the councilmembers to consider that the Historic District Commission meetings usually require individuals to bring in materials to be seen before approval.

“We have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday of this week and there are quite a few folks on the agenda, so I need your support to move forward to have this thing move forward on [March 10] live with modified restrictions,” Fleetwood said.

The Historic District Commission

met for the first time Wednesday since Nov. 4, 2020.

Councilmembers also agreed on Monday to transition to in-person meetings starting March 22, when a public hearing on the tax rate is scheduled.

Mayor Zackery Tyndall proposed waiting until the first meeting in April to return to modified in-person meetings for the council because the audience would be restricted to 16 people and there are two public hearings scheduled this month.

Councilman Jack Orris argued that council meetings should be in person if boards and commissions meetings are held in person and government offices are open to the public with limited capacity.

Councilmembers also discussed meeting in the chambers and using Zoom for public participation, which would require each councilmember and presenter to bring their own de-

vices because the monitors on the dais of the chambers are for viewing purposes only.

As of Monday, two individuals have asked to make presentations and two have asked to speak during the listening session about Heron Park on March 15.

Councilmembers Shaneka Nichols and Dean Burrell favored Tyndall’s proposal to wait until April to go back in person, while Councilmembers Jay Knerr, Jack Orris and Troy Purnell preferred to go back sooner on March 22.

The town has to re-advertise that the public hearing on March 22 will be held in person rather than via Zoom in addition to stating so clearly on the agenda.

The council meetings will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook when they return with a modified in-person attendance. However, the council will stop using Zoom.

TOWN OF BERLIN, MARYLAND NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Town of Berlin of Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2021, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 3%, from \$463,872,510 to \$476,571,675.

2. If the Town of Berlin maintains the current tax rate of \$0.80 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 3% resulting in \$101,593 of new real property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7787, the constant yield tax rate.

4. The Town of Berlin is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town of Berlin proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.80 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 3% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$101,593 in additional property tax revenues.

Proposed real property tax rate will be introduced at 7 pm on March 8th at Town of Berlin via Zoom.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7 pm on March 22nd at Town of Berlin Town Hall.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 410-641-2770 for further information.

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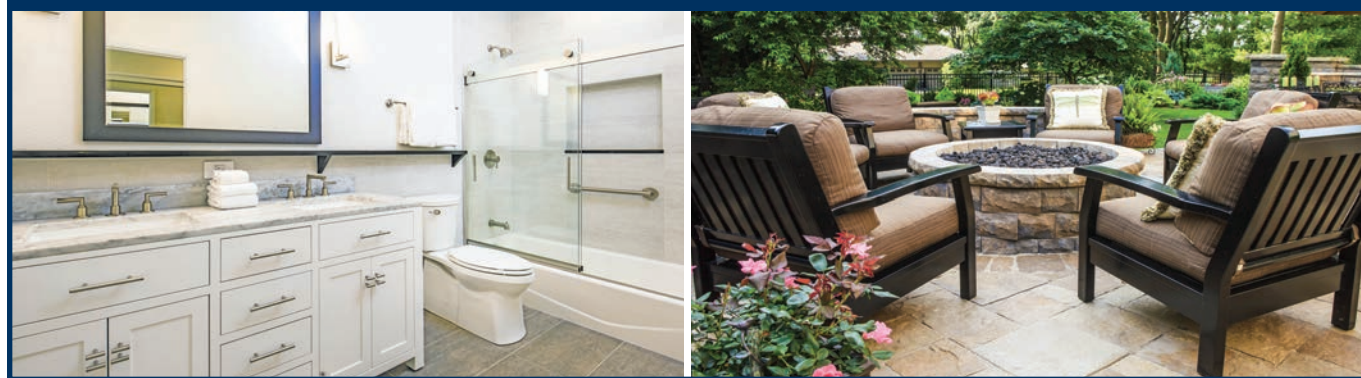
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Deadline March 15 for ‘Wall That Heals’ ceremony

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer
(March 11, 2021) Time remains to honor departed Vietnam veterans during an “In Memory” ceremony for the “Wall That Heals” traveling exhibit that will roll into the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines on April 20.

Worcester Veterans Memorial Foundation Board member Larry Perrone said loved ones of local Vietnam veterans who died after returning home have until March 15 to apply for the “In Memory” program offered through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

“The date was March 5 but it got extended,” he said.

The Wall That Heals will be on view in Ocean Pines from Thursday, April 22 through Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m.

Measuring 375 feet in length and bearing the names of 58,279 U.S. Armed Forces members lost during the Vietnam War, the patriotic educational display is the largest of three mobile reproductions of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

“This wall is a three-quarter-size replica and is sponsored by the people who designed and funded the wall in D.C.,” he said. “There are two others that are half size.”

The nonprofit Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which built the D.C. memorial in 1982, sees to the national tours of a trio of replicas that honor the three-plus million Americans who served in Southeast Asia.

See VIETNAM Page 17

Pines revises organizational chart

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Following the departure of Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips last month, the Ocean Pines Association has realigned its organizational chart to reassign her previous duties to various department heads.

The changes include handing oversight of parking at the Ocean Pines Beach Club to Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook, who will report directly to General Manager John Viola.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue will gain responsibility for racquet sports, along with marinas and normal departmental duties.

Racquet Sports Manager and Tennis

Pro Terry Underkoffler and Racquet Sports Program Coordinator Tim McMullen will now report directly to Donahue.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells and Public Works Manager Nobie Violante will take the reins on the Bainbridge Pond drainage project.

The duo, who were already key team members for the Bainbridge project, will add oversight and coordination roles of the infrastructure improvements to their regular Public Works Department duties.

Director of Finance Steve Phillips is assuming the lead position in strategic planning efforts and will report directly to Viola.

Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin and Marketing Coordinator Julie

Malinowski have been designated as “Level 1” responders for customer service issues.

Additionally, department heads are now classified as “Level 2” responders with Viola established as a “Level 3” responder.

Viola said the restructuring was completed after reviewing the association’s budget and assessing the abilities of current staff.

“I have the utmost confidence in our team,” he said.

Viola highlighted past efforts to cross-train staff as crucial to reassigning Phillips’ past duties.

Viola said there are no immediate plans to hire a replacement for Phillips’ position.

“I don’t anticipate it,” he said.

Pines Facebook group fast start

Continued from Page 15

and get back to work,” she said.

Diller also took exception to recent board comments during a March 1 special meeting asking the community to permit time for healing.

“The internal personality differences of this board are not our community’s concern,” she said. “We don’t need to give the board time to play nice — you were elected to do a job.”

The long game is maintaining focus to foster community inclusiveness, not to stoke divisions.

“It’s not about laying blame,” she said. “Let’s just focus and be part of the solution not part of the problem.”

Vietnam memorial replica heading to Pines

Continued from Page 16

To provide historical context, the Wall That Heals display also features an “Education Center” that includes a timeline of the Vietnam War and further details about the D.C. Memorial.

“This is a traveling wall and the states basically around Washington D.C. do not get this,” he said. “This is an incredible honor.”

Perrone said organizers cited the Worcester County Veterans Memorial as a prime motivator for the Eastern Shore stopover.

“It really is because they’re impressed with our own Veterans Memorial down here,” he said. “There’s no other location in Maryland that will get the wall and it will probably never come again.”

Applications for the “In Memory” ceremony can be found at the Ocean Pines Administration Building in White Horse Park, the Ocean Pines Golf Clubhouse and area establishments including: Whisker’s Bar & Grill or Jimmy’s Barber Shop on Cathell Road, Paradise Grill And Pizzeria or Southside Deli on Nicholas Lane and DeNovo’s Trattoria on Manklin Creek Road

Applications are also available by contacting Perrone at 443-513-1407 or Marie Gilmore at 410-726-2881.

Submissions should include photographs of veterans for use in a virtual “In Memory” honor roll with typed biographical sketches fewer than 300 words also permitted.

“Their name will be included in the scroll that comes down here when the wall comes to Worcester County,” he said.

In addition to being read aloud as part of the Ocean Pines ceremony by surviving family members when possible, the names of veterans and their biographies will be posted on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial website.

Submissions will also be used for the annual “In Memory” ceremony held in D.C. and future touring exhibits.

Numerous volunteers are needed to

help set up the Wall That Heals and to staff the site around the clock.

For volunteer information, email Frank Bolen at frankieb@mchsi.com or call 302-245-5216.

Perrone said the 50-plus foot trailer hauling the display is scheduled to arrive in Maryland from North Carolina and meet an extensive motorcade at Perdue Stadium in Salisbury on April 20.

“The tractor-trailer will be escorted by, we believe at this time, at least 200 motorcycles,” he said. “They’ll take it through Salisbury and then down Route 50 and come into Ocean Pines from 589 in the late afternoon.”

After arriving on Tuesday, the display assembly and volunteer training will take place on Wednesday in preparation for opening on Thursday.

“This is going to be quite the show,” he said.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation or the Wall That Heals exhibit, visit www.opvets.org. For information on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, visit www.vvmf.org or call 202-393-0090.

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Snapshots



NEW RINGS

The annual Worcester Preparatory School Junior Ring Ceremony took place on Feb. 10, in the Athletic and Performing Arts Center. It is tradition that seniors present juniors with their rings along with a few meaningful comments as to why the recipient is special to them. (Above) Juniors, from left, Aria Islam, Hugh Thomas Cropper, Brooke Phillips and Sydney Lamson-Reich display their new Class of 2022 rings. (Right) Senior Grace Hopkins, left, presents junior Sumira Sehgal with her ring.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



FIRST PLACE
Olivia Brown earned first place in the Gittings Equitation Medal Finals in October at the McDonogh Fall Classic Horse Show in Owings Mills. She is pictured with her trainer, Marianne Roth.

PHOTO COURTESY LISA CHALLENGER



WINE AND MUSIC
Adam Bilenki, son of local musician George Bilenki, performs an acoustic set at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery near Ocean Pines on Feb. 26.

ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



RECOGNITION
Former Worcester County Board of Education member Sara Thompson was surprised on Feb. 16 with the board room at the central office in Newark being renamed in her honor. Pictured, from left, are Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor, Thompson and Worcester County Board of Education President Eric Cropper.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FEATURED CRAFTER
The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Sharon Puser as the March Crafter of the Month. Puser has been a resident of Ocean Pines since 2000, moving to the area from Westwood, New Jersey, where she was a publisher of weekly newspapers and a local upscale magazine. She and her husband built their home in 2000 and retired full time to Ocean Pines in 2008. She has been the president of the Pine'eer Craft Club since 2013. Puser makes American Girl doll clothes under the name Girly Girl Doll wear and recently added a collection that fits Bitty Baby and other 15-inch baby dolls. She also makes decorative-shaped pillows and oven door towels. Her items, along with the work of other crafters, are available at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opinion

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

Town grows, but taxes can't be set any lower

The town of Berlin's property tax rate might stay the same as last year, at 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value, and if it does, the tax bills received by some property owners will be slightly more than they would be under the constant yield rate of 77.9 cents.

As proposed by Mayor Zack Tyndall, leaving the 80-cent levy in place is not the wrong thing to do, when the reality is the town could use a little more than that.

The town's constant yield rate reflects growth of the tax base of about \$12.7 million — from \$463.8 million to \$465.5 million — since the last round of assessments and adjustments to incorporate new properties and improvements.

What keeping the 80-cent rate means is that the tax bill will remain the same for properties whose assessments have not changed since last year, rather than dropping slightly. The owner of a property assessed at \$400,000, as an example, would pay \$85 less than last year were the constant yield rate to be imposed.

That, however, is not a life-or-death amount of money, and arguing over it would be a matter of principle rather than finances. Meanwhile, Berlin's problem is that even though staying the course on the tax rate will bring in roughly \$101,000 in new revenue, it's still \$130,000 short of what the town needs to cover the budget as proposed.

Berlin's thin financial situation, which is gradually being rectified by the mayor and council, stems from betting that potential growth would make up for years of low water and sewer rates. That, as everyone knows, didn't happen.

Now, not only does the town need to regain its financial footing, but it must also, like any ordinary household, build up its cash reserves to protect itself and taxpayers from unexpected demands on its treasury. Think of the reserve fund as financial shock absorbers that keep the ride smooth when the road is unexpectedly bumpy.

Realistically, the town needs a two-cent increase on its tax rate to do everything it needs to do. Tyndall says that's not going to happen, which makes the 80-cent rate the best deal taxpayers can expect ... if the council finds a way to do it.



Adcock 202
"BAYSIDE GAZETTE"

"You have mail. You bought chewing gum at the Convenience Store and they are asking if you would complete a five minute Survey about your shopping experience."

OP Easter egg runs kept to 100 kids

Modified event will utilize White Horse Park in three shifts

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 11, 2021) Although unable to sponsor its Easter events because of coronavirus health safety restrictions, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks will hold three rounds of Easter egg hunts on Saturday, April 3 in White Horse Park.

Recreation Supervisor Katie Goetzinger said families with children ages 10 and under can call 410-641-7052 to reserve a spot for one of the egg hunts.

"We're not taking more than 100 people for each egg hunt," she said.

Three half-hour rounds of egg hunts are scheduled from 11-11:30 a.m., 12-12:30 p.m. and 1-1:30 p.m.

"For the first egg hunt at 11, there is already 100 people signed up for it," she said.

The roster remains lighter for the pair of remaining time slots.

"The second and third egg hunt, we don't have anymore than 20 people signed up for yet," she said.

There is no cost to register for the Easter egg hunt in White Horse Park.

While the department is unable to sponsor the usual Easter games and crafts, Goetzinger said the egg hunts made the cut by making use of the White Horse Park campus.

"We're going to go all the way down the park with the eggs," she said.

Both the Ocean Pines Police Department and neighborhood watch group members will help with clearing out the park between each round of egg quests.

Goetzinger said the Easter festivity is scheduled simultaneously with the weekly Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market, with each area clearly marked.

"We will rope off sections the day prior," she said.

To partially compensate for the annual bonnet pa-

rade and contest being cancelled, the department has set a limited-space craft event for March 21.

The "Decorate Your Own Easter Bonnet" activity will take place Sunday, March 21 at the Ocean Pines Community Center's Assateague Room from 1:30-3 p.m.

Goetzinger said the indoor gathering is limited to a maximum of 10 people.

"Three people have signed up so far, but there is only one round," she said.

Youth who register while space remains will have the opportunity to spark their creative energies and transform a provided blank hat with decorative flourishes such as foam eggs, ribbons and feathers.

The cost to participate is \$10 per craft for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Due to limited head counts pre-registration is required by calling 410-641-7052.

For additional details or to register for events call the OP Recreation Department at 410-641-7052.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Shamrocks sold in Berlin to fund Worcester Goes Purple

(March 11, 2021) As Saint Patrick’s Day approaches, the Town of Berlin’s retail and dining establishments will be helping to promote the mission of Worcester Goes Purple Warriors Against Addiction, Inc. by selling “Shamrocks.”

With the support of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, Worcester Goes Purple partners, Worcester Youth and Family, and Hope4Recovery, this project will bring awareness to addictions in the local community.

Worcester Goes Purple works tirelessly to support events such as “Red Ribbon Week” at Buckingham Elementary School, “Wellness Week with Chris Herren” coming up at Stephen Decatur Middle School and Hope4Recovery house in Berlin.

As the covid-19 pandemic has raged all over the United States, those affected by the disease of addiction and seeking recovery have had many more obstacles to overcome.

Recovery depends on socialization and routine. By raising funds to support recovery efforts, WGP can assist those suffering and their families with making the necessary steps to get help.

Starting March 1 and continuing through March 21, visit retail or food/drink establishment in Berlin. While there, purchase a green shamrock with a minimum donation of \$1.

Participants can write a support message on the shamrock, honor someone who has lost their fight with addiction, or celebrate their own recovery.

Businesses will display shamrocks and “Turn Berlin Green.” A plaque and gift will be presented to the business and their employee who sold the most shamrocks.

To participate or for more information, call Debbie Smullen at 410-870-5161 or email wgpwarriors2021@gmail.com.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Downtown Berlin visitors can purchase a shamrock to display in store windows to raise funds for addiction recovery in Worcester County.

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Saturday, 11am-1:30pm	400 Williams St., Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$329,900	Debbie Bennington/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday, 11am-1pm	9407 Lakeview Dr., Ocean Reef	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$529,900	Power of Two/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday, 10am-1pm	10112 Godspeed Dr., Oyster Harbor	43BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$439,000	Shawn Kotwica/Coldwell Banker Realty

Puzzles

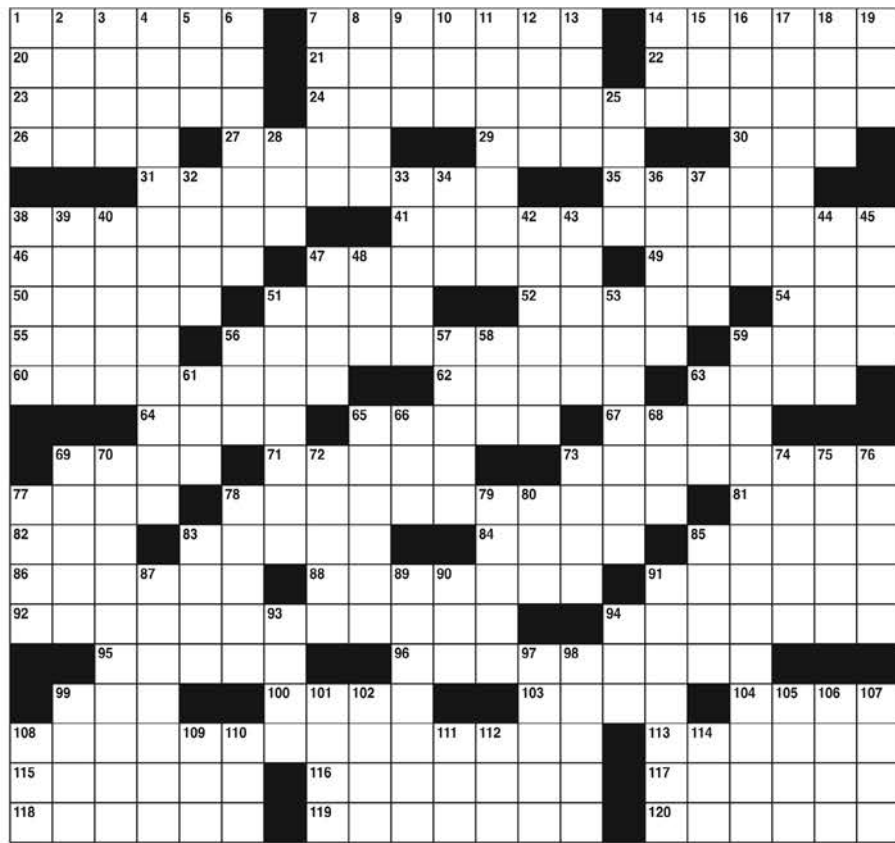
CROSSWORD BUFF

BY BRAD WIEGMANN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Brad Wiegmann is a national security lawyer for the Department of Justice in Washington. About a year and a half ago, while solving some crosswords during a vacation, he wondered aloud if he could make one himself. It took several tries, but ... voilà! You'll want to put on your silly-puns hat before you begin. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
1 Man who had all the answers?
7 Some baggage
14 Fillet, say
20 William Howard Taft or William McKinley
21 "It's just me"
22 First-aid item for allergy sufferers
23 Shared with, for a while
24 Leadership style of the nudist-club president?
26 Like a senior year
27 Dates
29 Steamboat Springs alternative
30 Pint-size
31 Like Ahab's pursuit of Moby Dick
35 Winter driving hazard
38 Ascribe to, as fault
41 When the nudist club was founded?
46 They hit the sauce a lot
47 "There's another good point"
49 "Hold on!"
50 Home to the world's three highest capital cities
51 Nicolas who directed "The Man Who Fell to Earth"
52 Puffs
54 Graduation wear for a University of Hawaii student
- 55 Place for a throne
56 New members of the nudist club?
59 Pans for potstickers
60 Time's Person of the Century
62 Lit into
63 Two are named after Douglas and Fraser
64 Big name in tennis
65 Weigh in
67 School with a 15th-century chapel
69 It comes straight from the horse's mouth
71 "Raspberry ____" (Prince hit)
73 Liquor with a double-headed eagle logo
77 Polo course?
78 What happens in the stand-up show at the nudist club?
81 Robert who played A.J. Soprano
82 Pro wrestler Flair
83 John for whom the Voting Rights Advancement Act was named
84 Slangy contraction
85 Rock genre
86 Soon
88 Taco Bell slogan
91 Its size may be measured in liters
92 Hours spent by the pool at the nudist club?
94 Popular hiding spots in hide-and-seek
95 Virtual currency
- 96 Sensitive subject
99 Mimic
100 "Cómo ____?"
103 Strong desire
104 Not a joke, say
108 How people returned from a week at the nudist club?
113 Mountaineer's tool
115 2006 World Cup champion, to native fans
116 Popping up
117 Follower of high or dry
118 Goal of some workouts
119 Break between workouts
120 Symbolic gestures
- DOWN**
1 Travel expense
2 Largest South American bird
3 A quarter of vier
4 Where the nudist-club orchestra plays its concerts?
5 Graze
6 Site of the Minotaur's Labyrinth
7 Feelings in the room, informally
8 Build up
9 Choreographer Lubovitch
10 Mont-Saint-Michel, e.g.
11 Not in debt
12 One-named Irish singer
13 Final Four game, e.g.
14 Thieves' hide-out
15 Cleanup grp.
16 Conference with five University of California schools
17 '60s TV kid
18 Child, in Chile
19 Part of the U.K.: Abbr.
25 "What's more ..."
28 Poetry night?
32 Humbugs?
33 A negative has a reverse one
34 Acid container
36 Joneses
37 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Slaughter
38 Element of Freddy Krueger's glove
39 Hawaiian house feature
40 Recipe direction
42 "Hey, man!"
43 Balrog's home in "The Lord of the Rings"
44 Techies and Trekkies, stereotypically
45 Elevator innovator
47 You might skip it if you're in trouble
48 Self starter?
51 L.G.B.T. symbol
53 Statistic in football or basketball
56 Kylo ____, "Star Wars" villain
57 Signed i.o.u.'s
58 Published
59 Victory in the annual nudist-club 1K?
61 Face card's value in blackjack
63 Supporting
- 65 Question that introduces doubt
66 Muscle above an ab
68 "____ So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (hymn)
69 Big name in windshield wipers
70 Need for a jailbreak
72 Nellie's love in "South Pacific"
73 Behaves badly
74 Many a goody, they say
75 Fighter's fake
76 Releases
77 The lake in "lake effect" snow
78 Whale constellation
79 Not as unruly
80 Small inlet
83 Vanderpump of Bravo's "Vanderpump Rules"
85 Privy to
87 Tenor Andrea
89 In relation to
90 Punk cousin
91 Supercilious sort
93 Syngman ____, first South Korean president
94 Sin's counterpart
97 First name on the Supreme Court
98 Like babies' legs, often
99 Thermostat setting
101 Permanent marker?
102 High-tailed it
105 Minimal effort
106 Neural transmitter
107 Common prescription item
108 In shape
109 Dark side
110 Criticize constantly, with "on"
111 Is, in ancient Rome
112 Divest
114 Many a golden-parachute recipient, in brief

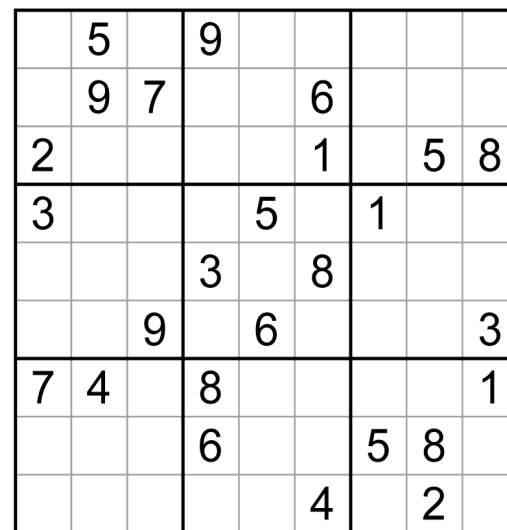
Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 4

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

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

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

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Walk In

Cuisine

Shrimp and vegetables with garlic confit

Apparently, I went to bed last night shortly after writing this short passage as though I had just read the opening chapters of “Moby Dick” or perhaps a Harlequin Romance novella.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

I was not exactly sure what I would wake up to, but it was something like this:

As the ship steers, so must I. I am no more than an infinitesimal instrument in the sailing ship of life.

As much as I might pull on the jib, there just ain’t much a-pullin’ to be done to get where I would like to get. And the mainsail? Pulling on that ain’t me got no further, neither.

I learned as a young man, a great many years ago, that we only have a limited amount of control on our destinies, and that notion has yet to shake itself from my very being.

While this may seem daunting or a bit overwhelming to some, I see it as little more than my daily challenge and motivation. But, where does personal fate come into play?

At what point do we actually get to decide what life has in store for us?

I guess my parents instilled in me a notion that we never have really reached our true destination, and that we simply have to keep striving to do our best; to accomplish the most that we can in our incredibly finite time on this planet.

This has come in especially handy over the past year as our industry has been strangled by government shut-downs, limitations in supply, skyrocketing costs in equipment and protective gear and all the other real struggles that have been our world as a whole and will remain to be for the foreseeable future.

I can’t speak to anyone else’s lives, but as for me, I can honestly say that it gets exhausting listening to all of the press conferences that say nothing new.

In one stroke of a pen, things are made to look like we have more wiggle room, but in reality nothing changes as a whole for the people and businesses who need it the most.

So what do some people do in this middle of all of this? The insane among us open new businesses, in the hopes (or more like fever dreams) that we can pull through these times in one piece.



We swim from the shallow end to the deep end of the pool in hopes that somehow, we will learn how to tread water along the way.

We try to take hold of our destiny, no small feat I can assure you. And try as we might, we realize that there are simply some things that are far beyond our grasp.

As I walked through one of my kitchens the other day, I stood proudly at the line, knowing that my teams in both places have beaten the odds.

We have done amazing things, at a great price of course, to keep things going and to make people feel like life is normal again. I guess that is the best that anyone can do.

With all self-aggrandizement passing, and fully knowing that I had to eat before I passed out, I threw a few things in a pan and ate a hearty meal, ensuring that I would be nourished for at least one more day. Simple yet fully satisfying, I realized that it was a fitting tribute to the new lifestyle of just trying to tread water.

And thus, must I turn this into an invitation to you in your incredibly valuable time where you either question my sanity or embrace that mo-

ment that we all might imagine on the sea — that one moment when we aren’t exactly sure that we will make it back to shore.

Blasted! Why can’t I be that fancy, long-haired fella in them novellas?

Shrimp & Vegetables

- serves 4*
- 4 Tbsp. Grassfed butter
 - 24 ea. Jumbo shrimp
 - 3 Tbsp. or to taste blackening spice
 - 4 c. Raw kale
 - 1/2 c. Garlic confit (recipe follows)
 - 2 c. Heirloom grape tomatoes
 - 2 c. Brussels Sprouts, blanched
 - 1/2 c. Dried chorizo, diced
- In a large saute or fry pan, add the butter.
 - When hot and most of the water has evaporated (you can tell this by the fact that most of the sizzling has subsided), add the shrimp and the blackening spice.
 - Allow to cook for about 2 minutes and then add the kale.
 - Cook for about three minutes and then add the remaining ingredients.
 - There is plenty of salt and spice between the spice blend and the

chorizo, but add more if you deem it necessary.

Garlic Confit

- makes about 1 pint*
- 2 c. Fresh whole garlic cloves
 - enough oil to cover plus 1”.
 - Place the ingredients in a small pan, ensuring that the garlic is completely covered with oil.
 - Bring very slowly to a simmer. It is acceptable to see a few tiny bubbles, but under no circumstance can you allow it to get hot enough to fry (a common mistake with new crafters of garlic confit).
 - This can cook for hours, but the key is low and slow.
 - Keep it going at this pace until it starts to change color a tiny bit, but more importantly it becomes so soft that it is spreadable but still holds its shape. That is the stage of perfection for this.

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

Calendar

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

Thurs., March 11

5TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL
The event will take place virtually and include free, live question-and-answer sessions with the filmmakers. To see a full schedule of workshops and to access them live, go to <https://watch.eventive.org/ocmdfilmfestival2021/live>. Festival tickets and passes are on sale now at OCMDFilmFestival.com or by calling 410-524-9433.

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS
Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of Zumba. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice your moves without being seen. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

WILDFLOWER SEED BOMBS
Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 PM. Learn how to make seed bombs, including considerations for seed selection and placement, natural dying of paper and blender-free methods. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

TEEN DISCORD GAMING SESSION
Held via Discord, 7:00 PM. Join the group on the library Discord server for a virtual gaming session. Game to be announced. For 13-18 year olds. To receive an invitation to the Discord server go to this registration page at least 24 hours before the program: <https://www.worcesterlibrary.libguides.com/discord>.

Fri., March 12

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'EUPHORIA' BY LILY KING
Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Join the group each month for a lively book discussion. Copies of the books are available on Hoopla (heeepladigital.com). Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

MARCH FEATURED ARTIST
Worcester County Arts Council, 6 Jefferson St., 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Come meet the artists during Berlin's 2nd Friday. Featuring Gallery members Richard Husband and Ellie Scott. To view their artwork and learn more about the artists go to www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org/featuredartists. Select pieces of their artworks are offered in a silent auction this month to benefit the Worcester County Arts Council's scholarship program. Anna Mullis, anna@worcestercountyartscouncil.org

Sat., March 13

MARYLAND AAU GRAND PRIX
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. Looking to qualify for AAU Nationals? Come out to the AAU



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WALKING ON WATER
Avian liftoff is achieved from pond waters at the Ocean Pines Golf Course last Saturday.

Grand Prix with your chance to win a bid to the biggest volleyball event in the world. info@webuildyouplay.com, 410-202-8849, <https://webuildyouplay.com>

ST. PATRICK'S IRISH SCRAMBLE
Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Four-player scramble where teams will play 6 holes from each gold, white and blue tees. Players may find that their lucky ball lands in a clover and deemed holed. Lunch will be served immediately following play. Cost is \$60 and includes green fee, cart, lunch and prizes. Sign up: 410-213-7277 or Robert Croll, RCroll@oceancitymd.gov. <http://www.eagleslandinggolf.com/golf-extras>

FREE FAMILY ARTS DAY
Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Barbara Buford will instruct this class. For the whole family, so children must be accompanied by an adult and adults must be accompanied by a child. All materials provided. Masks required. Advance registration required: 410-524-9433 or www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org/Classes.

ST. PADDY'S DAY CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER
45th Street Taphouse, 4507 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Bearded Men Society of Ocean City is co-hosting this party, featuring music by Colossal Fossil Sauce and Trailer Park Romeo. Proceeds benefit Diakonia. Cash donations and non-perishable items collected at the door.

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., March 14

HELLO SPRING! VIRTUAL 5K FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK
Takes place March 14-20. Challenge yourself to racing your best 5K or make it a cu-

mulative event adding your walking or running distances over multiple sessions. All registered participants will receive a T-shirt and a race bib. Medals will be awarded to those who raise an addition \$25 beyond the registration fee. Students can earn 8 service hours. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County. Register: https://marketing2064.wixsite.com/hellospringvirtual5k?blm_aid=296974.

MARYLAND AAU GRAND PRIX
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. Looking to qualify for AAU Nationals? Come out to the AAU Grand Prix with your chance to win a bid to the biggest volleyball event in the world. info@webuildyouplay.com, 410-202-8849, <https://webuildyouplay.com>

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR SHAMROCK SLAM PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
The two-day tournament will take place March 20-21 at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill. Saturday will be men's and women's doubles and Sunday will include mixed doubles. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. and gameplay will start at 8 a.m. The tournament is open to ages 18 and older. Cost is \$40, which includes a T-shirt. Register by March 14: www.pickleballtournaments.com. Allen Swiger, aswiger@marylandscoast.org, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

Mon., March 15

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME 'DINOSAURS'
Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Ms. Kathy's favorite dinosaur stories for 2 to 5-year-old children. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

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 Camption, 410-641-0157

Tues., March 16

DOC AND TALK
Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Watch "She's Beautiful When She's Angry" and join the group for a discussion. The documentary chronicles the events, the movers and shakers of the feminist movement from 1966-1971. Can be viewed on Hoopla (hoopla.digital.com). Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

SPOKEN WORD, WHY MEMORIZE: PART 3
Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 PM. By now participants will have a well structured poem and will be ready to recite their poems. Participants will learn a variety of memorization techniques for an enhanced performance delivery. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Wed., March 17

SHINE TASKFORCE MEETING
Held via Zoom, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services has recognized the need in the community for help with connecting to resources such as behavior health, medical specialties, educational assistance and basic needs. The SHINE Taskforce (Stabilizing Homes through Innovative Networking and Engagement) will have quarterly meetings to identify critical needs and subsequent resources for children and families. <https://gowoyo.org>

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY
Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Babies under 2 and their caregivers join the Zoom for songs, rhymes an 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 www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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

Call **410-723-6397**
by Monday 5 p.m.



HELP WANTED

Restaurant Accounting Assistant position:

Seeking a highly organized, detailed individual to support management team with accounting operations. Strong book-keeping and restaurant payroll skills a must. Experience with POS system, HR, Food and Beverage inventory and costing. Managing day to day cash, posting to accounts as well as various other office duties. Familiar with industry specifics.

Please send resume to wmsps@aol.com

HELP WANTED

Ocean Resorts Golf Club

is now accepting applications for

Part Time Seasonal Clubhouse and Grounds Maintenance positions. Flexible hours. Golfing privileges included.

Applicants must apply in person at

Ocean Resorts Golf Club, 10655 Cathell Rd., Berlin, MD.
Telephone inquiries will not be accepted

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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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Please send resume and cover letter by

March 17, 2021 to Bart Dorsch,

13070 St. Martin's Neck Bishopville, MD 21813, e-mail bart.dorsch@maryland.gov or fax to 410-352-3369.

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