



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GEARED UP

Berlin Fire Chief R.J. Rhode reviews the array of protective gear first responders employ to save lives during an extensive facilities tour for town officials on Monday.

Officials get inside look at fire co.

New council members get facility tour, update on why service costs what it does

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) Berlin Fire Company leadership provided recently elected town officials an in-depth facility tour, including an overview of equipment and staffing needs, at op-

eration headquarters at 214 North Main Street on Monday evening.

In addition to Mayor Zack Tyndall, also participating were council members Jack Orris, Jay Knerr and Shaneka Nichols, as well as Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

Fire Chief R.J. Rhode and President Dave Fitzgerald conducted the session, which started at the conference center and administrative offices located in the old library

building at 220 North Main Street.

Fitzgerald said the conference center includes an ample-sized meeting room that also provides workspace for members or town officials.

"The previous room was a catch-all," he said. "You had to walk through to get to our communication room."

The company opened its headquarters building in 1965, and about

See COUNCIL Page 3

Preparations underway for referendum

Vote will decide whether to restrict board spending

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Saturday began to prepare for the referendum that will ask association members later this spring whether the board's spending authority should be limited to \$1 million or less without voter approval.

The limited attendance public hearing at the Ocean Pines Community Center followed a ruling last fall by the Worcester County Circuit Court in favor of former-director Slobodan Trendic's lawsuit against the association.

Trendic took the association to court over a previously rejected petition drive requesting the board seek membership approval for capital expenditures costing more than \$1 million.

Speaking on Saturday, Trendic said all 880 Ocean Pines residents who signed the petition felt the issue carried weight.

"The petition is a very important vehicle to the membership," he said.

The proposal would limit capital expenditure spending to \$1 million without a referendum.

The current spending threshold without a referendum is 20 percent of

See PLANS Page 6

Easter events abound throughout Worcester

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) Easter and springtime celebrations are slated for numerous locations in Worcester County on Saturday, including Ocean Pines, Berlin, Ocean City, and Furnace Town in Snow Hill.

Ocean Pines

Twin Easter festivities are on tap at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines, including three rounds of covid-adjusted egg hunts.

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. with pre-registration required for the limited participation events.

Participant counts are restricted to 100 people for each hunt.

See EASTER Page 4



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Council members told cost to outfit single firefighter

Continued from Page 1

two years ago the Main Street site was renovated with roofing and HVAC systems replaced, along with updating the previous glass front façade, Fitzgerald said.

“It leaked and was energy inefficient,” he said.

Berlin Fire leadership also offered an overview of equipment needs for first responders.

Besides fire-resistant boots, pants and jackets, Rhode said emergency responders are also issued task-specific hand protection.

“We have gloves for structural fire-fighting,” he said. “We have gloves for rescue work [or] dealing with rope or sharp metal.”

Rhode said other required gear for fire protection includes helmets and flashlights.

“Every member is issued the proper tools to keep safe,” he said.

To control overhead costs, in addition to purchasing gear to combat structural blazes, the fire company has also acquired equipment for other responses, such as rescue operations or wild land fires.

“For things that we do when the fire’s actually out,” he said. “It’s lighter and nicer.”

Rhode said non-structural response gear has proven advantageous for older volunteers who carry weighty air packs.

“It’s a huge difference in weight and cost,” he said.

Rhode estimated the cost at roughly \$3,500 to outfit a responder for internal fire calls, compared to around \$1,500 for the lighter gear.

“It’s a little less than half the cost of a structural set of gear,” he said.

Besides financial demands, Fitzgerald said the largest challenge continues to be recruiting, training and retaining volunteers.

“The training is the biggest deterrent for members,” he said.

To exacerbate staffing issues, volunteers are also required to earn points through participating in fundraisers and attending meetings.

“We do have some requirements to keep your active membership status,” he said.

On average, new fire company members are required to complete 400 hours of various training courses.

“It’s a big commitment,” he said. “Once you get through that training process [it] doesn’t stop [and] we try to make ourselves better by taking additional classes.”

Fitzgerald also noted that attracting younger residents to become fire cadets has not always resulted in success in building the ranks.

“We take them in with open arms

See FIRE Page 8

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Easter events throughout county

Continued from Page 1

Ocean Pines Recreation is sponsoring the shindig, which will be devoid of typical Easter games and crafts, and will utilize the entirety of the White Horse Park campus.

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

Additional festivities at White Horse Park on Saturday include the “Easter Market Celebration” at the weekly the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market that runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Market Manager David Bean said shoppers should anticipate a number of youth-focused offerings, along with an array of baked goods and farm-fresh produce that shoppers have come to expect.

The Poddar Brothers will be on hand Saturday to twist balloons into a variety of lifelike forms.

“Watch as these young gentleman twist and turn balloons into fun animal shapes,” he said.

Just in time for warmer weather, Snyder’s Produce & Beautiful Things will be on hand retailing Easter-themed flowers and hanging planters.

Berlin
Berlin is hosting its “Spring Cele-



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Youngsters race to find Easter eggs during Berlin’s 2019 Spring Celebration, which was canceled last year but resumes in limited capacity along with an array of other holiday events throughout Worcester on Saturday.

bration of Hope from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, which includes a Bunny Trail Meet & Greet.

The rain-or-shine event, which is a scaled back, safety-focused version of Berlin’s annual spring celebration, is being produced by the town in conjunction with the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

Modified for health-safety restrictions, the event this year will feature an all-day Easter Egg Hunt, with


ample counts of treat-filled colorful plastic eggs hidden in front of Berlin businesses.

Eggs will be replenished throughout the day until supplies run out.


Berlin is also holding an Easter Bunny tour of local businesses between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with craft and goody bags supplied by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling and Dolle’s Candyland.

See OCEAN Page 8

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OPA explains why bulkhead work now more expensive

(April 1, 2021) In response to recent resident questions about bulkheads, the Ocean Pines Association issued a statement this week to clarify the situation.

According to General Manager John Viola, recent increases in the annual assessment for Ocean Pines waterfront lots are because of the higher cost of materials and labor, a new staging area, and an effort to address prior bulkhead funding levels.

Waterfront lots in Ocean Pines historically have been assessed a fee, in addition to the base assessment, to replace and maintain the community's bulkheads, according to Director of Public Works Eddie Wells. Bulkheads are located on individually owned lots as well as on property owned and maintained by the association.

In total, Ocean Pines maintains just under 98,000 linear feet of bulkheads.

"It takes about 30 years to do all of the bulkheads if we do 3,000 linear feet a year," Viola said, meaning the association has replaced all bulkheads at least once since the community was developed.

Bulkhead replacement is completed in four-year increments, which includes time needed to obtain permits required by the state, the county and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before work can begin. The association is currently finishing the second year of a four-year permitted plan, said Nobie Violante, who leads the bulkhead program for Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines has also been proactive in making sure that replaced bulkheads last as long as possible.

"Some of the steps that the Association has taken to extend the life of the bulkheads is to use vinyl instead of wood. This will add 10-20 years of life expectancy to the bulkheads and takes care of the issues we have had with worm damage in some areas," Violante said.

The cost to replace a bulkhead has increased drastically over the last 10 years due to an increase in labor and materials, Wells said.

"The state has made it harder to work in the waters of the bay, which requires more work from the association and the contractor," he said. Fees for required permits have also increased.

The biggest reason for the increase in assessments for waterfront lots, however, has been in the cost of materials.

"The cost per linear foot in 2013 was \$220. That increased to \$355 last year. This year the price went up to \$365. The Association signed a contract early in the process to hold that price. If we hadn't done that, we could have been paying as much as \$450 per linear foot by 2022," Viola said.

Assessment increases are given careful consideration, Wells said. "I know that times are tight with everyone, especially over the past year."

However, Wells said that those increases are far below what the average property owner would pay to replace bulkheads at their own expense. He also pointed out that some sections in Ocean Pines are already responsible for maintaining and repairing their bulkheads.

"The average waterfront lot in Ocean Pines is 60-80 feet of bulkhead. When they fail or need to be repaired, it could cost the resident \$30,00-\$40,000 to replace out of their pocket," he said.

Although the association works to control costs, increases will most likely be unavoidable, Wells said. "We're working to keep the price as low as possible, but market costs are beyond our control."

Based upon prior years' funding history, Ocean Pines is working to cover current and future bulkhead maintenance and replacement costs, Viola said. The bulkhead program

See OPA Page 8

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Plans made for spending limit referendum

Continued from Page 1

the income derived from annual charges, or about \$1.8 million based on collections during fiscal year 2020-2021.

Trendic said if approved by a majority of homeowners, the referendum question would require amending related association bylaws.

“This is simply having the membership instill oversight over how our money is being spent if it’s over a million dollars,” he said. “It doesn’t mean we don’t trust the board.”

In Trendic’s view, the issue boils down to assuring financial transparency for high-dollar projects.

“We want to know what will be spent,” he said.

Trendic resigned from the board in April 2019 after abstaining from a vote in to renovate the police and administration building, as well as construct a new golf clubhouse, which combined cost more than \$3 million.

Trendic sued in November 2019

after the board rejected a membership petition to amend OPA bylaws to include the \$1 million cap for unauthorized spending.

Ocean Pines President Larry Perrone said the board already operates under a spending cap established at 20 percent of annual assessment collections, which is currently nearing \$2 million.

“This referendum would lock that number into \$1 million,” he said.

Perrone said the present percentage rate outlined in the bylaws was enacted in 2008.

“The percentage of assessment dollars takes into account the inflated costs as we move forward,” he said.

OPA Treasurer Doug Parks said the percentage approach takes into consideration the time and value of monetary assets.

“It allows us to make sure that as things change in the economy we can address and adjust as necessary,” he said.

OPA Attorney Jeremy Tucker said the proposal would require membership approval for any projects costing beyond the million-dollar mark.

“This is not creating a limit where there was no limit,” he said. “This is reducing and fixing the limit.”

Tucker said proposed amendment language does not include exceptions for additions, alterations of improvements costing beyond \$1 million.

Pointing to current bulkhead repairs, Perrone questioned the impact of enacting the lower spending limit.

“It will be over \$1 million every year, or more as we move forward, unless we don’t do it,” he said. “Those expenditures would require a referendum every year.”

Highlighting the importance of transparency, Perrone also quashed any suggestion the board could shift bulkhead spending among multiple contracts to cut bottom-line totals.

“That’s exactly what we’re trying to avoid here,” he said. “Breaking up costs just to fit it under our referendum dollar.”

Parks concurred that adopting the piecemeal approach for bulkhead repair costs would be problematic.

“We would be scrutinized,” he said.

Parks said the current percentage-based spending limit affords the association flexibility with contractors to lock in labor rates and material charges.

“There’s a benefit in allowing us to create a contract with the vendor in order to protect those costs,” he said.

Trendic said the board is responsible for over-

sight of all Ocean Pines assets and infrastructure.

“We have over 66 miles of roads and we have over 100,000 linear feet of bulkheads,” he said. “Clearly ... very important critical infrastructure[s] to the membership.”

Trendic said association bylaws provide flexibility for board spending tied to bulkheads or road repairs.

“You can do it in phases,” he said.

Trendic said if a referendum vote for bulkhead or other recurring expenses was needed in subsequent years, the estimated cost of \$30,000 could be offset significantly.

“It could be done at the same time as our annual elections,” he said. “The savings would be tremendous and the bylaws allow us to do that.”

Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee member John O’Connor said the proposed spending limit would not significantly restrict the board.

“Should anything come along that costs more than a million dollars, come ask us if it’s OK to do it,” he said. “So you could have the majority of the residents as opposed to four members of the board making decisions over \$1 million.”

Perrone said other corrective measures exist if residents take issue with future financial commitments by the board.

“The biggest oversight ... if the community thinks the board is improperly spending their money, is to vote those individuals off the board,” he said. “That is the ultimate oversight.”

The OPA is scheduled to mail homeowners referendum ballots and a position statement from Trendic and the board by April 8.

Ballots are due by May 13 and will be tallied by the Elections Committee on May 14.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Former Ocean Pines Board member Slobodan Trendic argues in favor of a referendum to revise unauthorized spending limits during a public hearing on Saturday.

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Ocean City, Furnace Town set Easter events

Continued from Page 4

Youngsters will be instructed to adopt social distancing practices, measured by Bunny Paw Prints painted on sidewalks, with about 20 children welcome to join in at each Bunny Trail stop.

Bunny Trail stops occur roughly every half hour all over downtown, with sponsors including: Worcester Youth and Family Counseling, Dolle's Candyland, On What Grounds, Bayside Gazette, Berlin Food Lion, Stevenson's United Methodist Church, Ashton Welding, Berlin Auto Wash and Berlin Auto Service.

An adult must accompany children with facemasks required and social distancing encouraged.

Ocean City

Ocean City Recreation & Parks Easter Egg Hunt will take place out-

doors on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Northside Park ball field on 125th Street.

Advanced registration was required for the limited participation old-fashioned Easter egg hunt intended for families with kids ages 2-10.

Facemasks are required for anyone above six years of age.

Besides Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt at Northside Park, Ocean City is also sponsoring an Easter Bunny Scavenger Hunt that launched on March 29 and concludes April 3.

In total, the Easter Bunny will hide 13 letters around the resort that spell a secret word that will unlock a special prize. Collect all 13 letters and unscramble the word for your chance to win a prize. The location to each let-

ter can be found at <https://ococean.com/events/easter-egg-hunt2021>.

Letters will be displayed in the window of each location from March 29th – April 3rd. After ascertaining the secret word, visit the Easter Bunny and share the secret word to earn a prize on April 3rd at Northside Park's drive thru Easter Bunny Station between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. The first 30 families to come to Northside Park's drive thru Easter Bunny station on April 3rd with the correct code gets a special prize! To learn more, visit: <https://ococean.com/events/easter-egg-hunt2021> or call 410-250-0125.

Furnace Town

The Furnace Town Historic Site, which is located near Snow Hill at

3816 Old Furnace Town Road, kicks off its 2021 season on April 1, with 200 treat-filled Easter eggs hidden on the grounds for children to seek and find during the day on Saturday.

Lemonade and cookies will be served on April 3 to celebrate Furnace Town opening for the season, with regular hours of operation from Thursday - Sunday, between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Building tours and nature trails are open for exploring, with adult admission charges dropped to \$4 on Saturday and children under 10 admitted for free.

Covid-19 considerations dictate that all visitors practice social distancing and wear a mask. For further information. Contact Furnace Town at 410-632-2932.



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Fire co. looks at fundraiser options

Continued from Page 3

because we need all the help we can get," he said.

Fitzgerald said the initial welcome often turns bittersweet as many individuals later opt to leave the area or join other fire units.

The mayor and council members also reviewed large equipment assets, including 75- and 100-foot ladder trucks, a 4,500-gallon tanker and a heavy rescue decommissioned military vehicle.

Rhode said the military surplus truck was received with only one string attached.

"The only stipulation is that we have to return it if we're not using it," he said.

Not long after accepting the camouflaged truck, the military-grade gear came in handy to lend aid following a severe rainstorm that dumped more than a foot of precipitation in a few hours time.

"It actually sank a fire truck," he said. "It provides clearance to reach areas otherwise inaccessible."

Fitzgerald said the fire company was dealt an additional challenge last July after Berlin budget cuts reduced head counts for 24-hour staffing from four to three.

"Municipal companies need four people to keep 24-hour coverage," he said.

In terms of fiscal matters, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood ques-

tioned recent fire company fundraising campaigns, noting other area agencies have reportedly raked in larger sums to support operations.

While professing a lack of knowledge regarding other fire departments returns, Fitzgerald attributed the recently subpar sums to outside forces.

"Our past casino night was killed by Ocean Downs," he said.

Fitzgerald said fire company officials are continuing to develop fresh approaches to bring in donations.

Tyndall said the town is open to all suggestions for engaging the community for financial backing.

"We're here to help," he said. "We want to be good partners."

OPA tries to rein in bulkhead costs

Continued from Page 5

was addressed during the public budget review process with the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and the board of directors, in accordance with the Association's

governing documents.

"We've been proactive in controlling costs. In addition to signing contracts earlier in the replacement process to lock in lower prices, we also entered into an agreement to use

a third-party commercial property as a bulkhead staging area once the Swim and Racquet Club property was no longer feasible for that purpose," Viola said. "The Association tries everything it can to keep costs low."



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Ocean Pines Board digs in for pending projects, repairs

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board agreed to investigate building a handicapped-accessible playground, while also approving maintenance repairs at the Racquet Sports Complex, and offering membership access to recent ethic reports during its March 20 meeting.

President Larry Perrone said board members were emailed the day prior regarding a proposal to expand recreational options for physically challenged children and adults.

“Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks is looking at establishing a handicapped playground ... to help provide ... activities for wheelchair-bound individuals,” he said.

While still in its infancy, Perrone said Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue is conducting preliminary design research for an outdoor facility to accommodate special needs individuals with access for mobility devices.

Perrone also broached the topic with Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting during groundbreaking for the Bainbridge Park drainage project on March 17.

“They had asked me what else were we going to do with Bainbridge Park,” he said.

Perrone acknowledged the site was one area under consideration for a new playground intended for the physically challenged.

“The County Commissioners were very excited and enthused,” he said.

Besides enthusiasm, Perrone said funding insights were also conferred.

“We were encouraged by the commissioners to seek Worcester County and Maryland funding because this will be an expensive project,” he said.

With county officials appearing supportive, Perrone also probed the board for general consensus.

“At this point it’s preliminary but I wanted to get board consensus that we continue to explore the possibility of doing a handicapped playground,” he said.

Director Camilla Rogers asked if data regarding community need would be gathered during the investigative stage.

Perrone said further details are needed but also highlighted seasonal population variations.

“It would benefit handicapped people residing in Ocean Pines and also those who visit on vacation in summer,” he said. “The county itself does not have a facility like this.”

Director Doug Parks concurred with the proposal.

“We should pursue it, especially if other funding sources exist,” he said.

Rogers also voiced support and noted that outside of access to aquatic facilities, Ocean Pines offers few other amenity options for special needs individuals.

The board voted unanimously to continue exploring the proposal.

Looking at current facilities, the board approved a request from General Manager John Viola to spend roughly \$35,000 to repair court cracks at the Racquet Sports Complex.

Viola said Delmar-based Terra Firma was the lowest bidder for resurfacing and striping repairs at several pickleball and tennis courts.

Work scope at courts 1,2,4 and 6 also includes applying color coat to repair areas.

Turning to internal matters, Perrone announced Pines homeowners could now request summarized reports for either of two recent association investigations related to resolution B-08 ethic complaints against sitting directors.

“Those reports are done and they will be available by emailing or coming to the admin office,” he said.

Association members can request a report by emailing Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett at mbennett@oceanpines.org.



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CraZy LadyZ! boutique moves to new location

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) CraZy LadyZ! just keeps growing.

Sixteen years, one expansion and two moves later, the women’s clothing boutique kicked off a week-long celebration today for the grand reopening of its West Ocean City boutique – about one mile east of the old location in the Ocean Gateway Center.

“I’ve always wanted to be in this (retail) space, and it’s all about timing,” said co-owner Jan Patterson. “And the timing was just perfect.”

The new boutique is around 2,400 square feet, Patterson said, an upgrade of only a couple hundred square feet from the old boutique, which closed in November.

But the value is in the location itself, said co-owner Louise Reardon.

Instead of being tucked away behind a Sherwin Williams paint store at its old location, CraZy LadyZ! is only a couple hundred feet off the westbound stretch of Ocean Gateway, easily visible to passersby.

The celebration features events such as an Easter carrot hunt, where patrons can hunt around the boutique for hollow, plastic carrots that contain discounts and gifts, and “Stevie Wonder & Sleevey Wonder” Day, which will showcase attire from the brand of the same name.

Patterson and Reardon have owned CraZy LadyZ! since 2005, but their relationship goes back 35 years to when Patterson was a job recruiter and Reardon was the vice president of a software company that employed Patterson’s services.

Eventually, Reardon left her job to partner up with Patterson in her business.

Owning CraZy LadyZ! came down to being in the right place at the right time. Patterson said she had come to enjoy shopping at a boutique called Crazy Lady in Chincoteague, Virginia. In 2005, she and Reardon bought it and changed the name to CraZy LadyZ!

“We thought it would be so much fun to own a store like this,” Reardon said. “It looked like it’d be really cool. We said to the owner one day, ‘If you ever want to sell it (let us know),’ and she called us.”

Patterson added that the boutique was originally just a hobby.

“We had no intentions of leaving corporate America,” Patterson said.

For three years, Patterson and Reardon ran the boutique in addition to their day jobs. But when the Great Recession hit in 2008, the impact on the job recruiting industry was devastating.

“It was a natural transition (to working in the boutique full time),” Patterson said. “We’ve always been very hands-on

See CRAZY Page 13



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

In addition to women’s clothing, CraZy LadyZ! sells a variety of jewelry and accessories. The boutique is hosting a week-long celebration to mark its grand reopening at a new location, 12319 Ocean Gateway, in West Ocean City. Events include a carrot hunt and “Sleevey Wonder” Day.



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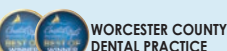
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Berlin Town Council debates timing for setting tax rates

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) In addition to receiving a report from Mayor Zack Tyndall and updates on departmental activities, the Berlin Town Council last Monday mulled procedural steps for setting real property tax rates.

Tyndall said town officials are investigating potential covid-relief funding availability through the American Relief Act.

“We are following that very closely,” he said.

After the town contacted Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Tyndall said all indicators are positive.

“Both of those Senator offices have been very forthcoming with information,” he said. “We’re optimistic on that funding.”

Tyndall also highlighted efforts by Berlin Public Works crews to display the Stars and Stripes on a long-neglected flagpole in Stephen Decatur Park.

“For the longest time, there has not been a Maryland or U.S. flag flying on that,” he said.

Tyndall said further flag-related initiatives are also in the works.

“We’re also trying to work on getting a Town of Berlin flag hanging on government buildings and government properties.

In other business, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said a pre-construction meeting was scheduled March 23 with State Highway officials related to the Maryland Route 376 and U.S Route 113 project.

Fleetwood also previewed a retirement celebration for Public Works Superintendent Dave Wheaton set for March 29.

Lastly, Fleetwood said the council is slated to attend a pre-project meeting on April 3 for the rooftop solar apparatus being installed at the Schoolfield Street electric facility.

Economic Development Director Ivy Wells said the deadline for Berlin businesses to apply for covid grant funding was March 19

“We’ve received more than 40 applications,” she said.

Wells said the review process is underway to ascertain grant status for business applicants.

Public Works Superintendent Jimmy Charles, who officially accepted the reins with the departure of Dave Wheaton in March, said beautification work continues as spring weather creeps into the region.

“This week we’re hoping to attack the parks,” he said.

Charles said the work crews have already spruced up the outside area in front of the Berlin Welcome Center and mulched around parking lots.

Following a roughly two-hour discussion that evening surrounding property tax rates for the next fiscal year, Councilman Jay Knerr expressed frustration.

“It truly seems backwards,” he said.

Knerr proposed a motion for subsequent budget cycles to have the proposed tax rate unveiled at the same point the mayor presents a balanced ledger sheet.

“Then we have plenty of time to review it ... and analyze it,” he said.

Tyndall noted the proposed procedural change would require a different avenue.


“I believe that would require a change to the town charter,” he said.

Knerr suggested the proposed real property tax rate for the pending fiscal year should have been presented during initial budget discussions on March 8.

The current budget schedule was established by resolution in 2019.

Councilman Dean Burrell agreed that a change was in order.

“I’m not satisfied with what happened here this evening,” he said.



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CraZy LadyZ! kicks off celebration

Continued from Page 11
(with running the boutique) and it was impossible to do retail and recruiting at the same time – just impossible to give each part 100 percent.”

The pair ran CraZy LadyZ! in Chincoteague until 2012 before moving the boutique to Ocean View, Delaware. A couple of years before that they expanded to West Ocean City.

Patterson and Reardon pride themselves on the inclusive environment that they cultivate in their boutique. Their clientele is so loyal and dedicated that they don’t see a need to be located in the more touristy areas of Ocean City, Patterson said.

“We have people who come specifically for us from Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C.,” Patterson said. “Our store is not really an ‘Ocean City’ kind of store. We are a resort store offering some really cool, out-of-the-box stuff for the boutique shopper.”

Patterson said she and Reardon are particular about their wares, which she believes is a major selling point to their clientele.

“As a business owner and somebody who is in this community, I care about my customers,” Patterson said. “I can’t sell anything I don’t believe in and don’t like.”

Shirley Moran, who has been patronizing the boutique since its Chincoteague days, concurred.

“The clothes are a very unique and nice quality,” Moran said. “You never see yourself walking down the street. They don’t buy a bunch of tops that look the same. (It seems) they don’t ever keep more than five or six pieces of the same thing in stock

“The people who work there are always so nice and friendly,” Moran con-



Jan Patterson (pictured) has owned CraZy LadyZ! with Louise Reardon since 2005. What was once a tiny boutique with one location in Chincoteague, Virginia, is now a company with storefronts in West Ocean City and Ocean View, Delaware.

tinued. “They come right up to you to ask if they can help you but don’t bother you. Sometimes they make helpful suggestions, and you always get a little refreshment if you want it when you go in.”

Patterson and Reardon employ 14 people — 12 of whom are part-time.

Store manager Lorraine Murphy praised the ambiance that the staff has created.

“It’s upbeat, it’s fun,” Murphy said. “The staff and owners, we’re more like a family than we are a working association.”

The week of festivities kicked off Thursday morning with a ribbon-cut-

ting and blessing of the new location. The Easter carrot hunt on Saturday will be run in conjunction with an Easter egg hunt sponsored by Monogram Furniture, the boutique’s next-door neighbor. CraZy LadyZ! will be closed on Easter Sunday.

The shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information about the store, located at 12319 Ocean Gateway Unit 103, Ocean City, Maryland 21842, call 410-213-2085 or visit <https://crazy-ladyz.com>.

JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Town of Berlin Public Notice



NOTICE
of Public Hearing
Town of Berlin, MD
Board of Zoning Appeals
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
5:30 PM

The Town of Berlin, MD Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD to hear an appeal from Giovanni Pino Tomasello for a Special Exception for a Conditional Use at 15 Harrison Avenue to hold outdoor events for up to 60 guests, temporary tents, and temporary mobile restrooms at the Bed and Breakfast facility formerly known as the Waystead Inn.

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Committee seeks geese solutions

Ocean Pines environmental group continues research to reign in feathered fowls

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) Fresh approaches and continuing efforts to control geese populations at the ponds in Ocean Pines dominated discussions at the Environmental & Natural Assets Committee meeting last Wednesday.



Ken Wolfe

Committee Chairman Ken Wolf said data from several rounds of water tests performed late last year at three ponds in North and South Gate were reviewed.

Board of directors liaison to the committee Tom Janasek said test results revealed the highest concentration of geese feces was found at the northern North Gate Pond.

“It’s obviously not safe for swimming ... based on the bacteria that’s growing in there because it’s a pond,” he said.

With assistance from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, DNA testing and sequencing were used to distinguish species sources, Wolf said.

Janasek said data also indicated a spike in dog feces near parking areas at the South Gate Pond.

“There was no goose feces found but there was a lot of dog feces found,” he said.

Still digging in for new approaches to control geese populations at the ponds, Wolf said the committee is looking into a special turf grass deployed to deter wildlife.

“We’re at the investigative stage,” he said.

FlightTurf, which was invented by Christina Kobland nearly a decade ago, has proven effective at discouraging fowl from congregating near airport runway fields.

“The stuff doesn’t taste good,” he said. “They don’t want to stay there because it’s a bitter taste.”

FlightTurf is currently used at numerous airports across the country, including Baltimore-Washington International and San Francisco International.

The turf vegetation management system, which requires minimal mowing, has more recently been marketed as LymeX grass seed for roadside, commercial or residential applications.

“If this would work it would take care of everything,” he said.

In terms of next steps, Wolf said the committee intends to contact

Kobland to learn the specifics.

If further research indicates the method could be suitable, the committee hopes to gain approval for a project in the future.

“We need to figure out the size and scope,” he said.

If the approach appears to be suitable, the committee would seek approval from the board of directors for General Manager John Viola and Public Works crews to conduct a feasibility study.

“We wanted any grasses or shrubs to develop as an impediment to geese,” he said. “They worry about predators if they can’t see everything happening when they step out of the water.”

Reviving natural growth around the South Gate Pond, however, spurred complaints from residents.

“We tried to do things in the past, and we did have it grow up, but there was an objection in the community that this doesn’t look good,” he said.

Wolf said either avenue to deter geese from waddling onto land is preferable to euthanizing wildlife as was pursued in 2018.

“At some point it will come to that,” he said. “The geese problem is an 800-pound gorilla [and] it’s never going away until you have a solution.”

Pines Strategic Planning begins plotting direction

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) The recently reformed Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee is beginning to plot long-term objectives with hopes of engaging community members in the near future.

Co-Chairman Bernie McGorry, who shares committee leadership with Moe Delcher, said the group has met twice in recent months.

“We’re just starting to get our legs,” he said.

McGorry said the committee is scheduled to convene on the fourth Thursday of each month.

“The goal is to look beyond one year,” he said. “What’s the long-range plan for Ocean Pines?”

Working with the committee are board of directors liaison Dr. Colette Horn and OPA staff members, including Director of Finance Steve Phillips and Accounting Manager Julia Johnson.

“We have board representation and OPA employee representation,” he said.

McGorry, who has lived in the Pines for more than a dozen years, said the community has continued to

See OP Page 16





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Lower Shore Addiction Awareness contest

United Way sponsors artist competition for students in grades 6-12, due April 23

(April 1, 2021) The United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore is once again hosting the Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Arts Competition.

Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester County students in grades 6 through 12 may submit one piece of fine art in any media including painting, drawing, collage, mixed media, photography, sculpture or video.

Works must have opioid or other drug and/or alcohol addiction awareness as the subject matter. An emphasis on hope for/maintaining recovery is encouraged.

Submissions must be no larger than 28 x 28 inches and weigh no more than 10 pounds. Video submissions must be provided on a USB.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places winners in middle and high school categories in each of the four counties.

New this year will be a Best in Show, a top prize across all grades and counties.

Entries are due by 5 p.m. on April 23, and should be delivered to the United Way at 803 N. Salisbury Blvd., Suite 2100, Salisbury.

Each piece must be accompanied

by a completed entry and release form which can be found, along with the full list of rules, at www.uwles.org/art.

This competition is made possible by support from the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center and the Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, and Dorchester County health departments.

Submissions from the 2020 competition can be seen online at www.uwles.org/art and are available for display at community events. Those interested in hosting the 2020 display, or for questions about the 2021 competition, contact Claire Ot-

terbein at Claire@uwles.org or call 410-742-5143.

United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore has been serving all communities in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties for over 75 years.

United Way helps Lower Shore residents obtain educational success by reducing the achievement gap between low- and middle-income students; financial stability by advancing the economic security of families and individuals; and good health by improving access to and awareness of local health and wellness services.

United Way collaborates with organizations and stakeholders to strengthen the community and provides support for about 80 programs and community initiatives annually, impacting one in every three individuals on the Lower Shore.

UWLES is also the volunteer center for the Lower Shore, connecting over 140 nonprofits with thousands of community members who want to get involved. For more information on United Way, visit www.uwles.org, www.ShoreGetConnected.org, or on Facebook @uwles and Instagram @unitedwayles.

OP Strategic Planning underway

Continued from Page 14

evolve over its five-decade history.

“The company that planned this community had a great vision,” he said. “It’s just phenomenal what they created.”

Of critical importance is charting a path forward to continue pushing Ocean Pines into the future.

“Where do we want to go in the next five to 10 years?” he said.

In terms of first steps, the committee is looking to analyze comparable communities in Maryland and

Delaware.

“One of the things we’re working on right now is benchmarking against other best-in-class communities,” he said. “I think we’ll find we do a lot of things well.”

Taking the communities’ pulse is also vital for planning efforts, McGorry said.

“Involving the homeowners in the process is going to be critical,” he said.

After the committee becomes further established, the goal is surveying residents for insights and sugges-

tions.

“I’m excited about helping out to do it,” he said. “I think it’s going to make a significant difference for budgeting discussions.”

McGorry said the committee, which currently has eight members, has one remaining opening.

“If you’d like to join submit your application,” he said.

To submit an application to join the committee Pines residents should email Michelle Bennett at mbennett@oceanpines.org.

TIER 1 DEIS PUBLIC HEARINGS

CHESAPEAKE
BAY CROSSING STUDY
TIER 1 NEPA

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) invite all interested parties to join us at our Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Bay Crossing Study Public Hearings. Originally scheduled for December, release of the DEIS was delayed due to concerns with rising state COVID-19 rates and associated restrictions. In following public health guidance and to ensure adequate opportunity for the public to comment, MDTA and its federal partners at the FHWA updated the roll-out schedule. The purpose of the Bay Crossing Study is to consider corridors for providing additional capacity and access across the Chesapeake Bay in order to improve mobility, travel reliability, and safety at the existing Bay Bridge. The Public Hearings will be made up of two components – a **Public Hearing Virtual Information Room (VIR)** and **Live Testimony Sessions**. The live testimony will consist of four call-in sessions, with two in-person opportunities also available. Each testimony session will include the opportunity to provide public and one-on-one testimony. There will be no formal presentation during the testimony sessions, and no responses to questions will be given. *Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis and MDTA’s commitment to protect the public and agency members, the public is encouraged to provide public testimony through the call-in sessions.*

Those who wish to provide public testimony will need to pre-register in advance via baycrossingstudy.com or via telephone at 877-249-8370. Those who wish to give one-on-one testimony can call 855-640-0504 at any point during the scheduled testimony sessions. Members of the public will have three minutes per person to give testimony. Please sign up only once to provide public oral testimony. Each testimony session will follow the same format and will be broadcast on-line at baycrossingstudy.com or via telephone at 855-640-0504. Those who wish to listen live and/or leave your testimony by voicemail during the testimony session, call 855-640-0504.



Public Hearing Virtual Information Room (VIR) Begins February 23, 2021

Beginning February 23, 2021 the DEIS and public hearing materials will be available for review in the VIR at baycrossingstudy.com. The public is encouraged to review these materials and provide comment. If you are unable to access the DEIS via the website or if additional assistance is required, please call 877-249-8370 or email the project team at info@baycrossingstudy.com.

In the VIR, attendees will have the opportunity to:

- review information on the Tier 1 DEIS and the MDTA-Recommended Preferred Corridor Alternative
- register to give public testimony
- learn how to submit and provide written comments



Live Testimony Sessions Begin April 14, 2021



CALL-IN TESTIMONY SESSIONS
1:00 - 3:00 PM AND 6:00 - 8:00 PM
APRIL 14 AND 15

IN-PERSON TESTIMONY SESSIONS
6:00 - 8:00 PM

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Annapolis, MD 21401

APRIL 22
Kent Island American
Legion Hall
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Stevensville, MD 21666

To encourage social distancing, display boards will be available online only. Social distancing protocols will be strictly enforced, including required face coverings, hand sanitizing stations, and limiting capacity in the hearing room to only those that are providing testimony.

Comments may be submitted during the comment period through May 10, 2021 via mail, email, project website, public testimony, and one-on-one testimony. All comments received, whether at the hearing through oral testimony or through other methods (project website, email, and mail), will be given equal consideration.



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Teacher of the Year awarded to Worcester Tech instructor

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) To win a Teacher of the Year award in any year is significant. But to win it after a year when little of the traditional learning experience applied is a distinguished honor.

Such was the experience for Worcester Technical High School instructor Aarti Sangwan, who earned the Worcester County Teacher of the Year Award during a virtual ceremony on March 26.

This was the second year that the covid-19 pandemic has prevented an in-person gathering for the annual event, typically held in Ocean City.

"It's very exciting (to win this award)," Sangwan said. "I'm a very proud employee of the Worcester County Public Schools system and I'm looking forward to representing our county at the state level."

By winning the award, Sangwan is automatically nominated along with the other county- and Baltimore City-level Teachers of the Year for the state-level award, which will be announced in the fall.

"The county couldn't have chosen a better person to represent all the teachers of Worcester County," Worcester Tech Principal Tom Zimmer said. "(Sangwan) really gives a lot of effort to help her students find success and she is equally as wonderful an individual. Students love her, staff loves her and she's just outstanding. I really believe she has a legitimate shot to win state Teacher of the Year."

A native of India, Sangwan, 41, earned her bachelor's degree in electronics with a minor in physics in 2001. In 2004, she earned her master's degree in computer science from Western Illinois University.

She began her professional career working various jobs in database administration and project-based employment including web design, Oracle programming and database building.

In 2011, Sangwan's family moved to Salisbury after her husband accepted a position at TidalHealth. Around the same time, her children started their elementary education at Westside Intermediate School in Hebron. It was here that Sangwan initially became involved in education.

"I did 4-H Club, I taught programming to children at the elementary level," she said. "The program was very successful ... and I brought that experience to other (Wicomico County) elementary schools."

That work earned Sangwan a Governor's Citation. She enrolled in Salisbury University's Masters of Arts and Teaching program in 2013 and graduated in 2015, the same year she accepted a position at Worcester Tech to teach AP Physics.

While completing her master's program, Sangwan earned a "Teacher of Promise" recognition, which is given to students who demonstrate exemplary work throughout their program.

An aspect of that recognition is that on the night it is awarded, at an event sponsored by the Maryland Department of Education, Teachers of Promise are paired with a Teacher of the Year winner for a year in which the latter serves as a mentor to the former. Sangwan will now have the opportunity to experience this event from the other side when it occurs this fall.

"Even then, I was really motivated and wondered when maybe I'll reach that level of exemplification where I might earn (a Teacher of the Year award)," Sangwan said. "It just makes me nostalgic looking back and thinking about that evening."

Today, Sangwan teaches calculus-based AP physics to seniors, principles of engineering to sophomores and computer science essentials to freshmen.

She is involved in after-school activities such as Science Olympiad, an international platform devoted to im-

See YOU Page 19

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‘You can see her passion through all of it’

Continued from Page 18
proving science-based learning in a competitive environment.

Sangwan has taken Science Olympiad teams, based at Stephen Decatur High School, to compete at the state level at Johns Hopkins University for the last three years. She is also involved with a Science Olympiad program at Stephen Decatur Middle School.

Sangwan is involved in the Girls Coding Club, which promotes female representation in computer science. The project gives girls an opportunity to understand and see computing in a different aspect and enables them to explore the field of computer science, she said.

“I believe scientific literacy gives every individual an understanding and outlook to answer questions around themselves,” Sangwan said. “It makes them a better problem solver.”

Like many teachers, Sangwan has a strong passion for her work. The ability to connect with students and share her passion for her fields of expertise are strong motivators, she said.

“It’s her passion,” said Silviya Gallo, who teaches math, engineering and geographic information systems at Worcester Tech. “She is so passionate about spreading knowledge to young kids that it shines through. She teaches so many subjects and in every one of these different subjects you can see her passion through all of it.”

Md. Basic Boating Safety Course to be held April 6-8

(April 1, 2021) The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a virtual Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, April 6-8.

The Maryland Safe Boating Certificate is required for all boat operators born after July 1, 1972, and is awarded after successful completion of the course.

The class, taught by certified Coast Guard Auxiliary, includes piloting in local waters, tying nautical knots, foul weather tactics, legal issues, updated Maryland regulations, and common marine maintenance.

The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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

Classes will be offered monthly April through November.

Being able to mold students’ curiosity, answering their questions and demonstrating that knowledge of scientific concept and striving to be a better learner can make every individual a better citizen, Sangwan said.

“I love my job and say to my students often that I am the educator I am because I have wonderful students who are in my classroom to learn, take risks, ask questions and create a culture that is conducive to everybody with respect to each other and giving each other the freedom to grow and learn,” Sangwan said.

Though Teacher of the Year is a personal award, Sangwan is amazed at how everyone involved in the institution of learning has created innovative methods to ensure the learning community remained connected and cohesive.



Aarti Sangwan

“Whichever capacity we serve in, whether we’re a student, parent, educator, guidance counselor or bus driver, (the pandemic) pushed everyone into thinking out of the box and coming up with the new policy for

(distance learning),” she said. “That experience will make them a better person in every aspect.”

The other nominees for Worcester County Teacher of the Year were: Caleb Wilson, Stephen Decatur Middle School; Laura Wheeler, Showell Elementary School; Lauren Walker, Pocomoke Elementary School; Nicholas Traud, Snow Hill High School; Jennifer Taylor, Pocomoke High School; Stacey Russell, Cedar Chapel Special School; Melissa Reid, Buckingham Elementary School; Ellen Masters, Berlin Intermediate; Kurt Marx, Stephen Decatur High School; Cara Kurtz, Snow Hill Middle School; Catherine (Kitty) Herr, Ocean City Elementary School; Beverly Hart, Pocomoke Middle School; and Mia Byrd, Snow Hill Elementary School.

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Berlin wins fourth for small town beer scene

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 1, 2021) While not taking top honors, Berlin placed fourth in the 2021 Best Small Town Beer Scene contest that concluded on March 26.

The USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice contest ended with Berlin outpaced by top three finishers: Avondale Estates, Georgia, Maple Shade, New Jersey and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Berlin Economic and Community



Ivy Wells

Development Director Ivy Wells said the contest involved some top-flight communities.

"We were in the company of some amazing towns throughout the country," she said.

Wells said nominees were initially selected through a joint effort by an expert panel and 10Best editors.

"People wanting to nominate us in-

icates ... we belonged in that class," she said.

Contest criteria limited participating municipalities to those with less than 30,000 residents that also exemplified stellar beer scenes.

Wells said Berlin should be proud to finish in fourth place during its first time competing for the title of best small town beer scene.

"To come in the top 5 ... we'll take it," she said.

Notable for fostering suds develop-

ment in Berlin is the Burley Oak Brewing Company that began serving craft selections in 2011.

In addition to Pitt Stop Beer & Wine on Route 113, Berlin beer fans previously embraced the now defunct Fins Ale House & Raw Bar on Main Street.

For nearly a decade Berlin has hosted an Oktoberfest celebration, which has attracted upwards of 5,000 thirst seekers in past years, and highlighted offerings from an array of area brewers.

Taylor Bank announces multiple promotions

(April 1, 2021) Taylor Bank recently announced several promotions.

Sandy Duncan was promoted to vice president.

Duncan began her career with Taylor Bank as bookkeeper. Today, she oversees the Deposit Operations Department as deposit operations manager and serves as deposit administrator for the bank's Core system. She has been employed by the bank for over 40 years.



Sandy Duncan

Kathy Allam was promoted to vice president.

Allam joined Taylor Bank in 2008. She began in branch operations, later completed the management trainee program, and then was promoted to manage the IT and Electronic Services Department.

In 2019, she was promoted to director of IT and Security. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems Management from Salisbury University.



Kathy Allam

Carl Vandivier was promoted to assistant vice president.

Vandivier joined Taylor Bank in 1999. During his career with the Bank, he has served in various support roles in the back office.

In 2008, he was promoted to information systems administrator. Vandivier earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, with a concentration in IT, from Salisbury University.

Margaret Mudron was promoted to branch administration assistant.



Carl Vandivier

Mudron began her employment with Taylor Bank as a summer teller at the East Berlin location.

During her career she has served in various branch leadership roles, including the opening of the Bank's Ocean View, Delaware, office in 1998, and most recently as assistant vice president, branch manager of the North Ocean City/Fenwick branch.

After over 40 years of experience, Mudron is transitioning to the operations side of the bank. In her new role, she will be responsible for branch reporting and statistics.

Mudron is an active volunteer in the local community and serves as treasurer of the Berlin-Ocean City Rotary Club.

Debbie Rickards was promoted to manager of the North Ocean

See LOCAL Page 21



Margaret Mudron

Turning 65 in 2021?

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Pines Chamber sponsors annual flounder contest

(April 1, 2021) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce has announced its 14th annual Flounder Tournament and Auction will take place on Saturday, Aug. 7. The Ocean Pines Association and Gateway Subaru are the main sponsors this year.

The tournament will have larger cash prizes and calcuttas, according to the chamber. Participants must be registered by noon, Friday, Aug. 6. Weigh-in will take place at the Ocean Pines Marina and Yacht Club. Sponsorships are available.

All information and registration can be found at <https://business.oceanpineschamber.org/events/details/14th-annual-flounder-tournament-12667>, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email info@oceanpineschamber.org.

Local financial institution unveils slate of staff moves

Continued from Page 20
City/Fenwick Branch.

Rickards joined Taylor Bank in February of 2018 as a customer service associate. In September of 2018, she was promoted to operations supervisor of the Mid-Ocean City Branch.



Debbie Rickards

Rickards has over 30 years of community bank experience. She is a graduate from Delaware Technical Community College where she studied Business Administration and Banking.

An active member of the local community, she serves the Ladies Auxiliary in Selbyville, Delaware.

Holly Hogan was promoted to business services officer.

Hogan joined Taylor Bank in 2019 as senior electronic services representative.



Holly Hogan

This year, under her leadership, the Bank has successfully launched its new, improved credit card processing program with BASYS Processing. Hogan has 20 years of indus-

try experience, specializing in business solutions and relationships.

Tori Grundman was promoted to marketing director.

Grundman joined Taylor Bank in 2012 as a customer service associate.



Tori Grundman

In 2016, she was promoted to electronic services representative. In 2017, she was promoted to marketing manager.

Grundman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Southern New Hampshire University. She holds the Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) designation with the American Bankers Association.

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Fourteen Worcester Preparatory School students earned finalist status in the Young Authors Contest for short story or poetry.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WPS finalists announced in authors contest

(April 1, 2021) The Eastern Shore Literacy Association announced that 14 Worcester Preparatory School students earned finalist status in the Young Authors Contest for short story or poetry. Each finalist finished in the top three of their respective category/grade level. Worcester Prep students who placed first through third are:

- Grade 1: Poetry, first, Charlize Damouni (Lewes); Short Story, second, Isabella Brueckner (Ocean City)
- Grade 2: Poetry, first, Serena Jaoude (Lewes); Short Story, third, Madelyn Bobenko (Berlin)
- Grade 3: Poetry, first, Lea Jaoude (Lewes)
- Grade 5: Poetry, third, Ellie Phillips (Ocean City); Short Story, first, Ryan

- Shipp (Rehoboth Beach); third, Rani Yonker (Berlin)
- Grade 6: Poetry, second, Gabriella Damouni (Lewes); Short Story, second, Mia Jaoude (Lewes)
- Grade 7: Short Story, third, Jude Damouni (Lewes)
- Grade 8: Short Story, second, Landon Schul (Ocean City)
- Grade 9: Poetry, second, Sara Freih (Rehoboth Beach); third, Madi Nechay (Hebron).

OP Chamber sponsors Open Air Community Expo May 1

(April 1, 2021) Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual Open Air Community Expo on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., socially distancing at White Horse Park. Rain date is Saturday, May 8. More than 50 local businesses and community agencies will be on hand, including health care, education, home services, retail and nonprofits. There is no cost to attend. Exhibitor fees are: Chamber partners pay \$175 for one exhibition space with 8-foot table; \$200 for non-chamber businesses and non-

profits and government agencies \$75. Reserve an exhibitor space at <https://business.oceanpineschamber.org/events/details/2021-community-expo-12674>. For more information and to register, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email info@oceanpineschamber.org. The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit corporation comprised of area businesses organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

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Ocean Pines holds free clinics in April for Timeless Tennis

(April 1, 2021) Timeless Tennis clinics, open to beginners and seasoned players, will take place at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on the platform tennis courts in April.

The small platform courts are fenced in, and the low compression balls bounce lower than regulation tennis balls, so there is more time to get to the ball to make a shot.

Free clinics are scheduled for Thursday, April 8 and April 15 at 6:30 p.m., and Friday, April 9 and April 16 at 1 p.m. Training and equipment provided.

To register, email timelesstenisop@gmail.com, call 302-270-8118, or visit Timeless Tennis OP on Facebook.

Timeless Tennis clinics for all ages and skill levels will be available Thursday, April 8 and April 15 at 6:30 p.m., and Friday, April 9 and April 16 at 1 p.m.

Several Worcester winners in young authors' contest

(April 1, 2021) Eleven Lower Eastern Shore students have earned state-level recognition in the Maryland Literacy Association (SoMLA) Young Authors' Contest.

The annual contest is comprised of students submitting original poetry and short stories in grades 1-12, where they compete at a local level in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Top place winners in each grade level and category advance to the state competition.

"We are extremely pleased with the success of this year's local winners who were selected to participate in the state-level competition," Brian Cook, co-chairperson of the Young Authors' Contest hosted by the East-See SHORE Page 24

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SOCIAL WORKERS HONORED

The Worcester County Commissioners present a proclamation on March 2 recognizing March as Professional Social Work Month to, from left, Sandy Kerrigan and Mike Trader of the health department, and Adult Services Supervisor Monica Martin and Tammy Jones, acting assistant director of services for the Department of Social Services, to honor social workers for striving to improve lives locally.

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Shore students score top honors in literacy contest

Continued from Page 23

ern Shore Literacy Association, said.

Winners in the local competition are automatically moved onto the state-level competition.

“Each year the number of students earning recognition at the state-level continues to increase,” Cook said.

He attributes the success to the emphasis being placed on writing instruction throughout the schools.

Local winners are:

- Grade 1, Poetry – (first) Charlize Nayla Damouni (Worcester Preparatory), My Hero Behind the Mask
- Grade 3, Short Story – (second) Jeremy Quan (North Salisbury Elementary), In Closet Out
- Grade 4, Short Story – (first) Addison Gibbs (The Salisbury School), The Job Factory
- Grade 6, Poetry – (second) Macy Rae Miles (Somerset Intermediate), Wonder
- Grade 6, Short Story – (first) Chloe Gilchrist (The Salisbury School), Out
- Grade 7, Poetry – (first) Adelaide Hope Dawkins (Stephen Decatur Middle), An Author’s World
- Grade 7, Short Story – (second) Savvy Aralyn Wertz (Snow Hill Middle), The Fight for Peace
- Grade 8, Poetry – (second) Johanna Hallman (Stephen Decatur Middle), Love 14 Year Old Me
- Grade 8, Short Story – (first) Brooke Berquist (Stephen Decatur Middle), Scents of Time
- Grade 11, Short Story – (first) Jake Gillespie (Stephen Decatur High), Superstition
- Grade 12, Short Story – (first) Lydia Woodley (Stephen Decatur High), Requiem For a Bird.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BIKE PATROL
A trio of bike riders cruise down South Main Street in Berlin on March 14 around lunch time.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FLOWER TIME
Beckoning sunflowers and floral wreaths lure in patrons at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market on Saturday.

New classroom social-distancing guidelines

(April 1, 2021) The State of Maryland is adopting new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommending that, with universal masking in place, students should maintain a distance of at least three feet in classroom settings.

“Every single Maryland student must have the opportunity to return to attending school in some form or fashion, and this updated CDC guidance is another step in the right direction,” said Gov. Larry Hogan. “The time has come to give our kids a chance to get back in the classroom, and to open all of the schools.”

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon and Deputy Public Health Secretary Dr. Jinlene Chan issued a letter notifying school systems of the update to the state’s guidance:

“In accordance with the CDC guidance, schools should allow for students, while in the classroom, to maintain three feet distance between each other. This updated guidance is the result of numerous and robust academic studies finding that three feet of distance between students did not significantly impact transmission of covid-19 when compared to the earlier six feet distancing guidance.

Adults should continue to maintain six feet distance from students and other adults.

“This updated guidance and the continued low rate of cases in schools should empower all Maryland schools to bring more students back into the classroom and give students the opportunity to receive in-person instruction more frequently before the end of the school year. In accordance with the CDC guidance, schools should implement phased prevention strategies with an emphasis on prioritizing in-person learning.”

State officials have taken a series of steps to provide substantial funding

and support for school reopenings:

A total of more than \$1.2 billion in federal funding has been made available to school systems. In addition, the governor has submitted a FY22 budget that exceeds statutory funding formulas to ensure that every jurisdiction receives more direct education aid than in the prior year.

The Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education have launched a program to provide up to 1 million covid-19 tests for both public and non-public schools.

Maryland was one of the first states to prioritize teachers, and education staff to receive covid-19 vacci-

nations.

The state has provided school systems with 2 million masks and 200,000 face shields, as well as hand sanitizer, gloves, and gowns.

Epidemiologists from the Maryland Department of Health maintain a dashboard that tracks outbreak-associated cases in schools.

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Opinion

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

Berlin budget process needs to be changed

Berlin Town Council members who say the budget timing is a little off, in terms of announcing the tax rate, have a good point. Declaring the rate before analyzing the expenses is like deciding how much gas to put in the car before taking a trip of undetermined length.

It's admirable that Mayor Zack Tyndall wanted to honor his stable tax rate campaign pledge, but the process as constructed puts the council in the difficult position of being asked to support something without knowing why. They run for office, too, and can't be fond of the idea of trying to explain the inexplicable to their constituents.

The process, as Councilman Jay Knerr observed, is somewhat backwards in terms of government operations, in that it proposes what will be spent without establishing in detail how and where the money will be used.

Were the Town of Berlin to be operated like a household, this process would make perfect sense. A household has no choice but to look at income and then decide what to do, because its sources of income aren't adjustable. Businesses, too, don't have that much revenue-increasing flexibility, and thus must attempt to live within their means.

Governments, however, are in the unique position of being able to save money by raising income in the present to take care of critical needs now rather than later, when the expense is likely to be much greater. These savings don't show up on the ledger, but they do exist, as any financial director will attest.

All this assumes, however, that the officials running government are financially cautious, which, from all appearances, seems to be the case in Berlin.

The better way to budget, as Knerr, Councilman Dean Burrell and others have observed, is for the mayor and council to look at the whole package, from the top to the bottom line at the same time and then make whatever changes are prudent and appropriate.

If that requires a charter change, then that's what the council should do.



"Whether the Referendum passes or not, don't even think about putting a cap on MY spending!"

Letters

Flag represents all Americans

Editor,

June 14 is a date that has always been special for me because of all the memories I have of America's Flag Day.

Our community had a celebration every year with picnics and presentations by troops of boy scouts and girl scouts of all flags associated with the history of our country's founding.

I'm very pleased that the American flag is flown in Ocean Pines at both the North and South gates.

This past week I called to see about getting the one at the South Gate replaced because it is getting to be a bit tattered. Also I wondered why it was being flown at half-staff and was told that President Biden has issued that proclamation.

Any death is horrible and should not be taken lightly and the person responsible for the recent deaths in Georgia is apparently one sick individual.

It seems that the media is more focused on race rather

than looking into other issues surrounding this horrible act of violence such as mental illness and human trafficking to name a few.

There is no evidence that the attack was racially motivated and at this time it seems that the directive of the president to lower American flags is using those flags as political tools to continue the divisiveness in this country.

The American flag stands for all Americans and this is not the time to widen the gap that exists today in individuals beliefs, ideals, and political leanings.

*Madlyn Scott
Ocean Pines*

Questions criticism of north fire station

Editor,

The following responds to Al Keeney's inaccurate characterization of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department North Station.

In contrast to Mr. Al Keeney's highly inaccurate statements about the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment North Station, the North Station is far from a storage unit.

A little background – In the 1970s, the OPVFD stationed a fire engine and an ambulance in two bays attached to the old Community Center.

The purpose was to provide service to the residents in the growing north section of Ocean Pines.

The benefit of providing an engine and volunteers in north Ocean Pines was that the International Standards Organization (ISO) rating provided reduced insurance costs to north Ocean Pines residents.

As the north section grew, the need for services grew which made the Community Center North Station inadequate.

To answer this need, the current North Station was built in 2008. Today, the North Station continues to house first-line firefighting equipment.

Currently, 25 volunteer members operate out of North Station and respond

Continued on Page 27

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Comcast wraps up installing fiber optics for Ocean Pines

(April 1, 2021) Comcast recently announced it has completed construction in Ocean Pines – expanding the company’s advanced fiber-optic network to 8,352 homes.

In addition to Gigabit internet service, residential customers in Ocean Pines will have access to all Xfinity services, including the award-winning Xfinity X1 video platform, Xfinity Home, Xfinity Voice and Xfinity Mobile.

Businesses in the area will be able to select from the full suite of Comcast Business products and services, including Ethernet network speeds up to 100 Gigabits-per-second.

Comcast also will offer Internet Essentials, the nation’s largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program, providing low-cost broadband service, digital literacy training and discounted computers.

“We’re excited to bring Comcast’s products and services to some of our residents,” said Ocean Pines Association Treasurer and former President Doug Parks. “We appreciate Comcast’s commitment and investment in our area.”

“Comcast has built a powerful network with a simple purpose – to keep our customers connected,” said Chris Comer, director, Government & Regulatory Affairs in Comcast’s Beltway Region. “We recognize that technology drives innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth, and we are excited for our investment in Ocean Pines.”



Reid Tingle, right, president and CEO of the Bank of Ocean City, presents a check to Dr. Ray Hoy, president of Wor-Wic Community College, for scholarships for dual enrollment students from Stephen Decatur High School. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Bank of OC pledges \$100K for dual enrollment studies

(April 1, 2021) The Bank of Ocean City recently made a \$100,000 pledge in order to provide \$20,000 each year for the next five years for Stephen Decatur High School students who enroll in approved dual enrollment courses at Wor-Wic Community College.

“It is important for local businesses to invest in the next generation of Worcester County’s workforce,” said Reid Tingle, president and CEO of the Bank of Ocean City. “We believe that education is one of the greatest investments a community can make. By investing in our young people, we’re making an investment in our future.”

Stephen Decatur High School students who are at least 16 years old and starting their junior or senior year in the fall can take advantage of dual enrollment courses at the college. The scholarship funds, which can be used for tuition and fees, will be awarded based on financial need and scholastic achievement.

Anyone interested should see their high school guidance counselor or contact Richard C. Webster, Wor-Wic’s director of early college initiatives, at rwebster@worwic.edu or 410-334-2896.

Letters

Continued from Page 26

to calls for service in Ocean Pines as well as mutual aid communities.

These highly trained volunteers are NFPA, National Proboard, and State of Maryland certified.

As recently as 2020, our ISO agent advised that loss of North Station would likely result in a change in ISO rating which would increase the insurance costs of North Ocean Pines residents.

To reiterate, the OPVFD North Station is a fully operational and active fire house serving our community.

David VanGasbeck, President
Steven Grunewald, Chief
Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Dept.

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Calendar

Thurs., April 1
CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

FURNACE TOWN OPENING
Furnace Town Historic Site, 3816 Old Furnace Road, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Furnace Town Historic Site will open for the 2021 season. Hours of operation will be Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 410-632-2932

MERRY MAKERS - PENDANT NECKLACES
Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Merry Maker's April program uses skins from acrylic pour painting to create pendant necklaces. Ten supply kits available for program participants by calling 410-208-4014. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'THREE SIMPLE LINES' BY NATALIE GOLDBERG
Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Join the group each month for a lively book discussion. Books available on Hoopla (hoopla.digital.com) Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 7:00 PM. Attend in person or for Youtube or Zoom visit bethanyberlin.org/worship online or listen in by phone through Zoom at 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 2181121842, password: 21811 or on FM 93.9 on your radio dial from the church parking lot. bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-2186

MAUNDY/HOLY THURSDAY
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 7:00 PM. Service

with Holy Communion. 410-641-5422, <http://www.ccaop.org>

Fri., April 2

GOOD FRIDAY
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Journey with the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross. Take a journey around the church parking lot in your car to seven stations, each containing one of the words on the cross. Devotional materials provided.
bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-2186

CROSS WALK
Meet outside The Son's Spot on Worcester Street at noon for a short time of ministry, and then proceed down the boardwalk, past the sand sculpture, and end at Atlantic United Methodist Church on 4th Street. The group will walk, carrying a cross, singing songs and having a brief time of ministry at several stops along the way. 410-289-7430

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AND PRAYER VIGIL
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 12:00 PM. Service begins at noon, prayer vigil held from 1-3 p.m. 410-641-5433, <http://www.ccaop.org>

KIDS' EASTER CELEBRATION
Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM. Bring the whole family to enjoy rides and games at the beach, indulge in made-from-scratch foods with a carnival twist. The unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimperrides.com/upcomingevents>

FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENING
Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The Thaler Gallery hosts Points of Juxtaposition featuring the work of six African-American artists from the Eastern Shore. Also featuring Tony Burton, Alexander Gamble,
Continued on Page 31



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Puzzles

MORES
BY JULIAN KWAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Julian Kwan, of Dumont, N.J., is a software test engineer for a telecommunications company. He started solving crosswords in college (University of Pennsylvania, class of 1997). Several years ago, he says, after noticing that all the Times puzzles had bylines, "I figured, Why couldn't one of them be me, right?" This is Julian's fourth published crossword but his first for The Times. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 SAT section eliminated by the College Board in 2021

6 Firth person?

10 Best-selling book of all time

15 Get the attention of

19 Sister-in-law of Prince William

20 Lead-in to pilot

21 Stick on

22 "Goodness gracious!"

23 Nod off at a self-serve restaurant?

26 Jupiter, exempli gratia

27 [Turn the page]

28 Sooner, informally

29 Diamond stat

30 Get down and dirty, in dialect

32 Bovine disease

34 Fancy flooring for an R.V.?

38 Home of Etihad Airways: Abbr.

39 Eyeball creepily

40 Requirement

41 Hoops grp.

44 Like universal blood recipients

48 One layer of a seven-layer dip

50 What the prestigious ice sculptor had?

55 Unable to think clearly

59 Goes nowhere, say

60 Word with holy or heating

61 Grammy-winning singer Cash

63 Certain elite school

64 Appear

65 Back in the U.S.S.?

66 Org. to which Taft was elected president after serving as U.S. president

67 "Yes, that's clear"

69 "Let everyone else get some steak before taking seconds!"

74 Mooches

76 Mate

77 Grand Central info

78 Surreptitious bit of communication

81 "What have we here!"

82 Like many characters in Alison Bechdel cartoons

84 Nintendo release of 2006

85 Show runner

86 2013 Tony winner for Best Revival of a Musical

88 "We should stall!"

91 Long-stemmed mushroom

93 Egyptian god of the afterlife

94 Llama's head?

95 Button clicked to see the rest of an article

97 Not out, say

101 Target of the heckle "What game are you watching?!"

103 Why no one hangs out in actors' dressing rooms these days?

107 Played obnoxiously loudly

111 At 10 or 11 p.m., say

112 Part of lifeguard training

113 Navigation app

115 Lucky charm

116 American ____ (century plant)

117 Bathroom fixture that one never asked for?

122 Their heads get dirty

123 Dirt

124 Typos for exclamation marks if you fail to hit Shift

125 Opposite of neat

126 ____ strategy

127 Fills to the max

128 Set (on)

129 Bathroom-door sign

15 Marvel group led by Hercules

16 ____ monkey

17 Lucky charm

18 Plague

24 "My treat next time!"

25 Cheese sometimes paired with fig jam

31 Subject of the Iran-contra affair

33 Requirements for witnesses

35 Jessica of "L.A.'s Finest"

36 Believer in Jah

37 Book-fair organizer, maybe, in brief

41 Longtime procedural set in Washington, D.C.

42 Foreshadow

43 Pass up?

45 Declare

46 "All in the Family" mother

47 Tissue that's prone to tearing, for short

49 Italian car since 1907

51 Enemy in the game Doom

52 Sticks in a box?

53 Style of women's leather handbags

54 Isaac and Rebekah's firstborn

56 Piece with a title like "10 Best Places to ..."

57 First mate?

58 Recolor

62 Comparatively neat

65 Johnson & Johnson skin-care brand

68 Moniker after a lifestyle change

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
19						20					21						22				
23					24					25							26				
27					28				29						30	31					
32				33			34		35					36	37						
			38						39								40				
41	42	43		44		45	46	47					48	49							
50			51							52	53	54			55			56	57	58	
59						60				61				62				63			
64					65					66				67			68				
		69		70				71	72					73							
74	75							76					77				78		79	80	
81					82			83				84				85					
86				87				88			89				90						
					91			92				93						94			
	95	96						97		98	99	100				101		102			
103						104							105	106		107			108	109	110
111									112				113		114			115			
116						117	118	119					120					121			
122						123							124					125			
126						127							128					129			

- 70 Initial problem for a storied duckling

71 Man's nickname that sounds like consecutive letters of the alphabet

72 "Phooey!"

73 Japanese "energy healing"

74 Bread for dipping

75 Golden ratio symbol

79 Actress Patricia of "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
- 80 Phone, wallet, ____ (traveler's mental checklist)

83 Gaudy jewelry

84 Word in obituaries

85 Eponymous member of the Ford family

87 Most cheerful

89 Fictional establishment selling Duff Beer

90 Option for an overnight guest

92 Campsite org.

95 Antacid brand
- 96 Forms of some mythological sea creatures

98 Turn into

99 Bob hopes?

100 Garment worn with a choli

102 Something Pharaoh's dream foretold in Genesis

103 Make a goat

104 Heavies

105 "Pearls Before ____" (comic strip)

106 Put away
- 108 Sculptor with a dedicated museum in Philadelphia

109 Throw out

110 Showers attention (on)

114 Lemon-bar ingredient

118 Food-service-industry lobby, for short

119 Command to a dog

120 Male swan

121 Slow (down)

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HARD - 1

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

MCS	SAMBA	LEICA	WORM
CHE	ALARM	ANNUM	FIXUP
GRAFF	ITIP	PROOF	BUILDING
ROSIE	SOLO	ISSUED	
AMOR	CELS	OCELO	IRT
WANTS	THREE	BLADER	AZOR
	OHISEE	ARAL	ENEMY
ASP	DEC	SORRY	BISTRO
SPELL	CHECKER	HENCE	
CINDER	RAID	LORDE	JIB
ACES	ELUDE	FORGE	MONA
PER	TTOPS	KLEE	TOOBAD
	RHETT	SNOWBOARDING	
	SPEEDS	STIES	VIA
SPUDS	WAIF	BALLOT	
AUTOMAT	CREDIAL	BREWS	
GNU	USERS	SUCH	TREO
	PERONI	MEAL	CIVIL
ALJAFF	EEO	FMA	DMA
LOOTS	TSARS	AARON	EEL
EBBS	STRAT	MSDOS	WRY

Cuisine

Butter-poached duck breast with jam

There is something just so special about being part of a chef's dinner. For me, it's the camaraderie of getting together with fellow cooks and getting back to our roots. There is also a nice feeling in the challenge of living up to your colleagues and at the end of the night, being proud of what we just accomplished.



It is a great feeling, and one that is only improved when the meal is paired with stellar wines. Of course, no wine has to be egregiously expensive to work well, and that comes with knowledge and experience. Of course, it also comes from learning from your wine reps and guests. I do not pretend to know or understand everything about wine, so I am more than happy to lean on the professionals. They have talked me off the ledge on many an occasion.

Recently, a few of us got together and held a dinner in Berlin. My course was the amuse bouche (pre-starter) and I chose duck as my medium. I love a good duck leg confit and grilled duck breast can be superb. Knowing that I wanted to reach out a little farther, though, I opted for a butter-poached duck breast. This entailed meusing a sous vide immersion circulator, and if you do not have one then I apologize. They are so abundantly available now that you should buy one.

One little caveat, though, and I am guilty of this myself. Sous vide has come a long way, but so many cooks overuse it when it comes to steaks. This technique is phenomenal for super-long cooking times needed on tougher cuts of meat such as lifter steak. But, when it is applied to typically tender cuts, if it is overcooked, it gets a grainy texture to it and for me, that is not what I am looking for.

In this instance, though, I took the duck breast and cooked it at 140F for two hours, long enough to cook it through while leaving it at a perfect medium. A great many chefs like to serve their duck breast medium rare, but as a personal preference, I think that's rather disgusting. While I like a rare steak, I can't stand a truly rare roast. Just like the duck breast, it's gummy and chewy and unfinished, if I had to choose one word.

With that being said, you may cook it however you like. For me, medium is the best texture and it carries the best flavors.

If you are like me and like to entertain (when was the last time most of us have done that at home?), you need to pair the food and wine successfully. Simply put, you either match the wine to the food, or create a dish to go with the wine.

In this particular dinner, we were given a wine with which to pair, and then we created our dish accordingly. Mine was a dry champagne. As duck tends to be a sweeter meat, further sweetened by the berry jam, the dry bubbly was a perfect match.

Pairing food and wine is an exceptionally rewarding task, so don't lose any sleep over it or get overly stressed when designing a menu. If you simply can't get any ideas, go online and research the countless sites out there with everything that you



need to know to become a home-based sommelier. And when all is said and done, you will have the knowledge and prowess to put on one amazing wine dinner.

Butter-poached Duck breast, berry jam, cracklings

serves 4

- 1 ea. Duck breast, with skin
- 1 2-inch sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 1-inch sprig fresh thyme
- 1 garlic clove, smashed
- Juice of 1 orange
- 1/2 c. Whole butter
- Berry jam, as needed (recipe follows)
- Salt & Pepper, to taste

1. Place all ingredients in a plastic bag.
2. Vacuum pack the bag and place in a sous vide bath at 140F and cook for about two hours.
3. Remove and allow to cool until hot enough to handle.
4. Strain any fat and liquid from the bag and chill to solidify the duck fat. This makes it easier to separate later.
5. Keep the duck breast chilled until just before service.
6. Drain the liquid from the duck fat and heat the fat in a small pan.
7. Slice the breast fat into small strips and place

- in the heated fat.
8. Cook on a medium heat, making sure that it does not burn, until they turn a nice golden brown. They will be somewhat tender until they cool down at which time they will become crispy.
 9. When ready to serve, sear the duck breasts on high, and then slowly heat them through so as to maintain that gorgeous medium temperature (yes, I am a bad chef who cannot stand medium rare duck. Sue me).
 10. Slice and serve on some berry jam, a crispy potato or other root vegetable and garnish with the cracklings. Frizzled shallots are also a nice touch here. That is completely up to you

Berry Jam

Makes about 1 pint

- 1 c. Blueberries
 - 1 c. Strawberries, hulled
 - 1/2 c. Red wine vinegar
1. Combine ingredients and cook down slowly until it is at a jammy consistency.
 2. Add sugar if needed and otherwise adjust the flavor to your preference.
 3. Chill until ready to serve.

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 28
Kenneth Jones, Michael J. Morris, Ernest Satchell, Carl Williams, Elvin Hernandez, Brad Hudson, Carol Rides, Mary Ainsworth and the Corporate Partner Juried Group Show. The annual student portion of the Manga/Anime show moves online this year at www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org. All shows will be on display until May 3. 410-524-9433

GOOD FRIDAY 'JESUS' PRODUCTION
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 7:00 PM. Jesus from Sight & Sound Production. 410-641-5433, <http://www.ccaop.org>

Sat., April 3

ANNUAL EASTER MARKET
White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Featuring spring baked goods and farm-fresh produce; potted Easter flowers and hanging baskets; the Poddar Brothers' balloon animals; and country music artist Sarah Campbell, who will perform on the marketplace stage starting at 9 a.m. <http://www.ocean-pines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>

FURNACE TOWN OPENING CELEBRATION
Furnace Town Historic Site, 3816 Old Furnace Road, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Two hundred treat-filled Easter eggs will be hiding on the grounds for children to seek and find during the day. Lemonade and cookies will be served. Also featuring the opening of the The Village Store at Furnace Town. Visitors are invited to tour the buildings and enjoy the nature trails. Admission cost is \$4 for adults and free to those 9 years and younger. 410-632-2932

BERLIN SPRING CELEBRATION OF HOPE
Downtown Berlin, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Featuring an all day Easter egg hunt in downtown Berlin and visits with the Easter Bunny starting at 10 a.m. at Worcester Youth and Family Counseling and continuing along the Main Street Bunny Trail until 4 p.m. For Bunny Meet and Greet locations and times see the Bunny Trail Map printed in the *Bayside Gazette* and *OC Today* newspapers on April 1 and 2 or in participating businesses. The Easter Bunny will be handing out craft and goody bags. Wear your homemade Easter Bonnets and take a selfie at the Berlin Spring Celebration of Hope Selfie display at Artisans Green and then post it on the Berlin Maryland Chamber of Commerce Facebook page before April 5 to enter the competition. Held rain or shine. <https://berlinchamber.org/events/spring-celebration/>

KIDS' EASTER CELEBRATION
Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM. Peter Cottontail welcomes all visitors and will host Easter egg hunts at noon in the Carousel building. The hunt will include golden eggs and the lucky kids who find them will help to commemorate Trimper's opening for the season. Egg

hunts will be divided into three age groups: 1-2 years, 3-5 years and 6-8 years. Socially distant pictures are encouraged. Bring baskets. Unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimper-rides.com/upcomingevents>

DRIVE-THRU FRIED CHICKEN DINNER
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mt. Pleasant Road, 11:00 AM. Menu includes 4-piece fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, apple sauce, roll and cupcake. Cost is \$14. Stay in your car and use the east driveway. 410-835-8340

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., April 4

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
Ocean City Boardwalk at N. Division Street, 6:00 AM. Ministers, musicians and singers from many of Ocean City's Christian churches will participate. A limited number of chairs will be provided. Participants may want to bring a chair or blanket to sit on the beach. 410-289-7430

EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE
Assateague State Park, 6915 Stephen Decatur Highway, 6:30 AM. Sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church. Bring a chair. bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-2186

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road. Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. 410-641-5433, <http://www.ccaop.org>

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 10:00 AM. Attend in person or for Youtube or Zoom at bethanyberlin.org/worship online or listen in by phone through Zoom at 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 2181121842, password: 21811 or at FM 93.9 on your radio dial from the church parking lot. bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-2186

KIDS' EASTER CELEBRATION
Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM. Peter Cottontail welcomes all visitors and will host Easter egg hunts at noon in the Carousel building. The hunt will include golden eggs and the lucky kids who find them will help to commemorate Trimper's opening for the season. Egg hunts will be divided into three age groups: 1-2 years, 3-5 years and 6-8 years. Socially distant pictures are encouraged. Bring baskets. Unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimper-rides.com/upcomingevents>

Mon., April 5

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME 'HOP LIKE A BUNNY'
Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Children, ages 2-5 years, are welcome to join this group for interactive stories celebrating spring. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

KIDS' EASTER CELEBRATION
Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM. Bring the whole family to enjoy rides and games at the beach, indulge in made-from-scratch foods with a carnival twist. The unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimper-rides.com/upcomingevents>

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via conference call, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Dial 978-990-5451, wait for voice command, then press 3753651. Open to the public and meets the first Monday of each month. Discussion and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

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 Campeon, 410-641-0157

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENGLISH AFTERNOON TEA
Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. This talk includes delicious tea menu items; customs and etiquette surrounding afternoon tea; examples of the finest silver and porcelain tea ware; and the rise of public tea rooms and dances. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Tues., April 6

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP
Meeting via video call, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Join the Faith Partnership: A cooperative effort for local Worship Centers and Atlantic General Hospital & Health System to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

MIDDLE SCHOOL ZOOM BOOK CLUB
Meeting via Zoom, 11:00 AM. Join in on the discussion of the book, "Inside Out & Back Again," by Thanhha Lai. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. For ages 12-14 years.

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE
Held virtually from April 6-8, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. The Maryland Safe Boating Certificate is required for all boat operators born after July 1, 1972 and is awarded after successfully completion of the course. Cost is \$20. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807 or CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

DISABILITY 101
Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Matthew Baxter from the Social Security Administration focuses on the process of applying for disability benefits and appealing unfavorable decisions. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

Wed., April 7

LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM: NATIVE LANDSCAPING FOR POLLINATORS
Beginning at noon, co-owners of Inland Bays Garden Center, Cheryl Rehrig and Denise Hoeksma share their focus and commitment to encourage the local community to plant native and noninvasive plants, which drives the business's mission, "Gardening to Make a Difference." RSVP: Taylor Carty, tcarty@lowershore-landtrust.org or 443-234-5587.

DRAW TO THE MUSIC
Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Listen to the music selection for a couple of minutes while closing your eyes and imagining pictures that are inspired by the music. Then when the music stops, draw or paint what you imagines. Go to <https://worcesterlibrary.libwizard.com/f/ProgramToGo> to request the Watercolors/Pencil Art kits for the supplies needed for this program. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events. For ages 8 years and older.

WOR-WIC HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS AND CAREER OPTIONS
Beginning at 6:30 PM, Wor-Wic Community College is inviting prospective students and their families to learn more about the college's health care programs and career options during this virtual session. Visit the events section of www.wor-wic.edu to register. 410-334-6906

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via conference call, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Dial 978-990-5451, wait for voice command, then press 3753651. Open to the public and meets the first Wednesday of each month. Discussion and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

VEDIC MATH
Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM. Learn how to quickly perform math in your head. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ONGOING EVENTS

EASTER BUNNY TRAIL
There will be fun Easter Bunny Scavenger Hunt throughout Ocean City from March 29-April 3. The Easter Bunny will hide 13 letters around town to spell a secret word that will unlock a special prize. The location of each letter can be found at <https://ococean.com/events/easter-egg-hunt2021>. Once you have unscramble the word, be one of the first 30 families to come tell the Easter Bunny and earn a prize on April 3 at Northside Park's drive thru Easter Bunny Station between 2-3 p.m.

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.



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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Ocean Resorts Golf Club
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Applicants must apply in person at
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Telephone inquiries will not be accepted

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**
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The Town of Berlin is in search of a seasonal
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limited to grass cutting and trash removal.
The selected candidate must have a valid driver's license and
clean driving record. Normal working hours will range from
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Applications may be downloaded from our website:
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ted to the Administrative Managers office located at 10
William St. Berlin, MD 21811 via our drop box. The
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Education and Experience:
• High School Diploma or Equivalent
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The Maryland Department of Labor (MDOL) Division of Un-
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Bilingual (Spanish) applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.
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Education: Possession of a bachelor's degree from an accredited
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Experience: None
Note: Applicants may substitute additional experience in unem-
ployment insurance as defined above for the required education at
the rate of one year of experience for one year of education, for up
to four years of the required education.
SELECTIVE QUALIFICATIONS
Applications that meet the minimum and selective qualifications will
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Must have two years using Microsoft Office
**To proceed with your application, please visit the link to apply
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<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=21&R2=001150&R3=0002>

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CHURCH MUSICIAN: Instrumental and vocal. Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, Berlin, Maryland. **Call 410-641-4882 or email secretary@htcanglican.org.**

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HELP WANTED

Bali Hi RV Park, Bishopville MD. **Maintenance Man/ Groundskeeper.** Grass cutting. Experience in plumbing and electric required. 40/hours per week. \$15/per hour. **Call 410-352-3140.**

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Experienced preferred but willing to train.

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Send resume to messageoceancity@gmail.com or call/text 410-629-9900 for interview.

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Busy vacation rental company seeking a clerical worker April thru Sept. Must be professional, dependable, and have good customer service skills. Weekends are required

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TOWN MANAGER POSITION, SNOW HILL, MD:

The Town of Snow Hill seeks a well-qualified candidate for their Town Manager position. Prior Town Manager experience is required. Please visit **www.snowhillmd.gov** for more details.

TO APPLY send letter of interest/resume via email to **mresto@snowhillmd.com.** Deadline 5/12/21.

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Bali Hi RV Park RV Park Manager. Full Time, 40 hrs/wk. \$15 hr. **Call 410-352-3140.**

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