



APRIL 15, 2021

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FREE

Berlin balances its budget with cuts in cap ex

Emergency services funds remain to be determined

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) Differing views on emergency services funding and nominal raises for staff were discussed during the Berlin Town Council FY22 budget work session Monday night.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the FY22 draft budget is balanced with revenue projection of \$6.78 million.

"This draft budget before you this evening has been looked at from many different directions and by many different sets of eyes," he said.

Fleetwood said the town's general fund relies primarily on taxes and government revenues, rather than fees.

"The drivers of this general fund are the cost of doing business, inflation

See FIRE CO. Page 5



LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PENDING PENDANT

Beach Memories owner Michele Krempa demonstrates how she creates glass beads for jewelry, or in this case, a glass fish pendant, during Berlin's first 2nd Friday of the season, April 9.

OP Town Hall will address rental rules

In-person attendance will be limited to 100 people

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) A town hall meeting to discuss proposed short-term rental guidelines in Ocean Pines will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. upstairs at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Attendance at the town hall, which will be conducted by the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, will be limited to 100 people because of covid-19 safety requirements, although the meeting will be live-streamed using Microsoft TEAMS for people who wish to view it remotely.

Public comments will be limited to Ocean Pines residents.

The issue was the subject of extensive community discussion during

See WEEKLY Page 4

'Wall That Heals' exhibit to arrive in OP Tuesday

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) Remembering the sacrifices made by members of the military in the Vietnam War a half-century ago will be the focal point of the "Wall That Heals" exhibit when it arrives for a stopover in Ocean Pines next week.

The Wall That Heals is a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is sponsored by the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The traveling replica will arrive at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Route 589 and Cathell Road in Ocean Pines on Tuesday.

Helping organize the visit is

Frank Bolen, who said the display is scheduled to depart from Purdue Stadium in Salisbury just after 3 p.m. on Tuesday with a squadron of motorcycles and local law enforcement leading the 50-plus foot tractor-trailer hauling the exhibit from North Carolina to Maryland.

Bolen said volunteers have been enlisted to oversee the exhibit during its visit to the Pines.

"Right now, we probably have about 150 volunteers, but we can always use more," he said.

Bolen said an extensive number of people are required to staff the site around the

See VIETNAM Page 9



PHOTO COURTESY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

The "Wall That Heals" exhibit, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., will arrive in Ocean Pines on April 20.



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Bylaws review procedures detailed

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) In a Good Friday video conference, the Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee hashed out the procedure for reviewing resolutions, while also reporting on the progress of a rules-related work group and discussing when it might return to in-person monthly meetings.

Chairman Jim Trummel said the board of directors has been asked to conduct annual reviews of a handful of resolutions.

The batch includes F-02 (annual budget development) F-03 (reserve accounts) and F-04 (delinquent assessments).

"I reported through our board liaison (Director Camilla Rogers) that each has a part not being followed or in need of review," he said.

The list also includes M-05 (animal control) and M-07 (bulkhead and waterway maintenance).

Trummel said the board is responsible for reviewing resolutions that either set policy or prescribe actions to be taken.

Trummel said the animal control resolution M-05 was requested by the Ocean Pines Police Department in 2010 to ensure that the association could recoup the cost of boarding detained canines.

Trummel also noted M-07 covers repair schedules for bulkhead maintenance and establishes adequate depth levels for canals.

"In both cases these resolutions set board policy," he said.

Trummel said Rogers has yet to update committee members on the board review status.

"We want to avoid a book full of resolutions or procedures with requirements not being followed," he said. "That doesn't help any of us."

Committee member Keith Kaiser asked if consideration of the F- and M-series resolutions was being lumped in with the duties of another work group review underway.

Trummel, who also serves on the work group, said its focus is on identifying potential revisions to OPA Bylaws, not OPA Resolutions.

On a comparable note, Trummel said review requests for committee-specific C-resolutions were sent to several advisory groups last month.

"Each chairperson got an email request in mid-March," he said.

The mailing was sent to four advisory committees: Budget and Finance, See BYLAWS Page 4



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OP Director Daly pursuing second board term in '21

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) The candidate pool for the 2021 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election is slowly morphing into shape, with current Director Frank Daly seeking a second term.



Frank Daly

Daly, who is winding down an initial stint on the board after being elected in 2018, is seeking another three-year term to continue on what he says is his commitment to assure long-term financial stability for the association.

“We have to make sure that we can sustain what we have done in the short term over the long run,” he said.

Daly, who was born in Pennsylvania and reared in Cleveland, made an initial unsuccessful board bid in 2016, finishing fourth out of 11 candidates vying for three open seats.

In the 2016 contest, Daly garnered 1,028 votes to chart behind Directors Brett Hill with 1,900 votes, Slobodan Trendic with 1,520 votes and Pat Supik with 1,428 votes.

Additional candidates in the 2016 election were George Simon, Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, Steve Lind, Ray Unger, Jack Collins and Larry Perrone.

Following the 2016 setback, Daly served as chairperson for the Ocean Pines Comprehensive Planning Committee before staging a successful board run in 2018.

After nearly doubling previous vote totals, two years ago Daly finished with 2,048 ballot selections to place second behind Steve Tuttle with 2,322 to fill a pair of board openings.

After consulting with his wife earlier this month, Daly unveiled plans to pursue re-election for another term.

“Over the last three years, a lot has been accomplished,” he said. “We don’t have any dilapidated facilities anymore [and] we have a stable assessment.”

Despite improved management of association amenities in recent years, Daly said work remains to establish succession-planning parameters to ensure continuity of operations as board members or the general manager position changes.

Daly said his primary motivation for seeking another board term is an aversion to stepping away from long-term planning efforts.

“Just to make sure that the community is on solid footing, that the progress we made is not a one-and-done situation,” he said. “A lot of the easy problems have been taken care of, but now we have big problems, like drainage.”

See PINES Page 6

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Weekly rental regulations ready for review

Continued from Page 1
the board meeting on March 20.

Director Frank Daly said the rental initiative was launched nearly two years ago because of problems with a few Pines properties that were rented through online platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO.

At that point, aware that Worcester County was then establishing short-term rental licensing, which became effective Jan. 1, 2020, Daly said OPA officials opted to await that outcome before proceeding.

But last summer a short-term rental workgroup was formed and went on to meet several times with the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and public safety officials, as well as the representatives of the Worcester County zoning office.

Daly said based on the initial infor-

mation obtained, as well as legal advice from counsel, association officials agreed to explore all internal options before contacting Worcester officials.

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

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

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

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

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

If the ARC rules amendment gains board approval, the workgroup has proposed asking the Worcester Commissioners to incorporate the Pines guidelines in the county's rental regulations.

For more information, contact Director of Public Relations and Mar-

keting Josh Davis at 443-366-1844 or jdavis@oceanpines.org.

The proposed regulations can be viewed online by visiting www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/59398/AR+C+GUIDELINES+FOR+SHORT+TERM+RENTALS-Final+proofed+copy.pdf.

To watch the town hall live stream visit https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjFkNzUwOTQYThmNSooNWUxLWI5OGUtMzRmOWQyNTA2NDk1%40thread.v2/o?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22625a6322-2b2f-40fa-94f8-d7dd44d78153%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bbe60b-d4e0-49eb-b4c6-d257cae7f063%22%7d.

Bylaws committee meetings will remain virtual for now

Continued from Page 2
Communications, Strategic Planning and Environment and Natural Assets.

Trummel said the committees were asked to evaluate their particular C-resolutions and to suggest changes if needed.

"They would need to draft a resolution amendment and seek board approval," he said.

Trummel also agreed with Kaiser to coordinate communications through Rogers.

Turning to the bylaws review work group, Trummel said he raised the specter during the OPA Executive Council meeting last November.

At that time, Trummel pointed out that the last time the bylaws were examined for language that might need to be amended was more than a decade ago.

"In the interim, there were several cases with some level of problem interpreting ... bylaws," he said.

Trummel said the work group, which is being lead by Director Doug Parks, had reviewed roughly half of the bylaw sections as of last month.

The work group is developing recommendations for changes in various

sections, but is not composing language revisions.

Trummel said any proposed revisions would need to be approved by membership through a referendum, which, ideally, would be conducted in conjunction with the annual board election this summer.

Looking ahead, Trummel broached the possibility of the committee's return to meeting in person.

Kaiser said appropriate head counts and health-safety space requirements would need to be determined, but also suggested employing a hybrid approach.

"Even if we start in person again, I think this should be an option going forward for people," he said.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said the association is not currently able to take that dual approach with its Microsoft TEAMS video conferencing program.

"We are doing that for the town hall on April 17 but we're hiring a contractor," he said.

Trummel said the group would convene virtually for its next meeting on May 7 while continuing to explore options for future sessions.

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Fire co. full-timers would go from 12 to 16

Continued from Page 1
and capital costs,” he said.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said current FY22 revenue projections of \$6,783,752 represent an increase of \$511,528 or roughly 8 percent over revenue totals of \$6,272,224 for FY21.

Mayor Zack Tyndall and council members reviewed the departmental budget numbers for elected officials, administration, finance, customer accounts, buildings and grounds, police, public works, water, sanitation, streets, economic development, planning, parks and recreation and debt service.

On March 22, the council voted 4-1, with member Troy Purnell opposed, to set property tax rates at 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value for FY22.

Saleh said the new tax rate is projected to raise \$3,780,561, an increase of roughly \$200,000 over the \$3,580,107 collected at the current rate of 80 cents.

Fleetwood said the fiscal-balancing act required the elimination of some capital expenditures contained in the budget’s first draft. These included replacing public works trucks, street improvement projects, town hall renovations, audio/visual equipment, staff training, recycling and travel expenses.

Capital purchases retained in the FY22 draft budget are two new police vehicles for \$80,000 and \$255,000 to acquire a new street sweeper.

Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald, while noting that 43 percent of the company’s responses are within town limits, said roughly \$385,000 in added funding would be required for FY22 to meet proposed emergency services staffing levels in Worcester County.

“This proposed funding would staff two career paramedics and two EMTs

24 hours a day,” he said.
Fitzgerald said all 10 Worcester Fire Departments are coordinating efforts to assure adequate staffing is available at all times.

“We all help each other out,” he said. “When one company is not available, the other company covers.”

Berlin’s staffing levels would match Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Ocean Pines, with Newark, Showell and Bishopville requiring one crew, while Ocean City would need five crews.

Berlin Fire Company officials are working with other Worcester emergency responders to create a strategic plan for staffing.

Fitzgerald said Berlin elected officials, as well as other municipalities, could expect discussions with the Worcester Commissioners regarding cost-sharing for the staffing initiative.

At present, Berlin Fire schedules three staff per shift, including two paramedics and one EMT. This allotment permits an initial ambulance response with 60 seconds.

“The second paramedic is there if an additional emergency happens, but they would have to wait for a volunteer,” he said.

Fitzgerald said if pulling in a volunteer takes more than three minutes, the response call would route to another company.

“Four people provides very robust service to the community,” he said.

The proposal, which would increase Berlin Fire Company’s full time staff members from a dozen to 16, would assure two ambulances are available to respond at all times and provide additional backup at fire scenes.

Although not yet assured, Fitzgerald said the fire company is currently working with the Bank of Ocean City to apply for the second round of SBA Paycheck Protection Program funding.

“The first time we were told we were not eligible,” he said. “This round they’re telling us we’re eligible and we should be signing papers on Friday.”

Councilmember Purnell made one request based on the large funding increase sought.

“There’s no question the fire company provides an extremely valuable service to the town and surrounding area,” he said.

Purnell said to get an accurate financial picture the fire company, should provide its latest tax returns and profit and loss statement.

“I think we’re obligated to have the information to make an educated decision,” he said.

Fitzgerald agreed and said a full audit of the fire company ledgers would be available later this week.

Countering the request was Saleh, who suggested trimming back the \$400,000 earmarked from county grant funds for the fire company in FY21.

“We do receive a \$465,000 unrestricted grant, which should be supporting the general fund and any capital projects,” she said.

Noting that multiple funding opportunities exist for emergency responders, along with potential PPP money, Saleh recommended a larger share of the unrestricted county grant

be used for other town operating costs.

Berlin has also asked the county to bump up its FY22 grant from \$465,000 to \$517,000.

In a plea later echoed by multiple council members, Fleetwood recommended a nominal increase to employees base salaries.

“We have a dedicated group of employees that all have the best interests of the town when they come to work on a daily basis,” he said.

Fleetwood said the Social Security Administration’s COLA adjustment for 2020 was 1.7 percent.

“If we do not do something for the employee group, I firmly believe ... that we’re taking a step backwards,” he said.

Tyndall countered that any consideration for wage increases should be balanced against the effects on utility funds.

“If you do make a decision in the general fund, I would ask whatever the council decides to hold true across all funds,” he said. “Which would mean rate increases ... or elimination of what little capital we’re actually able to invest in.”

An additional work session is scheduled for April 26, after which Berlin’s FY22 general fund budget will be introduced by ordinance on May 10.

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Pines still seeks two more board candidates

Continued from Page 3

Daly estimated roughly 2,800 of the more than 8,000 residences in Ocean Pines deal with recurring instances of standing water from storms.

“We have to figure out what we’re going to do with drainage,” he said.

Daly said preliminary figures provided by Ocean Pines Public Works indicate that addressing drainage infrastructure through a regular maintenance schedule, similar to bulkhead repairs, would be prohibitively expensive.

“You would nearly double the assessment,” he said.

To make matters worse, Daly said trying to resolve the problems of standing water outside of routine maintenance would significantly increase members’ annual dues.

“That doesn’t get you any major improvements like running pipes down Beauchamp Road,” he said.

Such larger scale infrastructure needs tied to drainage would top the \$10 million mark, Daly said.

Daly, who has advanced degrees in engineering and finance, highlighted other issues that could negatively affect property values in the future.

“Short-term rentals ... as we got into it became complicated,” he said.

Daly now joins Stuart Lakernick as the only two board candidates to toss their hats in the ring for the upcoming election, as the May 10 filing deadline approaches.

With two board terms expiring this year, Daly’s and Director Frank Brown’s, the required number of candidates in this election would be four, according to the OPA’s election resolutions. The resolutions stipulate there must be two more candidates than open seats.

Search Committee Chairman Tom Piatti said candidates, who must be Pines property owners as of Jan. 1, are still being solicited.

“You have to be in good standing [with] no unpaid charges,” he said.

Piatti said the candidate eligibility requirements also apply to association members’ ability to cast votes in the board election.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic last spring, the association opted to extend the assessment payment due date by three months, which disqualified members not paid in full from voting.

“What happened is a lot of those people were not eligible to vote in the election,” he said. “Ocean Pines sent

ballots to those who were eligible to vote and they sent letters to those who were ineligible ... so they’d know why.”

Piatti said board candidates should apply no later than 4 p.m. on May 10 to compete in this year’s contest.

Applications are available at the administration building or on the Ocean Pines website at <https://www.ocean-pines.org/documents/10184/89280/Candidate-Registration-Form-Approved-9-March-2019-FORM-003.pdf>.

For additional information contact Piatti at 410-302-0558 or email tompiatti@aol.com or Search Committee member Andie Davis at 410-200-6008 or andiepDavis@gmail.com.

Berlin Council Briefs

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) The Berlin Town Council approved a number of community events and grant applications during its meeting on Monday.

Police vehicle grant

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing asked for approval to pursue USDA funding to offset costs for a pair of replacement vehicles

“We started the process in January and were contacted in March and told we could possibly be refunded 55 percent,” he said. “We have to have a commitment from the mayor and council to move forward.”

Downing said both replacement vehicles are included in the FY22 draft budget for a total cost of \$80,000.

“The Worcester County Commissioners have signed a letter of no conflict and in support of the action,” he said.

If approved, the USDA grant would cover up to 55 percent of costs for a maximum of \$50,000, to replace patrol vehicles dating to 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Downing said the department retains 16 vehicles for 14 staff members, in addition to military surplus equipment, including a Hummer and fire tow truck.

The council voted unanimously to support the application.

Fair Housing Month

The council approved a proclamation designating April as Fair Housing Month in Berlin.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the housing designation takes place annually.

“Fair Housing Month in April is actually a national event,” she said.

Bohlen said the designation would be required if Berlin opted to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by Department of Housing and Community Development.

Continued on Page 8



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The existing expenditure threshold for capital expenses was addressed along with several other changes to the OPA By-Laws in 2008 when the Amended and Restated By-Laws were adopted. The established limit on capital expenditures of 20% of the assessment income has served the Association well and has provided the intended guidance and safeguards on decisions involving this level of expense.

The threshold as a percentage of the annual assessment income, rather than a static dollar amount, takes into consideration the changes in financing associated with inflation and the time value of money. As prices for products, material, labor and services increase, the current threshold gives the Association flexibility in determining if these expenses should be considered. The current "20%" referendum requirement for capital expenditures has no direct effect on the annual assessment. A fixed dollar threshold will not reduce the annual assessment for OPA members, because the planning for the projects must continue.

Had the proposed fixed dollar threshold been in place, the Association would not have accomplished the much-needed upgrades to the administration building, police station, clubhouse, and cart barn in a timely manner. The Association would have also incurred approximately **\$50,000 - \$60,000** of expenses associated with conducting a referendum for each of those projects, as it is estimated that the cost of a referendum is approximately **\$25,000 - \$30,000** and requires additional significant staff time to administer the referendum, process the results and report the findings.

The requirement for a referendum will also cause unnecessary delays in sourcing, bidding, and determining the viability of a project. In some cases, a delay will create a lost opportunity for pricing deals from a contractor due to the inability to determine in a timely manner whether we can move forward with a project. This situation would also add to an increase in overall costs for a project. Beyond the implications on the above types of improvement projects, the proposed referendum will negatively affect OPA's ability to conduct its mandatory capital replacement work.

OPA must maintain, repair and replace the bulkheads. The bulkhead replacement costs for 2021 are forecasted at **\$1.783 million** and a 2022 proposed expense of **\$1.368 million**. These amounts are within the Board of Directors' current expenditure authority. Should the referendum pass, OPA will have to conduct a referendum before the annual bulkhead replacement projects can be authorized, which will result in substantial additional costs associated with the referendum. These additional costs will lead to an increase in the annual assessment to homeowners.



Based on the information above and knowing the established limit has not only served the Association well, but also aided in preventing unnecessary costs over the past 15 years, the Board of Directors strongly urges Association members to vote **NO** on the referendum question.

- Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors

Berlin Council Briefs

Continued from Page 6
munity Development.

“We have not applied in a number of years [because] we have not had an appropriate project,” she said.

Bohlen said community members with complaints about housing within town limits could contact Berlin officials.

“We will put them in touch with the appropriate resources,” she said.

Motherhood Walk

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said a revised date would be required for the third annual Grace Center Motherhood Walk, initially slated for May 8 at Stephen Decatur Park.

Wells said the event would likely be held on either Sept. 11 or 25 at the same location.

“We will revisit later in the summer to confirm the exact date,” she said.

Wells said with the May date quickly approaching, organizers with the Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health worried that they had insufficient time to properly plan and promote its Motherhood Walk.

Wells said the event would primarily make use of the park’s walkways, with the pavilion area the only reserved space.

“We don’t have any events planned for the park,” she said.

Delmarva Fire Convention

Wells is also helping Berlin Fire Company President Dave Fitzgerald to coordinate plans to hold the Delmarva Fire Association’s Convention from April 28-May 3 at fire headquarters.

To back the effort, Wells said thank-you letters addressed to volunteer firefighters and auxiliary members are being solicited from the community

“The letters will be displayed in the Berlin Welcome Center window during the convention,” she said.

Additionally, numerous local businesses will also post fire-focused correspondence in shop windows.

Film festival/stage show

Wells also asked the council’s permission to provide electric service and porta-potties for a three-day film festival in mid-June produced by the Berlin Heritage Foundation outside the Taylor House Museum.

The “Sunday Evening at the Museum-Film Festival” is scheduled on June 11-13 from 5-9 p.m.

The affair will kick off on Friday June 11 with a guest speaker who was involved with filming the 2002 release “Tuck Everlasting,” which was set in several Maryland locales including Berlin. A screening of the movie is planned for Saturday.

On Sunday, another Berlin-based cinematic feature, “Runaway Bride,” released in 1999, will be shown outside on the museum lawn. Both film screenings are free to the public.

Wells also sought council approval for the Ocean Pines Players to stage a production about Clara Barton on Oct. 16 from 2-5 p.m. outside the Taylor House Museum.

“I commend Melissa Reid and board members for adding more of these entertainment-type events at the Taylor House Museum,” she said. “I’m 100 percent for approving these events.”

Berlin Clean-Up Week

Wells said in light of ongoing coronavirus restrictions the annual Clean Up Berlin Week for Earth Day, scheduled from April 17-24 would be left to individuals.

“People can do their own part and we will provide them trash bags and gloves at the Welcome Center,” she said.

To encourage participation, Wells said community members are asked to post pictures of their efforts on social media using #earthdayinberlin to take part in a prize contest.

“Many people don’t realize that we are a ‘Keep America Beautiful’ affiliate and we’re also ... on the Maryland Green registry,” she said.

Worcester Library Board looks to fill pair of vacancies

(April 15, 2021) The Worcester County Library Board of Trustees is seeking two county residents to fill vacancies representing Newark and Pocomoke City, including areas beyond the town limits.

The Library Board is composed of seven members who reside in the various communities and towns in the county. Candidates should be passionate about the important role the Worcester County Library plays in the community.

Members are appointed by the Worcester County Commissioners to a five-year term with a two-term limit.

The Board of Trustees meet monthly with the exception of July and August to set policy, advise the director of the Worcester County Library and approve the library’s budget.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and are open to the public.

For more information or to express interest in the board position, contact Jennifer Ranck, director of the Worcester County Library, at 410-632-2600 or contact@worces-terlibrary.org.

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RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN HISTORIC COMMISSION
The Berlin Historic District Commission approved signage for the East & Main Shore Supply at 17 N. Main Street last Wednesday.

Berlin Historic Commission approves business signage

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2021) The Berlin Historic District Commission approved several sign requests, an outside dining area for a Williams Street eatery and a backyard playground at Buckingham Presbyterian Church during its meeting last Wednesday.

Sterling Tavern
Sterling Tavern proprietor Matt Borrelli received approval for a 32-inch carved wooden sign to hang outside the soon-to-be-opened establishment at 9 Bay Street.

"We're hoping to open in early May," he said. "We're just waiting on the health ordinances."

The Sterling Tavern sign features a fishing rod crossed with a shotgun, flanked on either side by a duck decoy and rockfish.

Borrelli said a firm launch date would be announced once licensing requirements are finalized.

J+W Meat Market
Heidi Johnson received approval to install decking and fencing to accompany an awning-covered carry-out window at the 101 Williams Street location.

Johnson said the intent is to provide an appealing outdoor dining area. "Our goal is to accomplish a floating

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Buffer plantings for playground

deck made of natural wood,” she said. The 15-by-18-foot area would provide a more ideal spot to locate picnic tables currently placed on asphalt.

“We’re in the process of applying for a beer-wine license,” she said.

The revamped pick-up window would allow patrons to order and be served without entering the facility.

“We have put an 8-foot bar inside in front of the window,” she said.

Johnson said the dining area inside the J+W Meat Market gets congested during peak times and delays outdoor patrons from ordering.

“We’ll have a service station there,” she said. “If people don’t want to enter the building, they don’t even have to step foot.”

Plans also include a handicapped-accessible ramp for the outdoor deck. “We hope to add another register so people won’t have to wait in that line,” she said.

East & Main Shore Supply
East & Main Shore Supply owner Michael Cosman was approved for a 17.5 x 42-inch dark stained wooden printed hanging sign.

Cosman intends to locate the sign under an overhang in front of the 17 N. Main Street location.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

Buckingham Presbyterian Church was approved to install playground

equipment in the rear yard of the 20 S. Main Street location.

Based on concerns raised by neighbors, the approval contained a condition relating to replanting trees.

In a letter addressed to the Historic District Commission, a neighbor said shade trees had been removed before to the playground installation was approved.

The commission gave church officials the go-ahead to install a sliding board/ climbing apparatus combination based on an agreement to replace buffer trees and bushes between the playground and neighboring properties.



RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN HISTORIC COMMISSION
The Berlin Historic District Commission approved signage for the Sterling Tavern at 9 Bay Street last Wednesday.



RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN HISTORIC COMMISSION
The Berlin Historic District Commission approved a request to install playground equipment in the rear yard of Buckingham Presbyterian Church at 20 S. Main Street last Wednesday.



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PHOTO COURTESY FRODE JACOBSEN

Common loon is among the birds spotted during recent Delmarva Birding Weekends.

Delmarva Birding Weekend scheduled from April 21-26

(April 15, 2021) The 2021 Delmarva Birding Weekend has expanded into a week of activities, when hundreds of nature enthusiasts will flock to the shore April 21-26, as the region welcomes warblers, tanagers, and other spring migrants and prepares to say goodbye to its loons, falcons and waterfowl as they head northward.

Registration is available at www.delmarvabirding.com.

With half of the 21 trips filling within three weeks of the March unveiling, organizers added eight more excursions from Wednesday to Monday.

These include a Delaware After Dark trip along the Delaware Bayshore, additional walks through Blackbird State Forest and Saint Jones Reserve, a trip to woodlands around Phillips Landing near Laurel, Delaware, and a birdy stroll through the Delaware Botanic Gardens, plus additional Shorebird Explorer, Harriet Tubman Byway, and Smith Island ventures.

Spring Birding Weekend staples still include an Ocean City Sunset Park and Berlin Heron Park trip, the Chincoteague Bay Landings trip, a Warblermania walk near Nassawango Creek Preserve and a paddling excursion from Porter's Crossing to Snow Hill.

With covid-19 protocols in place, nature lovers can register for just one field trip, or multiple ones each day. While several trips have sold out, the sheer number of offerings leaves plenty to be enjoyed.

Guided by local fun-loving birders with decades-long experience, the walking tours, boat trips, and canoe and kayak paddles will accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics.

Every year, birdwatchers from surrounding states descend on Delmarva for the event.

"This is one of our biggest nature-

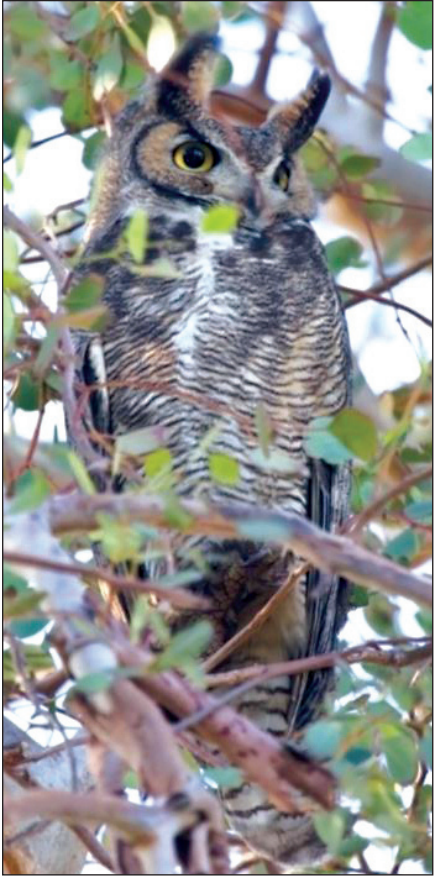


PHOTO COURTESY FRODE JACOBSEN

Great-horned owl

oriented weekends," said Melanie Pursel, tourism director for Worcester County. "People go crazy over the number of warblers and shorebirds, but they will see a lot more than that birding with our guides around Assateague Island and our cypress swamps near Snow Hill. Newport Farms and Ayers Creek are especially beautiful this time of year."

Social events for new and experienced birders are scheduled throughout the weekend. These socially distanced "Tally Rallies" are held at local breweries, bars and restaurants, and allow participants to add to the species checklist and swap nature stories with new friends.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country's premier birding areas,

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Bird enthusiasts descend on lower shore next week

thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

If boasting that many species isn't enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they've helped Delmarva's birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation.

Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants and shops.

"It's our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and bald cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation," said guide and Organizer Dave Wilson. "During the Weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are."

Wilson added that most trips are not physically taxing and that the event provides a rare opportunity to



Bird watchers visit the Ocean City inlet during a recent Delmarva Birding Weekend. The spring event is scheduled for April 21-26.

PHOTO COURTESY DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND

tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible to the public.

Sponsors for the events include the Dogfish INN, Maryland's Coast (Worcester County Tourism), Southern Delaware Tourism, the American Birding Association, the Boardwalk Hotel Group, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, and Somerset County

Tourism. Special thanks also go to the private property owners who allow access to their properties for this weekend.

Additional sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com.

To become a sponsor or for additional information, call 443-614-0261 or email dmvbirds@gmail.com.

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Wor. Recreation and Parks offers programs

(April 15, 2021) Worcester County Recreation and Parks is launching an assortment of programs.

Active Start Dodgeball will be held at the Worcester County Recreation Center on Tuesdays, April 6 to May 25, from 4-5:30 p.m.

Participants in grades fourth through eighth will get to play various dodgeball games and perfect their skills of dodging, ducking and diving.

Active Start Pickleball will teach participants in grades fourth through eighth the fundamentals of the sport. Pickleball is the fastest growing sports in America. This is a paddle sport that combines skills from ping pong, tennis, and badminton.

This program will meet at the WCRC on Thursdays, April 8 to May 27, from 4-5:30 p.m. For more information on dodgeball or pickleball, contact Myro

Small at 410-632-2144 x2512 or msmall@marylandsc coast.org.

Active Start Field Hockey will cover all aspects of the game.

Participants in grades kindergarten through eighth will learn how to pass, shoot and score. The program will meet at the WCRC on Mondays, April 19 to May 24, from 4-6 p.m.

Active Start Tennis will be held at Showell Park on Wednesdays, April 21 to June 9, from 4:30-6 p.m.

There is a 20-participant maximum. This program is open to students in grades kindergarten through fourth. Players will learn how to serve, keep score and play fun games to perfect their skills.

For more information on field hockey or tennis, contact Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144 x2503 or kbuchanan@marylandsc coast.org.

Transportation for all active start pro-

grams may be available depending on the status of the school year. The price per child is \$35 and \$30 for each additional child.

Financial aid is available to those who show a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required. To register online for any youth programs and view a full calendar of events, visit www.playmarylandsc coast.org.

Active Adult Fitness classes are kicking off in April.

Early Bird Morning Fitness is a group class for those ages 45 and older seeking to improve their fitness through a combination of walking, strength training and exercises focusing on flexibility and coordination.

Classes will run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-9:40 a.m. from April 5 to June 25. The cost per person is \$45.

PiYo is an evening fitness program open to ages 18 and older that is designed to get participants' hearts racing and burn calories. Participants will sculpt muscle, improve stability and balance while receiving a great stretch. This class will meet on Mondays and Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. from April 12 to May 17. The cost per person is \$45.

Yoga is for anyone 18 and older. This program is built on three main structures: exercise, breathing and meditation. Yoga is taught by RYT 500 Instructor Carol Jenkins-Pike.

Participants will meet once a week on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. from April 15 to May 20. The cost per person is \$30.

All adult fitness classes will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill. For more information, contact Small at 410-632-2144 ext. 2512 or msmall@marylandsc coast.org. To register, visit www.worcesterrecand-parks.org.

Worcester County Recreation & Parks is offering three toddler programs this spring season: Toddler Gym, Off-Site Toddler Gym, and Little All-Stars.

Toddler Gym and Off-Site Toddler Gym provide toddlers and their parents and caregivers with opportunities to exercise, practice social interaction, and participate in a variety of stimulating, age-appropriate games, exercises, songs, and group activities in a safe and fun environment.

This program encourages children to explore their environment, enhance their learning through play, and meet new friends their age.

Toddler Gym is open to ages 1-5. This program will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill on Thursdays from April 8 through June 10, from 10-11 a.m.

Off-Site Toddler is also open to ages 1-5. This program will take place at Showell Park on Tuesdays from May 11 through June 8 from 10-11 a.m.

Little All-Stars encourages children to become active while learning the key elements of a variety of sports and activities. Each class will focus on the fundamental skills on each sport including soccer, t-ball, basketball, volleyball, and more. This program will introduce and encourage your child in skill development and team work while enhancing self-confidence and social interaction.

Little All-Stars is open to ages 2-5 and will take place at the WCRC on Fridays from April 9 through June 11 from 10-11 a.m.

Toddler Gym and Little All Stars is \$35 per child and \$30 for each additional child. Off-Site Toddler Gym is \$20 per child and \$15 for each additional child.

For more information on these programs, contact Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144 ext. 2503 or kbuchanan@marylandsc coast.org.

Youth in kindergarten through grade eight are invited to participate in free See ASSORTMENT Page 15



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Republic Services releases seasonal rates during 2021

Pines provider unveils both six-month and annual costs

(April 15, 2021) Republic Services has announced seasonal and annual rates for 2021 in Ocean Pines.

Six-month or one-year contracts are available, with the rate set at \$72.61 per quarter. Prices include trash and recycling collection, and service is bill quarterly.

Republic Services offers waste collection twice each week and recycling collection once per week.

Waste collection occurs Monday and Thursday for residents north of Route 90, and Tuesday and Friday for those south of Route 90.

Recycling pickup occurs Thursday for residents north of Route 90 and Friday for those south of Route 90.

Republic Services will supply a 95-gallon recycle cart at no extra charge. Ninety-five-gallon trash carts are available to rent at \$1.20 per month. Customers may also supply their own cans and bags.

For additional information or questions, call Republic Services at 410-749-1551, or visit www.ocean-pines.org.

Platform tennis memorial delayed

(April 15, 2020) Organizers of a Platform Tennis Club tournament scheduled on April 24 in Ocean Pines have postponed the event.

Sue Walter, one of the tournament organizers, said she hoped the tournament could be rescheduled this fall.

Walter said many out-of-state platform tennis players were reluctant to take part in April because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A lot of them are still not vaccinated and/or weary of travelling outside of their home turf," she said. "We will try again for a September date, and hope that everyone

will have been vaccinated and are willing to travel by then."



Jim Freeman

The tournament was to honor longtime Platform Tennis Club member Jim Freeman, who passed away on March 15 after a battle with cancer.

Freeman served the U.S. Marines with honor, and tournament proceeds would have benefited Semper Fi & America's Fund, a nonprofit "dedicated to providing immediate financial assis-

tance and lifetime support to combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families."

Walter said the tournament, once rescheduled, would still honor Freeman and raise funds for Semper Fi & America's Fund.

"Jim Freeman was a huge part of platform tennis and we will all miss him terribly," she said.

For questions or more information, contact Walter at cbreeze601@verizon.net or co-organizer Michael Petito at map11946@yahoo.com.

Assortment of programs available

Continued from Page 14
recreation programs that will be popping up at parks throughout Worcester County from April 9 to Oct. 9.

Worcester County Recreation & Parks staff will offer a variety of themed nights, including water games, fishing, outdoor scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, and team sports. These activities will offer something for everyone. Interested participants must pre-register online, as space in each Pop Up Program is limited.

To view the schedule of upcoming Pop Up Programs and to register, visit

www.playmarylandscoast.org. For more information, contact Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144 x2503 or kbuchanan@marylandscoast.org.

Worcester County Recreation and Parks invites youth to register for Run Jump Throw, a free event at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to noon.

USA Track and Field and WCRP have teamed up to create RJT, a hands-on learning program that gets kids excited about physical activity.

This event will be open to students in second to eighth grade. There will be four learning stations and each will include a dynamic warm up with running form and technique, long jump, softball throw, and speed/agility training.

Register online at runjumpthrow.usatf.org.

For more information, contact Myro Small at 410-632-2144 x2512 or msmall@marylandscoast.org.

To view other upcoming one-day events visit www.playmarylandscoast.org.

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Bikers Without Borders food drive April 17

(April 15, 2021) Join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Food Lion in Ocean Pines, 11007 Manklin Creek Road, for its Fill-the-Truck Food Drive.

Members will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items and monetary donations for local food banks.

Food banks receiving donations this month include: New Bethel United Methodist Church Food Distribution Center (Berlin), Samaritan Ministries Food Distribution Center and Shelter (Pocomoke), HALO Café

Berlin sponsors free pickup for bulk items in late April

(April 15, 2021) The Town of Berlin will hold free curbside Bulk Waste Collections in April for residents.

Collection is for improved, occupied, residential properties and will be by request only. For those neighborhoods which have Tuesday and Wednesday trash collection, Bulk Waste Collection will be on Wednesday, April 21; for Thursday trash collection customers, Bulk Waste Collection will be on Wednesday, April 28.

Residents must contact the town no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before their collection date. A form is available online at berlinmd.gov under "Departments/Public Works" or call 410-641-2770, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A maximum of four items will be collected. All fabric items must be bagged or wrapped in plastic and sealed; bags for large items such as mattresses are available at local retailers and a limited supply is available at Town Hall.

Additional regulations may apply; details are available online or may be emailed or picked up at Town Hall prior to collection day.

Spring Yard Waste Collections will be held in May. For more information about Special Collections, visit the town website at berlinmd.gov and go to the Public Works page under Departments.

(Salisbury), Faith & Healing Ministries Outreach (Crisfield) and Immanuel United Methodist Church (Crisfield).

Suggested items to donate include canned protein (tuna and chicken), canned vegetables and fruits, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, beans, breakfast cereal (hot and cold), and canned soup.

Donations of paper towels and toilet paper also accepted.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional food items to ensure well-rounded donations are provided to each organization.

Ensuring covid-19 protocols are adhered to for everyone's safety, members will direct guests through a drive-thru drop-off system. Everyone is asked to wear a mask while engaged with members.

Bikers Without Borders Foundation is comprised of men and women that believe giving back to the community is a civic duty. Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities which support local communities.

The foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in communities.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation or email bikerwithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com.

'Flags for Heroes' returns to Pines beginning May 15

(April 15, 2021) The Rotary Club of Ocean City/Berlin and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation are partnering to offer area residents a unique way to honor a "hero" in their lives.

On Armed Forces Day, May 15, through the Fourth of July, a colorful display of flags will fly in Veterans Memorial Park along Route 589 in Ocean Pines. Each flag will honor a local hero.

"We all know a hero, someone who has impacted our lives," Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "Perhaps there was a teacher, physician, mentor, family member or friend who has inspired you. Perhaps you wish to honor someone who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces."

Flag sponsorships are \$50. Each flag will include a medallion with the sponsor's name and the name of their chosen hero. The cutoff date to sponsor a flag is May 10 and all orders must be received by then.

Make checks payable to: Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, with "Flags for Heroes" written in the memo line. One check may be written for multiple flags at \$50 each. Mail checks to WCVMF, P.O. Box 1576, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

All proceeds will benefit student education and outreach projects, community charities, and the Rotary Club's Scholarship fund.

Flags for Heroes also includes multiple sponsorship opportunities, and all major sponsors will be named on a large sign on Route 589, near the flag display.

"Any project like this needs funding," Gilmore said. "We are hoping that our community business partners would want to join with us and make this effort a success. We hope that you will want to be part of this very moving tribute to local heroes."

For more details, email cliff0917@aol.com.

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New leadership takes reins at Grace Center

(April 15, 2021) Several new leadership positions have recently been filled at the Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health in Berlin.

Executive Director Jasmine Dennis and Program Manager for the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance R.I.S.E., Leikia Hallett, joined the team at the center in late 2020.

Dennis is in the unique position of knowing the inner workings of the center from the inside out.

She has been a client, volunteer, junior board member, vice chair of the board and now executive director.

She is a life-long resident of Worcester County.

Dennis holds a B.A. in Business



Jasmine Dennis

Management from Salisbury University and Marketing from Jones International.

In addition to the work she has done for the Grace Center, she has a long employment history in the area having served as the front desk kanager for the Francis Scott Key Family Resort (2012-2016) and assistant general manager/events coordinator for NRG SPORTS/FOOD SERVICES (2014-2020).

With her prior background at the center, Dennis has set several goals for the immediate future including to



Leikia Hallett

increase the credibility and reach of services, to build the team and to expand the use of volunteers through the services of a volunteer coordinator who will begin work shortly.

Hallett comes to the center after many years of experience working for Verizon Wireless in a variety of positions including technical support manager, customer experience manager, executive relations analyst and senior analyst business operations – executive relations (2009-2019).

She holds a B.S. in Business from

UMUC and a MBA from UMGC.

Her role at the Grace Center is to coordinate all activities connected with the Workforce Development Grant from the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance for R.I.S.E. (Raising. Independent. Skilled. Employees.)

She is responsible for supervising the two full-time and two part-time career advancement coordinators associated with the program.

The goal of this program is to assist 16- to 24-year-olds, who are unemployed or underemployed, receive the training and credentials necessary to improve their workplace potential.

To learn more, visit <https://grace-maternalhealth.org>.

Pines requires permission for tree removal

(April 15, 2021) Ocean Pines is reminding homeowners the formal process for removing trees within the association.

General Manager John Viola asked that all homeowners follow these steps, to ensure the safe and proper removal of trees within Ocean Pines’ guidelines.

Before removing any tree more than 6 inches in diameter, homeowners must first fill out a “Request for Tree Removal” form and return it to the Compliance, Permit and Inspections (CPI) Department.

To obtain a form, contact the CPI Department at 410-641-7425 or visit <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/470931/application+for+tree+removal.pdf>.

Any tree submitted for review should be clearly marked with string or another identifier, so CPI inspectors can easily find it.

All trees must meet the following criteria to receive Association approval to be removed:

- Be within 3 feet of the driveway.
- Be within 10 feet of the foundation or deck.
- Be within 15 feet of the bulkhead (NOTE: any tree within 100 feet of a waterway requires Worcester County approval. Contact the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Management office at 410-632-1200).

• Dead, dying or diseased; dangerous; or storm-damaged.

The Association will not approve tree removal:

- If it does not meet the above criteria
- If the tree is a magnolia, holly, bayberry or laurel tree, because these are protected plants.

The Association will grant approval to remove a protected tree ONLY if it is dead, dying or diseased; or if it is causing danger because of leaning or impairment of vision for drivers

• If the tree is solely being removed to put in a shed or a fence.

• If the tree is being removed simply because the owner does not want the

tree.

CPI will take the following steps when approving a tree for removal:

- Check to see if the tree meets the above criteria.
- Once the criteria is determined, the tree will be marked with orange spray paint.
- A green permit will be given to the homeowner with specific information on how many trees have been approved for

removal. The homeowner must display the permit somewhere on the front of the home (such as a window, door, etc.) before and during the tree removal process.

If a homeowner removes a tree without a permit:

- Any tree removed must be replaced by tree(s) approved by the CPI Department per the Worcester County Mitigation Plan:

— For every large tree removed without a permit, 200 points must be planted back, based on the county’s “mitigation credit for native plant” scale.

— For every small tree removed without a permit, 100 points must be planted back, based on the county’s “mitigation credit for native plant” scale.

For questions, or to report a tree that was removed without a permit, contact the CPI Department at 410-641-7425.

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Opinion

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

Setting inflexible limit in changeable times

A million dollars just isn't what it used to be. Time was, you could buy five or six homes in and around Ocean Pines for that kind of money, but now, according to February's median sales prices as reported by the Coastal Association of Realtors, you might be able to swing three homes and a garden shed.

In addition, that median price is up 32 percent from the same time last year. The point here is not to show what's happening in the housing market, but to illustrate how setting an arbitrary spending limit on the OPA Board of Directors is shortsighted.

As the current referendum asks association members whether to cap board spending on capital projects at a million, and to have property owners vote on anything beyond that, the question is how long will be it before that number has to be revised because of rising prices and inflation?

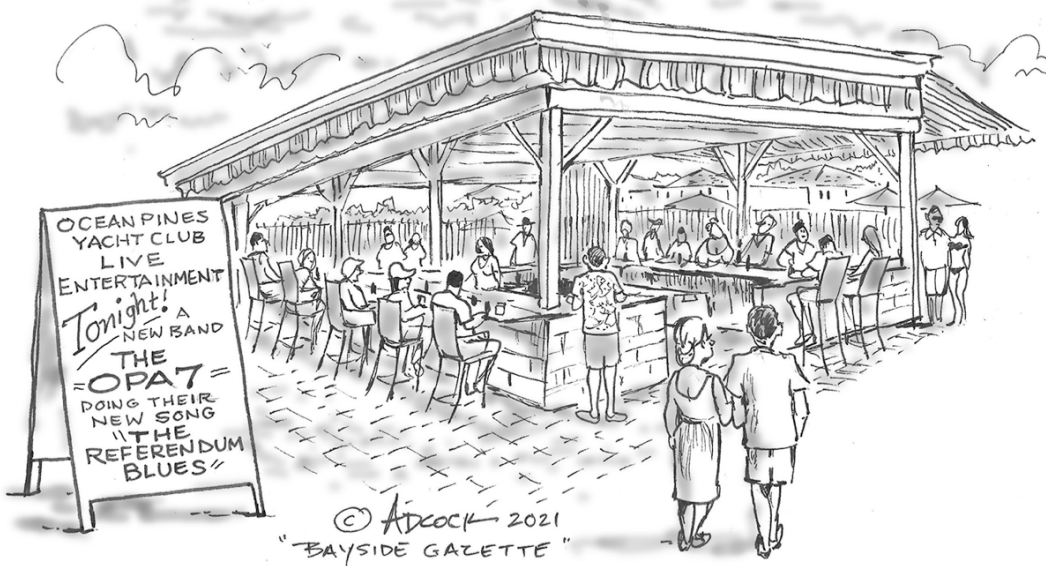
Currently, association bylaws allow the board to spend 20 percent of its income from annual charges on capital projects without seeking voter approval.

The factors contained in that formula might be subject to debate, but the approach itself makes more sense than erecting a financial bulkhead to protect the community from a rising tide of expense of unknown proportion.

According to the website Smart Asset, \$1 million today would buy about \$87,000 less than it would have five years ago. So, where in this referendum proposal is the flexibility to allow for what that \$1 million will be worth in 2026?

The better answer, if association members want to pull back some of the board's spending authority, would be to reduce the percentage of allowable spending from 20 percent to whatever seems more appropriate, or to attach an inflation multiplier to the spending level voters choose.

Otherwise, property owners and the board will have to endure referendum after referendum to keep pace with the changing, and more expensive, times.



Letters

Pines spending limit questioned

Editor,

As full-time residents of Ocean Pines for over 20 years, we have enjoyed the quiet pace of living and the wonderful amenities available to all property owners.

Since some of our facilities were built before 2020 and even in the 1970s and '80s, there is an understandable need to replace and repair.

Years ago, a million bucks got you a lot, but if you check out the costs of replacing and repairing pool complexes, playgrounds, bulkheads, tennis courts, etc. ... you will face reality.

We have an elected Board of Directors whom we should entrust with making responsible fiscal decisions. And, if you don't agree with the cost of certain projects, you have an ample opportunity to let them know your views.

So ... let's not tie their hands with an amendment to the association bylaws which could reduce the current \$1.8 million cap (or 20 percent of annual assessments) and costly referendums.

Let's get real!! Let's express our views. Let's keep this community as a great place to live for all property owners.

Carolyn and Steve Neal
Ocean Pines

Supports OPA spending proposal

Editor,

After reading the OPA Board of Directors' full page ad in your newspaper, I am compelled to respond.

Contrary to what the board stated in the ad, OPA Bylaws actually provide a flexible approach to handle repairs and replacements of facilities in phases if necessary.

Meaning, the ongoing care of our critical infrastructure like our roadways and our bulkheads can continue without the need for annual referendums.

Two years ago, over 800 members signed my petition that suggests lowering board spending authority to a fixed \$1 million for any single capital expenditure.

When the OPA rejected our petition, we spent thousands of dollars in legal fees to protect our efforts. The court decided in our favor and ordered that OPA advances our petition question for a referendum vote.

As a result, the entire membership now has the opportunity to vote on this proposed change.

Currently any four board members are able to spend up to about \$1.8 million of

our money on any single capital expenditure without asking membership for approval.

I am asking our OPA members to please take the time to vote. And please vote "YES" on the proposed change to lower spending authority to \$1 million for any single capital expenditure. For further information please email me at: strendic@yahoo.com.

Slobodan Trendic
Ocean Pines

Faith communities need to foot costs

Editor,

I don't see this pandemic any more political than the Spanish Flu, the Diphtheria epidemics, or the Black Plague. Working in Maryland's Lower Shore I see up close how covid is affecting not only the health of our communities, but the economy, and society as well.

Taking religion to the lowest common denominator: "Do No Harm;" it is clear that our institutions are failing us.

In the past, faith communities have served to remind us of our better nature not only by doctrine but example — building hospitals, schools, orphanages, colleges, assisting migrants, feeding the poor, caring for

Continued on Page 19

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Referendum ballots mailed; due back May 13

(April 15, 2021) The Ocean Pines Association mailed referendum ballots this week to all eligible voters. Those ballots are due back by 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 13.

The referendum asks homeowners to vote on a proposal that would limit capital expenditure spending to \$1 million without a referendum. The current spending threshold without a referendum is 20 percent of the income derived from annual charges, or about \$1.8 million based on collections during fiscal year 2020-2021.

Ballots may be returned by mail or to the ballot box inside the Ocean Pines Police Department lobby on 239 Ocean Parkway.

All ballots, however returned, must be sealed in the return envelope

provided in the mailing. Use of a different envelope or no envelope will void the ballot.

Association members are encouraged to use the ballot box, because of current uncertainties with the U.S. Postal Service caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ballot box is accessible 24-hours a day.

To request a duplicate ballot or to inquire about other issues related to the referendum, email elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989.

Ballots will be counted on Friday, May 14 in the East Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center, starting at 10:30 a.m. The count is open to the public and will be recorded and posted to the Association website, www.oceanpines.org.



The Ocean Pines Association recently mailed out referendum ballots, which are due back Thursday, May 13. Election Committee Chairman Steve Habeger is pictured with a ballot box.

PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Letters

Continued from Page 18
the aged and mentally ill; most serving without discrimination.

They acquired extensive real estate that is tax exempt.

Most of these services are now provided by the state and federal agencies and these buildings are crumbling.

Very few religious institutions provide extensive services they once did.

Pre-covid, these faith communities had become a public charge as they were, and continue to be, investigated for abuses; misappropriation of funds; and other dealings.

Now, by not encouraging the most simple pandemic precautions (mask-

ing, social distancing, hand washing) and not supporting voluntary vaccination they are culpable in the uptick in hospitalizations and the spread of the variants.

Since all covid-related health care is covered by the Relief Act (the public purse), these same people, when they become infected, become a pub-

lic charge.

If we the people have to pay for these replacement services, preventable illness, and consequences of bad behavior — then the faith communities are no longer serving the greater good and should pay their fair share.

*Ellen Willingham
Ocean Pines*

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Sunday, May 16 | 5pm

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Puzzles

GAME CHANGERS

BY ANGELA OLSON HALSTED AND DOUG PETERSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Angela Olson Halsted is a legal secretary in Washington, D.C., and the mother of two college students. Doug Peterson is a professional crossword constructor in Pasadena, Calif. The two met at a crossword tournament in 2007 and have been friends ever since. Both are baseball fans (Nationals for Angela, Yankees for Doug), and they have attended at least one M.L.B. game together every year (not counting last year) since 2011. — W.S.

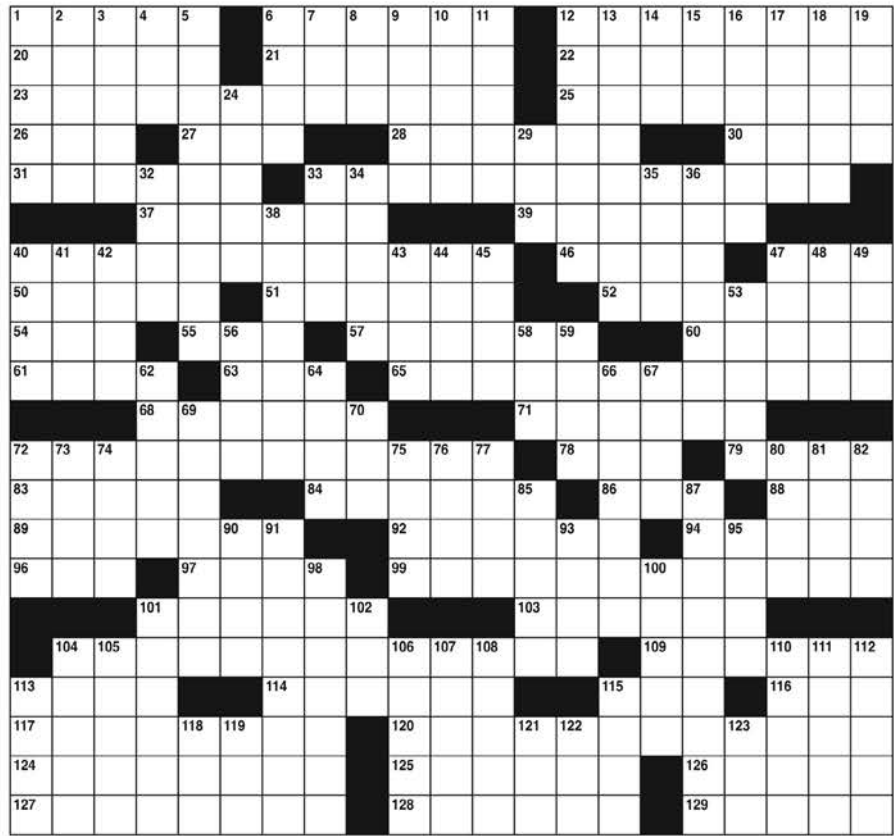
ACROSS
1 Chow down on
6 "Exactly like this"
12 Word with mild or well
20 Character often found in children's books
21 Emotionally process, in modern lingo
22 Repeated cry in 1931's "Frankenstein"
23 *Perfect curveball?
25 Ivy League city
26 Jam
27 Crucial
28 White coat?
30 Course standards
31 Emergency-room concern
33 *Batting coach's instruction to a lackadaisical hitter?
37 Habitual drinkers
39 Opposed (to)
40 *Apprentice groundskeepers?
46 Singer/songwriter Parks with the 2021 album "Collapsed in Sunbeams"
47 It might get pulled in both directions
50 New York's Mount _____ Hospital
51 Dark wine grape
52 Part of a heartbeat
54 Diplomatic official: Abbr.
55 Corn core

DOWN
1 Bird that can spend up to 10 months in the air without landing
2 Absolute bottom
3 Digital assistant
4 Food packaging abbr., once
5 What's heard at many a coffeehouse
6 Group sometimes said to be "out"
7 French article
8 Pampering place
9 In use
10 Candle choice
11 Gumbo pods
12 Goddess with a sacred owl
13 Designers' studios
14 Its capital is Sydney: Abbr.
15 "Uh-uh"
16 Go by
17 Compete with
18 Part of EGBDF

ACROSS
57 Cancels
60 Alacrity
61 Afternoon socials
63 Where dreams are made
65 *Overenthusiastic description of a routine base hit?
68 Stand-in for Middle America
71 Pair of socks?
72 *Umpire's aid in judging foul balls?
78 GPS approximation
79 Sgt. and cpl., e.g.
83 Airer of "Nancy Drew"
84 Old salt
86 Fury
88 State where M.L.K. marched: Abbr.
89 Some fins
92 King James on a court
94 Do as Henry VI did
96 Letters on some foundations
97 Jumpy sorts, in brief
99 *Long hours of fielding practice?
101 _____ only
103 Tilting
104 *Imperceptible fastball movement?
109 All over the place
113 Jimmy _____ (luxury shoe brand)
114 Scientist buried in Westminster Abbey
115 Pop artist who sings "Satisfied" on "The Hamilton Mixtape"
116 New _____ (cap brand)

DOWN
117 Trouble, metaphorically
120 Ballgame extenders ... and what can literally be found in the answers to the asterisked clues
124 Beekeeper
125 _____ to go
126 Run-D.M.C. and the Jonas Brothers, for example
127 Bands' performance sheets
128 Unruffled
129 _____ Domingo
19 Places to play cards, often
24 The Daily _____ (online news site)
29 _____ culpa
32 It plays a role in arm-twisting
33 "Venerable" saint
34 Manual readers
35 Air France hub
36 It brought Hope to the world
38 When doubled, a Nabokov protagonist
40 Pre-bar challenge, briefly
41 "Je t' _____"
42 Org. with Fire and Sparks
43 It was first won by the N.Y. Mets in 1969
44 Snowblower brand
45 Word on some Oreo packages
47 Nothing special
48 Tina Turner, voicewise
49 Goldenrod, e.g.
53 Append
56 Instrument with a flared end
58 Chinese steamed bun
59 Ratio of an angle's opposite side to the hypotenuse
62 Blueprint details
64 Runs out of juice
66 Eye cream ingredient
67 Symbol on Captain America's shield
69 Villainous English king in "Braveheart"

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



- 70 Outstanding pitcher

72 Former Ford models

73 Seller of Belgian waffles and French toast (fittingly, considering the "I" in its name)

74 Super Soaker Soakzooka brand

75 Like some orders

76 Ancient halls

77 Eldest Stark son on "Game of Thrones"

80 G.I.'s garb, at times

81 Speedskater Johann _____ Koss, winner of four Olympic golds

82 One-named Nigerian Grammy winner

85 Pained sound

87 In the Renaissance, they were known as "mala insana" ("mad apples")

90 Baseball's Gehrig and Piniella

91 Most reliable

93 Russian city on the Ural River

95 Butterlike spread

98 French West Indies resort island, familiarly

100 Keep from flying, maybe

101 Profession

102 Camera inits.

104 "With any luck ..."

105 Tag line?

106 Fancy pourers

107 Paper route hour, maybe

108 Headliner's cue

110 Land between Togo and Nigeria

111 Insider's vocabulary

112 Catch with a throw

113 Alternative to Chuck

115 Wistful sound

118 Man's name that's 123-Down reversed

119 Stanza contraction

121 Home of the world's largest carnival

122 Word with red or army

123 Man's name that's 118-Down reversed

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HARD - 99

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

Calendar

Thurs., April 15

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.

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of Zumba. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice your moves without being seen. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

VIRTUAL THERAPEUTIC ART WORKSHOP

Drawing Basic Shapes will be offered to middle and high school students free of charge, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Template drawing will teach participants to see paper as a window into a new world by creating a portrait through shapes. All materials will be provided. Register: <https://flowcode.com/p/pbPo9SGa>.

WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP MEETING

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Dr. Jacques Conway, Tidal Health Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician, will present on the topic of Sleep Disorders. Sign in: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82838101343?pwd=NUZ2UmZGbVc3TWRETWILTGE3MThhZz09>, Meeting ID: 828 3810 1343, Passcode: 913523.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via video call, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. Collette Higgins, of Body Beautiful, will discuss permanent makeup, 3D areola regimentation, scar camouflage and more. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

TIMELESS TENNIS - FREE CLINIC

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 6:30 PM. If you can swing a racket and take a few steps, you can play. All abilities welcome. Training and equipment provided. Sign up: timelesstennisop@gmail.com, 302-270-8118 or visit FB page Timeless Tennis OP.

TEEN DISCORD HANGOUT

Held via Discord, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. The library's Discord server is a moderated, virtual hangout space for teens, ages 13-18 year, to connect and chat with other teens. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libguides.com/discord>.

Fri., April 16

TIMELESS TENNIS - FREE CLINIC

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 1:00 PM. If you can swing a racket and take a few steps, you can play. All abilities welcome. Training and equipment provided. Sign up: time-

lesstennisop@gmail.com, 302-270-8118 or visit FB page Timeless Tennis OP.

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'EVERY WORD YOU CANNOT SAY' BY IAIN S. THOMAS

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Join this group each month for a lively book discussion. Books are available on Hoopla ([hoopla digital.com](https://www.hoopla.com)). Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Columbus Hall, behind St. Luke's Church, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required while moving around inside. 410-524-7994

Sat., April 17

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Held 10 a.m. to noon. There are several groups already signed up to clean areas covering from the Inlet to 43rd Street but the public is welcome to join in. Sign up online: www.ocsurfclub.org, click under Programs and find the Adopt Your Beach page, complete the application. Pre-registration is required for service learning hours. Supplies, such as trash bags, gloves, data sheets and T-shirts will be available at 37th Street beach. Additionally, the Adopt Your Beach Program, through the Ocean City Surf Club, will be presenting the SDHS Connections student volunteer program with a \$500 donation at 10 a.m. at 37th Street beach.

FILL-THE-TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

Food Lion Ocean Pines, 11007 Manklin Creek Road. Join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Kathy Winte,

Continued on Page 22



DONATION

Darlene Reid and Michael Quillen, both of Ocean City, recently donated soda tabs to McKenna Birkhead-Thompson. She is a Junior American Legion Member of Unit 166 in Ocean City. The tabs are recycled and the Junior Auxiliary Unit will send a check to the Casey Cares Foundation, which provides programs to critically ill children and their families.

PHOTO COURTESY NICOLLE BIRCKHEAD-THOMPSON



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROCLAMATION

The Worcester County Commissioners present a proclamation recognizing March as Women's History Month to members of the Commission for Women, honoring the contributions to the economic, cultural and social well-being of Worcester County. Pictured, from left are Terri Shockley, Co-Chair Liz Mumford and Kim List, with the commissioners.

Calendar

Continued from Page 21
K_Winte@hotmail.com, 215-896-1538,
<http://www.facebook.com/bikerswith-outbordersfoundation>

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

Join the group for a virtual Walk with a Doc on the Atlantic General Hospital Facebook page, where there will be a short presentation by neurologist Dr. Preeti Yonker about Parkinson's disease, 9:00 AM. Participants can then walk wherever they like and share a selfie on social media with the hashtag #walked-withagh.

GREEN ENERGY COAST KIDS EVENT

Herring Creek Nature Park, 12500 Nature Park Drive. In this hands-on class kids will learn about solar power, wind power and how a water turbine works. There will be two small groups: group 1, 9-10:15 a.m. and group 2, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Also available are Green Energy Coast Kits, for those who would rather do the experiments at home. Register: www.actforbays.org/coast-kids-events.html.

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY JOB FAIR

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The following departments are hiring: Recreation & Parks, Maintenance, Con-

struction, Solid Waste, Human Resources, Transportation, Beach Patrol, Police, Fire, Fire Marshal and Impound Lot. Masks are required as well as a wellness check. Bring resumes. 410-289-8924, <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/humanresources/employment/>

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7338 New Hope Road, 11:30 AM. Menu includes mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, biscuit and dessert. Cost is \$13 for adults. 410-543-8244 or 443-235-0251

KIDS BUILD

Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM., Construction vehicles in the outdoor park gives kids a safe and unique perspective of a worksite. Inside the carousel building, stations will be set up to let kids build with craft materials. Unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimperrides.com/upcomingevents>

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 18

KIDS BUILD

Trimper's Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM. Construction vehicles in the outdoor park gives kids a safe and unique perspective of a worksite. Inside the carousel building, stations will be set up to let kids build with craft materials. Unlimited ride wristbands will be discounted to \$20. Park events are weather-dependent. <http://www.trimperrides.com/upcomingevents>

Mon., April 19

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting via Zoom, 10:00 AM. Guest speaker will be R. David Harden, Managing Director, Georgetown Strategy Group, who will discuss Climate Change and the Eastern Shore. The group meets on the third Monday of each month. All are welcome. Link to meeting: demwomen-sclubwc@gmail.com, on Facebook or at dwcmd.org.

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME, 'CREEPY CRAWLIES'

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Ms. Kathy's favorite stories about bugs for 2-5-year-old children. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

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

Tues., April 20

SPRING YUM WITH CHEF KRISTIN

Held via Facebook, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. April 20 is National Pineapple Upside Down Cake Day. The kids will love to

load up this cake with pineapple slices and cherries and can even come up with their own designs.

'WALL THAT HEALS' PROCESSION

Local people are asked to line the sidewalk along Route 589, south of Manklin Creek Road, 4:00 PM. A 53-foot trailer carrying the "Wall That Heals" exhibit will travel to Veterans Memorial Park, led by a motorcycle escort of more than 100 volunteers and local law enforcement. COVID-19 protocols to be followed. The exhibit will be open to the public, 24 hours a day, from April 22-25 at 2 p.m. <http://www.opvets.org>

LANDSCAPE DRAWING

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Using basic shapes, line techniques and shading, learn the process of developing perspective to create a realistic or imaginary landscape. No prior drawing experience needed. Attendees will need paper, pencil and eraser. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Wed., April 21

25TH ANNUAL SPRING DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND

Featuring boat trips, paddling treks and expeditions on foot. Visit <https://delmarvabirding.com/spring-dbw-april-2021/> for more information and to sign up for the Spring Delmarva Birding Weekend field trips.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Meeting via Zoom, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a question and answer session. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ZOOM Pictionary

Held via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Take turns drawing people, places or things and try to be the first to guess what others have drawn. For ages 10 years and older. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

INVASIVE SPECIES HAPPY HOUR PROGRAM

At 4:00 PM, Victoria Spice, Invasive Species Coordinator, will cover invasive species identification basics, the top ten species to be concerned about and what the Lower Eastern Shore Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is doing. RSVP: Taylor Carty, tcarty@lowershorelandtrust.org or 443-234-5587.

RUMINATING IN THE FIELD

Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 PM. Join Poet Laureate Nancy Mitchell and librarian/poet Sean Murphy as they read Rumi's A Great Wagon. Also bring any poems that you would like to share. Register: worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ART SHOW

In honor of National Student Art Month every March, the Art League of Ocean City hosts the "Shirley Hall Art Show and Competition" exhibit featuring artwork by Worcester County middle and high school students. Worcester Prep eighth grader Sydney Tingle earned second place (middle school) for her "Chicken Soup" colored pencil and watercolor. Other winners from Worcester Prep were: Upper school - Freshman Izzy Huber, "A Brighter Future," colored pencil, first place; senior Hannah Perdue, "Cuddle Puddle," charcoal, third; middle school - Eighth grader Angie Todorov, "Reunion," colored pencil, first; sixth grader Akum Kang, "The Flash," graphite on paper; third.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



CONTEST

Jackie Selba's eighth grade religion class at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, participated in a Knights of Columbus essay contest with the theme, "How do I Live and Embody the Virtue of Charity?" Each student in her class submitted their essay to a panel of judges. Three essays were chosen as winners. Pictured, in front from left, are John McGinley, Katherine Erickson (first place) and Richard Glorioso; second row, Gianna DePietro (third place) and Isabel Mitchell (second place); and in back, MBS principal Kathleen Manns and Jackie Selba.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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