

Resident backlash hits Berlin Falls park

Public questions spending on building demolition as taxes and fees set to go up

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) In approving \$124,000 to demolish seven small buildings and a digester at Berlin Falls park on Monday night, the Town Council gave an angry mob a focal point in its objections to town spending.

The 5-0 vote came after months of research by town staff on whether the buildings could be repurposed. The vote also was preceded by several months of debate by the Berlin Falls Park Advisory Committee on potential alternate uses.

When none were deemed worthwhile, the committee recommended demolition and the Town Council awarded a contract to Coastal Site Works LLC.

Funding for the project comes from a \$3 million bond to buy the property, with \$2.5 million earmarked for the property itself based on the appraised value, and \$500,000 set aside for park development.

The topic dominated the nearly two-hour public comment period at the end of the council meeting.

Jordan Pippin asked if any of the buildings being torn down could be converted for commercial use.

“The question that I’m asking [is], is there any room for negotiation to do something with the buildings that we’re talking about tearing down before we tear them down?” he asked.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said of the seven buildings marked for demolition, perhaps one could be used for something else.

“And that would be with major work,” he said. “They don’t have water [and] they don’t have electric currently ... it’s not hooked up into town utilities.

“At one point, they had wells and septic that were abandoned years ago that you can’t reconnect to [because of] state standards,” Engelhart contin-

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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Falls park became the focus of a lengthy public comments period during a council meeting on Monday night. Residents said they were not in favor of spending \$124,000 to demolish several small buildings while the town is facing significant property tax and utility rate increases.

Council sets special budget mtg.

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) A crowd of Berlin District 2 residents showed up at the Monday night Town Council meeting to protest proposed property tax and utility rate increases.

By the end of a lengthy public comment period, District 2 Councilman Zack Tyndall, who apparently encouraged his constituents to attend, asked for and was granted an additional public meeting on the subject of the next fiscal budget.

Mayor Gee Williams told the audience that property taxes were likely to increase anywhere from 20 to 34 percent. Also presented during the meeting was a Davis, Bowen and Fridel Inc. study that proposed raising sewer rates 15 percent and water rates 10 percent, over a five-year period.

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JOSH DAVIS/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Resident Jim Meckley speaks during a Berlin Town Council meeting on Monday night. A large crowd was present during the meeting to voice objection to proposed property tax increases.

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Public park purchase questioned

Continued from Page 1
ued. "That would be a large expense of infrastructure to service the property for even one restroom – that's why we don't have a public restroom there yet."

He added, "We've had those discussions internally for quite a while now."

Resident Cindi Krempel asked if reports in local newspapers were true that the town was considering 30 percent or greater property tax increases. Mayor Gee William said that was the high end.

"I was a journalist for 30-some years. If I was writing a headline or a lede for a story, I would've used the same, exact thing. It gets everybody's attention," he said. "But the range is anywhere from 20 percent to 34 percent. Anything less than 20 percent wouldn't [be enough]."

Krempel asked to make a suggestion. "I think the first place you should look is spending," she said. "I have a question about the \$124,000 we're paying to knock down buildings on a property we have no plans to do anything on."

"We're at a place right now where you're looking at [a] 20 to 34 percent increase, and I say \$124,000 to knock down buildings on a worthless piece of property at this point is not responsible spending," Krempel added, drawing applause from the large crowd in attendance.

Grayson Mayne said he understood the need to raise taxes, but said he was angry the town has been "operating the water and sewer at a loss since 2006."

"If you take it out over 15 year or 16 years, you can put it back over 16 years, instead of taking 34 percent – or even 15 percent," he said.

He added, "When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you do is stop digging. Stop spending \$140,000, or

whatever it is tearing them buildings over at the chicken plant."

Mayne said town officials earlier during the meeting commented it was the first time they'd heard such objections to Berlin Falls park.

"Well, we kind of trusted you to spend our money [wisely]," he said. "Obviously, that's not the case."

Krempel asked if Williams and the council could now agree the Berlin Falls property purchase was a mistake.

Councilman Dean Burrell did not. He indicated the property was at one time on the verge of being sold for another industrial use. It was formerly a Tyson's chicken plant.

"The room is full now, but if a seafood processing plant had moved in there, the room would be running over," he said. "We bought that place so we could control what goes there, to ensure and help build the quality of life and the air we breathe here in the Town of Berlin – that was the major reason."

Jim Meckley called Berlin Falls park a boondoggle that "is dragging this place down."

"In 2015, a person asked what if we cannot sustain this property, will taxes go up? And your answer was, 'If we are that incumbent then, yes, taxes will go up.' We've arrived," Meckley said, adding "One hundred and twenty four thousand dollars to tear down a bunch of buildings – for what?"

He said David Deutsch was paid \$50,000 as the park coordinator "to study about this boondoggle, and where has it gotten us?"

"I understand why you bought [the property]. You didn't want another commercial property going there ... but for God's sake, sell it," Meckley said. "I'm sure there are a lot of people who would love to have that property."

Bill Todd asked if the Berlin Falls property could now be sold to a re-

sponsible business.

"You said you bought this property to secure it, to make sure somebody doesn't come in here. I think that's done," he said. "Can we pursue selling this property now, as a town, and bring money back that we need?"

Todd went on to say the town should work with other businesses to better utilize Berlin Falls, perhaps moving the farmer's market to that site to save parking spaces downtown.

"We're just trying to be realistic. There's a huge piece of property over here that's completely underutilized, especially at this moment," he said. "There's not a definitive plan as to what's going to happen, and what I've heard the whole time is you bought it to make sure there's not a seafood company coming in to run it. Well, now we own it, we can secure it, there's not a seafood company coming in, let's sell this damned thing."

One woman, who did not give her name, asked if the town would have bought the property if a town councilman, Troy Purnell, had not owned it.

"That property, since the '40s, has been a major detriment for the northern part of the Town of Berlin," Williams said.

"I still say that was a mistake – buying that Tyson's [plant] and going up in debt, spending our money, and now you want us to pay for your mistakes," the woman said.

Councilman Elroy Brittingham, the longest-serving person on the council, replied, "I've probably spent more time on this council fighting that plant. I think eventually that plant is going to benefit the town."

"I probably won't live to see the town pay for it, and neither will you," the woman said. "If the town paid that much money for that property ... I would be ashamed – and I said a-

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'Berlin Falls was a frivolous purchase ... don't develop it'

Continued from Page 2
shamed – to tell the people in Berlin I'm going to raise their taxes.”

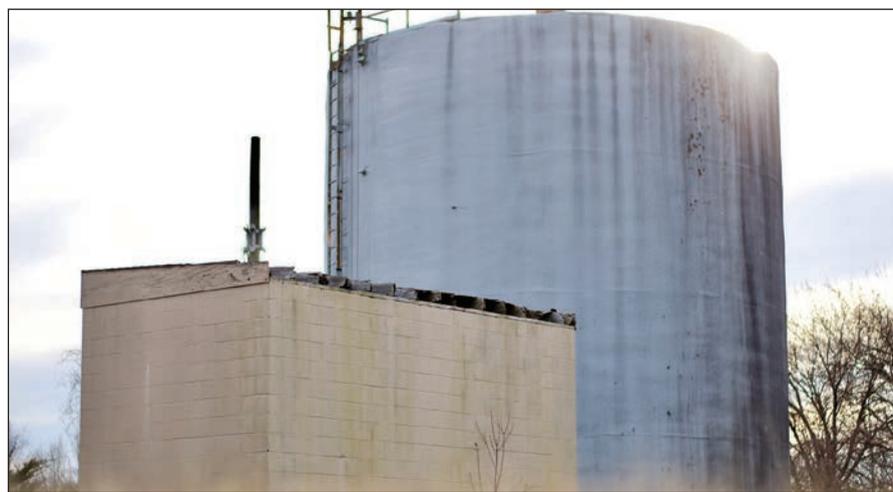
Marie Velong said she's lived in Berlin since 1976. She said changes on Main Street meant little to her, as streets in her neighborhood were neglected and she felt her voice was not heard.

“You've got to stop spending on frivolous [things] ... Berlin Falls was a frivolous purchase and if it's nothing else, don't develop it now,” she said.

“Quit spending on it, close it off. It's dangerous back there [and] you shouldn't be using it as a park anyway, as far as I'm concerned.”

Velong said she was not in favor of “annexing anything else until you get a handle on what's going on in our town, on our streets, our sidewalks.

“That's what we want. We don't need all this fancy stuff,” she said. “I don't care if we're the 'Coolest Town in America' – I just want it to be a nice town.”



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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District 2 storms Town Council meeting

Continued from Page 1

Jeff Auxer said the large turnout underscored how large the problem was. He compared the situation to the NFL, where change at the top is made when expectations are not met. In Berlin, he said, "that head coach is our town administrator."

"It's never personal, but a business decision is best for that organization," Auxer said. "I feel it's time to start over and correctly fix Berlin's problems from the ground up."

Tyndall said the town is considering a split tax rate for residential and commercial property owners. He asked Auxer, a business owner, if a higher rate for businesses would be detrimental.

"I think that that will be passed through to those individual businesses in the form of rent increases and things of that nature, and I'm afraid that we don't have [adequate] cash flow to be able to substantiate that."

"I agree with that," Auxer said.

Jennifer Dawicki, also a local business owner, said talk of a 34-percent tax increase "scared me and got me here tonight."

She said business owners were willing to work with the town on an incremental increase.

"I'm pretty proud of being of being part of 'America's Coolest Small Town.' I'm pretty proud of everything Berlin

has done since I transplanted here from New Jersey seven years ago, but there are things that are super scary other than a tax rate increase," she said. "Folks that come to my establishment one [or] two times a week are saying that if they can't handle a rate increase, they're going to leave the town."

"It's just going to trickle down to small business, which is going to trickle down to the way I earn a living," Dawicki added.

Jason Bratten said he emailed several concerns to Williams and Tyndall two weeks ago.

"I haven't got a response back from the mayor, but we did verbally talk to Zack, because we are neighbors," he said.

Bratten said he was concerned by reports of tax increases.

"I was outraged when I heard that Berlin may increase their taxes up to 34 percent ... and possibly raise their sewer and stormwater rates as well," he said. "If there is an increase, it should be in phases from at least three-to-five years ... not all at one time."

According to Bratten, if the increase is approved and his mortgage was paid, he would have to budget

\$350 per month to live in the town. He added other towns were charging for a quarter of a year what he pays monthly for water and sewer.

"My family and I are proud to call Berlin our home and we'd love to continue to say that,"

Bratten said. "There are a lot of hard-working, average-income families that live here and other families may be forced to move if the increases continue to come, which would be eventually devastating to Berlin by losing that family friendly, small

hometown feel, and that to me is what makes Berlin special.

"I want to continue to live here, but it will be very, very hard to do so," he added.

James Manley asked if new annexations were adding too much stress to town infrastructure.

Williams said expanding the tax base spreads the cost of operating the town to more taxpayers, which is a good thing. He added if there was less development "there would be even more pressure on fewer people."

Tyndall disagreed.

"This is one area where I happen to

differ from my colleagues, and it's not a secret any time you look at the voting history," he said. "I'm of the belief that if we have a problem, we should fix it, stop the bleeding now, [and] fix whatever's going wrong before we continue to annex."

"I've said that since day one. I will continue to say it for as long as I'm allowed to sit up here," Tyndall added.

Williams said the town welcomed informed ideas and desires, and he encouraged continued public participation. He added, "citizen participation in democratic government has taken a severe nosedive in the last 25-30 years."

"We welcome it," he said. "We're not a town where we're trying to say, 'Well, you don't have anything to say about it.' Quite frankly, we have to operate a lot of times on the minimum amount of citizen input."

On that note, Tyndall moved to schedule a public hearing on the budget and proposed rate increases.

As it is, according to a flyer near the door to the Town Council chamber, the town already has advertised five upcoming public budget meetings, beginning with a general fund work session scheduled April 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Tyndall, however, said that was not enough.

"I want to hear from the people of Berlin," he said. "We know the fire department's going to come with more increases. We know that certain things

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'Folks that come to my establishment one [or] two times a week are saying that if they can't handle a rate increase, they're going to leave the town.'

Jennifer Dawicki, Berlin business owner



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Council schedules special budget session, March 26

Continued from Page 4

“The trash truck, was it to your need to be met. And I want to understand from the public, not just through a phone call – not me sharing my experiences that I’ve had – but I want to be able to hear from everybody in a formal setting before we start sitting down with our department heads.

“I want to hear it and, if the rest of my colleagues don’t want to, then I think that’s fine,” Tyndall added.

Councilman Dean Burrell replied that there were already plenty of opportunities for the public to make its voice heard – if people bothered to show up.

“Folks can come just like tonight,” he said. “We have these meetings every other week and it is incumbent upon you and express your opinions. We have ample opportunity for you to express your opinions.”

He said some of the opinions expressed Monday night could have changed his mind when the council voted several years ago to purchase the former Tyson’s chicken plant, for example.

“Unless you say what you think, we think nonparticipation is your approval, so it goes both ways,” he said. “Come and share with us, please, what you think ... and I’ll bet you a dollar to a donut hole you will be surprised at the impact your statements have.”

Burrell said the council is in session every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on 1 William Street.

He said anyone could be recognized during any meeting at any time, simply by raising their hand.

At that point, one woman in the audience yelled the town waited too long to take action and was now in financial trouble.

“The town is not in financial trouble,” he said. “We don’t want to get in trouble ... we are trying to head that off.

“The trash truck, was it to your house, picking up your trash? Or that police car ... it didn’t get that way by magic! It costs money,” Burrell said.

He moved to adjourn, but Tyndall’s motion was still on the table.

Council members voted 3-2 to set a special meeting on March 26 at 6 p.m. at the Stephen Decatur High School Auditorium. Burrell and Councilman Troy Purnell were not in favor.

Tyndall, on Tuesday, emailed the following statement regarding the meeting:

“Many of the people that I have talked to, and those that spoke last night, were unsure of when they could express their concerns publicly. Pertaining to the budget process the mayor and council have budget work sessions where we invite the public to watch us work with each department as we craft our overall budget but unfortunately, these meetings are not designed for public comment.

“Following these work sessions there is a hearing where we offer the opportunity for the public to express their input about the tax rate but by this point, much of the budget has begun to fall into place. Then there is an opportunity before the budget is voted on by the mayor and council where the public can voice concerns before it comes up for a vote but by this point, things are usually more set into place and it’s more difficult to make major changes.

“Knowing this and hearing the concerns expressed last night during public comment, I wanted to allow people to have an opportunity to express their concerns early in the process. This way we can hear from the people of Berlin before we start meeting with department heads and crafting the budget. This is also the time when adjustments are the easiest to make to help meet the needs of our constituents.”

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Clarifications on Berlin Falls park

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams on Tuesday responded to several questions raised about Berlin Falls park during a contentious public meeting Monday evening.

As for where money allocated for demolition of several small buildings would come from, Williams replied, "The money is part of a \$500,000 balance that purposely remained after the town issued a \$3 million bond for the purchase of the property. This balance has been used for the expenses the town has incurred in making improvements to and cleaning up the property. Some limited expenditures were also made for touch-up painting and securing the large building that formerly housed the poultry processing plant."

Williams said the bonded money could not be used "for any purpose that is not related to Berlin Falls Park."

Asked whether any of the buildings now slated for demolition could be repurposed and leased, Williams said, "Leasing the small outbuildings would not be commercially viable because of the additional cost the town would need to invest before they could be leased."

"These small buildings would most likely be used for no other purpose than storage resulting in negligible

revenue to the town, while complicating all future options for the town. If we did not demolish the structures and sought to lease them, they would all need major renovations plus the cost of running sewer and water to each building," he said.

Asked if the Town Council now regretted the decision to purchase the property, Williams said, "Whether this property is an albatross, or an opportunity is in the eyes of the beholder."

"As the town goes through our resilience meetings this week, and particularly during our budget listening session on Tuesday evening, March 26, the mayor and council will get the current pulse of the community on these two very different outlooks," he said.

"The town's primary reason for purchasing the property was to ensure that it would not ever again be used for industrial purposes," Williams continued. "The council members and myself openly discussed the urgency to stop the stink of its former use and likely future uses on this industrial site. We were strongly encouraged to buy the property by Berlin citizens to finally, after more than 60 years, end this environmental nightmare that also significantly diminished the quality of life in northern Berlin."

On whether the purchase of the property affected the town's need to now raise property taxes, Williams said the purchase "did reduce the town's reserve fund."

"A sale of the Berlin Falls Park property could [benefit] the town's general fund reserves, but I believe the public needs to have a much better understanding of what both the immediate and long-term benefits of this property to Berlin residents," he said. "All of us must do a better job of getting this information out to our community and this will be accomplished in the weeks and months ahead."

"Either selling or retaining the property would have no impact on our water and sewer rates," he said.

If the town wanted to sell the property, according to Williams, "We have no way of knowing how long it would take to sell the property."

"If it were to be put up for sale, the town would certainly require a sale price that would recover all the cost related to the purchase and all the subsequent property improvements of the site," he said.

"A sale of the Berlin Falls Park property would help replenish the town's general fund reserves. Either selling or retaining the property would have no impact on our water and sewer rates," he added.

New state study shows drawbacks of resort living

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Apparently, living near the beach involves some trade-offs.

According to the "Overview of Maryland Local Governments Finances and Demographic Information" for 2019, recently released by the Department Of Legislative Services, Worcester County ranked near the top in unemployment and crime rates, but near the bottom in wages and state aid for schools.

The average weekly wage, for instance, was \$1,147 statewide, topping out at \$1,413 in Montgomery County, but lowest in Worcester at \$635, largely because of its part-time and seasonal workforce.

Maryland was the top state for median household income in the United States, with a five-year average of \$76,067.

The seasonal nature of the Worcester economy was also reflected in the unemployment rate, 8.5, which was the highest in Maryland. Howard and Montgomery counties had the lowest rates, 3.1 and 3.3 percent, respectively.

The national unemployment rate averaged 5.3 percent in 2015, 4.9 percent in 2016, and 4.4 percent in 2017.

In another dubious statistic, Baltimore City was first among the state's 24 subdivisions in terms of crime rate, followed by Worcester, Dorchester, Wicomico and Baltimore counties.

Violent crime statewide increased 2 percent compared to 2015, while property crime decreased 3 percent during the same period.

Maryland public schools received about \$15,848 in total funding for each pupil in fiscal 2019. Worcester County has the highest per pupil revenue at \$18,472, while Harford County has the lowest per pupil revenue at \$13,776.

Statewide, local sources accounted for 47.9 percent of public school funding in Maryland and 47.6 percent came from the state. The federal government provided only 4.5 percent of public school funding, on average.

See STUDY Page 7

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71 OCEAN PKWY • OCEAN PINES

3BR/2.5BA. Spacious living room w/gas FP & custom insert dining room. Eat-in kitchen w/newer SS appliances, granite counters, tiled back splash & pantry. Sunroom off of living room. Master suite w/soaking tub & stand up shower. Additional features include a 1-car garage, paved driveway, front porch, wainscoting, crown molding, and a newer heat pump. Outdoor space offers brick paver patio, shower and a storage shed.

Dir: North Gate. Make a U turn on Ocean Parkway by Sandyhook Rd. **\$285,000**

OPEN HOUSE SAT MAR 16, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
Hosted by Taylor Bakke



47 COASTAL DR • OCEAN CITY

Priced to sell! Don't miss the opportunity to own this 3 bedroom 2 bath home in Mystic Harbour. Attached 10x10 shed on rear of the house provides plenty of room for storage. Property is conveniently located close to Ocean City beaches, restaurants and attractions. A must see!

Dir: From 611 left to Mystic Harbor Community. From Mystic Harbour Blvd. right on Deep Channel Dr. Right on Coastal Dr. **\$144,900**

OPEN HOUSE SAT MAR 16, 10 AM-1 PM
Hosted by Cameron Drew



14 39TH STREET #2 • OCEAN CITY

Charming 2BR/1BA cottage on ocean block, recently remodeled. Updates include fresh paint, new floors throughout, new light fixtures, new blinds & updated bath. Ceiling is sound proofed & insulated. HVAC all new within last two years. Move right in and enjoy all new furniture, great mid-town location, and short distance to the beach! Strong condo association. Cable is covered by the condo fees. Don't procrastinate - come see it before it's too late!

Dir: From MD-90 E, turn right onto MD-528. Take the third right onto 39th St. **\$172,000**

OPEN HOUSE SAT MAR 16, 10 AM-1 PM
Hosted by Anna Spann



10214 FRIENDSHIP RD • BERLIN

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Hosted by Taylor Bakke



12139 LANDINGS BLVD • BERLIN

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Dir: 611 going South. Left on Landings Blvd going to Bayside Community. House is on the left. **\$479,000**

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Study shows Wor. near top in crime and unemployment

Continued from Page 6

However, Worcester County shouldered the largest burden in terms of school funding, 73.7 percent, versus Caroline County on the low end at just 18.4 percent. Conversely, state funding for public schools ranged from a low of 22.3 percent in Worcester County to a high of 74.9 in Caroline County.

Seven local school systems, Baltimore City and Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Washington and Wicomico counties, received more than 60 percent of their revenues from the state.

In terms of revenue sources, 26.4 percent of total revenues statewide came from property taxes in fiscal 2017. The reliance on property tax revenues ranged from 15 percent in Allegany County, to 48.1 percent in Worcester County.

According to the study, "Property tax collections are affected by each county's property tax base and tax rate. Counties with a larger assessable base can collect relatively more tax revenues than jurisdictions with a smaller tax base.

"For example, Worcester County, with its ocean resort property, has the highest per capita assessable base in fiscal 2019 at \$306,691, which is nearly 2.5 times the statewide average of \$126,706. Somerset County has the second lowest per capita assessable base at \$57,453 which is less than half the statewide average.

"Due to its larger tax base, Worcester County is able to collect over four times the revenue per capita than neighboring Somerset County, even though Somerset County has a higher property tax rate," the study said.

The reliance on income taxes in Worcester, meanwhile, was the lowest in Maryland at 1.5 percent. Montgomery County, at 16.9 percent, had the highest reliance on income taxes.

Local income tax rates in Worcester, 1.75 percent, were the lowest in the state. The highest, 3.2 percent, were shared by Baltimore City and Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Wicomico counties.

According to the study, per capita Worcester property taxes were the highest (\$2,529) and income taxes ranked 19th (\$444). Total state grants per capita were second to last, \$850.

In terms of diversity, Worcester was on the low end in minority population growth, ranking 21st out of 24. From 2000 to 2017, the total minority population grew 13.9 percent.

From 2000 to 2017, Worcester became more white, with that population growing 10.4 percent, and less African-American, dropping 12.9 percent in that category.

The Hispanic population, however, grew more than 200 percent and Asians increased by 167.4 percent.

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Pines op. report shows progress

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Ocean Pines' new organizational structure already appears to be paying dividends, as directors across several departments are taking second looks at some of the projects and proposals started by now former General Manager John Bailey.

For example, Bailey had budgeted \$620,000 to replace drainage pipes on Cathell Road and Ocean Parkway, the Boarderlinks Condominium, and on Mumford's Way.

Colby Phillips, in providing an operational report last Saturday with Finance Director Steve Phillips, said one of the pipes has since been repaired.

She said Public Works Director Eddie Wells realized the pipe near Mumford's Landing had been repaired about seven years ago.

"They dug up the road a couple weeks ago to see if we were able to repair the other side of that pipe [and] they found a golf [ball] sized hole ... and were able to repair it," she said. "They got the work done in one day, which will save the association from the road reserves \$244,000 out of the next fiscal year."

Three other large drainage pipes

are expected to require replacement.

Phillips said public works would focus on drainage problems in areas that have "the most immediate impact," and the department has also developed a 14-page draft on drainage.

"Everybody realizes ... how important that is to the community, in trying to find the resolutions there," she said. "Our first goal is to figure out what we can do, but also review the budget for next year as well, to make sure that if there's areas where public works can't get to, that we have some service agreements priced out ... so it doesn't delay action going forward on those drainage issues."

She said association workers were also looking into cost-saving alternatives to the current bulkhead replacement program "to reduce the increase in costs that were associated with losing our staging area."

"We've been meeting with the county in trying to come up with some ways that we can take some of that expense away," Phillips said. "We're just organizing better our RFPs and our projects going forward, so that we can make sure that we're staying on top of all these huge areas that need the attention."

Phillips said public works person-

nel are in the process of addressing about 100 different tasks that need to be done before the summer season starts, including regular maintenance and regular site checks to Ocean Pines parks.

She said the association is also looking into installing electric gates for boat ramps at White Horse Park and Mumford's Landing.

"We're just now starting to look at what those costs would be and how we would handle that," Phillips said.

On the administrative side, Steve Phillips said the IT department started to implement the new Northstar software system and an outside project consultant would soon put together an implementation timeline.

He said a separate point of sales and management system, known as "Toast," was being set up for food and beverage operations at the yacht and beach clubs.

Additionally, Phillips said Baltimore firm Gross Mendelsohn is working on "hopefully wrapping up these forensic audits" of association finances.

"Gross Mendelsohn is working to perform their final procedures and aim to issue reports here near the end of the fiscal year, in the next couple months," he said.

Berlin town admin to forgo pay raise in 2020 budget

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams on Monday said rumors Town Administrator Laura Allen would receive a raise are untrue.

Williams said the town was at the beginning of a lengthy budget process set to culminate in June.

He said reports the "the town is about to run out of money and going to have to lock up the doors" were "not even close" to being true.

General fund reserves, the town's savings account, need to be replenished after covering for utility fund overages over a period of several years, Williams said. He added, "This is a budgeting problem, not a crisis."

Williams said some level of increase would occur for property taxes and water, sewer and stormwater rates, but by how much has yet to be determined.

He had one final comment.

"Apparently, since the last council meeting, there has been a rumor on the street that all town employees will not be receiving pay increases in our next budget, except for the town administrator," Williams said. "This is not true."

He said Allen gave him a signed statement "she is unwilling to accept any raise that the town employees are not receiving."

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Outsourcing mgmt. motion passes

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) In discussing what the next Ocean Pines Association management team will look like, board members last Saturday agreed to gather information on outsourcing, but also praised the current team of department heads now running the operational and administrative functions.

Early during the meeting, Aquatics and Recreation and Parks Director Colby Phillips provided an overview of several cost-savings measures being done operationally, while Finance Director Steve Phillips presented news on the administrative side.

Later, during the “new business” portion, board members approved a Slobodan Trendic motion to issue bid requests for “management services of the association’s operations by a professional community management firm” by March 16.

Trendic said the purpose of the motion was to obtain pricing information and cost-benefit analysis for outsourcing management. The goal is to have the proposals reviewed and ready for the April 6 regular board meeting.

He said the traditional approach of hiring a general manager had “produced various degrees of success,” but bylaws allow the board to employ a professional management firm and the current board wished “to determine if using a third-party professional community management firm is a better overall option for the association.”

Director Frank Daly said the approach was “a piece of the puzzle that has to be evaluated.”

“We were elected to solve management problems, not to ignore them and not to tolerate them,” he said. “And we have a lot of management problems that need [to be] addressed.

“I’m tired of seeing reruns of the same damned problem, handled the same way, with the same lousy results for 8,452 assessment payers,” Daly continued. “And if that means changing things, we should change them ... simply tolerating a rerun of past failed situations is totally unacceptable and it dodges our responsibility as a board.”

Association Vice President Steve Tuttle said the motion felt rushed and he would rather see the current team members be allowed to try their hand.

“I’m not sure if we’re ready for this motion, frankly,” he said. “It just feels

like, to have this done by March 16 ... with our current situation is unrealistic. And we’re also in the stage right now where we’re trying to evaluate a number of different departments and how things are working and not working, empowering different people to take different responsibilities.

“I really feel like we need a bit more time to evaluate that whole process before we jump into putting out an RFP,” he continued. “If we put it out, I want to make sure we know ... what we really want to do, and that if we get these responses we’re committed to making a solid judgment on that. Right now, I don’t feel like we have enough information ... to step into that kind of process.”

Director Esther Diller said she was “extremely impressed with the team that’s in place ... with Colby and Steve Phillips and the team underneath them.”

“I feel that they’ve done a tremendous job and are accelerating a number of projects,” Diller said. “That being said, we still have to look for a final solution, whether it’s outsource or whether it’s hiring a traditional GM.

“The traditional GM just doesn’t seem to be working for this community,” she continued. “We are a small city – we have to acknowledge that.”

Diller rejected the idea that the association could afford to wait for information.

“This is a process that’s going to take some time and we have to start now,” she said.

Director Colette Horn called the motion “intriguing,” because board members explored outsourcing management several months ago and “found that it was more costly based on the examination that we did at that time.”

She agreed with Diller that Ocean Pines resembled a small city.

“I know there are sources for HOA managers – people with that background and expertise – but I think what we need to be looking at is something different,” Horn said. “And I think that may solve some of the management problems that we’ve all struggled with.”

Trendic said the motion didn’t call for hiring outside management, but rather for gathering information.

“What we don’t want to do is what happened [a] year-and-a-half ago, where we had basically an ad-hoc management setup that proved to be

very disadvantageous to the community,” he said.

On concerns about the aggressive timeline, Diller asked Association President Doug Parks if he could put together a request for proposals by March 16.

Parks replied, firmly, “Yes.”

He agreed with Horn that outsourcing had been explored and board members found “it comes with a premium cost ... it won’t be a money-saving venture, at least with the [preliminary] information we have.”

However, Parks said he re-read the motion and that “as long as it’s framed in ‘we are looking for information’ [and] we’re not presupposing that a third-party management structure is the solution,” he was in favor of it.

“It’s very important publicly that we state that all we’re getting is information,” he said. “We haven’t decided that the solution in the long-term will be a new management structure that’s a third-party [model].”

Board members voted 5-1 in favor of the motion, with only Tuttle opposed. One director, Ted Moroney, was not present because of a scheduling conflict.

A related motion, an operational assessment study proposed by Daly, was tabled.

“Right now ... an operational assessment is going on right before your eyes,” Diller said, specifically mentioning Colby and Steve Phillips. “There is no reason to spend association money on an operational assessment ... when it is happening as we speak.

“We are seeing a lot of things get done and you have to give them a chance,” she added.

Several other directors, including Tuttle, agreed.

“I really want to give the current team leaders that are in place the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and gifts,” Tuttle said, adding an assessment could then be done in-house. “Whatever our ultimate solution is – whether we have a GM or we have another company that’s outsourcing, they’re going to come in and do an operational assessment ... and so we might be just doing something that doesn’t really help us.

“I think we can take that information and actually do the assessment ourselves, working with the staff that we have, rather than hire an outside firm,” he said.

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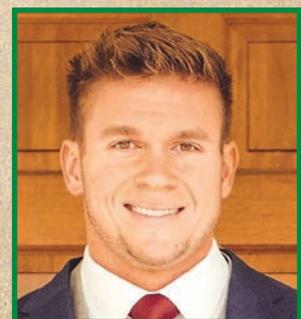
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Compensation study approved

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) With the approval of the fiscal 2020 budget, Ocean Pines board members realigned employee health care packages, with employees set to pay 20 percent of costs and the association covering the remaining 80 percent.

Previously, the association paid 100 percent of those costs.

Association President Doug Parks said Saturday the next logical step of that process would be a compensation study to bring employee salaries in line with surrounding communities.

The directors voted 5-0 to issue a request for proposals "for the purpose of conducting a compensation study for all association employees." Two directors, Esther Diller and Ted Moroney, were not present during the vote.

Frank Daly, in introducing the motion, said the purpose would be "to establish wage and benefits guidance comparable to similar positions within Worcester and adjacent counties on the Eastern Shore."

"Over the past two budget periods, compelling evidence has been presented that indicates a structural problem with the wages and benefits offered by the association," Daly said. "This evidence indicates that in some cases the wages may be above what would be expected on the Eastern Shore; in other cases the wages may be below what would be expected."

He said there was evidence employee health care benefits "show similar inconsistencies."

"The purpose of this study will be to develop wage ranges for each position and benefits that are comparable both in coverage and cost to those offered on the Eastern Shore for similar positions," Daly said.

Director Slobodan Trendic said the board inherited the problem and was "trying to address it in a fair, objective and transparent way."

However, he added several pay studies had been done in recent years, including one turned in last year by a human resources specialist no longer employed by the association.

"I'm trying to figure out, what do we do as a board here? Spend another \$20,000 for another study? ... Once you get the results, are you going to have the will and the power to address it in a way

that needs to be addressed?" he asked.

"As the old saying goes, 'Don't ask for something that you're not willing to deal with or to implement,'" Trendic continued. "As [Daly] said, not only do you have some positions that are underpaid, but you also have some positions that are overpaid – and you know how you deal with that problem."

He said the motion was well intentioned, but the association was "in a transition period with a lot of moving parts," and might be better served by using existing information.

"Let's look at the employees that are most impacted. Let's look at the total compensation package ... and let's do it in small steps," Trendic said. "I think [a solution is] going to be gradual. I would be more in favor that we take that approach ... and then revisit this if there is a need."

Director Colette Horn argued the motion was not so much a retreat and had been recommended by the association budget and finance committee.

"They pointed out that we do need to look at our compensation package," she said. "This isn't a pay study. This is not what was done several years ago [and] it's not what was done by our HR specialist in this past year. This is a broader look."

"To be discussing this as a pay study is an incorrect approach," Horn continued. "What I believe Director Daly is asking for is a compensation study that looks at the entire package and I support that. I think we need that at this point."

Parks agreed.

"Go back to the decisions we made with the upcoming budget, where we changed the health benefits package. We are now asking the staff to burden more of their income to pay for the health care benefits," he said.

"We're not talking about a pay study, we're talking about a compensation study," Parks continued. "I think we owe it as a follow-on decision to the staff and to the association to conduct this to make sure we are in alignment ... with best practices, business standards and those kinds of things."

"I'm in favor of it, because ... I think it's just part of the responsibility we had when we took on the notion of changing the benefits package for our staff," he said.



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Water, sewer study suggests 10-15 percent rate increases

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) To make up for shortfalls in Berlin water and sewer funds, rate increases should target high volume users, according to a new study by Salisbury architectural firm Davis, Bowen and Friedel.

In presenting the study to the Town Council Monday night, Rob Duma said the analysis took about a year to complete. He said Berlin had not adopted new rates in about five years.

Duma said annual connections in Berlin have been high, averaging 47 each year from 1999 until 2017. That figure was in the top third of neighboring communities, so no connection fee increases were recommended.

In analyzing water and sewer revenues and expenses, the study showed the water fund posted a loss in three of the last nine years and the wastewater account suffered a loss in six of the last nine years. Fund losses are covered by town reserves, also known as the general fund.

The town uses an "increasing block rate design method" for billing, which "helps to reduce the water usage by incentivizing users to use less water," the study said. There is a flat rate for those who use less than 3,000 gallons per month, with increased rates for 3,000 to 6,000 gallons, 6,000 to 8,000 gallons, and more drastic increases for more than 8,000 gallons.

As the current structure does not have a large impact on a user until they consume more than 8,000 gallons per month, the study recommended a higher cost increase for those using 3,000 to 8,000 gallons.

Town Administrator Laura Allen

noted 32 percent of Berlin users consume less than 3,000 gallons and would not be affected.

Additionally, the study cited \$2.9 million in needed capital improvements for water systems, including \$2.4 million for a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank, and \$775,000 in needed sewer capital improvements.

A proposed new rate structure would see increases phased in over a period of five years, with bumps during year one, year three and year five. In doing this, the reserve deficits created by borrowing for water and sewer overages would be repaid in 10-12 years, Allen said. Additionally, she said both funds would break even by year five.

In total, the study recommended a minimum 15 percent sewer rate increase and a 10 percent increase in water rates.

According to the study, "The town is able to achieve the necessary revenues by raising rates for high volume users. These new rates and the re-tiering will promote water conservation."

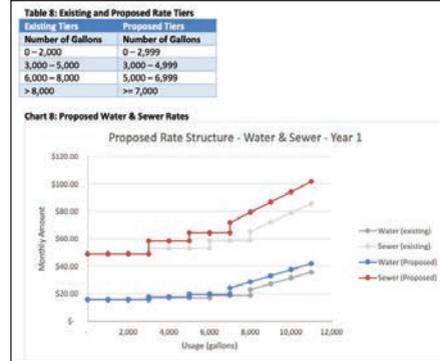


PHOTO FROM MEETING PACKET
New proposed rate structures for Berlin water and sewer are demonstrated using the "increasing block rate design method."

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Wente, Morning Fog, Chardonnay (2017)

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91 points, James Suckling- Red fruit concentration, with hints of flowers, forest floor, and shale.
\$23.99 Sale \$19.19
with purchase of a case

Robert Mondavi, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (2016)
91 points, Jeb Dunnuck- Dark fruits of black cherry, plum and blackberry are layered seamlessly with sweet spice, herbal, dark earth and a touch of sweet tobacco.
\$29.99 Sale \$23.99
with purchase of a case



Pomelo, Sauvignon Blanc (2016)
Orange blossom, ruby grapefruit, and white peach flavors set on a light body with pops of lime zest and passion fruit.
\$11.99 Sale \$9.59
with purchase of a case



Pine Ridge, Chenin Blanc/Viognier (2017)
90 Points, Wine Enthusiast. #80 in the top 100, Wine Enthusiast.- The bright entry reveals lychee, key lime, white peach, grapefruit, and nectarine flavors. Lemon-lime and balanced acidity carry through the clean, gentle, lingering finish.
\$12.99 Sale \$10.39
with purchase of a case



Bogle, Chardonnay (2017)

The elegant and creamy mouthfeel wraps around the fruit and leads to spicy notes of nutmeg and toasty vanilla.
\$9.99 Sale \$7.99
with purchase of a case



1000 Stories, Zinfandel (2016)

91 Points, The Tasting Panel.- Aromatic red fruit scents and complex black fruit flavors. A touch of Petite Sirah and Syrah enhance those flavors even more with bold black and white pepper spices.
\$17.99 Sale \$14.39
with purchase of a case



Cline, Farmhouse, Red Blend (2017)

Juicy red is full-bodied with flavors of dark berries and black-pepper.
\$11.99 Sale \$9.59
with purchase of a case



Villa Pozzi, Nero d'Avola (2017)

Aromas of blackberry, white flowers, vanilla, and a hint of figs. On the palate, it is opulent and full bodied with a great intensity.
\$9.99 Sale \$7.99
with purchase of a case



Battle Creek, Unconditional Pinot Noir (2017)

The entry is dark and brambly and continues the theme of black fruit accompanied by Christmas spices and sweet wood..
\$16.99 Sale \$13.59
with purchase of a case



Monsieur Touton, Sauvignon Blanc (2017)
Crisp and clean flavors of lemon zest, grapefruit and citrus peel against a subtle minerality makes this the perfect introduction to white Bordeaux.
\$10.99 Sale \$8.79
with purchase of a case

La Vieille Ferme, Rose (2018)
A beautiful freshness, with delicate red fruits, flowers and citrus aromas.
\$9.99 Sale \$7.99
with purchase of a case



Crios de Susana Balbo, Rose of Malbec (2018)
Flavors of strawberries and young cherries come rushing in, accompanied by some spice notes and a clean, dry finish.
\$12.99 Sale \$10.39
with purchase of a case



Charles de Fere, Blanc de Blancs Brut
Elegant, long-lasting and well-balanced between freshness and fruit.
\$10.99 Sale \$8.79
with purchase of a case



GH Mumm, Brut Champagne
90 Points, Wine Spectator.- Vanilla, roasted nuts and a hint of toast.
\$49.99 Sale \$39.99
with purchase of a case



Kris, Pinot Grigio (2017)

Acacia flowers, lime, tangerine and hints of apricots and almonds.
\$12.99 Sale \$10.39
with purchase of a case



Gemma di Luna, Pinot Grigio (2017)

White peach and mango taffy with a satiny, crisp, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a smooth, medium-length sweet yogurt, lime zest, and underripe strawberry finish with soft, fruit tannins and no oak flavor.
\$11.99 Sale \$9.59
with purchase of a case



Tenuta di Arceno, Chianti Classico (2015)

92 Points, James Suckling.- Elegant and refined, with lovely fresh, vibrant flavors of pomegranate and bright cherries.
\$22.99 Sale \$18.39
with purchase of a case



Brewer- Clifton, Chardonnay (2016)

91 Points, Robert Parker. Refined and powerful, with concentrated flavors of green apple, ripe citrus and mineral that are deftly supported by fresh acidity. Hints of dried savory herbs show on the finish.
\$32.99 Sale \$26.39
with purchase of a case



Faust, The Pact, Cabernet Sauvignon (2014)

93 Points, Robert Parker.- A dense and chewy wine with lots of blueberry and blackberry character. Full body, lots of fruit and concentration.
\$99.99 Sale \$79.99
with purchase of a case



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Pines Board crafts building compromise

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Saturday approved a design concept and location for a new craft building to be used by the Pine'eer Craft Club.

Plans call for the new building to be north of the bathrooms across from the administration building and adjacent to the Ocean Pines Farmer's Market held at White Horse Park.

The existing building will be demolished to provide additional parking for the community center.

According to a motion by Association Vice President Steve Tuttle, the Pine'eer Artisan and Gift Shop was established in 1974. To date, the organization has donated more than \$151,000 to Ocean Pines organizations.

"The club sponsors craft fairs that brings hundreds of people into the Pines to highlight our community and what we have to offer," Tuttle said, adding that the beneficiaries of the club's efforts have been the Ocean Pines Police and EMS, the library, public works and parks and recreation. He said the club also has provided "considerable equipment for our parks and items used within our buildings."

The club also paid Ocean Pines an annual rent of \$675.

Several local people spoke on behalf of the group during the public comments portion of the meeting, including Club President Sharon Puser, who said the club has 72 members. She said they were men and women,

"Some people come just for the friendship," Puser continued. "They come because they like what we do [and] the fact that what we do goes back to the community that we live in."



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Board last Saturday approved plans for a new craft club building near White Horse Park.

and both residents and nonresidents.

"Our club is open to the public. We meet once a month and after our general meeting we do a craft," she said. "You do not have to be a crafter to join our club. We have members that are not crafters ...one in particular she says, 'Well, I don't craft, but I just love this club.'

Along with monetary contributions, she said club members made crafts for both children and seniors, and the group participated in the "Family Fun Day" last year during Ocean Pines' 50th anniversary celebration.

Resident Carol Fritz said there are many clubs in Ocean Pines, but not all had their own building.

"If they want a building, I'm for that. But also, pay the money to come back to the community to offset the building that you're putting up," she said.

"We have a lot of wonderful groups. They might also want a space, so are we opening up a Pandora's box here?" Fritz continued. "They're a lovely group [and] they seem like wonderful people, but you're hitting

us in the pocket."

Resident Phil Quinto countered there are many other clubs who use association facilities for free, while the craft club has donated more than \$151,000.

"That's money that Ocean Pines does not have to pay or distribute to anybody. They provide a community service – they've proven that over a 40-year period," he said.

Quinto said money for a new building was already allocated and would not affect future assessments, and the group provided "positive publicity to Ocean Pines."

"It's a valuable organization, contributes to the community, and offsets expenses that Ocean Pines would have if they were not in existence," he said.

In discussing the motion, Director Frank Daly said board members had a fiduciary responsibility to ensure funds were managed properly, but they also had other vital duties.

"As much as we try to hide from it, disguise it, deny that it exists, we are a community," Daly said. "In fact, we are the largest community on the Eastern Shore and ... we also have an equal fiduciary responsibility to do things to improve the fabric of that community and the community life, and those two things are pointing at each other with this issue."

He proposed a friendly amendment to the original motion, to enter into a 10-year rental agreement with the club "to ensure OPA a rate of return on capital of 3.0 percent." Based on cost estimates of \$75,000 to \$100,000 for the building, Daly said the club would pay an annual rent between \$3,792 and \$5,064, depending on final construction costs.

He said club donations each year would be subtracted from the rental amount, adding average donations over the last five years were \$4,890 annually.

"We're going to take care of the money," Daly said. "We're also in doing this recognizing the contributions that the club makes to the community."

Daly cited as an example the club's donation of a defibrillator for the community center.

"When a club donates something that is used in this community and something identified and need in this community, that, in effect, reduced your assessment," he said. "In my mind, that kind of justifies proceeding with this type of investment."

The friendly amendment and the original motion as amended each passed 4-2, with directors Slobodan Trendic and Esther Diller not in favor. One director, Ted Moroney, was not present during the meeting.

For more information on the Pine'eer Artisan and Gift Shop, visit www.oceanpines.org/amenities/pine-neer-craft-shop.

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Berlin Farmer's Market will swap locations, reopen in May

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) The Berlin's Farmer's Market will reopen May 5 in a new location, the corner of Pitts and William streets, where it will wrap around the parking area near J&M Meat Market.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the move from Artisan's Green, where the market was resurrected last year, was partially because of financial concerns.

"There was a substantial rental fee that we had to pay [property owners] Bay Four LLC and the Mariner family to rent that property. With everything going on with the budget right now, we're trying to cut back on expenditures," Wells said.

Instead, Wells struck a deal with Calvin B. Taylor Bank President Raymond Thompson to use the lot, which the bank owns. She said the bank would officially become a sponsor of the farmer's market and there will be no cost to the town to use the lot.

Additionally, Wells said the new area was ADA accessible, as opposed to the field on Artisan's Green that would often become waterlogged after rain.

"There were some people who had a difficult time getting around the grassy areas, and when it rains the ground was saturated," Wells said. "The moles have had their way with that property, and the cost was such a big factor."

The move, only about 100 yards from the previous location, will also allow for neighboring shops to become a part of the market, she said.

"The number-one thing that people said they really wanted at the

farmer's market was fresh seafood, poultry and beef, and now we have that with the meat market. Plus, with Uncle Jon's Soap moving over [to Pitts Street], I think it's going to be a good location," she said.

"It's just a good use for the property on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with live music and kid's activities," Wells continued. "All the farmers from last year have already signed on to come back, and I've been getting bombarded with more people who want to join."

Wells did emphasize that the market "was not about quantity, it's about quality." The official tagline is "Real Farmers, Real Farmer's Market."

"I don't want to saturate the market," she said. "I've already got someone who is offering greens, for example, and I have a couple people

doing corn and tomatoes, but they're all different and unique in their own way. Those people were with me from the beginning, so they're invited back first, and anyone else who wants to join in will be second

to my original farmers.

"It is a producers-only market still," she continued. "You cannot purchase any of your produce or any of your items from elsewhere - you must either farm or create your items," Wells added.

She said the impact to parking in the area would be minimal, with space for about 20 vendors being used. If there is overflow, Pitts Street would be partially closed to accommodate some additional vendors.

To become a vendor, call Wells at 410-629-1722. For more information on the farmer's market, visit www.facebook.com/theberlinfarmersmarket or www.BerlinMainStreet.com/farmersmarket.

'It is a producers-only market ... You cannot purchase any of your produce or any of your items from elsewhere - you must either farm or create your items.'

Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells



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Canfora targets Footbridge Trail speeders

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Ocean Pines resident Susan Canfora has had it with speeders on her street. She has lived on Footbridge Trail, near the south gate, since 1990s and for most of those years, drivers have observed the 25 mph speed limit.

The last five years though? Not so much.

“When I moved here, it was a nice, quiet street with very few homes and [a lot of] trees and deer in the front yard. It was a beautiful place to live and it still is a beautiful place to live,” Canfora said. “But, I’d say in the past four or five years the speeding up and down my street has increased to a point now where people are flying by at 35-45 miles and hour.”

Three weeks ago, a car struck her 3-year-old Maine coon and calico mix cat, Waverly.

“I was outside walking my dog and one of my cats follows me,” she said. “She was right on the edge of my driveway ... and an old man who lives on Poplar in a green corvette came flying down the street and he hit her.

“She didn’t die, thank God, but she got beat up pretty good,” Canfora continued. “I had to rush her to the emergency room and spend \$500 for his mistake and the mistake that the police have made – I’ve been asking for four

or five years now to please do something to slow these people down.”

Canfora said the cat was rolled under car and then ran off, only to come back about an hour later with blood on her mouth and face.

“I wasn’t sure if she was spitting up blood or she had internal injuries, so I rushed her over the Pet’s ER in Salisbury and they did all kinds of scans and tests and blood work. She got beat up pretty good. She had bruised lungs and cuts all over her little face and her mouth. She’s still really sore and if you try to pick her up she still cries.”

Immediately after the incident, Canfora said the speeder stopped and argued with her that he “can go 25 miles an hour up and down the street all he wants and there’s nothing [she] can do about it.”

“I said a few choice words to him, as you can probably imagine, and I told him not come down the street again,” she said.

Canfora is asking Ocean Pines to

lower the speed limit to 15 miles per hour.

“We started talking to the other neighbors and we found out that all around Nottingham, all around Foot-



Ocean Pines resident Susan Canfora asks board members last Saturday to consider lowering speeds on her street.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

bridge, into The Parke, the more people we talk to, every one of them is saying the same thing: that they’re scared to death to go for walks,” she said.

“It’s been an ongoing problem for years ... and it’s just getting worse and worse,” Canfora added.

Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey said police are monitoring the situation, but there is no evidence of a

speeding problem.

“We’ve monitored her street [and] put a speed board on her street, and we’ve never found a problem,” he said, adding so far the highest speed logged by police was 26 miles per hour.

“We’ll continue to monitor it,” Massey continued. “But we’ve put special radar enforcement details there and ... there’s been no evidence of a problem, empirically.”

Canfora, meanwhile, continues to lobby for a speed reduction. She’s called on delegates Carl Anderton and Wayne Hartman, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, one representative from the governor’s office, two representatives from the state highway administration and a lawyer.

According to Canfora, Anderton did some research and told her Ocean Pines “has complete autonomy and jurisdiction over these streets, and can change the speed limit at will.”

“They don’t need permission from the county and they don’t need permission from the state,” she said.

She also spoke with Association President Doug Parks, who was “very nice,” but also protective of Ocean Pines police, she said.

“He said he didn’t know what to do and he didn’t know how to change the speed limit – so I found out for him,” Canfora said.

She now plans to launch a petition
See PINES Page 17

OPEN HOUSES Weekly Mar. 14 - Mar. 21

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point., Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matrona/Resort Homes
Sat-Mon, 11-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat. & Sun. 11-2pm	Muirfield Lane., River Run	3-4BR/2-3.5BA	Single Family	\$399,900-\$479,900	Ed Wehnert/Coldwell Banker
Thurs-Mon 11-4pm	9801 Mooring View Lane, Unit 33, OC	3BR/2.5BA	Duplex/Townhouse	From \$299,900	Kathleen Clark/Monogram Realty
Saturday 10-2	Gateway Grand #1012, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$829,900	Elaine Davidson/ReMax Advantage
Saturday 10-1	12139 Landings Blvd., Bayside – Berlin	5BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$479,000	Taylor Bakke/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10-1	14 39th St. #2, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$172,000	Cameron Drew/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10-1	10214 Friendship Rd., Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$347,777	Anna Spann/Hileman Real Estate
Sat. & Sun. 11-2	213 N. Heron Dr., Heron Harbor	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$1,200,000	Kevin Heselbach/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10-12	8 Watertown Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$294,900	Sandra Dougan/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday 11-1	71 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$285,000	Bethany Drew/PO2 Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1:30-3:30	47 Coastal Dr., Mystic Harbor	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$144,900	Taylor Bakke/PO2 Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 12-2	14135 Sea Captain, Caine Woods	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$659,900	Pam Wadler/Shamrock Realty
Saturday 2-4	13461 Madison Ave., Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$889,000	Lauren Bunting/Bunting Realty
Saturday 11-1	Barbary Coast Dr., Berlin	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$334,900	Lauren Bunting/Bunting Realty
Fri 11-1-Sat, 11-2-Sun 11-1	1 Freeport La., The Park – OP	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$325,000	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Fri 2-4-Sat. 12-2- Sun 1:30-3	31 Windswept Dr., Bayvista II	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$380,000	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Sat. & Sun. 12-2	207 Windward Dr. #303, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$187,000	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Saturday 10-12	13244 Rollie Rd. East Bishopville	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$249,000	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Sunday 12-2	210 Worcester St., Assateague House #408	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$329,900	Kelli Meeks/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sat. & Sun. 11-2	701 Rusty Anchor Rd. #21, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Townhome	\$229,900	Tara Wancowicz/Berkshire Hathaway Pen Fed
Saturday 10-4	13700 Wight St. #6N, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$429,000	Claudia Gausepohl/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 10-12	10 143rd St., Le’Lisa #104	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$299,900	Claudia Gausepohl/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 1-3	12702 Whisper Trace Dr., Oyster Harbor	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$389,000	Claudia Gausepohl/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Friday 2-4:30	419 Bayshore Dr., Palm Bay #202	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$329,900	Karen Oass/Long & Foster
Sunday 10-1	10300 Coastal Hwy., Atlantis #902	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$259,000	Karen Oass/Long & Foster
Saturday 12-4	325 Yacht Club Dr., Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Townhouse	\$269,900	Mark Decker/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday 11-2	132 Parkside Crl., Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$424,900	Dan O’Hare/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 11-2	827 Little John Dr., Salisbury	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$228,900	Mark Decker/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 11-2	28 Grand Port Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$524,900	Dan O’Hare/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sunday 11-2	13602 Wight St. #102, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$440,000	John Houk/Berkshire Hathaway Pen Fed

Berlin Resilience Element meetings set

(March 14, 2019) This week the Town of Berlin is preparing its first Resilience Element for the comprehensive plan by hosting three community meetings to ask citizens what they want to be considered and included in that document.

“Our community has a strong environmental ethic. It’s one of the values that came out strongly in our strategic planning meetings,” Mayor Gee Williams said. “The ‘Making Berlin Resilient’ meetings are a great opportunity for the community to share their concerns about climate change, growth and financial sustainability.”

The town received a \$20,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to prepare the element. The town’s comprehensive plan is updated every 10 years.

“We’re partnering with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to facilitate the meetings and to draft the Resilience Element,” Town Administrator Laura Allen said.

The community meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 14, 6-9 p.m. – Buckingham Elementary School

Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Worcester County Library, Berlin Branch

Monday, March 18, 6-9 p.m. – Town Hall

The town is also partnering with Worcester Youth and Family to provide free youth activities for the children of parents attending the meetings on March 14 and March 16.

The Berlin Youth Club will be offering an activity and a light meal for children during the meetings. Parents can drop their children off at Worcester Youth and Family, on 124 North Main Street, 30 minutes before the start of the Making Berlin Resilient

meetings and pick them up when the meeting is over.

“The thoughts and ideas that come from the Making Berlin Resilient meetings will form the basis of the Resilience Element,” Allen said. “We expect to post the draft document to the town’s website for additional public review and comment by June.

“Our goal is to have the draft Resilience Element to the planning commission before the end of summer and to the mayor and council before the end of the year,” she added.

“I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to participate in the community meetings and be a part of co-creating Berlin’s future,” Williams said.

Pines speeding petition possible

Continued from Page 16

to have the speed limit changed.

If all else fails, Canfora said she could install a speed bump herself.

“I’ve threatened to put in my own speed bump,” she said. “They told me if I do, I’m get arrested. I said, ‘Arrest me, I’ll have [a television station’s] helicopter flyer overhead while you put handcuffs on me.’ That’s how upset I am.

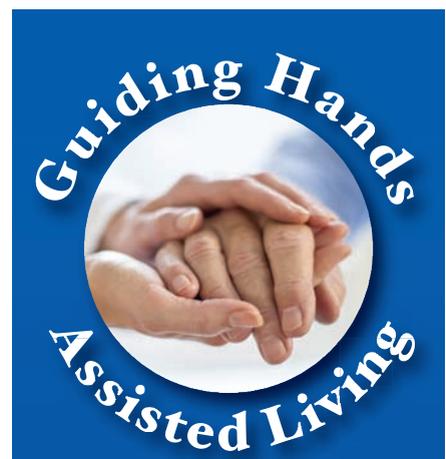
“I already have the order number from Amazon for the speed bump and I’m not going to back down. If I have to stand out there with a damned flag and a radar gun, I’m going to do it,” she added.

Canfora on Saturday asked the Ocean Pines Board during its regular meeting to lower the speed.

“We have 19 children on that street

[and] we have an 85-year-old woman ... who walks her dog with a walker,” she said. “I’m asking you to please take this more seriously, please lower the speed limit and put a speed bump in.”

Asked about a petition, Parks said he believed the magic number for signature totals is about 900, adding he would get back to Canfora with the exact number.



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NJROTC members at Stephen Decatur High School were given a preliminary rating of outstanding during an annual inspection in Berlin last Thursday. A formal report of the inspection is said to take several weeks.

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NJROTC earns A-OK grade at Berlin inspection

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) An annual military inspection of several dozen Stephen Decatur High School students in Berlin last Thursday resulted in an outstanding report, according to Jennifer Miller.

Miller is the booster club secretary for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, or NJROTC.

LCDR Dr. Robert C. Stewart, U.S. Navy (Ret.) said it the day was important for the unit and the annual regional inspection is a significant benchmark for NJROTC programs throughout the nation.

The Stephen Decatur High School unit welcomed Region 5 NJROTC Commander Capt. James Daniels, also retired U.S. Navy, who conducted the inspection this year.

“Our cadets worked hard to prepare for the inspection, which is a formal, rigorous opportunity for cadets to shine, demonstrate various skills and knowledge, leadership, self-discipline, and positive ability to work and function in a group dynamic,” Stewart said. “These are of course important life skills and character traits that contribute to personal positive growth, development, and help aid in lifelong success and happiness, regardless of the path students may elect after graduation.”



Members of the NJROTC stand at attention during an annual inspection at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, last Thursday.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

By the end of the inspection, Stewart said, the unit “had an overall sense that we had a great day and positive experience.”

“The cadets definitely have reason to be proud of their accomplishments,” he said. “Our school administration and leadership, local government leaders, our booster club, parents, and guests from the community demonstrated terrific

commitment and support to our program and the cadets themselves. We are so thankful for all of our supporters who came out to cheer us on!”

A formal report by Daniels providing the unit with a designated overall rating, along with detailed particulars, has yet to be completed, Stewart said.

“We certainly are pleased with the positive comments received from

him, as well as feedback for improvements already given,” he said. “This final report will not be formally completed and returned to us for about two weeks.”

“In the meantime, as we anxiously await the report [and] we are enjoying a sense of accomplishment,” he continued. “We are very grateful for the significant community support.”



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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DoNovo's will soon open a second location, "Pop's Kitchen," on Gay Street in downtown Berlin.

DeNovo's to open second location in downtown Berlin

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) Popular Ocean Pines pizzeria DeNovo's Trattoria is opening a second location in Berlin, called "Pop's Kitchen."

Owners Bob and Kelli Beck last Wednesday received approval from the Berlin Historic District Commission for new signs for the restaurant on 15 Gay Street.

According to Bob Beck, "the focus would be on pizza, homemade soup, sandwiches and limited entrees and some salads, some of the staple food items" of DeNovo's.

He said the restaurant would offer "quick-serve" food mainly for takeout, with only limited seating inside.

The commission approved two items for the new eatery: a 36-by-60-inch aluminum and wooden sign to be hung over the second story of the storefront, and a 42-by-34-inch wooden sign that will be installed under the front awning. Plak That, in West Ocean City, will make both signs.

Commission member Laura Stearns said the larger sign would help draw customers off of Main Street.

"You're going to need it going out like that, so people can see you," she said. "I like the style of it. I think it goes nicely with the building."

Commission member Mary Moore added, "I'm very excited you're coming" to Berlin.

"I come there [in Ocean Pines] a lot," she said. "I'm a carryout person with your wonderful soups and chicken salads. And it's a nice niche, because there isn't something that fills that void [in Berlin]."

Only commission member Robert Poli thought the signs were inconsistent with others in the district.

"The other stores that have their locations off Main Street usually have either their signs on sandwich boards or their signs on Main Street. My personal view is this doesn't conform with our views of how our historic district should look," he said.

Chairwoman Carol Rose disagreed. "Everybody else thinks it's OK," she said. "To me, this is much, much better [than a sandwich board]."

Commission members voted 5-1 to approve the signs, with only Poli opposed.

He did have one final question. "Do you make your own pizza dough?" Poli asked.

"Yes, sir," Bob Beck said. "Perfect," Poli said. "Just because I don't like where the sign's going to be [doesn't mean he won't be] coming there for the pizza."

Economic Development Director Ivy Wells also attended the meeting.

"I'm really pleased that everyone here will be able to get a nice, beautiful slice of pizza in the future," she said.

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Board of zoning appeals request branches out

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(March 14, 2019) The Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals didn't go out on a limb, but went out for a limb when members approved a setback variance for two homeowners last Wednesday.

After waiting a month because of a continuance, Daniel and Naquelle Jacobs were granted a reduction to the side yard setback for an accessory building, a garage, from six feet to two feet for their 105 South Main Street home.

Appeals board members were reluctant to rule on the matter last month because of concerns that reducing the setback could be an issue with the county fire marshal. As drawn, the new garage would have just a few feet between it and a garage on the neighboring property.

Board Chairman Joe Moore swore in Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart, who brought back information from Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Matthew Owens.

"He said ... unless there were living quarters as part of the accessory structure, they would not review plans for it, they would not be looking for fire separation or a sprinkler system, so they wouldn't be reviewing it," he said.

"He said they don't review accessory buildings – garages or sheds – no matter how close they are to adjoining accessory structures," Engelhart added.

The burden was then on the homeowners to prove a hardship.

Naquelle Jacobs took the lead, saying she's originally from "a little, itty bitty town" in the middle of rural Ohio and grew up in a farmhouse built during the 1840s.

After living in Ocean City for three years, she and her husband bought a home in Whaleyville.

"When we started looking for a house, I thought I wanted space," she said. "But it wasn't space that I wanted so much – it was that little community feel that I was missing from home, which meant we were always in Berlin anyway."

They then bought a 1922 bungalow in Berlin.

"I fell in love with it immediately, because of its charm and its character," she said. "It has all the big-old baseboards and the glass doorknobs and the five-panel doors – it's pretty much everything for me."

The house also came with a large chestnut oak in the backyard, which Jacobs said was roughly 161 years old.

When they planned to replace the old garage, Jacobs said she wanted to match the aesthetic of Berlin, but also "make the best use of our property."

She said that meant, rather than shifting the new garage away from the property line, requesting a setback variance to move it away from the chestnut oak.

"Our giant tree ... has a giant limb that protrudes over that area," she said. "In order to build anything ... we would have to remove that limb."

Jacobs said the branch was the largest on the tree, at nearly half the diameter of the trunk.

"It's actually recommended to only

remove limbs that are only up to one-third of the diameter of trunk, in order to not cause devastating loss to the tree overall," she said. "Removing that limb

Berlin streets in the historic district, Jacobs counted 106 houses, but only four with shared driveways, as they have.

"That's less than 4 percent ... and it's



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Naquelle and Daniel Jacobs last Wednesday receive Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals approval for a setback variance, for a new garage.

would likely wind up killing the entire tree."

Jacobs added, "The tree is over 161 years old – it's been here longer than Berlin itself has been incorporated. I don't know about you guys, but that's really stinking cool to me."

She went on to say after walking eight

because of this shared driveway that we're having a limited options on exactly where to place the garage," she said.

Jacobs said neighbors had no issue with the garage plans, and it would be a "vast improvement over the current building, which does have structural damage."

"The proposed building plans allow for an improved structure, which will increase property value and is the best aesthetic option," she said.

Two members from the Berlin Historic District Commission, Chairwoman Carol Rose and Vice Chairman Robert Poli, supported the variance request.

Bryan Brushmiller, whose neighboring property would be most affected, also spoke in favor of the Jacobs' plans.

However, for Moore it all came down to the tree.

"One of the things that I believe does make their circumstances a bit unique is the tree," he said. "I didn't realize it was [161] years old."

"My home is also in the historic district and it's down the street," he said. "My house was built in 1920 and I have two sycamore trees in the front yard, so they're going to soon be 100 years old, and I believe that they do have a significance, particularly in the historic district," Moore added.

The request was approved 3-0 with three members present: Moore, Jay Knerr and Robert Palladino.

Poli, after the vote, said the late Ed Hammond, Moore's former partner, also would have approved.

"He loved trees in this town," Poli said. "And he's listening right now."

"Ed Hammond would be almost as old as my two trees!" Moore said with a laugh.

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Opinion

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

Berlin park has little to do with budget woes

New critics of the Town of Berlin's purchase of the former Tyson chicken processing plant in 2015 are mistaken, when they argue that passing on that purchase would have eliminated the current need for a tax increase and higher sewer and water rates.

The property, which was bought for \$2.5 million drawn, in part, from the town's general fund reserves, is not connected to this year's budget difficulty. That problem is due to losses experienced by the financially separate water and sewer operation, not because of this or that general fund expenditure.

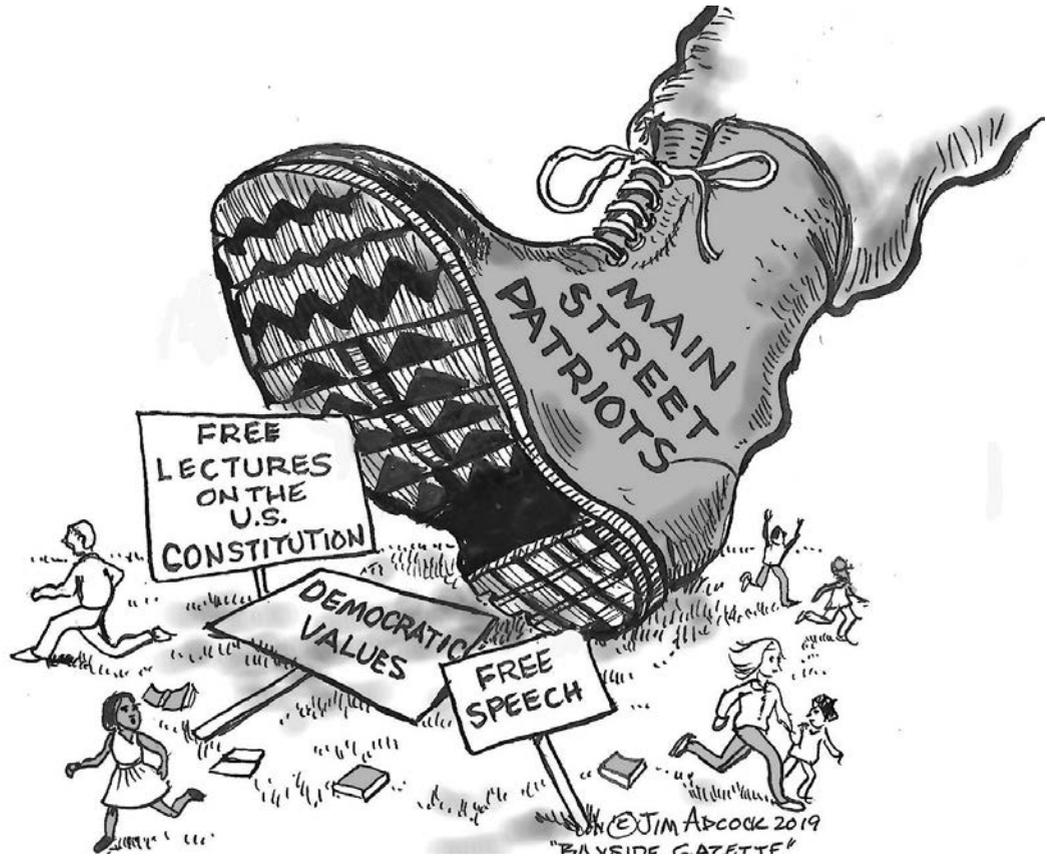
Simply put, it has cost more for Berlin to deliver these utilities than the town has received in water and sewer fees, which are deposited in a budgetarily separate enterprise fund. To make up for those losses, the town transferred money from its general fund to its water and sewer fund, a practice that could not go on indefinitely without somehow raising more revenue.

Not buying Berlin Falls and using that extra general fund money to continue subsidizing the water and sewer fund would do nothing to fix the problem of fees that are too low. All it would do is postpone the inevitable. Sooner or later, the town would have to replenish its general fund via a tax increase, and raise water and sewer fees to where the utility can support itself.

In other vein, neither can the town use the Berlin Falls bond or grant revenue for anything but Berlin Falls. That money is locked in by the town's pledge to spend it for that one specific purpose. To break that pledge would invite trouble that's more serious than the town's current circumstances.

This doesn't mean that acquiring the Tyson property was a good or bad financial decision. All it does mean from the financial standpoint is that Berlin could have used that general fund money to delay tax increases and higher fees for a couple more years, when the town and its taxpayers would find themselves in the exact same position they are now.

To suggest otherwise is either mistaken or misleading.



Letters

Freedom of speech?

Editor,

Many people are bemoaning the lack of civil discourse in this country. Most of us get our news and information from sources which reinforce what we believe. We do not seek input from people or organizations that challenge our beliefs.

Commentators talk about information "silos." So, what happens when a public library gives us a chance to break out of our comfortable opinion ruts? All hell breaks loose.

I was disappointed to learn that the Worcester County Library had canceled a program about impeachment that was scheduled for March 6 at the Berlin Branch. I do not question the library's decision to cancel, but I very much regret the reason for the cancellation.

The library, in the persons of the library director, Berlin branch manager, trustees, and others, received complaints, protests, and in some cases threats from people who objected to the subject matter of the program. There were demands that specific li-

brary employees be fired.

"Impeachment: Article II, Section 4 of the United States Constitution" was designed as an informational and educational program to explore a topic that is bandied about, often carelessly, in the news and social media. I assume it would have dealt with the history of the process, in which only two presidents have ever been impeached by the House of Representatives and both were acquitted by the Senate.

The program description mentioned emoluments, a word that is frequently referenced in news broadcasts and cable TV chatter but often not well explained. What constitutes a "high crime and misdemeanor?" Why were the writers of the Constitution so vague about such terms? Were there definitions and understandings that were common in the late 18th century that have been lost or muddled over the years? What are involved in the steps of the impeachment process, from committee hearing and vote to consideration by the House, to trial in the Senate?

The program was not planned, advertised, or pro-

moted as advocating the impeachment of President Trump. Such a position would be clearly out of line. Why then the fierce opposition? Have we reached such depths in this country that straightforward discussion of an admittedly controversial topic cannot be tolerated?

One of the troubling aspects of this incident is the profound misunderstanding of the role of the public library in a community. Public libraries are not vehicles for partisan politics. Providing information and education are cornerstones of a public library's core mission. People who govern, run and work in public libraries are not hapless pawns that can be used by political groups.

Some people who voiced strong objections to the program focused on the presenter. The man is a retired attorney, who has taught a multi-session course on the Constitution for the library several times in the past few years. His major flaw, apparently, is that he was once the chairman of the Democratic Party in Worcester County.

To some this was a clear indication that the program See LETTERS Page 23

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Letters

Continued from Page 22

would be tilted toward the Democratic Party position on impeachment (as if there is a single position). What is the basis for this assumption? How do we know for sure if he is for or against impeachment of the current president? Is it impossible for someone to subordinate his personal political views in the process of presenting information on a topic?

Perhaps those who objected to the program would answer that no, someone cannot keep his personal feelings from influencing his presentation. What does this mean for how we view teachers, clergy people, journalists? Does everyone who deals with ideas need to pass a "political acceptability" test?

If supporters of the president were convinced that the program would be a partisan, one-sided affair, a reasonable response might have been to encourage people who had a different view to attend and voice their beliefs. In fact, there is evidence that this was one early response – to make sure that people who could keep things balanced attended the program. That is a far better, more civil, and healthier response.

Suppose the program had proceeded as scheduled. And suppose that in the course of the discussion a genuine disagreement had surfaced among those in attendance. Some might have advocated impeaching the president. Others may have strenuously objected to this idea. Each side might have cited arguments for its position.

Emotions might have been stirred. Voices might have been raised. People might have become uncomfortable. In all probability neither side would be convinced by the other and no consensus would have been reached among the group.

Is this the worst outcome we can imagine? What is wrong with such an exercise in democracy? What are we afraid of? Vigorous, even emotional discussion of contentious issues should be the hallmark of a free and open society. Let us learn from this unfortunate incident; let us embrace our freedom and exercise it confidently

and responsibly.

*Mark Thomas
Former Worcester County
Library Director
Berlin*

Impeachment story was misleading

Editor,

In last week's issue of the *Gazette*, a local, informal, loosely knit group was the target of accusation and innuendo, the story based solely on the statements of the very people who leveled the accusations and innuendo.

Said local group basically exists only as a Facebook page and an email contact list . . . there is no membership list, there are no meetings, there is no board of directors, there are only folks who are bonded by an appreciation for all that our president has accomplished for America in only two years, people who are proud to be American.

The "group" calls itself "Main Street Patriots, Eastern Shore of Maryland," and it is not right wing, it is not Republican, in a lot of ways it is not even conservative. It is a pro-Trump bunch of people, period. And even though Trump carried this county by a margin of almost 2 to 1, Trump supporters here are targeted by haters, just as they are across the country.

That said, the *Gazette/Ocean City Today* article painted a very unfair and inaccurate picture of a group that exists primarily as a Facebook page. Anyone and everyone can comment on that page, and the editors try to weed out inappropriate comment when they come across them.

The majority of those inappropriate, vile, and threatening comments come from people who hate us for supporting our president. In the *Gazette* article in question, one stupid comment was quoted and sensationalized, and the implication was that the "Main Street Patriots" Facebook page was riddled with threatening messages . . . "the decision [to cancel] was made in response to postings [plural] on the internet, including those [plural] appearing in the Facebook page of "Main

Street Patriots Eastern Shore MD" and "When people [plural] threatened to disrupt the presentation, we thought that would raise a safety issue . . ."

The very people who are angry over the library event being cancelled are the ones telling us of the existence of numerous threatening postings/people! Where are "those postings"? Where are "those people"? Why is one off-the-cuff comment – among the thousands that are posted every week – being used to demonize a group of law-abiding citizens who did absolutely nothing wrong?

In reality, the "safety concerns" expressed in the article were embellishments, exaggerated by those looking to demonize folks who differ in opinion, those looking to blame the cancellation of the event on-an-off-the-cuff, stupid comment posted on Facebook by someone who is not even a resident of this state.

Anyone can post a comment on the page, and in almost every case it is the anti-Trump crowd who post hateful and/or threatening comments. Facebook, like Twitter, is what it is, and with approximately two thousand "follows" and thousands of comments, the page's editors do their best to monitor comments.

One dumb comment by someone on Facebook (out of thousands and thousands on the page) is being used as an excuse to discredit the group and distract from the real issue, which was

that a partisan political event was being presented at a taxpayer-funded facility.

Dozens of citizens of Worcester County formally objected to the inappropriateness of that and that alone, and even though many saw the presentation as a hate-fest of anti-Trump sentiment, Mr. Sribnick is certainly entitled to hold the event at a different venue, perhaps at a meeting of a local Democrat group.

Yes, because locals objected to a taxpayer-funded library being used for a Democrat pep-rally presented by a Democratic committeeman, we are told that the meeting was cancelled due to safety concerns.

Oddly enough, there were in fact safety concerns, but not in the way the article states. Worcester County Director of Libraries Jennifer Ranck (who was quoted in the article numerous times) fails to mention that said safety concerns were raised by the Trump supporters who planned on attending, because of the hundred of attacks on Trump supporters nationwide over the last two years (the most recent attack is still in the news, with the attacker charged with three felonies, and the Jesse Smollet "MAGA" hoax has just resulted in a 16 count felony indictment).

Ms. Ranck was well aware that OUR group intended to request the presence
See LETTERS Page 32



March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month!
Colon Cancer is personal for Copy Central. My husband Michael and I lost our daughter Gina to colon cancer in 2014. Gina Barnes was just 37 years old when she was diagnosed with colon cancer. A wife and mother of three children she was too busy to make time for herself even when she noticed there was a problem. There is the misconception that colon cancer is thought of as an older person's disease. It can attack anyone under 50 years of age. Gina fought her battle with courage and poise while serving as a role model for others fighting their own battle. Gina's Comfort Fund was created in her honor

to provide comfort and resources to individuals fighting the battle. Every day individuals fight cancer. Many of whom have families, jobs and life responsibilities regardless of how the disease and treatments are making them feel physically and emotionally. Copy Central is honoring Gina's memory this month, raising awareness for colon cancer screenings, collecting change, and raising funds to donate to Gina's Comfort Fund. The fund helps to alleviate some of the stress and financial barriers to those brave individuals battling Colon Cancer, by providing gas cards, food cards, wigs, acupuncture treatments for the side effects of chemo, and house cleaning services. To date Gina's Comfort Fund has helped 45 patients and raised over \$8,000. Copy Central has had two customers come forward and state that with our awareness campaign it helped them in finding their cancer and were able to get their treatment early. This is just what we are striving for, the awareness and getting help early. Stop in to Copy Central Monday-Friday 9 to 5 if you would like to contribute to our campaign success. This year with a \$5 donation towards the comfort fund. You will be entered into a drawing to win a 16 x 20 full color canvas print. The drawing will be held April 5, 2019.

~ Linda Dearing

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Annual Saint Patrick's Day parade in OC, Saturday

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 14, 2019) The 40th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Ocean City, which takes place this Saturday, is the second largest in Maryland and will feature over 120 units.

The Delmarva Irish-American Club sponsors the event, which will start at noon. Parade participants will line up on 61st Street and continues south along Coastal Highway past the 45th Street shopping center where spectators will find a free Irish festival along with the judges' stand.

"Anyone who knows and understands Ocean City, Maryland, will agree that the town's energy emanates from the entrepreneurial spirit of its business community," Dennis Roarty, former president of the Delmarva Irish-American Club, said. "It's this spirit that gets behind the parade year after year."

The party on 45th Street will begin at 11 a.m. with green Guinness and domestic beers, Macky's Bayside Irish coffee bar, musical entertainment by Kevin O'Brennan and the Shoreline Band, face painting, Irish apparel, raffles, food provided by Hooked and BJ's on the Water, and of course, corned beef sandwiches.

"It is the busiest weekend of the

year between now and Labor Day," Buck Mann, current president of the Delmarva Irish-American Club, said.

The festival will conclude around 3 p.m., although the festivities will continue all night in restaurants and bars throughout Ocean City.

The parade grows annually with at least 120 entries signed up to participate this year, as of Tuesday morning. They will be traveling from states including Maryland, Delaware and New York, as well as Washington D.C., for the event.

Thousands of people view the parade each year along Coastal Highway.

Many resort bars, restaurants, businesses and organizations have participated in the parade over the years including Seacrets, Jolly Roger Amusements, Believe in Tomorrow's House by the Sea, BJ's on the Water, Fager's Island and Smitty McGee's. New to the parade this year are the Bel Air Social Club, Tow Boats USA and New York firefighters.

For many years, New Wave embroidery shop in West Ocean City has created the apparel for the parade. There will be sweatshirts and T-shirts available for sale during the event.

Pipe and drum bands including See ST. PATRICK'S Page 29

LIVE MUSIC 3-8PM



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FOOD & SPIRITS

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

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• \$3.17 Murphy's Irish Stout

PARTY FAVORS ENTERTAINMENT
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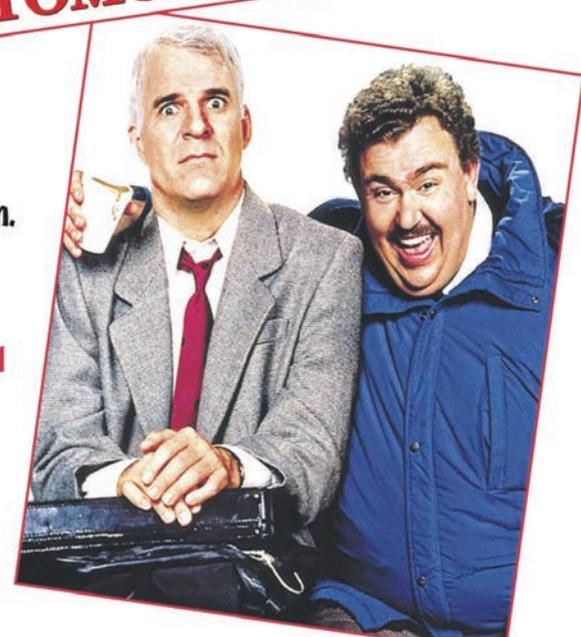
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Proceeds To Benefit The American Cancer Society

Colon cancer awareness campaign returns

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 14, 2019) During Colon Cancer Awareness Month, Ocean Pines residents and business owners, Linda and Michael Dearing, are raising awareness and donations in memory of their daughter, Gina Barnes, to help save lives.

The owners of Copy Central, on Cathell Road in Ocean Pines, will collect donations for Gina's Comfort Fund at the store throughout the month of March and offer raffle tickets to anyone who donates \$5 or more. The raffle winner will receive a free 16x20 print of one of their photographs on canvas. The drawing will be held Friday, April 5.

Barnes was 37 years old when she was diagnosed with colon cancer. She battled the disease for almost two years before passing in 2014, and her parents are determined to help save other families the pain they have endured from losing their daughter.

"There's a misconception that colon cancer hits older people and there's been a big rise in young women in their 30s being diagnosed with colon cancer," Linda Dearing said. "If I could save one person from having to go through what my daughter went through, then that's good."

Gina's Comfort Fund was created to alleviate stress and financial barriers for individuals and families. The donations go toward providing gas and food gift cards, wigs, acupuncture treatments for the side effects of chemo, and house cleaning services.

In four years, more than \$8,000 has been raised and 45 patients have received aid, Dearing said.

"Copy Central has had two customers come forward and state that with our awareness campaign it helped them in finding their cancer and were able to get their treatment early," Dearing said. "This is just what we are striving for: the awareness and getting help early."

Barnes' family created Gina's Comfort Fund in March 2015 to help with the stress and financial burdens on families after they witnessed the cost of getting sick.

A colonoscopy can help prevent colorectal cancer and the disease is highly treatable when found early. Those with family history or notice changes in their body are urged to schedule a screening.

"Any abdominal cramping, changes or bleeding in bowel movements can be signs," Dearing said. "She also had a baby within 18 months. The symptoms she was having, she just attributed to having a baby, as a result of the pressures of delivery."

When Barnes was ignoring colon cancer signs, she was juggling a hus-

band, three children and a full-time job, Dearing said. She was physically active and officiated lacrosse games.

"Every day individuals fight cancer, many of whom have families, jobs and life responsibilities regardless of how the disease and treatments are making them feel physically and emotionally," Dearing said. "Gina fought her battle with courage and poise while serving as a role model for others fighting their own battle."

Stop by Copy Central in Ocean Pines this month, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to donate to Gina's Comfort Fund. All donations are tax deductible and checks can be mailed to: Copy Central, 11065 Cathell Road Berlin, Maryland 21811.

For more information, call Copy Central at 410-208-0641.



Linda Dearing, owner of Copy Central in Ocean Pines, displays the donation box to raise money for colon cancer dedicated for her daughter, Gina, who passed away as a result of the disease in 2014. Dearing will collect donations the entire month of March.



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 8003 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, Md.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLASS RINGS

The annual Junior Ring Ceremony took place in the Guerrieri Library at Worcester Prep on Feb. 13. It is tradition that seniors present the juniors with their rings along with a few insightful comments as to why the recipient is special to them. WPS juniors, from left, Abi Plylar, Gavin Hentschel and Kennedy Humes show off various styles of the Class of 2020 rings.



PRINCESS DAY

Oh My Hair Salon in Berlin, hosted Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore's Princess Day, on Feb. 2. The princesses present enjoyed hair styling, manicures and makeovers. Pictured is Makenzie Evans.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PENNY RACE

Berlin Intermediate School's sixth grade students are working together to donate needed supplies and to raise money to benefit the animals at the Worcester County Humane Society. Students are competing in a Penny Race to raise money to be donated for the no-kill shelter's 20th annual Boardwalkin' for Pets event on Saturday, April 20.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ESSAY CONTEST

Worcester Prep third grader Sarah Williams of Pittsville, placed second and third grader Lexi Davis of Berlin, finished third, in the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-8. This year's essay contest topic was, "How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST MUSICIANS

Berlin Intermediate School welcomed members of the Ocean City Pipes and Drums to Lisa Adams' fourth grade music class, Feb. 27. Pictured, are students Grant Stephan and Jillian Donahue, with, from left, Jean Feltes, Dr. Jon Andes, and Dr. Laurie Andes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

YOUNG AUTHORS

The Eastern Shore Reading Council announced that eight Worcester Prep students earned finalist status in the 2019 Young Authors' Contest for short story or poetry. Each finalist finished in the top three in their respective category and grade level. Pictured, from left, are Grade 3, Poetry, Ellie Phillips; Grade 3, Short Story, Harper Hertrich and Ryan Shipp; Grade 4, Poetry, Gabriella Damouni and Henry Holt; Grade 5, Short Story, Caitlin Shimko; Grade 6, Poetry, Sydney Tingle; and Grade 10, Poetry, Hannah Perdue.

Details announced for 2019 Berlin Jazz and Blues fest

(March 14, 2019) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce this week unveiled plans for its 12th Annual Jazz and Blues event to be held in historic downtown Berlin on Saturday, May 4.

This year, the event will have a new name to reflect the inclusion of a fine wine tasting.

New chamber President Steve Frene, co-owner of Victorian Charm, has dreamt of including a wine tasting component to this event for several years.

"We are so excited to have finally found the right group of people to make this happen," Frene said. "As one of the founders of this event, I have been looking for a way to build on the Jazz and Blues music festival with either fine art or a fine wine tasting."

"This event was created to attract an upscale visitor to Berlin in an effort to showcase all of the town's great shops, restaurants, and galleries," he continued. "Now, I think we have the perfect combination of jazz and blues music from local and mid Atlantic talent, plus an awesome variety of over 60 domestic and international fine wines."

Frene said the chamber is still in the final phases of securing fine art vendors, but the bands and wine vendors are good to go. Two stages of nonstop entertainment are free, and wine tasting tickets can be purchased in advance on the Berlin Chamber's website, www.berlinchamber.org for \$35 or at the festival on the day of the event for \$40.

Tickets will include a lanyard and a commemorative stemless wine glass and one-ounce tastings from 60 international wineries, selected by National Republic Distributing Company. Bottle and case sales will be handled at the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street.

Burley Oak Brewing Company and Big Oyster Brewery will offer craft beer for the non-wine drinking patrons. A variety of nonalcoholic beverages and delicious food will also be available at various restaurants and at a few festival-style food vendors.

"We are encouraging our restaurants to offer 'grab and go' carry out food selections for folks who don't want to miss any entertainment. We also would love for them to offer food pairing selections to go with the various international wines from countries like Spain, Italy, France, Germany, etc.," Frene said.

The entertainment line-up for this year's festival will include the 18 piece U.S. Navy Jazz Band Commodores, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues All Stars, local fa-

vorites Lower Case Blues, and Earl Beardsley and the Heritage Dixieland Jazz Band, plus Timbason La Original, a Latin Jazz band from Washington, DC. Starting the day's festivities will be the Snow Hill High School Jazz Band.

"I love having a student band start the day off on stage at 10 a.m.," Frene said. "It's the perfect way to include kids in a music festival and give them a taste of preparing for a community gig, and then to perform in front of a large group of people."

Limited seating will be provided, so visitors are encouraged to bring a chair.

A free parking shuttle service will run from Berlin Intermediate School all day, near the intersection of Rt. 113 and Franklin Avenue. The event is rain or shine.

"We would not be able to host a festival of this quality and attract thousands of visitors without the help of community-minded businesses such as our main sponsor Merrill Lynch, and others like The Globe, Bank of Ocean City, Fins Ale House and Raw Bar, and I.G. Burton," Frene said. "We also sincerely thank our media sponsors, such as WESM, WBOC and the Bayside Gazette. Additional sponsorship packages are still available."

For more information, contact the Berlin Chamber of Commerce at 410-641-4775, email chamberinfo@berlinchamber.org, or visit www.BerlinChamber.org.

Frene can be reached at 410-641-2998, or by email at stevefrene@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:

Two stages at each end of Main Street:

10 A.M. FINS NORTH STAGE: Snow Hill High School Jazz Band

10:30 A.M. TO NOON: GLOBE SOUTH STAGE: Earl Beardsley & the Dixieland Heritage Band

NOON TO 1:30 P.M. FINS NORTH STAGE: U.S. Navy Jazz Band Commodores

1:30-3 P.M. GLOBE SOUTH STAGE: Lower Case Blues

3-4:30 P.M. FINS NORTH STAGE: Timbason La Original (Latin Jazz)

4:30-6 P.M. GLOBE SOUTH STAGE: Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clarke & the Blues All Stars

* Times and bands subject to change.

To purchase Wine tasting tickets, visit: www.berlinchamber.org or www.berlinchamberofcommerce.ticketspice.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCEAN CITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER:



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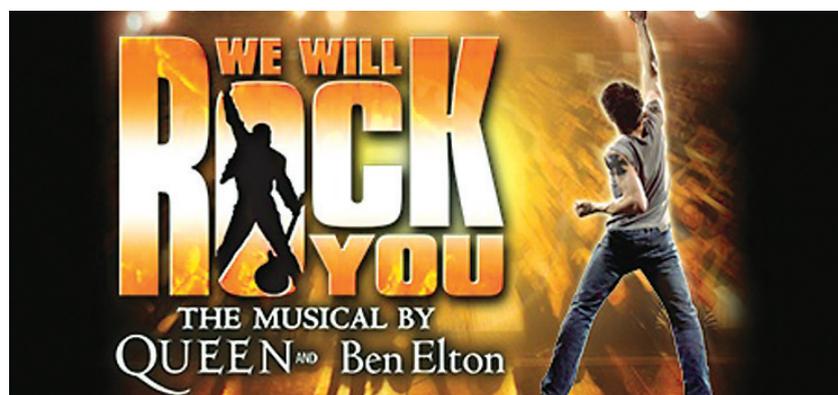
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May 16th



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October 10th



November 8th



THE TEN TENORS

November 29th

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December 7th

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BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575

www.bjsonthewater.com

March 15: Over Time, 9 p.m.

March 16: Bagpipers, 2 p.m.; Identity Crisis, 9 p.m.

March 20: 2 Guys & A Mama, 6 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City

443-664-2896

www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com

March 15: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci, 7 p.m.

March 16: OHO, 3-7 p.m.; Kevin Poole, 7 p.m.

March 17: Randy Jamz, 6 p.m.

March 20: Reform School, 6 p.m.; Open Mic, 9 p.m.

March 21: Chris Button, 7-10 p.m.

BRASS BALLS SALOON

Boardwalk, between 11th and 12th

streets

Ocean City

410-289-0069

March 15-16: ShamRockin Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.

Ocean City

410-289-7192

www.captainstableoc.com

Every Friday & Saturday:

Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

COINS

28th Street and Coastal Highway

Ocean City

410-289-3100

www.coinspub.com

March 16: Dave Pedrick, 1-6 p.m.

COWBOY COAST COUNTRY SALOON AND STEAKHOUSE

17th Street and Coastal Highway

Ocean City

410-289-6331

www.cowboycoastoc.com

March 15: OC Fools Sham Jam

w/Johnny Bling, 5 p.m.

March 16: St. Pat's Party w/Sam Grow, noon

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449

www.duffysoc.com

March 15: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.

March 16: Karaoke w/DJ Chuck D, 8 p.m. to midnight

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City

410-213-1846

www.ocharborside.com

March 15: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

March 16: DJ Billy T, all day; DJ BK, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

March 17: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

March 21: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway
West Ocean City

410-213-1841

www.hootersofoc.com

March 15: OC Pipes & Drums and DJ BK, 4 p.m.

March 17: Blake Haley, 3-7 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant

In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel

101st Street and the ocean

Ocean City

410-524-3535

www.clarionoc.com

Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

March 15-16: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave.

Ocean City

410-289-4891

www.picklesoc.com

March 15: Side Project, 6-10 p.m.; Beats By Jeremy, 10 p.m.

March 16: City Painted Green, 1-5 p.m.; Beats by Casper, 5:30-9:30 p.m.;

Beats by Adam Dutch, 10 p.m.

March 17: Beats by Jeremy, 1 p.m.;

Joey Harkum, 8 p.m.

March 18: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m.

March 21: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

PURPLE MOOSE SALOON

108 S. Atlantic Ave.

Ocean City

410-289-6953

www.purplemoosesaloon.com

March 15-16: CK the DJ/VJ, 2 p.m.;

CK the VJ/DJ, 9 p.m.; Vertigo Red, 10 p.m.

March 17: CK the DJ/VJ, 2 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay

Ocean City

410-524-4900

www.seacrets.com

March 15: John McNutt Band, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.;

Split Decision, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.

March 16: Irie-ish Music Fest: St.

Patrick's Day Party, 11 a.m. to 2

a.m.; JJ Roth & DJ Magellan, noon to

5 p.m.; John McNutt's Keltic Rock

Warriors, 1-4 p.m.; DJ Bobby-O, 1

p.m. to 1:50 a.m.; Flip-N-Mickeys,

1:30-5:30 p.m.; Ocean City Pipes &

Drums, 4-4:30 p.m.; DJ Davie, 4

p.m. to 1:50 a.m.; Jim Long Band,

5-9 p.m.; Cherry Crush, 5-9 p.m.;

Lima Bean Riot, 6-10 p.m.; DJ Tuff,

6 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Shake 3X, 9:30

p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; The Benderz, 10

p.m. to 1:50 a.m.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Local's

"After Party," 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.;

Benderz Trio, 1-5 p.m.; DJ Bobby-O,

2 p.m. to midnight

March 21: Opposite Directions,

5-9 p.m.

SHENANIGAN'S IRISH PUB AND GRILLE

309 N. Atlantic Ave.

Ocean City

410-289-7181

www.ocshenanigans.com

March 15: James Gallagher & Off the Boat plus Tig Tignor, 8 p.m.

March 16: Patrick McAllorum, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

James Gallagher & Off the Boat plus Tig Tignor, 2 p.m.

to close; Appearances throughout the day by Chesapeake Caledonia,

Trenton and Ocean City Pipe & Drum Bands

March 17: James Gallagher & Off the Boat plus Tig Tignor, 2 p.m.;

Appearances throughout the day by Ocean City Pipe & Drum Band

March 21: Opposite Directions, 5-9 p.m.

March 15-16: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside

Ocean City

410-723-6762

www.skyebaroc.com

March 15: Test Kitchen, 5-8 p.m.

March 16: Marcella "Mc" Peters, 5-8 p.m.

5-8 p.m.

TRADER LEE'S LIVE

9935 Stephen Decatur Highway

West Ocean City

443-614-4119

March 16: Trader Lee's House Band, 8 p.m.

March 17: Deviation by Design, 5 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17

Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines

410-208-3922

www.whiskersbar.com

March 15: Karaoke

w/Donnie Berkey

March 16: John Heinz Fiddle,

Fire & Friends, 3-8 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day parade to march on resort

Continued from Page 24

the Chesapeake Caledonian Pipe Band, the Camden County Emerald Society Pipes & Drums and the Ocean City Pipe and Drum Band will be performing in the parade along with Stephen Decatur Middle School and Stephen Decatur and Sussex Central high school marching bands.

"More than 40 years ago, St. Patrick's Day was nearly a non-event in Ocean City," Roarty said. "[Saturday] thousands of families will come to Ocean City to shake off the winter doldrums, dress in their green finery, watch the parade and celebrate the Irish in all of us."

Spectators can watch the parade from bleachers at the 45th Street shopping center or along Coastal Highway. To avoid traffic delays, viewers are urged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. and to view the parade from 57th Street south to 45th Street.

For the fourth year, local NBC affiliate WRDE will broadcast the parade live beginning at 11:30 a.m., with hosts Matt Pencek, Madeleine Overturf and Dean Langrall. WBOC will also stream the event live.

The best marching band, commercial float, non-commercial float, motorized unit, adult and youth marching unit, special committee award, top overall entry in the parade and judges' choice award will take

home trophies.

"At exactly 12 noon, the pipes will swirl, the drums will beat, the flags will be unfurled," Roarty said. "It's time for the Delmarva Irish-American Club's St. Patrick's Day parade ... and another Ocean City memory."

Leading the parade will be Grand Marshals Fran and Michael Patrick Kelly, along with Lillian Farrell, cultural affairs attaché from the Embassy of Ireland.

The Kellys have owned property in Ocean City since 1994. They officially became residents of Ocean City in 2003.

Fran is a member of the Delmarva Irish-American Club, where she heads the Membership Committee. In addition, she is an appointed member of the Ethics Commission for the Town of Ocean City.

She is also an active member of St. Luke Catholic Church where she enjoys volunteering and community fellowship.

In 2003, Michael started his own company, OC Local Construction Services, and loves working with property owners in Ocean City. He is a member of the Delmarva Irish-American Club and an active member of St. Luke Catholic Church.

"We love the St Patrick's Day parade. It has been a family tradition for many years," Fran stated in a press

release. "We march together and carry the American and Irish flags proudly. We are humbled and honored to be the 2019 grand marshals."

Proceeds from the parade and festival go to local high school scholarships and charities. This year, donations will be contributed to the Stephen Decatur High School band.

Sponsors for this year's parade are Seacrets, Fager's Island, Shenanigan's Irish Pub, Original Greene Turtle, Tap House, Fish Tales and Jolly Roger Amusements.

The Delmarva Irish-American Club, founded in 1980, has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships with money raised during the parade going toward local organizations such as Coastal Hospice, Northside Park, Stephen Decatur High School and Ocean City Elementary School.

The club now has about 300 members and is open to anyone who is Irish, Irish at heart or who just appreciates all things Irish.

For more information, visit www.delmarvairish.org or contact Buck Mann at 410-289-6156.

Traffic delays:

In order to offer an ample amount of space for the parade's participating floats, bands and motorized units, southbound traffic will be reduced to one lane from 63rd Street to 43rd Street on Saturday.

Northbound traffic will remain open; however, no left turns or U-turns will be allowed along the parade route from the northbound lane including 62nd Street.

Residents and visitors will see traffic delays on southbound Coastal Highway as early as 9 a.m. and should expect congestion until after 2 p.m.

To avoid traffic delays, viewers and visitors are urged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. Ocean City Police are recommending motorists entering the Town of Ocean City use Maryland Route 50, as traffic is not expected to be as heavy in the south end of town.

In addition, heavy pedestrian traffic is also expected along the parade route and in surrounding areas. Pedestrians are encouraged to use crosswalks and cross with caution.

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www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com 302-539-3095 Rt. 54 and The Bay, Fenwick Island DE

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COASTKEEPER SPEAKER

Kathy Phillips, Coastkeeper and executive director of the Assateague Coastal Trust, was the speaker at the February meeting of the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County. Phillips spoke about legislative priorities for 2019, including the Community Healthy Air Act. Pictured, from left, are Harriet Batis, DWC co-vice president, Phillips and Vicky Wallace, DWC president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MOMS GROUP

Members of the Eastern Shore Moms Demand Action group met in Berlin recently at the Baked Dessert Cafe & Gallery to discuss two bills: HB 740/SB 882, which prohibits sale or possession of "ghost guns," and HB 786/SB 737, which closes background check loophole for private sales of long guns in Maryland. Pictured, in front, from left, are Kady Everson, social media/data lead, Nancy Osborne and Stephanie Schultz, co-lead, and in back, Danielle Veith, Maryland Chapter president, Laurie Brittingham, Lou Rimbach, Judy Davis and Leigh Sandifer.



COASTAL BOWLING

The Coastal Association of Realtors held its annual Bowling for Business Cards networking event and competition on Jan. 25, 2019 at SouthBound Alley in Salisbury. First place went to Team Wells Fargo, comprised of, from left, Brandon Johnson, Renee Winter, Ken Lee, and Erik Weeg.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WORCESTER YOUTH DONATION

Berlin Intermediate School received a donation of various school supplies from Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services. Pictured, from left, are Dr. David Gell, assistant principal; Tiffany Scott, Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services youth coordinator; and Steve Taylor, WYFCS executive director.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LITERACY COMMITTEE

The Literacy Committee of the Republican Women of Worcester County made a donation to the Friends of the Worcester County Commission for Women's "Baby's 1st Library" partnership with the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Pictured are Vanessa Alban, RWWC secretary; Tamara White, co-chair Worcester County Commission for Women; and Eloise Gordy, president of Friends of the Worcester County Commission for Women.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

KIWANIANS OF THE MONTH

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Dick Clagett re-instituted the Kiwanian of the Month to recognized member efforts. On Feb. 27, Clagett, right, presented awards to February's recipients, from left, Steve Cohen, Shelley Cohen and Ralph Chinn. The Cohens chaired the successful Winter Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 23 and Chinn again worked and ran the kitchen crew.

County rec center offering after school sports pgms

Pickleball, flag football and 'fitness and fun' are among spring series of offerings

(March 14, 2019) Worcester County Recreation and Parks in Snow Hill is launching its popular after school sports programs for youth this spring.

The lineup of programs includes new sports, pickleball, flag football, and fitness and fun.

Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in America, will teach participants the fundamentals of this paddle sport that combines skills from ping pong, tennis and badminton.

This program will meet on Fridays, March 8 to April 12, 2019. For more information, contact Trudy Porch at 410-632-2144, ext. 2520 or tporch@co.worcester.md.us.

Flag football will take place at John Walter Smith Park on Wednesdays, March 20 to April 24, 2019. Participants will combine drills, just like the pros. Exercises will focus on agility, acceleration, and football specific footwork, and, of course, football.

For more information, contact Mike Hedlesky at 410-632-2144, ext. 2509 or

mhedlesky@co.worcester.md.us.

Fitness and fun will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center on Wednesdays, May 1 to June 5.

Participants will be introduced to various aspects of training for aerobics, intervals, resistance, body-weight calisthenics, fitness and general athletics movements. Team building and movement games will also be played.

The main goal with this program is to promote healthy active lifestyles for sport and non-sport kids. For more information, contact Hedlesky.

All listed after school sports programs will take place from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on their respective days and are open to students in grades fourth through eighth.

Transportation from Snow Hill Middle School to the WCRC will be provided. Parents and guardians will pick up their children from the WCRC.

The cost for each program is \$35 per person and \$30 for each additional child. Registrations received after the deadlines will incur an additional \$5 fee.

For more information on other offered programs and to register, visit www.worcesterrecandparks.org.

CRUSH YOUR LAWN ENVY Giveaway



The grand prize is a Husqvarna Spring Cleaning Package.

The package includes: zero-turn lawn mower, trimmer, backpack blower, and a 6x12 enclosed trailer.

Earn entries March 1 – April 26 at 7pm

Every 10 points earned = 1 entry
Drawings Friday, April 26, every half hour

2pm-7:30pm: \$500 Slot Dollars

8pm: **GRAND Prize Drawing**
for Spring Cleaning Package

8:30pm-10:30pm: 1,000 Slot Dollars

Entry Multipliers Every Wednesday!
Blue Tier 2x • Red Tier 3X • Gold Tier 4X
Black Tier 5X



OCEAN DOWNS

CASINO

Where the Fun Shines!

10218 Racetrack Road Berlin MD 21811
410-641-0600 or visit oceandowns.com

Must be 21 years of age.

Please play responsibly, for help visit mdgamblinghelp.org or call 1-800-GAMBLER

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OUTDOOR MINI GOLF COURSES
136th St



CALL 410-524-2645
FOR PARTIES FROM SEPT - MAY
(indoor 68th St Location)

For more fun photos and to blog: www.oldprogolf.com

Letters

Continued from Page 23

of the sheriff's department (she was contacted by email, and the head librarian of the Berlin branch was notified in person), yet she is quoted in the Gazette as making an accusation that the attendees were "planning to disrupt" the presentation.

So, according to the library director's quote, the "patriots" were going to disrupt the presentation . . . after requesting that a deputy be there for their own safety. Was the group inviting the deputy so he/she could arrest them when they disrupted the presentation (Ms. Ranck's words)? Absurd.

So, why didn't she tell the *Gazette* reporter that Trump supporters who were planning to attend the event were the ones concerned about safety? Furthermore, why does the entire article fail to address — or even acknowledge — the basis of the objection to the presentation being held at the library (the "why" of a news story): the fact that using the taxpayer funded library as a venue for a partisan political presentation by a Democrat committeeman is not only inappropriate, it's probably a violation of library policy.

The library director was fully aware of the reason the program was objected to (again, via email), yet — as was the case with the groups stated intention to request the presence of a deputy because of concerns for their safety — it wasn't mentioned in the article.

So if you folks want to see the original *Gazette* article discussed here, it's titled "Conservative groups had planned rallies, prompting cancellation on Wednesday" . . . which by the way is totally incorrect and misleading.

There was no rally or protest planned, as the Facebook post cited here clearly indicates: "We must attend, we must politely speak up to counter the hateful lies that the democrat party regurgitates. We are not suggesting protests . . . attend, and if you like, speak your mind when appropriate. If you choose not to speak be there to lend moral support to those of us who do speak."

There was no call to rally, there was no call to protest, there were only calls to attend and "speak up politely," "when appropriate."

Yes, the presentation was cancelled . . . in fact it should have never been approved. But rather than acknowledge that a taxpayer-funded library should not be used to host a partisan, political event, some obscure comment on Facebook — and planned rallies and protests that did not exist — were used to change the whole focus of the story.

The editorial staff of the Main Street Patriots

*Eastern Shore of Maryland
Facebook page
Worcester County*

Library event clearly had leftist agenda

Editor,

I read with amusement your editorial ("Impeachment lecture was misrepresented") expressing your disappointment over the cancellation of a Democrat-party political briefing and rally, which was intended to encourage the impeachment of President Trump. I write to you as a private citizen and not as a representative of WGMD radio.

Of course, the usual fig leafs and artful subterfuge, so well-practiced by the professional left in America for nearly a century, are always there on the shelf for them to pull out and wave at innocent passers-by: "It's just a lecture on the Constitution," or "It's just one aspect of the Constitution," and other such absurd attempts to disguise the actual intent of the program, which was obvious: Encourage local Democrat-party faithful to bolster an impeachment effort in Congress.

(Although pains were taken to make it appear to be uninfluenced by current leftist agitation, one would observe that Marbury vs. Madison or even Article III, Sec. 3 would be topics germane to a simple talk about the Constitution, but, somehow, only impeachment seemed interesting enough to the former Democrat party chairman. Betcha he wouldn't talk about Article V, though.)

Any American who has paid attention and managed to think for themselves during the last half-century understands full-well that the Democrat party and mainstream media in America and one and the same. Their goals and agenda are identical and they act together to achieve them. I've worked in media since the '70s and there's no question that the left controls the press and entertainment media in this country.

Your editorial decried a lack of "patriotism" on the part of concerned citizens who don't think it's appropriate for a publicly funded building to be used as a rallying facility for local Democrat party activists. After all, if Tom Fitton wanted to offer a talk about The Necessity Of Keeping State Department Communications On a Secure Server at Foggy Bottom And NOT On a Private Server, Sribnik and his fellow travelers would be screaming bloody murder, and you would be leading that cheer.

*Sherwood "Duke" Brooks
On-air host, Radio Free
Delmarva*

Pines should try new mgmt. approach

Editor,

With the leaving of Mr. Bailey, this might be the time to revisit the idea of a professional management company for Ocean Pines. The Parke in Ocean Pines has professional management. The Yacht Club restaurant, after years of the board of directors not wanting to look into professional management, is doing well under Matt Ortt. Even with

a professional management company, we would keep our board of directors, as required by Maryland HOA laws.

No matter how well meaning the board of directors are, obviously we don't have the expertise to manage ourselves. We have had three managers in four years. Our last manager, according to the paper, had an education from a seminary school and not a degree in city management. Even though we are an HOA, we are the size and have the management needs of a small town. We don't have the expertise to hire a competent manager.

We have wasted money buying out contracts. We have wasted money redesigning the yacht club countless times. We have spent over half a million dollars fixing up the country club and it still has mold and is in disrepair. Now, we are going to tear it down.

We have wasted money redoing the greens on the golf course. Last year, the greens were ruined because an employee didn't do his job. Where is the oversight of employees? I am sure most of our employees are hard working, dedicated people, but without proper management, there will always be someone who will game the system.

With a deficit of \$1.6 million dollars, two years ago, and a need for an expensive forensic audit, we obviously haven't had proper checks and balances over our finances. Who is watching the bottom line?

Our buildings and infrastructure are in disrepair, because over the years no one wanted to make the tough choices.

We are going to spend a million dollars plus on Northstar software and commit to years of fees for a system that doesn't meet our needs and will be obsolete in a few years. A management company would have their own proven software and know how to implement it.

We are buying Matt Ortt POS software for the yacht club. Why isn't he using the new Northstar software when it's claim to fame is that it's for restaurants?

I mean no disrespect to our past and present board of directors. They are our neighbors doing the best that they can. But they are unpaid volunteers with other responsibilities. With new members on the Board changing every year, it's hard to have a long-term vision and consistent manage-

ment of the community.

A management company would have standard operating procedures for employees and contractors that could benefit our operations. They would have employee handbooks and benefit packages that meet industry standards. They would have their own software and be responsible for keeping it updated. They would have the experience to help us find a good general manager.

A management company would be expensive and disruptive in the short term, but hopefully would save money and would bring Ocean Pines up to its full potential in the long term.

Please put your personal desires aside and make the tough decisions that are best for Ocean Pines. It might be time to have a referendum and ask the community how they want to be managed.

*Linda Hall
Ocean Pines*

Disappointed in Community Church

Editor,

It breaks my heart that the Community Church of Ocean Pines has taken a big step backwards environmentally after being awarded the Worcester County Green community leader award in 2015.

I am very disappointed that the Shepherds Nook fired volunteers who encouraged customers to bring their own recycling bags or take their purchase without a bag. Plastic bags were never denied to any customers. Cost to purchase paper bags rather than using plastic was offered but denied.

It's a false belief more profits are made by using only new plastic bags for every purchase.

The Methodist Church documents state basic beliefs in protecting the environment. Why not use the opportunity to educate about the basic principle of "reduce, reuse and recycle?"

Fortunately, leaders of the Community Church have the opportunity to change and be more responsible to protect God's earth. Protecting the environment can co-exist with profits for a thrift shop.

*Bill Killinger
Berlin*

Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.

Calendar

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

Thurs., March 14

AARP MEETING

Ocean City Senior Center, 104 41st St., 10:00 AM. Social time is at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will discuss elder law. An optional luncheon will follow at a local restaurant. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

OCEAN PINES GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. The speaker will be Maureen Kennedy, owner of the My Backyard store in Ocean Pines. She will speak on encouraging hummingbird to visit your backyard. The group meets the second Thursday of each month and welcomes visitors and new members.

STEAM STORY TIME 'STEM FOR EVERYONE'

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Hands-on science, technology, engineering and math activities for young children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'THE OCEAN'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Enjoy stories, movement, songs and crafts. For ages 2 to 5 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

O.C. WRITERS' GROUP

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Casual and welcoming get-together for writers to share their poetry/prose each month. Receive encouraging constructive feedback. New members welcome. Bring something you are working on or participate in the suggested writing prompts and creative exercises. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

NATIONAL PI DAY

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:30 PM. Special crafts and activities about Pi. For children of all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BEACH SINGLES

Thursdays - Ropewalk Restaurant, 8203 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577 or Kate, 410-524-0649. [BeachSingles.org](http://www.BeachSingles.org), <http://www.BeachSingles.org>

GRIEF SUPPORT

Thursdays - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education. Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

Fri., March 15

ST. PATRICK'S INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD. Held March 1-3 and featuring the Men's (18+) and Women's (18+) divisions.

WCDC AKTION CLUB FUNDRAISER

IHOP, 11328 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Building F, 6:30 AM - 12:00 AM. IHOP will donate 10 percent of participants' purchases to the Worcester County Developmental Center's Aktion Club when presented with the fundraiser flyer. Attendees must present the flyer to participate. Sponsored by the OP-OC Kiwanis Club. Flyers are available from club members or by asking for it at the restaurant.

FIBER FRIENDS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work to this informal get-together. Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, etc. welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, moonlightknitting@gmail.com, 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:00 PM. Featuring *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

HOMESCHOOL BOOK CLUB

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Discuss books chosen by the club. For children reading at middle-grade level. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WOMEN IN ART PART II: 18TH-19TH CENTURY

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Explore the role of the woman artist during the 18th and 19th centuries. Look at several artists from each quarter of the century. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FISH FRY

Bowen United Methodist Church, 8421 Newark Road, Newark, MD, 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Platters cost \$10 and include flounder filet, macaroni and cheese, green beans, corn bread and dessert. Beverages included for those who eat in.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

American Legion Post #166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave. There will be two seatings, 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Also featuring a silent auction, door prizes, 50/50 raffle and games for adults and children. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, 11 years and younger. Tickets: Jen Backof, 443-929-1505 or jm-backof@yahoo.com. Proceeds benefit the Ocean City scouting program.

WOMEN IN ANIMATION: PART TWO

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 PM. Featuring celebrated animated shorts from female animators, from the dawn of film to the Internet age. View discretion advised. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

THESIS FILM FUNDRAISER

The Crab Bag, 13005 Coastal Highway, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Emmi Shockley is raising money for the budget of her NYU Thesis Film, J-1 as well as giving back fifty percent of the proceeds to The Art League of Ocean City.. There will be live music provided by Two Hours and The Undateables and a silent auction. Donation is optional at the door or pay \$20 and receive a pass to OC Laser Tag at Game World. Info: [Facebook.com/J-1](https://www.facebook.com/J-1) Film Fundraiser.

Sat., March 16

ST. PATRICK'S INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 12:00 AM. Held March 1-3 and featuring the Men's (18+) and Women's (18+) divisions.

CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE 'ST. PATRICK'S DAY'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Drop in and show off your creativity. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 5K

Boardwalk at Fourth Street, 9:00 AM. The course will start running south toward the Inlet, around pier then down under the white tran station, turning to go north to 16th Street and back south to the finish line at Shenanigans. <http://octrirunning.com/>

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Ocean City Senior Center, 104 41st St., 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Call for an appointment: 443-373-2667. The service is open to all ages and non AARP members.

ST. PATRICK'S SCRAMBLE

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Admission cost is \$60 and includes green fee, cart, lunch and prizes. If a player's ball lands in a clover, the bar is deemed holed. Lunch will include many Irish American favorites. Sign up: 410-213-7277 or 800-283-3846. <http://www.eagleslandinggolf.com>

SATURDAY STORY TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Saturday Story Time means books, singing and dancing. Stay for the Saturday Make and Take craft. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7338 New Hope Road, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Menu includes mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, macaroni and cheese, beets, biscuits, dessert and coffee. Cost is \$13 for adults. Carry-outs available. 410-543-8244 or 443-235-0251

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL

The parade begins at noon at 57th Street and marches south on Coastal Highway to the 45th Street Shopping Center. Trophies will be awarded to parade winners in several categories. The Irish Festival features live entertainment, Irish apparel, food and drinks. Held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free admission. Viewers are urged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. to avoid traffic delays. Buck Mann, 410-289-6156, <http://www.delmar-vairish.org>

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

American Legion Post #166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., 1:00 PM. Offering corned beef, cabbage and potatoes at a cost of \$9. Open to the public. 410-289-3166

OC HANDBELL FESTIVAL CONCERT

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 3:40 PM - 5:30 PM. Concert of the Handbell Musicians of America, Area III, Ocean City Festival. Featuring more than 450 handbell ringers will play en masse under Guest Conductor: Kyler Brengle. Free admission. Debbie Henning, debbiehan@gmail.com, 410-848-5482, <http://www.areaiii.org>

ANNUAL BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Fried, raw and steamed oysters, fried chicken, livers and gizzards, beer and much more. Cash bar, 50/50, music and a gun raffle for a heavy barrel AR-15. Tickets cost \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Tickets: 410-352-5757.

INDOOR FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - Northside Fire House, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Featuring quality fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, poultry and daily products, as well as, baked goods, jams, cider, wine, honey, maple syrup, coffee, sauces, soups, kitchen ware, treats for pets, unique finds and live music. Open to the public. 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006

Sun., March 17

ST. PATRICK'S INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 12:00 AM. Held March 1-3 and featuring the Men's (18+) and Women's (18+) divisions.

Calendar

HOMECOMING

Showell United Methodist Church, 10115 Pitts Road, 2:00 PM. Speakers are Courtland (former member of the congregation) and Betty Cropper. Music provided by Precious Memories, a Southern Gospel band. There will be a free will offering and a meal to follow.

Mon., March 18

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, 12:00 AM. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Call for an appointment: 443-373-2667. The service is open to all ages and non AARP members.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway. Coffee served at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., Linda Linzer's presentation will focus on the 2019 National Women's History Alliance Theme, Visionary Women, Champions of Peace and Nonviolence. All are welcome. Vicky, 410-208-2969

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Fun-filled, 30-minute interactive session that uses rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instruments and more to stimulate the learning process of babies and toddlers. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

LAP TIME

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. Children, under 2 years old, will be introduced to songs, stories, games and finger plays. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

DELMARVA A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. All levels of singers and drop-ins welcome. Carol, 410-641-6876

Tues., March 19

STORY TIME 'TURTLES'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road,

11:00 AM. Tom Dempsey will guide participants through the world of family research and give tips on how to find that long-lost ancestor. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PAINT A POT

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:00 PM. Participants will paint a flower pot of their own design and then seal it with a protective coating. All supplies furnished. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COLOR ME CALM

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Monthly adult coloring session. Explore different patterns. Bring your own coloring pages or use those provided. Colored pencils, gel pens and felt tips available, along with coffee and cookies. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FAMILY TIME MOVIE 'A WRINKLE IN TIME'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. The movie will begin at 4:30 p.m. Before, during and after the movie enjoy crafts and activities related to the movie. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and health lifestyle. jeanduck47@gmail.com

Wed., March 20

WITTY KNITTERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts and needle artist of all skill levels are invited. Work on our favorite patterns and exchange ideas. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

MARYLAND VA REPRESENTATIVE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs representative Michelle Licata offers outreach services to veterans and their families on the third Wednesday of each month. No appointment necessary. 410-713-3482, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PLAY TIME

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. Children learn the meaning of words, how to express themselves and other early literacy skills by playing. Play with educational toys and make new friends. For infant to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COZY LAP QUILTS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. A four-week initiative held March 20 through April 10. Make lap quilts to deliver to those living in local nursing homes. Bring a sewing machine if you have one. All fabric and materials will be provided. Attend as

many as possible. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. 'Jack' Burbage Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center Conference Room, 9707 Healthway Drive, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Women Supporting Women/AGH Support group for women and men who are battling breast cancer (current patients and survivors). Lunch is provided. RSVP: 410-548-7880.

DIY BEESWAX CANDLES

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:00 PM. Create your own beeswax candles. Suitable for children 10 years old and older. Register: 410-632-3495. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP/OC

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities. Members and their guests welcome. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OC/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St., 6:00 PM. 302-540-2127

ONGOING EVENTS

HARRINGTON CASINO BUS TRIP

Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City and the Ocean Pines Boat Club is sponsoring the trip planned for April 25. Cost is \$20 and includes \$15 slot play and a \$7 food voucher. Guests are welcome. Reservations: Tom and Barbara Southwell, 410-641-5456.

BUS TRIPS

April 22 - Explore Washington, D.C. beginning at the National Mall, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee for transportation only is \$45.
April 28 - Day trip to the Virginia International Tattoo show in Norfolk, Va. The patriotic performance showcases more than 900 international performers. Great for all ages and interests. Show begins at 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$95 and includes a VIP seat and transportation. Bus will arrive back at 7:30 p.m.
May 4 - Longwood Gardens Spring Bloom guided tour featuring more than 245,000 spring bulbs in bloom in the Idea Garden & Flower Garden Walk. The bus will depart at 8 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. Cost is \$60 for adults for transportation and guided tour.

These trips are open to the public and buses depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center. Reservations are required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

MEDITATIVE LABYRINTH

St. Paul's by-the-Sea, 302 N. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Wednesdays, March 6 through April 10. It will be open from 6-8 p.m., except Ash Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Any branch, through March. Need some one-on-one help with your resume, job application, eReader or basic computer skills? Contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment. www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Free workshops dealing with hypertension, chronic pain self-management, chronic disease self-management, diabetes, fall prevention and cancer. If you would like to register for one of these workshops or you would like more information about bringing any of the workshops to your business or group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-0505, Ext. 159.

FORGE FRIDAY

FORGE Youth and Family, 7804 Gumboro Road, Pittsville, every Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is a contemporary youth and family ministry, designed for kids ages 5-65 years. The program provides a meal, music, games, activities and a life lesson that can be of use to anyone. Info: Rob, 443-366-2813.

'ACHIEVING SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS SUCCESS' SEMINAR

Atlantic General Bariatric Center Conference Room, 10231 Old Ocean City Blvd., Suite 207, Berlin. Takes place the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m. This is a free, in-person seminar. Additional opportunities are also available in the form of an online webinar. Register: 410-641-9568.

STAR CHARITIES MONTHLY MEETING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m., on the first Friday of each month. Anyone interested is welcome. Info: Anna Foulz, 410-641-7667.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Temple Bat Yam, 11036 Worcester Highway, Berlin, every Friday, 7:30 p.m. A reform Jewish Synagogue. Info: 410-641-4311.

AUMC THRIFT SHOP

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Monday through Saturday, year round. Located behind the church with a donation drop off room that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 410-289-4458

NAACP MEETINGS

NAACP meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Info: 443-944-6701.

CALL
410-723-6397
BY MONDAY
5 P.M.

MARKETPLACE

CLASSIFIED

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

HELP WANTED

HIRING ALL POSITIONS!!
 Full time & Part time
 Stop by our location on 52nd street!
 or call 443-664-2825

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING
 PM Restaurant Manager-Entry Level Position. Banquet experience a plus. Year-round position.
Inquire within at 32 Palm at Hilton Suites 3200 Baltimore Ave Ocean City, MD

HELP WANTED

Come be a part of our family!
HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Housekeepers
- Houseman
- Laundry Attendants
- Front Desk Associates
- Lifeguards

All positions are required to work weekends. Interested applicants can apply in person or submit resume to:
info@fskfamily.com
12806 Ocean Gateway Ocean City, MD 21842

HELP WANTED

SALES SECRETARY
 Busy Hotel is seeking, a year round full time Sales Secretary. Must have hotel sales experience.
 Applicant must be detail oriented and computer literate, proficient in Excel, Word & Publisher. Sales CRM experience a plus. Exceptional people skills, professional phone & email etiquette a must. Excellent benefits, working conditions and salary (commensurate with experience). Qualified applicants only, forward resume with salary requirements to:
Sales Secretary
P.O. Box 3500
Ocean City, MD 21843
 EOE M/F/D/V

HELP WANTED

Now hiring at both locations 67th St. & Tanger Outlets
PT, FT Positions Available
We are looking for friendly, energetic people to join our crew
Experience preferred

- Grill/Sub Makers
- Dishwashers
- Counter Persons

Serious inquiries only!
Call Angie at 443-523-8377
Classifieds 410-723-6397

HELP WANTED

PUT COLOR IN YOUR CLASSIFIEDS!
CALL 410-723-6397

TOWN OF BERLIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DIRECTOR-WATER RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Berlin is in search of a dynamic department head that will supervise and lead these departments. We have a competitive benefits package that includes life, health, dental, vision, enrollment with the Maryland State Retirement Plan and a 457(b) tax deferred savings plan.
Duties: The Department Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the Waste Water Operation, Water Operation, Stormwater Operation and Public Works. The selected individual will coordinate and oversee all operations of these departments. The Director will manage a workforce of 25 personnel between the two departments. The selected candidate will develop and comply with an annual budget for all departments. The Director will provide technical direction and resolve operational issues. The Director will manage complex capital improvement projects from inception through completion. This Department Head also plans, coordinates and administers the Town's recycling program. The Department Director will complete necessary information for grant applications and submittals. The Department Director will take action to resolve departmental, operation and administrative conflicts and issues which are in the best interest of the Town of Berlin and in accordance with State laws.
Requirements: It is preferred that the selected candidate possess a college degree (BA/BS). Minimum requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent with seven (7) years of supervisory experience in a Water Resources/Public Works utility. Selected candidate must possess a valid state issued drivers license, a valid Maryland Water/Wastewater Operator license, Superintendent license and a Storm Water green card.
 Cover letter and resume may be mailed to the Town of Berlin or submitted via email to jfleetwood@berlinmd.gov, cover letter MUST state salary requirements

Classifieds 410-723-6397

Ocean Resorts Golf Club is now accepting applications for **Part Time Seasonal Clubhouse and Maintenance positions**. Flexible hours. Golfing privileges included.
Applicants must apply in person at Ocean Resorts Golf Club, 10655 Cathell Rd., Berlin, MD.
Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

Comfort Inn Gold Coast HOTEL MAINTENANCE
 We are seeking to fill a hotel Maintenance position, full time, year round. Experience in hotel or condo maintenance preferred. Competitive pay and excellent benefits.
Please apply in person at The Comfort Inn Gold Coast on 112th Street Ocean City, next to the Gold Coast Mall
No phone calls please

Worcester County Health Department
Coordinator Special Programs I, Health Services - Full Time, contractual position located in Snow Hill. The main purpose of this position is to conduct assessments, planning, education and evaluation of activities in Emergency Preparedness, all Hazards Response Planning, implementation and recovery of the Worcester County Health Department. Must possess a Bachelor's degree in nursing, social work, psychology, education counseling or a related field. Background check required.
 APPLY ONLINE at www.jobapscloud.com/md by **March 29, 2019**
 We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request by calling 410-632-1100 ext. 1221.

PT OFFICE ASSISTANT
for International Business located in Selbyville
 Exciting opportunity in a positive, hard-working environment. Must have basic computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, and Microsoft Office.
 Tues. - Thurs., 9-3
Email resumes to: samantha.z@gminsights.com

Rare opening at Ocean City's premiere oceanfront hotel and conference center!

 We are looking for a year-round, full-time professional to join our terrific Sales Team. Position requires someone who is detail oriented and computer literate, with super people skills and a great attitude. Hotel experience is not required, but helpful. Excellent benefits, salary, commissions and an opportunity to grow and learn with an experienced team.
Please send resume with salary requirements to: joann@princessroyale.com

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- Rent Umbrellas & Chairs to Beachgoers
- Now Hiring Students for Over 80 Positions
- Make Friends & Memories
- Earn Valuable Sales & Customer Service Skills
- Energetic Individuals Wanted
- Hourly + Commission + Tips

Apply at EightyFiveAndSunny.com/Employment

Worcester County Health Department
COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE II - Full Time, State Benefits. Occasional weekends and evenings required. Duties include but not limited to providing clinical services in the Communicable Disease Program including health promotion, maintenance, and education; case management and coordination of care for patients using the nursing process. Must possess a current license as a Registered Nurse from the Maryland State Board of Nursing. Valid driver's license required. Background check & drug screening required.
 APPLY ONLINE at www.jobapscloud.com/md
 We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request by calling 410-632-1100 ext. 1221.

Work At The BEACH... Work With The BEST!!

 Top wages, excellent benefits package and free employee meal available to successful candidates.
Employment Opportunities:
Year Round, Full/Part Time: Pool Manager, Server, Bartender, Hostess/Host, Busser, Maintenance, Room Attendant, Housekeeping Housestaff
Free employee meal and excellent benefits.
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Attn: Human Resources Dept.
10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 410-524-3535 Fax: 410-723-9109
 EOE M/F/D/V

Classifieds 410-723-6397

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



**Work At The BEACH...
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DINING ROOM MANAGER

We are currently recruiting an experienced food & beverage manager to oversee and be responsible for our busy dining room & convention center. Must have strong management experience in a large restaurant, banquet and/or convention services experience, ability to train staff, excellent communication skills and ability to solve problems. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays. Our current F&B Manager is retiring after 26 years. Excellent salary and benefits package. Send resume and salary requirements to:

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
410-524-3535
Facsimile 410-723-9109
EOE M/F/D/V



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Saturdays & Sundays
Now through March
11am-2pm

Holding Open Interviews For:

- Servers
- Bus Staff
- Host/Hostess
- Kitchen Staff
- Security

Come by and join our 2019 family!
54th Street, OCMD
(Behind Chauncey's Surf Shop)
410-723-5565

Accounting Clerk Wanted

Full Time - \$14-\$15 per hour

Responsible for providing accounting support to accounting supervisors and other managers within the department. Keys daily worksheets to the general ledger system, ensures files are complete and maintained as needed, handles accounts payable duties, and assists accounting personnel.

Job Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Perform accounting and clerical functions to support supervisors.
- Research, track, and resolve accounting problems. Compile and sort invoices and checks.
- Issue checks for accounts payable.
- Record business transactions and key daily worksheets to the general ledger system.
- Record charges and refunds.
- Support accounting personnel.
- Input type vouchers, invoices, checks, account statements, reports, and other records.
- Provide front desk customer service.
- File and tally deposits.
- Work with adding machines, calculators, databases and bank accounts.
- Match invoices to work orders.
- Process bills for payment.
- Open mail and match payments to invoices.
- Arrange for money to be delivered to bank.
- Utilize computer systems to run databases, pay bills and order supplies.
- Contact individuals with delinquent accounts.
- Ensure customers accept payments or refunds.

Email Resume to: dunkindonutjobs@gmail.com -
Subject Line: Accounting Clerk
or Apply in Person @
9919 Golf Course Rd., Ocean City, MD

Serious inquiries only, must live within a 30 minute radius of West Ocean City Maryland.



**Now Hiring
Seasonal Positions**

Bus Drivers, Dispatchers, Tram Drivers & Conductors

For more information or to apply in person:

204 65th Street, Bldg. F, Ocean City, MD 21842
(410) 723-2174

Solid Waste Collections Drivers & Assistants

For more information or to apply in person:

204 65th Street, Bldg. E, Ocean City, MD 21842
(410) 524-0318

Boardwalk Comfort Station Attendants & Maintenance Workers

For more information or to apply in person:

208 65th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842
(410) 524-0391

For a complete list visit oceancitymd.gov



**Full-Time/Part-Time
Recreation Attendants
Housekeeping Staff
PT Membership Coordinator**

Please apply in person at the new Health and Aquatic Club at Bayside
31264 Americana Prkwy, Selbyville, 19975

Call: 302.988.2315, x 0; or email: BaysideRecreation@troon.com

**Property Management
Assistant Needed**

We have a busy rental department. We are looking for someone to assist in organizing maintenance calls, dispatching vendors, and helping in the office. Maintenance knowledge a plus.

- Professional/Friendly
- Must travel to properties mostly in Ocean Pines and Ocean City.
- Must work most weekends as needed
- Minor maintenance abilities a plus.
- Good clear handwriting

Please fax resumes, letters, references & inquiries to
Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
Attn: Chris to fax # 410-208-9562



**Work At The BEACH...
Work With The BEST!!**

Top wages, excellent benefits package and free employee meal available to successful candidates.

Golf Sales Manager

We are currently recruiting a Golf Sales Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for selling, coordinating, and packaging overnight accommodations, golf, and food & beverage. Previous golf packaging experience is a must. Excellent benefits package available. Compensation commensurate with experience. Apply in person or fax resume with salary requirements Mondays through Saturdays 10am - 4pm.

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
Fax: 410-723-9109
EOE M/F/D/V



**Come Join Our
Winning Team!**

Now accepting applications for the following positions!

- Front Desk
- Recreation
- Room Inspector
- Room Attendant
- Maintenance
- Server
- Barista
- Hostess
- Line Cook

Looking for experienced personnel with customer service skills. Must be flexible with hours. Email resume to jobs@carouselhotel.com or stop by and complete an application at the Front Desk. We require satisfactory pre-employment drug testing and background check.

Carousel Resort Hotel & Condominiums
11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
EOE

PGN Crabhouse,
29th Street & Coastal Hwy.
PGN Crabhouse
Help Wanted
Waitstaff, Kitchen Help
**Apply Within after
11:00 am.**

**AUTOMOTIVE
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In business for 35 years- We have Auto / Marine parts stores, Service Centers and Used Car Dealership and still growing! Due to some recent retirements along with expansion, we are hiring for additional:

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 - Maryland State Inspector
 - Exp. Tow Truck Drivers- Very competitive pay!!
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- Come grow with us**
Plenty of room for advancement!!

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is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- Hostess, Cooks, Boutique Sales, A/V Staff, EMT, General Maintenance, Painter & Boat Mate

For more details or to apply, please go online to www.seacrets.com/employment

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443-880-8397 or
email: snowhillavon@comcast.net

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- DECK COATING APPLICATORS
- LEAD CARPENTERS/FRAMERS
- INTERIOR REMODELING PROFESSIONALS

Please apply in person:
12905 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City MD, online at <https://oceantowerconstruction.com/careers/> or call 443-366-5556 during regular business hours

MED. TECH. CPR, first aide certified. Must be able to pass background check. Drug free facility. Full time position 7pm-7am, and every other weekend.
Email resume to
truitsandy@yahoo.com or **apply in person.** 10602 Friendship Rd., Berlin, MD 21811.

Papa John's - Now Hiring Managers for the Ocean City area. Call Jeff: 302-541-8081.

OFFICE MANAGER. FT/YR.
Seeking bright, energetic individual for our small busy office. Experience w/Word, Excel and QBooks. Excellent organizational, communication and customer service skills. Rental experience a plus. **Send resume to**
Fred@paradiseoc.com

Alex's Italian Restaurant - NOW HIRING YEAR-ROUND SERVERS. Apply in Person. Rt. 50, West OC.

Busy Dental Office looking for **Dental Assistant** with Radiology Cert., good clinical & keyboard skills. Also, **Front Desk position.** Dental knowledge and good keyboard skills required. M-F, FT w/many benefits.
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www.delmarvadd.com

**Classified
Deadline is
Monday @
5pm**

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CLASSIFIEDS!
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RENTALS

Summer Rental: Waterfront, 2-Bedroom Condo with boat slip. \$8,500 for summer. Call 443-366-0990.

Oceanfront Boardwalk Condo

2BR, 2BA, washer/ dryer. June 9, 2019 - June 29, 2019. No pets. Long term off season also available. 410-998-5572

Year-Round House Share. Ocean Pines. Furnished. Private bedroom and bath. Washer/dryer. \$800/month plus security. Includes utilities. 443-996-4466. Text for photos.

We Want Your Rentals!

We manage nice and updated long term rentals in Mid-North Ocean City area. Our business will take care of all the details in renting your property.

Please contact us: "JNBINVESTMENTS-HILDA" on 302-222-6310 We have references available

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Contact us if you have a home you would like to rent.

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Email Seller For Special Assignment Documents at: jamesapia1@gmail.com or call Jim Sapia at 443-745-6905 ~ Licensed Maryland Agent

For other foreclosure opportunities please visit our website at marylandforeclosures.net

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West Ocean City Waterfront Lots. Two side-by-side with dock and rip rap. \$175,000 each. Call Howard Martin Realty, 410-352-5555.

DRAMATICALLY REDUCED WATERFRONT LOT, Bishopville. \$99,000. Howard Martin Realty, 410-352-5555.

OPEN HOUSE

For Sale by Owner: 11207 West Marie Drive, Bishopville. \$379,500. 4BR, 3.5BA. 3057 sq. ft. A TRUE GEM! Sat. 3/16 & Sun. 3/17, 1pm - 4pm.

COMMERCIAL

Self-Storage Units on Route 50. 100 sq. ft., 150 sq. ft., and 250 sq. ft. Call Bill, 301-537-5391.

Berlin: Atlantic Business Center. Office space 350 sq. ft. for rent. Utilities incl. \$400/month. Also, several storage units available \$95/month. Call 410-726-5471 or 410-641-4300.

Warehouse (Lrg.) For Rent - 11212 Gum Point Rd., Berlin, MD \$1,200 per month. Call 410-430-9797.

2 Office/Retail Spaces & 3 Warehouse Units available in West Ocean City. Call 443-497-4200.

www.baysideoc.com www.oceancitytoday.com

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YARD SALE

Downsizing.. Inside & Outside Tag Sale... Furniture, antiques, glassware, old farm items, some "yard sale" items! 9921 Main St., Berlin. March 22 & 23, 9am-6pm.

Classifieds 410-723-6397

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Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.

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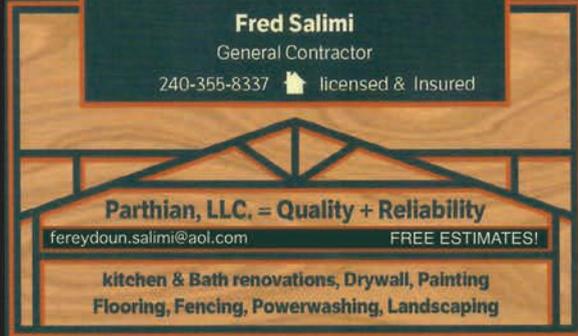
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