



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin residents come together to create bagged lunches at Baked Dessert Café in Berlin on Monday, March 16. Pictured, in front, from left, are Kyleith Powell, 13, Olivia Donovan, 15, Abby Melito, 14, and Sarah Reid, 17, and in back, Baked Dessert owner Robin Tomaselli, Pino Tomasello, Karen Bush-Purnell and Melissa Reid. Several organizations and members of the community are working to provide meals for students now that schools will be closed for two weeks. Many children in the area rely on school programs for their daily meals.

Officials pitch irrigation for Pines course

Public Works heads believe it can be done for greens

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Protecting water systems and reducing nutrient loads in the St. Martin River were primary motivators presented by Worcester County officials last week for a proposal to irrigate the Ocean Pines Golf Course with treated wastewater effluent.

Worcester Public Works Director John Tustin and Assistant Public Works Director John Ross headed a town hall question-and-answer session last Thursday in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Tustin said the county took over water and wastewater operations after the Worcester County Sanitary

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Pitching in to help school children

Businesses, volunteers see need and respond to loss of school meal program

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Since Gov. Larry Hogan closed schools for two weeks by executive order last week, groups and organizations have joined to find ways to feed children who depend on school meals.

Many students who benefit from school meal programs require help receiving meals during this two-week hiatus brought on by the spread of COVID-19 and the Hogan Administration's efforts to contain it.

Worcester Goes Purple is working with Hope4Recovery to supply a brown bag pickup lunch.

The brown bag lunch will be available on Thursday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hope4Recovery

parking lot at 10226 Old Ocean City Blvd. in Berlin.

"Worcester Goes Purple is about supporting the community and showing community that those in recovery and their families are part of and are supported [by] their community," Insurance and Billing Specialist Debbie Smullen said. "The coronavirus puts us in uncharted waters, but it does not stop the basic needs for compassion and kindness."

The lunches will include a sandwich, drink, chips and a snack.

In addition, Worcester Youth and Family Services will be collaborating with Stevenson United Methodist Church's Spirit Kitchen on Thursday, March 26, for a drive through food pantry from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 103 Flower Street in Berlin.

Donations can be dropped off at Worcester Youth and Family, 124 South Main Street in Berlin. Call and ask for Smullen at 410-641-4598 to

arrange delivery.

For more information or to ask about volunteering, email Smullen at dasmullen@worcesterk12.org or call at 410-870-5161.

Baked Dessert Café owner Robin Tomaselli will be offering lunch bags filled with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, granola bars, fruits and other small snacks, as well as a breakfast option such as a small box of cereal and a piece of fruit.

"We have for the past several years worked with organizations like Worcester County Youth and Family and Buckingham Elementary School," Tomaselli said. "We were made aware a while back that when kids are not in school, when they're on vacation, or when they're on holidays or extended weekends, that there are a lot of children in this community that actually get stressed out over it because the school food pro-

See BUSINESSES Page 10

Mayor Williams issues statement on coronavirus

Town's response will affect meetings, offices, events

(March 19, 2020) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams issued a statement on Monday concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and how it will affect town meetings and events.

To the Citizens and Guests of Berlin:

The Town of Berlin is actively monitoring the evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) by working closely with the Worcester County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health.

We have been in regular contact with these health agencies in recent weeks and are carefully monitoring

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Pines closings due to Coronavirus

OPA announces operational changes as precautionary measures tied to pandemic

(March 19, 2020) Ocean Pines on Monday announced several operational changes and closings related to COVID-19 (coronavirus) concerns.

Ocean Pines began taking measures both to educate the public and slow the spread of Coronavirus on March 6.

"Like everyone, we're concerned and are constantly monitoring the coronavirus situation," General Manager John Viola said. "We are following the guidelines mandated by Gov. Larry Hogan in Maryland, as well as any federal guidelines from the CDC and others.

"The safety of our homeowners, residents, guests and staff are foremost on our minds at this time, and we are doing everything we can to help slow the spread of Coronavirus in our community.

Any additional closures and changes to the operation will be communicated through our website, www.oceanpines.org," Viola added.

The following Ocean Pines departments have announced operational changes:

Public works: The Public Works office will be closed to the public effective immediately, with interactions available by phone and email only.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said the Architectural Review Committee meetings would be suspended, with all necessary documents being signed electronically. Permits and inspections will be handled through email or fax approval.

The Public Works yard will be closed for the next two-to-three Saturdays, Wells said, and all Public Works staff will be under a liberal leave policy for the next 12-21 days.

Aquatics: The Sports Core Pool will remain closed through March 30. All activities and classes have been canceled.

"We will start contacting people in our classes by phone," Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said. "We will also have a front desk person available during the closure to take calls from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will work with everyone who is signed up for classes to have makeups

or adjustments to the next starting session."

Phillips said staff during the closure will "shock" the Sports Core Pool, a process that uses additional chlorine for sterilization. All furniture and surfaces will also be cleaned and disinfected.

Recreation and parks: The Ocean Pines Community Center will remain closed through March 30. All activities and classes have been canceled.

Golf: Ocean Pines Golf operations will remain open for the foreseeable future, according to Golf General Manager John Malinowski.

Staff is wiping down shop surfaces, steering wheels and handrails, and Malinowski said a communication would go out soon to the entire golf email database. All flags sticks have been removed. Any further updates will be posted to www.oceanpines.org and www.oceanpinesgolf.org.

Food and Beverage: Gov. Larry Hogan on Monday ordered all Maryland restaurants to close indefinitely. The Ocean Pines Yacht Club will temporarily move to delivery only, effective immediately.

See YACHT Page 3



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Worcester rec facilities shuttered

Centers closed, activities canceled until March 27 at earliest, parks still open

(March 19, 2020) The Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill, and the Ocean Pines and Ocean City recreation and parks departments are currently closed due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The Worcester County Recreation Center will remain closed to the public through March 27 at minimum, and all programs and activities will be cancelled.

Worcester County parks will remain open for passive activities until further notice.

For more information or to speak with Recreation & Parks staff, call 410-632-2144, Monday through Friday be-

tween 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or email recandparks@co.worcester.md.us.

The Ocean Pines Community Center will remain closed through March 30. All activities and classes have been canceled during that period.

Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue said the Ocean Pines Community Center would also receive a deep cleaning during the closure.

The Recreation and Parks Department expects to reopen on March 30.

Easter special events are currently under review.

Recreation and Parks Department staff will remain in the office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, to answer phones and continue with registration for classes and future room rentals.

Staff will also continue to clean the building.

For information, call 410-641-7052.

The Sports Core Pool will also remain closed through March 30. All activities and classes have been canceled during that period.

Suspension of all programs at Northside Park in Ocean City and all other indoor-based recreation programs at satellite facilities have been canceled.

The goal is to resume activities as soon as possible, according to Susan Petito, director of Ocean City Recreation and Parks. With that being said, the earliest date programs will resume will be March 30.

Participants, parents and coaches will be notified as soon as there is a more definitive date to resume.

For more information, call 410-250-0125.



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Yacht Club switches to food, drink deliveries

Continued from Page 2

Until further notice, the restaurant will be open for delivery each Wednesday through Sunday, from 4-9 p.m. The Yacht Club will also deliver beer and wine, to Ocean Pines residents.

Yacht Club management staff will handle deliveries, which will be made available to Ocean Pines residents only.

Orders may be made by calling 410-641-7501, starting at 3:30 p.m., each Wednesday through Sunday. Only credit card payments, over the phone, will be accepted. No cash will be handled.

Additionally, all deliveries will be

made with no charges.

Administration: The Administration Building front desk will remain open, as of now.

All closings are subject to change, based on state and federal government requirements. All other Ocean Pines facilities will remain open at this time, with staff following cleaning and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Anyone who is ill has been asked to stay home.

All Ocean Pines departments can be reached by phone. For department listings, visit www.oceanpines.org.

Ocean Pines will also continue to coordinate with neighboring communities and with the Worcester County Health Department.

The Health Department created a website dedicated to local Coronavirus news and information: <https://worces-terhealth.org/protect-menu/1711-coronavirus-corvid-19-information-2020>.

Additionally, the Health Department opened a call center, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by dialing 410-632-1100 option #8.

The State of Maryland also has a hotline, available by dialing 2-1-1.

Local information about closures and other updates related to coronavirus is available through a new Town of Ocean City

webpage, <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/coronavirus-information/>.

For more information on Coronavirus through the Maryland Department of Health, visit <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>.

For information on Coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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Andrew Queen
General Manager



410-641-1434

OPA Election Committee gets ready for 2020

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Preparing for the expiration of two OPA Board of Directors terms in 2020, the Ocean Pines Election Committee received updates on a new balloting system scanner, while also approving an election services contract last Friday.

Association IT Manager Steve Grabowski said work is just getting underway to review an online tutorial associated with the recently purchased laptop and scanner intended for the upcoming OPA election.

"We need to use a proper paper stock and color," he said. "The scanner has a problem with anything glossy."

Among the actions included in the elections committee's final report from the 2019 contest issued in September was investigating an updated ballot counting machine.

On the positive side, Grabowski said the new election gear would permit enhanced ballot design flexibility,

with wider use capabilities such as publishing web surveys.

Grabowski said whatever design options are selected would involve consulting with election materials contractor Berlin-based ACE Printing & Mailing.

"We do have to combine their knowledge with the constraints of the scanning system," he said.

Previous ballot design discussions have considered the possibility of including a verification barcode and candidate pictures.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger polled members to select a date to hold an online training tutorial with the hardware equipment vendor.

"I would like the committee members included, but ACE [Printing] is really doing it," he said.

The process would allow the group an opportunity to view the web-based tutorial while vetting ballot designs.

Grabowski said ballot dimensions

should be selected with consideration to envelope sizes.

Habeger agreed the final ballot would need to conform to the return envelope included with election materials mailed to qualifying association members.

The committee scheduled a vendor-assisted online training session for March 31.

The committee also approved a 2020 OPA Ballot Election and Mailing Services agreement with previous contractor ACE Printing & Mailing.

Habeger said in addition to ACE submitting terms comparable to past agreements, they were the sole bidder for election printing and mailing services.

Committee member Mark Heintz asked if there were any apparent reasons for the lack of additional bidders. "Are we bound by getting a certain number?" he asked.

Habeger said despite sending invitations to bid to at least a half-dozen

area vendors, few seemed capable of accommodating both printing and mailing requirements.

"We have a goal of having a competitive process," he said.

While the traditional three-bid minimum standard was not reached in this instance, continuing the association with ACE Printing proprietor Thom Gulyas still seems advantageous, Habeger said.

"They not only do what they need to do but they forward-look," he said. "They're ready when you ask them for something, which is invaluable."

Committee board liaison Steve Tuttle said regardless of the market competition Gulyas submitted a bid only slightly above prior fees.

"It would be different if ACE came back \$5,000 higher all of a sudden," he said. "His price has not changed for the last three or four years, hardly."

Heintz noted the new election services contract also includes providing a scanner operator.

Williams gives rundown on town's response

Continued from Page 1
the evolving situation.

All decisions regarding the activities and functions that are the responsibility of the Town of Berlin are being done so in consultation with our county and state health agencies.

Effective immediately all town offices with public access will be closed to non-employees – locations include, but are not limited to, Town Hall, Planning and the Visitor Center. All departments will remain staffed with regular business hours.

Utility bill payments may be made online via our website or by utilizing the drop boxes located at Town Hall. Call 410-641-2770 for further information.

For all Planning Department applications and permits, call 410-629-1483 or 410-641-4143.

Utility bills will continue to be gen-

erated during this situation, however interest and penalties will be waived for the time-being and disconnections of service will be on hold. At the end of the waiver period, full payment will be required to avoid further charges.

The Town of Berlin is cancelling the following scheduled meetings:

Mayor and Council Meeting – March 23 and April 13

Historic District Commission Meeting – April 1

Board of Appeals – April 1

Parks Commission – April 7

Planning Commission – April 8

The following public events are canceled, but may be rescheduled at the organizer's discretion:

Makers Market – April 10

Spring Celebration – April 11

Clean-Up Day – April 18

Berlin Little League Day – April 18

At this time no further disruptions or reductions of town services are planned, with the exception of Bulk Waste Collection for April 22 and 29, which will be rescheduled to a later date to be announced.

If there is any further cancellation of meetings or events conducted by our municipality, then the Town of Berlin will immediately contact all local news media, post such notifications on our town website: berlinmd.gov/news/, Facebook page, Public Access Channel and display notices outside of Town Hall.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is displayed on our town website. Any alerts or additional information about the Coronavirus that pertains to Worcester County will also be posted to our website.

The town encourages citizens to

refer to the following websites for the latest information on the pandemic:

Worcester County Health Department: worcesterhealth.org

Maryland Department of Health: healthmaryland.gov

Centers for Disease Control: cdc.gov

As the situation changes, we urge all our citizens and guests in our community to make decisions with an abundance of caution, but not succumb to panic.

Please temper any fear you may have with informed reason.

This is a time when we as the extended family of Berlin can easily share credible information, provide emotional support for friends and neighbors and work every day to make informed, measured and reasonable responses together.

*Mayor Wm. Gee Williams III
Town of Berlin, Maryland*

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County officials provide info on golf course irrigation idea

Continued from Page 1

Commission was disbanded in November 1993.

"The Worcester County Sanitary Commission ... was a quasi-governmental agency not connected to the Worcester County Commissioners," he said.

OPA General Manager John Viola said the potential to convert irrigation practices at the golf course to use highly treated effluent was still in the exploratory stages.

"Highly treated effluent" is defined as water meeting current Maryland Department of the Environment Bay Restoration standards.

Ross said the concept would eliminate spraying roughly 200,000 gallons daily of ground water on the golf course during the summer.

"We're talking about taking the treated water from the [Ocean Pines] Wastewater Treatment Plant and rather than putting it out in the [St. Martin] River, talking about using to irrigate the golf course," he said.

Ross said treated effluent from the Ocean Pines facility has continually outpaced state environmental benchmarks.

In 2005, MDE started a Bay Restoration Fund, or flush fee, financed through a monthly charge of \$2.50 for users of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The fee was increased to \$5 per month in 2012.

The Ocean Pines plant has consistently earned annual Bay Restoration Fund waivers by testing below maximum effluent concentrations of 3 mg/l of total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorous.

Ross said in many instances the Ocean Pines effluent tests as low as 2 mg/l of total nitrogen.

"You're discharging better water than what was created from the program," he said.

Worcester County officials estimate that MDE tax exemptions of roughly \$5 million have been earned over the last 14 years by the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant for Ocean Pines rate payers due to exceptionally low levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in tested effluent.

Ross said the treated effluent is used for spray irrigation purposes at nearly three-dozen facilities across the state, nine of which are golf courses with three located in Worcester County, including Glen Riddle, Eagle's Landing and Lighthouse Sound.

"This is not something new, this is commonly done throughout the state [and] throughout the country for that matter," he said.

Ross said going the irrigation route would reduce demand on the five water supply wells serve Ocean

Pines.

"We pull anywhere from one to three million gallons out of those wells on any given day," he said.

Giving the golf greens a good watering boosts that figure by about 200,000 gallons a day, Ross said.

Ross said the water supply in Ocean Pines is one of five qualified as a Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Management Strategy Area due to potential salt-water intrusion.

"They monitor withdraws out of [the] wells in order to make sure that we don't begin to pull salt water in," he said.

Ross said the pines water system is unique in the fact that ground-sourced water is PH adjusted and chlorinated without extensive infrastructure.

"We do not have to filter it [and] we do not have to treat it with chemicals," he said. "We are able to meet all the requirements of the Safe Water Drinking Act without building a water treatment plant," he said.

The water system in Ocean Pines is well worth protecting, Ross said.

"You'll regret it if you ever have to go into a different aquifer as far as water quality and ease of producing drinkable water," he said.

Additional benefits of converting to spraying effluent on the golf course are realized in adjacent watersheds.

"The second reason to potentially do this is to reduce discharges to the St. Martin River," he said. "Yes, we produce really clean water, less than 3 mg/l of total nitrogen but that's still not zero."

Pines resident Jack Collins said the proposal would provide a direct financial benefit to the OPA and golf course by replacing a half-century old irrigation system.

"There's a way we can replace aging infrastructure at a reasonable rate because the county knows what they're doing," he said.

Ross said the commissioners would need to approve funding to explore the matter in depth.

"The first step of anything is to do a feasibility study," he said.

Ross said any changes would be at least three years in the making.

"It's just a concept that we believe is worth looking at for the long-term benefit of Ocean Pines," he said.

Ross also noted any associated costs to upgrade infrastructure would likely be funded by the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Service Area and serve a dual purpose.

"We're going to try and protect the aquifer on the water supply side and we're going to try to reduce the nutrients going into the bay on the discharge side," he said.



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OP Water Advisory Board talks next budget

Worcester officials detail leaky water holding tanks background, core problems

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Tracking cases of leaky groundwater holding tanks and previewing pending budget requests were principal points presented during the Ocean Pines Service Area Water and Wastewater Advisory Board meeting on Monday.

Board member Jack Collins praised the presentation about treated effluent made by Worcester County Deputy Director of Public Works John Ross during a town hall meeting the prior week.

"He made a knowledgeable presentation and covered lots of territory," he said.

Board member Fred Stiehl asked about an instance involving raw sewage overflow seeping into yards raised at the town hall meeting.

Ross said the incident in question occurred on Aug. 13, 2017 during a period of extreme precipitation and the Maryland Department of the Environment received a written complaint the next day.

"For that entire week we had over eight inches of rain," he said.

In light of concerns about leaking water holding tanks Ross noted the earlier flooding incident occurred over a weekend with inspectors unable to investigate the issue until the following day.

"By the time our crews got there, getting into Monday, there was no issue," he said.

Collins recalled the time period in question presented atypical levels of rainfall.

"Front yards were under water ... it was ridiculous," he said.

Ultimately, MDE inspectors had issued a clean bill of health for the site in question, Ross said.

In terms of addressing leaky water holding tanks, Ross said seepage oc-

curs internally, not externally, due to vacuum lines.

"Water is coming in, not out because of vacuum," he said.

Board member Greg Sauter said the matter had confused numerous residents who mistakenly thought the issue concerned outflow.

"People are thinking sewage is leaking out of the tank and that's not the case," he said. "We're pulling ground water into our system and making the [wastewater treatment] plant less productive."

In many instances, water holding tank walls are breached by tree roots, Ross said.

"Generally, we get calls about lines draining slowly," he said.

Substantial cases of tanks overflowing would raise other alarms intended to direct required corrective measures.

"If we have a major leaking tank, it's causing us operational problems," he said. "We have all tanks monitored by operators."

Stiehl said if the issue is a major problem, it needs to be remedied in a reasonable time.

"We need to understand how comfortably we can say this is a rare occurrence," he said.

Collins concurred, and requested data about the number of problematic tanks and any cases of raw sewage seepage.

Ross said he would return with the statistics at the next advisory board meeting.

Turning to pending budget matters, Ross said the Water and Wastewater Division would present financial requests to the Worcester County Commissioners on March 31.

Contingent on securing bond funding, the county is looking to repaint the north water tower in Ocean Pines, Ross said.

"We got a signed contract [and] hope to schedule a pre-construction meeting this week," he said.

The process includes draining and sand blasting the water tank.

"We're not anticipating any internal repairs," he said.

After fresh paint is applied, the tank will require disinfecting, Ross said.

"It has to be repainted without water in it," he said.

Ross said the project would begin pending funding approval

"It can take 60 or more days and obviously you can't paint outside all time so we're trying to get started as quickly as we can," he said.

Worcester Circuit Court will remain closed until April 3

(March 19, 2020) In accordance with the Administrative Order signed by Chief Judge Barbera on March 13, limiting public access to and operations of courts in Maryland, the Circuit Court for Worcester County will be closed to the public except in emergency circumstances or as specified by the Administrative Judge, Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 3.

The office of the Clerk of Court and the Register of Wills will be closed to the public. Drop boxes will be placed at the Washington Street entrance of the Circuit Court to allow self-represented litigants to file pleadings as necessary.

Call the Clerk's office at 410-632-5500 or the Register of Wills at 410-632-1529 with questions.

All jury trials have been postponed through April 3. Other scheduled hearings will proceed to the extent allowed by the Order, but many hearings will be subject to postponement. Call 410-632-0700 with questions.

Employees of the Circuit Court, whether state or locally funded, are to report to work as scheduled unless they are ill or otherwise on scheduled leave.

The Court will continue to process all filings and perform all functions not requiring a hearing.

Understand that the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the information above may change as a result.

Copies of pertinent court orders and statewide updates are available at mdcourts.gov.

OP Police expands reporting minor calls over telephone

(March 19, 2020) The Ocean Pines Police Department has taken steps to protect the health of its personnel by limiting their exposure to minor events so they can respond when needed to serious incidents.

In response to the COVID-19 virus, the Ocean Pines Police Department will introduce a temporary enhanced telephone reporting system. In minor property crime cases, where there is no suspect, police will take the report telephonically, except in cases where a vic-

tim requests the presence of the officer.

"This is only a temporary change, and will not impact police response to all other types of incidents, Chief David Massey said. "We recognize that first responders have a duty to the residents to provide our continuing protection, and we shall always be there to provide prompt and efficient service. This change will better protect our police officers, by reducing their vulnerability to health risks during this health crisis."

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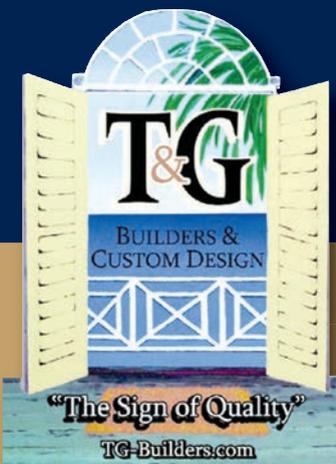


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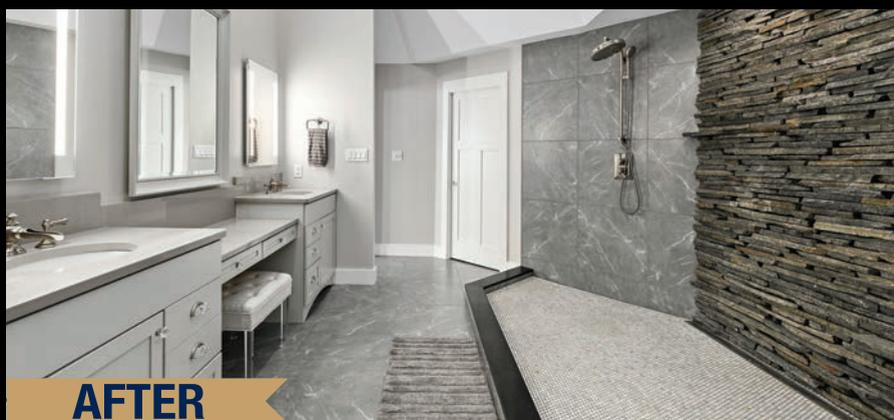
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Berlin man needs kidney donation

Tax filing deadline extended due to COVID-19 virus

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer



Nick Morris

(March 19, 2020) Berlin resident Nick Morris, 74, is in dire need of a kidney transplant and is searching for an O-positive donor in the area.

Morris has been a resident of Worcester County since 1975, and has been an English teacher, college instructor, long-time employee of the Alaska Stand, and lifeguard for the Ocean City Beach Patrol, Assateague Island National Seashore and Ocean Pines.

Two years ago, Morris was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate, which in turn caused his kidneys to fail. He has been waiting for a kidney transplant since January 2019.

Since his diagnosis, he noticed his energy levels dropping.

“My levels go up and down, up and down [and then] I have to come to grips mentally with this [condition] that you’ve got to monitor all the time.” Morris said. “There are days when I’ll start out and never quite feel as if I am really ever at 100 percent. I start out at a lower level and then by the end of the day, I’m done.

“Some days I ask myself, ‘Is this a sign that I should go right to the doctor,’” he continued.

Just this January, Morris applied to be on the kidney donor list, which can take up to six years, made even

longer as his age made him less of a priority candidate on the list, he said.

“I actually would prefer a life donor,” Morris said. “They do donations of deceased donors, but the lifespan of those are considerably less than it would be for a live donor.”

Currently, Morris’ kidneys are between stages 4 and 5 of kidney failure, which means if his condition gets any worse, he will be forced to undergo dialysis.

It is possible to survive with only one kidney, and the recovery time is around two weeks or less for the donor. Recently, there have been discussions in the Maryland General Assembly to provide tax incentives for organ donors as well.

Morris had been matched twice in the past, but the donors decided to change their minds, though he still has hope.

“I am a good candidate,” said Morris. “I have no other health issues.”

Most importantly, finding a kidney would give Morris the time to travel, enjoy the foods he has been forced to stop eating and live healthy once again.

“There’s still a lot of stuff I gotta

do,” he said. “I’d still like to be here.”

Readers interested in being a living donor, should take the first step is to find out if they are blood compatible. Morris needs a donor with an “O” blood type. If unsure of blood type, check with the Blood Bank of Delmarva (if you have donated before), your doctor, or order a home test kit for less than \$10.

If your blood type is not a match for Morris, there is still a chance to help someone else through a process called the paired kidney exchange. A paired kidney exchange allows donors to “swap” with other donors’ recipients. Through a carefully orchestrated process, one person gives a kidney to an unknown recipient, and that recipient willing donor, in exchange, gives a kidney to a different recipient with whom they are compatible.

The next step is to fill out the application, which can be found online at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Potential donors can contact Morris by phone at 410-629-9068, or 410-641-2310, or via email at m22nicholas@aol.com.

Due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus, the Shepherd’s Nook and Flea Market at Community Church at Ocean Pines will remain closed through April 1.

Clothing and household donations cannot be accepted and processed during this time. The public is asked to hold donations until the store reopens. When the Shepherd’s Nook reopens, it will be stocked with spring and summer clothing.

(March 19, 2020) To assist businesses affected by the economic impact of COVID-19, Comptroller Peter Franchot announced this week he will extend business-related tax filing deadlines.

The June 1 extension applies to certain business returns with due dates during the months of March, April and May 2020 for businesses filing sales and use tax, withholding tax, and admissions and amusement tax, as well as alcohol, tobacco and motor fuel excise taxes, tire recycling fee and bay restoration fee returns.

Business taxpayers who file and pay by the extended due date will receive a waiver of interest and penalties.

If the IRS extends its April 15 filing deadline for corporate and individual income tax returns, Maryland will conform to the decision of the IRS.

“Our state’s top priority is safeguarding public health for Marylanders, but we must also protect the financial health of our economy,” Comptroller Franchot said. “This extension will provide much-needed relief to our business owners as they adjust to changes in consumer behavior, tourism trends and employee workforce output. Maryland will also extend our corporate and individual income tax return filing deadlines if the IRS announces an extension.”

The agency has set up a dedicated email address — taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov — to assist businesses with extension-related questions. Business owners can also call the Comptroller’s Ombudsman at 410-260-4020.

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Scavenger hunt for families in Berlin

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Berlin is offering a free scavenger hunt throughout Berlin for children and their families during the two weeks that schools are closed due to coronavirus concerns.

Gov. Larry Hogan announced last week that all Maryland public schools would close from March 16 to March 27 to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Multiple events and activities such as going to bars, restaurants, and other public buildings have been discouraged, canceled or closed to the public, meaning residents will be left to their own devices



Ivy Wells

to find entertainment. Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells first heard of the scavenger hunt idea from Sara Hambury, the owner of West O Bottle Shop and a resident of the town.

"[She] came up with the idea for her children so I wanted to borrow it for the town," Wells said.

Printouts with images, courtesy of Hambury, of buildings and other features throughout the town will be available for

pickup at the Community Center. Wells believes it will be a great way to encourage children to become interested in the history of Berlin and alleviate boredom.

"Allison [Early] and I, our department is called Economic and Community Development," she said. "We're just trying to think up some ways to engage the community to learn more about the town and to not feel so isolated and to have some fun."

The scavenger hunt is not a timed event nor is it a competition. Families are encouraged to just walk around the town trying to match the pictures with the corresponding object.

"Kids can walk around town with

their parents and try to find these photos," Wells said. "It gets kids walking around and just being aware of how beautiful downtown Berlin is and the unique features we have down here."

In the meantime, Wells will continue to look into other ideas to keep residents, especially children, entertained during the two-week period without school.

"While school is closed for the next two weeks, we'll all be brainstorming and any other creative ideas we come up with we will post on Instagram and the town's social media pages like Facebook," she said. "We'll have more ideas for people to enjoy the town. It's just for fun, so we're just going to [continue] creating new ideas for kids to have fun."

For more information, call 410-629-1722.

Heron Park groundwater evaluation results

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Heron Park in Berlin has passed its tests, Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood announced at the Monday, March 9, mayor and Town Council meeting, following an analysis of water extracted from the grounds.

Last June, an undisclosed amount of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda or lye) was spilled during demolition work by a contractor, resulting in the park's closure.

Chesapeake Environmental Services handled the bulk of the clean-up for



Jeff Fleetwood

\$283,000. Other work was done by town workers and contractors at a cost of about \$3,000 rather than the \$50,000-\$60,000 quoted by other companies.

The Maryland Department of the Environment required an evaluation of the groundwater under the area where the spill occurred to determine if any caustic chemicals left behind. The testing, which was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19,

involved drilling three wells about 15 feet deep near the original spill site.

"The engineers on site, a couple weeks ago, they did drill a number of shallow water wells," Fleetwood said. "They did extract water ... the initial field results on those tests for pH was very good, everything passed on that."

"However, the other test that they were testing for, the substance was chloride, the field test could not confirm any results so it was sent off to a lab," he continued. "Last week we did receive final results — the pH is fine and the chloride

levels are fine. Those result have been communicated to the Maryland Department of the Environment."

Fleetwood had a conference call with the department director, who said "from his perspective, everything is fine, but he was going to pass it to his staff for their opinions as well."

Heron Park was officially reopened to the public in February after five months of being closed. The park has resettled over 4,000 tons of soil and Fleetwood expects it to be seeded sometime between April and May.

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Businesses, volunteers pitching in

Continued from Page 1

grams are the only places where they actually eat breakfast, lunch and dinner-type meals.

“As soon as we heard that Gov. Larry Hogan was closing schools, we just decided we had to do something,” she continued.

Baked Dessert Café is working with several community partners: SonRise Church, the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, The Iron Horse, of Willards, Boxcar 40, of Pittsville, Willards Lions Club and Uncle Willies of Willards to collect and distribute nonperishable items to students in need.

Tomaselli made a Facebook post last Friday announcing her intentions to help provide meals for students affected by the school closures. Tomaselli said she was shocked at the amount of support coming from the local community.

“My anticipation was that we would certainly get some donations from the community,” she said. “But the response was just overwhelming. It was very evident early on, a couple of hours after I actually made the post, that it was something that was going to be much bigger than what we could handle alone. So that’s when we began to pull in educators and community leaders and people that

do this every day to help out.”

Donations will be collected at select locations Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be distributed at select locations Tuesday through Friday from 1-2 p.m. at Henry Park, 111 Flower Street, Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, 7442 Gumboro Rd. and the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, 12320 Ocean Gateway in West Ocean City.

For more information, or for an updated list of drop-off and distribution locations, visit the “Baked Dessert Cafe” Facebook page or call Tomaselli at 301-785-6161.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church is also getting involved with its Blessing Box installed outside of the property on 20 South Main Street in Berlin, where residents who are in need of supplies can take what they need or drop off donations on the go.

“People can leave stuff anytime they want,” Lindsay Ashton, youth group coordinator and youth events and activities for the church, said. “They can take stuff out of it anytime that they want to, like the little libraries.”

The blessing box officially opened in February but was inspired by the church’s youth group last year.

“Last year, all the Presbyterian churches gave out money to ignite

different people, to go out into the community, so we packed 300 bags for the homeless around here last year and we gave those out to different organizations,” Ashton said. “We still had money left over. So, we were like, ‘Well, let’s give it to our youth groups and get them to come up with an idea that they want to do to help the community.’ They had seen these blessing boxes online, they started doing research and they wanted to build one.”

The donations can include anything from canned fruits and vegetables, boxes of pasta, beans and chilis, cereals, soups, snacks and baby formula, as well as other basic necessities like toilet paper, hand sanitizer, underwear, gloves, and shopping bags.

“So many kids depend on meals from the schools,” Ashton said. “People are able to help each other in a time of crisis and show that even in bad times, people still care.”

For more information about the Blessing Box, visit the Buckingham Presbyterian Church Facebook page, as the church is currently closed due to concerns regarding the coronavirus.

Though schools are closed, the Board of Education is also working with the community to ensure students receive meals during the two-week closure.

Chief Safety Officer Steve Price discussed meal programs offered throughout the county during a Board of Education conference call on Tuesday.

The board is currently working with officials in Snow Hill, United Methodist Church, Snow Hill Elementary School, Pocomoke Middle School and Buckingham Elementary in Berlin to deliver meals to students in need.

“We will be working in collaboration with all those organizations to have a joint message out so that our children can receive the meals that they need as they’re not available through the school,” Price said.

Due to state and federal regula-

Donation drop-off locations for nonperishable items:

- SonRise Church, 10026 Main Street Berlin. Contact Pastor Tim at 412-571-1373
- Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City. Contact Lisa Layfield at 443-880-2433
- Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, 7442 Gumboro Rd. Contact Paul Suplee at 443-880-1986
- The Iron Horse, 7485 Market Streets, Willards. Contact Vanessa Founds at 443-397-7469.

Lunch distribution locations Tuesdays to Fridays from 1-2 p.m.:

- Henry Park, 111 Flower Street. Contact Robin Tomaselli at 301-785-6161
- Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, 7442 Gumboro Rd. Contact Paul Suplee at 443-880-1986
- Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City. Contact Lisa Layfield at 443-880-2433

tions, the Worcester County Board school system cannot accept food donations, Price said. However, he can be reached at 410-632-5074 or HSPPrice@Worcesterk12.org for more information how to receive meals.

In addition, restaurants in Ocean City are offering free meals for students affected by school closures. These include Billy’s Sub Shop on 140th Street. To learn more, call Billy’s Sub Shop at 410-250-1778.

State Superintendent of Schools Karen Salmon announced that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) applied and was approved for a federal waiver to provide three meals a day, and a snack, to students affected by the statewide closure of schools. The Maryland State Department of Education has 138 meal distribution centers across the state, which can be found at mdsummerschools.org.

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Wor. reviews new operations building for treatment plant

(March 19, 2020) The Ocean Pines Water Wastewater Treatment Plant will get a new operations building. The Worcester County Planning Commission reviewed construction and site plans for a 62 by 54-foot building during their meeting on Thursday, March 5.

The 20-by 50-foot building for storage will be demolished. John Tustin, director of public works, said the building would be a replacement and upgrade for operations. The building will be located within the treatment plant compound without public access.

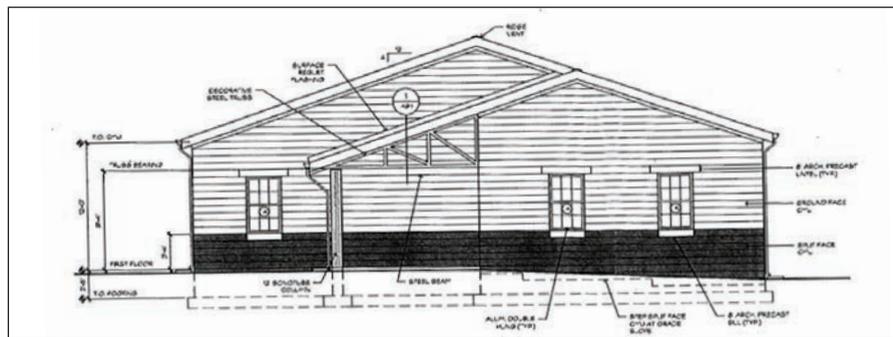


PHOTO COURTESY GEORGES, MILES & BUHR

The old Ocean Pines Water Wastewater Treatment Plant operations building will be demolished and replaced with a 62- by 54-foot building.

Parks onboard for next OPA board election

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Looking to chart continued progress after four years as a member of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, President Doug Parks unveiled intentions this week to seek another term in the 2020 board election.



Doug Parks

board and was ultimately elected.”

The 2020 candidate filling deadline is May 10, with the OPA announcing the field of candidates no later than June 1.

Since being elected by association members in 2017, Parks has been elected by board colleagues to serve as president for the last three years.

As his current term winds down, Parks said the rationale to maintain involvement boils down to desire and results.

“I still have the motivation, energy and desire to continue to provide service to my community,” he said.

Over the last few years, amicable

working relationships among directors have proven fruitful for the community, Parks said.

“We’ve got a very good relationship among the seven directors right now,” he said. “If we can keep that level of consistency going for the next several years, we’ll continue to help move the community forward.”

Parks said accomplishments during his three years as board president included forming a work group to evaluate the purchase of Northstar accounting software, signing the Matt Ort Companies as food and beverage contractor, building a new golf clubhouse and expanding the police building, and negotiating with Comcast to offer an additional digital service provider.

“I’ve delivered on some major issues with the help of my colleagues,” he said. “I’ve got a proven track record of tackling both major and minor issues.”

Parks said his approach is to foster a team spirit among directors.

“Getting things done and getting the board to work together as a team,” he said. “Those were some of my goals and, I think, I’ve at least partially accomplished all of them.”

The 2020 OPA Board candidates will attend a public forum on June 17 with a second forum on June 27 if required. The cutoff date for voter eligibility is July 3 with ballots mailed out no later than July 10. The deadline for ballot submission is Aug. 5 with results unveiled two days later.

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EMPTY SHELVES

The Food Lion on Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines had numerous aisles short of nonperishables and paper products on Tuesday, March 17, as crowds came out to prepare for the effects of the COVID-19, or coronavirus pandemic.

Cell tower to be constructed south of Berlin mid-May

Service will improve area along Route 113 to Newark

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) The southern Berlin area should see improved cell service, as plans for a 195-foot-tall cell tower were reviewed by the Worcester County Technical Review Committee during its meeting last Wednesday. The tower, to be constructed by Calvert Crossland and Verizon Wireless, will be located on privately owned land on the south side of Ironshire Station Road and 439 feet west of Downs Road.

In post-meeting comments, Barb Pivec, owner of Calvert Crossland, said the tower will help the network between Berlin and Newark along Route 113. She hopes the tower will be shipped between May 5-10 and built that same day.

“We build a site in May, then it’s probably another four or five months until the antennas are put on and the site is operable,” Pivec said.

The project’s next steps are to receive approval of its stormwater management plan, obtain the building permit and the electrical permit. The Worcester County Board of Zoning Appeals granted approval for the tower on Jan. 9, according to Pivec.

She said she’s been working on this project since 2013.

“It’s very difficult to build towers in Worcester County and we’re very happy we were able to find a location that met the objectives and goals of the wireless carriers that was acceptable to the community,” Pivec said.

She added that the tower’s infrastructure will be available to other carriers and broadband providers.

A webpage will be available for the tower at calvertcrossland.com within the next month.

Short-term rental rules, regulations

Planning Commission looks over Airbnb ordinance draft ideas at monthly meeting

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission looked over a short draft of the short-term rental rules last Wednesday that had been suggested by the mayor and Town Council.

Since last November, the council and Planning Commission have been looking into ordinances created by nearby municipalities and states re-



Dave Engelhart

garding short-term rentals, including those known as Airbnbs.

Mayor Gee Williams discussed the importance of “what regulations should be created here in Berlin regarding short-term rentals” during the Town Council meeting on Monday, March 9, and Planning Director Dave Engelhart provided each member of the Planning Commission with a short list describing some of the rules suggested during the meeting.

Of these rules suggested were the definition of the terms “Short Term Residential Rental” and “Permanent Residence,” qualifying rental space, parking and violations.

Engelhart said the proposed measure consists of 14 pages that are ready for a first reading in the approval process, though no date for that hearing has been set.

The first reading had been set for Monday, March 23, with a public hearing set for Monday, April 6, however, both the upcoming March and first April meeting were canceled as a precaution due to coronavirus concerns.

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Appointments Available

Co. government asking students to get involved

Worcester encourages youth volunteering on commissions

(March 19, 2020) Worcester County Government encourages those interested in becoming more involved in the community to volunteer on a Worcester County board or commission.

Members are appointed by the County Commissioners to fill two types of vacancies, seats that represent each of the seven election districts and open seats that may be filled by residents throughout Worcester County.

Current district seats are available on the following boards and commissions:

- District One (Southern District) – one seat is open on the Social Services Advisory Board.
- District Three (Sinepuxent District) – seats are available on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Water and Sewer Advisory Council (WSAC) for Mystic Harbour, and WSAC for West Ocean City.
- District Four (Western District) – one seat is available on the Local Development Council (LDC) for the Ocean Downs Casino.

• District Five (Ocean Pines District) – one seat is available on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

• District Six (Northern District) – seats are available on the LDC, Tourism Advisory Committee, and Commission for Women.

• District Seven (Ocean City) – seats are available on the Building Code Appeals Board, Ethics Board, LDC, Planning Commission, and Social Services Advisory Board.

Current open seats that may be filled by residents countywide include the following: Commission on Aging (2), Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (1), LDC for the Ocean Downs Casino (1), Lower Shore Workforce Development Board (1), and Solid Waste Advisory Committee (2).

There is currently one vacancy as an alternate on the Worcester County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. Members of this board are nominated by the County Commissioners, with final appointment by the governor of Maryland.

In the event that Worcester County Government receives more individuals interested in volunteering for a particular committee than there are available seats, the commissioners will maintain an interest list to help fill future vacancies.

Send a letter of interest, along with a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience, to khammer@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Administration at One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863.



RINGS
The annual Worcester Prep Junior Ring Ceremony took place on Feb. 12. 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. Pictured are Class of 2021 members with their rings. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Juniors, from left, Sophia Ludt, Summer Walker, Meredith Cummings, Grace Hopkins and Waverly Choy display their new rings. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Three juniors from the Class of 2021 show off their new class rings along with their parents, who are also alums of Worcester Prep. Pictured, from left, are Abby Reynolds and Mark Tingle ('87), Chipper and Tara Becker ('91), and Alex ('86) and Brugh Moore. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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TAKING ACTION

Members of Stephen Decatur High School Mu Alpha Theta, the math honor society chapter at the school, calculated the risks of ocean pollution and decided to take action. After conducting a gift card raffle fundraiser, the group donated \$1,100 to the Ocean City Reef Foundation. In the process, members even got the opportunity to name a reef using a witty math pun, "The Great De-reef-ative." The Ocean City Reef Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing marine life by creating and maintaining artificial reef systems. Pictured, from left, are Ocean City Reef Foundation representative Monty Hawkins, Mu Alpha Theta Advisor Sherryl Olson, Ava Bullock, Macy Dill, Gabby Izzett, Isy Kristick, Matthew Brown, Madison Birckett, Grayson Wolf, Miles Thompson, Summer Vorsteg, Abby Yesko, Caroline Gardner, Prutha Patel, Assistant Principal Leland Green, and Mu Alpha Theta Advisor Dawn Ebelein.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

BJ's Wholesale Club, as a part of its fall membership offer and in partnership with the Ocean Pines Association, recently donated \$520 to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola, left, and President Doug Parks on Feb. 12 presented the check to Marie Gilmore, president of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

NEW MEMBER

Bob Wolfing, left, recently joined the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Board of Directors. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club Board Election Chair Ralph Chinn.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CELEBRATION

Seacrets Distillery and restaurant on 49th Street, recently hosted Atlantic Dental to celebrate Judy Tremellen's, left, 25th anniversary as a hygienist and Patricia Kernan's retirement as office manager. They have not only shared their time and talents at Atlantic Dental in West Ocean City, but throughout the community as well.

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Phillips promotes email contact for elderly assistance

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 19, 2020) Helping elderly community members acquire food, medicines and other necessities is the aim of a new email-based volunteer group formed by Colby Phillips.

Speaking on Tuesday, Phillips said she launched the email campaign on Facebook the previous evening out of concern for senior citizens becoming exposed to the coronavirus. Her effort is a personal undertaking and is not connected to the OPA in any way.

"I had 20 volunteers within two hours," she said.

Phillips vetted the crew of volunteers that is comprised mainly of friends and acquaintances.

"It's always amazing to me that the community as a whole in times of need step up and always have," she said.

Phillips said elderly community members who should remain isolated but need to pick up food or medication could email localhelp4youwc@gmail.com.

"We will forward it to the [volunteers] and see who is available," she said.
See VOLUNTEERS Page 17



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FESTIVE FAMILY

The Sturdivant family, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, don their best green outfits for St. Patrick's Day weekend at Baked Dessert Café on Saturday, March 14.

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Opinion

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

We'll get through this

Some of us are working from home, some of us are working at our offices and job sites, and some of us aren't working at all. Such is the new abnormal in a world turned outside-in by the spread of the novel corona virus.

As of early Wednesday morning, no cases of COVID-19, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls it, had been reported in Worcester County. In fact, of the Eastern Shore of Maryland's nine counties, only Talbot County with one case had been affected.

This may be one of the few times that living on the frequently overlooked Eastern Shore, in terms of getting anything from the state, is an advantage.

That, of course, is likely to change, as travel by members of our mobile society slows to a moderate trickle rather than ceases abruptly, and someone will either return home with a not-so-lovely parting gift from a trip beyond the peninsula, or a visitor will come and go and leave something viral behind.

It can't be helped, even though local and state governments are doing their best to contain the spread of this disease. Gov. Larry Hogan in particular has proven to be much more than many people thought he would be when he won his first term in a "stunning upset" in 2014.

He is the right person in the right place at a time when having the guts to make exceptionally painful and unprecedented decisions, and giving the public the straight facts while doing it, constitute real leadership.

But as necessary as they are, Maryland's strict, almost martial law-like virus containment efforts are battering local businesses, workers, consumers, the elderly and school students. That means people who can help must do so whenever, wherever and however they can. That includes helping our local businesses get back on track once this thing ends.

And it will. As bad as it is, our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents endured worse: they went through the Great Depression and World War II.

When the war ended, they went on to build the greatest economy the world had ever seen. If we have half the qualities of our earlier family members, we will do the same thing.



"Helen was on the forefront of the Food Lion to Table movement."

Letter

Grace in troubling times

Editor,

It might seem counter-intuitive: at a time when Christians instinctively turn to God, church services and other religious gatherings are suspended.

But even this can be an opportunity for grace.

For us Catholics, not being able to receive the Eucharist can increase our hunger for

the Lord; enforced absence from Mass can draw us to a deeper appreciation for what is actually happening in that sacred encounter.

For all women and men of good faith – no matter their religion or denomination – this can be a time for us to realize just how much we depend on the goodwill, the affection, the spiritual support and the concrete good works we normally experience in each other (even if we don't

appreciate them at the time).

These things we know: God is good. God hears every prayer we make in earnest, whether we are by ourselves or with others, in our homes or in our places of worship.

God is worthy of our trust. And God will give us the graces and blessings we need to survive this pandemic.

Rev. Joseph MPR Cocucci,
KHS

Pastor, St John Neumann Church, Berlin

Worcester Arts Council award program

(March 19, 2020) Worcester County Arts Council's Student Scholarship award program is under way.

The Arts Council will award art scholarships during the 2019-2020 school year, to qualified students interested in pursuing academic careers in the arts.

The Worcester County Arts Council provides awards that range in the amounts from \$500 to \$2,000 to qualifying Worcester County students.

The number and amount of the award are determined by the quality and artistic

merit of the application and are based on the funds availability.

Funds are provided for tuition costs and fees and are paid directly to the applicant's school.

Last year, six Worcester County students have been each awarded art scholarships from the Worcester County Arts Council in support of their artistic goals.

This is a merit scholarship and award decisions are based on evaluation of talent, dedication and potential, not financial need. Applicants are judged on their visual, dra-

matic, creative writing or musical presentations in the form of DVD and CD.

The winners will be recognized at their respective high school's senior awards ceremonies.

The application deadline is 2 p.m. on April 15. Applications must be received at the Worcester County Arts Council, 6 Jefferson Street, Berlin.

Application form and guidelines are available at the Arts Council's office and online at www.worcestercountycouncil.org. Call 410-641-0809 for more information.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OP Players new officers and board of directors unveiled

(March 19, 2020) The Ocean Pines Players, coming off a successful and active 2019 season, held its annual meeting on Jan. 11 and elected new officers and an expanded board of 11 directors.

Elected president of the community theater group was Jerry Gietka of Ocean Pines.

Kathy Wiley of the River Run Community was elected vice president, and Ocean Pines residents Mary Ellen Chilcoat and Steve Habeger were named treasurer and secretary, respectively.

The new board consists of Gietka, Wiley, Chilcoat and Habeger, joined by Carol Aikman, of Ocean Pines; Patricia Diniar, Berlin; Karen McClure, Ocean Pines; Patty Jo Moore, Ocean Pines; Judy Nelson, Ocean Pines; Ed Pinto, Ocean City; and Dorothy Shelton, Ocean Pines.

McClure is the immediate past president. She served in that post for almost seven years.

The Players are in the process of developing its 2020 season.

In 2019, the group performed two stage productions and a children's Christmas production.

It also teamed with the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum to perform an original production on the Boardwalk on Monday mornings in July and August about four women hotel owners with grit and business sense who helped turn a sleepy Ocean City into the thriving tourism center it is today.

The other productions were a Tribute to Elton John on the 50th anniversary of his first album, "Empty Sky," and the zany comedy, "Assisted Living, the Musical," by Rick Compton and Betsy Bennett, both of which were performed on the stage in the community room of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City.

Finally, partnering with Berlin's Red Doors Community Center and local children actors, the troupe performed Ken Ludwig's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," that was based on the original classic poem.

The Ocean Pines Players is a local, all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. For more information or to join, follow the Ocean Pines Players on Facebook or visit www.oceanpinesplayers.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Players officers, from left, are Kathy Wiley, vice president; Steve Habeger, secretary; Mary Ellen Chilcoat, treasurer; and Jerry Gietka, president.

Volunteers deliver elderly needs

Continued from Page 15 said. "We will confirm who is coming to assure people feel safe."

Due to current safety precautions to minimize spreading the virus, volunteers will not enter homes to deliver items.

"It's important for us to take precautions," she said.

Phillips said anyone in need of

help should provide their name, phone number and address to receive volunteer assistance.

Adopting an "Uber" approach, Phillips said a description of the driver and vehicle would be provided to assure proper identification.

"This is a time we have to have faith and take care of each other," she said.



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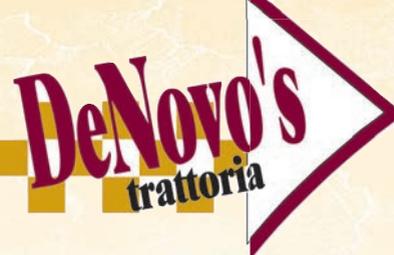
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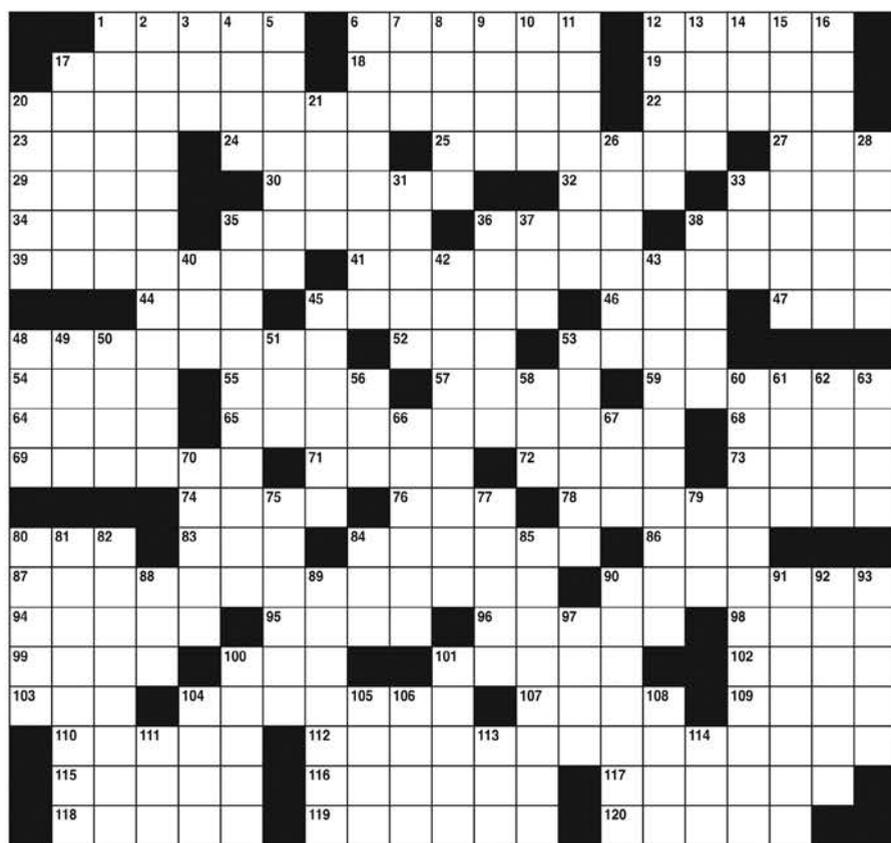
Puzzles

WHAT'S SHAKING?

BY LAURA TAYLOR KINNEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Laura Taylor Kinneel of Newtown, Pa., teaches math and is the director of studies at a Friends boarding school near Philadelphia. She has been solving crosswords since childhood but just started constructing them a little over a year ago. A cousin who solved a 2018 Christmas puzzle of Laura's encouraged her to make more. She was pleasantly surprised to discover all the help available online to new puzzle makers. This is her second Times crossword, both Sundays. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boasts
 - 6 Longtime anthropomorphic aardvark on PBS
 - 12 Australia's national women's basketball team
 - 17 Sounds "everywhere," in a children's song
 - 18 Gloomy
 - 19 Soup server
 - 20 Add insult to injury
 - 22 "Whenever I want you, all I have to do" is this, in an Everly Brothers hit
 - 23 Farming prefix
 - 24 "Gracias a ____"
 - 25 Jam producer
 - 27 Jack Frost's bite
 - 29 Bits of terre in la mer
 - 30 Churns
 - 32 Author Harper
 - 33 He loved Lucy
 - 34 Dry
 - 35 Tea type
 - 36 "A Life for the ____" (Mikhail Glinka opera)
 - 38 1940s vice president who went on to become president
 - 39 "In Praise of Folly" writer
 - 41 How to take glib promises
 - 44 Dog/dog separator
- DOWN**
- 45 Subject of many a negotiation
 - 46 Days ____
 - 47 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 48 Enlivens
 - 52 Big feller?
 - 53 Fails to be
 - 54 City on the Brazos River
 - 55 Propeller blades?
 - 57 ____ Crunch
 - 59 Gobs
 - 64 Item often numbered from 3 to 9
 - 65 Boardwalk buy
 - 68 Gush
 - 69 Time magazine's Person of the Century runner-up, 1999
 - 71 Strain
 - 72 ____ Westover, author of the 2018 best-selling memoir "Educated"
 - 73 Big name in theaters
 - 74 Till compartment
 - 76 "Silent Spring" subject, for short
 - 78 Nothingburger
 - 80 Descartes's conclusion
 - 83 Energy
 - 84 Least interesting
 - 86 It gets the ball rolling
 - 87 2002 Winter Olympics locale
 - 90 Looks through
 - 94 Abdominal-pain producer
 - 95 Way of securing payment
 - 96 Fizzy drinks
 - 98 Knitting stitch
 - 99 "Holy ____!"
 - 100 Word after bargain or overhead
 - 101 Emulated a kitten
 - 102 ____ expense (free)
 - 103 Org. with the slogan "Every child. One voice."
 - 104 Brand with the slogan "The Art of Childhood"
 - 107 What flies usually become
 - 109 Wimp
 - 110 It's held by a winner
 - 112 You, according to Jesus in Matthew 5:13
 - 115 Follow
 - 116 Reflexive pronoun
 - 117 Fishes
 - 118 Moved like Jagr?
 - 119 Shaded growths
 - 120 Lil Nas X and Billie Eilish, to teenagers
- DOWN**
- 1 Orlando ____, two-time Gold Glove Award winner
 - 2 Almost won
 - 3 Martial artist's belt
 - 4 Appurtenance for a T.S.A. agent
 - 5 Many Dorothy Parker pieces
 - 6 Big 12 college town
 - 7 Column crosser
 - 8 Brings (out)
 - 9 Time of day
 - 10 Sch. with 50+ alums who went on to become astronauts
 - 11 Warning sign
 - 12 Blast from the past
 - 13 Setting for a classic Georges Seurat painting, en français
 - 14 Fruity quaff
 - 15 South American cowboys
 - 16 Like Havarti or Muenster
 - 17 Reveille player
 - 20 Jack up
 - 21 Repeated part of a pop song
 - 26 Kind of wheel
 - 28 Peak
 - 31 Heroine of Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers"
 - 33 Cozy spot
 - 35 Shows how it's done
 - 36 Climate change, notably
 - 37 State
 - 38 Refried bean
 - 40 Astronaut Jemison of the space shuttle Endeavour
 - 42 Reduction in what one owes
 - 43 Headaches
 - 45 Nursery-rhyme couple
 - 48 Gulp
 - 49 Prefix with medic or military
 - 50 Princess Diana, for one
 - 51 Negotiator with G.M.
 - 53 Suckling
 - 56 Disco ____ ("The Simpsons" character)
 - 58 Memorized
 - 60 Exasperate
 - 61 Fabric with sheen
 - 62 Actress ____ Rachel Wood
 - 63 Potential source of a political scandal
 - 66 Evasive maneuver
 - 67 Opposite of "to"
 - 70 Behave like a helicopter parent
 - 75 Attendant of Desdemona in "Othello"
 - 77 Lightly roast
 - 79 Continental abbr.
 - 80 Clustered
 - 81 Meted out
 - 82 Best-actress Oscar winner between Streep and Field
 - 84 Agent of change
 - 85 Attention seekers
 - 88 Critical
 - 89 Fictional exemplar of Christmas spirit
 - 90 Stir-fried noodle dish
 - 91 Sews up
 - 92 Senator Joni and Dadaist Max
 - 93 What water in a bucket might do
 - 97 Source of the line "Man does not live by bread alone": Abbr.
 - 100 Boxer, for example
 - 101 Handcuffs
 - 104 This, for one
 - 105 "____ be in England"
 - 106 Not so much
 - 108 Post
 - 111 "Tut-tut"
 - 113 Argentina's leading daily sports newspaper
 - 114 Super ending



- 50 Princess Diana, for one
- 51 Negotiator with G.M.
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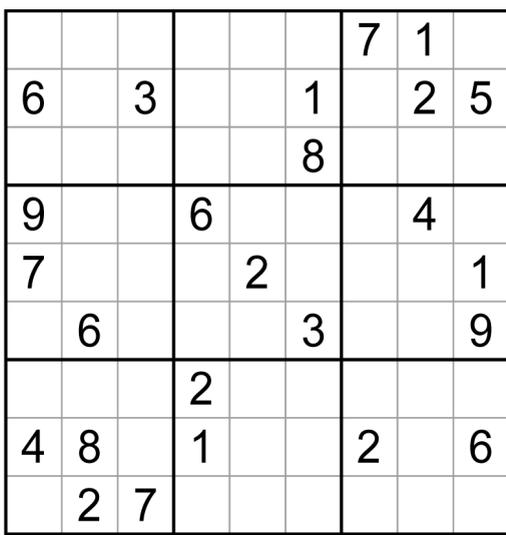
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HARD - 55

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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