

## Masks, shields given to hospitals

Hardwire, boutique change gears to provide protection to health care workers

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) Residents and companies in Worcester County are creating protective gear for medical personnel and members of the community during the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state.

Hardwire LLC, a Pocomoke City manufacturer of protective armor used by the military, law enforcement and

school systems, announced last Friday that it will be manufacturing face shields for medical personnel on the front lines of the battle.

“The shield is a first line of defense,” Hardwire CEO George Tunis said. “What they are is extremely lightweight face shield that goes over your other PPE [Personal Protective Equipment]. The doctors and nurses are wearing N-95 (anti-virus) facemasks. That’s really what filters the virus out as you as you breathe. If someone sneezes or coughs directly on you. Without a face shield, the virus is going to hit you. Either it gets your eyes, your

skin, your sinus ... you’re just trying to keep it literally off of you.

“We have very good customers and friends in Italy,” he continued. “A couple of weeks ago, they really clued us in that this was much worse than you can imagine. And they said to take it very seriously and move as quickly as you can. They said the virus is quick and it’s clever.”

Two weeks ago, Tunis and his company began looking into methods they could use to provide materials for health workers to use.

Tunis credits his friend Monty See BOUTIQUE Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY AGH  
Megan Klakring, left, a nurse tech, and Sarah Sharkey, a radiation tech at Atlantic General Hospital, demonstrate the use of the face shields provided by Hardwire LLC.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### SELF-ISOLATING

A solitary figure gazing over South Gate Pond embodies the current COVID-19 health mandates limiting social interactions on Sunday in Ocean Pines.

## Rec & Parks suggests fun and safe activities

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) While families are sequestered at home during the COVID-19 pandemic response, and with playground facilities temporarily closed, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks department is providing alternative inside activities to help parents keep their offspring entertained.

Recreation Program Coordinator & Camp Director Brittany Jarman said the stay-at-home directive issued Monday by Gov. Larry Hogan could leave parents at a loss for ideas for ways to channel the pent-up energy of their children.

“The goal is to help parents keep their children active and entertained during this chaotic time,” she said. “We are coming up with ideas for everyone to do in their home or in their own backyard.”

Jarman said her department recognized the need to assist families in keeping youngsters entertained while school attendance and other

social interactions are restricted

“I have recently been posting activities on our Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Facebook page, as well as our Camp Ocean Pines Page,” she said.

Jarman said the recreation department is embracing social media to help quell boredom for residents of all ages.

“So far, we have posted an ‘Indoor/Outdoor Color Scavenger Hunt’ for everyone to complete and ... post their findings in the comments,” she said. “We also have posted an Ocean Pines-based word search and word scramble for people to solve.”

Jarman said the online fun is just getting underway, with future posts highlighting crafts, educational experiments, assorted scavenger hunts and creative exercise suggestions.

See THINGS Page 2



Brittany Jarman

## Mayor gives weekly update

(April 2, 2020) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams issued his weekly statement on Monday with updates concerning COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the town.

To the Citizens of Berlin:

The Town of Berlin continues to actively monitor the

evolving situation regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus).

All town services continue to be provided. Town employees are working on a modified work schedule to minimize the number of people working at town offices or utility departments.

Employees are working from home by telework whenever possible.

Equipment has been secured to enable the town to reschedule Berlin Mayor and Council meetings by electronic livestreaming format for im-

See WILLIAMS Page 2



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# Williams issues weekly statement

Continued from Page 1  
mediately foreseeable weeks.

The first livestream council meeting will be in two weeks, Monday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. This will be a General Fund work session, which is the next step in preparing our 2021 town budget.

Immediately after the work session, the next regular session of the Berlin Mayor and Council will be conducted livestream at 7 p.m. on April 13.

The following Monday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m. the council will livestream a Utilities Fund budget work session. A week later the Mayor and Council will hold our second regular session on Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. and will also be livestreamed to the public.

The Town of Berlin will share information on how you can access our livestream meetings in future weekly statements and on our town website.

Only the Mayor and Council and up to three town staff will be in attendance at these meetings. Town department heads will be allowed to make presentations only one person at a time.

The public may submit comments and questions in advance prior to these meetings in four ways: electronically via email or text, fax, or by USPS mail. Please note any communications must

be received by no later than noon on the day of a meeting.

Questions and comments will be compiled for the Mayor and Council to review and discuss during the meeting. Send these communications to either of the following: Email: info@berlinmd.gov; please use M&C Comments in the Subject; Fax: 410-641-2316; USPS mail: Town of Berlin, 10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811; In the drop boxes located behind Town Hall or at the corner of Bay and William streets.

Note: To reach the Town of Berlin in time, any traditional mailed communications must be in the USPS system by no later than the US Post Office's close of business the Friday before a Monday meeting.

Any town notices and statements related to this public health emergency are distributed to all local news media, and posted on our town website: berlinmd.gov/news/, Facebook page, Public Access Channel and by notices displayed outside of Town Hall.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and any alerts or additional information about the coronavirus that pertains to Worcester County is also displayed on

our town website.

As this situation changes, we urge all citizens in our community to make decisions with an abundance of caution and obey the "stay-at-home order" issued by Gov. Larry Hogan.

The expected peak of the spread of COVID-19 in Maryland remains unknown at this time. State health authorities will continue to access the situation and advise all of us on further appropriate precautions. Updates of further orders from our Governor will continue to be shared by the Town of Berlin.

It is the town's request that everyone observe Gov. Hogan's stay-at-home order for your health, and to minimize the potential transmission of the coronavirus during this crisis. If you have any doubt about the necessity of going out in public please act with an abundance of caution and stay home.

We are encouraged by your actions in our community to take public distancing and minimizing exposure to others seriously during this emergency. Your resolve will continue to be tested, but please know that your patience and determination matters and is greatly appreciated. Take Care.

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

# Things to do when stuck at home

Continued from Page 1

To offer a brighter outlook during the pandemic, the recreation department recently decorated the front doors at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

"Need something to do in the upcoming weeks?" she said. "Try decorating your door and posting your pictures"

Jarman started a thread on the recreation department's Facebook page

this week and encourages residents to follow suit and share their creative flair in the comments section.

Jarman said another parent-child venture likely to keep tiny fingers occupied is homemade Play-Doh, with a basic modeling compound recipe currently posted on Facebook.

While the immediate future requires society to maintain a holding pattern, normalcy will return in time.

"We are doing our part here at rec & parks to help flatten the curve and keep the families in Ocean Pines enthusiastic for the weeks to come," she said. "I cannot wait to see all of the smiling faces back on our playgrounds, on our basketball courts, and in our facility for camp soon."

For more information search Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks on Facebook or call 410-641-7052.



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# OP WWTP projects slated for later this year

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer



**John Tustin**

(April 2, 2020) As Worcester County officials look ahead to improving water and wastewater treatment operations in Ocean Pines, among the projects on the schedule are constructing a new operations building, making a pair of pump station upgrades and improving the facility's aeration system.

Worcester County Public Works Director John Tustin said \$3 million in funding was included in the 2019 Consolidated Public Improvement Bond for numerous projects within the Ocean

Pines service area.

"All projects are included in a 2019 bond issue that's already been approved," he said. "We do take the projects to the commissioners individually for bidding."

For a total cost estimated under \$1 million, the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater New Improvements Project includes replacing the operations building.

"They're currently working out of a

building from 1970," he said.

Last month, the county commissioners vetted site plans to erect a 62-by-54-foot building at the treatment plant location. The work schedule also includes razing a 20-by-50-foot structure currently in use.

The operations upgrade is in the works and, when finished, would provide a more comfortable workspace, Tustin said.

To continue responding to concerns about leaky water holding tanks within the Ocean Pines Sanitary Service Area, the most problematic are scheduled to

be swapped out.

"We budget to replace about 50 a year," he said. "It's our typical tank replacement program, which is ongoing."

Other work scheduled includes replacing apparatus in two pump stations.

"They're currently under design and we hope to get them on the street sometime this summer," he said.

Lastly, Tustin said some minor repairs to the plant's aeration system are also in the works later this year.

"Those are the projects that are in the flow right now," he said.

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# Maryland schools closed four more weeks

State plan being developed for continuation of learning opportunities for students

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) Maryland public schools, including those in Worcester County, will remain closed for another four weeks, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced last Wednesday.

During a COVID-19 update meeting held by Gov. Larry Hogan, Salmon declared schools will remain closed until Friday, April 24, and daycare options would remain open for families with essential worker employees who require the service.

“We do not make this decision lightly, however, with the challenges our state and our country, we have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our school communities, and the communities at large,” Salmon said. “I’m working in concert with all local school system superintendents, including multiple calls per week, in order to provide the continuity of learning to all of our students in every jurisdiction across the state of Maryland during this time.”

Salmon also said the department is working on providing education services during the extended closures.

“We are already working very closely with every school system to address issues affecting their ability to provide educational services to all of their students,” Salmon said. “It also should be noted that we will be diligent in providing educational services to our students with disabilities.”

“Local superintendents have provided me with their plan for the continuity of learning during this additional closure period,” she continued. “My staff at the Maryland Department of Education has been reviewing the plans and determining what supports and resources the state can provide where needed.”

More information will be made available in the coming days regarding a statewide plan, she added. Salmon said her department will reassess the situation following the end of the next four weeks of school closures.

In addition, childcare and daycare facilities will remain open primarily for children of essential workers such as pharmacists, food and agricultural workers, healthcare employees, communications, bank employees and energy sector workers.

Hogan approved of the decision, and acknowledged that the decision was not easily made.

“I just want to take a moment to speak directly to Maryland’s parents, teachers and students,” he said. “I



Lou Taylor

know how incredibly difficult and confusing this last couple of weeks have been for you. Teachers want to know when they’ll be able to get back to their lessons and when they’ll see their students again ... and the students want to know when they’ll get back to their normal lives and when they can see their friends and classmates again.

“There’s a lot of confusion and fear and anxiety and uncertainty right now,” he continued. “It’s challenging, [but] I just want all of you to know that there’s nothing more important to us than your health and well-being and education. I want you to know a tremendous group of people – your superintendents, people in your local school system and the State Board of Education – a whole lot of people working across the state ... I want to thank them for all their efforts [because] we’re all in this together and we will get through this together.”

Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor sent a message last Wednesday to parents, teachers and students regarding the announcement.

“We know that this news is disappointing to our students, staff and faculty who have been anxious to get back to the normalcy of everyday life, but we wholeheartedly agree that keeping our students, staff, and the families of Worcester County safe and healthy must be the priority at this time,” Taylor said. “I want to reassure you that our school system leaders have been hard at work to prepare in the case of a continued closure.”

Worcester County educators have been working to create an online curriculum using the learning management system, Schoology.

Dual enrollment and advanced placement students began classes on Monday, March 30, high school students began on Wednesday, April 1, and both elementary and middle school students will begin on Monday, April 6.

In addition, during an emergency

Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, Coordinator of Public Relations and Special Program Carrie Sterrs provided an update to the 2019-2020 school year calendar as a result of the changes made by Hogan and Salmon last month.

“We’ve notated in purple the days of mandated closure from March 16-27 for which the superintendent intends to seek a waiver of the 180-day requirement from the state,” Sterrs said. “Additionally, during the last announcement Dr. Salmon made, she indicated that continuity of learning days began March 30 and will last through April 24.”

“Continuity of learning days count toward meeting that 180-day requirement in order to maximize learning and get back into a more structured learning environment,” she continued.

The superintendent recommended April 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will now become continuity of learning days for students, with April 9 now serving as the end of the third marking period. The contractual professional day has been moved to Tuesday, April 14, which means students will not report on that day and teachers will use this day to finalize quarter three grades.

The calendar would not change the observance of state holidays and other national holidays like Good Friday and Easter Monday.

“As the state primary date has changed, so has our countywide professional development day,” Sterrs said. “We will now hold this day on Tuesday, June 2. Lastly, if granted, the waiver of the full 10 days, our tentative last day of school will be held on June 11. Should the state deny any number of the days requested in the waiver, we will extend the school year utilizing the dates in June highlighted in orange on the calendar.”

On the calendar, the orange dates indicate schools would continue from June 12 to June 25, provided the state does not accept the requested number of days in the waiver.

The Board of Education approved the changes, with the exception of Barry Q. Brittingham Sr., who was absent.

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# Boutique turns to producing face masks

Continued from Page 1

Hawkins, a local headboat captain, with giving him the idea for the shields. Within a few days of talking to each other, the first prototype was created.

"He has kicked me in the rear-end and told me, 'You can do this,'" Tunis said. "And he has been cheerleading the entire week. It's really been about that human-to-human interaction at a safe distance that has made this possible. And I think it's epitomized by Monty Hawkins on (his boat) the Morning Star. He's one of the heroes."

While the company mostly manufactures armor and is considered an essential business since it is a defense contractor, it has set aside a segment of its facility to create face masks.

Hardwire has fielded over a hundred initial prototypes within a week of production, 50 of which were sent to Atlantic General Hospital.

"When George reached out to us, he presented the perfect opportunity to allow our front-line providers to collaborate on a product to fill the void for critically needed protective equipment for our industry," Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital, said in a press release. "Hardwire has allowed our caregivers to provide input to the development of a product that will allow caregivers everywhere to feel valued, safe and reassured that they have the necessary protection to provide care to their patients and community."

The medical staff loves them, Tunis said.

"The nurses are raving about them ... the doctors are raving about them [as well], but most importantly, the nurses, because they're on the front-line," Tunis said. "They're pulling 15-hour shifts day after day after day."

"The beauty of this week is working with the doctors and nurses and simplifying the design, making it as elegantly simple as possible, with really comfortable materials." He continued. "There's really only three materials in the mask. Those materials need to be able to be sterilized with isopropyl alcohol. It's something you can use for weeks."

Tunis has been sending the updated face shields to Atlantic General Hospital and PRMC, among other facilities.

Even though the shields were made primarily for medical staff, Tunis said people can order the face shields if they feel it is necessary for their everyday lives or to complete their work if they are essential employees.

The company is scaling to a production capacity of approximately 6,000 units per day as quickly as next week, according to Tunis. Production goals are set at closer to 60,000 units per day as national demand may dictate that need.

"We have made 12,000 shields so far [as of Tuesday] and as of Tuesday we had a rate of 6,000 per day," Tunis said. "Our target by the end of the week, we expect to be at approximately 10,000 per day. Our goal is 60,000 per day."

The company is selling the face shields for \$10 a box, which comes with quantity options like single, three, 20, 50 and 100. Every order will have two-day shipping.

Fore orders for more than 200 shields or additional expedited orders, contact Hardwire at 410-957-3669.

The company has also taken part in hiring formerly laid-off or unemployed workers.

"We started 15 new workers [Tuesday]," Tunis said. "We've taken in laid-off restaurant workers, orthodontist workers, college students – including a star athlete at Virginia Tech – a young man from Coastal Surf Supplies, the list goes on. These are all dedicated, great Americans that want to make a difference."

For more information about Hardwire, call Hardwire at 410-957-3669 or email [Emily.Tunis@hardwirellc.com](mailto:Emily.Tunis@hardwirellc.com).

While Hardwire is hard at work manufacturing face shields, a West Ocean City businesswoman has decided to create her own face masks to provide to medical staff and residents.

Marge Calvello, who owns Blushing Beauty Boutique, realized she had all the materials needed to create face masks, as she was already creating medical alert seat covers.



PHOTO COURTESY MARGE CALVELLO

As of earlier this week, Blushing Beauty Boutique owner Marge Calvello has created over 400 face masks and is shipping them to the public and to essential workers.

"I'm a seamstress. I saw a need for the masks; they were talked about on the news," Calvello said. "I'm like, 'You know, I can make masks for people not to touch their nose and their chin area or face area.'"

Calvello went online and followed a YouTube instructional video to teach herself how to make the masks. She began making them on Tuesday, March 24 and has made more than 400 masks as of earlier this week. Within three days of creating the masks she had already made around 150.

Those masks have been sent to hospitals all over the country, with masks sent as far north as New Jersey and as far south as Florida.

Calvello charges \$5 per mask, mostly to offset the cost of the supplies needed to create the masks.

"I just thought this would be a great thing to do for the community," she said. "I just am thankful that I can sit here and do it for people. I have given some away for people that cannot afford it right now."

Some of her masks have also been fitted to hold a pocket, which would be used for medical staff to place their professional N-95 masks inside to prevent them from wearing down as quickly. Calvello plans to make as many masks as she can until she runs out of materials.

"I think everybody needs to be safe," Calvello said. "It's just so important for everybody to pitch in, help and support your community."

The masks can be ordered by messaging Calvello at her Facebook page or messaging on her Blushing Beauty Boutique Facebook page.

The entire nation is facing a shortage of these masks. Closer to home, medical facilities like the Macky & Pam Stansell House Coastal Hospice or Coastal Hospice by the Lake still have a supply of masks for now, but are definitely aware of the need for more.

"As good stewards of our resources, we are collecting homemade masks to provide for staff who would feel better wearing a mask every day," President Alane Capen said. "These masks are about 82 percent effective and can be washed. Using the homemade masks for daily wear where we do not suspect a respiratory illness will help our staff feel more secure in providing the intimate care that we do."

Coastal Hospice is accepting professionally made and handmade masks. If you have masks that you would like to donate, call 410-742-8732.

If you or someone you know has any N95 masks, hospitals are urging you to donate or sell them. The CDC doesn't recommend the use of N95 masks for anyone other than healthcare professionals working directly with patients.

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Bob Hammond  
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# Providing meals for Wor. students

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) Members of the community have been coming together to help provide meals for students after Gov. Larry Hogan closed Maryland public schools for two weeks – from March 16-27 – to help stop the spread of coronavirus, and the support has been overwhelming.

School closures have since been extended to April 24 by State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon.

Many students who receive county-funded meals at school could be in a food-insecure situation at home, which is why the community is working to provide food for those students.

Baked Dessert Café Owner Robin Tomaselli has been providing lunch bags filled with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, granola bars, fruits and other small snacks, as well as a breakfast option.

“The program has been fantastic, but the need is increasing by the day. What we’re asking everybody now, is if you have some extra income or feel like you can do a little less for yourself, to donate,” she said. “The demand for non-perishable goods is very real.”

Baked Dessert Café in Berlin is working with several community partners: SonRise Church, the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Pittsville Vol-

unteer 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.

“The response from the community has been incredible,” Tomaselli said. “I think everybody has stepped to the plate. We have fantastic community partners. The educators in this county and the Worcester County Public Schools Board of Education are working tirelessly to figure out how to meet the demand of the kids who need to be provided for.”

According to Hope Palmer, Tomaselli’s partner in organizing the meals, over 300 meals were provided last week. The week before, 350 meals were given out.

Donations will be collected at SonRise Church, 10026 Main Street, Berlin, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be distributed Tuesday through Friday from 1-2 p.m. at Henry Park, 111 Flower Street and the Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, 7442 Gumboro Rd.

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, set up outside of the property on 20 South Main Street in Berlin, where residents can take what they need or drop off donations.

“It’s been a huge success,” Lindsay Ashton, youth group coordinator and events and activities director for the church, said.

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

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

Members of the community can also make monetary donations through the Buckingham Presbyterian Church Facebook page to help collect more supplies.

For more information about the blessing box, visit the Buckingham Presbyterian Church Facebook page, or contact Ashton at 410-629-1029.

Meals are also being provided in West Ocean City, Ocean City and Fenwick, Delaware.

William “Biff” Neely, who owns Billy’s Sub and Pizza on 140th Street in Ocean City and on Route 54 in Fenwick, has been offering free hot subs, grilled cheese, hot dogs, dinosaur chicken nuggets or slices of pizza for students who are on the school meal program.

“I was cleaning up the Route 54 location [on March 22] and my wife texted me to bring a sub home for my daughter to take to daycare,” Neely said. “And as I was making it, I was thinking, ‘We have to give food for my daughter for when she’s in daycare,’ and then I was thinking, ‘Well, what about all these other kids that are not going to school when they get their breakfast, lunch, so on?’ So, I was just thinking they’ve got

## Donation drop-off locations for nonperishable items:

- SonRise Church, 10026 Main Street, Berlin. Contact Pastor Tim Robinson at 412-571-1373
- 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, West Ocean City. Contact Lisa Layfield at 443-880-2433

## Lunch distribution locations, Worcester County Public Schools, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Snow Hill:**
  - Ebenezer United Methodist Church (107 S. Collins St.)
  - Snow Hill Elementary School (515 Coulbourne Lane)
- Pocomoke:**
  - Windy Gardens (800 Lynn Haven Dr.)
  - Pocomoke Middle School (800 8th Street)
- Berlin/Ocean City:**
  - Buckingham Elementary School (100 Buckingham Rd, Berlin)
  - Bay Terrace Apartments (517 Bay Street, Berlin)
  - St. Paul’s by the Sea Episcopal Church (302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City)

to eat, too.”

Neely is not sure how many meals he has given out since he made the announcement on Facebook, but he expects the number to rise.

For more information, call Billy’s Sub and Pizza in Ocean City at 410-250-1778.

See LOCALS Page 10



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# Homes for America discusses plans

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) Representatives from Homes Across America returned to the Berlin Planning Commission on Wednesday, March 11, to discuss new developments to their site plans for buildings on Flower Street.

Homes for America, a nonprofit organization, has owned the property since 2002, according to Development Director Diana Talios.

In February, the representatives of the development company asked the commission for variances for its rental communities on 113 and 115 Flower Street, adjacent to Henry Park. The buildings — one with 31 units and other with 11 — were built in 1982.

The organization plans to demolish 115 Flower Street, rebuild it and create an additional apartment unit, giving it 12 units instead as well as give it a third floor.

In February, the representatives asked the commission for variances.

The first variance asked for parking for 57 spaces for 40 apartment units, going against the standard 80 (two spaces per unit). Company representatives Talios and Casey Rauch told the board that the existing parking has been underused for several years.

A second variance request was for an additional unit to be added to the new building, which is currently 4,435 square feet, bringing its total to 4,474 square feet.

According to Engineer Michael Steinfeld, there will be a three-story building in place of the current 115 Flower building. Both buildings will have the same exterior brick and cement sidings.



RENDERINGS COURTESY DAVE ENGELHART/TOWN OF BERLIN  
Renderings showcase a redevelopment project on Flower Street in Berlin. Homes for America owns several properties on Flower and Bay streets. Officials from the Annapolis-based nonprofit discussed plans for the projects at the monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11.

Both will face the enclosed courtyard and parking lot.

Each building will have four units per floor. The first floors will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards. There is a mixture of one, two and three-bedroom apartments, according to Rauch. The one-bedroom ranges from approximately 570-735 square feet, the two-bedroom ranges from roughly 775-985 square feet and the three-bedroom apartments range from about 900-1,050 square feet.

The rent is expected to remain the same, ranging from under \$700 to over \$1,000.

"In order to make this project work, we've got to do a lot-consolidation plan to eliminate property lines and combine the two properties into a single lot," Rauch said.

Rauch also shared the updated site plan results with the commission. The plans will not change anything regarding stormwater, and landscaping will include more trees and shrubs as well

as installing lights and connecting water and sewer.

Council member Pete Cosby asked about storage opportunities for residents of the buildings. Rauch responded that there will be "independent storage" available as well as a bike rack installed. The storage unit will have interior closets.

The organization plans to upgrade 113 Flower Street with a new roof, new kitchens, HVAC systems and other necessities. Homes for America estimates the investment so far has been \$12 million.

Construction is expected to take place in the summer if everything runs on schedule, and residents will be given the option to return there once its completed. Construction will be done in stages to avoid forcing residents out of their homes for long periods of time.

The commission approved of the site plan. The next meeting has been canceled as a result of precautions against the coronavirus.

# Locals working to feed Wor. students with school closed

Continued from Page 8

Carrabba's Italian Grill in West Ocean City has also been providing meals for children, inspired by Baked Dessert Café and Worcester County Public Schools, who posted their intentions to offer meals on Facebook.

"I saw the chamber put up an e-mail saying, 'is there anything we can do,'" Restaurant Proprietor Greg Czarnecki said. "So I just called Lisa Layfield and said, 'I'd love to help whatever I can do.'"

Since inception, Carrabba's has offered over 450 hot meals for students, including macaroni and cheese, personal pizzas and pasta dishes. Last week, over 120 meals were provided for students.

Czarnecki said he is grateful to be a part of a tight-knit community.

"I've been here about a year and a half," he said. "And being a chain restaurant in a local community, this community has really taken me in as a local and I'm really grateful for it. So, I wanted to give back too."

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

According to Carrie Sterrs, Worcester County Public Schools coordinator of public relations and special programs, around 9,030 meals, which ranged from hamburgers, hot dogs and sandwiches, as well as snacks and juice, were provided to 3,010 students, from March 23-27, at seven locations.

Over three days the week prior, — March 17, 18 and 20 — around 1,262 meals were provided to 3,786 students at five locations.

Meals are being provided at seven locations throughout the county, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with two locations in Snow Hill, two in Pocomoke and three between Berlin and Ocean City.

Staff will come and bring bagged lunches straight to parents' cars. For more information about the lunch program, contact Odtis Collins at 410-632-5015.

# Make payments by phone, drop box

(April 2, 2020) In light of COVID-19 (coronavirus) concerns, the Ocean Pines Association has closed the Administration Building front desk to the public and will temporarily accept payments by phone and drop box only.

The closure is effective immediately and will remain in place indefinitely.

During this time, assessments may be paid by calling 410-641-7717, or by using the drop box inside the Administration Building foyer, which is

open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Ocean Pines Administration Building is on 239 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.

For questions, email member@oceanpines.org.

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# Hammond advises patients

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) With travel bans in place across Maryland and Delaware because of COVID-19, Atlantic Physical Therapy is advising anyone currently rehabilitating muscular injuries to follow health safety guidelines and reschedule all non-essential visits.



Bobby Hammond

Vice President Bobby Hammond III said while many patients rightfully consider their injuries serious, the risk versus reward ratio should be weighed before visiting any of Atlantic Physical Therapy's numerous locations on the Eastern Shore and lower Delaware.

"We're trying to utilize every avenue we can to continue to provide services to people," he said.

As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold locally, nationally and globally, Hammond said while the physical therapy

clinic remains open, albeit with certain restraints, to avoid placing staff or patients at undue risk, the hands clinic is currently shut down.

"We're open for essential care pertinent to injury and recovery," he said.

**'We're open for essential care pertinent to injury and recovery.'**

Vice President  
Bobby Hammond III

Hammond said all other patients should reschedule or delay appointments.

"We want to let people know to stay home and due your part to tackle this as a community," he said.

For those whose immediate rehabilitative needs are unavoidable, Hammond said preventive measures to protect patients and staff, including keeping head counts inside the clinic to single digits and maintaining social distancing of six-feet, would be strictly

maintained.

Proactive steps include using proper protective gear and continuously cleaning equipment and surfaces.

Hammond advises anyone with problems or concerns stemming from musculoskeletal issues to contact Atlantic Physical Therapy at 410-208-3630 or 1-888-208-3828.

"If someone is having substantial pain and they want a consultation, please call us," he said.

In business since 1988 and operating nine offices in Ocean Pines, Berlin, West Ocean City, Salisbury, along with locations in Delaware, Hammond plans to be fully staffed to handle the likely onslaught of patients needing muscular treatment whenever travel restrictions become a memory.

"Looking forward, we will be ready and fully staffed to take the influx and provide high quality care," he said.

Hammond said anyone seeking a consultation is advised to call and utilize the Telehealth option, which is generally covered by insurance.

# Republic Services seeks to protect trash collectors

(April 2, 2020) To help protect trash collectors during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, Republic Services is asking Ocean Pines residents to take extra care to not place any materials outside of Republic collection containers.

According to Dominic Fulginiti, a municipal sales manager for Republic Services, anticipated impacts of COVID-19 on trash services include increased contamination of recycled materials as excess waste finds its way into recycling containers.

Additionally, Fulginiti said yard waste and bulk collection routes are pulling key resources away from residential routes that need extra support.

"Republic Services garbage and recycling crews are working diligently to continue to serve Ocean Pines residents with curbside collection services while experiencing an increase in volume of house-

hold setouts," Fulginiti. "To protect garbage and recycling staff during this time, we ask that you do the following:"

Fill Municipal Solid Waste containers with waste materials (trash) only.

Fill recycling containers with recyclable materials only.

Avoid placing loose bags of waste or recyclables of any kind on the ground.

Suspend Yard Waste Collection (during the COVID-19 Pandemic only).

Suspend Bulk Waste Collection (during the COVID-19 Pandemic only).

"We greatly appreciate you considering these extra measures to ensure the safety of our solid waste and recycling collectors and the community," Fulginiti said.

For questions or further information, contact Republic Services at 800-762-8888.

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# Opinion

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

## No longer taking our freedom for granted

Our current stay-at-home circumstances, along with the other government restrictions on public movement, are as close to martial law as most of us ever hope to see.

All that is missing from the current scene is the military patrolling the streets to ensure compliance with the various executive orders that have been issued to stem the spread of COVID-19.

That could happen, too, as Defense Secretary Mark Esper has said states can call out the National Guard to enforce stay-at-home orders.

In addition, some state governments are forbidding travel to their jurisdictions by residents of other states. It is conceivable that the need to stop these migrations from disease epicenters to less affected areas could lead governors to deploy their National Guard units to blockade state lines.

A majority of this country's citizens have never experienced anything like this. We have been free, more or less, to go wherever and whenever we want. Now, we're not, and we have only ourselves to blame.

Had more of us exercised some common sense and heeded the advice of medical professionals early on, and had we not rejected the idea that we could not do as we pleased, or that only the elderly and infirm had to worry, or even that this was some politically inspired hoax, these harsh directives from our governments might not have been necessary.

As it is, our concepts of freedom don't always carry with them the notion of personal responsibility and common courtesy. In essence, we are free to cough in public, but both courtesy and responsibility dictate that we should not cough on someone else.

For all the people who flaunted the rules and shrugged off the warnings, believing as you did that they did not apply to you, we have you to thank for forcing state governments to do what we would not do voluntarily.

The one positive aspect to arise out of our present situation is this: it's often been said that we take our freedom for granted in this country. Not anymore.



## Coastal Bays promotes small farms

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program wants to promote small-scale farming practices and local agriculture producers through its new "Living Local: Small-Scale, Large Impact" project.

The campaign includes a series of farm spotlight articles, with the first published tomorrow, along with community visits to small-scale operations at a still-to-be-determined date this summer.

Chandler Joiner, Coastal Bays environmental educator, who is spearheading the campaign with guidance from Liz Wist, Coastal Bays education coordinator, said the undertaking grew from a desire to highlight the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices on area watersheds.

"The Maryland Coastal Bays Program exists to protect and conserve the water and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five coastal bays [and] agriculture is one of the dominant land uses," she said.

Joiner said the goal is to raise awareness of low impact farming practices that minimize waterway pollution, and to encourage the consumption of local produce.

Spotlighting small and medium-scale farms in the area also helps the Coastal Bays Program pursue its larger mission.

"The protection and conservation of the watershed should involve the recognition of healthy and sustainable farming practices," she said.

Joiner said the "Living Local" project is intended to link farmers and consumers.

"One major intention of the project is to educate the community about the hard-working farmers in our area that are producing good food for our tables," she said.

Joiner said the "farmer-focused" initiative would provide several opportunities for community members to tour small-scale agricultural locations.

"One of them, Splendid Earth Acre, is only a sixth of an acre in downtown Berlin," she said. "Assateague Farms is only a couple acres on Assateague Road. They're all local."

Tentatively slated for June, the farm visiting schedule will be re-evaluated as the date approaches.

Joiner said the roughly handful of hour-long farm tours planned for this summer would also include an interactive component, such as help-

ing harvest crops.

"People can also learn about things they can do in their own backyard, or if they're looking to get into farming themselves, I can also provide information," she said. "We'll show them farmers they might not even know are right down the street."

Whenever anti-pandemic measures are lifted, the Coastal Bays Program website and Facebook page will be publishing a series of farm spotlights written by Joiner.

"We're looking to release the first article this Friday," she said.

The feature pieces will include interviews with local farmers talking about sustainable growing techniques and the environmental challenges they face.

"One talks about broadfork, a tool that loosens the soil without flipping it upside down, like a no-till mechanism," she said. "It's vital to help maintain soil structure."

To learn more, visit md-coastalbays.org. Click on the "Living Local" link.

More information about farm visits will be announced on the Maryland Coastal Bays Program website, Facebook page and subscriber newsletter once firm dates are available.

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# Ocean Pines Board statement on COVID-19

(April 2, 2020) The Ocean Pines Board on March 30 issued the following statement regarding COVID-19:

During this time of uncertainty, one of the important aspects of addressing the situation is communication. For those Ocean Pines Association members who aren't here full time and have a second home in Ocean Pines, we ask that you consider the following before coming here.

The information below was shared and is relevant to our surrounding area.

We have three local hospitals: Atlantic General, Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Beebe Healthcare. According to the information published

on these facilities, the list below shows the capacity of each:

**Atlantic General** – 62 beds, 6 Critical Care Beds

**Peninsula Regional Medical Center** – 288 beds, 24 Special Care Beds

**Beebe Healthcare** – 151 Beds, 20 ICU Beds

**Total resident population on the Delmarva Peninsula** – approximately 1.4 million

Should any type of outbreak occur, it would most likely overwhelm the 501 hospital beds and 50 ICU beds in our area and possibly lead to a much greater

problem. Also, consider that the number of available health care workers will most likely be impacted and affect their ability to provide much-needed services.

Please note that OPA welcomes our out-of-town, second-home owners, but we ask that you consider the potential problems that could be caused by an outbreak of COVID-19.

Note that Gov. Larry Hogan has enacted a number of restrictions, including a "stay-at-home" mandate, and adherence to these conditions is the best chance we have of limiting exposure to COVID-19.

If you do come down, you must self-quarantine and remain home in compli-

ance with the directives issued by the state of Maryland. For our full-time residents, please note that the same restrictions apply as well and therefore your compliance is also required.

With communication, compliance and cooperation, we can maintain a level of safety that will protect the residents of Ocean Pines and the surrounding areas. As a community, the more we work together, the sooner we will come through this pandemic and resume some sense of normalcy for the summer.

Stay safe.

*Doug Parks, on behalf of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors*

# SonRise Church subdivision plat approved

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(April 2, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission approved a final subdivision plat request for SonRise Church on Wednesday, March 11.

Pastor Daryl McCready of SonRise Church next to Routes 113 and 818 asked the Berlin Planning Commission to approve the lot lines for the church in order to create an entrance road for all three lots.

McCready approached the commission last month for the same request, but the site plans failed to show the main

road access and contained some property line confusion, leading the commission to postpone its considerations.

Attorney Bob Palmer, who represented SonRise Church, explained those discrepancies during the Wednesday meeting.

"The original plan submitted back in November — we had shown the preliminary master plan of how this property might look," Palmer said. "Moving from the preliminary plan back to the final plat, we took all that information off of the plat because none of that information would actually be recorded."

The church used a quitclaim deed to reclaim 15 feet of abandoned 30-foot-wide road.

"That quitclaim deed created a 15-foot-wide strip of land that ran by the property boundary and that deed stopped short of combining or reverting that strip of land back into the parent parcel," Palmer said.

The plat will combine both lands into one, which will allow the property to come into contact with Route 818, though not for entry access, he added.

Board member John Barrett had

concerns regarding a potential cul de sac and safety issues that could arise from the property.

"The only concern I have is [how] to get to lot one," he said. "To get to lot one, at the end of this entrance coming in, I was looking for safety issues ... a cul de sac that a firetruck or delivery trucks will be able to turn around."

Palmer and McCready agreed to look into the possibility, noting the original use was dedicated for self-storage.

A commission majority approved the plat, while Barrett voted in opposition.

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# Cuisine

## Enjoy pan-seared steaks while at home

As I sit here on Day 18 after closing the restaurant, I sip my black coffee, eating Genoa salami on wheat with Duke's mayonnaise and spicy brown mustard.

Ah yes, the German side comes out of me on such rainy mornings ... occasionally, that is.

Next, I have to prepare classes for my students; a new challenge, in that delivering online cooking classes is beyond overwhelming and intimidating.

Luckily, there are resources online that I am slowly finding to apply to my different sections. There is an amazing video about ice sculpting. Is it the same as being present and carving ice? Absolutely not. But we all have to get creative during these trying times.

Having the kids home from college adds a new element to the fray, as the feeding frenzies that are now taking place act as reminders of days of yore.

It is easy to forget how much money we actually spent on food, instead pretending that the thousands of dollars in tuition and fees paid to the institutions of higher learning doesn't really exist. Oh, but it will one day soon enough.

Last night, the rain cleared and it was time to take a break from all of this drudgery and make a wholesome meal. Honestly, with the new restrictions to which we have been adhering, I have had more hot meals with my children than I have in 18 months.

I'll take that as a little silver lining. Of course, we all need this storm to blow over quickly, but I will take what I can get, and I hope that others can at least see that little nugget of sunshine for what it is worth.

The day has been filled with classwork, dealing with connectivity issues (the new normal), finishing projects around the house, removing trailer after trailer of trash and unneeded items and otherwise moving into the house that we purchased almost four years ago.

With a maddening list of events, we just never got the job done. So, I teach (well as best as I can from a laptop), clean, paint and move in. It's all in a day's work, I guess.

Before all of this nasty virus stuff



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3



happened, I already had a freezer full of meat, a leftover sentiment inherited from my parents. At this point, I am glad that I have it.

We are pulling meat out, little by little so as to preserve it, and making a great variety of meals. Of course, some include canned soup, and some include pre-made marinara (I am not a proud man), and so far, so good. No one has complained about the food.

The big thing for these steaks is to cook these outside, unless you have a commercial-grade exhaust hood.

These are smoky! But, done right, these are succulent and simple steaks that are sure to please. These work great on flame, charcoal or any high heat source. Just be careful!

And use a simple cut of beef: sirloin. It is inexpensive and works perfectly. At this point, we all need to save our resources. Be safe out there!

### Pan-seared Steaks

serves 4

4 ea. 6-ounce Sirloin steaks  
4 Tbsp. Ghee or clarified butter  
2 sprigs fresh rosemary  
Steak seasoning (recipe follows)

1. Pull the steaks out of the refrigerator 30 minutes before. This allows

them to slack, or relax. Obviously, we can't do this in restaurants as food is ordered a la minute.

2. Season the steaks liberally and set on a plate to go outside.

3. Heat a cast iron pan on a good flame outdoors. This technique creates a lot of smoke, so if you decide to do this inside, I accept no responsibility at all. You have to be responsible.

4. Add clarified butter (or Ghee) and the rosemary sprigs and cook for ten seconds

5. Carefully add the steaks, making sure not to crowd the pan.

• You could (should) get a little flame here, so with caution, baste the tops of the steaks with the butter as it sears on the pan on the bottom. If they start to sizzle less, remove some steaks and complete this in batches. The pan must be piping hot for this to work

6. Cook on first side for about 3 minutes.

7. Turn the steaks over and remove from heat. Allow the steaks to rest for about 5 minutes. They should be around a perfect medium rare. If you like them more done, then cook them longer. Science!

8. Allow to rest for at least 10 minutes before you serve, reserving

all juices and butter to drizzle on top

9. Serve with roasted potatoes, rice or anything else that you have stashed in your pantry

10. Eat and be safe!

### Steak Seasoning

3 parts Sea salt  
2 parts Granulated garlic  
1 part Cracked black pepper  
1 part Onion powder  
1 part Blackening spice (I prefer Redfish Magic©)

1. If you read this article on occasion, you might notice that this is very similar to the Trimix that I regularly use. However, I add onion powder and blackening spice to give this blend more of an edge. You will not be disappointed!

2. Combine well with a whisk, ensuring that you do not breathe in the noxious dust that will amass over the bowl.

3. Store in an airtight container until ready to use.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at [www.heartofakitchen.com](http://www.heartofakitchen.com).



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