



Pines worker tests positive for covid-19

OPA directors notify employees same day

(April 23, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Tuesday released a statement about an employee who tested positive for covid-19. The Association notified other employees the same day.

“Regrettably, symptoms of the covid-19 pandemic have been recognized here in Ocean Pines,” the board’s statement said. “An OPA staff member in the golf maintenance group has tested positive for the virus. Fortunately, given the job responsibilities, this individual has had no contact with association members and the required actions have already been taken, per CDC guidelines.”

“The staff member has been sent home and will be in self-quarantine for the recommended 14 days.

“Other OPA staff who may have been in contact with this individual have also been contacted and advised to take the necessary precautions per the CDC guidelines, including the 14-day quarantine requirement. The cleaning and disinfecting of work areas has been in place and will continue for the foreseeable future.

“Please note that practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands often is of paramount importance, especially at this time,” the board said. “Let’s all step up and do our part in helping to prevent the spread of the virus to our family, friends and members of the Ocean Pines community.”

According to data from the Worcester County Health Department
See PINES Page 4



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BLUE HERON

Still pond waters and adjacent vegetation hold the focus of a great blue heron outside the Borderlinks Resort in Ocean Pines on Friday.

Cricket Center anticipates glut of post-shutdown cases

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) With schools shuttered during the covid-19 pandemic child advocates with the Cricket Center are concerned that reports of maltreatment could climb whenever classrooms are reopened.

Cricket Center Executive Director Wendy Myers said although shelter-in-place directives during the past month have contributed to a spike in domestic abuse cases, for now the numbers of child abuse referrals has remained relatively steady.

“We haven’t seen an increase in



Wendy Myers

neglect or abuse cases,” she said. “What we’re seeing a huge increase of is domestic violence incidents in the county, but we know on the other side of this there’s going to be a lot of trauma.”

Based in Berlin since August 2009, the Cricket Center provides a central location for agencies authorized to investigate child abuse claims in Worcester County.

See CRICKET Page 4

Berlin’s first virtual meeting gets job done

Improvements will be made as livestreaming continues

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood is pleased with the results of the first virtual meeting of the mayor and Town Council on April 13, and hopes to make some minor changes before the next meeting on Monday, April 27.

The online meeting, with only nine members of the Berlin government present in Town Hall, was held through Facebook Live and had over 1,000 views by the end of the week.



There’s some tweaks we want to make with the livestreaming!
Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood

“There’s some tweaks we want to make with the livestreaming,” he said. “[Also,] I can rearrange the seating a little bit ... I mean, my foot looked really good in that live stream [but] we’ll adjust it a little bit differently, so you have a better visual.”

One of those changes includes changing the angle by 180 degrees so the camera is looking back at the dais in the center of the room where the mayor and Town Council sit.

“What I’m thinking on that is to have the angle be so that it catches the visitor’s table and then the folks at the dais, but as far as capturing folks in the audience, I don’t see it happening any time real soon,” Fleetwood said.

The town will also be acquiring a new cell phone to be used to record the meetings. During the first meeting, the meeting was recorded through Deputy Town Administrator

See FIRST Page 3



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Ocean Pines Golf Course closed for play, open to walk

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Although residents are allowed to stroll the cart path, the Ocean Pines Golf Course remains closed during the covid-19 pandemic and is being monitored for activity.

OPA General Manager of Golf Operations John Malinowski said all 18-holes are out of use, following the executive order issued by Gov. Larry Hogan that ended access to all such venues, along with other nonessential businesses.

"If anyone's playing golf it is against the law," he said. "They're disobeying an executive order and because the golf course is closed, it's trespassing."

With golf operations being put on hold, and an increased need for those currently sheltering at home to have some activity, residents are being permitted to pass along the cart path.

"We're allowing people to walk, jog or ride their bikes on the cart path, but they have to stay on the cart path," he said.

Malinowski stressed, especially without normal maintenance by ground crews, the importance of



John Malinowski

staying off the course's fairways and greens.

"Because the golf course is closed, we want people to go get some exercise and enjoy the fresh air," he said. "There's zero issues with that."

Open access to the cart path is typically not advisable.

"Normally, we don't allow people to do that because it puts ... lives in danger with golf balls flying around," he said.

The pandemic has changed that reality, with Malinowski reiterating that all golf courses and practice areas in the state are closed per Hogan's directive.

"No one can play golf," he said. "You can't go out and play a hole [and] you can't go out and hit golf balls."

Malinowski said until restrictions are lifted, the golf course is being monitored by golf staff and the Ocean Pines Police Department.

"If people are violating the law and trespassing they're going to enforce the law," he said.

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First livestream done with personal cell phone

Continued from Page 1

Mary Bohlen's personal cell phone.

As for the public's reception of the online sessions, Fleetwood said he received several positive comments from residents, although they did wonder whether they would be able to ask questions during the live streaming.

"Unfortunately, we don't have the technology to do that," he said. "So, what we'll do, as long as we're staying in this posture ... we'll stay with same [routine] where the agendas are released early and then anybody can submit their questions in writing and

they will be addressed."

Only one person submitted questions for the council during its meeting on the general fund budget, Fleetwood said. Some residents did comment during the live-streamed meeting, but that's an approach Fleetwood advises against, because officials can't address those comments until after the session has been completed.

However, there is still plenty of time to submit any questions regarding the next budget work session or Town Hall meeting, which will take

place at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. this upcoming Monday, respectively.

Written questions should be submitted to the council by noon the day of the meetings. Questions can be emailed to info@berlinmd.gov (the town asked that residents use M&C Comments as the subject line); faxed to 410-641-2316; mailed to Berlin Town Hall, 10 Williams St., Berlin, MD 21811 (mail should be posted no later close of business on the Friday before the meeting to help ensure delivery) or dropped off in one of the two drop boxes at Town Hall - one is

at the rear of the building behind the stair tower, and the other is at the corner of Bay and Williams Street on the building.

Overall, Fleetwood thought the meeting went really well.

"I appreciate everyone's patience," he said.

The next meetings will take place once again on Facebook live at the Town of Berlin Facebook page this Monday. The first public hearing for the tax rate adoption and constant yield rate will be held on Monday, May 11.

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General Manager



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Cricket Center anticipates jump in cases

Continued from Page 1

Myers said the concern is that children who are vulnerable to abuse and neglect are now spending every waking moment at home, potentially with their abuser, while losing direct contact with educators or peers.

“Once children get back into the community, once their teachers start seeing them again ... that’s when we know we really got to be geared up and ready to go,” she said.

Mirroring national statistics, about 80-90 percent of reported cases in Worcester County involve abuse from a person known and trusted by the child, Myers said.

“There’s a lot of added stressors that are occurring in the homes right now and that all contributes to domestic violence and incidents of child abuse,” she said.

The issue is brought to the forefront every April during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which seeks to raise awareness and prevent maltreatment.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides funding for the annual National Child Abuse Prevention Month through its Children’s Bureau.

Myers said the national effort to promote “strong and thriving families” employs a pinwheel graphic in

advertising.

“The pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse awareness month,” she said. “It reminds us of the happy and carefree childhood we want every child to experience.”

Myers also encouraged parents to adopt measures to aid youths in processing societal safeguards enacted to stem the covid-19 pandemic.

“Kids are hearing scary things and maybe adults are not really explaining things to them,” she said. “Adults sometimes withhold information rather than telling kids the truth in age-appropriate ways.”

Myers said still-developing minds respond to high stress moments differently than adults.

“When you hear the news, it might be misinterpreted,” she said. “It’s really important to reassure kids about their safety.”

Myers said regardless of age, levels of concern tend to increase exponentially during a time of widespread fear. That is especially so when reliable information is not available.

“Your imagination kind of takes control and the same thing happens with kids,” she said.

Parents should watch for behavioral clues their kids are having problems managing emotions during the covid-19 pandemic.

“Kids might be irritable or clingy and some might regress,” she said. “They might have trouble and change their eating or sleeping habits.”

Myers said many of the coping mechanisms recommended for parents apply equally for children.

“With adults, we need to do some of the same things, we need to maintain some type of schedule,” she said. “When things get too much, learn how to take a walk or get away from the stressor.”

Myers said despite the present health restrictions imposed because of covid-19, the Cricket Center remains available to investigate child abuse claims. The Life Crisis Center also is open to offer crisis intervention and violence prevention for children and adults throughout Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

“We’re all kind of adjusting to this new normal,” she said. “I think emotional changes are to be expected.”

For more information visit the-

cricketcenter.com or call 410-641-0097.

- Additional resources are:
- The Life Crisis Center – 410-749-4357 or visit lifecrisiscenter.org
 - National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-7233 or visit the-hotline.org
 - Women’s Law Center of Maryland Inc. – 1-800-634-3577 or visit wlcmd.org
 - Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence – 1-800-634-3577 or visit mnadv.org
 - Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault – 410-974-4507 or visit mcasa.org

‘It’s really important to reassure kids about their safety.’
Cricket Center Executive Director Wendy Myers

Pines employee tests positive for coronavirus

Continued from Page 1

partment, the majority of covid-19 cases in the county have occurred in the 21811 zip code, which encompasses Ocean Pines and Berlin.

As of Tuesday, Worcester had 33 reported cases of the novel coronavirus, with 19 of those occurring in the 21811 zip code area.

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Wells helps Berlin businesses apply for grants amid covid

By Morgan Pilz
 Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Even though her office is closed to the public, Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells has been working with Berlin businesses to help obtain grants and other assistance to stay afloat during the economic havoc created by the covid-19 pandemic.

“Initially, when the whole thing started, nobody really knew what was happening,” she said. “Nobody knew what was coming. Nobody knew what their options were at first.”

Wells has been participating in various conference calls with agencies all over the state to gather all the information she can.

“One of the conference calls that I had on a weekly basis was with John Hickman and the [Small Business Development Centers],” she said. “That initial call involved when they were putting these loans together.”

“With the loans, some of the questions involved a lot of research and paperwork,” Wells said. “So, some of these businesses had to take the time to be able to supply all of this information, and a lot of them were still in the process of doing that when the money ran out.”

Wells also has been in contact with the Worcester County Economic Development Department, the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant-Association and the Maryland State Arts Council in trying to come up with ways to prevent small businesses from closing.

Wells is in charge of aiding any establishment that has a business license in Berlin, so she has been consolidating all the information she has gathered to make it easier for Berlin businesses to apply for grants and other programs.

“Everyone was being bombarded with this loan and that loan,” she said. “What I was doing, was I was putting all that information together in an email form and I would send it out to all of the businesses that have a business license with us. I have their email address and I send this information out to each of them.”

The response from business owners has been overwhelmingly positive and is helping the owners, Wells said.

“Every now and again, I would get a call or an e-mail from one of the businesses saying, ‘Hey, thank you for the email, I have a question of this,’ or, ‘What do I do if I want to do this,’” she said. “Then I would direct them to the appropriate agency or person that they would talk to.”

Wells has sent around 240 financial aid emails to Berlin businesses.

“Sometimes people think that my job is only for downtown, but it’s the



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

This sign on Beach Gypsy’s storefront in Berlin promises customers it will reopen once the coronavirus pandemic has either lessened in severity or is no longer deemed a viable threat.

entire town,” Wells said. “I run the Main Street program, which only focuses on downtown, but the rest of the rest of Berlin is still part of Berlin.”

“The most important thing that we could do right now is help our existing businesses survive,” she said. “They are the ones who have always pitched in whenever anyone needs a sponsorship for their sports team.”

“The thing about Berlin is they’re our businesses, they’re our family,” Wells continued. “We all know each other here. We root for each other and we support each other, and this is the time when they need our support. So, it’s very important for us as a community and us as a town to ensure that our business community comes out of this.”

Before launching into her research effort, Wells had been working with businesses to encourage something she calls “cooperative capitalism.”

“One of the ideas I had for Sisters and Gilberts Provisions was to work together on a wine and cheese basket for people to be able to order and pick up because they’re stuck inside,” she said. “They might as well have a party while they’re while they’re quarantined.”

“I told the boutiques to do an online fashion show and feature some of their family members sporting some of the fashions that are coming up in the spring,” Wells continued. “Just because you’re at home, there’s only so many sweatpants you can wear.”

Wells can still be reached at her office number at 410-629-1722 or through email at iwells@berlinmd.gov.

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Town of Berlin asks residents for public comments on plan

(April 23, 2020) Berlin is seeking public comment on the community's resilience element of the town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.

Comments will be accepted for the next two weeks until Thursday, April 30.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen announced last week that a draft of the resilience element is available on the town website for public review and comments.

"The document is available as a Google Doc, allowing visitors to make comments directly on the site, and as a pdf, which will allow comments to be submitted via email," she said.

The draft resilience element can be found at berlinmd.gov on the Administration page under "Departments." Comments will be accepted until Thursday, April 30.

Following that deadline, staff will review comments and suggestions received and will compile them for the planning commission and mayor and council review.

Approval of the final document and amendment to the comprehensive plan will occur later this year.

Just over a year ago, in March 2019, Berlin hosted a series of three community meetings to gather input on a resilience element to be incorporated into the town's comprehensive plan.

The town received a \$20,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to prepare the element and worked with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) to conduct the meetings and begin drafting the document.

During those meetings, Brandi Espinola of the EFC facilitated the discussions, then worked with town staff in the subsequent months to write the element.

This year on March 9, copies of the draft document were made available as part of the regular mayor and council meeting.

At that meeting, Planning Director Dave Engelhart discussed the draft element with the mayor and council, noting that every 10 years Maryland municipalities are required to review and update their Comprehensive Plans and Berlin's planned update would include the Resilience Element.

He noted that the planning commission had also been provided the document for their review and comment and would make their recommendation to the mayor and council at a later date.

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Closures continue, schools teaching online

Educators offering courses virtually, attendance rate of 96 percent for Worcester

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Worcester County public school students will have to work online a little longer, following the announcement last Friday by State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon that school closures would be extended to Friday, May 15.

Students will continue their studies through the school's online management system, Schoology, and use its Continuity of Learning program. Educators and education board members from all over the county have been collaborating to aid these students.

"Beth [Shockley-Lynch], as the president of the Worcester County



Tamara Mills

Teachers Association and Gary McCabe, who serves as the UniServ rep for Worcester County, has stood beside us hand-in-hand and has worked with us in a collaborative fashion to make sure that we have given our kids every opportunity to be successful," Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor said during the monthly board of education teleconference.

Taylor also praised the work of the teachers as well as the students and families involved.

"I think it's important that we all recognize the challenges of the times that we are in," he said. "I want to extend again my thanks to our entire community for their support of our efforts in this entire process."

Worcester County Public Schools



Lou Taylor

has been providing online learning for students for more than three weeks now, and boasts a 96 percent attendance rate among its 6,600 students.

For Coordinator of Instruction Tamara Mills, the online learning has had its challenges, especially for students who have been unable to connect to the internet for their studies.

"It's not without some speed bumps," Mills said. "Because even with a hot spot, a student can still experience delays in downloading materials or blocks to certain websites because of filters that we have on our system."

For students and families looking to boost their internet speed and connection, the board has provided several recommendations and sites to help connect to the internet including using the Worcester County Library Wi-fi, accessing Comcast/Xfinity Wi-Fi, setting up a personal hotspot through mobile phones, setting up a Verizon Home Internet Service or logging on through Worcester County Public School Wi-Fi signals (contact your school principal to obtain network access information).

In addition, the school system has given out around 600 hotspots for families of students who were in dire need of internet services.

"Our teachers have really been rock stars through this whole crisis," She said. "I know teachers that have found creative spots to get connectivity," she continued. "They're sitting in their cars in parking lot, working on

their computer so they can catch the Internet because theirs at home is so bad. Some of them are going to work with their [spouses] every day to catch the Internet at his office because theirs at home doesn't work. That's real dedication.

"The most important thing I think they're doing is they're checking on their kids," she continued. "They're making sure they have what they need, telling them where food distribution sites are and making sure they're emotionally secure in this pretty unusual situation. It's all about our kids and it's all about our community."

Mills is especially impressed with how high the connectivity is for Worcester compared to other counties.

"Other counties are not seeing the higher rate that we're seeing in terms of students getting in and logging on, so to be in the 90s, I think is extremely successful," Mills said. "However, we can't ignore the gaps, because then that's when we start to have equity issues. We have to keep working and plugging along, making sure that we try to get as close to 100 percent."

In situations where hotspots and internet connections simply aren't possible, the individual schools have been providing printed copies of the materials. These materials will have to be kept by the students, as the schools have been advised not to accept any work back until schools are reopened.

In the event that schools don't reopen this spring, Mills said arrangements will be made to have the school materials mailed to be graded.

Wor. Co. Emergency Services collecting masks, sanitizer

(April 23, 2020) Worcester County Emergency Services is collecting donations of unopened personal protective equipment (PPE).

PPE needs include, but are not limited to, N-95 masks, surgical masks, powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs), impermeable gowns, medical gloves, hand sanitizer, eye protection, flip-down grinding/splash shields, and cleaning supplies/disinfectants.

"Donated PPEs are welcome at this time and will be distributed directly to our public safety personnel working on the front line of this crisis, including emergency medical

services, fire, and the jail," said Faith Coleman of Worcester County Government. "Please be sure the items are unopened."

Two options are available for donating PPEs. Items may be deposited in drop-off boxes in the first floor atrium at the Worcester County Government Center, which is located at 1 W. Market Street in Snow Hill. Also, WCES personnel will be available to pick up donated items.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Coleman by email at fcoleman@co.worcester.md.us or by phone at 410-632-1194 or 443-783-0735.

Berlin warns about utility scam

(April 23, 2020) The Town of Berlin has received reports of phone calls regarding electric utility rebates/refunds.

This "robo-call" stating that you were overcharged by your electric utility and are due a rebate, refund and/or

credit.

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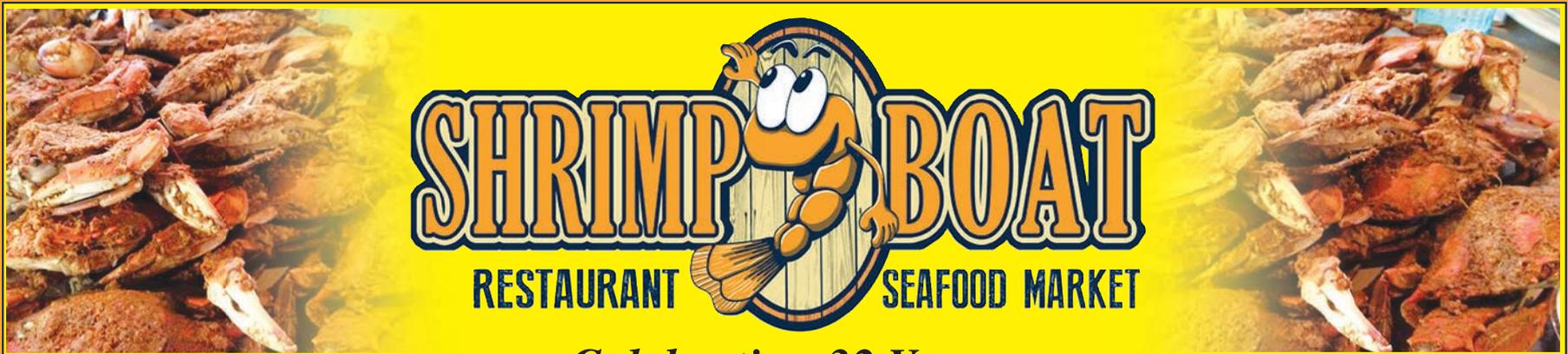
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OP P.E.O. chapter fosters women's education

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Although momentarily suspending activities, the Ocean Pines chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a nonprofit founded in 1869 to support women pursuing higher education, is in the midst of brewing up future fundraising pursuits.

Pines chapter member Anita Roberts said the P.E.O., or Philanthropic Educational Organization, is focused on furthering the academic aspirations of women through scholarships, grants, awards and loans.

"The Ocean Pines chapter was organized on June 6, 2004," she said. "People don't have to live in Ocean Pines to be member."

Roberts said membership is by invitation, with some associates also residing in nearby Ocean City and Berlin.

"Our first president was Ruth Kemp, who no longer lives in Ocean Pines," she said.

Established in January 1869 by a small group of students at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, last year P.E.O. marked its 150th anniversary. At this point the P.E.O. Sisterhood membership totals more than half a million women in the U.S. and Canada.

Roberts said one of the Ocean Pines chapter's primary fundraising endeavors is an annual dinner held in May, which was cancelled this year because of the covid-19 pandemic.

"The last couple of years, we've had it at the Yacht Club," she said. "We invite people outside of our P.E.O. chapter, along with their husbands, to come to our dinner."

Other efforts to find funds have included wine tastings in the fall and, in



PHOTO COURTESY JUNE FREEMAN

Despite having to cancel its annual fundraising dinner held each May due to the covid-19 pandemic, members of the Ocean Pines chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood are hoping to hatch other ventures whenever social distancing restrictions are lifted.

years past, a live concert.

"The money that we raise goes directly to the projects in P.E.O.," she said. "The projects include Cottey College, which is a women's college in Nevada, Missouri."

Cottey College, which was founded in 1884 by Virginia Alice Stockard, has been operated by P.E.O. since 1927.

In addition to stewardships for Cottey College students, P.E.O. also has assisted more than 100,000 women through multiple programs including: the Educational Loan Fund, International Peace Scholarships, Scholar Awards, STAR Scholarships and Program for Continuing Education grants.

Roberts said the Ocean Pines chapter has had success securing low interest rates for student borrowers through the Educational Loan Fund program.

"That's a fund that lends money to

qualified women," she said. "We have a lot of luck with getting candidates for that loan in and around here."

While admittedly not as significant on the shore, Roberts also highlighted the International Peace Scholarship Fund.

"That is for women students from other countries to come to the U.S. or Canada to pursue graduate study work and take what they learned back to their countries," she said. "We don't have as much luck with this one around here, because usually those women like to go to cities."

Still, Roberts said impressive stories of women aided through the International Peace Scholarship Fund have been shared at national conventions.

"One woman went to [Johns] Hopkins [University] and obtained a graduate degree in community health," she said "She intended to go back to her

country and go into villages to help with healthcare."

Roberts said the local chapter has found some limited success assisting women with grants through the Program for Continuing Education.

"It is for a woman whose education has been interrupted," she said.

Roberts said the intent is to provide funding for women who desire a return to school but have been restricted because of other life responsibilities.

For now the group's next philanthropic undertakings are on hiatus, but the members are looking forward to reconvening when social distancing and stay-at-home requests are lifted, Roberts said.

"Once we are able to meet again, we will put our brains together and figure out other ways to try and raise some funds," she said.

Coastal Bays selects Phillips to join board

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Looking to increase stakeholder representation, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program Board of Directors earlier this month voted to expand membership to include Ocean Pines Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips.

Coastal Bays Executive Director Kevin Smith, who took the reins in January following the retirement of predecessor Frank Piorko, said he initially met Phillips last year before his retirement in December after 34 years with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"I first met Colby when working with Maryland DNR with the Chesapeake and Coastal Bay Trust Fund," he said.

Smith said he worked with Phillips last year as part of the Ocean Pines team that was seeking funding for drainage improvements, and he continues to work her now following his appointment to the Coastal Bays Program leadership post.

"She was always enthusiastic ... and



Colby Phillips

just had a great attitude about trying to do work that would help not only the residents there in Ocean Pines ... but also that's going to help water quality [and] habitat," he said.

Smith said discussions among Coastal Bays Program leadership this year have included adding a voice from Ocean Pines.

"Ocean Pines is the substantial community in the coastal bays watershed," he said. "We really wanted to get somebody on board that was very familiar with Ocean Pines folks and could represent some of their interests."

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit venture that works with Worcester County, the municipalities Ocean City and Berlin and with the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Planning. Additionally, federal partners include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and the National Park Service.

For her part, Phillips expressed enthusiasm over being asked to join the program.

"I was honored," she said. "I love being a part of anything that can help water quality and the environment."

Phillips said she learned more about water quality and how it can be affected by runoff and other points of pollution after working with Public Works Director Eddie Wells, Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante, Bryan Seipp, a watershed manager from the Center for Watershed Protection and Rich Polk with Vista Engineering.

"The last year I've been working really closely on drainage issues in the Pines with the team," she said. "My involvement started with drainage, but along the way I've learned about ... water quality and the importance of ... making sure that we're taking care of our watershed."

Speaking on Monday, Smith said since being voted in during the board of directors last online meeting on April 1,

Phillips would officially get her toes wet this Wednesday.

"We have an abbreviated board meeting this week as just kind of a coronavirus update," he said.

Phillips' presence will increase the Coastal Bays board to eight members, which Smith said might grow further in the future.

"We really want to get a good representation of interested stakeholders in the area," he said. "One of the things we're trying to do is add another board member that would represent agricultural interests."

Serving on the Coastal Bays Program Board of Directors are Ocean City Councilman Tony Deluca, Dr. Ali Ishaque with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Kristen Fleming with the Department of Natural Resources, Katherine Munson with Worcester County and Citizen Advisory Committee members Dr. Nancy Zeller and Steven Taylor. Bill Hulslander with Assateague Island National Seashore is a non-voting member.



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Calvin B. Taylor museum asks residents for covid collection

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum in Berlin is asking residents to share their thoughts and records of the covid-19 pandemic for an archive its creating.

On Thursday, March 26, the museum's Facebook page asked members of the community to help create "an archive of how COVID-19 is affecting lives in Berlin." The museum is asking for voice memos, letters, diary entries, photos or other memorabilia to be used for its collection.

"As part of a larger nonprofit world of historic preservation ... as soon as covid-19 began to impact nonprofits, a lot of Maryland historic preservation and several other organizations have been sending out e-mails to other nonprofits," Melissa Reid, president of the Taylor House Museum, said. "How can we help each other through this? How do you make sure that you are supporting your community?" Since the Taylor House Museum is the historical repository for information about Berlin, we thought it would be a good opportunity to integrate ourselves as a bigger part of our community.

members will be archived for future use at the museum, Reid said.

"I'm an art teacher at Buckingham," Reid said. "I've also started sort of collecting things ... the schools have been putting out projects to keep in part of the archives also, so we're really looking for different aspects of the Berlin community and how it has affected different aspects of the Berlin community."

The museum has archived collections dating back to the Civil War. This is not the first time the museum has collected people's personal recollections.

"We were doing oral histories probably about 15 years ago," Reid said. "In the beginning, it was specifically about some World War II experiences that were part of an exhibit that we did about that war about 20 years ago."

"We thought this would be another good way to sort of collect information about the coronavirus," she continued.

"It's not very often that you realize you're living through something that is important. What's special about this time is it is obviously something that is unusual and it is such a stark contrast. The times were marked so specifically when it first started, when



The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum in Berlin is asking residents to send copies of diary entries, newspaper clippings, photos, journal entries and other articles documenting the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

schools were closed down, when we were told that only non-essential businesses ... we have been provided with an opportunity to speak to what it is like knowing you're living through history."

Although the museum is looking for physical items that document the coronavirus as well, it asks people to hold onto those objects until the pandemic has lessened in severity or at least until the museum has opened. The museum typically opens during Memorial Day weekend.

In addition to the archive, the mu-

seum is also playing trivia games on its Facebook page to keep residents informed and entertained.

"We're going to be highlighting different objects that are kind of unusual, that someone in the 1920s or even 1910s might know," Reid said. "At the end of the month, we're going to be sharing what these objects were used for."

For more information, or to submit your voice memos or other stories about covid-19, email the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum at taylorhousemuseum@verizon.net.

Area churches offer virtual worship, prayers

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) In order to comply with Gov. Larry Hogan's stay-at-home executive order and also ensure people are social distancing, a number of local churches are offering services online.

Ocean City Baptist Church, located on North Division Street, has been streaming live services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook for two years, according to Pastor Sean Davis.

"We have almost another congregation outside of Ocean City, because

we meet so many people from around the world, that when they go to their homes, they can still connect with us through [Facebook]," Davis said.

The reception for the online sermons has been well received, he said.

"It's been encouraging," Davis said. "We miss being together. But we've [also] seen people who've never stepped foot in church watching online."

The Facebook church service draws around 130-150 viewers every Sunday. Ocean City Baptist Church also has bible study on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

as well.

"Our faith teaches us to do private prayers, but it also tells us to come together in [difficult] times," he said. "The world has seen many other things like this before, but we have the technology nowadays to stay connected through the Internet, through the media that we have."

For more information, call the church at 410-289-6573 or visit OC Baptist's Facebook page.

First Presbyterian Church on 13th Street in Ocean City is also offering online services.

Rev. Dan McKenty began providing online worship services three weeks ago, and said viewers have been sharing the services and other prayers. Worship services take place on Facebook on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

"A lot of people wanted to hear a sermon about scripture and what's going on today," McKenty said. "We've had a lot of people that aren't even members of the church, that aren't regular attenders that have been tuning in, which has been encouraging."

See CHURCH Page 15

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Church services through Zoom and Facebook

Continued from Page 14

McKenty posts the service announcements on the organization's Facebook page as well as reminders that its baby drive, "Operation Wee Ones," is still actively collecting supplies such as diapers, formula, wipes, food and nonperishable items to help families affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"I have seen a lot of community and church activity," McKenty said. "I think we're rediscovering the better angels of our nature. I saw on Facebook a quote that I liked that said, 'The church is not empty. The church has been deployed.'"

For more information, call the First Presbyterian Church office, Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at 410-289-9340 or visit www.ocmd-presbyterian.org/ or the First Presbyterian Church Facebook page.

The Community Church at Ocean Pines, located at 11227 Racetrack Rd., is also providing online services.

Its first online service was held on Sunday, March 22, in the sanctuary. It was moved to the chapel the following Sunday for better sound quality. The services begin at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook.

"We've been very blessed, very fortunate and we've connected people to electronic giving." Rev. Dale Brown said.

The church also provides live praise music on Facebook on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., which is has been well received, he said.

In addition, Sarah's Pantry will remain open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Little Lambs Learning Center has been designated as an essential workers' day-care for those who still have to work during the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's important to maintain and to delve into the resources that our faiths have to offer us, whether we are Jewish, Protestant, Catholic or whatever it is that we believe for all of us," Brown said. "It's important that we use those resources of faith, which are important and can sustain and strengthen and help us through this time and also keeping in mind that those resources call us not to be afraid, but to trust and to be hopeful and to continue to love and support one another regardless."

Call 410-641-5433 for more information, visit the "The Community Church at Ocean Pines" Facebook page, email Rev. Brown at Pastordale@ccaop.org, or visit the church's website at www.ccaop.org/.

In Berlin, SonRise Church at 10026 Main Street, has also seen success with online services. This upcoming Sunday will be the church's fourth online prayer session. Though unlike the others, the church does not do a live service on Sundays.

The church offers bible study sessions live on Facebook on Tuesdays

and Thursdays at 7 p.m. and a prerecorded Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on the site as well.

"We have similar backgrounds on things that people are familiar with, almost like you're still worshipping in person," Pastor Tim Robinson said. "You still have that relatable and comfortability with leadership that you're used to, and you also have that platform so that the messages that are going out are very relatable to what's going on right now, with what's happening with this virus."

Call 410-629-1901 for more information, visit www.sonrise.cc, or to see more live or prerecorded sessions visit the SonRise Facebook page.

Berlin First Baptist Church on Williams Street is also offering online sermons Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

"We just started the Facebook live services the first week we weren't able to meet as a congregation due to the coronavirus," Pastor Brad Diehl said. "There are people from out of town and people from our church sharing the services, so it has a far broader reach than what a typical Sunday morning service would."

"The reception's been good, but I can tell you our people are definitely ready to be able to meet together, and that's one of the blessings of a regular Sunday service, is the presence of the

other people of the church and the fellowship that you have," he continued.

Hundreds of people have watched the videos that are posted on Facebook each week, he added.

"While we're not able to meet face to face, this continues that continuity of, 'Hey, we're still gathering together,'" Diehl said. "There's still a sense of unity, even though we are separated from one another right now."

For more information, message the Berlin First Baptist Church Facebook page or visit <https://berlinfirstbaptist.com/>.

Also offering online services in Berlin is the Buckingham Presbyterian Church located on 20 South Main Street.

The church has been offering online services at 10 a.m. on Sundays for the past four weeks and group night on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, Pastor Glenn Zuber said.

"For most of the people in the congregation, it's essential to foster a strong spiritual life, especially in the midst of so many crises going on," Zuber said. "Facebook now is our cathedral in a certain way."

In addition, the church offers meals through its ministry program every two weeks and also provides a bless-

ing box food pantry, which is available 24/7 on its property.

For more information about Buckingham Presbyterian Church, visit its Facebook page or www.buckingham-pcusa.org.

Finally, there will be online Friday services offered by Temple Bat Yam, located on 11036 Worcester Hwy.

Services have been put online for the past three weeks, with numbers climbing each week.

Prayers take place on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/590074213>. The member ID needed to join the meeting is located on the organization's website at <https://templebatyam-oc.org/>.

"The ways we're connecting, we've been able to provide support to many of our members who may live alone or in a nursing home as well as our families, who might be spread apart to worship together over the computer and it has really maintained our sense of community among the older members of our [congregation]," Rabbi Estelle Mills said.

Adult education and other children's activities are also available through Zoom.

For more information, visit <https://templebatyam-oc.org/> or call 410-641-4311.

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Opinion

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

Hogan shows what leaders are made of

Democrat or Republican, you have to hand it to Gov. Larry Hogan for the way he has handled the coronavirus outbreak in this state. An almost accidental governor after winning his first term over weak Democratic competition, Hogan, a Republican, has demonstrated leadership qualities that many voters hoped for, but were unaware of at the time.

Nothing tests the measure of a person more than an extended crisis like the one the country and the state are experiencing, and Hogan has more than measured up. He has confronted problems in a pragmatic, rather than a political, way, as is evidenced by the state's recent purchase of a half-million coronavirus test kits from South Korea.

From a political perspective, the risk was significant after a Republican Administration said tests were easily obtainable here, and Hogan disagreed publicly by going overseas to get them.

President Trump proved the truth of that risk when he said, following Hogan's announcement of the purchase, that the governor could have used a little knowledge. Hogan, however, didn't hit the gas pedal in that discussion and employed his usual matter-of-fact approach in later conversations on the various news shows and in his communications with the president.

Meanwhile, he has made some incredibly difficult decisions that will have a severe impact on the people who have supported him from the beginning.

Friendships, alliances and politics were cast aside as he listened to his public health advisors and then did what he thought was right for the state overall. It takes guts to make calls that profound when you're aware that you are balancing lives and livelihoods in the process.

Whether people agree with the steps he has taken, never agreed or are reevaluating their own positions, even his critics would concur that he did not hesitate and dealt with this crisis calmly and decisively. That's what leaders do, and that's what this governor has become at a time when so much depends on it.



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"BAYSIDE GAZETTE"

"I had a dream that I took a walk by myself. I really need some private time."

Letter

OP Golf Course discussion

Editor,

I would like to follow up to the "golf course discussion" as submitted to the Bayside Gazette dated April 9 by Harry Rutter.

As someone else who is disgusted with this group pouring our valuable money down a rat hole on a so called amenity, the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

Back in the day when it was mostly paying for itself, I held a number of golf outings consisting of at least 50 players who played one or two rounds with both breakfast and lunch and it appeared to be doing just fine.

Move forward to the present and it is a severe cash drain that

really needs to have some thought given to look at other possible uses.

If you add the numbers up in Mr. Rutter's comments, it is a grand total of \$2,110,635.00 from 2016 to 2019 or just four years. One hell of a lot of money I feel has been wasted and hold little if any hope for this terrible drain to improve so it pays for itself.

If this were a business, do you think by any stretch of the imagination it would still be around? Simply look at the Bay Club, Beach Club and Pine Shore.

Somehow this board of directors needs to get their collective heads together and get rid of this white elephant.

And now looking at thinking

of spending an additional \$2.7 million more for irrigation into a losing property should be out of the question.

Just a point of interest: Nutters Crossing Golf Club is a great example of a very successful operation and is in immaculate shape with very reasonable yearly dues fee.

Maybe one thought would be to think about a joint venture with someone like Gillis Gilkerson to put up townhouses or some other form of housing as a joint venture to get this monkey off the backs of the residents of Ocean Pines. Stop beating a dead horse and get rid of this terrible cash drain tear after year.

*Ed Fleming
Ocean Pines*

OP extends pool card expiration date

(April 23, 2020) As the Ocean Pines Association faces uncertainty because of the covid-19 pandemic on when pool facilities may reopen, the board of directors and staff have made the joint decision to extend the pool card expiration date until Oct. 1, 2021.

The new expiration date is good for all pool cards, no mat-

ter when they were bought. To take advantage of the extension, all cards must be registered by April 30 of this year, as was previously communicated by the Association.

To register, members can email a copy of the back of their card(s), along with their contact information, to poolcards@oceanpines.org.

Alternately, members may deposit a photocopy of their card(s) in the drop box in the Administration Building lobby on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, or else extend their balance by phone by calling 410-641-7717.

Those who already registered will be automatically enrolled into the new extension date.

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P.O. Box 3500, Ocean City, Md. 21843
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

- EDITOR Stewart Dobson
- MANAGING EDITOR..... Lisa Capitelli
- STAFF WRITERS Greg Ellison, Morgan Pilz,
..... Joshua Kim, Elizabeth Bonin
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- GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kelly Brown, Kyle Phillips
- PUBLISHER Christine Brown
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
at 8200 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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Pines resident leaps into water to save dog

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Reversing traditional wisdom, Ocean Pines resident Jack Scheeler recently proved that man could be a dog's best friend.

Scheeler, 78, cast aside personal safety on March 29 to save a wayward pooch stranded in the canal along his home on Dockside Court.

"I'm sitting here having my morning coffee and all of a sudden I hear this dog barking," he said.

What started as a peaceful Sunday morning transitioned to a life-saving endeavor.

"It was like it was right outside on the back porch," he said.

Scheeler said the atypical occurrence struck an odd chord.

"I don't usually hear dogs in the neighborhood, but it kept on barking and barking," he said.

After taking a gander from his screened-in porch, the scene came into



Jack Scheeler

view. "My neighbor across the canal pointed down to the water," he said. "There was a big black lab going from one side to the other and he could not get out."

Instantly springing into action, Scheeler bolted outside to the bulkhead and summoned the canine.

"He came right on over and he was tired," he said. "He had a collar on, so he belonged to somebody."

After luring the desperate dog to the water's edge, Scheeler faced a quandary.

"I grabbed the collar and his head," he said. "I was trying to grab him and pull him up."

Scheeler quickly discovered the large wet dog was too heavy to tug over the bulkhead.

"So, I just jumped into the canal and

got behind the dog," he said. "I kept petting him to calm him down."

Referred to as "Happy Jack," by friends and fellow fans of the classic rock ditty by the Who, the perpetually smiling Scheeler is known to love animals of all varieties.

"I got his front paws up on top the bulkhead," he said. "I pushed him ... he jumped up and shook all the water off, wagged his tail and ran back and forth."

Despite feeling a sense of relief that disaster was narrowly diverted, Scheeler was quickly abandoned by the dog while still standing in waist-deep water.

"The next thing I know he ran between the houses and was gone," he said. "Then I'm sitting there in waist-high water. How am I going to get out of there and the water's cold."

Summoning all his strength, Scheeler gripped the bulkhead to haul out of the canal but began slicing his hands on barnacles.

"That's when my hand slipped and my rib cage hit," he said.

Finally struggling out of the waterway, Scheeler said an adjacent neighbor who witnessed his act commented, "What a way to start a morning."

Scheeler, who previously survived organ cancer on two occasions and was still in the midst of healing from a hernia surgery roughly a month earlier, quickly discovered the truism that no good deed goes unpunished.

"I went inside for a warm shower and my right side began hurting," he said. "I could tell from the pain and previous experience it was cracked ribs."

Besides fracturing multiple ribs, Scheeler also suffered a groin strain.

Since that time Scheeler said lingering soreness has restricted his sleeping to a lounge chair, while the fate of the rescued dog remains a mystery.

"I knew I did something, but all you can do is tape it up," he said. "I'm still not clear who owned the dog."

Md. Coastal Bays Program virtual education

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) Just about every corner of Worcester County has been affected in some way by the spread of covid-19, and the nonprofit Maryland Coastal Bays Program is no exception.

The program, which exists to protect the waters and surrounding watershed of the county's coastal bays, can't do a complete job because of coronavirus-related work restrictions.

The organization cannot begin recruiting volunteers, while several projects, including Bay Day on Friday, May 1, have also been canceled or are being considered for rescheduling.

"We're still conducting business, although our field activities have been severely curtailed," said Development and Marketing Coordinator Sandi Smith. "Our water quality monitoring and anything out in the field we're not able to do right now because we're following the proper protocol mandated by our gov-



Sandi Smith

ernment.

"We're still maintaining our responsibilities to our funding agencies," she continued. "We're submitting progress reports and working with our partners to maintain ongoing studies and payments to our contractors are all continuing."

Although Smith said program employees miss doing their field work, they have been able to keep up with their paperwork, update the website and apply for grants where needed.

There have also been measures made to help recruit volunteers through virtual training.

"We are talking with volunteers and getting them ready for field surveys on horseshoe crabs, oyster gardening and water sampling when the time is right," Rowan Jeisen said. "We have been making good use of the time that staying at

home has allowed."

The nonprofit also designed a virtual learning page, which can be found on the organization's website at <https://md-coastalbays.org/virtual-learning>, to help keep families informed and entertained.

"Although our plans for spring public events and school activities have been altered, Maryland Coastal Bays Program has taken appropriate measures to ensure continued community engagement opportunities in the form of virtual learning," Education Coordinator Liz Wist said. "We have been busy creating weekly online learning modules that are now accessible through a combination of our website and social media accounts."

Within the themes are a feature called "Notes from the Field" that provides multiple links for various activities that can be performed by people of all ages.

"Weekly, we will provide a conglomerate of materials for anyone to use to bulk up their knowledge on the following

topics: agriculture, bay-friendly backyards, water, forests, and observations," Wist said. "Information will be provided through daily postings of relevant websites, lesson plans, videos, and "Ask-an-Expert" question and answer sessions.

There will also be education projects for families with children who may be interested in science or the environment.

Executive Director Kevin Smith encourages families to plant gardens or create bat, bird or butterfly houses as some of these environmentally friendly projects. These houses are some of the many programs the organization raises awareness about while maintaining social distancing.

"We're also excited to be setting up a few online trainings on different citizen science projects that people can involve themselves in from their own homes and backyards," Wist said. "Check out projects such as iNaturalist, Merlin, and NOAA's Marine Debris Tracker app for a jumpstart on your learning."



The ReStore is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. All pick ups scheduled during this time will be contacted to be rescheduled.

We ask that no donations be left outside at the ReStore during the closure period.

We are still looking for Volunteers for when we open.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SHOWING SUPPORT

Berlin Intermediate School students in the Random Acts of Kindness group teamed up with Gull Creek residents to collect donations for Operations We Care, which supports first responders and military troops.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City member Tim Collins, left, who works at i.g. Burton dealership in Berlin, addressed the membership about "Is Your Car Smarter Than You, Or Are You Smarter Than Your Car?" He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LUNCHEON

The Republican Women of Worcester County held its February luncheon meeting at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Feb. 27. The guest speaker was Corine Frank, executive director of the Maryland Republican Party. Pictured, from left, are Beth Rodier, president RWWC, Frank and Sandy Zitzer, first vice president, RWWC.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

The Republican Women of Worcester County present a check for \$400 to Diakonia to support its efforts in providing emergency and transitional housing, counseling and assistance to its guests. Pictured is Bee Miller, executive director of Diakonia, left, and Vera Beck, RWWC chair for Caring for America.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HILL DAY

The Stephen Decatur High School Surfriders organization participated in Hill Day in Washington, D.C., where they lobbied for legislation that supports coastal protection and preservation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECOGNITION

Bruce Young was named Habitat for Humanity ReStore's Volunteer of the Month for January.

Art organizations donate kits for students

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2020) The Art League of Ocean City and Worcester County Arts Council are helping Worcester County public school students by donating art kits to help with their projects.

Although the center on 94th Street is closed, the Art League donated 350 kits filled with pencils, paper, crayons and markers to be used for educational purposes.

"The school system started their online learning and then they rapidly realized that a lot of the kids didn't even have the basic supplies at home, no clean paper or even real simple things like markers or colored pencils for kids to do online learning and art projects," Executive Director Rina Thaler said.

Coordinator of Instruction Tamara Mills asked Thaler and Anna Mullis, president of the Worcester County Arts Council, for help with the art supplies. Thaler accepted, even though her organization could use a financial boost itself, because it was the right thing to do, she said.

"We're at a point where we're closed, laying people off, trying to pay our employees and not bringing any income in either," Thaler said. "So, I appealed to our board of directors to put in the money for the donation, and they donated \$900 for the first round of the kits, which provided the initial 350."

"Our board felt very committed to

helping the youth," she continued. "As a non-profit organization, even though we're facing a lot of financial challenges right now, we couldn't turn our back on the kids of Worcester County ... they need us."

In addition to the art supplies, the Art League also provided a Heart with a Hug poster for families to color and post to their windows to show their support for emergency responders and essential workers.

Thaler also asking the organization's grant providers to raise more money to pay for another round of 350 kits.

Mullis of the Worcester County Arts Council was happy to help the students in any way she could.

"We know how challenging it is for [students] to be away from school, from teachers, from their normal environment and being at home, a lot of students don't have access to essential materials," Mullis said. "It was very important for us to reach out and show support to the schools and show that the community really cares for our schools."

"I hope the students will feel comforted by the fact that there are community organizations thinking about them," she continued. "I hope that they will be able to create something colorful and inspiring to help them move forward."

The Worcester County Arts Council also gave 350 kits, and if the need arises, will donate more in the near future.

Mills is thrilled that the Art League and Arts Council was able to help.

"We thought it was important, because while we do have a lot of students with materials at home, we also are very aware that we have a large number of students who don't have access to those



PHOTO COURTESY TAMARA MILLS

Art material kits for Worcester County students have been donated by the Art League of Ocean City and the Worcester County Arts Council in Berlin and include paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons and erasers.

things at all," Mills said.

"Within the first week of online learning, we got a couple of responses from kids saying that they didn't have drawing paper at home and to please accept this assignment in a different material because they didn't have things like crayons or markers."

"We knew there was a gap, but it became more evident as the learning began," she continued. "We really wanted to quickly get some materials to students for them to complete assignments with those materials."

In addition to the kits helping students perform their assignments, Mills also believes it will be useful for students' emotional and mental health.

"It's also a way for students to create in a time of crisis, art and music ... their special area subjects are so important because it allows them to ex-

press emotion," Mills said. "It allows them to work through their feelings of anxiety or depression at this time. Those areas are vital right now."

Mental health, Mills said, is just as important to student's education as math, science and English and helps keep them engaged.

"Getting a student to talk about music at the dinner table from an activity that they did or getting them to sit down and create a drawing. It just releases so much stress, it helps calm children. It's really important to make sure that we don't just ignore those content areas right now, but rather embrace them in a way that allows students to physically and mentally be well."

Fifty of the school material kits will be available at each food site location offered by the Worcester County Public Schools.

OP residents donate food to first responders

(April 23, 2020) A group of about 40 Ocean Pines residents last week took up a collection to buy family meals from the Yacht Club for local police, fire and EMS personnel.

Organizers said it's their way of showing support for those on the front lines of the covid-19 pandemic.

The collective, known as the "Compound Group," formed about two years ago, according to George Ball.

"It's just about 40 of us in our neighborhood that hang out and socialize at the Yacht Club and do a lot of things together," he said. "We're year-round supporters of the Yacht Club and are all within walking distance, and we all really enjoy it there."

Ball said several members of the Compound Group talked about doing a cookout to send food to local doctors and nurses. When they learned about restrictions on delivering food to hos-

pitals, Ocean Pines Board member Tom Janasek suggested instead sending Yacht Club family meals to members of the Ocean Pines Police and Fire/EMS departments.

First responders received food deliveries last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and Ball said that would continue through this week.

"They're out there every day with this virus that's going on, so we thought it was a good idea to show our support," he said.

Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey said the gesture has been great for morale, especially during this challenging time.

"We really appreciate the contribution," Massey said. "The first responders put themselves in harm's way, and we appreciate the all support that we get from the community."

Ball said the idea to host a big

cookout to help local doctors and nurses, as well as first responders, is still on the table.

"After all this mess is cleared up, we may put something together and all hold a cookout so they can grab something and go," he said. "We appreciate everything our nurses and doctors and first responders are doing for us, and we want everyone to stay healthy."

Until then, Ball said he and the rest of the Compound Group would continue to support the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, which is open for delivery and carryout each Wednesday through Sunday. He thanked Matt Ortt and Ralph DeAngelus who run the Yacht Club, as well as restaurant staff, for helping the group in their efforts to give back.

"We love what the Yacht Club are doing and think it's a great idea, but

we're also ready for them to get back to normal operations," he said. "We'll get through this - sooner than later, hopefully."

Janasek added a note about the giving nature of the Compound Group.

"These are some of the most generous people in the Pines," he said. "They've given jobs to some laid-off employees and they are the primary reason the Yacht Club can open in the winter."

Delivery and carryout orders at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club are taken beginning at 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Sunday by calling 410-641-7501, or ordering online at <http://toasttab.com/ocean-pines-yacht-club>. A special menu for delivery and carryout service is available at www.opyachtclub.com/restaurant-menu.

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