



## Berlin returns to emergency safety rules

Masks required at events, government offices closed

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) As covid-19 cases continue to rise in Worcester County, Berlin Mayor Zackery Tyndall last Wednesday issued a Civil Emergency Declaration requiring masks to be worn downtown during activities and closed all town government buildings to the public until further notice.



Zackery Tyndall

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the declaration is needed to reassure the residents and visitors that the mayor and the council are committed to the fight against the coronavirus.

In making the decision, Tyndall consulted with the Town Council, Fleetwood, Town Attorney Dave Gaskill and Police Chief Arnold Downing.

Town Hall, the Planning and Zoning Office, and the Berlin Welcome Center are among the buildings closed to the press and public at this time.

Town employees are working on alternating schedules to protect their safety and to ensure that the town's work can continue during the pandemic.

"I know this is going to be a similar schedule to what we had in the spring," Tyndall said.

Fleetwood added that more than 80 percent of the town employees are able to telework.

He also said town staff are responsible for self-evaluating their health daily for any symptoms of a covid-like illness.

"Based on the CDC and the Worcester County Health Department guidelines, if any employee fits the categories on an affirmative perspective, they're then required to make notification to the department head or to

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### GOBBLE GOBBLE

Gratitude is the key sentiment to embrace for this, and every, Thanksgiving, regardless of advisable attendee levels for holiday feasts.

## Surge of coronavirus in area leads to virtual tree-lighting

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) After assessing the state of the spread of coronavirus in this area, Ocean Pines officials have decided to stage the annual Ocean Pines Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting in White Horse Park virtually without participants this Saturday. In the meantime, the inaugural Thanksgiving "Family Gobble Wobble" stroll

around the South Gate Pond remains on tap for Thursday at 8 a.m.

The Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting, which was scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. will now be held virtually after health safety concerns caused the in-person aspect to be abandoned.

Recreation Supervisor Katie Goetzinger said community members

See TREE-LIGHTING Page 4

## Janasek gets through vote to expel him

Interactions involving GM leads to board censure

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Personality clashes between Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola and Director Tom Janasek had other directors contemplating his removal from the board before they agreed to censure him instead in a public hearing on Friday.

A hastily convened special meeting in the Assateague Room of the Community Center was announced on Thursday following two days of long closed sessions concerning Viola's allegation that he was being harassed.

President Larry Perrone said Viola informed him on Nov. 6 that he intended to register a formal complaint following an incident the day before.

"Viola claimed that on Nov. 5 Janasek made offensive remarks to him while he was in a business lunch with Director of Golf Operations John Malinowski at the OPA Country Club,"

See JANASEK Page 6



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association Director Tom Janasek, left, and General Manager John Viola fist bump after clearing the air over previous comments involving job performance criticisms.

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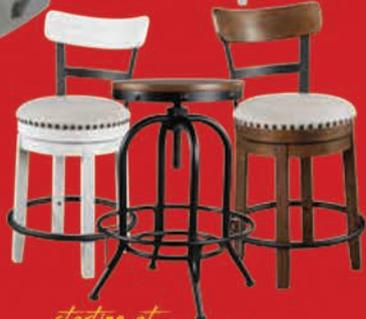


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## Communications resumes pursuit of new OP signs

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Reconvening for the first time since the covid-19 outbreak, last week the OPA Communications Committee resumed discussions about upgrading community marquee signs to electronic versions, contingent on approval from Worcester County.

Committee Chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines said despite the lack of recent gatherings, the group remains committed to the replacing the 13 manually updated marquees scattered throughout Ocean Pines.

Board liaison Dr. Colette Horn said due to a miscommunication she failed to attend the Worcester County Planning Commission meeting in November but intends on reviving the matter during their next meeting on Dec. 3.

Committee member Cheryl Jacobs said her understanding is that Worcester officials are prepared to iron out associated zoning regulations.

"They are favorably disposed to moving ahead," she said.

During earlier discussions with Worcester County Director of Development Review and Permitting Ed Tudor, Rines and Horn were informed that changing to electronic signs would require a zoning code amendment specific to Ocean Pines.

Rines said based on previous talks, the goal would be installing new electronic signs at the north and south gates, while retaining three current signs. Early cost estimates place the cost at \$30,000 or more per sign.

Horn said she previously indicated to General Manager John Viola the association would purchase up to five electronic signs, while also harboring the impression county officials wanted the old signs removed.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said based on earlier discussions with county officials, the current baker's-dozen of marquees would have to be abandoned.

"Worcester County would like us to get rid of all the old signs," he said.

Horn said the potential expense would likely be included in a subsequent budget and not part of the pending fiscal year 2021/2022 budget.

Horn also noted Viola had earlier espoused abandoning the marquee sign at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski said the difficulty with analog signs is a limitation on the information shared.

"The problem with changing the marquees is the timeliness," she said.

Horn said the existing signs at

See OP Page 7

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# Tree-lighting ceremony goes virtual

Continued from Page 1  
could still witness the tree lighting, albeit virtually, which will be broadcast live on the Ocean Pines Association Facebook page starting at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 28.

Visit [www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation) in real time or view the tree lighting on demand after the affair is posted to the Association webpage and YouTube channel that night.

"We cancelled the [in-person] event," she said.

Goetzinger said the bulk of more than three-dozen holiday trees had been sponsored by residents, businesses and social organizations prior to the change of plans.

"They were almost all gone when we made the decision not to have it," she said.

The adjusted Hometown Christmas virtual tree lighting ceremony will also include a tour of the more than three dozen fir trees sponsored by community members and area businesses or civic groups.

To maintain some degree of normalcy, regardless of any other changes Santa Claus is still slated to arrive from the North Pole to assist with lighting the official Ocean Pines Christmas tree.

Goetzinger said the tree display in White Horse Park would be on display through the end of December, which would provide families ample opportunities to view the holiday scene on their own schedule.

Now in its 10th year, an anniversary celebration for the Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting had been abandoned due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

By contrast, the inaugural Thanksgiving "Family Gobble Wobble" stroll around the South Gate Pond is still on target for Thursday beginning at 8 a.m.

The event is being organized through the Facebook group, Local Help For You Worcester County, which is asking participants to consider bringing along toy donations for children or pet supplies for furry friends.

Teaming up to arrange the free walk, which is intended to solicit support for the Worcester County Humane Society and local Christmas toy collections, are Colby Phillips, Kathy McDaniel and D.J. Donnie Berkey.

Phillips said music kicks off at 8 a.m. and the outdoor event would be conducted in accordance with coronavirus health safety mandates currently in place.

"We ask everyone to come with their masks and social distance with their families," she said. "We're asking if people can bring an unwrapped toy and or something for the Humane Society for the dogs and cats."

Participants at the "gobble wobble" can walk whatever number of laps around the South Gate Pond they elect, with each totaling about three quarters of a mile.

Phillips said unwrapped toys and gifts will be distributed to area children who might otherwise get skipped by Santa, while dog and cat food donations will aid animals being cared for by the Worcester County Humane Society.

Phillips said in the event of rain the walk would be cancelled but charitable donations are still welcome.

"If we can't host the walk, people can still drop off toy donations, as well as donations for the Humane Society, to the Sports Core Pool," she said.

For more information on Recreation and Parks activities, call 410-641-7052 or visit [oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks](http://oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks) or [facebook.com/OPRe-candParks](http://facebook.com/OPRe-candParks).

For questions about the Family Gobble Wobble email [localhelp4youwc@gmail.com](mailto:localhelp4youwc@gmail.com).



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# Tyndall declares civil emergency

Continued from Page 1  
myself," Fleetwood said.

All Berlin mayor and council meetings will be closed to the press and public and streamed live on Facebook until the mayor and council can meet entirely online. Tyndall said the town is exploring Zoom for upcoming meetings.

"I reached out to several of the neighboring municipalities, some use Zoom. I think only one uses Microsoft Teams," Tyndall said. "The town does have a Microsoft 365 Office subscription, so that fits within our subscription allotment, however the usability was not as user-friendly or familiar to people as what Zoom is. So, we'll be opting for Zoom in the future."

Additionally, all boards and commissions meetings will be canceled until preparations can be made for their members to meet entirely online.

Unknown at this point is whether any December boards or commissions meetings will occur.

"December might be hard," Tyndall said. "If their membership is familiar [with Zoom], then that's something that's definitely open to them. If they don't feel confident moving forward with Zoom, then we will have some training sessions available for everybody and hopefully have everything ready to go by January."

The town's mask mandate will apply to this weekend's "Ice Ice Berlin

Art Sculptures Stroll & Holiday Shop Night and Small Business Saturday." Masks must be worn from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in downtown Berlin. Masks will also be mandated for 2nd Friday on Dec. 11 from 4-9 p.m.

"It's mainly just to make sure that everybody stays safe," Tyndall said. "We're experiencing a rise in cases across the state, and we just want to make sure that everybody that comes and visits Berlin as well as those that live and work here are safe and we're doing our part as a local government."

For more information about the town's response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, contact the mayor at 410-641-3858.



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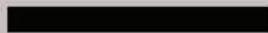
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# Janasek censured for interaction with Viola

Continued from Page 1  
he said.

Viola claimed that Director Doug Parks and an unnamed OPA employee witnessed the incident.

“John’s formal verbal complaint contains this incident and a pattern of harassing comments, for example ... ‘I will have you fired’ ... in front of board members, OPA employees and OPA members since Director Janasek was elected to the board,” he said.

Perrone said after consulting with directors Dr. Colette Horn and Doug Parks, the decision was made to contact OPA Attorney Jeremy Tucker.

“I directed Jeremy Tucker to conduct an investigation regarding the allegations of John’s complaint,” he said.

Perrone said Tucker was asked to prepare a report on the matter that was shared with the entire board.

“The board met last Wednesday night for four hours in closed session after our general meeting to discuss the investigation, the alleged incidences and legal ramifications,” he said.

The marathon session Wednesday night, which adjourned after midnight, was reconvened for two hours on Thursday.

“As a result of that discussion it was clear that a motion for removal would be presented at this special meeting,”

he said.

Horn read aloud the motion to remove Janasek for cause as permitted under by-law section 5.12(b) due to complaints that he undermined Viola’s ability to be successful in the role of general manager.

“The purpose of this motion is not to punish Director Janasek but to achieve a remedy to this complaint that fulfills our obligation as a board to provide Mr. Viola a guarantee that there will be no further action ... that undermines his ability to successfully fulfill his contractual obligations to the association,” she said.

After Janasek declined to refute the allegations, Perrone advanced a vote for removal that was struck down 4-3, with Directors Camilla Rogers, and Frank Daly, as well as Parks and Janasek in opposition.

The limited capacity socially distanced meeting crowd applauded after the vote concluded.

Looking to clear up background chatter, Viola said despite rumors to the contrary he had never considered resigning as general manager because of tensions with Janasek.

“I am on record with the president, our lawyer and other board members

that I have not threatened to quit nor would ... based upon whatever happens,” he said. “I never threatened to quit or demanded that a boss be removed.”

After failing to remove Janasek, a resolution for censure was offered by Daly.

Tucker read the censure motion and said that Perrone had submitted a complaint to the board on Nov. 11 based on the alleged interactions between Janasek and Viola.

“Mr. Perrone’s complaint alleges upon becoming a director (in 2018) Mr. Janasek repeatedly made inappropriate comments to John Viola in front of other OPA employees and members of the public,” he said.

The complaint alleged Janasek was vocally critical of Viola’s job performance and presence at the Golf Clubhouse and other amenity locations, while also indicating his role as general manager was in jeopardy.

The complaint stated that Janasek has not been authorized by the board to rate Viola’s job performance and deemed such actions as contrary to ethical conduct expected of directors.

In terms of corrective actions, the

complaint also stated if Janasek continued expressing criticisms of an OPA employees’ job performance, outside of a board meeting or formal review process, it would constitute cause for removal.

After agreeing to the censure terms, Janasek thanked those who attended and others who had expressed support.

“I want to personally apologize to John,” he said. “If what I did and what was stated ... was offensive, then I apologize.”

Janasek said the actions would not be repeated henceforth and stressed his overall intent is to improve the community.

“I really truly am a member of Ocean Pines [and] I’ve been here for 45 years,” he said. “I do everything for Ocean Pines and the things I say, the things I do are ... because I’m trying to make this place better.”

Following Janasek’s comments, Viola and he met mid-room for an amicable fist bump in hopes of retiring their differences.

“The way I approach things is not the way everybody approaches things and obviously I have to change my course a little bit,” Janasek said. “I am ... boisterous and say what I think and sometimes doing that gets me in trouble.”

**‘If what I did and what was stated ... was offensive, then I apologize.’**

Tom Janasek

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Treasurer Doug Parks reviews rate of returns on investments and reserve account spends during the OPA Board meeting last Wednesday.

## Ocean Pines Treasurer Parks updates reserves, spending

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Ocean Pines Treasurer Doug Parks reviewed short-term investments, current reserve account balances and the status of homeowner assessment collections during the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday.

Parks said to close September the association had approximately \$13.4 million in cash and investments, which includes \$7.1 million in CDARs (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) and \$6.3 million split between money market funds and other operating accounts.

Parks said the overall ladder investment rate of return on CDARs during September was approximately 1 percent.

"It was 1.8 percent last month," he said.

While not a cause for alarm the downward trend deserves monitoring, Parks said.

"It is an indication that we have to watch that closely," he said.

Parks said the association's total balance had changed minimally from the end of August when the figure sat at \$13.8 million.

Switching to annual assessment collections, Parks said outstanding balances have continued to dwindle after association members were granted an extended period to pay earlier this year due to covid-19.

"At the end of October we collected a total of \$8.7 million of \$9.2 million," he said. "We're at 95 [percent] which compared to other years is about where we expect to be."

Parks said in prior years between 96-98 percent of assessments were eventually remitted.

"It still represents a \$409,000 shortfall," he said.

"I encourage those that can still pay to do so, so we can meet our budget requirements."

Looking at reserve account balances to end September, including replacement, bulkheads, roads and new capital, Parks said the ending balance was relatively unchanged from August.

"The balance was \$5.6 million at the beginning of the fiscal year," he said.

With no capital expense requests during September the reserve accounts balance closed at \$7.1 million.

"We are keeping track of all of spends associated with reserve accounts," he said. "Both planned and unplanned."

Parks said the association is shooting for a reserve account balance of \$5.1 million to end the current fiscal year.

"That's our target number, should anything happen that would require an emergency spend ... we would have to consider amending," he said.

## OP electronic signs discussed

Continued from Page 3

both the Yacht Club and White Horse Park could likely be retained, as both would not require nighttime illumination since the bulk of traffic passes the facilities during the day.

Horn said she had proposed to Viola that the association ask Worcester officials to permit a handful of electronic signs, which could be financed over multiple years.

ulations limit the association to a pair of electronic and analog internal community signs.

"This may limit us to four total signs," he said.

In earlier meetings county officials wanted assurances the signs would not be used for advertising, and also voiced concerns about reducing the number of signs in the community and maintaining unobstructed rights of way.

Davis said current county sign reg-



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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Director Dr. Colette Horn discusses the formation of a work group to examine potential tweaks to association bylaws during the board meeting last Wednesday.

## OPA Board approves buying equipment, looks at bylaws

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors approved two capital purchases for grounds equipment and reviewed the formation of a work group to update association bylaws during its meeting on Wednesday.

General Manager John Viola presented a pair of capital purchase requests from OPA Public Works for a John Deere tractor and a rough mower for the golf course.

"Public Works needs this tractor to save on labor and do the cleaning of the ditches for the drainage," he said.

The equipment was included in the current fiscal year budget, but prices have increased in recent months following the covid-19 pandemic, Viola said.

"We have [three] bids now and it is approximately \$35,000 higher than we had in the budget," he said.

Viola said contingent on board approval the tractor could be obtained in under two months.

The board voted unanimously to approve the purchase from Atlantic Tractor for roughly \$150,000.

Turning to golf maintenance needs, Viola said although not included in the current fiscal year budget a new

mower would be required to continue properly maintaining fairway roughs.

"One of the problems we have ... the rough for one reason or another was very high but not anymore," he said. "We made sure to keep that rough low, but with that said, we need the proper equipment to do it."

Viola said the purchase would be a replacement item and update a pair of outdated models currently in use.

"One is basically for parts," he said.

The board voted unanimously to approve the purchase from Turf Equipment Supply Company for roughly \$66,000.

Director Colette Horn also updated the board on the formation of a work group to review and update association bylaws.

Horn said the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee raised the issue in its annual report that was submitted during the recent Executive Council meeting.

The committees' report, while noting the bylaws were last updated in 2008, recommended areas to analyze for possible revisions would include election processes and precisely defining what constitutes an "informal" board action.

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(Nov. 26, 2020) The Worcester County Arts Council is accepting exhibit proposals from local and regional artists, 18 years and older, for the 2021 exhibition season at the gallery located in the Berlin Library branch.

Exhibits run for the period of two months, beginning in February, with two artists featured during each exhibiting period. Artwork will be available for sale.

Exhibit promotions/advertisements and sales will be handled by the Arts Council.

This call is open to two-dimensional art formats. Entry proposals should include: artist's biography, contact infor-

mation, and five images (jpg files) that are representative of artist's body of work.

The images must include medium and size of the artwork. All written materials should be submitted in PDF format.

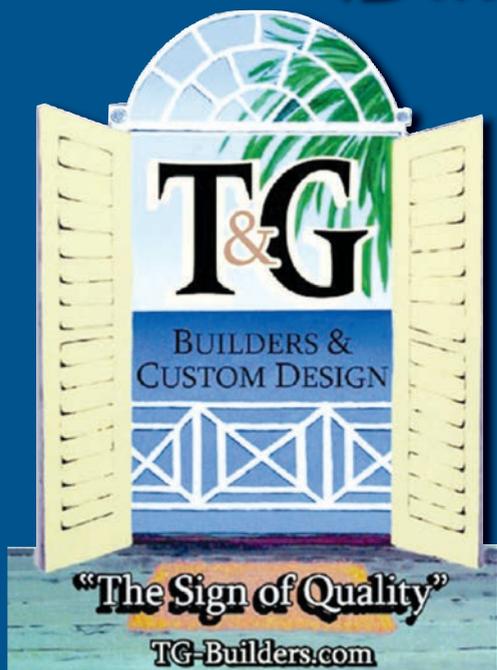
Proposals will be reviewed by the gallery review panel for acceptance.

Entry proposals should be sent by email to [anna@worcestercountycouncil.org](mailto:anna@worcestercountycouncil.org). Proposals must be submitted by Nov. 30, to be considered.

Selected artists will be notified in December. For more information, contact the Arts Council at 410-641-0809.

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# Viola reveals positive trends for budget, looks to next FY

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola shared revenue and expense totals through October, while also previewing the forthcoming fiscal year budget process during the Board of Directors' meeting on Wednesday.

Viola said the finalized September financials showed a positive net operating variance of more than \$148,000.

"The bottom line is it's approximately \$150,000 favorable for the month," he said.

The figure includes approximately \$116,000 favorability on net revenues with expenses \$32,000 below budget.

Viola said a large percentage of the positive financial picture during September was attributable to cost-cutting measures, while also noting favorability was seen across most departments and was on par with prior year numbers.

Looking at year-to-date numbers through September, net revenues were about \$222,000 favorable to budget, with expenses \$911,000 under projections for a net operating positive variance of \$1,133,000.

Viola noted the positive variance was largely because of the \$1.143 million the association received through

the Small Business Association's Pay-check Protection Program.

Viola also reviewed yet to be finalized budget numbers for October that continues the positive trend.

"It's after October where we usually have a drain on cash and ... our expenses," he said.

Net revenues for October were favorable about \$20,000, with expenses under budget by roughly \$110,000 for a positive net variance of \$130,000.

Viola said Golf Operations was ahead of budget by \$17,000 for October, while the Clubhouse Bar and Grille closed the month roughly \$15,000 over projections.

He also noted Recreation and Parks finished with \$31,000 favorability.

Viola said to continue reducing expenses, after inspecting the association's fleet of 13 vehicles, Director of Public Works Eddie Wells and Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante have recommended a significant reduction.

"We want to auction nine," he said. "We could probably get \$70,000-\$90,000 for the trucks and save \$3,000-\$5,000 each for maintenance."

Viola said the proposed sale would be presented during the budget

See OCEAN Page 11

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# Ocean Pines Board reviews financial data

Continued from Page 10 process.

“Most are fully depreciated,” he said.

Switching to annual assessment collections, Viola said the number of delinquent accounts, which totaled 601 homes for an overall sum of more than \$500,000 to end September, dropped to 549 outstanding to close October.

“The bottom line is it’s improving,” he said. “It’s pretty much in line with last year.”

Viola also updated recent requests for proposals for waste and accounting services.

Bid requests for waste services were sent on Sept. 21, with two received to this point and a due date of Nov. 9.

Viola said those negotiations are continuing and would require board approval.

Accounting services bid requests were mailed on Oct. 12 with a due date of Nov. 2.

Viola said three responses have been received and are being evaluated by staff with recommendations anticipated for the board meeting in December.

Bouncing over to the OPA Racquet

Center, Viola reviewed facility improvements currently underway.

Viola said concrete work was completed in a number of areas in disrepair.

“We were able to resurface as opposed to redoing and we did save a lot of money,” he said.

Viola said maintenance work on racquet center bathrooms is being performed by an OPA Public Works employee.

Recent lighting upgrades have been completed with more likely in the future.

“As a next step we’re looking at some lights for the other courts,” he said.

Lastly, Viola said repairs are now complete for fencing and wind screens by the platform tennis courts that were damaged by heavy winds this spring.

Work to address dilapidated fencing between the pickleball and tennis courts is in progress, Viola said.

“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done on those fences,” he said

Viola said to vet a trio of associated fencing repair bids, public works staff formed a work group.

“They came up with an estimate of what we could do in house just to certify the lowest bid we received,” he said.

Viola said the bids varied widely from a low of \$8,300 to almost \$50,000.

Viola said Violante is in the midst of meeting with the low bidder to confirm project details.

“We’ve run that by the racquet team,” he said.

Looking ahead, Viola also reviewed dates for the next fiscal year budget process.

“The team is fully engaged, on track and if anything ahead of last year,” he said.

Viola said the proposed budget would be delivered to the Budget and Finance Committee by Dec. 18, which has a multiday presentation scheduled for Jan. 6-8.

Following the department presentations, the board is scheduled to hold budget work sessions on Jan. 19-20, with the general manager slated to publish the recommended budget by Jan. 29.

The board will then hold a budget hearing on Feb. 6 prior to final approval on Feb. 20.

“Every department head will be involved in their budget, as well as their number twos, and will be a part of the presentation to Budget and Finance, and of course the board,” he said.

## OP starts bylaws review discussion

Continued from Page 8

Horn noted OPA legal counsel has made a comparable suggestion over the last few years.

Horn proposed forming a work group to accomplish the task that would include board members Camilla Rogers and Doug Parks.

Parks, who is currently the board liaison for Bylaws, said he relished the idea of working with Rogers and Committee Chairman Jim Trummel.

“I think we’ve got some momentum on that [and] certainly, I’m looking forward to serving,” he said.

Potential changes to Ocean Pines Association Bylaws would require the approval of members through a referendum.

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# Berlin Planning Commission meets with SHA

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission emphasized the need for sidewalks and bike paths in town when they met with Maryland State Highway Administration officials last Wednesday.

Commission members also discussed goals and matters of accessibility with Brett Deane, assistant district engineer for construction, Dallas Baker, assistant district engineer for project development, Jana Potvin, assistant district engineer for traffic, and Dan Wilson, regional engineer for access management.

As for upcoming projects, Baker said Flower Street will be widened to add a lane.

“Part of that work includes relocating some of the underground utilities: water, sewer and some storm drain,” he said. “That work has been broken out into a separate project.”

Baker added that the SHA hopes to have bids for that project in the next 60 days and have work begin in the spring.

Asking about sidewalks, Commission member Pete Cosby said the area of Old Ocean City Boulevard between Atlantic General Hospital and Stephen Decatur High School lacks walkability on the south side after being widened.

“That could be a beautiful boulevard instead of the industrial wasteland it is now,” he said. “Whatever thought you all could put into ... your plan, I know I’d appreciate it.”

Cosby also said Berlin does not want shared use paths for bicyclists. He added that he believes sidewalks are adequate for bicyclists who do not want to ride in the street.

The SHA officials, however, said they are not allowed to build a standard five-foot wide pedestrian sidewalk and say bicyclists can ride there. A shared use path 10 feet wide is required for both pedestrians and bicyclists to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Baker added that it would be helpful if the town developed a master transportation plan to coordinate with contractors.

“Officials change,” he said. “A letter today does not mean the same thing as it does two years from now as opposed to having something that you all passed. Having something from you all at some point to say what it is you want on your roads helps us better coordinate with contractors.”

However, in the interim, Baker said the town could state in writing its priorities to the SHA when each development project arises so there is agreement.

“It provides a unified front from



The Berlin Planning Commission met with district officials from the Maryland State Highway Administration last Wednesday to discuss accessibility goals in town.

the town and State Highway to the developers,” he added.

Wilson agreed, telling Dave Engelhart, the town’s planning director, that they can communicate about basics for every project as well as specific aspects to particular projects when they are developed.

“We’re not opposed to going off-script if there’s something the town needs to see,” he said.

In addition, Potvin said a traffic signal is unlikely for the intersection of Route 818 and Route 50 because of the proximity to the Route 113 ramp

and railroad tracks despite increased development in the area.

“We don’t want to stop traffic and have them back up onto 113,” she said.

However, a traffic signal will be installed on Route 818, at the intersection of Route 113 and Germantown Road, where the public has wanted one for some time.

“I don’t think [people] understand what your group has to do to verify that it’s needed and justify the expense, and the length of time that takes,” Engelhart said.

See BIKE Page 13



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# Resilience element public hearing delayed

Berlin boards, commissions meetings postponed until they can resume virtually

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Mayor Zackery Tyndall's Civil Emergency Declaration will postpone the Berlin Planning Commission's public hearing on the "resilience element" of the town's comprehensive plan.

The declaration, which went into effect on Monday, resulted in the closure of government buildings to the public, including Town Hall, the Planning and Zoning Office and the Berlin Welcome Center.

All town employees are working on alternating schedules.

"We're going back on a split schedule, and they are going to, for now, pause public meetings," Planning Director Dave Engelhart said at the planning commission meeting last Wednesday.

He added that he and Permit Coordinator Carolyn Duffy will not be present in the office on the same day.

All upcoming board and commission meetings are canceled until preparations can be made to meet over Zoom or another virtual conference platform.

"I don't know if we are going to be looking at a December meeting or not, but I'll keep you posted," Engel-



Dave Engelhart

hart told the commission.

The four commission members present – Denny, Pete Cosby, Austin Purnell, and Matthew Stoehr – agreed they were finished discussing the "resilience element," or how the community can respond, adapt to and overcome disasters and changing environmental circumstances.

"Are we at the stage where we can schedule a public hearing?" asked Chair Chris Denny.

Cosby suggested waiting until more members were present to make a motion to proceed to the public hearing.

Vice-Chairman Newt Chandler, members Ron Cascio and Phyllis Purnell and alternate David "DJ" Lockwood were absent for the meeting.

"And the comprehensive plan, we're required to review it," Engelhart said. "We've been reviewing it. We can continue to review it. If we want to do these, like add a master plan, we can do that any year, any time with an amendment to the comprehensive plan, which is a public hearing."

Engelhart added that the planning

commission would recommend the amendment to the comprehensive plan to the Berlin Mayor and Council, then another public hearing would be held.

Stoehr asked if adopting the entire resilience element would increase the likelihood of receiving grants.

"I think having it will never hurt with a grant application," Engelhart said. "But it wasn't a requirement to have that to qualify for grants."

In response to Stoehr, Engelhart added that grant applications are always a competitive process and having the resilience element could be an advantage in the contest for funding.

"That changes my mind slightly on this because it becomes a potential financial gain for the town," Stoehr said.

The commission members then reviewed a letter of support of the resilience element addressed to them, the mayor and Engelhart from Steve Farr, watershed coordinator at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Engelhart said Farr was instrumental in Maryland Coastal Bays Program providing half the funding for the submerged gravel wetlands on Graham Avenue and Old Ocean City Boulevard that was completed last year.

"He's well aware of what we do," he added. "He assisted us in getting that grant, and he just happens to live right here in Berlin."

# Bike paths, sidewalks sought in future Berlin road projects

Continued from Page 12

Potvin said the design for the signal has been approved.

"Funding has not been issued, but it has been approved," she said.

The planning commission also brought up the topic of Route 589.

"Route 589 is quickly becoming a higher priority within the county and it's something that at State Highway we're looking at," Deane said. "We're not foolish enough to think that we're going to get funding to dualize 589 from point to point."

Instead, the SHA is working on segments of the road.

"I don't believe we're going to get the mega project quite simply with the bridge that we have there and all of the utilities," Deane said. "Not to mention obviously the fact that 589 does not have access controls currently and there's about a billion access points on there. I don't see a widening project from point to point. You're going to see these isolated things."

Deane said the SHA recently met with Worcester County Commissioners about prioritizing inter-parcel connectors along Route 589. He added that it will be tricky to improve the road.

"Obviously Ocean Pines has heavy, heavy internal politics," he said. "We had plans and actually had funding for a project at the north gate intersection, met with the locals there and there was enough dissension that we decided to pull back, punt and look again."

Chris Denny, the chair of the planning commission, asked if the blinking light on Route 818 would remain as is. Potvin said it does not warrant a traffic signal and there is no crash history for that location.

SHA officials said roundabouts are very effective, with Deane adding that there has never been a fatality at a roundabout in Maryland.

"They don't eliminate crashes, but they eliminate the severity of crashes," he said.

When Engelhart and Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood thanked the SHA officials for their willingness to work with the town, Deane replied, "They might be our roads but it's your town. That's why we're here."

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# Educator releases children's book detailing Berlin history

By Ally Lanasa

Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) School teacher Maria Grosskettler will sign copies of her historical fiction book, "Tracks," Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Greyhound Independent Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery on South Main Street in Berlin.

"The cool thing about 'Tracks' is from an outside perspective you wouldn't really know the historical relevance of the things that I mention in the book, but if you're from Berlin and you know the history of Berlin, there's a lot of historical pieces that I tie in," Grosskettler said.

She self-published the book this summer.

"Tracks" follows Natalie and John Paul, 12-year-olds who live in Berlin, as they unravel mysteries after strange men arrive to town.

The main characters explore abandoned train stations, old museums, and the haunted Atlantic Hotel to possibly solve a half-century old missing person case.

The title has figurative and literal layers.

"It's twofold. It's the tracks of life that people go on and where your tracks lead and how we have these crossroads that arise, but then also in

the book, one of the key points is the trains and when they stopped running," Grosskettler said.

She added that her main character, Natalie, sees the tracks as a route out of town and away from her problems.

Grosskettler was inspired to write "Tracks" from her husband's recollections of Berlin. "He grew up there, and we have visited there many times," she said. "We love it."

Her husband lived on Jefferson Street as a child and had an unusual neighbor.

"It just made me think how little kids interpret different people in the world, especially when you're growing up and you don't really know the big picture of the world," Grosskettler said. "That story resonated with me, and I just started thinking about all these people in the world who have untold stories, that we only see them from the outside looking in."

Grosskettler hopes young readers realize that everyone has a story.

"Don't judge someone by the outside or from stories you heard of them or situations that they're going through in life even," she said. "We need to be open to understanding everybody."

Although "Tracks" takes place in 2020, Grosskettler captures Berlin



PHOTO COURTESY JARRETT GROSSKETTLE

Maria Grosskettler, a first-grade teacher from Annapolis, will sign copies of her debut novel "Tracks" at The Greyhound Independent Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery at 9 S. Main St. in Berlin on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

from her husband's memory when the town was struggling.

"The storyline is that this person who comes to town is going to help lead to that revitalization piece," Grosskettler said.

Originally, Grosskettler set the narrative in the 1990s, but a literary agent advised against it.

"That's not what kids want right now because it's not relevant to them," Grosskettler said. "They have cell phones. They have Instagram. They have this world of technology."

"Tracks" is targeted to children between third and fifth grade.

Grosskettler, a first-grade teacher at Cape St. Claire Elementary School

in Annapolis, said the reading level is for upper level 9-year-olds to 13-year-olds.

"My first-grade parents have bought the book and are loving reading it aloud to the kids, so even though the kids can't read it themselves, they can still get joy out of the story," she said.

Paperback copies are available at The Greyhound, Old Fox Books in Annapolis, Franklin's Toys in the Park Plaza Shopping Center in Severna Park and Barnes & Noble in Annapolis for \$12.99.

Grosskettler plans to write a sequel to "Tracks" and another book set in

See AUTHOR Page 15

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# Environment cmte. re-examines geese issue

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) The Ocean Pines Environmental and Natural Assets Committee on Wednesday discussed revamped efforts to address the impact geese and other waterfowl have on area ponds, including the new water testing program.

Committee Chairman Ken Wolf said the group was updated on Nov. 18 about recent bacterial levels tests performed at two smaller ponds in the north and the larger South Gate Pond.

"A test was done and we're awaiting the results," he said.

Wolf said additional water samples



Ken Wolf

would be taken this winter.

"It's going to be tested several times based on the geese population, native and resident, and when they're there in force," he said.

The committee is looking to ascertain any water quality impacts from geese and other flocks of birds that congregate around the Pines' ponds.

The testing is being conducted through a partnership with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, whose assistance was sought by Environmental

Committee board liaison Tom Janasek.

Testing includes quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Next Generation Sequencing to identify environmental DNA.

Wolf said despite lack of community support for earlier attempts to address the large goose population around the ponds, the committee is continuing the discussion in the hopes of discovering a permanent solution.

"We plan on really looking at this geese thing again from every opportunity and from every angle," he said.

The water tests should help committee members understand if wildlife is the water pollution problem many people assume it is.

"Maybe it's not too bad [and] we'll see by these tests," he said. "There is water access, so pollution in that pond, whatever's there, will work its way down to Manklin Creek."

The committee also talked about proposed signs that would warn the public of the dangers of feeding wildlife.

Wolf said committee member Sharon Santacroce is compiling an article on the topic for the "Green Street" page in an upcoming Ocean Pines quarterly newsletter.

"You're not doing them any favors," he said.

Wolf said the article would educate the community to multiple issues that make hand feeding feathered fowl detrimental.

"We wanted to put something in

along those lines to coordinate with these new geese signs," he said.

Wolf said although the suggestion was not favorably received three years ago, the committee also vetted the concept of employing natural growth to deter birds from the ponds.

"The number one way that you stop resident geese from prospering ... is if you grow grass and bushes," he said. "Then they can't have unfettered access to the land."

Left unchecked, Wolf said the concern is the flock would become larger, with a corresponding increase in fecal matter around the water bodies.

"It's going to be a nuisance and an impediment to walking in that park," he said. "On top of that, you've got the potential for disease in the water impacting so many things."

Committee members are working to avoid another instance of geese being euthanized to reduce numbers.

"You're going to have an ongoing problem where the day is going to come where the question of euthanizing the geese is going to be there because there will be so many of them," he said.

Wolf said the committee is striving to make the board aware problems are in store if the issue is not addressed.

"The day is coming for a real showdown and maybe this needs to go at some point to a referendum," he said. "We don't want to kill the geese, but we're duty bound to control them."

## Author signings Fri. afternoon

Continued from Page 14  
Lewes, Delaware.

"The book closes nicely, but there's definitely still stories that could be told," she said. "As I was writing it, I kind of already had the sequel playing out in my head and now that ['Tracks'] is out there, I'm already getting requests for a sequel and a prequel."

Grosskettler will also be writing lesson plans about 'Tracks' for other teachers to incorporate the book into their curriculums. The plans will be available soon on her website.

"As a teacher, I truly value literacy

education, and I constantly say that out of everything that we can give the kids, teaching them to read is the greatest gift that they will ever have," she said.

For more information, visit [www.mariagrosskettler.com](http://www.mariagrosskettler.com).

Ocean City resident Gemma Hoskins will also be at The Greyhound on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of her debut book, "Keeping On." Stephanie Fowler, author and owner of Salt Water Media, a self-publishing company in Berlin, will join the authors to sign copies of "Chasing Alice."

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore's 28th annual Santa's Open Charity Golf Tournament will take place at the Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club on Saturday, Dec. 5.

# Annual golf tournament scheduled for Dec. 5

(Nov. 26, 2020) Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore (BBSES) will host the 28th annual Santa's Open Charity Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The first Saturday in December, since 1992, golfers join together to bring joy to children of Maryland Eastern Shore through this yearly event. Year after year, golfers, sponsors and community members donate to make a positive, long-lasting change for children and families facing adversity.

Public at \$75 per person until Nov. 30 or \$85 the day of the event. Participants are also asked to donate one unwrapped gift that will be provided to children facing adversity age 8-17.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals, families, groups, foundations and businesses. Sponsorships promote to business professionals, business leaders and community members.

Sponsor marketing will be visible on event marketing and BBSES social media. This tournament benefits local families in need this holiday season.

Golfer registration is open to the

Team format is a four-person scramble. Registration includes breakfast, carts, golfer's gift, and the chance to win contests and prizes.

Register to golf or become a sponsor at <https://shorebiglittle.org/events/>. Call 410-543-2447 or email

golf4kids@shorebiglittle.org for more information.

BBSES is an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Services and programs are offered in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

For more information about BBSES, go to [www.shorebiglittle.org](http://www.shorebiglittle.org) or email [info@shorebiglittle.org](mailto:info@shorebiglittle.org) with any questions.

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"Madeleine Sasha worked with me to design and create a pendant out of Seaglass that I had collected from Puerto Rico. The Seaglass was sentimental and I wanted to make the pendant in 14 karat gold. It was a gift for my daughter. Madeline was amazing she made several suggestions regarding the design, working with me to incorporate my thoughts. Her ideas about placement of the Seaglass and shaping the final design made all the difference. And her craftsmanship was excellent I couldn't be more pleased!"  
-Debra Ocean City Md

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## WCPS will engage in virtual learning until Jan. 4, 2021

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Worcester County Public Schools will remain in distance learning until Jan. 4 as a result of the increasing covid-19 positivity rate in the county and state.

Worcester County's seven-day positivity rate was 5.26 percent as of Sunday, which is a decrease from 5.57 percent last Thursday. Meanwhile Maryland's seven-day positivity rate was at 6.88 percent, which is also a decrease from 7.49 percent reported last Thursday.

The confirmed covid cases in Worcester County since March has risen to 1,415 as of Monday.

Thirty-five coronavirus-related deaths have been reported in Worcester as of Monday, with 18 of them at the Berlin Nursing Home.

"As we have monitored the metrics around community transmission throughout this week, we are not seeing any indications of progress toward a significant decline or stabilization in these metrics," Superintendent Lou Taylor wrote to public school families last Thursday afternoon.

"We have also consulted with our See COVID Page 17

# Covid concerns lead to decision

Continued from Page 16  
 local health officials regarding current projections of spikes related to the upcoming holiday seasons. In light of this information, we have made the difficult decision to remain in Stage One – with all students engaged in distance learning – until January 4.”

Taylor said last Friday that the decision was one of the hardest he had to make as superintendent of schools. He worked with his executive level team, Carrie Sterrs, the coordinator of public relations and special programs and Lauren Williams, the coordinator of school health services, to make the decision to extend distance learning from the Dec. 1 date he announced a week earlier to Jan. 4.

“All of them have a responsibility in this whole process to get information. I then discuss it with our board of education,” Taylor said.

Taylor made the decision with the support of the board of education, his executive level team, and Sterrs and Williams.

“The transmissions had started to filtrate — at a very low — our schools both from a student and adult perspective,” Taylor said.

He added that none of the positive covid cases were related to in-school exposures.

“Once we go down the investigation of contact tracing, it usually involved anywhere from nine to 15 additional people,” Taylor said. “That’s not in all cases, but in some cases.”

The superintendent said Worcester County Public Schools must follow the CDC’s metric for contact tracing of contact within six feet for 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. However, the 15 minutes do not have to be consecutive.

“[A]s we continue to adjust our plans and enhance our safety protocols, we want to communicate that the lists of students invited back for each wave may change,” Taylor wrote. “This

means that if your child was originally in the first wave of students’ return on September 28, they may not necessarily be in the first wave returning on January 4. Our schools are hard at work identifying students for the upcoming waves, and like before, they will be contacting families individually to invite students back to the classroom.”

Each local public school will determine how and when to bring students back to in-person instruction in small groups.

“They have criteria that they’re looking at and it will be based on need,” Taylor said. “One of the examples of needs is the internet access.”

Taylor said internet hotspots have been distributed to teachers and students in rural areas for virtual instruction. Students in need of nutritional meals are also being identified during distance learning.

“We’ve got a team of people working on that process, so that we can continue to provide meals to some of our kids who may have some difficulties getting that,” Taylor said. “We’re being very creative in how we’re doing that.”

There are four feeding sites for the Worcester County Public Schools meal program: Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 107 S. Collins St. in Snow Hill, Snow Hill Elementary School, 515 Coulbourne Lane in Snow Hill, Pocomoke Middle School, 800 8th St. in Pocomoke City and Buckingham Elementary School, 100 Buckingham Road in Berlin.

Meal deliveries will also be available for students in need.

The superintendent notified parents last Thursday that there will be some changes in the transportation department for in-person instruction.

“[W]e want to let all of our families know well in advance that as your child is invited back to the classroom, bus transportation may not be available,”

See FAMILIES Page 19



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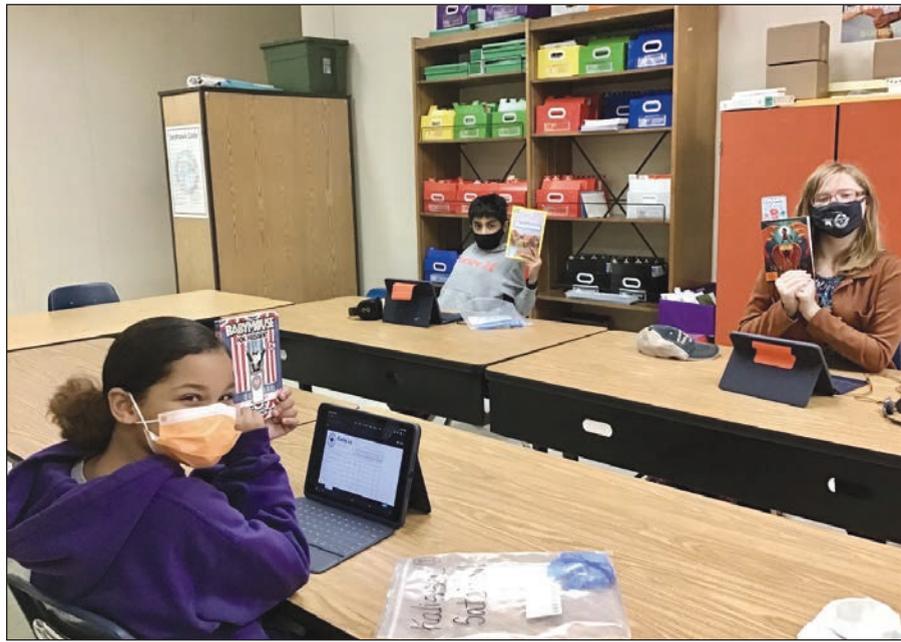
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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## DISCUSSION

Sixth grade students, Kalissa Satchell, Israel Hernandez-Carrillo and Taylor Jacobs, in Carolyn Mitrecic's class at Berlin Intermediate discuss the books they are currently reading.



## DECORATE

To continue their Halloween tradition and encourage a love for reading, Worcester Preparatory School teachers, Cheryl Marshall, left, and Angie Bunting, had their first graders decorate pumpkins as their favorite book characters. Pictured with the teachers are Grace Tunnell, Knox Luttrell and Jack Parks.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## POSTER

Mary D'Agostino's students at Berlin Intermediate worked together to create a collaborative poster in honor of Mahatma Gandhi and his lessons of peace. Ivy Granger played a big part in the completion of the poster, following the mantra, "I can work together with others to achieve a goal!"



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## CLEANUP

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City clean up trash at the Park & Ride in West Ocean City on Oct. 4. Tim Lund, president-elect, spearheaded the effort. Pictured, from left, are Shelley and Steve Cohen, Tom and Barbara Southwell, Patty Baglieri, Lund and friend, Ajay Malholtra.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PROCLAMATION

Worcester County Commissioner Ted Elder presents a proclamation recognizing Oct. 19-23 as Economic Development Week to former Economic Development Deputy Director Lachelle Scarlato during the Commissioners' meeting on Oct. 20 in Snow Hill.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## COMMENDATION

The Worcester County Commissioners present a commendation to Kelly Jenkins, a Commission on Aging employee participating in the Meals on Wheels program, for intervening to save the life of an area resident recently. While delivering meals, Jenkins heard calls for help and entered the home of a client who had fallen and been lying on the floor for two days, called 911, and then remained with the individual until emergency personnel arrived. Jenkins' actions highlight the importance of programs, like Meals on Wheels, to the health and welfare of the county's aging population, as such programs often allow them to age more safely in place.

# Berlin hosts shop night, holiday art sculptures stroll

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) Residents and visitors can stroll through downtown Berlin Friday to admire at least 23 three-foot carved ice sculptures by Erik Cantine during the "Ice Ice Berlin Art Sculptures Stroll & Holiday Shop Night."

"Previously ... it was called our Tree Lighting & Holiday Shop Night, and people would come down and everyone would gather," said Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director. "The mayor would give a speech and wish everyone well for the upcoming holiday season. We would sing, and we would do a countdown, and he would officially press the switch and the tree would be illuminated."

The town's ceremony, however, has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, although the Christmas tree on the corner of Jefferson and Main streets will be lit and decorated.

"In front of the hotel in the street, ice artist Erik Cantine would start carving this giant ice sculpture, and people would all stand around and watch him carve it," Wells recalled.

This year, sculptures that have been carved in advance will be shown in front of their business sponsors: Dolle's Candyland, Heart of Gold Kids, Life's Simple Pleasures, Fathom, Rayne's Reef, Baked Dessert Café, Mike Poole Construction, East & Main Shore Supply, Worcester Goes Purple, Health Freedom, HOUSE, Treasure Chest, Beach Gypsy, Una Bella Salute, Bruder Hill, Bruder Home, Atlantic Retreat, Bird of Paradise, Madison Avenue Boutique, Pop's Kitchen, Boxcar on Main and Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services.

"The ice sculptures will be spread out. They'll actually be located in the road," Wells said. "We'll have the road closed to traffic to allow for people to be able to keep themselves spaced apart and to be able to walk and enjoy the sculptures without standing in a big crowd."

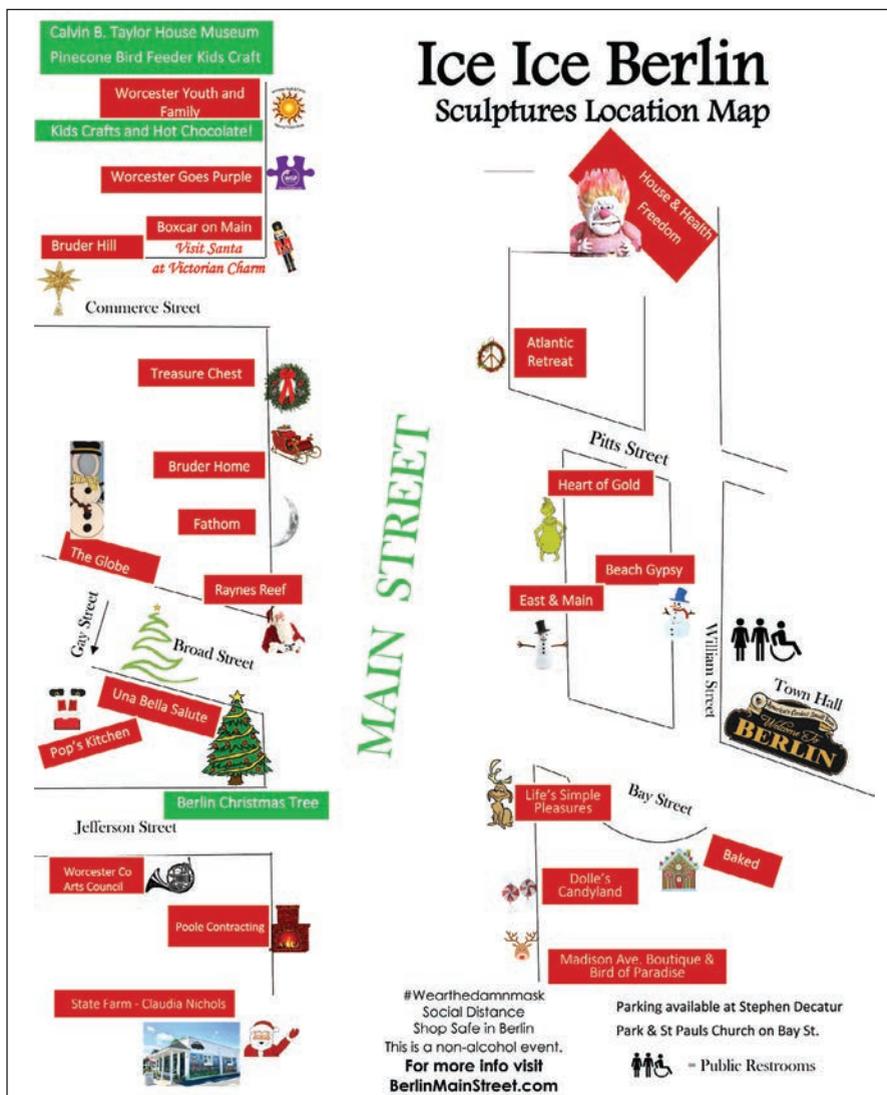
Shops will be open until 9 p.m. for the festivities.

Residents and visitors can partake of hot chocolate and holiday music with DJ Big Al Reno from Ocean98 Radio as they walk throughout town.

Children are invited to make pinecone bird feeders at 5 p.m. at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, 208 N. Main St.

"They're going to mark off sections on the lawn of the museum where families can come, and they stay in their area, and then the volunteers from the museum bring the supplies to make the bird feeder craft to them," Wells said. "Instead of kids standing

See ALTERNATIVE Page 21



Over 20 ice sculptures carved by Erik Cantine will be on display in front of local businesses in downtown Berlin for the Ice Ice Berlin Art Sculptures Stroll & Holiday Shop Night.

# Families urged to follow guidelines

Continued from Page 17  
Taylor wrote.

He asks families who are able to provide transportation to school to do so to provide seating on the socially distanced buses.

"I will tell you right now, no kid will be left home that can't get to school via some sort of transportation," Taylor said. "I will find a way myself. If I had to go pick a kid up, I would. We want to make sure that our kids that need to come to school and have to be in those buildings will be brought there."

The superintendent reminded Worcester County families, teachers and staff to follow the key safety practices to combat the coronavirus.

"So as we continue to make these difficult decisions, I ask you all once again to please help us. Please avoid gatherings during the upcoming holiday seasons. Please wear your face masks and keep physical distance between yourself and others, keep washing those hands and sanitizing, and as always, encourage those around you to do the same," Taylor concluded his message last Thursday. "You are truly the key to our being able to open for in-person learning, so again, please do your part, so we can begin welcoming our students back to school as soon as we safely can."

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<p style="font-size: 1.1em; font-style: italic;">Family-Owned, Private Cremation, Not Outsourced... The Difference is Peace of Mind</p>	

# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## How to be thankful

The one thing for which most of us are grateful in 2020 is that it's almost over. Soon, we will flip the page on the calendar, leave this most miserable of years behind and start anew. Or so we like to tell ourselves.

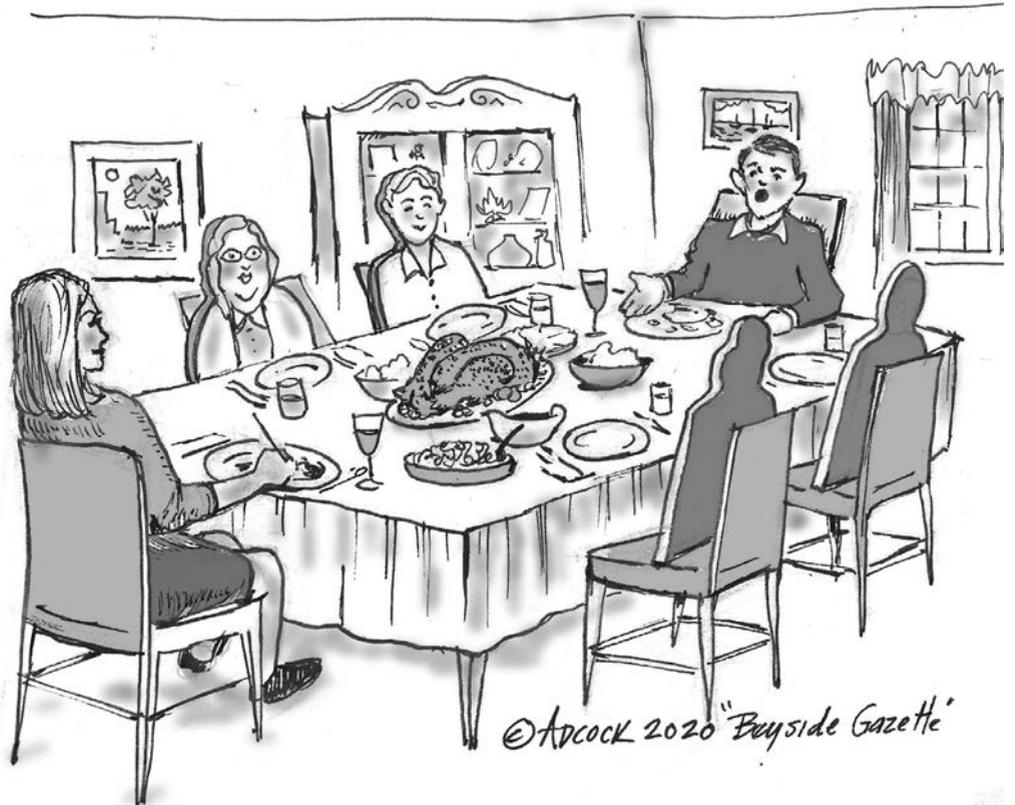
We all know there's no partition that separates one year from the next and that we will continue to face the hardships and uncertainties that arose during the preceding months.

How, then, do we count our blessings and restore the positive outlook that will help us overcome whatever lies ahead?

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor Corinne Webster, who grew up on the Eastern Shore before establishing a practice in Frederick, explained how in a message this week to her classmates of many years ago.

- Name friends/family who bring you joy and how they do that?
- Name events/things in your life that have been awe inspiring.
- Name one person who has betrayed you and how. Name their three good qualities. Decide to forgive them and let it go.
- Name kind acts you have witnessed. Which ones blessed you the most and why?
- Name what makes your temper flare. Decide to breathe, count to 10 and make a space before you react.
- For each decade of your life, name the best person, place, thing, animal and/or joy and tell why.
- Who do you miss the most? What do you miss about them?
- Who has been most influential in your life? How? Why?
- Who has been most memorable to you? Details!
- Name your most prized possessions and what makes them so (even if you do not have them anymore). Remember, we do not possess people.
- Name experiences you would like to re-live and why.
- Remember the kindness of a stranger or acquaintance. Tell the story, lift them in prayer and think of them with joy.
- Make a list of the happy moments this year. As many as you can! As fast as you can! Keep this close to your heart to review often and add more.
- On Thanksgiving Day, think of everyone, known or unknown, who has worked hard to keep this country moving and on its feet. Be grateful for everyone.

*Editor's note: And be thankful that you can move on.*



*"Were the family cardboard cutouts really necessary?"*

## Bid accepted for fuel tank removal

**By Ally Lanasa**  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 26, 2020) The underground fuel storage tank and dispenser will be removed and replaced at the Worcester County Board of Education office in Newark, following the board's award of a bid to Delmarva Petroleum Services last Tuesday.

"Due to the aging underground fuel tank, our insurance company as of February will no longer cover our insurance requirements as mandated by

state law for that tank," said Sam Slacum, maintenance and operations manager for the county school system. "In order to maintain compliance, we ran a bid process to procure proposals to remove and replace that system."

The schools system began advertising for bids on its website on Oct. 27.

Delmarva Petroleum Services, AIM Services, Petroleum Management Inc., Total Environmental Concepts and Tidewater, Inc. at-

tended the pre-bid meeting on Nov. 4 and all five contractors offered bids.

Bidding was conducted on Nov. 10 at 2 p.m.

Slacum and Superintendent Lou Taylor recommended the board members accept the \$83,988.29 bid from Delmarva Petroleum Services.

The removal and replacement of the underground fuel storage tank and dispenser will be financed by Worcester County government and school system.

## Wor. restaurants may receive grants

(Nov. 26, 2020) Restaurant owners impacted by the current health pandemic are urged to apply for grant funds through the Worcester County Restaurant Relief Grant Program.

Applications will be accepted online through 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 30.

"Worcester County's Restaurant Relief Grant Program provides individual restaurateurs with grant relief of up to \$10,000 to help restaurants with payroll and rent, outdoor dining expenses,

site upgrades, carryout tech support, sanitation and supplies," Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development Director Melanie Pursel said. "Applications will be accepted through Nov. 30 or until all grant funds have been expended."

Worcester County Economic Development, in cooperation with an independent review board, will award grant funds in increments of \$5,000 to restaurants with up to 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, \$7,500 to restaurants

with 11-25 FTE employees, and \$10,000 to restaurants with 26 or more FTE employees.

To learn more about this grant opportunity or to apply, visit [www.choosemaryland-scoast.org](http://www.choosemaryland-scoast.org).

Applicants should thoroughly review eligibility requirements and the Frequently Asked Questions prior to applying. Submitting an incomplete or inaccurate application may render an applicant ineligible for program funding. For additional information, contact WCED at 410-632-3112.

### BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# Alternative winter activities in downtown Berlin

Continued from Page 19  
around a table doing a craft, the volunteers will bring the supplies to each family.”

Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services will also offer crafts to go in front of its office, 124 N. Main St Suite C, from 5-8 p.m. or until supplies last.

“We will be handing out ornaments for kids to make at home for themselves or give as holiday gifts,” said Dr. Jennifer Leggour, executive director of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services. “We will also be serving hot chocolate.”

In place of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services’ annual Holiday Dinner, the agency will provide “Family Game Night” packages to participating families.

In addition, in partnership with Toys for Tots, Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services will also give away gifts for children who have participated in its Berlin Youth Club, SAGES/SABERS, CASA programs, their siblings and several of the clients the agency serves.

Furthermore, the agency will create “Parenting Survival Toolkits” after the holidays and offer one family a “Local Winter Getaway” to help fight the winter blues.

Wells added that Cantine’s ice

sculptures will be moved from the road to directly in front of each shop after the event on Friday. “They’ll be insulated, so they last for Small Shop Saturday as well,” she said. “But with 60-degree weather, if you really want to see them in their full glory, you want to come out on Friday night from 5-9 p.m.”

Participate in Shop Safe Berlin on Small Business Saturday when shops are open between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“We’re a Shop Small community partner,” Wells said. “We’ve been designated that, so they sent us free ‘Shop Small’ re-useable bags.”

With the Berlin Welcome Center being closed to the public, she added that 50 ‘Shop Small’ bags will be given away downtown, starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Each of the shops will have a supply of free hand warmers if shoppers are cold as part of a sponsorship from the Berlin Main Street Program, Wells said.

Heart of Gold Kids at 27 N. Main St. will offer 20 percent off clothing and 50 percent off sale items from Friday to Sunday.

Life’s Simple Pleasures, 1 S. Main St., will offer sales for Small Business Saturday, and if weather permitting, outdoor racks of apparel and gifts.

Dolle’s Candyland at 1 S. Main St.

Unit B. will offer 50 percent off all gifts in-store.

Baked Dessert Café, 4 Bay St., will offer special pricing on sweet and savory treats. Local artist vendors will be set up at the adjacent outdoor space during the weekend, owner Robin Tomaselli said.

Matthew Amey, co-owner of Wooden Octopus at 8 Jefferson St., said there will be a tent in the driveway featuring artwork for sale, weather permitting.

Although Fathom, 14 N. Main St., will not have any discounts on Saturday, there will be an apparel rack in front of the boutique for safer shopping.

Melissa Stover, owner of Victorian Charm at 100 N. Main St., said the boutique will likely not have any outdoor racks or tables because of the weather.

“We will however be limiting the amount of people in the store,” Stover said. “We are also offering private shopping times before and after regular store hours. You can call and schedule a time and shop with no other shoppers in the store.”

To schedule an appointment, call 410-641-2998.

Mayor Zackery Tyndall issued a Civil Emergency Declaration that went into effect Monday, closing the Berlin

Welcome Center, as well as Town Hall and the Planning and Zoning building, to the public.

The declaration also requires face coverings to be worn downtown Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. as well as Dec. 11 for 2nd Friday from 4-9 p.m.

“It’s going to be cold, and the mask keeps your face warm,” Wells said.

Berlin is also hosting a “Lights Up the Town Contest” and tour on Dec. 11.

Residents within the town limits can enter for free by Dec. 1 to compete in the house decorating contest. Awards include the Clark Griswold Award for brightest display, the Kevin McCallister Award for most creative home, the George Bailey Award for most traditional home and the Charles Dickens Award for most ‘spirited’ one of all.

Judges will select the winners. There will also be a special social media People’s Choice Award.

Signs will be placed in the winners’ yards and they will receive gifts from downtown businesses.

Homes must be decorated by Dec. 11. A map of the homes participating in the contest will be available the first week of December.

To register, visit [berlinmainstreet.com/entry](http://berlinmainstreet.com/entry).



## OPEN HOUSES NOV. 25 - DEC. 4



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate



# Cuisine

## Pasta with lemon-leek cream and chicken

I enjoy teaching. I gave cooking classes when I was a club and market chef, and they were enjoyable, albeit a tremendous amount of work. In the end, folks were able to eat some good food and perhaps learn a trick or two.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

I especially enjoyed when a guest would chime in with a better way to do

something that I was demonstrating — I always love to learn new things.

Nothing has changed now that I am a “real” teacher. Now in my 13th year as a professional (I use that term loosely) educator, I enjoy the lesson that packs in a great many teachable moments and in the end, an assessment that is a pleasure to eat.

Last week I walked students in the basic class through a standard breading station: the classic ‘dry-wet-dry’ setup with seasoned flour, egg wash, and a breading of some sort. I decided to jump in with a chicken cutlet, but this works great with veal, pork (schnitzel) and shrimp et al.

It is a simple but important technique to have. I will not be writing about the breading station today, however, because I don’t have enough space after writing such lofty and scintillating recipes for the fresh pasta and lemon-leek cream. I can’t do it all, people. I can’t do it all.

Important to note here is that you will be experience three very different techniques in this recipe; breading, fresh pasta, and a pan cream sauce. These are invaluable skills for the experienced cook and I certainly don’t want to say that you do not know how to do these things. I am simply stating that they are good skills to learn if you do not already have them.

The lemon-leek cream is slightly reminiscent of a Thomas Keller beurre blanc. He cheats when he adds the heavy cream to his famous sauce, but I don’t care. And if TK can do it, then it’s good enough for me. No purist pride here.

One note that I did put in the recipe is that the cream sauce, because of the leeks, shallots, cream and butter, takes on a sweeter overtone. This can be simply contrasted by adding some capers, those beautiful, salty little bastards that work wonderfully with lemon.

And lastly, the fresh pasta. Oh, fresh pasta. If you’ve been reading this col-



umn for the past 15 years, what can I say? This isn’t the first time that I’ve bored you to tears with it. Too bad. Truly one of my favorite foods, fresh pasta is also one of my favorite things to teach. The touch, the smell and the taste. To me, probably one of the most wonderful things to learn how to cook. And with a little practice, you will understand why.

### Chicken Cutlet, Fresh Pappardelle, Lemon-Leek Cream

*Serves 4*

1 # fresh pasta (recipe follows)  
4 cooked chicken breasts, tenderized, breaded.

1 qt. Lemon-Leek cream (recipe follows)  
Broadleaf parsley, as garnish

1. Cook the pasta in salted water for 2-3 minutes
2. Remove and immediately place it in the lemon-leek cream
3. Stir and divide into four bowls
4. Top with breaded chicken cutlet and garnish with broadleaf parsley

### Fresh Pasta

*Makes one pound*

2 1/2 c. Hi-gluten flour or semolina (preferred)

1 tsp. Salt  
3 egg yolks  
1 whole egg  
heavy cream, as needed

1. I was taught a few years ago by a Sicilian chef to use a paddle in a stand mixer for pasta dough. Using the dough hook takes too long, and it is rather amazing how quickly this dough comes together with the aforementioned paddle.

2. Put the flour, salt, egg yolks and egg in the mixer with the paddle and let her rip.

3. One caveat: You can always add dry ingredients to a wet dough, but it is nigh impossible to add liquid to a bone-dry dough. So, as you mix this, add cream as needed to ensure that it isn’t too dry.

4. When the dough comes together in a tight but pliable ball, wrap in plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for one hour.

5. When ready, simply roll it out and cut into the shape that you desire. In this case, pappardelle works wonders with the rich, creamy lemon sauce.

### Lemon-Leek Cream

*Makes about 1 quart*

1/2 c. Whole salted butter  
4 leek whites, julienne and cleaned

2 shallots, finely minced  
3 fresh garlic cloves, minced  
2 c. Dry white wine  
Juice and rind of 3 lemons  
3 c. Heavy cream  
Salt & Pepper to taste

1. Heat the whole butter in a pan.
2. When some of the foam has subsided, add the leeks and shallots and cook for 6 minutes.
3. When they are nice and translucent, add the garlic and cook for another three minutes, making sure not to burn anything.
4. Add the wine and reduce by half.
5. Add the lemon juice and rind and cook for a couple minutes.
6. Add the cream and, stirring regularly, cook until it reduces and thickens. This can take a while, so be patient.
7. Taste and adjust the seasoning with the salt and pepper. If you feel that it needs more lemon, then add some more lemon. And a few capers could be added for that salty “pop” to counteract this naturally sweet sauce.
8. Keep warm until ready to toss the pasta.

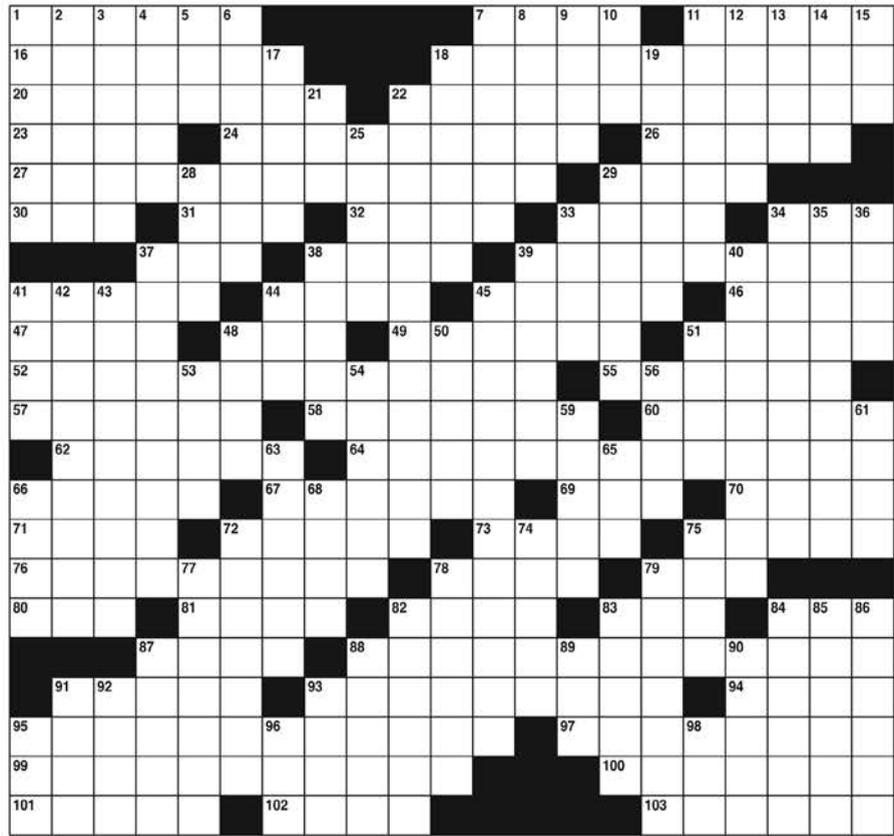
—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at [www.boxcar40.com](http://www.boxcar40.com).

# Puzzles

**THEME SHMEME**  
BY CAITLIN REID / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Caitlin Reid, of Santa Ana, Calif., is the mother of two boys and two girls, ages 4 to 11. Like Margaret Farrar, the first crossword editor of The Times — who was also a busy mother — Caitlin does most of her puzzle work after the rest of the family has gone to bed. That's when things quiet down. Caitlin is a classically trained pianist who plays at her local church. Her favorite crosswords to make are themeless ones, like today's, that feature long, fresh, lively vocabulary and lots of humor and playfulness in the clues. This is Caitlin's ninth crossword for the paper, including a collaboration last Sunday. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Round number?
  - 7 Pick a card, any card
  - 11 Hoops
  - 16 Piano keys
  - 18 Quick study
  - 20 Quick studies
  - 22 Line delivered in costume
  - 23 Source of a trendy health juice
  - 24 Alternative to tarot cards
  - 26 Opportunity to hit
  - 27 Hearing aid?
  - 29 Hole-making tools
  - 30 Hill worker
  - 31 Split
  - 32 Small bird with complex songs
  - 33 He was told to "take a sad song and make it better"
  - 34 "SmackDown" org.
  - 37 Upper limit
  - 38 Olympic figure skater Johnny
  - 39 Make more pleasant
  - 41 First attempt
  - 44 Attire
  - 45 In key
  - 46 "The \_\_\_ Locker," 2009 Best Picture winner
- DOWN**
- 1 Brand of breath spray
  - 2 Arthurian isle
  - 3 Decay, as wood
  - 4 "\_\_\_ words were never spoken"
  - 5 Voice, as grievances
  - 6 Potter of children's literature
  - 7 Ambitious
  - 8 Proverbial tortoise or hare, e.g.
- ACROSS**
- 47 Declare
  - 48 "Surely you don't think it could be me?!"
  - 49 Bank, at times
  - 51 Hayek of Hollywood
  - 52 Some movie extras
  - 55 Acts like money grows on trees
  - 57 Tool for a difficult crossword, say
  - 58 Added water to, as a sauce
  - 60 Family secret, perhaps
  - 62 In lock step (with)
  - 64 Seasonal song with lyrics in Latin
  - 66 Sacrament of holy matrimony and others
  - 67 Throughway, e.g.
  - 69 Fashion expert Gunn
  - 70 It's sedimentary, my dear
  - 71 Seemingly forever
  - 72 Filmmaker Gerwig
  - 73 Info on an invitation
  - 75 Command, as influence
  - 76 "Don't worry about it"
  - 78 Brown or blacken
  - 79 Hole in the ground
  - 80 \_\_\_ card
  - 81 Shaded
  - 82 Went over the limit, say
- DOWN**
- 83 Where to find the radius
  - 84 \_\_\_ Lipa, Grammy-winning pop artist
  - 87 "Big Little Lies" co-star of Witherspoon and Kidman
  - 88 Barely afloat?
  - 91 Buzz in the morning
  - 93 Place you may go just for kicks?
  - 94 Mail lady on "Pee-wee's Playhouse"
  - 95 Occasion to stay up late
  - 97 Some surfing destinations
  - 99 You are here
  - 100 Pounds
  - 101 He made a pact with the Devil
  - 102 Makes blue, say
  - 103 One of three for "Mississippi"
- ACROSS**
- 9 Poses
  - 10 Branch of the U.N. in 2020 news
  - 11 Soda factory worker
  - 12 1989 Tom Hanks black comedy, with "The"
  - 13 Math measurement
  - 14 Aspiring D.A.'s exam
  - 15 Tennis do-over
  - 17 Result of eating the poisoned apple in "Snow White"
  - 18 Quickly go from success to failure
  - 19 Mudbug, by another name
  - 21 Easy target
  - 22 Many a dare, in hindsight
  - 25 Bring down
  - 28 Part of a high chair
  - 29 Boring things
  - 33 Hera's Roman counterpart
  - 34 "Don't you trust me?!"
  - 35 Heat of the moment?
  - 36 First name in jazz
  - 37 Quagmire
  - 38 Mom jeans have a high one
  - 39 Picturesque time for a walk
  - 40 Goes out on a limb
  - 41 Tapered hairstyle
  - 42 Act of omission ... or of a commission
  - 43 Four for a 4x400, say
- DOWN**
- 44 Pluto, e.g.
  - 45 Pint-size and then some
  - 48 \_\_\_ mortal
  - 50 Central
  - 51 Bird-feeder bit
  - 53 They're on the case, in slang
  - 54 Garrulous
  - 56 Like a pearl-clutcher
  - 59 Discourage
  - 61 Abbr. on a cornerstone
  - 63 What skies do before a storm
  - 65 Worrisome beach sighting
  - 66 Pro \_\_\_
  - 68 Email status
  - 72 Food connoisseur
  - 74 \_\_\_ a clue (was lost)
  - 75 Scaredy-cat
  - 77 Frozen dessert
  - 78 Golfer Jordan who won the 2015 U.S. Open
  - 79 Republican politico Reince
  - 82 Hybrid bottoms
  - 83 Spot seller, in brief
  - 84 Keto adherent, e.g.
  - 85 Prepare to deplane
  - 86 Andre who won the 1994 and 1999 U.S. Opens
  - 87 Curses
  - 88 Piece of the pie
  - 89 "That smarts!"
  - 90 De-e-eluxe
  - 91 \_\_\_ breve (cut time)
  - 92 Beach ball?
  - 93 Do a veterinarian's job on
  - 95 Beach lotion abbr.
  - 96 Rare color?
  - 98 Texter's "I can't believe this"
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- ACROSS**
- 44 Pluto, e.g.
  - 45 Pint-size and then some
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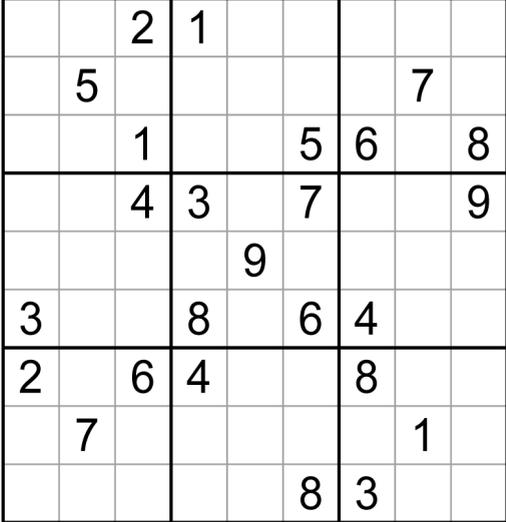
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- '11 JEEP LIBERTY • '09 SUBARU OUTBACK

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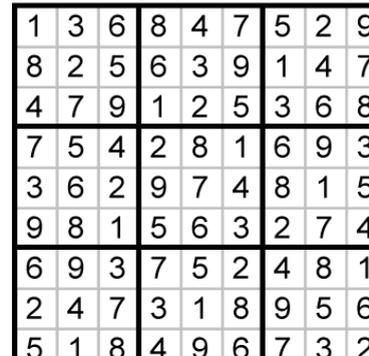
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**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**HARD - 19**

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



**Answers to last week's puzzles**



# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Nov. 26

### 41ST ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Come and receive a Thanksgiving dinner at no cost. This year will be carryout only. RSVP: 410-289-4054 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Dinners will also be available for delivery to shut-ins.

## Fri., Nov. 27

### ICE ICE BERLIN ART SCULPTURES STROLL & HOLIDAY SHOP NIGHT

Holiday carved ice art sculptures by Erik Cantine will be lit up and placed all over downtown Berlin. Come see the Christmas Tree lit up, sip hot chocolate and listen to holiday music. Shops will be open until 9 p.m. <http://berlinmd.gov>

### BINGO WITH THE KNIGHTS

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway. Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Cash payouts for each game as well as the Big Jackpot coverall. 410-524-7994

## Sat., Nov. 28

### 10TH ANNUAL HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

A virtual tree lighting will be broadcast live on the Ocean Pines Association Facebook page starting at 6:30 p.m. Visit [www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation) in real time or view the tree lighting on demand after the affair is posted to the Association webpage and YouTube channel that night. The event will also feature a tour of the more than three dozen fir trees sponsored by community members and area businesses or civic groups as well as Santa Claus. The trees will be on display through the end of December.

### FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

## Sun., Nov. 29

### ARTISTS SUNDAY

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. Everyone will receive 10 percent off all purchases at the Arts Center during this celebration. Artwork and gifts available include jewelry, fiber art, glass art, pottery, original paintings, photographs and books by local authors. Many gift shop items are available to view online

at [ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org](http://ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org), but the 10 percent discount is only available by visiting in-person or calling 410-524-9433. The Art League of Ocean City is offering one-year memberships for \$5 and two-year memberships for \$10.

## Mon., Nov. 30

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

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

### POCOMOKE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Held 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM, the route will be along Market Street from the Pocomoke Firehouse to the river bridge. The parade will include the Pocomoke Police Department, Mayor and Council, Miss, Jr. Miss and Little Miss Pocomoke, Pocomoke Fire Company, All About Dance, Jr. Women's Club and Santa and Mrs. Clause. Everyone is asked to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be observed.

## Tues., Dec. 1

### FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Meeting via video call, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Join the Faith Partnership: A cooperative effort for local Worship Centers and Atlantic General Hospital & Health System to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. Gail Mansell, [gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org), 410-641-9725

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

Youth ages 12-14 Zoom in to talk about their favorite books and suggest titles for next month's book club, 11:00 AM. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org).

### TOYS 4 TOTS BINGO

Greene Turtle West, 9616 Stephen Decatur Highway, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Live Bingo to benefit Worcester County GOLD. There will be lots of great prizes as well as food and drink specials. Everyone that brings an unwrapped toy or piece of kids winter clothing will receive 5 free cards. Masks are required when entering the building and walking about.

### DOCUMENTARY: THE 1000 JOURNALS

Meeting via Zoom Webinar, 6:00 PM. The 1000 Journals shares the experience of their worldwide journeys and chronicles the self-governed collaboration of thousands of random people who have added to their global message in a bottle. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under events.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### LIVE MUSIC

Colossal Fossil Sauce entertains a crowd at Sisters on Nov. 13. Pictured, from left, are Brad Smith on guitar, Wilson Sawyer on bass and Ryan MacCubbin on the congas.

## Wed., Dec. 2

### ENTERTAINING ON A BUDGET

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Entertaining at its finest does not mean spending a lot of money. Find ways to celebrate all the upcoming holidays and a new year. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under events.

### AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via conference call, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Dial 978-990-5451, wait for voice command, then press 3753651. Open to the public and meets the first Wednesday of each month. Discussion and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

## ONGOING EVENTS

### 49TH ANNUAL WPS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

All are invited to buy or bid in the virtual bazaar, [www.worcesterprep.org/bazaar](http://www.worcesterprep.org/bazaar), through Dec. 4. The virtual showcase will include the Peloton Bike+ Raffle, ticket and silent auctions, wreaths and greenery sale, WPS spirit store and an online Vendor Marketplace.

### WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

This walking event will take you through thousands of sparkling holiday lights and many animated light displays located along the half-mile paved path in Northside Park, through Jan. 2. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa and visit the gift shop located in the Northside Park Community Room. Cost is \$5 for adults and free to those 11 and younger. Masks are required inside and outside. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326, [www.ococean.com/events](http://www.ococean.com/events)



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### PARK VISIT

Four-year-old Patrick Scharle from Ocean Pines, plays on a duck-shaped spring rider at Stephen Decatur Park Saturday morning.

### LETTERS TO SANTA

Shore United Bank encourages children to drop off their letters to Santa in the mailbox located inside the lobby of the bank's Ocean City location, 12905 Ocean Gateway, during business hours. Letters will be accepted through Dec. 18. Santa's helpers will take care of the rest. Info: 443-856-2180.

### LANTERN FUNDRAISER

Jim Spicknall, chair for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's "Priority One" program, is making and selling lanterns at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on Saturdays during November and December from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds benefit Worcester G.O.L.D. Lanterns can be ordered by calling Spicknall at 301-580-0377.

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



# MARKETPLACE CLASSIFIED

Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) and [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com).

## HELP WANTED

**TOW TRUCK DRIVERS**  
 Now Hiring for full and part time, experienced tow truck operators for the Ocean Pines/Ocean City area. Excellent Pay Plan!!!  
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**Is currently hiring for the following full-time jobs:**  
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<https://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/hr/jobs>  
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**CLASSIFIEDS CALL 410-723-6397**

## COMMERCIAL

**Ocean City, MD**  
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