



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WISH LIST UNMASKED

Kirby Cosby, 4, and her brother, Asa, 2, of Berlin both wearing masks, tell masked Santa what they want for Christmas at the entrance of Victorian Charm during the Ice Ice Berlin Art Sculptures Stroll & Holiday Shop Night last Friday.

Kiwanis toy, coat drives soar

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) Despite concerns about operating simultaneous charity campaigns, Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City set new collection records for both its toy and coat drives last month.

Marketing Chairman Dave Landis said the club's annual toy and coat drives were combined and adapted for covid-19 considerations, with members accepting donations on Wednesdays in the Ocean Pines community center parking lot.

See KIWANIS Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE LANDIS

Kiwanis Club Coat Drive Co-Chair Sue Wineke, left, and Jennifer Trager from Diakonia, lay out a mound of coats dropped off for clients of the nonprofit.

Berlin offers month of holiday activities

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) As the most wonderful time of the year approaches, the town of Berlin, businesses and organizations have planned holiday activities for families.

This Thursday is Men's Holiday Shop Night in downtown Berlin from 5-8 p.m.

Merchants will help men find the gifts they need this year, then wrap them up, while the men enjoy light refreshments.

For more holiday fun, Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., is hosting a family outdoor movie night on the front lawn and a modified version of the annual tree decorating and lighting on Friday at 5 p.m. The church will feature the animated Christmas movie "The Star."

"I would recom-

mend people bundle up and we will have a few small campfires going for families to sit around," said Lindsay Ashton, youth group coordinator and events and activities director for the church. "We will be providing hot dogs, chips and beverages free of charge while they last."

Clean and See DECEMBER Page 2



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Berlin residents and visitors are invited to participate in Buckingham Presbyterian Church's Berlin Sheep Trail, hunting hidden sheep in the downtown businesses to win prizes, until Dec. 24.

Berlin mayor, council agree to deed award

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council agreed to deed a 11,000-square-foot property on Maple Avenue to the Willows at Berlin after a recent title search showed that the town owned the property.

Town officials agreed at the Oct. 26 meeting to work with the developer, Ingerman Inc., to allow the project to proceed without having to re-

design the proposed apartment complex.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood recommended deeding the property to Ingerman Inc. for the Willows at Berlin with conditions.

- "To pave Maple from the entrance of the development all the way to Flower Street.

- "To run sidewalks on Maple Avenue from the development to Elizabeth [Street] that way we have a

See DEED Page 3

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December in Berlin has full activity schedule

Continued from Page 1

gently used shoes for the Got Shoes program will be accepted Friday evening.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church is also leading a sheep trail in downtown Berlin shops.

Participants can find trail cards in the vestibule at the Berlin Welcome Center at 14 S. Main St. and at the following shops where the sheep are hidden: Victorian Charm, Fathom, Life's Simple Pleasures, On What Grounds?, Sisters, World of Toys, Island Creamery, East and Main Shore Supply and Apparel, Patty Jeans, Heart of Gold Kids, Treasure Chest, Church Mouse, Stuart's Antiques, Bruder Hill and Bruder Home.

There is also a missing sheep at Buckingham Presbyterian Church in the decorated window.

Participants should write down the name of the sheep next to the store name on the trail card while hunting the sheep along Main Street.

Completed trail cards can be returned to the Berlin Welcome Center or Buckingham Presbyterian mailbox located next to the blessing box.

Completed trail cards that are returned by each Friday at 3 p.m. will be entered into a prize drawing. All completed trail cards are due by Dec. 24. A grand prize will be drawn on Christmas morning.

Rancho Fiesta Farm, 11323 Worcester Highway, will welcome shoppers to its outdoor holiday arts market on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., weather permitting.

"We're featuring local artists and artisans," said Emily Collins, who owns and operates the 23-acre farm with her husband, Cody Randel. "Everything is handmade."

Products for sale will include original artwork, bath products, wood carvings, mead, hand-poured candles, iron

skillet coffee, custom products for dogs, ornaments, stationary, wine crates, cutting boards, pottery and jewelry.

Twelve to 15 vendors are expected at the market, and will include The Buzz Meadery, Iron Skillet Coffee, AnnaRoma Soaps, Stepping Stone Soaps, Chapsmaketory, Denny's Dingys, Don Fiedler, Honey Water Candles, Lisa Penn Art, Love Letters, Nicki Jacobs Pottery, Salty Soul Creatives, Tail Waggs Co. and Osborne Books.

Collins encourages shoppers to bring cash and credit or debit cards, depending on the vendor's preferred payment method.

"We know it's a really strange and difficult time for people right now, especially small businesses and local artists [and] artisans, so we wanted to have a safe outdoor space. We wanted to provide that for them, so they could sell their products," Collins said. "We wanted to come up with a creative and safe way to share our property with the community but also support local artists and businesses during this time and encourage people to shop small."

Josh Pryor will entertain shoppers with a guitar performance, while Allison Barton from the Children's Book Garden will host a children's storytime.

Santa Claus will also make an appearance, and there will be a holiday-themed activity for children for part of the event.

"We take the virus very seriously," Collins said. "We'll be monitoring attendance to make sure everything stays safe for everyone."

Masks and social distancing guidelines will be enforced. Collins added that signage will be throughout the property to remind shoppers of safety practices.

There will be a tentative reschedule date for the event if there is poor weather on Sunday.

Masks are also mandated during 2nd Friday when the downtown shops are open late and the first night of the Light Up Berlin: Holiday House Decorating Contest and Tour on Dec. 11 from 4-9 p.m.

The Light Up Berlin: Holiday House Decorating Contest and Tour is a self-directed event throughout the month. A map of participating houses will be available on Facebook and berlinmainstreet.com.

Judging for the contest will occur Dec. 16 and Dec. 17. The winners of the Clark Griswold Award for brightest display, the Kevin McCallister Award for most creative house, the George Bailey Award for most traditional house and the Charles Dickens Award for most 'spirited' house will be announced on Dec. 18. Other surprise awards will be given throughout the contest as well.

Winner signs will be placed in yards and households will receive prizes from local businesses.

Throughout the month of December, downtown Berlin shop windows will display work from local artists, including Patti Backer, Barbara Scheining, Mitzi Ash, Isabel Morris, Kate Cashman, Debbi Dean-Colley, Nick and Leanne Pear, Brian Robertson and Randy Jenkins.

Their creations can be seen at The Dusty Lamb, Heart of Gold Kids, Fathom, Viking Tree, Pop's Kitchen, Madison Avenue Boutique, Baked Dessert Café, Una Bella Salute, Bruder Home and Bruder Hill.

Residents and visitors can see more at local galleries, such as Wooden Octopus, The Greyhound Independent Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery, Worcester County Arts Council, Henry Fine Arts Gallery and Jeffrey Auxer Designs.

Furthermore, Berlin residents and visitors are invited to write a letter to



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Children are encouraged to write a letter to Santa in the vestibule of the Berlin Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., and receive a letter from him back with a coupon for a treat at a downtown business.

Santa, then drop it in the mailbox in the vestibule at the Berlin Welcome Center until Dec. 18. Children will receive a letter back from Santa and a coupon for a treat from a downtown business.

In addition, Buckingham Presbyterian Church will present a live Nativity pageant on Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. on the front lawn.

Free carriage rides are being offered on weekends in December at Pitts Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All riders must wear face coverings and only one family or group is permitted at a time.

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Deed awarded with conditions

Continued from Page 1

complete run of sidewalks on Maple.

• “To retain the easement, if you will, for the Stoll property, which is adjacent to the entrance,” Fleetwood said.

“None of those things will take place (i.e. deeding that over to Ingerman and Willows) until the work has been completed to town standard, and then in turn we ask that it be deeded.”

He added that the value of the Maple Avenue property is approximately \$11,000.

“In fairness, we’re looking at about \$33,000 worth of work for a \$10,000 piece of property,” Fleetwood said.

All three conditions must be met to deed the property, according to the public works agreement and mayor and council’s motion.

“That public works agreement will be exercised soon as they close on the property,” said Dave Engelhart, the town’s planning director. “This item was an item we needed to clear up before the Willows at Berlin closes. Right now, the project’s known as Wolfe Terrace.”

Engelhart added that Ingerman Inc. is renovating the existing apartments.

“They’re building 34 more apartment units, townhouse-style apart-



SITE PLAN COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN

The Berlin Mayor and Council agreed to deed a 11,000-square-foot property on Maple Avenue to the Willows at Berlin with the following conditions: Ingerman Inc. will pave Maple Avenue from the entrance of the development all the way to Flower Street, run sidewalks on Maple Avenue from the development to Elizabeth Street and retain the easement for the Stoll property, which is adjacent to the entrance of the proposed development.

ment buildings and one clubhouse, a community building on-site,” he said. “They need this cleared up before they go ahead and complete their sale.”

Although the council approved the transfer of the land “upon satisfactory completion of these items,” the developer contacted Fleetwood during the meeting to express concerns, as the land needed to be deeded before closing.

Councilman Troy Purnell said there would be a bond on improvements.

“That’s going to be your assurance even after you’ve deeded the property over to him,” he said.

The council voted to approve the agreement as proposed with the amendment that the land will be conveyed before the mandated satisfactory completion of the improvements.

Taylor outlines goals for next contract term

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The Worcester County Board of Education announced at its meeting on Nov. 17 that Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor is seeking a second term.

“In Maryland, when you’re in a contract year, you can begin expressing your intent, but everything becomes official by the board in February,” Taylor told Bayside Gazette.

He expressed his gratitude for the seven board of education members who unanimously offered him a second term.

“That doesn’t happen everywhere, and I was very humbled and flattered that the seven members of the board of education strongly very much agreed they wanted me back as superintendent,” Taylor said.

Taylor, 60, also thanked the county commissioners for their encouragement of his second term.

Over the next few months, Taylor and the board’s legal counsel will negotiate a new contract. The board of education will vote on his contract in February.

See TAYLOR Page 4

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Taylor, board negotiate renewal of contract

Continued from Page 3

Taylor's current salary is \$186,023.

On Nov. 17, Vice President Sara Thompson said the board hopes to announce at the Feb. 16 meeting that a contract has been signed.

"We have a lot of work that we had in play before this pandemic that I'd like to see us complete, and I'd like to be a part of that," Taylor said. "I want to continue the work that we set forth when I took over in 2016. I'm also seeking a second term because I work for the greatest community, I think, in the world."

"Worcester County is just a fantastic community from our board of education to our elected officials, our county commissioners, to most importantly, the greatest 6,800 students that I can be associated with and their families. I'm just honored to be able to carry the torch of our school system to educate our young people and to give them a chance to work toward becoming a successful and productive adult in our society."

Taylor has been with the Worcester County school system for 37 years.

His career began at Berlin Middle School (now Berlin Intermediate School) as a physical education teacher. He then became assistant principal.

In 1991, Taylor became an assistant

principal at Stephen Decatur High School. He went on to serve as the principal of the high school for 17 years.

In 1998, Taylor was named Maryland Principal of the Year.

Under his leadership, Stephen Decatur became the first Maryland Blue Ribbon School in the county.

Taylor also served as chief operating officer/assistant superintendent of operations for four years before becoming superintendent.

Taylor was named interim superintendent of the county school system in 2016, then officially began his first term as superintendent on July 1, 2017.

If his contract is approved for a second term, Taylor will continue to address achievement.

"We've done a tremendous job with being one of the top-performing school systems for several years now, and I've been able to maintain that level and increase in some of the areas," he said. "There's still some work to do with our achievement gaps that all of us need to focus on. We were making great strides when this pandemic hit."



Lou Taylor

Another goal Taylor has is to increase the mental health services provided to students and teachers.

"That will be paramount once we come out of this pandemic, readjusting to life as it should be and that we as a community expect," he added. "I have a feeling that there is going to be some work that will need to be done in that area."

In addition, Taylor says he will evaluate revamping the strategic plan, "Forward View 2022," as well as ensuring students are receiving the highest quality of instruction in relation to social and emotional needs.

"You can have all the goals you want, but if you cannot communicate and you cannot build relationships, you can't move forward," Taylor said. "One of the main goals personally that I had was that my communication with all stakeholders would be a priority. Then, it becomes building relationships with all those folks."

He added that he is comfortable with the relationships he has established during his first term — the Worcester County Board of Education, Worcester County Commissioners, Worcester County Teacher Association and Worcester County Education Support Personnel Association.

"It has to be a mutual trust as well," Taylor said. "You get those working to-

gether, then we go out as a team and we build that same sort of trust with our kids, with our employees and with our community business partners and families to make this whole model work."

Over the next four years, Taylor presumes his greatest challenge amid the novel coronavirus pandemic is bringing students back into the classroom as quickly and as safely as possible.

"Every time I have to make a decision, it is very challenging to me as superintendent," he said. "I hear from all sides. I try to look into the science of this, I try to look into the realization of this, I try to determine first and foremost what's best for our kids."

Although internet and computer technology has been a great asset with the spread of covid-19, Taylor acknowledges that distance learning is not comparable to face-to-face instruction.

After bringing students back to in-person learning, Taylor said Worcester County Public Schools will address the individual needs of students, educationally, socially and emotionally.

"We try to look at every individual as a special person that comes to our school," Taylor said. "We have a responsibility to educate the whole child."

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Carozza, Hartman talk 2021 session goals

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) Delegate Wayne Hartman (R-38C) and Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) detailed challenges and priorities for the 2021 Maryland Legislative session during a Zoom meeting hosted by the Ocean Pines Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

Carozza said since the Maryland Senate adjourned its last session on March 18, just as coronavirus began altering life in the U.S. and worldwide, her focus has been on constituent service.

Carozza said the pandemic-related financial challenges have reached the critical level for many small businesses on the Eastern Shore, especially those in the restaurant and tourism industries.

In preparation for the 90-day session that opens on Jan. 13, small business representatives from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, the Maryland Retailers Association and the Maryland Restaurant Association have identified financial priorities tied to covid recovery.

Carozza said the goal is to provide immediate assistance while addressing long-term challenges for job creators.

That would include civil immunity protection for small businesses related to covid-19, as well as the unemployment ratings for our business operators, she said.

"Making sure they're not penalized through no fault of their own for hav-

ing to use those funds."

In much the same vein, Hartman is hoping to push legislation to lower fees on small businesses during the 2021 session.



Wayne Hartman



Mary B. Carozza

"The liability exemption for businesses is going to be a huge priority," he said.

In answer to a question about federal funding for small business requiring covid relief, Carozza and Hartman expressed confidence.

"Knowing the way that Congress operates after having being part of it at the senior staff level for a few years ... although the process is a frustrating one, I will remain optimistic that we will see the additional covid-19 federal assistance," she said.

Hartman said in light of Gov. Larry Hogan tapping \$500 million from the state's rainy day fund for small business relief so far this year, the potential exists for related tax increases on industry to replenish the unemployment fund.

"The businesses have already had a challenging year and the last thing we need is that tax to increase," he said. "Part of that CARES Act funding has to be relief to the states to replenish the unemployment funds."

Carozza said the number of con-

stituents filing for unemployment benefits in her district, and elsewhere, have hit unprecedented levels during the pandemic.

Since March, Carozza's staff has assisted nearly 1,000 people to navigate the often challenging claims process.

"We still have people that are following up and still have not received their benefits," she said.

In early November, covid-19 health safety protocols for the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session were announced.

"The new 2021 session is unprecedented," Carozza said.

The Maryland Senate will operate under a three-stage plan contingent on coronavirus infections rates.

The Senate would follow "Stage 3" rules, the least restrictive, when infection activity in the State House is minimal or nonexistent.

Carozza said stage 3 rules include daily health checks for members and twice weekly covid testing.

"We would be limited to meetings with two people at a time [and] hearings will be virtual," she said.

Stage 3 allows for two hours per session of debate and voting on the Senate floor, with the option for elected officials to view proceedings from a committee room.

"On the Republican side, they have insisted that any voting in committee

or on the floor is done in person," she said. "That's often where, if there's issues going back and forth, that [we're] trying to resolve you have to be able to do that in person as opposed to Zoom."

The Senate would adopt slightly more restrictive Stage 2 rules if there are documented cases of covid-19 that require quarantine.

Under Stage 2 all floor debate and voting would be conducted in committee rooms and held virtually to permit increased social distancing.

State House access would be restricted to elected officials, staff members and media, with visitors not permitted.

The most restrictive level, Stage 1, would be enacted if multiple instances of covid-19 infections are noted in the State House, with all hearings held virtually and voting as deemed necessary.

Hartman said questions abound as to how the 2021 legislative session would transpire.

"The House will have us in multiple rooms as opposed to on the floor together and we will be united through technology," he said.

Hartman harbors fears the safety-conscious approach could limit traditional vetting of proposed legislation. "Unfortunately, a lot of times when we're trying to make bad things better, we utilize each other as far as debate on the floor," he said.

Survey participation requested

(Dec. 3, 2020) Worcester County Recreation & Parks staff is asking community residents and visitors to participate in a survey.

This survey will help them continue providing quality parks, and a variety of recreation programs and summer camps at county-owned parks and at the Worcester County Recreation Center, which is located off Route 113 in Snow Hill and in-

cludes a fitness room, free indoor track, exercise equipment and other amenities.

Digital versions of the survey can be found on the WCRP website and Facebook page, and paper copies are available at the front desk of the center.

Call 410-632-2144 with any questions or visit www.WorcesterRecAndParks.org.

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Kiwanis stages dual campaigns, gets record result

Continued from Page 1

"I can't believe people turned out the way they did and just opened up their hearts," he said. "It was fantastic."

Over the course of November, an abundance of unwrapped gifts was received by Kiwanis members that were incorporated into the larger campaign conducted by Worcester GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity).

"We collected four SUV loads of toys that I personally took down to Worcester GOLD," he said.

The Kiwanis annual winter coat drive, co-chaired by Susan Wineke and Kitty Wrench, was originally slated for October, but ended up with a record number of donations despite the delay.

"The same thing happened, and we had about 400 coats donated," he said.

Landis said the group's coat drive originated during 2014 in anticipation of Kiwanis 100th anniversary celebrations the following year and typically totals upwards of 100 lightly used and new outerwear for the young and old.

"It was quite a bit more than past years," he said. "We did them together, where in the past we did them separately so that we weren't trying to



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE LANDIS

Worcester GOLD Executive Director Nicholas Cranford displays last week an array of Christmas gifts donated through the annual Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Toy Drive.

compete with each other, but it didn't matter this year people just turned out."

The bulk of the cold weather gear was distributed to the Joseph House in Salisbury, with a smaller contingent earmarked for St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City.

With covid-19 concerns causing the cancellation of a multitude of traditional Kiwanis fundraising endeavors, members brewed up a number of fresh concepts to try and meet their objectives. That includes the club's

2021 pick-three lottery campaign launched in August.

The Kiwanis "Lottery Raffle" tickets are tied to Maryland's daily evening straight pick-3, with 1,000 tickets numbered from 000-999 available for \$20 each.

"The lottery that we're doing, which is our first time, we've sold approximately 840 tickets so far," he said.

Landis said the lottery tickets are being sold on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market in White Horse Park.

"We're just trying to sell all the tickets because that's the only fundraiser we really have for this year," he said. "It's not going to cover all the expenses that we usually have but it's a nice chunk."

Landis credited Kiwanian Tom Southwell for coordinating the group's table at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market.

"If he doesn't get anybody, he shows up or I show up," he said. "This last week both of us worked together."

Also on hand in recent weeks at the Kiwanis table was member Jim Spicknall, who has been selling handmade lanterns

"He has sold everything," he said. "He took orders last week and he's going to be there one more week."

With both toy and coat efforts now

put to bed, Kiwanis members will continue the Wednesday collection routine through December at the Ocean Pines community center with a weekly "Food Drive For Diakonia."

Landis said Kiwanis members would be present each Wednesday through Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. until noon to collect non-perishable food items.

"We're doing the food drive in December every Wednesday until Christmas," he said. "We did one back earlier this year for Diakonia."

Noting that attracting new members is the life blood for any volunteer group, Landis said Kiwanis International just unveiled a free yearly membership offer through the end of December.

"If people out there want to give us a try, it cost them absolutely nothing," he said. "We hope that the public would take a chance."

Community members curious to learn more and save on annual dues can contact Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Steve Cohen at (301) 667-3099 or by email at stevecohenjd@gmail.com

"I'm really proud to be a member of Kiwanis," he said.

"We just kept fighting through and we've been able to accomplish some pretty good stuff."



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Berlin receives 2020 Main St. accreditation

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) Berlin has been designated a 2020 Accredited Main Street America program for meeting standards of performance in 2019.

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said the town has received this recognition consecutively for the last five years.

"We strive to get this every year," Wells said. "We're experts at it now. It means a lot to us, though, to be recognized on the national level."

According to a post on the town of Berlin Facebook page, this accredited status is the "top tier of recognition and signifies a demonstrated commitment to comprehensive commercial district revitalization and proven track record of successfully applying

the Main Street Approach."

"It showcases how we are in compliance with not only the Main Street Maryland Program, but also the national standards as well," Wells said.



Ivy Wells

To be a state-recognized Main Street, Maryland communities must have a minimum population of 1,000 based on the most recent U.S. Census survey, a commitment to employ a program manager, a commitment to organize and maintain a volunteer board of directors/advisory committee and committees made up of public and private sector individuals, a commitment to provide a sustainable program budget and a defined, walkable

central business district with a significant number of historic commercial buildings.

In addition, Main Street Maryland communities are sustainable communities approved by the state.

"We have to submit a monthly report to the DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development) and their Main Street organization that lists things, such as new businesses that have opened, businesses that may have closed, creation of jobs, private investment dollars in their buildings," Wells said.

She added that promotional initiatives and vacancy rate for businesses are also included in the monthly report.

The Main Street Maryland Program focuses on the Main Street Approach's transformation strategies

organized around economic vitality, design, promotion and organization, as well as a fifth category called "Clean, Safe and Growth," which emphasizes sustainable practices in Main Street communities.

The Main Street America website states that the Main Street Approach provides a roadmap for tailored revitalization initiatives in downtown communities.

As a member of Main Street America, Berlin has access to online resources and a network of other Main Street communities.

"We learn from each other," Wells said.

Being a part of the national Main Street organization also provides a few grant opportunities for the town.

For more information, visit <https://www.mainstreet.org/home>.

Wor. tourism, economic development merge

Tom Perlozzo leads overall combined dept., new entity headed by Melanie Pursel

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) After merging three departments into one — recreation and parks, economic development and tourism — last year, Worcester County will now fold economic development and tourism into one package.

Melanie Pursel, director of tourism, will head the newest entity, while Tom Perlozzo will continue as director of the overall combined department.

Perlozzo said that this intradepartmental merger was triggered by the departures of Kathryn Gordon, former director of economic development, and Lachelle Scarloto, former deputy director of economic development.

Scarloto started her new position as the executive director of the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce



Melanie Pursel



Tom Perlozzo

this week. Gordon left her position with the county in September, Perlozzo said.

"Trying to be efficient, we decided to go ahead and have Melanie Pursel head those up and create some synergy between tourism and economic development, which is basically live, work and play, as part of the recreation and parks department as well," Perlozzo said.

He added that this also would save money for the county.

Perlozzo said he is confident in Pursel's ability to lead both departments, especially since she is a long-time Worcester resident.

"She has terrific experience on the tourism side," Perlozzo said. "We are still continuing our efforts to communicate and be a resource to our small

towns and businesses, so I feel like we're moving in the right direction."

Rather than hiring a new director and deputy director for economic development, Perlozzo said the county would hire a business and retention specialist.

"That job is out and posted, which

would basically be a combination between the director and a deputy director," Perlozzo said.

The county is now accepting applications. The position description and application can be found at co.worcester.md.us/departments/hr/jobs.

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Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa

Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The following took place during the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Nov. 23:

Proclamation

Mayor Zackery Tyndall read a proclamation, declaring November "Municipal Government Works Month."

"During 2020, the town of Berlin promoted municipal government awareness by being proactive in dealing with covid-19 pandemic, limiting exposure of employees in the workplace by modifying work schedules and allowing eligible employees to telework," Tyndall read.

The proclamation also honored the local government's collection of 143 tons of recycling.

Tyndall continued that Berlin has

entered a maintenance agreement with the Maryland-Delaware Railroad at the West Street ditch location.

The mayor informed citizens through the proclamation that the town has received two awards from American Municipal Power for safety and the new natural gas engine, replaced sidewalks on Pitts Street, Walnut Hill, Flower Street, Commerce Street and the entrance at Dr. William Henry Park as well as paved over three miles of town-owned streets this year.

In addition, the town helps educate citizens about municipal government through a monthly bulletin.

Donations sought

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, said she is accepting donations to buy gift cards for children of Worcester

G.O.L.D. Interested parties should contact Wells at iwells@berlinmd.gov or 410-629-1722.

Solar system grant

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the town submitted a grant application for a 23kW rooftop solar system on the electric utility facility on Schoolfield Street.

"Then in conversation with MEA (Maryland Energy Administration), their idea, which I really like, is they came and said can you do anything bigger at that location?" he said. "We're able to now go from a 23kW to a 48.95-49 kW system."

Fleetwood added that there would be no cost to the town.

"It is fully funded by MEA up to \$125,000," he said.

Fleetwood said the system has a projected shelf-life of 25 years and

the energy produced from the system would supply the electric utility facility at 113 Schoolfield Street, bringing a \$10,000 cost-savings annually.

He added that he looks forward to seeing the grant approved soon.

Bill payments

With the Berlin government buildings closed to the public for the foreseeable future because of coronavirus concerns, citizens can pay utility bills by mail, by bill drop-off box or online with a credit card.

"Hard Hat Safety Award"

Chief Linesman Alan Parkinson of the Berlin Electric Department received the American Municipal Power "Hard Hat Safety Award" on Nov. 23.

According to a post on the town of Berlin Facebook page, the award "is presented to those public power utility employees who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to safety over the past 12 months."

Parkinson was nominated for the award by Tim Lawrence, the town's electric utility director.

Fleetwood added during the meeting that Parkinson has been with the town's electric department for about seven years.

"He's also our chief trainer for our two linesmen apprentices," Fleetwood said. "Alan is a go-getter. Alan is a hard-worker, and I can tell you he eats, breathes and sleeps safety."

Sponsor children, donate gifts for holiday program

(Dec. 3, 2020) Worcester County GOLD, Inc. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance for Worcester County residents is accepting donations and sponsors for its annual Helping Hands for the Holidays Program.

Since 1998, GOLD has run its Helping Hands for the Holidays Program, which provides gifts for children and vulnerable adults in Worcester County living at or below the poverty line.

Visit WorcesterCountyGOLD.org to donate, view a list of gift ideas, or sign up to sponsor those in need. Last year, GOLD provided holiday gifts for 658 children and 80 vulnerable adults.

Call 410-677-6830 or email WorcesterCountyGOLD@gmail.com for more information. Donation deadline is Dec. 11.

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DNR to purchase 673 acres for public space

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The Town of Berlin's worries about the possible development of the former Bay Club property on its outskirts were put to rest on Nov. 18, when the Maryland Board of Public Works approved its purchase by the Department of Natural Resources. The DNR also received permission to buy a neighboring farm, which, in conjunction with the Bay Club, will become public property.

"That has passed the Board of Public Works unanimously so we can look forward to that property adding to the greenbelt that's in our comprehensive plan and some of the passive use recreational activities that'll be just right outside the boundaries of the Town of Berlin," Mayor Zackery Tyndall said at the mayor and council meeting last Monday. "That's good news for everybody."

According to the land use description given to the council, "the property

contains a mix of forests and fields that will be managed by the Maryland Forest Service as an addition to the Chesapeake Forest Lands for public hunting and trail-based activities such as walking and wildlife observation."

Equestrian trails are a possibility on the property as well.

The DNR plans to plant trees on and around the course, while preserving "a large tract of land in an area of Worcester County that is experiencing rapid growth."

The price listed for the 437-acre golf course is \$3.15 million and the price of the adjacent 236-acre farm is \$1.08 million.

Officials were recommending that the board approve the Department of Natural Resources' proposal to accept assignment from Lower Shore Land Trust of its right to purchase two adjacent parcels totaling 673 acres.

Tyndall, on behalf of the Town Council, town attorney and town administrator, sent a letter of support to



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Maryland Board of Public Works approved the Department of Natural Resources' purchase of the former Bay Club property on the outskirts of Berlin and a neighboring farm to become public property.

the Maryland Board of Public Works about the land acquisition by the DNR on Nov. 13. In the letter, Tyndall addressed concerns about the influx of traffic on town streets with the previous proposals for housing developments and campgrounds on the Bay Club property.

Tyndall added that the town was relieved to hear about the DNR's proposal.

"The conservation efforts of the DNR will help the Town of Berlin work toward establishing a greenbelt around our Town, a vital component of our comprehensive plan," he wrote.

OP budget committee prepped for next FY

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola advocated conservative forecasting and reviewed both cost-cutting measures and proposed spending for the next fiscal year during the Budget and Finance Committee meeting last Wednesday.

Viola said despite expenses and revenues looking positive at this point, with balance sheets ahead of projections by nearly \$1.3 million to end October, half a year remains before the fiscal year concludes on March 31.

"In those six months ... our revenues are way down and we still incur expenses," he said.

"We do use cash and we don't necessarily cover expenses with revenues."

The current surplus will be reduced over the winter months but to what extent is uncertain.

"We're looking at a favorability of

about \$1.2 million right now, but it could be half that," he said. "We do the budget in January and February [with] a few months left on the fiscal year ... so I don't want to take a lot of favorability into the budget."



John Viola

Viola proposed that the budget committee consider earmarking \$165,000 of whatever budget surplus exists to pay off a previously incurred operating deficit, which would ultimately require board approval.

Viola said Director of Finance and

Operational Logistics Steve Phillips is leading the charge to issue proposed budget numbers for fiscal 2021/2022 before Christmas.

"Steve Phillips and his team have committed to getting these budget binders out before the holiday to the budget and finance committee and the board so they can have plenty of time to review," he said.

Proposed figures for the new fiscal year are targeted for distribution prior to the next budget committee meeting on Dec. 30, as well as a multi-day departmental presentation scheduled in early January.

"When we sit down with budget and

finance on Jan. 6-8, a lot of stuff isn't going to be a surprise," he said.

Viola said the uncertainties related to the coronavirus situation will cause department heads to prepare traditional budget projections but also account for potential hurdles.

"Everybody will do a normal bottoms up budget as if there were no covid," he said. "Then ... a separate summary page for each department or amenity [to] take that normal budget and adjust accordingly for covid assumptions."

Viola said Phillips has prepared a separate schedule to account for covid adjustments and assumptions.

See PROJECTS Page 11

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Snapshots



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BOOK SIGNING

Annapolis-based school teacher Maria Grosskettler signed copies of her historical fiction children's book, "Tracks," which is based in Berlin, last Friday at The Greyhound Independent Bookstore and Fine Arts Gallery on South Main Street.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WOODWORK

Garry Moore Jr., owner of Anchor Wood Creations, sells handmade cutting boards and candle holders from reclaimed wood in downtown Berlin during Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FARMERS MARKET

Shoppers accompanied by a canine companion peruse Yuletide gifts at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisan Market on Nov. 21.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SKATEBOARDING

Unseasonably warm temperatures last Saturday provided an ideal opportunity for skateboard enthusiasts to work the bowl at the Ocean Pines Skatepark.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ENCOURAGEMENT

A wellness rock found in Berlin's Stephen Decatur Park on Nov. 21 during the "Just Walk" fall scavenger hunt reminds walkers to exercise daily to improve their health.



PLAY DAY

Grey Lindsey, a brave 3-year-old from Berlin, attempts the monkey bars at Stephen Decatur Park on Nov. 21.

ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Santa greetings from Ocean Pines reach hundreds this yr.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) A record number of North Pole greetings, transmitted via a crew of Ocean Pines based Christmas elves, were mailed on Monday as part of the annual "Letters From Santa" campaign orchestrated by Colby Phillips.

"This year has been the biggest outreach," she said. "It's over 700 letters."

Phillips said factoring in that a small percentage of correspondence was intended for siblings, the overall number of folks St. Nick shared yuletide updates with through the Pines effort tops a thousand.

Speaking on Sunday, Phillips said the Worcester County branch of Santa's workshop was running at full tilt with mail sacks being packed for drop-off the following morning.

"A lot of people have reached out and talked about how hard this year has been for them," she said. "Many of them said that a letter would bring joy to their families and that's the goal."

After nearly a decade of delighting children, and more recently adults, the annual "Letters From Santa" campaign has continued to grow rapidly.

Phillips said after coordinating with Santa to send her daughters a yuletide note years ago, the campaign reached upwards of 500 souls last year.

"When my girls were little, I got to see the reaction when they received the letter," she said. "Even though now I don't see the reactions on the receiving end, I know what they are and it makes me feel good."

The good vibrations have resonated to others who step up every year to help underwrite operating costs for Santa's letter factory.

"What's amazing, my husband, who's working as an elf, asked me the other night, 'How much does this cost you?'" she said. "I told him, 'It's just been my time.'"

Phillips said once the Santa letter production team starts organizing the effort in early October, unsolicited support begins arriving.

"I'm always amazed at how fast people come forward," she said. "I had everything donated, including stamps, ink, envelopes and stickers."

The feeling of holiday satisfaction isn't the exclusive province of Phillips and Santa's helpers.

"I'm putting time in with my elves stuffing envelopes and printing letters, but there's a lot of people that are going to be involved in the joy that's going out this week," she said.

The time-consuming undertaking quietly launches each year weeks prior to Halloween.

"When I put it out there, people are often surprised at the time of year," she said. "It takes me two months because every letter is personalized."

Since expanding Letters From Santa to include an adult version in 2019, the popularity for grown-up recipients has blossomed.

"There's probably over 200 letters for adults," she said. "I think it's because there are a lot that are homebound and not able to see their families."

See LETTERS Page 12



PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS

Stacks of holiday greetings for the annual "Letters From Santa" campaign were sent out from Ocean Pines on Monday with only a small window remaining to request a personalized message prior to Christmas.

Projects discussed at next meeting

Continued from Page 9

Viola also continued a review of proposed capital projects for the next fiscal year during the budget committee meeting on Nov. 25.

To this point, committee members have been presented information on the expansion of docking facilities at the Yacht Club Marina, adding courts at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Center, a Sports Core Pool project, mailbox cluster updates, boat ramp electronic gates and a floating dock recreation pier.

"We ranked them," he said. "Obviously, the Bainbridge [drainage] project is number one and then the [temporary] docks and racquet sports are on the list."

With budget uncertainties somewhat reduced from earlier this year after the pandemic began, a previously approved Recreation and Parks project is on tap for discussion during the next budget committee meeting on Dec. 30.

Viola said a pair of parks improvements approved for the current budget year that were subsequently put on hold

are, at least partially, back on track.

"In this past budget, we had approval to do two of the parks for \$100,000," he said. "We're now looking at redoing Robin Hood Park for \$50,000."

Viola said Recreation and Parks Manager Debbie Donahue and Public Works & CPI Director Eddie Wells are teaming up to assess costs for replacing outdated playground equipment to both address safety concerns and ensure American Disabilities Act compliance.

"We'll do whatever we can in house to save money," he said.

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Art impacts WCPS students' mental health amid covid-19

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) Teachers, students and community members have leaned on the arts to create a sense of calm and maintain good mental health during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Tamara Mills, coordinator of instruction at Worcester County Public Schools, provided the Worcester County Board of Education an overview of how elementary and middle school art teachers revised the curriculum to include social emotional learning components, resources and activities at its meeting on Nov. 17.

Mills told the board that a study of covid-19 and the arts was conducted at the University College of London by Dr. Daisy Fancourt.

The study involved 72,000 adults. Mills added that there's not as much research in children at this time.

"It was conducted weekly since March," she said. "Seventeen percent of white participants within this study reported feelings of loneliness/depression."

Twenty-three percent of participants from Black, Asian and Middle Eastern descent reported feelings of loneliness and depression.

The study found that 30 minutes or more of arts activities daily led to lower rates of depression and anxiety.

"They were small things from creative writing, listening to music, playing music, creating artwork and crafts," Mills said.

Mills participated in a summer workshop of fine arts coordinators called SEL (social and emotional learning) through the arts hosted by the Maryland State Department of Education to develop a state guide.

"This has been shared across the country now, as some groundbreaking work related to connecting CASEL stan-

dards, which are the social emotional learning standards, with the standards in the different art forms," Mills said.

The guide provides a statement of support for social emotional learning and the arts, research on developing social emotional learning competencies, a framework for professional learning to build social emotional learning in children and examples for teachers to plan lessons. The guide also addresses all artforms: visual, music, theatre, dance and media.

"We did a couple of different crosswalks in this document to show how the professional learning art standards and the CASEL standards line up, and then the art standards within each individual art form can align directly with each individual SEL standard," Mills said. "It was a very strategic process of how we get here from here to here with our kids. How do we move our children in the direction of allowing art to really help them mentally?"

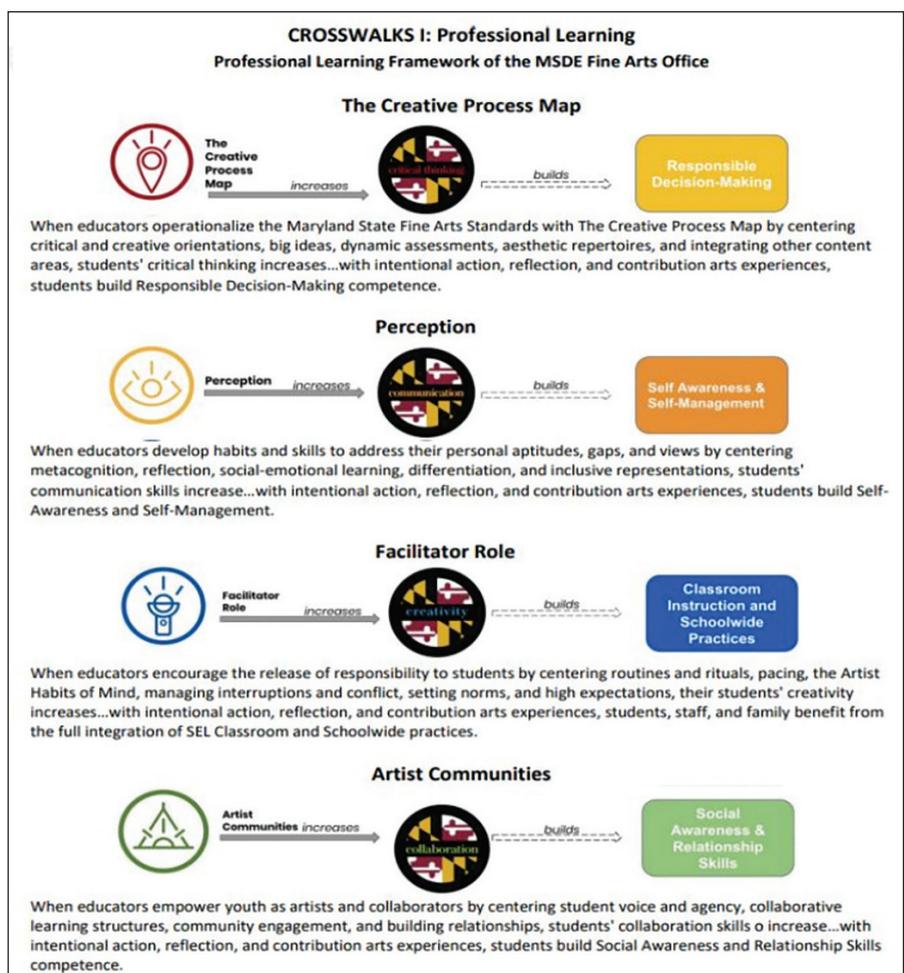
Then, Mills became involved in a Worcester County Public Schools social emotional learning through the arts workshop with Melissa Reid at Buckingham Elementary School, Cindy Sullivan at Snow Hill Elementary School and Heather Shockley at Snow Hill Middle School.

The educators evaluated the Understanding by Design (UbD) units in the elementary and middle school visual art curriculum.

Now, learning activities reflect the social emotional learning standards to have an impact on students' mental health.

As students are engaged in distance learning until Jan. 4, they use iPad technology for arts education and social emotional learning.

"I am really proud of the way our teachers are trying to use technology and thankful for your support for that tech-



MAP COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tamara Mills, coordinator of instruction for Worcester County Public Schools, informed the Worcester County Board of Education on Nov. 17 that she participated in a summer workshop of fine arts coordinators called SEL (social and emotional learning) through the Arts hosted by the Maryland State Department of Education to develop a state guide. It provides crosswalks that show how the professional learning art standards and the CASEL standards for social emotional learning correlate.

nology because we've been able to really think outside the box and use new programs," Mills told the board of education.

Educators currently incorporate programs, such as QuaverMusic, SmartMusic, Sight Reading Factory and GarageBand, in music lessons.

For more information about the Maryland State Department of Education social emotional learning arts guide, visit <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b62f7232487fd03344fb77d/t/5ee6f77cc7d20c58c2b24901/1592194950685/SEL+Through+the+Arts+FINAL+COPY.pdf>.

Letters sent to children, adults

Continued from Page 11

Phillips said this year St. Nick intends to send pre-Christmas correspondence to help alleviate youths concerned about pandemic-related travel restrictions.

"A lot of kids this year are probably afraid if Santa can come with covid," she said. "Santa does talk about covid in his letter and lets the boys and girls know how they've been handling it."

Mirroring the covid-19 safety discussion, Santa's better half recently found a fresh-baked solution for the facemask averse.

"One of the elves wasn't really happy about wearing his mask but Mrs. Claus made it smell like cookies," she said.

Phillips said although the bulk of greetings were mailed on Monday anyone still interested in receiving correspondence from Santa should promptly email Santaphillips@yahoo.com. Requests should include both name and address, as well as specifying if the letter is for an adult or child. Also, children wishing to send a letter to Santa can drop off their greeting at the Ocean Pines Post Office in a special yuletide-themed box that will be picked up by St. Nick's reindeers. Be sure to include a return address for Santa's return reply.

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Students, teachers present gift cards to local fire depts.

(Dec. 3, 2020) After a recent visit and presentation from Showell and Ocean Pines fire departments, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School collected donations from students, teachers and staff to offer the local emergency responders a gift.

Two wreaths adorned with gift cards to Subway and Dunkin Donuts made by MBS arts integration teachers, Sherry Brannon, were presented to the fire departments.

In keeping with the school theme for the year, "Called to Serve," Principal Kathleen Manns made this a teachable moment.

"Teaching important lessons while having fun is a win for everyone," she said. "Each month this school year, our school community is focusing on one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. For this service project, we focused on giving drink to the thirsty.

"Last month we learned about

feeding the hungry and conducted a food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Ocean City," she continued. "Service to others is the foundation of what we do here at MBS and these projects offer relatable experiences to our students."

Two MBS intermediate students, Kate and Bryn Wanner, took this project a step further.

Students were asked to bring in a \$1 donation to participate in the NUT (no uniform today) day. The Wanner sisters opened a lemonade stand to raise money. With their earnings, they were able to both contribute \$34.50.

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School is a pre-K 3 through eighth grade school located at 11242 Race-track Rd., Berlin, MD 21811. For information, contact Amanda Evans, director of Admissions and Advancement, at 410-208-1600.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

After a recent visit and presentation from Showell and Ocean Pines fire departments, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School collected donations from students, teachers and staff to support the first responders. Pictured are first graders Clara Gallagher and Weston Lewis, with the wreaths for Showell and Ocean Pines fire departments.

Wor. Board of Edu. buys school bus

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The Worcester County Board of Education agreed on Nov. 17 to buy a replacement school bus immediately because a 2008 bus that was operating in northern Worcester County experienced a major mechanical issue.

"The cost of the repairs is likely to exceed the value of the bus," Kim Heiser, transportation manager for Worcester County Public Schools, told the board.



Dr. Dwayne Abt

Dr. Dwayne Abt, the chief safety and human relations officer for the school system, said on Nov. 18 he is not certain what the mechanical issue was because the bus is contractor-owned.

Depending on the make, model and equipment, the estimated cost of the new bus is between \$90,000-\$110,000, he said.

According to the school system's policy, bus contractors must have school buses approved by the board. The buses should operate in accordance with a contract with the board, be less than 15 years old, and meet all federal, state, and board laws and regulations, including the Code of Maryland Regulations.

With the board's approval, a new bus or a used bus that is less than 14 years old may be operated as a spare bus. All new and used buses are required to meet the current Maryland and Worcester County Board of Education specifications.

The approximate in-service date for

the new bus is February 2021, Abt added.

The bus will transport students to

Stephen Decatur High School, Showell Elementary School and Buckingham Elementary School.

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Opinion

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

Bill sought to prevent taxing on PPP money

The coronavirus pandemic has laid much of the American economy on its back — but a bright spot made the disaster less crippling than it might have been. That is the Paycheck Protection Program, which funneled money to workers through small businesses.

More than five million small businesses took the PPP loans, representing 50 million jobs. It persuaded small businesses to keep people on the payroll instead of laying them off. That helped the economy.

Congress said the loans would not be taxed. But Congress is letting the IRS tax the businesses anyway. Unless new legislation is passed by the end of the year, the tax could finish off many of the businesses that are trying desperately to hang on through this impossible economy.

The way the government is going to punish the businesses that saved 50 million jobs is to deny the deduction of payroll, rent and other expenses that they paid out with the PPP money. The Treasury Department, which sets policy for IRS, reiterated that businesses will have to pay taxes on that money, even though they normally would be able to deduct these business expenses.

A bipartisan group of senators and representatives have been pushing for a change, but not pushing so hard that they are accomplishing the one thing that is needed to fix this problem: pass a new law.

“When we developed and passed the Paycheck Protection Program, our intent was clearly to make sure small businesses had the liquidity and the help they needed to get through these difficult times,” Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said when he introduced the Small Business Expense Protection Act, S 3612, with a bipartisan group of senators. “Unfortunately, Treasury and the IRS interpreted the law in a way that’s preventing businesses from deducting expenses associated with PPP loans. That’s just the opposite of what we intended and should be fixed. This bill will do just that.”

Businesses kept people working, spent the PPP money as directed and now they are going to be punished with a tax.

Congress didn’t spend trillions in tax dollars to prop up the economy only to allow one agency to undo its good work. PPP deductibility must be fixed now.

— Brett Wesner
Chairman, National Newspaper Association



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters from Santa Claus

Editor,

In times of hardships and struggles for many as we continue to face the uncertainty of the pandemic, I once again have seen the amazing love and support of our community.

My elves and I have finished stuffing over 600 letters reaching over 1,000 children and adults and everything needed to accomplish this Christmas blessing was donated by several people.

Stamps, glitter, envelopes,

stickers, paper, ink... all donated by the generosity and kind hearts of others.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated in any way and also offered to help as we are all a part of the joy that will be mailed out, bringing hope and smiles to many in the next few weeks as we approach Christmas.

If anyone missed the initial requests, I never leave a child off my list and requests can be emailed to me at Santaphillips@yahoo.com. Please include name, address and if for a child or adult.

If a child would like to write a letter to me, they can drop them off at the Ocean Pines Post Office in a box set out and my reindeer will pick them up.

Please include return information so I can write back. And do not worry, I do not promise puppies or electronics or even toilet paper.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all and remember to have faith, stay strong and believe in the magic of the season, even if it comes from a guy in a red hat.

Ho, Ho, Ho,
Santa Claus

WCPS students receive scholarships

(Dec. 3, 2020) The board of trustees at Wor-Wic Community College recently recognized the recipients of scholarships awarded to local high school graduates.

This year’s scholarship recipients from Worcester County include Mikayla Cantine from Stephen Decatur High School and Andrew Truitt from Snow Hill High School.

The board of trustees provides a two-year full-tuition scholarship for the most aca-

demically-talented high school senior applicant from each of the 10 public high schools and two of the four private high schools in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have at least a 3.25 GPA on an unweighted 4.0 scale. They must also apply for admission to Wor-Wic before April 1 of their senior year in high school, as well as complete a board of trustees

scholarship application form.

The scholarships are awarded to the applicant with the highest GPA from each school, followed by the highest total number of credits earned and the earliest admission application. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

High school students interested in more information about the scholarship should call the college’s financial aid office at 410-334-2905.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OP holiday outreach for seniors

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 3, 2020) The outpouring of support from the Ocean Pines community was immediate when the annual “Be a Santa to a Senior” holiday outreach program was launched last month that it overcame the chilling effects of covid-19.

Since 2016, the OPA has worked with Home Instead Senior Care in Berlin on the yuletide venture to provide senior citizens with cheer and help at Christmas, said Recreation Department Program Supervisor Brittany Jarman.

“Every year we have a great turnout and support from the people in Ocean Pines,” she said.

For the past four years, the “Be a Santa to a Senior” Christmas tree in the community center has been filled with tags listing specific items requested by local seniors. Those items are gift-wrapped and returned to the community center.

Jarman said after hanging up an initial batch of gift tags on the community center Christmas tree in early November, the requests were quickly snapped up, and more recently a second round also went at lightning speed.

“They were gone within 48 hours from the time that we received them,” she said. “They brought a few more last week that are all gone as well.”

Home Care Consultant Crystal Heiser said Berlin-based Home Instead

Senior Care franchise owners Corrie and Don Boger have participated in the charitable venture since opening the location nearly a half dozen years ago.

“We have always participated in the program,” she said. “Last year we sent over 760 gifts into the community through Be a Santa to a Senior.”

Heiser said the program addresses needs for homebound seniors or assisted living individuals in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

“We also provide for veterans, Diakonia and different organizations that need a little extra help,” she said.

Heiser said before the pandemic outbreak in March, the goal was to top last year but was subsequently adjusted downward.

“Our initial goal for this year was going to be 200 and we just tapped out at 400,” she said. “It’s not 800 but we did beat our 200 goal ... so I’m thankful.”

In a similar fashion, the tag count for the Ocean Pines tree was also adjusted downward for 2020, Heiser said.

“They had upwards of 40, which is a lot less than typical,” she said.

In previous years the number of gift requests filled through the Ocean Pines Senior Tree has been roughly double the current tally and typically sends joy to at least 70 recipients.

“They’ve done an amazing job and they’re one of our biggest supporters,” she said. “They reached out to me to

make sure that we were going to be hosting the program this year because initially it was on the fence.”

Heiser said the requests are generally low-cost basic need items.

“One of our assisted living gentleman — he asked for a shaving kit and a soft blanket,” she said. “Another lady wanted a poodle calendar and hard candy.”

Jarman said the ventures beneficiaries are always grateful.

“We appreciate it and so do all the seniors who receive a gift who might not have otherwise,” she said. “We hope that next year we can have more seniors participating.”

Jarman said the window has not closed for anyone still wishing to chip in support for the program this year.

“If people still want to shop, they can do it online,” she said.

Interested parties should visit www.beasanta.toaseniior.com and under the “Find a Tree” tab search for zip code 21811 and select a bulb virtually.

“You should be able to click a bulb from the virtual tree and then you can shop on Amazon and it will be delivered to them,” she said.

Jarman said the program assists



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES RECREATION AND PARKS
Gift tags hung on the “Be a Santa to a Senior” tree displayed in the Ocean Pines community center were quickly responded to last month with a second round snapped up equally fast.

seniors lacking Christmas kindness.

“Seniors might ... need just basic essentials that many people have access to that they don’t,” she said. “Sometimes it’s just a little bit more needed during the holidays.”

Annual charity golf tournament this Saturday

(Dec. 3, 2020) Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore (BBBSES) 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.

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 BBBSES social media. This tournament benefits local families in need this holiday season.

Golfer registration is open to the public at \$85 per person. Participants are also asked to donate one unwrapped gift that will be provided to children facing adversity age 8-17.

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.

BBBSES 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 BBBSES, go to www.shorebiglittle.org or email info@shorebiglittle.org with any questions.

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Snapshots



MARY COOPER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW SHOWROOM

Sea Floor and Pipeline Contracting moved into a new showroom in Ocean Pines and recently celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 11.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ARTIST

The Ocean Pines Pine'er Craft Club celebrated Charlie Davis as the crafter of the month for November. His woodwork pieces and other artists' creations are available in the Ocean Pines Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, next to the Farmer's Market and across from the Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway. The shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



SUPPORTING ATHLETICS

The Bescak, Ruggerio and Yonker families showed their appreciation for the return of Worcester Prep Middle/Upper School fall sports this year by making donations of sponsorship and signage to enhance the WPS athletic programs. Chesapeake Eye Center owners, Dr. Todd and Allison Bescak (WPS parents of T.J. '21, Olivia '17, Madison '17), from Berlin, and Drs. Jason and Preeti Yonker, (WPS parents of Ayla '26 and Rani '28), from Ocean City, were the 2020 corporate sponsor of the WPS Player of the Week awards where student-athletes were gifted a T-shirt and recognized for excellence in the classroom, practice and games. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Todd Bescak; Player of the Week recipients, Myranda Beebe (soccer), Ansley Gardner (soccer), Michael Wehberg (soccer), Bella Marinelli (field hockey), Brice Richins (soccer), T.J. Bescak (golf), Caitlyn Hoen (cross country), and Vanesska Hall (golf); Director of Athletics Matt McGinnis; and Assistant Director of Athletics J.P. McIntyre. Not pictured: Dr. Jason Yonker. (Right) Cindy and Rhett Ruggerio (WPS parents of Maxine '25 and Vivien '28), from Dewey Beach, Delaware, donated a 96"x240" WPS Mallard Nation aluminum billboard sign prominently displayed below the scoreboard on the soccer fields.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

The Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association and The Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association held their annual Pink Lady Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club in October to raise money for the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital. The funds will help provide mammograms for patients unable to afford screening. The associations raised \$2,310 this year, bringing their contributions to Atlantic General over the past 10 years to more than \$14,000. Pictured, from left, are Ginger Burke, Ocean Pines Pink Lady Committee chair; Dot Waters, Pink Lady co-chair; Susan Morris, Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association chair; Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital; Don McMullen, Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association president; Brooke Williams, Atlantic General Hospital director of imaging; and Toni Keiser, vice president of public relations for Atlantic General Hospital.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW MEMBER

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution welcomes member Jane Buntings' daughter, Beth Seise, as a new member, during a meeting celebrating Veterans Day at the Ocean Pines White Horse Park pavilion. Regent Gail Weldin and Chaplain Barbara Rusko administered the oath of membership. Pictured, from left, are Bunting, Seise, Rusko and Weldin.

County task force warns of fraud schemes

(Dec. 3, 2020) The Worcester County Vulnerable Adult Task Force launched its “No-Scam November” Initiative last month as part of its continuing effort to educate the public about common fraud schemes.

The focus of “No-Scam November” is to prevent of scams before they financially damage the victim, as investigating and identifying high-tech scammers is difficult.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli emphasized that an allied agency partnership is addressing these concerns.

“We are proud to partner with our allied agencies to help educate our residents about the ongoing scams that victimize them,” he said. “Education is a key component in the reduction of these crimes, and partnering agencies make our residents much safer.”

In 2020, law enforcement has seen a dramatic increase in the number of reported fraud cases, and senior citizens are the most frequent target, he said.

In Worcester County, the most common types of fraud recently are gift card scams.

Scammers have been targeting victims either by phone or by email, often claiming that there is an emergency situation the victim must buy gift cards to resolve. The scammer typically then requests the code on the back of the gift card so they can use it online.

D/Sgt. Mike Mann, assistant barrack commander of the Berlin Barrack of the Maryland State Police, has seen cases where the scammer claims to be a computer company demanding thousands in gift cards to remove a virus from the victim’s computer.

“A legitimate computer or software company is never going to demand payment in gift cards,” he said. “Scammers instead actually send a message to your computer making you think it has a virus and that the only solution is to pay them in gift cards. Don’t fall for it.”

Other common schemes include the scammer claiming to be the IRS, or claiming a family member of the victim has been arrested or needs bail money.

In another frequent scam, the victim is told that they have won a contest or prize money, but in order to collect their winnings, they must buy gift cards totaling a small portion of the total prize they will eventually be sent by the scammer.

In yet another example, a scammer spoofed the victim’s boss’s email address and sent the victim an email (which the victim believed was from his boss) instructing the victim to go and buy gift cards and then text the codes on the back of the card to a different phone number because the boss lost his phone.

The victim did so, believing he was following his boss’s instructions, and only found out he had been scammed when he spoke to his boss in person.

Many times, the scammer stays on the phone with the victim while the victim travels to the store to purchase the gift cards, to make sure that the scam is successful and that the victim cannot pause to consider whether they should actually go through with the purchase.

Ocean Pines Police Chief Leo Ehrisman warns Ocean Pines residents about these scams.

“Residents in our community have unfortunately fallen victim to all of the scams being described,” he said. “Recovering funds after someone is victimized is very difficult, if not impossible, so being aware of these scams and not becoming a victim is a priority in our community.”

To combat these gift card scams, beginning in the month of November, local law enforcement, to include the

Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Ocean Pines Police Department, will be conducting community outreach efforts and providing local businesses with free signage, provided by the Office of the State’s Attorney, that can be attached to any gift card display case.

These warning signs are designed to shake would-be victims into realizing and recognizing the scam in the moment, especially if they are still on the phone with the scammer, and encourage them to press pause and exercise caution before making a purchase.

These signs, along with outreach by prosecutors and police will also help local businesses and shop owners to educate their staff to know the signs of a gift card scam before ringing up the victim’s purchase, and to contact police whenever they suspect a scam.

“The Office of the State’s Attorney is thankful for the continued partnership that lead to this innovative idea for preventing gift card scams,” State’s Attorney Kris Heiser said. “As was our goal last year when we created the Task Force, we will continue to provide this type of outreach and education to the benefit of our senior citizens and shine a light on the issues and problems affecting them.”

Businesses wishing to participate in the initiative can request their free gift card scam signage from either the Berlin Barrack, the Ocean Pines Police Department, or the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office depending upon their location.

To report any type of suspected elder abuse, including suspected gift card scams, contact local law enforcement agency.

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Cuisine

Suplee serves up Wanderlust Ceviche

I just want to get away. Is it esoteric, literal or simply a measure of calculated desperation? I can't tell you.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

But, what I can tell you is that I simply want to run away, even if it is for a week or two... or a month... or three.

Yes, the three-month plan is starting to sound like a solid strategy.

But where would I go?

I hear that Mexico is still wide open, although I haven't been there in decades.

We used to travel there all of the time when I was stationed in San Diego, as it was only a small hop over the walking bridge to enjoy the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Tijuana.

And when it came to the latter, we learned how to develop a discerning palate when scoping out the proper places to eat in that glorious town.

Believe me, sometimes it was a game of survival of the fittest when it came to finding nourishing and safe sustenance in TJ.

No, I think Mexico is out. How about Puerto Rico? That might be a solid idea, now that I think about it.

Or, Costa Rica, my favorite place on this big green ball that we're floating on.

Aah, Costa Rica, how I miss thee, with your waterfalls and pineapples, amazing food and welcoming people.

No, I have to stop the daydreaming, because I am pretty sure that travel is restricted to the country at the moment due to this novel little virus that has been going around.

How about Nassau for some scorched conch and a handful of Kalkis?

Where should I go? Well, how about nowhere?

I guess part of my wanting to run lies in opening the new restaurant, always a stressful venture, especially in a pandemic. But, Fortuna favors the brave, so I can only hope that the pay-off will be worth it.

I will just have to wait for a more opportune time to address my wanderlust. Yes, I will simply have to hunker down in the cold and get things rolling successfully.

Wait a minute; how about the Keys? I could drive there in a day and a half and stay a few and run back. I may have to think about this one for a hot



second.

No. Deep breath, Paul. Deep breath. It is Christmas time, you have a little empire to develop and you have to be serious.

So, what can I do to perhaps pretend that I'm in a warmer clime, away from the hustle and nonsense that I have so willingly placed upon my shoulders?

I can make Ceviche; that glorious combination of fresh seafood (technically it should be frozen and thawed according to the food experts so as to protect the diner from parasites. As an instructor and one liable for damages, I would be remiss if I did not mention that), citrus and peppers.

Ceviche is a ubiquitous Ibero-American meal in and of itself, coming from Peru but now found in most Latin American cultures.

It makes sense, as the oceans line a great many of these nations and island nations. It just sort of makes sense.

And taking the heat from a jalapeno and contrasting that with the sweetness and saltiness of seafood and bell peppers is perfect. The splash of citrus only heightens the flavor as I fall more in love with this dish as I'm writing it.

So I will have to live my travel life vicariously through the internet and

others I know who are lucky enough to make a trip to warmer seas.

I will take the time to see the Winterfest of Lights in Ocean City, or the Cambridge bushel basket Christmas tree. This is the season to go to open-air Christmas Markets (if they are still having them) and otherwise enjoying what we have here on the shore.

At the end of the day, I get to finish what I started, expand the Pittsville restaurant, develop the Berlin restaurant, finish out teaching the semester and otherwise pretend that I am far, far away.

And nothing would make me feel like there are palm trees swaying nearby like some crisp ceviche and an ice cold beer.

Wanderlust Ceviche

Serves 5 for pre-meal

8 oz. large shrimp
8 oz. fresh scallops
1 ea. red bell pepper, roasted and peeled
1 ea. yellow bell pepper, roasted and peeled
1 ea. fresh jalapeno or serrano, finely diced
Juice of 3 limes

Juice of 1 sour orange

Juice of 1 lemon

1 tbsp. sugar

2 cloves garlic, finely minced

Salt and pepper to taste

¼ c. chopped cilantro

20 ea. tostones or tortilla chips

1. Peel shrimp if necessary, removing the tail.

2. Split down the back so that you are left with even, flat halves of shrimp.

3. Combine ingredients from shrimp to cilantro and refrigerate for two hours. The acid in the juices will 'cook' the protein in the shrimp. If this creeps you out, par-cook the shrimp briefly to get some doneness in them before marinating in the acid.

4. When the shrimp has had sufficient time to cook in the acid, place in a bowl and serve with the tostones and mojo. A salsa cruda would also work here as well; just make sure to balance the sour flavors from the juices with some sweet flavors somewhere in the dish.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40.

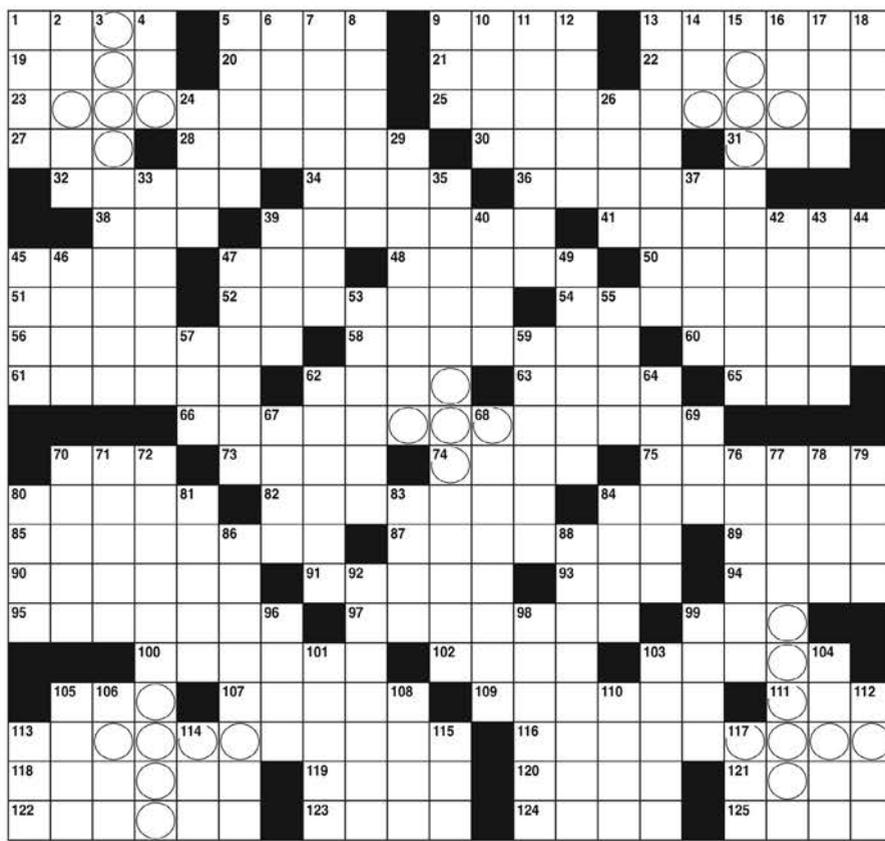
Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

Puzzles

IT ALL ADDS UP
BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Eaton-Salners, of Lake Forest, Calif., is an in-house attorney for a technology company. He spent his junior year of college studying at a Japanese university and living with a homestay family. He also worked in Japan for several years before returning to the U.S. for law school. Alex made the "Playing With Food" Sunday crossword in September. This is his 44th puzzle for The Times over all. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 List of courses
 - 5 ___ alla Bolognese (meat-based pasta sauce)
 - 9 Don's partner in the underworld
 - 13 Melting point?
 - 19 Condo, e.g.
 - 20 Crowning
 - 21 Crew's control?
 - 22 Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy
 - 23 Bygone office group
 - 25 Final remark in an argument
 - 27 Scratch (out)
 - 28 Like the luck of the draw
 - 30), when it follows :-
 - 31 H
 - 32 "Seems that way"
 - 34 Pieces of gangs
 - 36 Pain reliever containing aspirin and caffeine
 - 38 Golfer Ernie
 - 39 Gave birth
 - 41 Sheltered balcony with abundant natural light
 - 45 Wished
 - 47 Archer's pride
 - 48 "The Dark Knight ___," 2012 superhero movie
- DOWN**
- 11 Not custom-tailored
 - 12 Country singer K.T. ___
 - 13 HBO show co-starring Issa Rae
 - 14 Dove's sound
 - 15 Doctor's reassurance before a shot
 - 16 Tech-news website
 - 17 With 80-Across, longtime CBS News correspondent
 - 18 Conclusion
 - 24 Smelter's inputs
 - 26 "C'est la vie"
 - 29 Spot from which a dove once notably flew
 - 33 Makes cloudy
 - 35 1943 Pulitzer-winning Thornton Wilder play, with "The"
 - 37 Like the noble gases
 - 39 Singles, e.g.
 - 40 "That so?"
 - 42 Steams up often
 - 43 "Garden" or "Center,"
 - 44 Pain in the neck
 - 45 100 satang, in Thailand
- ACROSS**
- 50 Bring back on board
 - 51 Actress Jessica
 - 52 No Doubt vocalist Gwen
 - 54 Best-selling self-help book subtitled "Time-Tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right"
 - 56 Hot spots
 - 58 Moved briskly
 - 60 Council of ___ (Counter-Reformation body)
 - 61 More to the point
 - 62 Part of Q.E.D.
 - 63 Chooses
 - 65 Wanders around the head of a line, briefly?
 - 66 Long-running show whose iconic hourglass is in the Smithsonian collection
 - 70 Rotating engine part
 - 73 Con ___ (with animation, musically)
 - 74 Hot spot
 - 75 It has issues with celebrities
 - 80 See 17-Down
 - 82 Ostensible
 - 84 Had a heaping helping of humility
 - 85 Catchy 1950s slogan
 - 87 Send another way
 - 89 Let go of
 - 90 Serious
- DOWN**
- 1 Creative inspiration
 - 2 Miso-soup mushroom
 - 3 Made the rounds?
 - 4 Native of the Beehive State
 - 5 Knock on, as a window
 - 6 Oodles
 - 7 Words said with a post-match handshake
 - 8 Send to the cloud, say
 - 9 Camp sight
 - 10 Sighing sounds
 - 11 Not custom-tailored
 - 12 Country singer K.T. ___
 - 13 HBO show co-starring Issa Rae
 - 14 Dove's sound
 - 15 Doctor's reassurance before a shot
 - 16 Tech-news website
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 - 35 1943 Pulitzer-winning Thornton Wilder play, with "The"
 - 37 Like the noble gases
 - 39 Singles, e.g.
 - 40 "That so?"
 - 42 Steams up often
 - 43 "Garden" or "Center,"
 - 44 Pain in the neck
 - 45 100 satang, in Thailand



- 46 On the safe side
- 47 Spiritual retreat
- 49 Intervene
- 53 1960s sitcom set at Fort Courage
- 55 Set in a man cave
- 57 Bill's time-traveling partner in film
- 59 "Holy ___!"
- 62 Favor
- 64 The deadly sins, e.g.
- 67 House involved in the Wars of the Roses
- 68 Scenic vista
- 69 Holy ___
- 70 Orange or plum
- 71 Fleet of foot
- 72 Qualifies to fight in a certain class
- 76 "We are the 99%" movement, familiarly
- 77 Journalists might be invited to it
- 78 Prospector's find
- 79 Flock members
- 80 Misarticulate, in a way
- 81 Home of a mythological lion
- 83 Language of Pakistan
- 84 Working away
- 86 Au naturel
- 88 Garments for acrobats
- 92 "Wow, that's beautiful!"
- 96 Big bat
- 98 Ranker of the rich
- 99 Greasy goo
- 101 It takes a bow
- 103 Partner of rice
- 104 Less well done
- 105 Thereabouts
- 106 In the distance
- 108 + or -
- 110 Sharp
- 112 Monk's hood
- 113 "Fee, fi, fo, ___"
- 114 Military support grp.
- 115 D.C. player
- 117 Designer Posen

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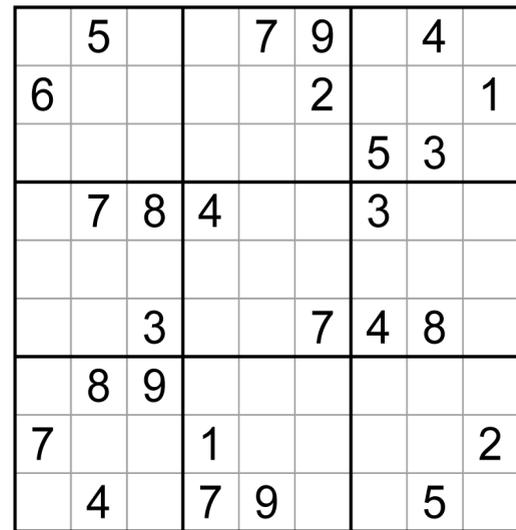
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HARD - 18

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

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



Calendar

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

Thurs., Dec. 3

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

MERRY MAKERS - NATURAL HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Join this adult craft group the first Thursday of each month and have fun crafting with new and recycled materials. This month the group will make a variety of decorations using things found in nature. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

WALNUT SANTA CRAFT

Meeting via Facebook, 10:30 AM. Learn how to make a walnut Santa necklace or ornament. No registration required. www.worcesterlibrary.org

POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Featuring 'Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. Copies of books are available in advance at the Pocomoke branch. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

MEN'S HOLIDAY SHOP NIGHT

Downtown Berlin, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Merchants will help men find the gifts they need this year, then wrap them up, while the men enjoy light refreshments.

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY 'HOLIDAY JOY' PERFORMANCE

Festive holiday music performed by the orchestra's strings and guest soloists including violinist Virgil Boutelis-Taft, soprano Alexandra Raszkazoff and tenor Michael Butler, 7:00 PM. Tickets for the live performance cost \$45 and tickets to view the concert livestream are \$15. Gift tickets to view the livestream are available at five for \$50. All tickets include special pre- and post-concert events hosted by Maestro Benichou, as well as on-demand replays of the concert through Dec. 10. Tickets: www.midatlanticsymphony.org. info@midatlanticsymphony.org, 888-846-8600

Fri., Dec. 4

A MIRACLE ON MARKET STREET

Market Street, Pocomoke City, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Featuring live holiday music by Coastal Sound; candlelight Christmas carols at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and a special performance by All About Dance Academy. Also featuring sidewalk sales, craft vendors, free giveaways for kids and adults, a bonfire, horse and carriage rides and a special appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Support the Samaritan Shelter Food and Coat Drive with donations of canned goods, nonperishable food items, paper products and

gently used coats. The City of Pocomoke will strongly enforce CDC Guidelines. Masks must be worn in high traffic areas. No food or beverages will be served at this event. Rain date is Dec. 11. karah@pocomokemd.gov, 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, <http://www.cityofpocomoke.com>

FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT AND TREE LIGHTING

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., 5:00 PM. The church is hosting a family outdoor movie night on the front lawn and a modified version of the annual tree decorating and lighting. Featuring the animated Christmas movie "The Star." Clean and gently used shoes will be accepted as well. <https://fb.me/e/3V1q5Pzmx>

SIP 'N PAINT

Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM. Follow along in a holiday themed step by step interactive program. All supplies will be provided. Call your local Worcester County library branch to schedule a pick up of supplies. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING

Admission is free and open to the public. The Galleria features the "Best of 2020" group show. Original small works of art, no larger than 12x12", specially priced for gift giving, will be available in Studio E. The exhibits will be available during December to view in person and also online at www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org. Info: 410-524-9433. The center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Sat., Dec. 5

28TH ANNUAL SANTA'S OPEN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Breakfast and check-in begins at 9 a.m., shotgun start at 10 a.m. Golfer registration is open to the public at \$85 at the door. Participants are also asked to donate one unwrapped gift for ages 8-17 years. Team format is a four-person scramble. Registration includes breakfast, carts, golfer's gift and a chance to win contests and prizes. Register to golf or become a sponsor at <https://shorebiglittle.org/events/>. Proceeds benefit the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. golf4kids@shorebiglittle.org, 410-543-2447

CHICKEN SALAD CARRYOUT AND SAUSAGE PICKUP

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Sausage must have been preordered. Chicken salad will be sold for \$7 per pint. Preorders are encouraged to insure availability: 619-922-9950. BVFD T-shirts are also available for \$20 and they can be ordered when ordering the chicken salad. Cookbooks are for sale at \$10 and Rada Knives. Info: 410-430-4370. Proceeds help

fund the department's new firetruck.

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., Dec. 6

LIFE-SAVING MUSEUM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave. Free admission and special sales in the gift shop. Info: www.oc-museum.org or go to the museum's Facebook Event Page.

OUTDOOR HOLIDAY ARTS MARKET

Rancho Fiesta Farm, 11323 Worcester Highway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Featuring original works, handmade goods, artisanal products, live music and children's story time. Masks and social distancing guidelines in place.

Mon., Dec. 7

HOLIDAY STORY TIME

Meeting via Facebook, 10:30 AM. Stories, songs, finger plays and poems about the holiday season for 2-5 year old children. No registration required. www.worcesterlibrary.org

HOLIDAY WRAPPINGS VIRTUAL FASHION SHOW - TICKET DEADLINE

The event will be held Dec. 8 from noon to 1 p.m. Virtual seats include private on-line viewing of boutique fashions and tutorials, access to the auction, a goody bag and a chance to win prizes. Tickets available for a \$20 donation. Additional opportunities include a chance to purchase a \$10 raffle ticket for a 2020 Mazda CX-30 or \$20,000 cash; access to make donations to ResearchHERS or a general donation to the American Cancer Society; and an opportunity to recognize a loved one touched by cancer on the Virtual Tribute Scroll. Purchase a seat or make donations at www.acsholidaywrappings.org. Beth Riley, bethwhippler@gmail.com, 443-880-0511, <http://www.facebook.com/acsHolidayWrappings>

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The meeting will be held via conference call, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Dial 978-990-5451, wait for voice command, then press 3753651. Open to the public and meets the first Monday of each month. Discussion and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Meeting 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

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Dr. Dean Kottowski leads a lecture and discussion about Pearl Harbor as we commemorate and honor the men and women lost in this attack. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Tues., Dec. 8

JOHN LENNON: AFTER THE BEATLES - PART 1

It was 40 years ago today that John Lennon passed away. In Part 1 of this program, Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett discuss the Beatles, their breakup and Lennon going solo, 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM. Event URL: <https://www.facebook.com/worcester-countymarylandlibrary>. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via video call, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Group provides discussions and mutual support, as well as education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-4765, <http://www.delmarvaparkinsonsalliance.org>

Wed., Dec. 9

FOOD DRIVE

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be collecting non-perishable goods for Diakonia in the parking lot.

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Songs, rhymes and stories for children under 2 years old. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

BOARD GAMES

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. This month's game is Big Boggle! See how many words you find in three minutes among the 25 lettered dice. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

SIT 'N STITCH

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. Join others for an afternoon of knitting, crocheting and other needle arts. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WW II UNES

Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM. Join the group for some songs from the 1940s. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

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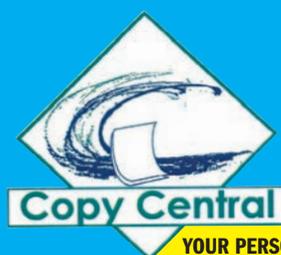
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Worcester County Restaurant Relief Grant Program

Applications now being accepted*



Worcester County's Restaurant Relief Grant program provides up to \$10K grants to help restaurants with payroll and rent, outdoor dining expenses, site upgrades, carryout tech support, sanitation, and supplies.

* Applications will be accepted until funds have been expended. First come - first serve.

Grant Amounts:

\$5,000 - restaurants up to 10 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees

\$7,500 - 11 to 25 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees

\$10,000 - 26 or more Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees

To learn more & *apply* visit
www.ChooseMarylandsCoast.org

Worcester County Economic Development (410) 632-3112