



Berlin, county settle fire grant differences

Mayor, commissioners see each other's perspectives, funding amount restored

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) The Town of Berlin will be receiving funding for fire and emergency services after all.

After the Worcester County Commissioners voted last week to cut the

middleman out of the process by funding the Berlin Fire Company and EMS directly, a discussion Tuesday with Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall resulted in an unanimous — albeit reluctant — 7-0 vote to reinstate the \$115,000 grant in the FY21/22 budget to the town.

Mitrecic warned, however, that future local government manipulation of funds intended for fire and emergency services could result in the loss

of a municipality's entire unrestricted grant.

"We had some really good dialog about the level of funding the Town of Berlin provides and our commitment to public safety," Tyndall said afterward. "We're not going to deviate from that. We may have to make some sizable adjustments (if funding still decreases) but we're still going to honor our commitment to providing the highest service we can."

Tyndall was accompanied by Berlin Town Council members Shaneka Nichols and Jay Knerr, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood and Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing.

Tyndall said the commissioners' decision last week was based on a misunderstanding about how the town appropriates county funding intended for fire companies.

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

JAMMING

Cozy Recordings proprietor Matthew Van Gasbeck, left, lays down a groove, alongside his father, bassist Dave VanGasbeck, and lead vocalist Tom Flanagan, from Ocean Pines-based band Still Rockin' during Berlin's 2nd Friday event last week.

Berlin spring cruise returns to downtown

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) In another return to normalcy as covid-19 concerns continue to fade, the annual Berlin Spring Cruisers event kicks off on Saturday at 10 a.m. as downtown streets will close to welcome a large

contingency of rumbling American muscle cars.

Berlin Chamber of Commerce Deputy Director Steve Frene said the annual car gathering is scheduled to return in full force following a modified version held last fall.

Frene said the most recent Cruis-

ers shindig was a significantly smaller affair because of pandemic restrictions.

"In October, we had a modified event and could only utilize a private parking lot," he said. "We could only park 100 vehicles."

See SPRING Page 4

Voters impose spending cap on directors

New limit of \$1 million will replace percentage formula

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Vote totals for an Ocean Pines Association referendum on limiting spending by the board of directors to \$1 million were confirmed last week, with a strong majority of Ocean Pines residents approving the measure.

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee convened on Friday to tally the referendum totals, with manual count results finding 2,531 votes in favor and 1,358 votes opposed.

The referendum was triggered after an attempt to reduce the spending cap by former Director Slobodan Trendic was thwarted by the board.

Trendic stepped down as a director after abstaining from a vote on April 6, 2019 to approve expansions of the police and administration building, as well as the golf clubhouse and cart barn, which combined cost more than \$3 million.

During the OPA homeowners annual meeting that August, Trendic presented a pair of petitions. One called for limiting the board's unauthorized spending authority, and the

See VOTERS Page 5

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Some commissioners worry about retaliation

Continued from Page 1

“We’ll take that whole (FY22 requested county funding of) \$465,000 and divert that directly into those services,” Tyndall told the commissioners. “A reduction of \$115,000 is going to have a sizable impact on what we’re able to do and the level of service we’re able to help fund for the residents of Berlin.”

Tyndall added that he was saddened to learn of their’ opinions the way that he did — through the public. “I was a little disappointed because that was fresh information for me,” Tyndall said. “I never received a question from any of you about our funding or the level of funding we provide.”

Berlin’s unrestricted grant for FY22 is slated to be \$465,000 again.

Tyndall provided a document for the commissioners with figures that seem to show that the money Berlin receives for fire and EMS largely goes to those services, with \$400,000 of \$465,000 going to “Berlin Fire Company and Ambulance Allocation” in FY21, according to the document.

Tyndall pointed out that the Berlin Fire Company and Emergency Services are not town departments, thus their money is provided in the form of a grant and in the two pre-covid fiscal years, they had given the serv-



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Town of Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall discusses the budget for Berlin’s Fire and EMS’s services with the Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday. The commissioners had voted last week to slash Berlin’s grant funding by \$115,000, citing perceived shortchanging of the services on the town’s behalf. After speaking with Tyndall, the commissioners reversed their decision and reinstated the original funding amount.

ices extra money.

Budget setbacks in FY21 led to a reduction in grant money given and Tyndall said he didn’t want to see his town penalized for having to revert to the \$400,000 base rate.

Tyndall said that the town’s requested funding affects not just the fire company, but the police budget as well, and that all of these services

could suffer if county money to the town is reduced.

For some commissioners, it wasn’t so much Tyndall’s explanation that persuaded them as it was the notion that the town might retaliate against the diverted grant tactic by giving fire and EMS even less. Commissioner Jim Bunting asked Tyndall about that point-blank.

“No,” Tyndall responded. “We’re looking at police, fire and EMS and I see those as very critical. The priority of funding is the \$465,000 that we requested. Everything else is secondary and I would hope that we can come together on that, because they do have an increased value for the county and the town. Those are the reasons that I made those requests.

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Purnell: don't tell town officials how they must operate

The \$465,000 as I laid out during my presentation goes directly to police, fire and EMS, which we can all agree is a vital service."

After Tyndall left and before the commissioners voted, Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic, Bunting and Elder all worried out loud about fire and emergency services possibly paying a greater price if the town's grant were to be cut.

"I have serious concerns about what the retaliation would be against the Fire Company of Berlin," Mitrecic said.

Bunting added that he had "already been told" that the town would indeed reduce funding by whatever price the county reduced their grant by.

"(It would be a shame) if we couldn't put their two ambulances on the road, which is why we (took on this reform) in the first place," Mitrecic said.

One of Bunting's points to Tyndall was it didn't seem right that county funding, which comes from county taxpayers, was funding Berlin's fire and EMS when the town is actively annexing adjacent areas and adding residents to its tax base.

"They have not treated fire companies fairly after annexing acres and acres and acres," Bunting said, referencing hundreds of new residents that now fall under their protection. "It's a bad situation but I don't want to see them lose \$115,000 either.

Commissioner Diana Purnell took a different stance, saying that the county should remind itself to not penalize Berlin for doing what the county itself has done with its own departments.

"When you look at what they're trying to do and how they conduct their business in their town," Purnell said, "because there were times we had to ask for a flat budget and we worked through it — we're going into someone's town and trying to tell them how to run their business, and then we get that information in front of us showing us what they've done for years and then snag that (\$115,000)? I can't agree with that."

Tyndall acknowledged the skepticism he encountered in the meeting but remained optimistic that the county and town will be able to find their way onto the same page.

"I think that everybody wants to fund fire and EMS services adequately," Tyndall said. "I can't dispute that. We all have the same goal in mind. I think it's important to understand that the information that we presented today is showing that we do honor that commitment. Commissioners (Josh) Nordstrom, Purnell and (Bud) Church seem to understand that and I hope everyone else can come around as well."

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin's Spring Cruisers event, pictured in 2019, returns to Main Street and adjacent roads with hundreds of classic rides anticipated on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Cruisers return to Berlin for street show

Continued from Page 1

The covid experience last year was instrumental for gaining insights about parking areas available besides traditional roads.

Berlin Spring Cruisers runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with car registration taking place from 7-9 a.m.

"We hope to get about 350 vehicles this year on the streets and designated parking lots," he said.

"We have awards and trophies that we give out at 2 p.m. and then the event concludes," he said.

Frene said the return to tradition also includes some fresh elements.

"We're having a DJ play doo-wop music and we'll be doing some trivia questions," he said.

Trivia contest prizes are being provided by event sponsor the Treasure Chest at 20 N. Main Street and Island Creamery located at 120 N. Main Street.

"We know how much car enthusiasts love ice cream," he said.

Also sponsoring the event is Edward Jones Investments and local financial advisor Charles Adams located at 10776 Grays Corner Road.

To accommodate the car extravaganza Main Street will be closed between West and Baker Streets for the duration of the event.

Frene said adjacent side streets, including Broad, Pitt and Commerce, would also be shut down.

Culinary delights are also on tap for participants and visitors.

"We have several restaurants opening early," he said.

Coinciding with the start of registration at 7 a.m. both On What Grounds? Coffee House and the Evergreen Lodge, both located on N. Main Street will be open to offer sunrise nourishment.

"Evergreen Lodge will be cooking from scratch scrapple, sausage or bacon and egg sandwiches," he said. "That will be the big breakfast and On What Grounds has great bagels, sandwiches and crêpes as well."

Frene said at 8 a.m. both Rayne's Reef Soda Fountain & Grill at 10 N. Main Street and Baked Dessert Café at 4 Bay Street would be open.

Commemorative items for sale include T-shirts and posters featuring a trio of iconic Detroit-produced muscle vehicles, including the Chevy Camaro, Ford Mustang and Plymouth Barracuda.

T-shirts cost \$20 with posters available for \$5.

"We're nonprofit, so we don't make any money," he said. "Basically, all we're trying to do is cover expenses and make this a good time."

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Elections Committee members, from left, Mary Anne Whitcomb, Carol Ludwig and Steve Habeger conduct a ballot count for a spending referendum on Friday.

Voters apply spending cap on OPA board of directors

Continued from Page 1

other sought a referendum on the recently begun clubhouse project at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

Trendic filed suit in November 2019 in response to the OPA Board of Directors' rejection that August of a petition containing more than 800 signatures seeking to amend the OPA bylaws to require the board to conduct a membership vote to approve any single capital expenditure over \$1 million.

In February of this year, Ocean Pines President Larry Perrone announced the association had reached a settlement with Trendic and would proceed with drafting a referendum question to consider amending bylaws.

Last revised in 2008, association bylaws had included a board spending threshold of 20 percent of annual assessment fees without authorization of residents.

In FY20/21 the 20 percent total amounted to roughly \$1.8 million.

Food future explored in film to be shown by coastal trust

(May 20, 2021) Join Assateague Coastal Trust to watch Wild and Scenic Film Festival's "Our Food Future" from the comfort and safety of your own home, live on Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

A two-hour program, featuring nine short films, "Our Food Future" explores how growing food affects the planet in a multitude of ways.

From monocrops and tilling to vertical farming and rotational grazing, this program explores questions of "to till or not to till," biodynamic and organic, among others. At the root of it all, how can we grow food with practices that heal the planet and nourish our health?

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is building a network of grassroots organizations connected by a common goal of using film to inspire activism.

Now, attendees on Delmarva can support their own local advocates for the environment by attending Assateague Coastal Trust's Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour event - "Our Food Future."

Ticket sales benefit the E3 Initiative For Citizen Engagement On The Lower Shore, a collaborative of five Maryland nonprofit organizations, including Assateague Coastal Trust, Center for Progressive Reform, Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Water-

keepers Chesapeake, and the Environmental Integrity Project that began in 2019.

Their work focuses on enforcement of environmental laws, advocacy for policy reform, create a level playing field for the small and sustainable farmer, and use community organizing for citizen engagement.

"ACT has been bringing the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to Delmarva every fall for the past 10 years and we're excited to now add a second event with this exclusive showing of 'Our Food Future,'" said Assateague Coastal Trust President Jim Rapp. "Delmarva is the region's bread basket with important agriculture and fishing industries. The future of farming on Delmarva will be dependent upon finding more sustainable ways to grow our food."

This event is sponsored locally by Future Harvest, and the festival is sponsored nationally by Peak Designs, Klean Kanteen, Earth Justice and Sierra Nevada.

"Our Food Future" will be aired on May 20. Virtual lobby doors open at 6:30 p.m. and films start at 7 p.m. Ticket prices begin at \$10 each, with family packages available. Raffle prize tickets available.

Tickets can be purchased at www.actforbays.org/our-food-future.



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OPA Board Briefs

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board approved policy documents and capital expenditures during its meeting on Saturday.

Succession Planning

Board member Dr. Colette Horn introduced a first reading of policy document to establish succession planning procedures for the general manager position.

Horn said the board was assisted by an outside consultant to craft internal succession plans.

The proposed policy outlines processes, job duties, prior qualifications and skills required for the general manager position.

Ocean Pines President Larry Perrone asked if the policy details were changed from the most recent discussions.

"These are the same documents we reviewed a couple of months ago and the board looked at in closed session?" he said.

Horn said subsequent changes occurred following closed session talks.

"They've been updated, and we made changes based on discussions of our work group and input from the consultant," she said.

Board member Doug Parks said the policy document would not require a second reading.

"There's no requirement to have two readings," he said.

Horn gladly accepted the input.

"Thanks for doing that research Doug," she said. "That would be my preference to go ahead and approve it."

The board voted unanimously to adopt the succession planning procedures.

Jenkins Point

The board unanimously approved investing \$10,000 to cover design and permitting costs for a proposed restoration for Jenkins Point.

Parks said the goal is conducting a nature-based restoration of the eroding Jenkins Point peninsula located in the Isle of Wight Bay.

The intent is to bolster natural infrastructure to provide the community enhanced protection from climate change issues, notably the mounting occurrences of intense coastal storms causing erosion to shorelines and increased levels of flooding.

Perrone, while espousing support for the undertaking, raised funding concerns.

"When we were first contacted about this and had discussed it with Maryland Coastal Bays, we were told Ocean Pines would not have to incur any expense for the engineering portion," he said.

Perrone said the project was estimated to cost anywhere from \$2-4 million and would be financed through grants.

"That was their initial commitment," he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Director Tom Janasek took issue after not being alerted that repealing an ethics and conduct resolution was being introduced for a first reading during the board meeting on Saturday.

Perrone noted a similar scenario occurred with the Bainbridge Pond project.

"This is what we've been told before and my concern is we're going to move down the line [and] they're going to come back to us with more engineering costs," he said.

Perrone said engineering costs for Bainbridge included \$121,00 for design work and \$31,000 for Worcester County charges.

"Originally, we were told we're going to get all that money back and we're not getting in back," he said. "I am in full support of the Bainbridge project but just want to make sure our eyes are wide open as we go into this."

The board voted unanimously to approve expense.

Resolution B-08

Director Frank Daly introduced a first reading to repeal resolution B-08 relating to director and officer ethics and conduct.

"This would appeal it in its entirety," he said.

Director Tom Janasek voiced concerns over the issue, noting a related work group was not informed the first reading was slated to occur.

"I have an issue with this coming up and the three of us that are on the committee knowing nothing about it until it popped up," he said.

While acknowledging Daly had suggested several months ago that the resolution would be repealed if the work group failed to make progress, Janasek still expressed disappointment.

"It would have been nice to reach out to the committee," he said.

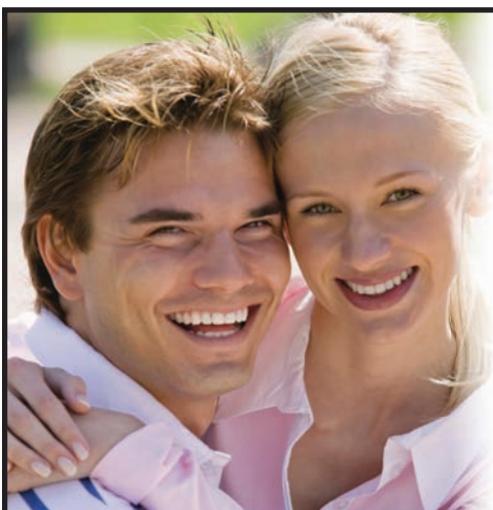
Daly said Janasek had a valid point and noted the work group could still offer revisions prior to second reading, which is slated during the board meeting next month.

Seacrets lease

Board members voted unanimously, with Janasek abstaining, to approve a five-year lease with Seacrets for use of the Ocean Pines Beach Club oceanside parking lot.

The agreement includes a \$60,000 charge that includes a 3 percent annual increase.

Under the lease terms Seacrets would be responsible for related property taxes.



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Berlin Commons community space officially greenlighted

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) The Berlin Planning Commission voted 4-1 last week to approve a community green space for special events and outdoor dining at the intersection of Gay and Jefferson streets.

The vote, which came after a motion to deny the application died for lack of a second, allows Buzz Meadery owners Brett and Megan Hines to proceed with their Berlin Commons proposal.

As presented by the Hines last Wednesday, Berlin Commons would involve a triangle-shaped area between Gay and Jefferson streets.

Berlin residents since 2015, the Hines launched the Buzz Meadery last June and produce a "honey wine" averaging 6-8 percent of alcohol.

The Berlin Historic District Commission approved the proposal during its meeting on May 5.

Commission member Pete Cosby asked if the public area located on private property would provide space for consuming food and beverages from nearby eateries.

Bret Hines said the area would be open for the community from sunrise to sundown.

Under the auspices of the Buzz

Meadery, which is registered as a class four limited winery in Maryland, the location could be used for pre-approved special events.

Hines said each special event must receive state approval, with up to 32 permitted annually.

"Some are not in Berlin," he said.

Additionally, the location would be available for residents looking to book a site for small gatherings.

Megan Hines said pop up food vendors might be allowed on site but no firm plans are in place yet.

Commission member Newt Chandler asked about related charges.

"If you get a vendor in there, are you going to charge them for space?" he said.

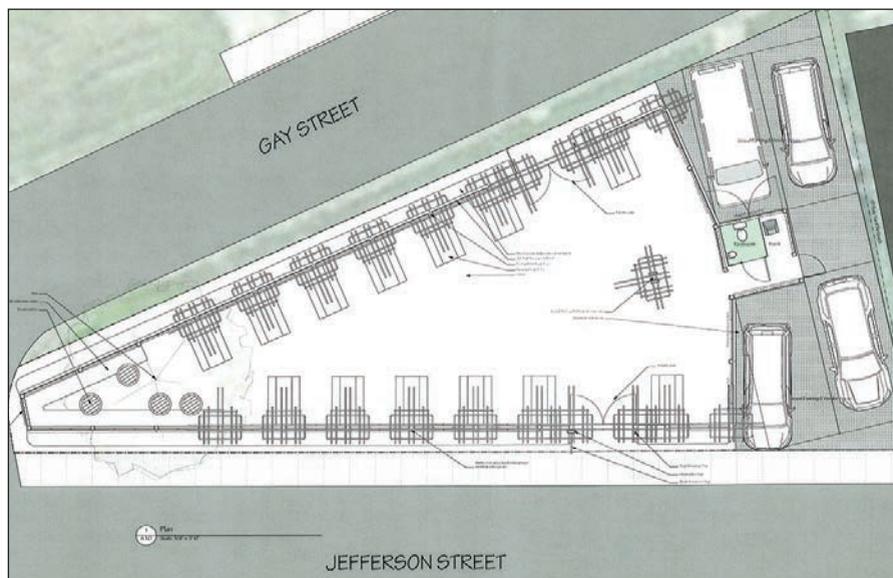
Brett Hines said the approach would vary.

"If it's a for-profit thing, were going to charge them ... but not private events," he said.

Chairperson Chris Denny asked who would be responsible for assuring the spot remained free of trash and debris.

Brett Hines said the couple, who live nearby on Bay Street, would handle property upkeep, with friends and associates available if assistance is required.

"We would hire a company if we



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After a thorough vetting, the Berlin Planning Commission approved site plans for a community greenspace, Berlin Commons, by the intersection of Gay and Jefferson streets.

need help with the trash," he said.

Chandler asked how the public would be informed when the space could be used and rules of conduct expected.

Brett Hines said the principal approach would employ signs.

"In the center of the property we're going to have signage that at least has the ground rules," he said. "Most of the time the property is going to be unmanaged."

Chandler raised concerns regarding late-night partying.

"There could be a spontaneous party there that lasts until 2 a.m.," he said. "Dealing with a bunch of drunk-

ards — it's like herding cats, they're going to stay there ... unless somebody runs them off."

Brett Hines said motion sensor security cameras would be installed.

"We're not going to have any physical altercations but we're going to take appropriate measures," he said.

This assurance failed to allay Chandler's concerns.

"You just can't have a party lot there with nobody taking care of it," he said.

Megan Hines said the couple would take ultimate responsibility and react accordingly.

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Berlin's Mermaid Museum official ribbon cutting held

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Adding a new wrinkle to Berlin's varied artistic ventures, the Mermaid Museum opened on Main Street in late March with a curated collection of oddities related to seafarer's tales of yesteryear.

An official ribbon cutting was held last week at the 4 Jefferson Street location with town officials on hand to welcome owner Alyssa Maloof and celebrate what is said to be the world's first museum of its sort.

"I want it to be a fun addition that will lift up the whole town a little bit," she said.

Among the various sights held upstairs at the historic Odd Fellows building in downtown Berlin is an authentic Fiji mermaid, a fish-monkey hybrid creature made infamous in traveling sideshows operated by P.T. Barnum.

Maloof began compiling the collection of mermaid-themed items after the covid-19 outbreak last year.

"It was a matter of finding the bigger things first," she said.

After securing anchor display pieces, Maloof continued building a

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Berlin Commons plans approved

Continued from Page 7

"If they're on private property and it's after posted hours they're trespassing," she said.

Denny asked if entrance gates to the lot would be closed at night.

Brett Hines said based on input from police and fire officials two planned entrance gates would have locks installed, with the couple handling opening and closing.

"There would be signage that said no outside alcohol allowed," he said. "It's not meant for people to be drinking."

Although the spot would be open during daylight, Brett Hines said the time range would be shorter for special events, typically six hours or less.

"We're going to try and pair it with when the town's busy," he said.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said a scant number of emails opposing the proposal were received, which were offset by close to 90 letters of support.

Among the dissenters was former Planning Commission member Barbara Stack, who did support green space but envisioned the area being misappropriated for a party spot.

"I am concerned this semi-enclosed space will be misused by the public when no one is around," she said.

Stack said the inclusion of fencing surrounding the parcel could provide cover for "mischief makers to hide and pop out" to frighten pedestrians passing by or provide an out-of-sight location for homeless to sleep.

"Who's going to supervise?" she asked. "The Berlin Police department and the taxpayers should not be asked to supervise private property."

Stack also suggested fencing could reduce cross street visibility for drivers.

Englehart said Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing, who is being consulted about traffic issues, proposed observing the location.

"He said the best thing we can do is go out there ... and look," he said.

Lack of restroom facilities on site was another concern raised by Chandler.

"That's a major problem in my opinion," he said.

Brett Hines said initial site plans included a space for a portable restroom.

"We found out under town code no temporary bathroom is allowed," he said. "We wanted to have space if events in town required bathrooms."

Engelhart said while Berlin does not install mobile bathrooms on private property during town-sponsored events, the Hines could build a per-

manent facility on site.

Although in agreement about restroom concerns, Brett Hines said building a structure at the location would prove cost prohibitive.

"We are under contract to buy this property conditioned on these plans getting approved," he said. "It's unlikely we could budget the cost to build a bathroom."

Berlin Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said public restrooms are located within 500 feet of the site.

Chandler said if alcohol was being consumed at special events that distance would prove too far and result in urinating near residences.

"This thing is pushing up against a neighborhood," he said.

Chandler said establishing an outdoor venue such as Berlin Commons would set a bad precedent within the town.

"It's not fair to the people that live in the area [and] surrounding property owners," he said.

Brett Hines said the emphasis for Berlin Commons would be less of a special event spot and more of an outlet for creativity.

"We're going to have space readily available for local artists to set up," he said.

To that end the Hines have consulted with the Berlin Arts Council.

"It's a place where people who live in our town can come together and showcase the things that they're making, selling or creating," he said. "That's the essence of what this space is."

Megan Hines noted the location is currently a dirt lot.

"It's really an eyesore [and] we're trying to beautify it," she said. "I genuinely don't think our community's going to destroy it, throw trash there and have homeless people living in it."

After Chandler put forth a motion to deny the request that failed to garner a second member in support, the commission voted 4-1 to pass a subsequent motion with Chandler opposed.

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Recently-opened business bringing aquatic artifacts

Continued from Page 8
stockpile of mermaid artifacts, including supposed hair and nail samples.

"The museum is still slowly evolving," she said.

Malooof, who works as a professional photographer in addition to a mermaid expert, initially took over the upstairs floor at 4 Jefferson Street in 2018, which formerly housed the Yarn Store.

"I procured it for a photo studio," she said.

After using the locale to stage photo shoots for several years, changes abounded in 2020.

"During covid I didn't have a lot to shoot," she said.

Left with plenty of down time during the pandemic last year, Malooof turned a germ of an idea into the new undertaking.

"It was a big leap," she said. "I've never created a museum, but I do have a master's in fine art."

After securing a business line of credit through Taylor Bank, Malooof decided to take a chance and pursue a passion.

"I've been around a lot of art," she said. "It's been my field."

With financial backing in hand, Malooof began searching the Internet for artists and to do research.

"I had contemplated a mermaid museum but never fully trusted myself to go for it," she said.

Since opening to the public in March, Malooof said the historical overview of mystical mermaids has proven fascinating for a wide range of age groups.

"Grandpops have loved it, little kids get to run wild in there and other people are just confused," she said. "It gets people thinking a little bit."

The Mermaid Museum is open six days a week, excluding Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with admission costing \$11.

Besides offering mermaid lore, Malooof said the museum also provides an opportunity for the public to admire the historical building hosting the collection.

"I wanted people to be able to see ... and be in that space," she said.

Malooof said opening the museum was a labor of love that brought immense satisfaction.

"Hopefully, it brings joy to other people," she said.

To learn more visit berlinmermaidmuseum.com.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin officials welcomed the Mermaid Museum to town during a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week at the 4 Jefferson Street location.



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Purnell Crossing newest changes approved

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Revisions to housing projects at Purnell Crossing north and south were approved by the Berlin Planning Commission in separate votes last week with nary a hint of the consternation expressed by residents when proposals were last put forth in 2019.

The planned unit development, located between Old Ocean City Boulevard and Broad Street, was initially approved in 2001 and has undergone several blueprint modifications since then.

Berlin Councilman and property owner Troy Purnell, who later sold the north portion, said the last requested change for Purnell Crossing south in September 2019 converted seven smaller single-family home lots into a pair of larger properties at a buyer's behest.

This time, Purnell sought to increase the 19 single-family homes previously approved for Purnell Crossing south to 28 total.

"You're gaining nine in the same footprint," he said.

Sufficient space for the extra housing was obtained by reducing lot sizes.

"The half-acre lots are going down to between a quarter or a third," he said.

Alterations were also made to streetways running along a pond area included in development plans.

"Originally the road design included a 90-degree turn by the pond," he said.

Street layouts were tweaked to accommodate adequate traffic flow.

"We made the lots smaller and you have two road frontages now instead of just having one," he said.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the changes with member George Austin Purnell (son



RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN PLANNING COMMISSION

Revised site plans for townhomes with front facing garages in Purnell Crossing north were approved by the Berlin Planning Commission last week.

of Troy Purnell) abstaining. Changes were also proposed for three-dozen two-story townhomes previously approved in Purnell Crossing north.

Detailing the revision were consultant Wesley Cox with SVM-Miller Commercial Real Estate and Vista Design principal/founder Steve Engle.

"We tweaked the existing approved site plan," Cox said. "We took it from 36 approved units and we reduced the density."

Cox said the overall count was reduced by two units for a total of 34 townhomes.

Other alterations were made to make road visibility more appealing once construction is complete.

"As you're pulling into this site ... the original plan had you looking directly at the back of that center row of units," he said.

Engle revamped design plans to flip the script for a view of home fronts not rear exteriors.

"From an aesthetics perspective, it's going to be much more attractive," he said.

Lastly, townhomes were redesigned to include individual front-facing garages.

Bridgeville, Delaware based In-

sight Homes, which markets energy-efficient homes, is under contract as builder.

Cox said Insight Homes founder Robert Lisle has received two-dozen awards locally and nationally for his commitment to constructing conservation-minded homes.

"He's won green builder of the year for entire United States," he said.

Cox said Lisle's outfit has a long track record of working to reduce environmental footprints.

"The true benefit is to the owner or occupant of the property in dramatically reduced electric bills, or utility bills in general," he said.

Cox said the townhomes would be offered as rental units with SVM-Miller handling round-the-clock property management.

"We manage currently about three-million square feet of commercial space on Delmarva," he said. "There's going to be someone residents can call with concerns."

Commission member Matthew Stoehr asked if the rental units would be included in the Purnell Crossing Association whose membership consists of owners of 27-unit existing townhomes.

"I live in Purnell Crossing, would

this be part of our HOA?" he said.

Stoehr said the adjacent housing clusters would share an access road.

"How could we share an HOA?" he said. "Or we would essentially have an HOA with rental units in the back."

Cox said there was serious community concerns after site plan approval in 2019 that included both townhomes and apartment buildings.

The site plan was subsequently split into a two-phase project after Purnell Crossing north was sold by previous owner and developer Justin White.

Cox said the current proposal only involves the first phase for townhomes with a separate site plan for apartment units yet to go under contract.

Stoehr asked if an agreement could be included to restrict renting to tenants seeking subsidized, or Section 8, housing.

Cox said townhome rental fees would likely run \$1,500 or higher monthly, which would be cost prohibitive for most individuals seeking lower-priced accommodations.

"The project doesn't work financially that way," he said.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart
See BERLIN Page 11

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Director Frank Daly makes his case during the latest round of discussions regarding short-term rental regulations during the Ocean Pines Board meeting on Saturday.

Pines to hold town hall for short-term rentals concern

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Ocean Pines officials' discussion of amending Worcester County short-term rental regulations to enhance enforcement capabilities resurfaced during the board of directors meeting on Saturday, with a subsequent town hall on the issue set in short order.

Board member Frank Daly introduced recommendations from legal counsel to amend the Declaration of Restrictions for various sections of Ocean Pines to address short-term rentals.

"We've been working on this thing now for more than two years and it's been a ... pretty interesting process as we talked with all the stakeholders," he said.

The issue erupted last summer because of recurring problems at a few properties, most notably on Abbyshire

Road, that were advertised on web-based platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO, Flipkey or Homeaway.

Because of the disruptive behavior at some properties, the board formed a work group of Daly, and directors Camilla Rodgers and Frank Brown to investigate the situation.

Daly said the group concluded the best course of action would be to adopt the county regulations into association DORs to improve enforcement.

"The board is not looking to disrupt the short-term rental market in Ocean Pines," he said.

Instead, Daly said, the intent is to create a more efficient means to address troublesome rentals.

"We would alter the DORs in each section of Ocean Pines to exactly follow Worcester County code," he said.

The changes would be no more or
See SHORT Page 13

Berlin Planning vets proposal

Continued from Page 10
cautioned against including mention of housing subsidies in the motion for approval.

"I'm not sure you could encumber that legally," he said.

Engelhart questioned whether the motion would break state or federal laws.

"The development or management company, usually the only assurance they can give us to that is that the credit application and the screening for their tenants takes that into account," he said. "If you can afford the rent out of pocket, whatever your salary is, but you get assistance from the government for your rent, they can't tell you that's a disqualifying reason to be a tenant. That's against federal law."

Cox said tenants would be pre-

screened with higher end rents also serving to limit clientele.

"It will look and feel like a community," he said.

In terms of timelines, Engel said there are infrastructure issues to take into account.

"There is some existing infrastructure that's going to have to come out," he said.

Engel said project developer Insight Homes would want to break ground at the earliest date feasible.

"I would think it would done within a year," he said.

Engel also noted site plans were amended to include a 10-foot pedestrian link to connect the north and south ends of Purnell Crossing.

The commission voted for approval with Chairman Chris Denny opposed.

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OP GM Viola updates projects, PPP status

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Along with discussing possible financial outcomes for the year just passed, Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola updated the Ocean Pines Association Board of Director Saturday on projects and amenity openings.

Providing closing projections for the association's fiscal FY 20/21 operating budget, which ended on April 30, can't be done with any precision, Viola said, until the association receives word whether the \$1.1 million Paycheck Protection Program loan received last year would be forgiven by the Small Business Administration.

"This would be a big effect on our operating profit and balance sheet if it's not forgiven," he said.

Noting 100 percent of the funds received were used for Ocean Pines payroll and salaries, Viola said the association in March sent paperwork seeking loan forgiveness through the Bank of Ocean City. The SBA response is anticipated within 90 days.

"It would likely be determined prior to issuance of year-end audited financials," he said.

If the PPP loan is not forgiven, the OPA would have to repay the sum at an interest rate of 1 percent.

"That would have a \$1.1 million effect on our operating profit for this year."

Viola said the Matt Ortt Company

was recently forgiven roughly \$270,000 in PPP loans.

"That will be reflected in the food and beverage numbers," he said.

On a similar note, Viola said of the \$105,000 the association received in Affordable CARES Act relief funding, about \$70,000 has been forgiven to this point.

If the PPP loan is forgiven, Viola said the past year could close with roughly \$1.1 million in budget favorability.

If it needs to be repaid, however, the OPA operating budget for FY20/21 would come in \$369,000 under budget projections.

The most significant losses suffered due to the covid-19 pandemic last year were in aquatics at nearly \$200,000 and beach parking at \$180,000.

"Food and beverage operations came in flat, but would have posted losses if not for a federal grant," he said

Viola said operational losses were offset by departmental cost-cutting measures, most notably in Recreation and Parks.

Turning to infrastructure issues, Viola said Louisiana-based contractor Pelican Underground wrapped up repairs earlier this month on 10 sections of failing corrugated metal piping employing a trenchless rehabilitation method.

Viola said the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) process involves inserting linings containing an inflatable epoxy-saturated felt tube that cures within a day.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola reviewed end-of-year financials during the board meeting on Saturday.

Once the resin cures, it forms a tight, joint-less seal, which has proven both more cost-effective and less disruptive than total pipe replacement.

In February, the board of directors approved roughly \$207,000 for the pipeline project to address a list of sections crossing under Ocean Parkway.

"We did a lot of research on them and what we've seen is very positive," he said.

Although final costs came in a bit higher at \$212,000, Viola said the work is anticipated to last for an extended pe-

riod and was completed at half the cost of traditional approaches.

"The pipes are flowing and the water is flowing," he said. "We're going to get this company back next year, hopefully."

In other drainage-related news, Viola said the Bainbridge Pond improvement project is continuing to make progress.

"It is on track and it is on budget."

In addition a Department of Natural Resources grant of more than \$480,000, the association chipped in \$235,000 for the effort to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Viola said work should be completed by the end of June and should improve the natural filtration of stormwater heading out to the Isle of Wight Bay.

Switching to a different water source, Viola reported that the association will reopen outdoor pool facilities on Saturday, May 29.

Viola said the only remaining restriction at this point is a mask mandate for bathrooms, which could change by later this month.

"Pool hours will return to pre-covid hours," he said.

Resuming for 2021 is Family Fun Night at the Yacht Club Pool at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

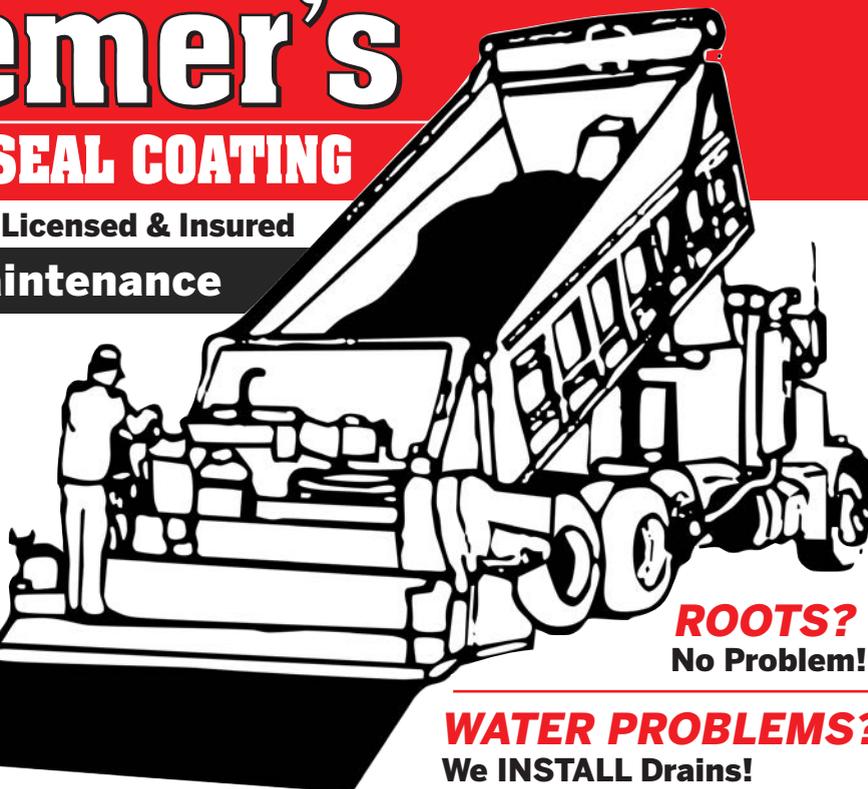
"This is a return to pre-covid life," he said. "It's good to see."

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Short-term rentals debate still ongoing in Ocean Pines

Continued from Page 11
less restrictive than that county code.

“If you’re renting short terms and you’re in compliance with the county, you’re going to be in compliance with Ocean Pines,” he said.

Additionally, Daly said amending the DORs would give the OPA the ability to establish a fine structure.

Daly said conversations he has had the county level made it apparent that the resources to enforce rental regulations are lacking.

“That’s where we found shortcomings ... so that falls upon us to do that,” he said.

Ocean Pines President Larry Perrone asked what mechanisms would be used to aid enforcement.

Daly said the association operates under a complaint-driven system to address violations.

“That’s how this system will be dealt with,” he said.

Daly countered the assertions of overreach expressed by critics of the effort.

“The truth is we have never experienced a problem with a property that has a Worcester County short-term rental license,” he said.

By contrast, Daly said unlicensed rentals have caused major problems in Ocean Pines and elsewhere in Worcester.

Perrone asked if the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] or Ocean Pines Police would handle enforcement responsibilities.

Daly said under association guidelines problems at a short-term rental would be addressed by the police department, which would then notify General Manager John Viola who would then contact the Complaints, Permits and Inspections Department (CPI).

Daly said after confirming the complaint is valid, CPI staff would issue a warning to the property owner.

“Past that, if there’s a subsequent complaint under the DORs, Viola can immediately go to enforcement,” he said.

With summer tourist season about to begin, Daly said any amendments to DORs would not be instituted until next year.

“Most people aren’t aware, but the board has the ability to levy fines in Ocean Pines sections developed after 1995,” he said. “They’ve never used it.”

Daly said the board could amend the fine schedule annually.

Board member Doug Parks stressed the importance of assuring various DORs are amended uniformly.

“We need a consistent process for enforcement that we socialize with the membership,” he said. “That will go a long ways in addressing these issues.”

Taking exception with the proposal was Board member Tom Janasek.

“I don’t believe we need another enforcement issue in the Pines or restrictions on anything,” he said.

Janasek noted county rental regulations permit officials to deny a license renewal if prior problems existed at a particular property.

“We have enough people behind it in Ocean Pines to put a little pressure on the commissioners to actually start enforcing all of these regulations,” he said.

Janasek noted the annual fee to obtain licensing from the county should provide sufficient funds to handle oversight.

“If we’re spending the money, why don’t you have a way to enforce it for the bad apples, which is .05 percent?” he said.

Daly suggested Janasek form a community group and lobby the county as private citizens.

“I’m not discouraging what you’re saying, because if they do their job we don’t have to do it,” he said.

Janasek said the point is that if Worcester lacks personnel to monitor short-term rental abuses, then more staff should be hired.

Daly said if the county fails to be up to the task, the board still has a responsibility to its homeowners.

“If you want to put together a grassroots effort, I’ll sign up for it,” he said.

Janasek said the county rental regulations are still relatively new and only had become effective in Jan. 2020.

“This year, all the leasing companies have to get it for their properties,” he said. “It’s obviously growing bigger.”

Janasek said his first goal would be discussing concerns with county officials and then charting a course.

“The majority of short-term rental owners don’t want to see problem properties because it’s a black eye on them,” he said.

Perrone said earlier discussions with County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, both of whom voted against the short-term rental licensing the county approved in 2019, it seemed apparent the onus for monitoring abuses would fall to the association.

“They made it perfectly clear they were not going to push for enforcement,” he said.

Janasek said increased focus on the issue could prove useful.

“The more publicity it gets, people start paying more attention,” he said.

Daly suggested their efforts could run parallel while also proposing scheduling a town hall meeting to gather further community input.

If the town hall meeting could be held before the board’s next meeting on June 16, Daly said the proposal could be introduced as a motion at that time.



PHOTO COURTESY MARY MILLER

FOCUSED

New baby foxes come out of their den to catch a few rays on a sunny day near Ocean Pines recently.

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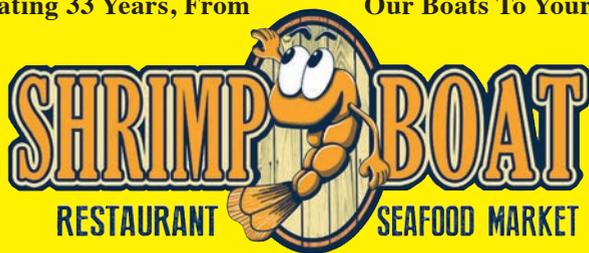


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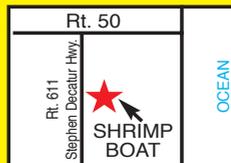
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White Horse Park, residents reach agreement, avoid trial

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) Thirty residents of White Horse Park in Ocean Pines reached an agreement with Worcester County and the WHP Community Association last week to avoid a trial and allow the residents to stay in the community year-round until the fall of 2022.

“Obviously, the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit are very happy with the settlement and the accommodation of the county commissioners and the White Horse Park homeowners association,” said attorney Hugh Cropper who represented the residents who were bringing the lawsuit. “They think it’s fair and I think it’s fair to the other folks who aren’t represented (who can take advantage of this decision as well.)”

The conflict arose from the county commissioners’ decision in 2019 to start enforcing a restriction that stipulates residents could not stay in the

community for more than 30 consecutive days or a sum total of 60 days between Sept. 30 and April 1.

The residents contended that simply moving to another location for half the year was infeasible due to various hardships. After failing to work around the county by promoting new legislation, the residents sued the county on the grounds that the county gave up its right to fine the residents for violating the rules since it was common knowledge to the park that these residents were still in the community during the offseason. The community association joined the lawsuit on the county’s side soon thereafter.

Cropper pointed out that 30 out of 465 residents was “a high level of compliance” for any similar community.

“These people all have legitimate hardships,” Cropper said. “I’ll bet if you go to any community in the county with 465 lots, you’ll have 30 people with some kind of violation.”

Atlantic General Hospital avoids budget cuts again

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) A year after the Worcester County Commissioners narrowly approved a grant for Atlantic General Hospital, county funding for FY22 looks like it will make the cut again.

The commissioners voted 6-0 on May 11 to give AGH the same \$100,000 they gave the hospital last year. But that vote came after a 3-3 split on whether to completely zero out the hospital’s annual award in the county’s new budget. Commissioner Bud Church was absent for each vote.

“This is a hotspot for this commission and we might (ultimately) zero it out,” Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic said. “As the president, I’m just bringing to the forefront that this is a very big hot spot for the commissioners.

If the commissioners don’t bring the matter up again when all seven of them are present, the \$100,000 grant will make it onto the FY22 operating budget proposal.

Church voted for the \$100,000 last year and it’s presumed he would vote the same way this year, making it unlikely that the issue will be discussed further this year, Commissioner Josh Nordstrom said.

While \$100,000 is better than no

funding, it’s well short of the \$200,000 that the hospital requested. Commissioners Jim Bunting, Ted Elder and Chip Bertino supported completely eliminating the hospital from the county budget.

Echoing his words last year when he strongly defended funding for AGH Nordstrom, stated that he “completely disagreed” with not only denying twice the funding but erasing it from the budget altogether.

“I understand we got (caught up in this) last year and it’s twice as much that they asked for last year,” Nordstrom said. “I just think we should keep it level like we did last year.”

Nordstrom stressed that it is imperative to keep the hospital’s funding up while the covid-19 pandemic is still present.

Initially last year, the commissioners narrowly passed a motion to issue AGH no funding. But when the overall operating budget failed to pass, the issue was reopened and a new motion was put on the table to give the hospital \$100,000.

Mitrecic, who had voted in favor of zeroing out AGH’s budget last year, flipped his vote to give the hospital its funding.

AGH’s funding in FY20, pre-pandemic, was \$175,000.

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Fire/EMS budget appears settled

Expanded funding aims at ensuring 24/7 coverage for all of Worcester County

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners voted 6-0 to approve an \$8.36 million FY22 budget for fire and EMS companies during their budget work session on May 11.

“It’s a very expensive mandate but this gives us (the assurance) throughout the county that we’re not that one (mishap) away from a major disaster where there’s nobody to show up,” County Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic said.

The decision came after multiple deliberations among the commissioners and meetings between Mitrecic and Commissioners Josh Nordstrom and Jim Bunting with various fire company officials from around the county.

That committee produced the approved figure, which came in at approximately \$40,000 less than the original FY22 request and is just under \$1 million less than the actual FY21 budget.

The budget provides for around-the-clock crews for fire and EMS

services across the county: five crews in Ocean City, two crews in each of Pocomoke, Snow Hill and Berlin, one crew in each of Bishopville, Showell and Newark, and one crew for both Stockton and Girdletree.

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked the commissioners who met with emergency service officials if this is the number they should expect to see in the future.



Joseph Mitrecic

Mitrecic said it will probably be more in the years ahead.

“This is what gives them what they consider a minimal, true coverage of the (entire) county,” Mitrecic said. “Hopefully, what will evolve is a way to pay for it beyond the general budget.”

Bunting pointed to the ambulance operating budget formula that county fire and EMS officials have come up with, which asks for \$450,000 per ambulance.

“At (the commissioners’) request, we said let’s do that and then we’ll have a full auditing of how it’s worked out and have a more accurate number to work with next year,” Bunting said.

The goal of the budget is to “make

the department whole” this year, Mitrecic said, and provide a blueprint for determining future budgets, which had been lacking in recent years.

In underscoring the importance of adequate funding, Mitrecic pointed to the multi-vehicle wreck on Route 90 earlier this month in which a toddler was rescued after being ejected into Assawoman Bay.

“To be honest with you, if it hadn’t been for Bethany Beach (and Roxana) we would have really been in trouble,” Mitrecic said. “And they’re not even in the same state.”

“What could happen in an extreme situation is there’s nobody to come. There’s no ambulance to run ... This (amount) is what (fire companies) say they need to make sure that does not happen.”

Commissioner Diana Purnell asked if the purpose of this decision is to shift fire department funding completely to the county.

Mitrecic said it was not and that these numbers are the means to find the funding source down the road.

“That’s what the ultimate goal is, but we have to get to where (we know) what that actually costs is before we figure out the funding source,” Mitrecic said.

County expands CRICKET funding for new offices

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(May 20, 2021) The Children’s Resource Intervention Center, Kids Empowerment Team (CRICKET) is in line for a massive increase in county funding in the new budget year.

The Worcester County Commissioners voted 4-2 on May 11 in favor of giving the CRICKET Center \$200,000 in the fiscal year, a \$190,000 increase over their FY21 budget. Commissioner Bud Church was absent.



Wendy Myers

“We’re really grateful to the county commissioners for recognizing the need for us to expand services for us here in Worcester,” said CRICKET Center Executive Director Wendy Myers. “Statistics continue to rise and the space we have is much too small for the services we need to provide. In order to adhere to the best practice standards, we need to expand our space. It’s very exciting that the county is offering support to our partnering agencies and the child advo-

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Ocean Pines Craft Club to host ribbon cutting

(May 20, 2021) The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines will host a ribbon-cutting event for the new Artisan Gift Shop on Saturday, May 22 at 9 a.m.

Craft Club members opened the new building in winter 2020, but issues related to the covid-19 pandemic prevented a ribbon-cutting from occurring at that time.

The event on May 22, co-hosted by the Ocean Pines Association and Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, will feature a short speech from Craft Club President Sharon Puser and some light refreshments.

The club will also display a photo album with news clippings that highlight the history of the organization.

The Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop was established in 1974 and the organization behind it has a long history of giving back to the community, having donated more than \$169,000 over the years to Ocean Pines Police, Public Works, and

Recreation and Parks, among other groups.

In 2020, the club donated \$3,500 to the Ocean Pines Police Department, Fire Department, Recreation and Parks Department, Public Works, and the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial.

Club members create and sell a variety of items, including woodworking, candles, pottery, jewelry, home décor, and all manner of sewn, crocheted and knitted items.

All items are made locally, and most are created in Ocean Pines.

The new building, located in White Horse Park and across from the Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about the Pine'eer Craft Club, visit <https://oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-craft-shop>, or email opcraftclub@aol.com.

New CRICKET budget improves center's service to entire county

Continued from Page 15

cacy agencies as a whole to reduce the trauma of child abuse."

Commissioner Chip Bertino cited the center's longstanding challenges of being underfunded and overly reliant on fundraising to stay in business, as well as a coming new office building, as reasons to give the CRICKET Center that money.



Chip Bertino

"I don't think I'm alone when I say our eyes were opened when they gave us a presentation a few months ago about their mandate from the state," Bertino said. "(We saw) that they're not funded by the state and that what they do affects the entire community, children who are harmed, and what they're trying to do with physical, emotional and behavioral assistance to those children and families."

Commissioner Diana Purnell cited the ongoing covid-19 pandemic for her support of the motion.

"Kids have been affected (by the pandemic) at every level," Purnell said. "(The CRICKET Center) hasn't been getting funding from the state, and these are organizations who are working with these kids and these families. We need to step

up and do something about it, too ... We might not do it next time but we need to do it this time because they're going to need as much as they can get. These are our children."

The new office will be located in Snow Hill, Myers said. The land for the office was provided by a donor whose identity will be made public when the CRICKET Center is closer to breaking ground.

The office will enable the center to provide better service to southern Worcester County, Myers said.

Commissioner Ted Elder worried that boosting funding so much this year might make the county look bad next year if it returns to its usual level of financial support.

Commissioner Josh Nordstrom also asked if there was precedent for such a dramatic funding increase.

Bertino pointed out the multi-year nature of the original funding for AGH's construction and that the commissioners have funded multi-year commitments before.

"That's not what this is," Bertino said. "Who knows what they're going to ask for next year? ... I don't think we should judge this motion by what might happen next year. This is just for this current year."

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Assateague Island Alliance recently purchased a refurbished golf cart to be used by the Assateague Island National Seashore Pony Patrol. Marcus Urioste, pony patrol volunteer, is pictured.

Assateague Island Alliance unveils pony patrol golf cart

(May 20, 2021) Assateague Island Alliance (AIA), the official Friends Group of Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS), recently purchased a refurbished golf cart to be used by the Assateague Island National Seashore Pony Patrol.

The Pony Patrol volunteers play an active role in protecting the islands visitors and wildlife.

Visitors often try to feed, pet and get too close to the Assateague wild horses. The role of Pony Patrol volunteers is to educate the public and interrupt harmful interactions that may occur when visitors and horses share space.

This cart enhances the effectiveness of these volunteers to quickly intervene and prevent potential campsite raids by habituated horses or to move the horses safely off the road.

Pony Patrol volunteers have an arduous assignment. They perform their duties entirely outdoors, constantly exposed to the heat, sun and biting insects, and they must maintain good people skills while interacting with the public.

Pony Patrol volunteers undergo specialized training and work at least one

four-hour shift a day for a minimum of three months.

“We are beyond grateful for the continued support of our donors through a challenging year with unprecedented stress on our public lands, wildlife and the people that manage them,” said Nancy Gaither, board president. “Thank you, Pony Patrol, and thank you to our donors and supporters for making this achievement possible. All of these efforts are helping to keep the horses from getting comfortable with humans, so that they won’t approach people looking for food, including hanging out in traffic.”

Assateague Island Alliance (AIA), a 501(c)3 organization, is the official Friends Group to benefit Assateague Island National Seashore. All gifts of donation support Assateague Island’s Alliance’s mission to promote the awareness, education, and protection of Assateague Island National Seashore’s wildlife and natural resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

For more information, call 443-614-5375 at or email outreachAIA@gmail.com.

Berlin town buildings open to public as covid-19 fades

(May 20, 2021) Berlin town buildings and meetings are now open to the public.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said the decision came about because the state and county covid-19 positivity rates have remained below 5 percent for seven consecutive days.

People attending in-person public meetings will be required to wear face coverings and to maintain appropriate social distancing.

Limited in-person attendance at meetings will be allowed, with up to 16 seats available to presenters, members of the public, and the press, in addition to town officials and staff.

Doors will be open 15 minutes before the designated start time of the meeting, and seating will be first-come, first-served. At the start of the meeting, or when capacity has been

reached, the doors will be locked to entry from the outside.

Public meetings will continue to be streamed live on Facebook, and public comment will be taken from those in attendance, followed by written questions or comments submitted before noon on the day of the meeting.

“We will continue to monitor the state and county positivity rates to help keep our staff safe and ensure the continuity of government services,” Tyndall said.

Masks are required by members of the public entering town buildings and everyone that attends in-person public meetings. All are asked to follow the CDC and Maryland Department of Health recommendations for social distancing and regular hand-washing.

Savage named new budget officer for Worcester County

(May 20, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners named Candace Savage as the new budget officer. She joined county administration on May 3.

Savage brings 16 years of accounting experience to this position. Prior to joining Worcester County Government (WCG), she owned and operated Titanium, Inc. in Ocean City from 2006 to 2016 and served as an agency budget specialist with the Wicomico County Health Department from 2017 to 2021.

She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance and a minor in Account-

ing, from Salisbury University in 2005. She later earned professional certification as a Certified Government Financial Manager through the Association of Government Accountants in 2019.



Candace Savage

“I would like to thank the commissioners for this opportunity,” Savage said. “I hope to use my accounting and business background

to promote fiscal responsibility for Worcester County.” In addition to her professional accomplishments, Savage resides in Worcester County with her husband and two sons. She will take over for Kathy Whited who will retire in September 2021 following 23 years of service to WCG.

In her role as budget officer, Savage will help assure the accountability and effectiveness of WCG by providing efficient, innovative services, public policy analysis, and financial expertise in support of all departments, including preparing, appropriating, monitoring, and analyzing the budget, reviewing revenue projections and assessment.

She will also assist in the development of investment strategies, and collaborate with the Treasurer’s Office to prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and any other financial documentation for the annual audit and bond financing.

For additional information, contact Public Information Officer Kim Moses at 410-632-1194.

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Young new chief administrator for Worcester County

(May 20, 2021) Weston Young, who joined Worcester County government last year as the assistant chief administrative officer, will move up to chief administrative officer when the county's current top executive, Harold Higgins, retires in September.

"With several lifelong county leaders retiring, Weston has shouldered new responsibilities and challenges, proving himself to be a wealth of institutional knowledge, a relationship builder, and a key asset to the commissioners," board of commissioners President Joe Mitrecic said. "He is a highly knowledgeable and motivated individual who is building a high-performance team to lead county initiatives."

Young, a 14-year local government veteran, will head the staff leadership and administer the affairs of the Office of the County Commissioners. As the county's top employee, he will oversee all its departments, as well as the county budget and financial affairs.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this leadership capacity for my home county," Young said. "Every corner of this county, from farm to coast, has so much to offer its citizens and visitors. I'm optimistic about our future and the work ahead of me."

Young started his career in the private sector and moved on to public sector employment in 2007 with roles in public works with the City of Salisbury, Maryland and the City of Hampton, Virginia. Most recently, Young worked for Wicomico County, where he rose from director of public works to assistant director of administration. Young's career of public service includes sitting on statewide and national boards focused on energy, environment, land use, and local government. Young earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Maryland and holds professional engineering certifications in both Maryland and Virginia.

Young was born and raised in Pocomoke. He and his wife, Anne, are new parents.

Higgins will have served in his current capacity for approximately eight years, after being promoted from the county's finance director to take over from Chief Administrative Officer Gerald Mason in June 2013.



Weston Young

OP Memorial Day service returns

Salisbury Mayor Jake Day ceremony keynote speaker

(May 20, 2021) The annual Memorial Day service in Ocean Pines will return to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 31, beginning at 11 a.m.

The ceremony this year will feature Salisbury Mayor Jake Day as the keynote speaker.

Day recently returned from a year-long deployment in East Africa with the Maryland National Guard and is one of only three full-time U.S. may-

ors ever deployed while serving in office.

The music portion of the program will include Frank Nanna and the WWIIunes, featuring Todd Crosby. Randy Lee Ashcraft will perform a new song honoring the recent visit of The Wall That Heals, and the Delmarva Chorus will perform the "Armed Forces Medley," honoring the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard.

"We are very happy to be able to return to our normal ceremony, after having to cancel the event last year

because of COVID-19 restrictions," Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "These ceremonies are one of the hallmarks of the foundation, as we have a duty and an obligation to honor our veterans."

Public parking will be available at Veterans Memorial Park on Route 589 and Cathell Road in Ocean Pines. Limited seating will be available during the event and guests are encouraged to bring chairs.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org.

OP pools to open at full capacity

(May 20, 2021) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola has announced that Ocean Pines pools will be open with no capacity limitations, in accordance with Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order lifting all existing capacity limitations at indoor and outdoor venues in Maryland.

"With the governor's latest announcement, we're excited to continue moving toward a return to normalcy," Viola said. "We're looking forward to a busy and successful summer at all of our amenities, in-

cluding our five pools."

Masks will continue to be required indoors, including when entering and exiting pool bathrooms and enclosed lobby areas at the Mumford's Landing and Swim and Racquet Club pools. Normal deck and bather capacities still apply.

Masks are not currently required while swimming or on outdoor pool decks. Ocean Pines outdoor pools are scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, May 29.

Those wishing to use Ocean Pines

pools may purchase an annual or seasonal membership or pay the daily entrance fee.

Discounted swim coupon cards, although included under "User Fees" in the FY2021-22 budget, will not be offered this year. However, Director of Finance Steve Phillips stated that the coupon cards were included in the budget to account for any existing "legacy" cards, whose expiration was extended through Oct. 1. Those cards may be used until that date.

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Opinion

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

County right to ask about fire funding

It's all about accountability, this semi-settled dispute between the Worcester County Commissioners and the Town of Berlin over fire company funding, and it isn't difficult to understand both sides of the argument.

With firefighters and emergency medical services having to cover growing populations outside municipal jurisdictions, the obligation to see that this coverage is provided falls on the county. Communities, meanwhile, shouldn't be expected to underwrite the costs of these out-of-town missions.

At the same time, however, local elected officials tend to believe the companies should report to them exclusively, because that's been the traditional setup. This is despite fire departments' greatly increased responsibilities in the unincorporated areas, where much of the county's population growth has occurred.

What this has led to, as was evidenced at the county commissioners meeting this week, is that the county is being called on to pay more for these expanded services but to leave it at that and to keep out of municipal affairs.

That's an unrealistic and unfair expectation, considering that the commissioners have a duty to look after the welfare of their constituents in the unincorporated areas served by town-based emergency services.

The commissioners can't do that by simply handing over money and moving on to other things, and they have every right to demand that their contributions to fire departments are being spent appropriately.

The thrust of the county's fire grants, after all, isn't just to prevent municipal taxpayers from paying for services for nonresidents, but to ensure that the commissioners' constituents have adequate coverage as well.

If the towns and the county can't accommodate each other in that regard, it's conceivable the day will come when the county begins to attach more strings to its funding of emergency services and to require more accountability from the towns on how it's spent.



"The Art Class Challenge was to make something from a discarded mask. Your son made a sling shot from popsicle sticks and a mask that was perfect for a large spitball. He made one for everyone in the class. The Art teacher won't be coming back."

Letters

Questions Second Amendment focus

Editor,

Like the choking cloud of pollen that descends upon Delmarva every otherwise-perfect May morning, a cloud of confusion has enveloped our Worcester County elected officials just as we enter our first new-normal busy season.

It seems that the Worcester County sheriff and several of his colleagues on the county commission wish to start a local fan club chapter for their most cherished among U.S. Constitutional amendments, the second.

Now, I know we all have our personal faves — am rather partial to the 19th, myself — but, according to the U.S. and Maryland Constitutions under which they serve, all amendments are created equal.

These officials have sworn under oath to uphold both the aforementioned documents and the laws of the State of Maryland. All of them, without fear or favor.

The current kerfuffle is merely performative political theater, designed to rile up the already-agitated

masses. It accomplishes nothing of substance locally, and sends disturbing mixed messages to the vast array of visitors who contribute to much of the county's tax base.

We trust that, in the interest of those they serve, our elected officials will set aside this drama and focus on keeping both "from heres" and "come heres" safe, sane and successful. After all, that's why y'all were elected, remember?

Sharon Dorsey
Ocean Pines

Backs Second Amendment

Editor,

I had no intention of writing a letter to the editor until I read that shortsighted letter in the May 14 edition.

A women was lambasting Worcester County Sheriff Matthew Crisafulli for making Worcester County a "sanctuary county."

She defined this by stating "a sanctuary for gun control." She stated that the sheriff by doing this would be breaking Maryland law.

It is obvious that she doesn't understand how this

is not remotely true. The Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, article 6 clause 2, states that any federal treaties, laws, or decisions made by the federal government, and in accordance with the Constitution, will override any conflicting laws or decisions made by states.

If the good sheriff was ordered by RINO governor Hogan to outlaw all guns in the state or break and enter homes and confiscate them, our sheriff and all sheriffs, have the Constitutional right to refuse such an order.

The oath of office that Sheriff Crisafulli took does not obligate him to enforce laws emanating from Annapolis that are not well anchored in the United States Constitution.

Our founders knew how important it was to have an armed citizenry so they enacted the second amendment, the right to keep and bear arms.

Not so they can hunt, collect or protect themselves from bodily harm but to protect themselves from a run-away government bent on taking away all human rights. They experienced this

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Letters

Continued from Page 20
in England.

We don't really need more gun laws at all. We have laws that negate the necessity of any gun laws. They are overarching and all inclusive. The first of these is that it is unlawful to murder. The second is that it is unlawful to shoot another person unless you felt your life was in danger. There, that says it all!!

Consider the emotional stupidity of the people that actually "think" that gun laws will prevent crime. They are shallow thinkers.

Do they actually believe a gun law will prevent a deranged person who is bent on killing, for example, many school children because the gun he is using is banned having more than 10 rounds, looks military and that he is about to commit this atrocity in a "gun free zone"?

He is an outlaw first because he wants to murder.

Flash Bulletin: outlaws don't obey laws only the good law abiding do. This makes good people vulnerable to the bad people.

"Outlaw guns then only outlaws will have them" is another undeniable truth.

One of the most dangerous places you can be in is in a "gun free zone". No good people in these zones can shoot back helping to reduce the carnage.

Why? It is because they obey the law, it is a gun free zone.

Consider getting this made into a tattoo or bumper sticker: "A good man with a gun always stops a bad man with a gun!"

Many gun crimes that the Democrats always politicize, could have been averted or lessened by good trained law abiding people with a gun. How secure would anyone be with a good person shooting back at a nut trying to kill as many as possible?

I want to thank sheriff Crisafulli for his position on preventing an over reaching government from taking away our basic rights that our founders knew and appreciated so well.

Pro-gun control people ignore history, in that every oppressive government always first sought to take away the people's ability to protect themselves. And now they want to defund the police! Go figure.

*Dennis W Evans
Berlin*

Time for concessions on offshore wind

Editor,

Having owned a business in Ocean City for most of my life, I have trouble fathoming why the Mayor and city



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ALL SMILES

Joining the Grace Center's "Motherhood Walk," on May 8 at Showell Park near Berlin, from left, are Nancy Waller, 18-month-old McKenna Funkhouser, Kara Funkhouser and Tanya Jackson.

council are against offshore wind.

The argument against seems to be that tourists will object to the view out to sea. The actual site is so far offshore that most likely they will be invisible or just a ghostly image.

My husband and I travel to western Maryland several times a year and we wait for the view of dozens of wind turbines on the mountains.

It is a beautiful view, and a comforting one, knowing that the community has embraced the future of clean sustainable energy.

Instead of fighting this non-winnable battle, the Mayor and

Council should look to the benefits they can bargain for with the energy companies, grant providers, etc ... but only if they embrace this technology.

These are funds and resources we must have to fight the most important issue at hand in our town: the impacts of sea level rise.

I urge our local leaders to research the pros of wind energy and revisit this issue in a positive light. This technology is coming, like it or not. We need to be on the right side of this argument.

*Mary Ochse
Ocean City*

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Alyssa Rink

Alyssa.Rink1@maryland.gov

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Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY JUDY DAVIS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Worcester County NAACP, Chapter 7029B, recently met at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin for a group photo of the 2021-2022 executive board. Pictured are Judy Davis, press; Dr. Roxie Dennis Acholonu, religious affairs; Catherine Freeman, political action; Christine Clark, treasurer; Linda Hilliard, secretary; Ivory Smith, president; with Rev. James Jones and Larry Ryan, environmental and climate justice.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS JR.

VOLUNTEERS

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City volunteered to help assemble, break down and assist the public in their visit to the "Wall That Heals" - a traveling scaled-down replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. - set up at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, April 22-25. Kiwanians, from left, are Roy and Candy Foreman, Shelley and President Steve Cohen, Diane Denk, Bob Wolfing and Diane Spzarak.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW LIBRARY

Hailey Bowden, vice president of the Stephen Decatur High School Key Club, presents Dr. David Gell, on behalf of Berlin Intermediate School, with a Little Free Library. The Key Club raised funds for building materials, assembled and will keep it stocked with books. The Little Free Library is located on the lawn just west of the bus loop/staff parking, and is open to the entire Berlin community.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLASS SUPPORT

The Ocean City Surf Club recently presented a \$250 donation to Showell Elementary School teacher Mackenzie Keyser and her second grade class. The class signed up for the Adopt Your Beach program and have been participating in cleanups. In addition, during an environmental lesson, professional surfer Kelly Slater joined the class via Zoom. He told the students he wants them to write a book about their beach cleanups and he will buy one as a donation to the class. Pictured, from left, are Effie Wilson Cox, OCSC environmental chair; Tommy Vach OCSC president; and Keyser.



DONATION

Brian H. Clark recently donated \$5,000 to The CRICKET Center for the funding of the agency's new headquarters to be located in Snow Hill. He is pictured with CRICKET Center Director Wendy Myers and therapy dog, Josiah. Worcester County's only Child Advocacy Center is a child-friendly, safe and neutral location in Berlin where local law enforcement and Child Protective Services investigators may conduct and observe forensic interviews with children who are alleged victims of crimes. It provides child and non-offending family members support, crisis intervention, trauma-based therapy and medical intervention.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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., May 20

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.

30TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY

Takes place at the Ocean City convention center and the Ocean City Inlet, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring hot rods, customs, muscle cars and classics plus vendors, music, celebrities and entertainment. Cost is \$10 per day on Thursday and Sunday and \$15 per day on Friday and Saturday. 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. These classes uplift and improve mood. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice your moves without being seen. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

LIVE OUTDOOR PROGRAM 'SING ALONG WITH SAM'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 PM. Sing along with musician Sam Eddington as he shares traditional kids songs in some fun and interactive ways. For ages 3-8 years. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP MEETING

Held via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Hosted by Larry Ryan, Worcester NAACP Executive Director for Environmental & Climate Justice, will present "How Climate and Racial Justice Intersect." Look for Zoom link information on Worcester County NAACP Facebook page. 410-213-1956

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

Featuring Wild and Scenic Film Festival's "Our Food Future." Virtual lobby doors open at 6:30 p.m. and films start at 7 p.m. Ticket prices begin at \$10 each, with family packages available. Raffle prize tickets also available. Tickets: www.actforbays.org/our-food-future. Ticket sales benefit the E3 Initiative For Citizen Engagement On The Lower Shore, a collaborative of five Maryland non-profit organizations.

Fri., May 21

30TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY

Takes place at the Ocean City convention center and the Ocean City Inlet, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring hot rods, customs, muscle cars and classics plus vendors, music, celebrities and entertainment. Cost is \$10 per day on Thursday and Sunday and \$15

per day on Friday and Saturday. 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON' BY KELLY BARNHILL

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Books are available on Hoopla (hoppladigital.com). Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

MID-DAY MINDFULNESS BREAK

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Join Bevin Jones, psychotherapist, for a mid-day mindfulness break. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Fridays - Columbus Hall, behind St. Luke's Church, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required while moving around inside. 410-524-7994

Sat., May 22

30TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY

Takes place at the Ocean City convention center and the Ocean City Inlet, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring hot rods, customs, muscle cars and classics plus vendors, music, celebrities and entertainment. Cost is \$10 per day on Thursday and Sunday and \$15 per day on Friday and Saturday. 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>

BERLIN SPRING CRUISERS

Held from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Car show registration begins at 7 a.m. at the intersection of North Main Street and Baker Street. Fee is \$10 per vehicle. Awards and trophies will be announced at 2 p.m. Oldies music, trivia questions and prizes with DJ Pa-Pop Doo-Wop. <https://berlin-chamber.org/spring-cruisers/>

LOCAL AUTHOR HOSTS SIGNING

In the Garden at Atlantic Hotel, 2 S. Main St., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Join local author, Mary Christine Strobel for her debut release of the nationally recognized book, "Stuffing Cotton."

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., May 23

30TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY

Takes place at the Ocean City convention center and the Ocean City Inlet, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring hot rods, customs, mus-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FARMERS MARKET

Betsy Barb sells culinary and medicinal herbs during the Berlin Farmers Market on May 2.

cle cars and classics plus vendors, music, celebrities and entertainment. Cost is \$10 per day on Thursday and Sunday and \$15 per day on Friday and Saturday. 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through September - Located in Downtown Berlin, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. This week the market will feature more than 30 farmers, bakers, distillers, food cultivator and more. There will be live music by Everett Spells at 10 a.m. and free yoga on Artisans Green at 10 a.m. Many shops will be open early too. <https://www.facebook.com/theberlinfarmersmarket>.

Mon., May 24

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME, 'SUMMER AT THE BEACH'

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Listen to beach themed picture books and picture yourself at the beach this summer. For ages 2-5 years. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Meeting in-person and via conference call. Reservations required for in-person: Rose Campion, 443-880-8884. For call-in option, 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.

Tues., May 25

MANAGING TAXES IN RETIREMENT

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Robert Jeter, certified financial planner, will examine various timely tax issues related to retirees, including Social Security, Medicare premiums, required minimum distributions, charitable giving and Roth IRA's. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Wed., May 26

FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING

American Legion Post #166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., 12:00 PM. Any Marines and Navy Corpsman who have served in the Corps, living in Worcester and Sussex counties, are welcome. web-sergeant@firststatemarines.org, 410-430-7181

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Kids ages 8-11 years, will discuss the book, "The Bluest of Blues" by Fiona Robinson (available on Hoopla). Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

FREE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. The goal of the group is to provide participants hope for the future and the skills to help find their way by providing a supportive and safe place, allowing them to share stories confidentially and spend time with others who understand. Reservations required: Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725 or gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org.

MEMOIR WRITING

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Bring paper and pen and join the group for a stimulating workshop, bringing your creativity to life. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

Cuisine

Ribeye with garlic shrimp, braised leeks

There is very little in this business that surprises me anymore. It is almost as though waking up simply means another challenge and another unrealistic obstacle to overcome.

Through it all in contemporary times, it also means not only a shortage in food product (at prices that are rising astronomically) but

also a labor shortage. And, we are getting very tired.

A chef is nothing without his kitchen crew. A restaurant owner is nothing without the entire staff. We are in the people business, and when the people aren't running out to fill the spaces available, we are left with huge holes in the schedule. But, as long as you have good staff, it is amazing how much can be done in a short period of time if everyone plays along.

Here is where it becomes critical for chefs to train their staffs, and train them well. It does not matter if we are talking about high school kids or grown adults. You must train your staff. When I ran the kitchen at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, I had one older woman as a prep cook, and the rest of the staff was comprised of teenagers. Now, those kids are grown and some are great chefs who have travelled the world, one became a police officer and a lawyer and others are still grinding it out in the business as cooks. But, we survived that summer in one piece.

One's skillset is imperative in our field. A decent cook needs to know how to filet a fish, break down steaks from primal cuts, saute, fry, clean shrimp, fabricate chicken and myriad other skills. And it is the chef's job to ensure that this happens.

When I was coming up in this business in the early '80s, we had three primary books. These were le Guide Culinaire, Larousse Gastronomique and Mastering the Art of French Cooking. Nowadays, everyone has unlimited access to every food known to man through their cell-phones, and what a resource that can be for young cooks.

When you build your crew properly, you will see that they can put the basics together, leaving you with dish after dish of perfect taste and presentation. And then you go home, often

By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3



too tired to cook for yourself.

True to the adage that the cobbler's children have no shoes, a chef's home is seldom filled with the wafting aromas of freshly cooked foods. Yes, it is true. I eat out quite a bit. After a day of running around to the different restaurants, trying to strike deals on new ones, teaching (only a few weeks left in the year) and dealing with paperwork, the last thing that I want to do is go home and cook dinner. Once things settle down a little bit, I am sure that I will get back to it, but for now, I like to let someone else do the cooking.

For now, I will be happy to let my staff practice their craft and cook to their heart's content. And if they follow the basics, we will always see hearty and proper dishes. I don't need any more surprises.

Ribeye, Braised leeks & Ramps, Garlic Shrimp

serves 4

4 ea. Ribeye steaks (size of your choice, but thicker is better)
Seasoning, as needed
16 ea. Large or jumbo shrimp
1/4 c. Garlic butter
1/4 c. Brown butter (recipe follows)
2 c. Braised leeks (recipe follows)

1. Season the steaks and heat up the grill.

2. Grill the steaks to the doneness of your liking, and set aside while the rest of the dish is cooking.

3. Season shrimp with some salt and pepper and saute in garlic butter. Make sure not to burn the garlic butter, as you do not want to make the garlic bitter. I write about that often: If you burn the garlic, that is the point of no return.

4. Top the steak with the braised leeks, and then top that with the shrimp

5. Drizzle brown butter over the dish and serve.

Braised Leeks

makes about 2 cups

8 oz. Whole, unsalted butter
1 c. Leek whites, fine julienne
1/2 c. Shallots, fine julienne
1/2 c. White onion, fine julienne
3 Tbsp. Roasted garlic
1 c. White wine

1. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat, but do not brown.

2. Add the three onions and cook, stirring often, for about 15 minutes.

3. When the leeks and onions are nice and tender, add the garlic and stir. If you roasted your garlic cor-

rectly, it will break down and add to the creaminess.

4. Add white wine and reduce by half.

5. Season to taste and keep warm until ready to serve.

Brown Butter

makes about 1/2 cup

1/2 # whole, unsalted butter

1. Melt the butter in a pan, being careful not to scorch it.

2. When the butter has separated into its ubiquitous three layers, carefully skim most of the foam off of the top, leaving the butterfat and the liquid.

3. As the water cooks off in the bottom layer, you will be left with some proteins that will start to brown. As the name suggests, let this go until the butter has a pronounced nutty smell and that glorious brown tint.

4. Strain through cheesecloth and reserve the brown butter for service. This cools and stores well in the ice-box.

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

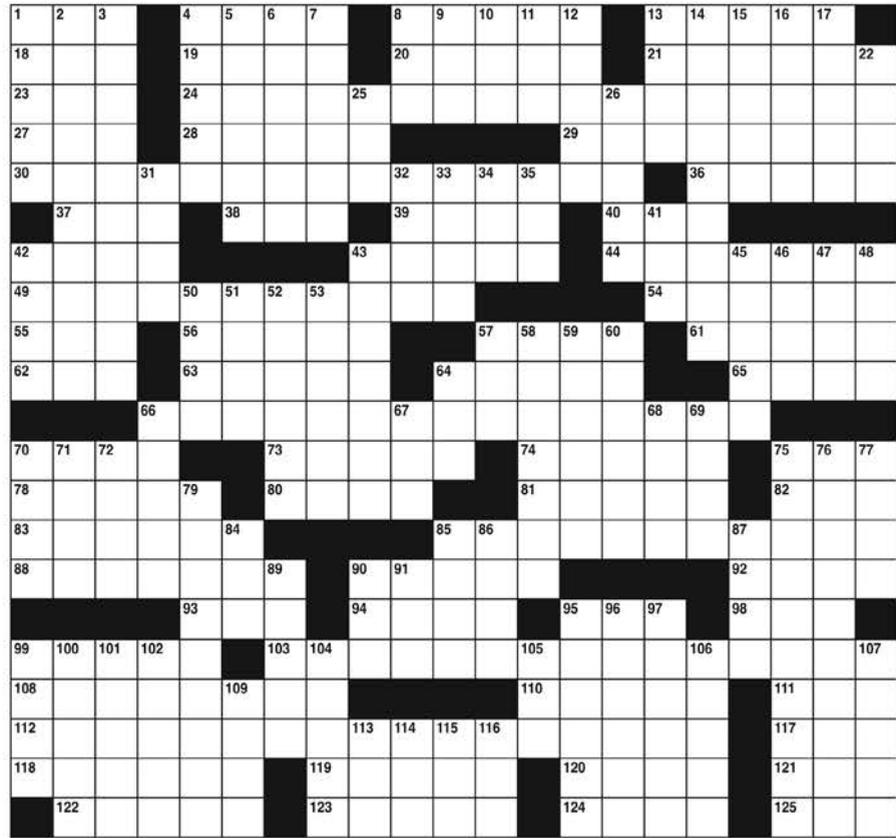
Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

Puzzles

MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT BY BRAD WIEGMANN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Brad Wiegmann is a national security lawyer for the Department of Justice in Washington. He dedicates this puzzle to his mother, "a voracious reader, talented knitter, mahjong maven and all-around supermom." He says he's never personally seen any of the musical artists named in the puzzle's theme clues, but he did once attend a 23-Across concert. Brad's last Times puzzle, "Crossword Buff," appeared in February. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Computer file, informally
 - 4 Wound up on top?
 - 8 Feels it the next day, say
 - 13 Things served in prison
 - 18 Shout at a Greek wedding
 - 19 Country singer McKenna
 - 20 "Whoa, settle down!"
 - 21 More than half of humanity
 - 23 ___ state
 - 24 Mom's comment to her child during prenatal bonding? [Frank Sinatra, 1954]
 - 27 Hot state
 - 28 Bishop's hat
 - 29 They're used mostly on corners
 - 30 What Mom is obligated to do as her due date approaches? [The Beatles, 1969]
 - 36 "___ the deal ..."
 - 37 Yes, in Yokohama
 - 38 Bran material
 - 39 Part of a drivetrain
 - 40 The Renaissance, for one
 - 42 Team ___ (late-night host's following)
 - 43 Cancer fighter, for short
- DOWN**
- 1 Kind of column
 - 2 Venue for trill seekers?
 - 3 TV reporter's entourage
 - 4 Like snails' trails
 - 5 Beginning that leads to a sum?
 - 6 Singer with the 1968 hit "Think," familiarly
 - 7 Nibble
 - 8 "Oh, no!"
 - 9 X
 - 10 Drink with the flavors Poppin' Lemonade and Grabbin' Grape
 - 11 Wyoming's National ___ Refuge
 - 12 Spill clumsily
 - 13 "Bye!"
 - 14 Food-delivery route?
 - 15 Piece of equipment for a biathlete
 - 16 Oscar ___
 - 17 Bad thing to do in class
 - 22 Figure (out)
 - 25 Aesthete's interest
 - 26 Complete
 - 31 Hilarious sort
 - 32 U.S. city whose name is composed of two state abbreviations
 - 33 Struck out
 - 34 Poorly
 - 35 Toothpaste option
 - 41 Solicit sales (for)
 - 42 Fishing bait
 - 43 Keeps the beat with one's foot
 - 45 "Who ___ you?"
 - 46 Woman's name meaning "goddess"
 - 47 Relations
 - 48 J.D. holder: Abbr.
 - 50 What a shaken soda bottle will do when uncapped
 - 51 Capital of Fiji
 - 52 Not dismissive of
 - 53 Earn
 - 54 Henley Royal ___ (annual July event)
 - 59 Actress in eight Bond films
 - 92 Like sea horses that give birth
 - 93 Beast with a humped shoulder
 - 94 Utah ski resort
 - 95 Cable news anchor Cabrera
 - 98 Prey for a formicivorous creature
 - 99 Simple life?
 - 103 Nurse's remark after Mom delivers the first twin? [Britney Spears, 1998]
 - 108 Spanish archipelago, with "the"
 - 110 Touches
 - 111 Witty saying
 - 112 Doctor's comment after Mom delivers the second twin? [The Who, 1965]
 - 117 Director DuVernay
 - 118 Quiet
 - 119 Settle down, say
 - 120 Pacific crop
 - 121 Something you might gloss over
 - 122 Mother's Day delivery
 - 123 Apologetic remark during a breakup
 - 124 Hang it up
 - 125 Consult
- ACROSS**
- 44 Henley Royal ___ (annual July event)
 - 49 Mom's reaction to her first mild contractions? [John Cougar, 1982]
 - 54 Midwife's advice to Mom in the delivery room? [Salt-N-Pepa, 1987]
 - 55 Cause of wear and tear
 - 56 Wanna-bees, e.g.?
 - 57 ___ of Maine (toothpaste)
 - 61 Sport whose participants call "Pull!"
 - 62 Pet sound
 - 63 Tennis star with the highest career winning percentage in singles matches (89.97%)
 - 64 Stress test?
 - 65 "Whoa boy, settle down"
 - 66 Mom's remark as contractions grow stronger? [The Ramones, 1978]
 - 70 Org. that delivers
 - 73 Unenthusiastic
 - 74 Went sniggling
 - 75 Vaporize, say
 - 78 Empire
 - 80 Roughly
 - 81 Be crazy about
 - 82 Sappho's "___ to Aphrodite"
 - 83 Mom's reaction as delivery draws closer? [Usher, 2012]
 - 85 Child's response to Mom's actions? [Diana Ross, 1980]



- 57 Quaint contraction
- 58 Rule for trick-or-treaters
- 59 Improvised
- 60 Wind down?
- 64 Janet Yellen's former post, with "the"
- 66 Site of offshore banks?
- 67 Life, briefly
- 68 Garr of "Tootsie"
- 69 Setting for a scene in the Sistine Chapel
- 70 Major part of the night sky?
- 71 It's broken off
- 72 Olympic athlete category
- 75 Lions and tigers and bears
- 76 Raw footage?
- 77 Davidson of "S.N.L."
- 79 Stick in the refrigerator?
- 84 Sun follower?
- 85 Loving
- 86 Last name in shoes
- 87 Exam for some aspiring C.E.O.s
- 89 Go down the ___
- 90 Little bit
- 91 Ron who played Tarzan
- 95 Boundaries
- 96 Part of a Milky Way bar
- 97 Joint: Prefix
- 99 Book that's the source of the line "It is more blessed to give than to receive"
- 100 Host of HBO's "Real Time"
- 101 Año starter
- 102 Competes on a British cooking show
- 104 "Same here"
- 105 Lead-in to trumpet or drum
- 106 Legally foreclose
- 107 Tour de France stage
- 109 The 13th or 15th
- 113 Mobster's undoing
- 114 Places to take breaks, for short?
- 115 Inoculation location
- 116 Cleaning solution

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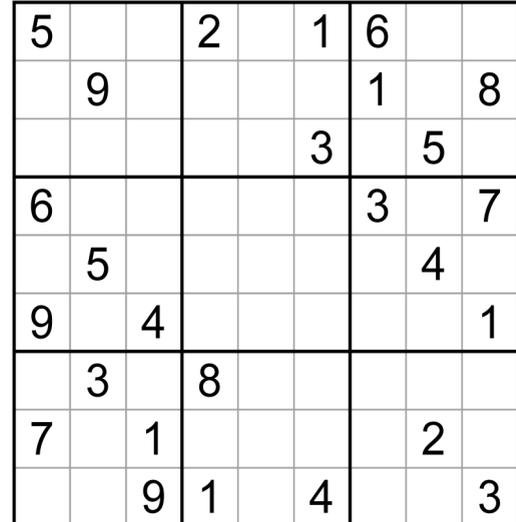
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© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 94

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

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



CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Call **410-723-6397**
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Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

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St. Paul United Methodist Church

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St Paul United Methodist Church
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Food & Beverage Manager

We are currently recruiting an experienced Food & Beverage Manager to work under our Food & Beverage Director. Responsibilities include overseeing and being responsible for our busy restaurants, bars & conference center. The candidate should have excellent communication and problem-solving skills along with the ability to train employees. Must have strong management experience in a large restaurant, banquet and/or convention services experience. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays. Excellent salary and benefits package. Send resume and salary requirements to: lwatson@clarionoc.com.



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Mary-Christine Strobel, known as Christine is the wife of the love of her life, Michael Strobel. She is the mother of four, stepmother of two, and grandmother to nine. Beginning at an early age, the energetic Christine's love of competitive swimming shaped her into a self-disciplined, driven, and highly motivated individual, preparing her to face a host of rare adversities that few people could withstand. Christine's heart's desire is to share lessons learned on her journey that others can implement, sparing them the heartbreak of trial and error.