



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

More than 1,000 people celebrate New Year's Eve in downtown Berlin, where an electronic ball covered in colored lights dropped from the antique store opposite the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street.

Anti-campground meeting in Pines draws big crowd

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) More than 100 people, including several standing in the open doorway, squeezed into the small assembly space in the Ocean Pines Library last Wednesday night for the first meeting of a new group, only about two weeks old, calling itself "Save Our Ayres Creek."

On the agenda was one item – the proposed redevelopment of the former Pines Shore Golf Course near the corner of Route 611 and Route 376 into more than 300 campsites, which the full house uniformly opposed.

Organizers Joan Jenkins and Donald Bounds said the redevelopment could affect as many as 1,600 residents in the county by greatly increasing traffic on the way to Assateague and displacing local wildlife.

Before anything else could happen, Bounds said county planning and zoning and the county commissioners would have to approve a zoning change from E-1 estate to A-2 agricultural. Then, the board of zoning appeals would have to approve a special exception for a campground. Each step would require a separate public meeting.

Bounds cited four specific sections of the 2006 Worcester County Comprehensive Development Plan that he said were in conflict with this type of redevelopment. Moreover, he said there were already about 1,400 campsites in the immediate area, including 585 sites at Frontier Town, 394 at Castaways and 498 at Assateague.

"In my opinion, I think that's enough campsites along Route 611," he said, adding that even more could be built on the former Bay Club property in Berlin. "Do we want Worcester County to be known as a county of campgrounds?"

Jenkins said she "almost dropped dead" when she heard a developer wanted to encroach on what was, liter-

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Editor's note: According to FEMA flood maps of the area in question, the creek is named Ayres Creek. The Facebook group opposing the development is named "Save Our Ayres Creek," and the LLC that owns the property is Ayres Creek Family Farm.

experience. Brian will continue to support the dining and banquet consumers, making sure that everyone visiting our facility has the best possible experience while we search for a new director."

The move could be seen as part of a larger rebranding movement at the club, spearheaded by new Marketing Director Denise Sawyer, who was hired in December.

That apparently includes renaming the club "Mumford's Landing" and installing a new 20-foot bar called "Tuffy's Tavern" near the entrance. The bar features take-out service, including beer and wine, as well as eight draft beers for dine-in customers.

The association released a separate statement on Tuesday, announcing that it renamed the club in order to honor Charles "Tuffy" Mumford, an "early pioneer of the Ocean Pines community."

"The re-branding campaign is a forward-thinking initiative that will honor the community's history while creating a promising future for a more marketable amenity," the statement read.

In that statement, Hill elaborated on some of the new amenities.

"If our residents or guests want to pop in later in the evening, they can grab a six-pack or a bottle of wine to enjoy at their house," Hill said. "That's com-

pletely new, but it's utilizing an existing license that was granted and previously paid for but never had a means to exercise."

Hill said Mumford's Landing staff was also "working toward a finer dining experience."

"In the reconfiguration of the layout, we've moved the hostess station out to the front of the building. So now, when you come into the door, you are going to be greeted by a hostess. Before when you came in, you were relying on a sign or had to guess which floor or what you were doing," he said.

A private donation will go towards building a pirate-themed playground on the outside patio between the club and the pool, which will be "installed in the memory of a former resident," according to Hill. He added that Ocean Pines would be hiring new staff to operate the new bar.

"We are really trying to better identify our food and beverage operations so that nonresidents realize we are open to the public and have a lot to offer," Hill said.

Along with Sawyer, hired last month, Ocean Pines recently added a new finance supervisor, Mary Bozack, and a network administrator, Paul Fazzalano. Existing staff is sharing the recreation and parks director position.

Another mgmt shakeup in Pines

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) Capping off a year that included the firing of former General Manager Bob Thompson and the resignation or termination of directors of finance, marketing, and parks and recreation, the Ocean Pines Association announced that it parted ways with yacht club Manager Jerry Lewis last Friday.

According to a statement issued on Monday, "a decision was made to move in a different direction for management of food and beverage operations at the Ocean Pines Association."

Reportedly, staff at the yacht club was made aware of the change in management on Friday and Event Coordinator Brian Townsend was promoted to replace Lewis on an interim basis.

"Over the last few months, Acting General Manager Brett Hill has been working to optimize the overall food and beverage operations, and certain job descriptions were expanded and/or revised," the statement said.

"Jerry Lewis had been working through this process, but it was decided to look at other options as we enter the New Year. Brian Townsend had previously expanded his involvement in the club over the last few months, assuming more responsibility in the overall dining

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Store brings both convenience and safety to corner

By Katie Tabeling
Staff Writer

(Jan. 5, 2017) Royal Farms in Berlin opened its doors on Dec. 29, offering its popular fried chicken to residents and visitors – and promising pedestrian safety for Stephen Decatur High School students who might be enticed to cross Route 50 for a quick meal.

Royal Farms' newest location will be open 24 hours a day. Aside from selling gas, there is a separate diesel island for trucks and large vehicles and ethanol-free fuel offered in the rear of the store. The convenience store is 5,371 square feet.

"This store is bigger and better than ever," Royal Farms Public Relations Representative Olivia Klock said. "Run by approximately 40 local employees, we will operate 27/7 with our regular menu, as well as expanded menu with tasty new offerings, including side dishes and our hand-pulled chicken sandwiches."

Klock added that Royal Farms chose the spot across from the high school because it filled a gap between its other stores along Route 50 and helped the company enter the Berlin market.

The Berlin Planning Commission approved plans to move the Arby's from its spot at Friendship Road and Route 50 to an adjacent parcel in 2015. The Town Council agreed to annex the new Arby's location into Berlin shortly afterward, and construction began at the end of the year.

Last week, the Worcester County Commissioners supported the installation of a signalized crosswalk at Seahawk Drive and Route 50. The project will be done in stages. First, a crosswalk will be painted. In early spring, the State Highway Administration will modify the existing sidewalks to accommodate the crosswalk and install electronic signaling devices.

"That's great that there will be a crosswalk. I've heard rumors that they're going to build an overpass walkway," Royal Farms manager Greg Fields said.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Despite concerns from school and community officials, the 5,371-square-foot Royal Farms opened across from Stephen Decatur High School on Dec. 29. To help prevent any pedestrian accidents of students crossing the highway to get to the store, there will be a signal crosswalk installed at intersection of Seahawk Drive and Route 50.

"I have kids that go to the high school, so I understand the concerns. But it won't be that big of a deal."

Royal Farms is a one-stop shop for drivers, offering a place to fill up their tanks before leaving Ocean City and to buy some snacks and sodas for the road. The store also offers a menu that includes breakfast sandwiches, burgers, chicken sliders and subs. Their chicken meals top off the menu. As the convenience store was taking shape over the year, school officials and community members were concerned about its proximity near the school. Decatur Principal Tom Zimmer said that the main concern was that students who did not have a car would be encouraged to cross Route 50 after school.

SHA representatives were weighing installing the crosswalk, but worried that it would encourage students to walk across. But earlier this month, Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor wrote to the SHA claiming that schools should be proactive in pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Ted Elder last week said that he deals with traffic in that area every day as a school bus driver, and that intersection is "an accident waiting to happen."

But area residents who attended the Royal Farms' soft opening on Tuesday said that the critical matter would be pedestrians paying attention, not the crosswalk.

"I don't think it's going to be a problem for the school. There's already a guardrail up," said Betty Majors who lives near Friendship Road.

"As long as the kids pay attention to the signal while crossing, they'll be fine," added her friend, Lisa Biasucci. "We're glad they opened up here – we love their chicken."

The Royal Farms was scheduled to have its grand opening on Dec. 19, but issues with connecting the sewer across Route 50 delayed its and the Arby's re-opening. The Arby's re-opened earlier this month next to Royal Farms.

Despite these setbacks and the soft opening's slow start, Fields was optimistic about the convenience store's success.

"I know that a lot of people support this store," he said. "The hope is that this can be one of the better ones in the district."

Royal Farms officially opened to the public on Dec. 29 around midnight. A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Friday, Jan. 6 at 10 a.m.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE FIRE

The Snow Hill, Girdletree, Newark and Stockton fire companies responded to the Paul M. Jones Lumber Company in Snow Hill on New Year's Eve after a disused kiln and office space caught fire. Operations of the lumber company were not affected, and no injuries were reported.

Snow Hill Fire seeks add'l station

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) The flooding of late 2016 demonstrated to the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company that a new station at the north end of its response area is necessary. As a result, the company will present an informational session at the firehouse on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. to explain its perspective to residents.

"We're going to be answering questions — we've received 20 letter this week in support of the effort, and asking questions about the proposal," Chief Trey Heiser said.

Call volume to the company doubled during the flooding, while access to its response area was halved because of the washout at Snow Hill Road, which took about a month to reopen to traffic. The fire company used an unorthodox, but familiar, tactic for members to serve the area despite limited access.

"We stationed a truck and an am-

balance at my parents' house, and had personnel there," Heiser said.

From the makeshift station, the department affected 40 service calls, most of which were rescues as motorists tried and failed to ford the floodwaters.

A new station, proposed to be located between Iron Furnace and Millville roads, would alleviate some of the strain.

"It'd be a smaller station with two bays. One for a ambulance and another for a truck," he said.

Heiser said his fire company has one of the largest service areas in the state. As most of it is rural, there are a limited number of routes available to certain places.

The National Fire Protection Agency in 2014 released an updated standard for the organization and deployment of fire suppression, emergency medical and special operations by volunteer fire departments.

According to this standard, volun-

teer fire departments should be able to respond with six emergency personnel within 14 minutes to a rural area, which is defined as less than 500 people per square mile. The goal should be met 80 percent of the time, according to the standard.

The distance from the current and only station to some of the farthest points in its district, Heiser said, is 15 miles — and a virtual lock on failing the standard for that call.

A new station located at the north end, and closer to some personnel who already live in the area, would help the company meet the standards.

"The first step is land and we'd either buy or lease," he said.

The company has been saving money towards building a new facility for a while, but doesn't have enough to pay for it outright.

"We'd likely have to get a loan," Heiser said. "But we'd do it on our own."

Residential real estate improves by 4.1 percent

Southern Worcester, West OC reassessed for 2017

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) Property owners in what the state considers "Area 2" should have received reassessment reports from the state by now, and while individual properties may have seen a rise or fall in assessed value, the average overall is an increase of 4.1 percent, a figure that could have an impact on tax rates this year.

"We saw a slight increase overall, but I believe Pocomoke City decreased slightly, but it was all pretty moderate," Terri Smith, county tax assessor, said.

Worcester is divided into three areas: Ocean City, the greater Berlin/Ocean Pines section and the rest of the county. Only one area is reassessed per year, a process that has had the effect of initially insulating the county from the aftermath of the 2008 financial meltdown while also spreading out the recovery over several years.

Ocean City was last reassessed in 2015, and will be surveyed next year. The resort's section, Area 3, has had the historically greatest concentration of property value in the county.

These first numbers are just an estimate, delivered to municipalities in the state to get started on their own budget calculations, and could be revised later this year. Generally, another set of numbers is delivered to the county in March.

Last year, the county's real property base was estimated at about \$14.7 billion, which has grown to slightly more than \$14.8 billion this year.

To ensure governments bring in at least as much money in tax revenue as last year, Maryland counties, towns and cities use a "Constant Yield Tax Rate." Worcester County's current tax rate is .835 cents per \$100 of assessed value, Berlin's is 68 cents, Ocean City's is 47.8 cents, Snow Hill's is 86 cents and Pocomoke City has two — 93.75 cents for owner-occu-

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Power outage hits Choptank customers in Ocean Pines

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor
(Jan. 5, 2017) More than 9,200 Choptank Electric customers lost power for about an hour on Tuesday afternoon because of an equipment malfunction. Debbie Rementer, key accounts manager for the cooperative, said equipment in a cabinet, not a transformer as reported elsewhere, is responsible for the outage, although the devices look similar from the outside. The cabinet, located at 800 Ocean Parkway, suffered a malfunction that caused a fire that interrupted service. Rementer said automated safety equip-

ment, also within the cabinet, “did its job” and activated to extinguish the blaze. According to the cooperative’s website, Choptank serves almost 14,000 customers in Worcester, which means about 65 percent of customers in the county were without power. The Worcester County Sheriff’s office reported via social media that traffic signals were also affected. During the major outage, at least two smaller outages were reported in the Berlin area. Rementer said she had no information on these outages, which affected fewer than 100 customers.

Options available for county residents disposing of trees

By Josh Davis and Brian Gilliland
Associate Editors
(Jan. 5, 2017) For people who spent a month or more nursing a Christmas tree in their living rooms, chances are this might be time to dispose of that old pine or spruce. In Berlin, the town will offer free curbside collection next Wednesday, Jan. 11. Residents are asked to place live-cut trees on the curb by 6 a.m. for collection by the town’s public works department. For people who lack curbside service, Christmas trees can be dropped off at the transfer station in Berlin along Flower Street or the Central Landfill until Jan. 10. For more information, contact the Town of Berlin Public Works Department at 410-641-4001 or email wpurnell@berlinmd.gov. Snow Hill will also be offering curbside pickup of trees to residents on Jan. 9. For more information, contact Town Hall at 410-632-2080. Pocomoke City is offering rolling Christmas tree pickup services, with the town collecting trees as they are put outside along with normal refuse. No end date for the service was provided. For more information, contact Town Hall at 410-957-1333.

In Ocean Pines, Republic Services customers can place trees at regular drop-off locations at no charge, Jan. 2-14. As in Berlin, trees must be stripped of all ornaments, tinsel, lights and other decorations. The Ocean Pines Association is encouraging residents to check with their elderly neighbors to see if they need help disposing of decorated Christmas trees. For more information, contact Denise Sawyer, director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Ocean Pines Association, at 410-641-7717 ext. 3006 or dsawyer@oceanpines.org. County residents either inside or outside a municipality can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost through Jan. 31, 2017. However, businesses and organizations that sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may take them to the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed. The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the Central Landfill. For more information, contact Recycling Coordinator Mike McClung at 410-632-3177.

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More than 100 people turned out last Wednesday at the Ocean Pines Library to protest the proposed redevelopment of the former Pines Shore Golf Course into about 300 campsites. The assembly, calling themselves “Save Our Ayres Creek,” has a Facebook group of the same name.



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Resident group raises safety, traffic, environmental issues

■ ANTI-CAMPGROUND continued ally, her own back yard at Ayer Creek.

“[When] we found out that something was going on, we wanted let the neighbors know. That’s what this meeting is basically about,” she said. “I feel like it would overload the area ... They’re going to use the resources and the roads, and does it really benefit the community? I don’t think it does.”

During a lengthy period of public comments, one man stood up and offered to write a check for \$500 on the spot in order to help the effort. Although no one in the room could accept the donation, he encouraged others to follow suit.

“That tells the tale. That’s what will get their attention and that’s what will let them know you’re serious,” he said to loud applause.

Michael LeCompte, president of the South Pointe Association and an Ocean City firefighter, said the frequency of accidents on Route 611 had risen “dramatically” during recent years. He worried that any new development would only make that situation worse.

“Every one of those are personal injury accidents, and the State Highway [Administration] really looks at that strongly,” he said. “Safety is going to be the number-one thing that’s going to change their minds. We can talk about the environment, we can talk about how it’s going to impact our homes, but safety [is key].”

He said statements that the frequency of calls to campsites were minimal were “totally false.”

“Berlin Fire Company and Ocean City responds to Assateague on an average of once a day,” LeCompte said. “Route 611 is a very dangerous highway ... probably one of the most-dangerous in the state of Maryland.”

Suzy Taylor said the voices in the room could be a power tool of opposition – so long as they continued to speak out.

“If each individual who’s here directly contacts their commissioner through an email or letter ... there’s 100 separate voices,” she said. “I think that would be very impactful.”

Jenkins encouraged everyone to contact their county commissioners and county planning and zoning officials, and to stay involved by joining the “Save Our Ayres Creek” Facebook group.

When she asked if anyone was in favor of the redevelopment, Jenkins was met with silence, followed by nervous laughter.

“We really have to look ahead ... and make it be known to our commissioners how we all feel,” she said.

Commissioner Bud Church, in attendance during the meeting, said afterward that he was there see what all the fuss was about.

“I was here to listen,” he said. “I learned a lot. I understand their concerns, and we’ll have to let it go through the process.”

In an interview last week, developer Todd Burbage said the absence of the zoning change would not necessarily mean the 99-acre parcel could not be used for other purposes. Under its current zoning designation, the property could accommodate about 50 single-family homes, he said.



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Cropper answers critics' claims on campground

Attorney representing two former golf courses says site concerns unfounded

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) Attorney Hugh Cropper, respectfully, does not agree that campsites are bad for the environment, or for traffic, in Worcester County.

Cropper represents Todd Burbage and the Ayres Creek Family Farm, LLC, which owns the former Pines Shore Golf Course near Route 611 and Route 376 and plan to redevelop that property into about 300 camping sites.

He also speaks for the Carl M. Freeman group, which has similar plans at the Bay Club golf course on Libertytown Road in Berlin, and is the chairman of the conservationist-oriented Lower Shore Land Trust board of directors.

Last Wednesday, more than 100 people turned up to a "Save Our Ayres Creek" meeting at the Ocean Pines Library to voice their opposition to the Pines Shores project.

Cropper said many of the opinions expressed that night, as well as on-line and during interviews with this and other media outlets, have rung false.

"I don't agree with the arguments against the campground from an environmental perspective, because the fact is there will be a minimum of 100-foot vegetative buffer from tidal wetlands," he said. "In some instances, along Ayers Creek, that buffer will be as much as 400 or 500 feet."

"Several acres" would be set aside to buffer the creek, he said, and all stormwater would be treated onsite. Cropper suggested the environmental impact would actually be less than what is there now.

"When you come up the creek on a boat you won't even be able to see the campground," he said. "Also, the property is highly disturbed from the golf course. They have ponds and lakes – it's an interconnected system, so all stormwater will be managed from the properties. All the stormwater will run back to those ponds and be treated. There will be no runoff to Ayers Creek."

When the property was used as a golf course, Cropper said the greens extended all the way into the creek. One of the tees is apparently still in the creek.

"Golf courses use thousands of pounds of chemicals – nitrogen and herbicides and all kinds of stuff. That will all go away," he said.

He said no motorized boats would be allowed to launch from the property, but that "non-motorized" crafts such as kayaks and canoes could be permitted.

"I know the neighbors don't want that – they don't want anybody using the creek, but that's disingenuous,"

he said. "The creek is owned by the state of Maryland for the benefit of all the citizens – it's not fair for them to say people can't use the creek."

"From an environmental point of view, [a campground] will be better than a golf course. It will be better than a farm," Cropper continued. "You won't see it, you won't even know it's there, and it's closed [by law] five months out of the winter. They're worried about the critters and the ducks. In the winter, those gates will be locked and those ponds will be full of ducks and geese and all sorts of things."

More importantly, Cropper said, the property would be connected to the sewer lines at Mystic Harbor where "every drop [would receive] a high level of treatment."

He argued the same point when

considering the proposed redevelopment at the Bay Club, and called campgrounds "the perfect sewer customer" because they pay standards rates but do not put any drain on sewer plants during the colder months when processing facilities generally have the most difficulties.

"Right now, all the people who are complaining about this thing are on drain fields, many of which are very old. And where do you think it goes when they flush the toilet? It goes into the creek [and] it goes into the aquifer," he said, adding that some adjacent properties could connect to the Mystic Harbor system once the campground puts in new infrastructure.

"We'll pull all those drain fields out of use and it will be a huge net-positive environmental impact," Cropper said. "Everybody just ignores that. All

the opponents just ignore the fact that they're on drain fields and ignore the fact that those little houses have failing septic systems going straight into the [creek]. When I bring that up, that's ignored."

As for the traffic concerns presented by opponents of the development – namely, that traffic congestion would increase and cause safety issues – Cropper said he "totally disagreed" with that assertion, both as a lawyer and as a citizen.

He went as far as calling those concerns "a red herring."

"It's probably going to be at most 300 campsites," he said, adding that sketches circulating of a 311-site produced by R D Hand & Associates were preliminary – and "aggressive."

He did not know how they were obtained by the Save Our Ayres Creek

See ROUTE Page 9



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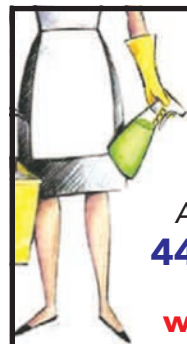


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SANTA!

Worcester Prep's 45th Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 4, was another successful fundraiser for future school and program updates. Pre-Kinder-gartener Isabella Rice tells Santa what she wants for Christmas.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Snow Hill awarded grant to pursue Sturgis Park revamp

Town gets \$30K to solicit design document; request for bids, comments coming

By **Brian Gilliland**

Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) With a prime spot on the banks of the Pocomoke River only a stone's throw from a recovering downtown, yet without much more than a pavilion and a couple of aging restroom facilities to show for it, Snow Hill's Sturgis Park makes a fine target for revitalization.

With a new grant from the state's Department of Community and Housing Development, the town now has \$30,000 to make strides towards that goal.

"In 2015's strategic plan, Sturgis Park was mentioned as a site to promote and develop — it just needs some sprucing up," Town Grant Administrator Ann Gibb said.

Gibb said the restrooms need either renovation or replacement, the sidewalks need to be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the park needs some new features.

"We just put in the new dock and refurbished the retaining wall, but the goal is to increase the use of the park," she said.

How that might occur could take

several forms. The park already features a bus stop, so there's something of a built-in audience there, and Gibb said the site is being considered for an excursion train stop — though Berlin Mayor Gee Williams recently revealed both he and Snow Hill Mayor Charlie Dorman were taking the train concept back to the drawing board.

Also, Gibb said the Lower Shore Land Trust, which relocated its office from Berlin to Snow Hill last year, has expressed interest in using the park for programs.

"We'd like to put in tourist features — maybe a car charging station, or an air pump for bicycles. There's also been talk of natural features to bring people in like a skating rink, playground, physical fitness stations or activity centers," she said.

The public, Gibb said, will have its own say at some point about the park's features.

"There are people who do this for a living," she said.

Right now, however, the grant only covers plans for renovations, not paying for the redevelopment itself. The process is expected to take several months, and will begin with the town soliciting requests for proposals, which could happen as early as next Tuesday, when the Town Council holds its next regular meeting.

Homeowners have until early February to appeal valuation

■ RESIDENTIAL continued

piated, and \$1.1311 for non-owner-occupied properties.

Using the new assessments, the county's tax rate could fall to 82.45 cents per \$100 of assessed value, Berlin's would increase to 68.14 cents, Ocean City's could fall to 47.27 cents, Snow Hill's could fall to 85.61 cents and Pocomoke City's could increase to 94.29 cents for owner occupied and \$1.1373 for non-owner occupied properties to still maintain the current levels of funding, based on the state's initial report.

The various governing bodies of

the municipal organizations will hash out just what next year's property tax rates will be during budget negotiations in the coming months. Budgets are finalized in early June.

Owner-occupied houses in the state are protected somewhat from spikes in assessed value by the Homestead Tax Credit, which limits increases to 10 percent or less each year, effectively phasing in changes. Worcester's rate is three percent.

Owners can appeal their assessments online until Feb. 13 via the Department of Taxation's website: assessmentappeals.dat.maryland.gov

Route 611 'a camping area, like it or not'

Continued from Page 7

organizers, who distributed those drawings at the meeting.

"Castaways has 394 campsites," Cropper said. "I ride by it every day going to my office. I live on Assateague Road, my office is on 611. I never see anybody coming out of Eagle's Nest Road. If you go back there, it looks like it's deserted."

Up to 25 percent of the sites could be permanent facilities like cabins, and Cropper said there would also be "primitive" campsites allowing people to pitch small tents. He estimated between half-to-two-thirds of the sites would allow for RVs.

Modern RVs, he argued, tend to stay in one place longer, meaning some could be parked for an entire season rather than rolling up and down Route 611 all summer.

"Maybe on the weekend you'll have less than 100 RVs turnover, and that's assuming 100 percent occupancy," Cropper said. "It is a drop in the bucket compared to the thousands and ten-thousands that go to Assateague, and the thousands and ten-thousands that use 611 as a back way to get to Ocean City to try to

avoid the Route 50 traffic."

Asked why he thought the opposition, so far, had been so vocal Cropper replied, "They're selfish."

"They don't want it in their backyard," he said. "I'm shocked at the people that have come out and said 'we don't want to see anything happen to this piece of property.' I'm shocked that people say it should be a park – well, go buy it and make it a park!"

He noted that the former golf course had "a clubhouse, a restaurant and a liquor license."

"With all due respect to [Save Our Ayres Creek organizer] Joan Jenkins, she's got a big-ass house in the buffer right on a subdivided lot in the subdivision," Cropper said. "If she had a 100-acre farm down in Stockton I'd have the greatest respect for that. Look at the aerial picture you see [on television reports] – this is a developed area. This isn't out in the country, respectfully. It's just not."

"When you look at environmental impact – there's not going to be any environmental impact. It's going to be less impact from this than one of those houses with a drain field," he

continued. "All those houses down on South Pointe are on drain fields [and] virtually none of them have any treatment at all. If they were rebuilt today, they'd have to be 100 feet to 300 feet from the water and they'd all have to have treatment systems on their septic – that's the law today. They're all grandfathered, they're all nonconforming, every single one of them, including, respectfully, Ms. Jenkins."

Although Cropper had scheduled a meeting with the county planning commission on Jan. 5 to rezone the property – the first step in a lengthy process towards redevelopment – that has since been postponed. He said that was not unusual and that he still expected a meeting to take place soon.

As for the larger push, apparently countywide, to transform golf courses into campgrounds, Cropper said part of that was because of the obvious demand.

"Worcester County appears to be underserved for campgrounds. The camping lifestyle has become very popular, campgrounds have become very popular and Worcester County

has become a leader in the campground business," he said. "Right now we see some expansion and we see these two new campgrounds in the pipeline. Is there going to be 10 next year? No."

He added that any new campgrounds could also replace an expected, gradual move of campsites going off the island at Assateague National Seashore.

"They're not going to have any place to move them – they're just going to have to close them," he said. "We're going to lose those campsites. In 10 years, 20 years, if they move all those campsites off Assateague, you're going to see a net decrease in traffic."

"I think Ayers Creek [Campground] is a great spot, despite what the neighbors say," Cropper added. "It's a perfect spot. It's across from Frontier Town. It's right down from Castaways. It's right down [the street] from Assateague. It's smart growth. It's where we want the people. We don't want the campground in Willards. Here, they can take buses to Assateague or to Ocean City. It's a camping area, like it or not."

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Long and arduous process to rezone former golf course

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) While the debate continues over whether the proposed “Ayres Creek Campground” is a good idea, the process of switching the former Pines Shores Golf Course over to another use will likely move slowly, if it goes through at all.

Before anything can happen, the property would have to be rezoned from E-1 Estate to A-2 Agricultural, and then a special exception would have to be permitted under A-2 to allow for a campground.

Each step would require at least one public meeting, and the special exception itself would necessitate a public hearing and include a period of advertising in local newspapers.

According to Phyllis Wimbrow, deputy director of Worcester County Development Review and Permitting, the only application the county has received related to the property is a rezoning application.

Wimbrow said a meeting with the county planning commission was tentatively set for Jan. 5, but that meeting was postponed at the request of the applicant, Ayres Creek Family Farm LLC. The meeting has not been rescheduled and will not occur until Wimbrow receives notice from the applicant.

“No applications of any kind relative to a campground on the property have been submitted to this department and, in fact, would be very premature, as the use is not permitted under the site’s existing zoning classification,” Wimbrow said.

“The existing E-1 estate district zoning classification allows single-family dwellings and a number of agricultural uses. It does not allow campgrounds.

“The requested A-2 agricultural district zoning permits a wide variety of agricultural uses as well as other compatible uses such as campgrounds. In order to obtain a permit for a campground in the A-2 agricultural district, the property owner would have to be granted a special exception by the board of zoning appeals as well as site plan approval from the planning commission. However, neither approval can be sought unless the property is rezoned to A-2 agricultural district,” she added.

Wimbrow said any rezoning application would be considered during a public meeting, but not a public hearing.

“It does not require public notice or the taking of public comments,” she said. “The planning commission can choose to take comments, but is not



CAR DONATIONS

During its 2016 holiday party at Seacrets on 49th Street, the Coastal Association of Realtors (CAR) collected over 100 toys for the Toys For Tots Foundation. The 150 CAR members attending the Dec. 13 party were asked to bring a new toy. Retired Lt. Col. Dick Tanner of the U.S. Marine Corps helped collect the toys. Also during the holiday party, members raised \$275 for Habitat for Humanity. This money will go toward CAR’s 2016-17 fundraising efforts to support the Wicomico and Worcester County chapters of Habitat for Humanity. CAR Membership Committee, in back from left, are Mary Burgess and Rosie Beauclair both of Shamrock Realty Group; Elaine Gordy of Long & Foster Real Estate in Salisbury; Tanner; and Kathy Lowing of EXIT Realty at the Beach and in front, Larissa Luck of Universal Mortgage & Finance; Pam Wadler of Shamrock Realty Group; Marie McFarland of the Coastal Association of Realtors; and Bernie Flax of EXIT Realty at the Beach.

required to do so. Once the planning commission has made a recommendation to either approve or deny a rezoning request, that recommendation is submitted in writing to the county commissioners for that body’s review.

“At that time a public hearing is

scheduled, all adjoining property owners are notified by mail, a legal ad is run in the newspaper for two weeks, and a legal notice is posted on the property. It is at the county commissioners’ public hearing that public comment is taken.”

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BLOOD DRIVE

Stephen Decatur senior Lucia Vicidomini was just one of over 90 blood donors during the annual Key Club's drive on Nov. 18 at the Berlin high school. Each year the school is in the running to be the top donation site on the Lower Eastern Shore for the Blood Bank of Delmarva. One pint of blood can save as many as three lives.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOR THE BIRDS

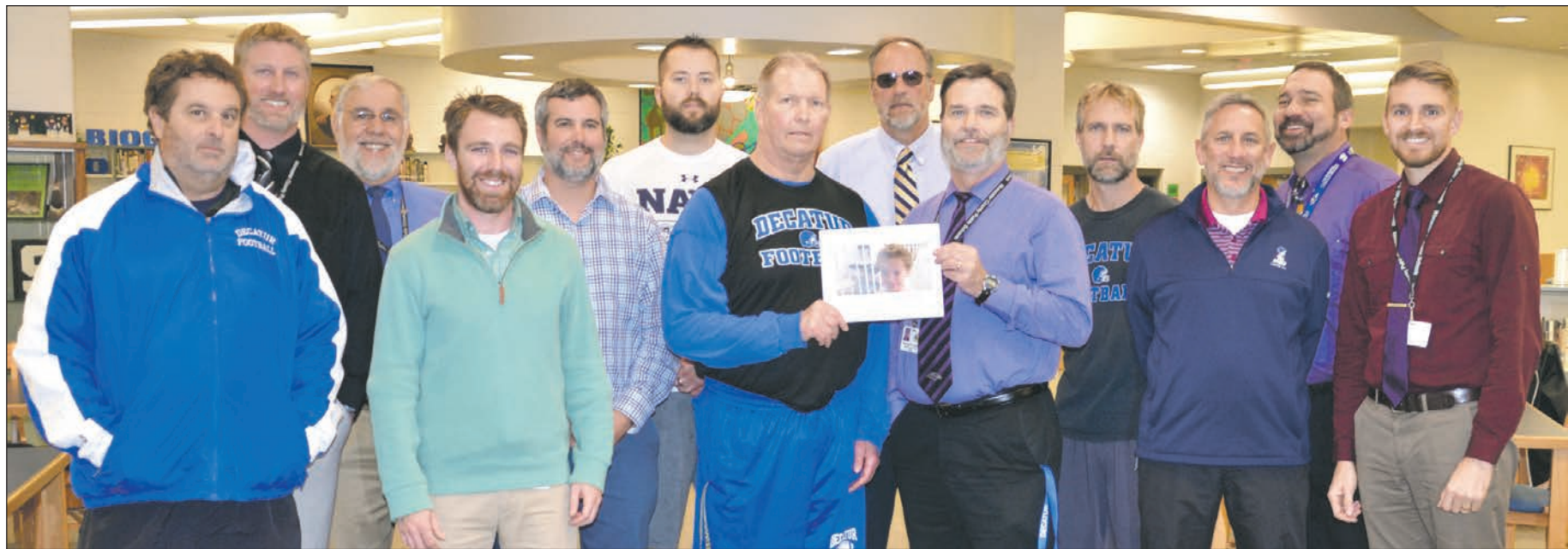
Every year at Thanksgiving, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City collects food donated by their members for Diakonia, a shelter in West Ocean City that provides temporary assistance to those in need. Members holding some of the 12 frozen turkeys collected, from left, are Barbara Southwell, President Barb Peletier, Tom Southwell, Fred Kauffman and Ted Vanvick.



CRAFTY CRAFTERS

The clients at the Berlin Senior Center decorate foam pumpkins with the caption "Autumn Blessing" printed on them. They added leaves, acorns and scarecrow embellishments. The crafts are sponsored by the Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines.

PHOTO COURTESY LOUISE LASSITER



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NO SHAVE FOR A CAUSE

The month of November gave several faculty members at Stephen Decatur High School the opportunity to help a colleague. "No Shave November" allowed some of the male staff to abandon their razors for a month while raising over \$200 to help the family of long-time history teacher and coach, Bob Knox, whose grandson, Eli, is battling cancer. Pictured in back, from left, are Assistant Principal Ryan Cowder, Larry Ryan, Jason Pylypczuk, Tyler Riley, Assistant Principal Mark Flynn, Stan Griffin and Tom Hinkle, and in front, Fred Billings, Dale Krantz, Knox, Principal Tom Zimmer, Dan Stearman and Brian Phillips.

Painted windows bring festive holiday spirit

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) Though there hasn't been so much as a single fallen flake of snow on the shore yet, Snow Hill's downtown is teeming with snowmen.

They're the work of Olga Deshields, who initially was hired by the town to dress up a vacant downtown building's windows, and then the idea caught on and expanded to just about everywhere downtown.

Deshields, a substitute teacher at Snow Hill Elementary and Snow Hill Middle schools, learned about window painting from a friend, Barbara Dougherty, who used to own the American Art Gallery downtown. Dougherty passed away in early 2015.

"She taught me a lot, and painting windows was just one of them. We discussed doing more in Snow Hill, but it never took off until now," Deshields said.

Deshields, originally from Russia, said she enjoys the painting itself more than anything.

"For a couple of weeks in the beginning of December, I painted every day — I haven't done that in a long time. A job is a job but getting money for what you want to do is priceless — if others enjoy it, that's just icing on the cake," she said.

Her process is relatively simple. Deshields said she would meet and discuss with the shop owners what they might like painted on their windows first. This step was important, because while the decorations were nice additions that added to the spirit of the town, the shops still needed to use window space to display their wares.

"Everyone's been very easy to work with, and for the most part, let me do what I wanted. So far, everyone likes it, which I find satisfying, and it brings something different to the town," Deshields said.

The paintings took between 20 minutes to between two to three hours, she explained, depending on the idea and scope of the work.

"The windows were all freehand, with some images coming from things

I'd seen on the Internet or details from different places. I don't have much professional experience, but I always doodled as a kid," she said.

Deshields said she hopes she can go on painting the town forever.

"Snowmen aren't tightly knit with Christmas, so they can stay up for a while. I hope I get to do it again next

Christmas but there's nothing set so far," she said.

One shop has booked a new painting for Valentine's Day, and Deshields said she's happy to help when it comes time to take the paintings down.

"I just want to thank the town and the business owners who allowed me to make this happen."



Olga Deshields' snowmen painted on the windows of what is slated to become Toy Town in downtown Snow Hill this spring.

BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Berlin-based podcast to get bigger audience with NPR

By Katie Tabelaing
Staff Writer

(Jan. 5, 2017) Nearly a year after its debut, Salt Water Media’s podcast “So, What’s Your Story?” has been picked up by local NPR affiliate Delmarva Public Radio. Starting this Saturday, the show that promotes independent authors in the tri-state area will air immediately after “This American Life.”

“It’s a great spot since DPR has about 47,000 listeners and “This American Life” is the most popular NPR show ever,” Salt Water Founder and podcast host Stephanie Fowler said. “It’s a cool moment and offers a lot of validation for what I’m doing – trying to get the voices of these authors heard.”

“So, What’s Your Story” is a weekly podcast where Fowler and her co-host Tony Russo talk with local writers about the writing process and the story behind their published work. Fowler said that she was inspired by working with local authors and hearing stories behind the story.

“I thought ‘I wish other people could hear the stuff that I’m hearing,’ and thought it’d be a cool podcast. But the technical part stymied me,” she said.

That’s when Russo, author of “Eastern Shore Beer” and veteran podcaster stepped in. He started what is believed to be the first podcast on the Eastern Shore in 2005, and currently runs

“Beers with Strangers” show.

“I’m not good looking enough to be on YouTube,” Russo joked. “Podcasts are important technology that we need to embrace. This is exciting because it means that podcasts are becoming a thing on the Eastern Shore.

“We don’t have enough local podcasts, so it’s also an opportunity to grow culture,” he added.

Fowler and Russo started recording in 2015, but audio equipment issues caused the podcast to be delayed to February 2016. Since then, the duo has been releasing a show on iTunes, Stitcher and the Salt Water Media website roughly once a week. Through these channels, the podcast had 800 individual listeners, according to Fowler.

“It’s very much an indie thing,” Russo said. “You don’t have to wait for it to be green lit. You can just publish it yourself for free.”

In November, DPR had started following the podcast on social media, and shortly afterwards Fowler and Russo had a meeting with Programs Director Chris Ranck. The hosts were expecting to pitch the show, but Ranck offered them a Saturday afternoon slot.

A “So, What’s Your Story” listener himself, Ranck said he knew it would be good radio the moment he tuned in.

“It’s important for DPR to bring as many local voices as possible,” Ranck said. “I’m hoping this expands the



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

“So What’s Your Story” podcast co-host Stephanie Fowler talks about being picked up by NPR, where her show, with co-host Tony Russo, will air on Saturdays starting Jan. 7.

cache of public radio and helps Stephanie and Tony land guests they wouldn’t have landed otherwise.”

Not only will Fowler’s and Russo’s show have access to Delmarva Public Radio’s audience, but it could capture some of “This American Life’s” legions of listeners.

Being aired on public radio does come with two caveats: the shows have to be 29 minutes long, with space for commercials, and no profanity.

But Fowler said that what people

hear now on the podcast will be the same as what they hear Saturday.

“It will be pretty much the same flow and energy,” she said. “If anything, I am deeply appreciative of people who are listening to the podcast and paying attention. The whole point of this [the podcast] is for the authors. It’s validation – they’re doing important work and we need to tell people about it.”

“So, What’s Your Story” will air on Saturdays at 1 p.m. on 90.7 WSDL. The first episode airs on Jan. 7.

Low-key First Friday in downtown Snow Hill

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) Snow Hill hosts 11 First Fridays per year, with January as the off month, allowing the town and the arts and entertainment dis-

trict, which both sponsor the events, to evaluate how things are going.

“In the past, the town has charged street vendors a \$25 fee, and in keeping with what’s going on in Berlin and Salisbury, we’ve decided to suspend

that fee,” Ann Gibb, grant administrator for the town, said.

Gibb, with economic development coordinator Michael Day, run the arts and entertainment district.

“It’s subject to change, but we want

to draw more vendors, and more people, to encourage more traffic downtown,” she said.

However, the town does not want people to just show up at the next First Friday, scheduled for Feb. 3, and set up shop.

“We do want street vendors to register with the town about a week before the event,” she said.

Registration is free, and is accomplished by contacting either Gibb or Day directly at Town Hall at 410-632-2080.



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- Rum Chata (1.75ml) \$16**
- Boston Crème De Café (L) \$4**
- Boston Crème De Banana (L) \$3.25**
- Boston Apricot Brandy (375ml) \$2.55**
- Canadian LTD Whiskey (750ml) \$6.99**

- Boston Blackberry Brandy (375ml) \$2.55**
- Ocean City Distillery
Flavored Vodkas (750ml) \$7.50**
- Teavine
American Sparkling Wine (750ml) \$5**
- Imperial Blend (375ml) \$3**
- Bayou CRAFT Satsuma
White & Spiced Rums (750ml) \$10**
- Ciroc Vodka (L) \$19**
- Smirnoff Raspberry Sorbet (L) \$7**
- Smirnoff
Pineapple Coconut Sorbet (L) \$7**
- Few Spirits
American Craft Gin (750ml) \$12**
- Barton Gold Rum (L) \$4**
- Rum Jumbie Passion Fruit (750ml) \$6.49**
- White Marlin Gold Tequila (L) \$6**
- Ron Roberto Coconut Rum (L) \$8**
- Georgi Whipped Crème Vodka (L) \$5**

Opinion

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

Let's hope it's a good one

The year 2016 was a mess: rough weather, flooding, bomb threats, lawsuits, ugly politics, the loss of good citizens, and business that was OK, but not so wonderful that it overshadowed the year's difficulties. It was, in many respects, like the year before and the year before that. With the arrival of each new year, the downsides of the previous ones remain painfully fresh, while the good, as Shakespeare observed in "Julius Caesar," is oft interred with their bones.

But the "good," as it were, is the foundation on which the new year is constructed, while the negative tends to diminish as other circumstances redirect the community's attention elsewhere.

In Berlin, for instance, a fairly rough election by that town's standards left no permanent scars and the town again appears ready to embrace an ambitious agenda. It won't accomplish it all, as the town likes to think big, but that is surely better than doing little and expecting less.

Meanwhile, Ocean Pines experienced what was nearly a political and managerial purge. Even as this upheaval continues, however, the community association's board of directors is doing something, rather than spending months arguing about what it ought to do. It's still early in the game, but the results have been positive so far, although the final assessment awaits the rollout of the annual financial statement.

Both Pocomoke and Snow Hill endured extreme weather, with washouts and flooding, as well as other difficulties over the year, but continue to move in the right direction with downtown promotions and other marketing efforts aimed at improving their respective economies.

So, yes, 2016 wasn't the superlative 12-month period that everyone hoped for when it debuted, just as the hopes for 2017 will likely exceed the results. Still, even though that foundation of good things last year didn't generate as many headlines as the negative events, they have more of a lasting effect than the setbacks, which eventually will just fade away.



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Register for youth indoor leagues

Soccer, basketball seasons start Jan. 7

(Jan. 5, 2017) The winter Youth Indoor Soccer League and Youth Basketball League seasons will begin Saturday, Jan. 7, and all the action will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill.

Both leagues are co-ed. The five Youth Indoor Soccer League divisions are: ages 3-4, and grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8.

Ages 3-4 and grades K-1 divisions will play on Saturday mornings, grades 6-8 on Monday and some Wednesday evenings, grades 4-5 on Wednesday or Thursday evenings, and grades 2-3 on Thursday evenings. Practice dates, times and locations are to be determined.

The four Youth Basketball League division are: grades K-1, 2-4, 5-6 and 7-8. Games will take place Saturday afternoons. Grades K-1 will begin at 1 p.m., grades 2-4 at 2:15 p.m., grades 5-6 at 3:30 p.m., and grades 7-8 at 4:45 p.m.

Volunteer coaches are needed to run successful leagues. Contact the WCRC prior to Jan. 5 if interested in volunteering this winter. An orientation meeting will be held for all interested volunteers.

Emphasis for all youth recreation leagues is placed on skill development, participation, sportsmanship and most of all, kids having fun. Both the soccer and basketball leagues are designed for pure enjoyment and skill development. Scores and standings are not recorded.

The cost for each program is \$30 per player (\$25 for each additional child) and financial aid is available for those who have a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 5. Those registering after this deadline may not have the request met for certain teams or coaches, and there is an additional \$5 fee after the registration deadline.

For more information on the Indoor Soccer & Winter Youth Basketball Leagues or to volunteer as a youth coach, contact the WCRC at 410-632-2144 or recandparks@co.worcester.md.us.

Visit www.Worcester-RecandParks.org for a complete list of youth programs or to sign up for email announcements.

Children's theater brings 'Lion King'

(Jan. 5, 2017) The Ocean Pines Children's Theater announces its upcoming production of Disney's Broadway blockbuster, "The Lion King Jr.," Jan. 13-14 in Ocean City.

With music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice, this enchanting show was in-

troduced to the Broadway stage in 1997, and was the recipient of 70 awards, including the 1998 Tony for best musical. The critically-acclaimed Ocean Pines Children's Theater promises to delight audiences at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center on 40th Street, Fri-

day, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased online through Ticketmaster, or at the Convention Center Box Office on 40th Street. For additional information, call 410-251-1402.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Film and television workshop offered at WPS this Saturday

By Kara Hallissey

Staff Writer

(Jan. 5, 2017) Berlin native and Stephen Decatur High School alum Josh Chamberlain will present a film and television workshop from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., this Saturday, at Worcester Preparatory School.

The cost to attend is \$34 in advance, or \$50 at the door.

Attendees will enjoy a number of demonstrations from the film and television industry focusing on a range of topics including previsualization editing, graphics, trailer editing, color correction and sound.

"I'm bringing over a decade of experience and contacts to the workshop," Chamberlain said. "You cannot find these types of resources in a classroom, on the internet or in a book. If you are searching for a career in television or film, this is it."

Chamberlain will discuss his personal story and journey from high school to his career as a Hollywood entertainment professional in addition to sharing lessons he has learned along the way.

The workshop is for all ages and skill levels looking for tips on how to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. Seating is limited to 100 guests.

"Video testimonials are from my colleagues in the industry and will be exclusive to my event only," Chamberlain said. "The event will be broken into multiple sections from who I am, industry jobs, finding direction, secrets to making it, my personal resources, live demonstrations, video testimonials and my best personal advice."

During the previsualization editing demonstration, Chamberlain will explain how he became a lead animatic editor on the Sony Pictures feature, "After Earth," and assisted with the "Clash of Clans" commercial. He will talk about the industry jobs available and the best places to look.

"I will walk everyone through the world of previsualization from storyboard animatics to 3D," Chamberlain said. "They will also hear from an animatic editor and storyboard artist who has worked on blockbuster hits like the '5th Wave,' 'Spiderman Homecoming,' 'Jungle Book' and the 'Jumanji' reboot."

From main title show graphics to animation, Chamberlain will demon-

strate the many ways he creates graphics and attendees will also hear from a graphics company who works with some of the biggest studios in Hollywood.

"Everyone watches trailers but what really goes into making one? I will break them down piece by piece and explain the formula into making theatrical trailers, which is very exciting," Chamberlain said. "Color correction is one of the most under looked careers in the industry. I will demonstrate how I use color correction to enhance the visual style of my finished pieces."

Chamberlain said 50 percent of the material he receives needs some type of sound editing, which he will explain how to fix quickly during the workshop.

Look forward to video testimonials from actors, editors, artists and producers.

"These individuals have worked on some of the biggest theatrical blockbusters including the 'Fast & Furious' franchise, 'Spiderman Homecoming', the '5th Wave', 'Jumanji', 'Marco Polo' season 2, 'Dark Tower' and 'Passengers'," Chamberlain said.

Information on composing music, directing, producing, managing, writing, acting and working behind the camera will all be included in the workshop.

A contest giveaway will take place with donations from Melrose Mac and Sony Pictures as prizes.

"Who doesn't love free movie memorabilia and other goodies for your computer and phone," Chamberlain said.

Included in the purchase of a ticket is a Mexican fajita bar from Mac Catering with chicken, steak and veggie strips, cheese, rice, beans, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, sour cream, salsa and flour tortillas.

"I approached several schools and teachers in the area but Nancy [Raskauskas] at WPS ignited the conversation and immediately jumped on the opportunity," Chamberlain said. "WPS is donating the space and has been incredibly supportive of the event by opening the doors to the entire community. I am thankful for their generosity."

Chamberlain said Raskauskas, a computer teacher at WPS, deserves recognition because "she has worked countless hours with me on this event



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Josh Chamberlain, Hollywood entertainment professional and Berlin native, will host the Film and Television Workshop at Worcester Preparatory School on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

and should receive a standing ovation from students."

Chamberlain is a global marketing content film and television editor who has more than a decade of professional entertainment experience.

He was born and raised in Berlin and graduated from Stephen Decatur High School and Salisbury University. He moved to Los Angeles in 2004 and returned to Berlin in 2014 to raise his family in addition to running his company, Stickman Productions.

Chamberlain has worked on post-production for several television shows including "Ace of Cakes," "Best Thing I Ever Ate," "Ellen" and "FX Movie Download." In addition, he has worked as a lead animatic editor for "After Earth," "Annie" and a number of theatrical films still in development.

After producing and editing more than 20 reality television pilots for development, Chamberlain spent time working on a number of movies such as "Ghostbusters," the "Angry Birds Movie," "Miracles from Heaven," the "5th Wave," "Goosebumps," "The Walk" and "Hotel Transylvania 2."

Throughout his years in the industry, Chamberlain has worked for TLC, History, Discovery, Bravo, Overbrook Entertainment, Franklin Entertainment, BET and the Food Network.

Currently, Chamberlain is working on "Resident Evil 6" and looking forward to the 2017 season.

"Because of my hard work and the

resources I have built over time, I was granted special permission to return to Maryland and continue working for the industry, which is extremely rare," Chamberlain said. "In the workshop, I will explain how I did it. If you are interested in pursuing a career in film or television you are guaranteed to walk away motivated and inspired to follow your dream."

To purchase tickets in advance, visit Eventbrite.com and for more information call WPS at 410-641-3575.

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PREP SINGERS

Worcester Prep Upper School Music Director Christopher Buzby and his Select Choral Ensemble treat residents of three local retirement homes in Berlin, Snow Hill and Salisbury to singing performances on Dec. 2. To cap off the day, the ensemble even pulled off a flash mob in The Centre at Salisbury during their lunch at the food court. The group is pictured performing holiday songs for Gull Creek Senior Living Community in Berlin.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep junior Porter Bunting gets a hug after the performance from Gull Creek Senior Living Community resident Paula Wright.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Stephen Decatur High School Future Educators of America members Dina Sbih and Deja Kellam serve as greeters during American Education Week, Nov. 14-18. SDHS opened its doors to over 100 parents and community members throughout the week.

Ocean Pines committee hopeful in new year

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Jan. 5, 2017) With several committee members having put in multiple years of work, the Comprehensive Planning Committee is hoping to fulfill a New Year’s resolution to release a communitywide survey and to finish a new comprehensive plan.

Chairman Frank Daly and other members of the committee apparently added plenty of work over the holiday,

following what was termed a “productive” meeting with committee liaison – and board vice president – Dave Stevens in mid-December.

Following that, the survey was recast as a “strategic plan outline” and presented as a six-page, 24-question document. Daly emailed the committee members copies of that and a four-page comprehensive plan outline on Dec. 21, and notes were exchanged.

Although Stevens had said last

month that a prospective survey of several dozen questions had been narrowed to just 10, Daly said several questions were back on the table after the most-recent meeting.

“When everything is said and done, right now the survey will consist of 24 questions,” Daly said. “This new strategic plan outline and the response to the board will be the main topics of our next meeting, [targeted] for Jan. 3.”

That meeting was held after press time.

Previous survey sections on “goals and objectives” and other material were eliminated in what was once a much larger, 38-question survey, Daly said.

Ideally, the committee could further streamline the document and seek final board approval to release the survey along with assessment collection mailings in March.

County rec & parks looking to expand Futsal

(Jan. 5, 2017) Following several successful seasons, Worcester County Recreation & Parks is looking to expand the Men’s Futsal League at the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) in Snow Hill for 2017.

The league at the WCRC included six teams during the first two seasons. The WCRC also hosted the second annual War on the Shore Futsal Tournament, held Dec. 9 -11. Thirty teams participated and included U14 Boys, U16 Boys, U18 Boys, U18 Girls

and a Men’s Division.

“With most of the Men’s Futsal League teams planning to return this year and interest that we’ve had already from some new teams, I am confident we’ll see our number of teams grow for the 2017 season,” Program Manager Chris Roberts said. “With the addition of the tournament and growing our winter league, we are striving to become the premier location for Futsal.”

The Men’s Futsal League will run

on Friday evenings beginning Jan. 13, with games beginning at 6 p.m. This competitive league is open to those ages 18 and up and is a team-entry league only (no individual sign-ups). The cost is \$215 per team.

The league will consist of 10 weeks of games followed by playoffs. Scores and standing will be kept throughout the season. The registration deadline to get a team in is Monday, Jan. 9. A team captain’s meeting will be held that evening at the WCRC Center that

night at 6 p.m.

New for this season, the winners of the 2017 Futsal League will receive more than just bragging rights. The league champions will get free entry into the December 2017 Men’s Futsal Tournament.

For more information, contact Roberts at 410-632-2144 ext.2506 or croberts@co.worcester.md.us. Visit www.WorcesterRecandParks.org for a complete list of youth programs or to sign up for email announcements.

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
www.bjsonthewater.com
Jan. 6: Thin Ice, 9 p.m.
Jan. 7: Dust N Bones, 9 p.m.
Jan. 11: It's About Time, 5 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Jan. 6: Dave Sherman, 7-11 p.m.
Jan. 7: Kevin Poole, 7-11 p.m.
Jan. 11: Open Mic, 8-11 p.m.
Jan. 12: Chris Button & Dave Sherman, 7-10 p.m.



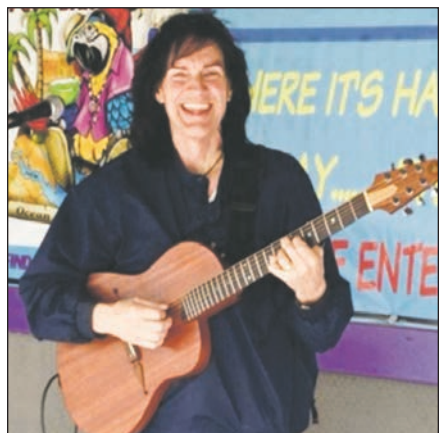
IT'S ABOUT TIME

BJ's On The Water: Wednesday, January 11, 5 p.m.



DJ GROOVE

Fager's Island: Saturday, January 7, 9 p.m.



DAVE SHERMAN

Bourbon Street On The Beach: January 6, 7 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-7192
www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
Berlin
410-641-0600
www.oceandowns.com
Jan. 7: Everett Spells, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Monkee Paw Trio, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449
www.duffysoc.com

Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-9 p.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
www.fagers.com
Jan. 6: DJ Hook, 9 p.m.
Jan. 7: DJ Groove, 9 p.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com
Jan. 12: Kevin Poole, 6-10 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean

Ocean City
410-524-3535
www.clarionoc.com
Jan. 6-7: On the Edge

TOUCH OF ITALY

67th Street and Coastal Highway, in the Holiday Inn Oceanfront
Ocean City
302-703-3090
Every Tuesday: Piano Bar w/Bryan Russo, 9 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
www.whiskersbar.com
Jan. 6: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



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HARD - 23

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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ROLLING IN THE AISLES
BY MATTHEW SEWELL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Sponged

8 Asylum

14 Takes from page to screen, say

20 Pope with the longest reign between St. Peter and Pius VI (A.D. 67-1799)

21 Left speechless

22 On the down-low

23 They may be sealed or broken

24 Marquee locale

26 Degree in math

27 Gruesome

29 Companion of Han in "The Force Awakens"

30 H.O.V. ____

31 Sénégal summers

33 Running figure

34 Players last produced in July 2016

36 Epic singers

37 Kicks back

39 Rural postal abbr.

40 Worthiness

41 Samberg and Serkis

42 Home of the Triple-A Mud Hens

44 Gets bogged down

45 Vitamin Shoppe competitor

46 Vegan sandwich filler

48 Calrissian of "The Empire Strikes Back"

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

49 One end of Paris's Champs-Élysées

53 Worked as a stockbroker

54 Capitol group

56 Designer Saarinen

57 Post-op program

58 Main stem

59 Rap group inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016

60 Pulled off

61 Like an unswept hearth

62 Brawl

63 "That Latin Beat!" bandleader

65 Advantage

66 Drone regulator, for short

67 Mrs., in Montreux

68 Magic Johnson, for one

69 Apothecary's container

70 She, in Spanish

72 Passenger jet

75 Quinze + quinze

77 Actor with the line "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room!"

79 Fits snugly

80 Indra, to Hindus

81 Developer's purchase

82 Giraffe-like beast

83 What might cost you an arm and a leg?

84 Washroom feature

87 Totally captivates

88 Muzzle

89 One who knows all the shortcuts, maybe

92 Fill in for

93 Game box specification

94 Flaky minerals

96 "Mind ... blown!"

97 Glue trap brand

98 Tolkien meanie

99 Beverage with a floral bouquet

101 Hedge-fund pro

102 Farmers' market alternative

106 Admit

108 West Coast city known as the Track and Field Capital of the World

109 Mischievous sort

110 Miles away

111 Candy known for its orange wrapping

112 Muss up

113 Things always underfoot

DOWN

1 George Eliot title surname

2 "Swan Lake" role

3 Place for bows and strings

4 Corporation's head tech expert, for short

5 Tort basis

6 Wrap up around

7 Tosses

8 Not stay on topic

9 University associated with the Carter Center

10 Go-to choice, slangily

11 Weapon in some Call of Duty games

12 "I didn't know that!"

13 John Glenn player in "The Right Stuff"

14 Sore

15 Fawn's mother

16 Winter fall?

17 Early explosive device

18 Modish

19& 25 Financial regulator's requirement

28 Meteorological lead-in to stratus

32 Resolutely supported

34 Like some salsa

35 "Antigone" antagonist

36 Judge's seat

38 Zig or zag

40 Capital of Belarus

43 Fog might push it back, briefly

44 Hawaiian "thanks"

45 "Brilliant!"

46 Attacks from above

47 Exclusive event before public availability

48 Exam with a section known as "Logic Games," for short

49 Fighting tooth and nail

50 Hitching post?

51 Japanese "thanks"

52 Made peak calls?

54 Unmitigated

55 Sin of those in Dante's fifth circle

58 Quarters followers

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62 Chic

63 "Pretty please?"

64 Instruments played close to the chest, informally

65 "Still, after all this time ..."

68 Imitates Sylvester the Cat

71 Results of treaties

73 Something to tear into, informally?

74 Bounds

75 Nautical sealer

76 Yemeni capital

78 Immense spans

80 It comes in tubes

82 It lays out the lines of authority

83 Show anxiety, in a way

84 Nag to death

85 Build up, as interest

86 Straight man

87 Boy's name that's an Indiana city

88 Brazilian supermodel Bündchen

90 Vital lines

91 Slogs away

94 Kind of fiber

95 Attach, as a patch

98 They're found in veins

99 Elephant pluckers of myth

100 Marching band?

103 Venice-to-Trieste dir.

104 ____ Paulo

105 Volunteer State sch.

107 Card game cry

Cuisine

Uncle Tom's old recipe still unforgettable

This column originally appeared in the Jan. 1, 2015 edition of the Bay-side Gazette.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

As Christmas draws to an end, it is time to realize in the words of Ed Asner's Santa Clause, "You know what that means; it's time to get ready for next Christmas!"

As the days dwindle on and the family visits and travel come to a close, it's time to sit back and take a quick breather before we start with the New Year's preparations. Not expecting too wild an evening, I, of course, need to figure out something that we'll take to our friends' house.

The first thing that comes to mind is Capt. Monty Hawkin's bluefish, but we've eaten all of that. I think at one point we had about a 100 pounds of blues at school that my students and I broke down, brined and smoked. We made traditional smoked bluefish, salt-free and spicy. We were on a roll, and then the blasted fish stopped biting. So, as time has moved on, so has the bluefish.

My mind immediately goes to a fruit and cheese, but seriously, who eats the fruit and cheese tray at parties? As a chef, I was constantly surprised that they were still even sold at large banquets. Now, I like a good platter with assorted cheeses and salume as well as marinated artichokes, olives et al, but most of the time the BEOs (Banquet Event Orders) instructed us to build the ubiquitous platter adorned with pineapple, cantaloupe, honeydew, grapes, berries, cheddar, Swiss and pepper jack cheese cubes, most of which would go into the trash bin at the end of the evening.

But as the mighty ham has progressed from one spiked with cloves and Maraschino cherries to one house-cured and smoked, so has the platter evolved, and thank goodness for that.

Of course, I say this tongue-in-cheek because the platter I made for New Year's was just as old-school as the cheese cubes, but it looks cooler and will definitely leave a better impression on the guests.

My Uncle Tom used to make this every Christmas Eve and I've never forgotten it. It's simple, delicious and the perfect main item on a platter.

The secret is to take a block of Brie,



wrap it in puff pastry after topping it with sweet preserves of your choosing, and baking it into a hot, gooey mess. I don't know about you, but this is the perfect combination of flavors to accompany a glass of chardonnay or prosecco.

As the holidays come to an end, I hope that everyone has taken the time to reflect on the good, the bad and the ugly, and I certainly hope that everyone has a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. Many cheers.

Baked Brie Platter

For 6 guests

- 1 8-ounce piece of Brie
- Puff pastry, as needed
- 2 Tbsp. Apricot Preserves
- 2 Gala Apples
- 1 cup Spiced nuts (recipe follows)
- Assorted salume, as needed
- Crackers and toast points, as needed
- Assorted cheeses
- 1/2 cup Onion Jam (recipe follows)
- Black salt to taste

1. Roll the puff pastry out until it is about 1/8" thick.
2. Pick a presentation side (the one with the fewest mars) and place that side down on a cutting board.
3. Spread some preserves on the pastry and then place the cheese on top of this.
4. Cut excess pastry away, leaving

enough to be able to wrap around the block.

5. Wet the edges with water and seal the pastry and turn over

6. Mold the cheese with your hands to make it very smooth and refrigerate.

7. Remove after at least one hour to ensure that the pastry is chilled. This is very important so as to avoid any sagging in the dough.

8. Brush with an egg wash (optional) to improve appearance. This is completely optional, though, since the pastry is so high in fat as it is.

9. When ready to cook, place in a 375F oven until the cheese is hot and gooey and the pastry is a golden brown.

10. Remove and allow to rest for five minutes. Serve with crackers, toast points and anything else you think would go well on a holiday platter ... or sadly, a post-holiday platter.

Spiced Nuts

Makes 3 cups

- 1 cup Cashews
- 1 cup Pecans
- 1 cup Walnuts
- 1 tsp. Olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Granulated garlic
- 1/4 tsp. Onion powder
- 1/4 tsp. Paprika

1/4 tsp. Black pepper

1. Toss all ingredients together and roast at 375F until you can smell the spices toasting and the nuts start to take on an aroma of their own

2. Cool and serve. Keep in an airtight container for up to a week

Onion Jam

Makes 1 cup

- 1 Tbsp. Whole butter
- 1 large red onion
- 1 shallot
- 1/2 cup Red wine
- 1/2 cup Port wine
- 1/2 cup Brown sugar
- Salt & Pepper to taste

1. In a saucepan, melt the butter but do not let get too hot.

2. Add the onion and shallot and sweat for 20 minutes.

3. Add the wines and sugar and cook slowly for at least an hour and probably longer, or until the onions are very soft. Do not reduce the liquid too fast. After this cools down, it will thicken significantly.

4. Cool to room temperature or chill if serving cold.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

Calendar

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

THU, JAN. 5

PLAY TIME
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10:30 a.m. Children, infant to 5 years, will learn new skills while playing with educational toys. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-632-3495, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. The group meets every Thursday. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. 410-251-8163

BEACH SINGLES
Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 to 7 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Arlene or Kate, 302-436-9577 or 410-524-0649

FRI, JAN. 6

STAR CHARITIES MONTHLY MEETING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10 a.m. Anyone interested in joining this all volunteer group is welcome to attend.

CONTRAPTIONS
Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 3:30 p.m. Children, 8 years and older, will explore engineering with fun challenges and activities. 410-957-0878, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CASH BINGO
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, Bishopville, MD, 5:45 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m., early bird games begin at 5:45 p.m. Twenty regular games (\$125) begin at 7 p.m. There will be two special games (\$200 value), 50/50 and Jackpot. Food and beverage available for purchase. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Call to reserve tickets. 443-880-6966

SAT, JAN. 7

FARMERS MARKET
White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Held every Saturday. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle corn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. 410-

641-7717, Ext. 3006

BUS TRIP TO THE KENNEDY CENTER
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8:30 a.m. The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. presents "Wicked." The bus will depart Ocean Pines at 8:30 a.m. to arrive in time for the 1:30 p.m. performance. Cost is \$120, which includes show and transportation. Open to the public. Reservations required. Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052

FILM & TELEVISION WORKSHOP
Worcester Preparatory School, 508 S. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring entertainment professional Josh Chamberlain. Hear from actors, producers, artist, editors and writers who are working in the business right now. See exciting video editing and graphics demonstrations. Concluding with an exciting contest giveaway handing out industry prizes. Tickets cost is \$34 and must be purchased in advance at Eventbrite.com. Lunch is provided. Open to the public.

THIRD ANNUAL RED DOORS GALA & ART AUCTION
Fager's Island, 201 60th St., Ocean City, MD, 6 to 10 p.m. Fine food and beverage. Live entertainment. Black tie optional. Tickets cost \$125. 410-289-5576,

<http://www.RedDoors.org>

SUN, JAN. 8

COASTAL BIRDING TRIP
Ward Museum parking lot, 909 S Schumaker Dr, Salisbury, MD, 7:30 a.m. The Tri-County Bird Club will go on a coastal birding trip from Ocean City to Cape Henlopen looking for waterfowl and other winter birds. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or at the Ocean City inlet parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch, snacks and drinks. Dress warmly in layers. Info: Ellen, 410-982-8695 or Rick, 410-360-7374

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 12 to 1 p.m. Group shares experience, strength and hope to help others. Open to the community and to AGH patients. Rob, 443-783-3529

MON, JAN. 9

STEAM PM 'TECHNOLOGY TRICKS'
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 3:45 p.m. Children, 6 years and older, will explore the Library's Homework Help Options by par-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

JUNIOR AUXILIARY GROUP DONATION

Atlantic General Hospital's Junior Auxiliary Group presents a \$25,000 check to AGH President and CEO Michael Franklin, FACHE, during its recent annual luncheon meeting as a pledge toward the hospital's Campaign for the Future, its \$10 million philanthropic community support initiative. The campaign will allow AGH to complete \$35 million in capital projects planned under the organization's 2020 Vision five-year strategic plan. Among them is construction of the new 18,000-square-foot full service John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, completion of a women's health center in West Ocean City, renovation of existing surgical facilities and expansion of emergency services within Atlantic General Hospital as well as improvements to inpatient care areas. Pictured, from left, are JAG Executive Committee members Madalaine How, treasurer; Ashley Furbay and Rebecca Taylor, fundraising co-coordinators; Franklin; Jill Ferrante, president; Sandy Gillis, membership coordinator; and Jennifer Klepper, Welcoming Committee coordinator. Not pictured: Secretary Dawn Hodge and Social Coordinator Patricia Ilczuk-Lavanceau.

Calendar

icipating in a race for the answers. Practice coding and play some computer games. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CURIOSITY CLUB

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Berlin, MD. Berlin, MD, 4 p.m. Children, ages 9 to 13 years old, can explore all aspects of STEAM in this monthly after school club. Experiments, crafts and hands-on activities. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Berlin group No. 169. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Edna Berkey, 410-251-2083

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 7 to 9 p.m. The group meets each Monday. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. 410-641-6876

TUE, JAN. 10

SNOW HILL ROTARY CLUB MEETING

All Hallows Church Parish House, 109 W. Market Street, Snow Hill, MD, 7:30 a.m. Contact agibb1@verizon.net or 410-546-1978 for more information.

PLAY TIME

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Berlin, MD. Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. Children, infant to 5 years, will learn new skills while playing with educational toys. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WEE READERS

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and activities for children 2 years and older. 410-957-0878, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLASSES BEGIN

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 2 to 4 p.m. For beginning players or those who want to brush up on the fundamentals of the game. Eight classes will be held on Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$35 which includes two text books. Andi Horyna, 410-641-7052

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 2:30 to 4 p.m. For individuals suffering from Parkinson's. Group provides education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Ron and Mary Leidner, 410-430-0456, <http://www.DelmarvaParkinsonsAlliance.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Berlin group 331. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. jeanduck47@gmail.com

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Offers shared wisdom and problem solving for family members of persons with mental illness. The group is free. Info: Carole Spurrier, 410-208-4003, carolespurrier@msn.com or Gail S. Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

BINGO

Pocomoke Elks Lodge 1624, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City, MD, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., early bingo at 7 p.m. and regular games start at 7:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-957-3556

WED, JAN. 11

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. Meets every Wednesday. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

STORY TIME

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-524-1818, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina Beach music. Meets every Wednesday. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 302-200-3262, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. cliff0917@aol.com, 410-641-1700

BINGO

Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave, Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. All cash prizes; \$1,000 Jack

Pot. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-250-2645

THU, JAN. 12

STORY TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

YOUNG AND RESTLESS 'PAINTING FUN'

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-632-3495, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. The group meets every Thursday. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. 410-251-8163

BEACH SINGLES

Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 to 7 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Arlene or Kate, 302-436-9577 or 410-524-0649

ONGOING EVENTS

DIAKONIA THRIFT SHOP

Used to be Mine, Route 611 and Sunset Avenue, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Newly expanded and redecorated. Furniture, clothing, toys and linens. Info: 410-213-0243.

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS SOCIAL CLUB

Luncheon meeting, third Tuesday, 1 p.m., Ocean Pines. Info: 410-208-1398.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LEO CLUB OFFICERS

The Ocean City/Berlin Leo Club has installed new officers for the 2016/2017 year. The Leo Club is a youth group sponsored by the Ocean City Lions Club and is based at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin. Every year the Leos assist the OC Lions in raising awareness and funds for its many eyesight programs. In addition, every year the Leo Club helps fund the National Lions Leader Dogs for the Blind program. Pictured, from left, are Secretary Sophia Leung, President Stella Cunningham, Vice President Erica Hall and Treasurer Jessica Wharton.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OFFICERS GRADUATE

Wicomico and Worcester County jail and correctional officers who graduated in the 97th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, recently, from left, are Erika L. Turner from the Wicomico County Department of Corrections, and Michael R. O'Flynn and Tashana A. Phillips of the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center.

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Good references needed.
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A busy contractor company in Ocean Pines, MD is currently hiring **HVAC Maintenance Technicians, Plumbers and Plumber's Helpers.** START IMMEDIATELY. To apply call Marc at 302-682-1777.

Sea Watch Condominium is seeking a dependable conscientious individual for our in-house "Unit Services" department. Applicant should have strong experience in plumbing, light electrical, painting and drywall. This is a full-time position with benefits. Resume required. Call 410-524-4003 or apply in person at 11500 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD.

RENTALS

Townhouse Outside of Ocean Pines. Water view. 2BR, 2BA. Partially furnished. No smoking. \$1250/mo. Includes water. Call **Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555.**

YEAR ROUND RENTAL, Emerson House, 68th and Coastal Hwy. 1 bed, 1 bath, 1 off-street parking space, \$700/month. Call 443-365-6169 after 5pm.

RENTALS

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YR Efficiency, 32nd St., OC - Must have good credit. No smoking / no pets. \$900/mo. Includes HBO, cable & electric. Call 443-504-4460.

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Jan. 5 - Jan. 12 Weekly



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matriona/Resort Homes
Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand – 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	Inquire	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Daily 11-5	West Harbor Village	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$270,000	Dan Demeria/Harbor Homes
Sat-Mon 11-4 pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sun 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	11769 Maid at Arms Way	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	From \$489,900	Evergreene Homes
Fri, Sat & Sun 10-5pm	Sunset Island, Ocean City	—	Condos, Towns & SF	From \$369,000	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort Realty
Saturday, 11-1	1201 Points Reach, Ocean Pines	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$359,900	Debbie Bennington/Berkshire Hathaway Penfed
Saturday, 11-4	202 S. Heron Dr., OC - Unit 103B	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$319,900	Katherine Wright Payne/Condominium Realty



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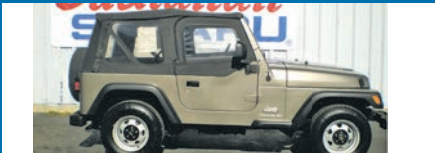


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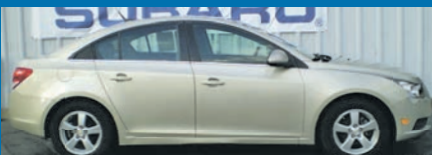


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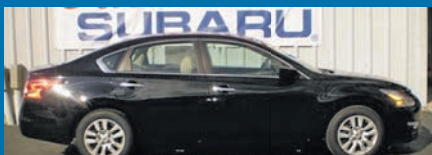


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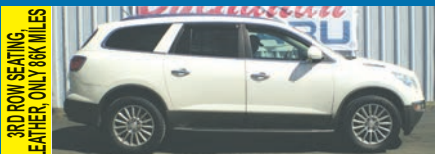
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