

Worcester County officials report on excursion train trip

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) After spending a year and a half reviewing studies on a proposed excursion train that could run from Berlin to Snow Hill, six officials from Worcester County flew to North Carolina last week to see one in action.

The excursion operator was the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, based in Bryson City, and the officials were Worcester County Economic Development Director Mary Mears, Berlin Economic Development Director Ivy Wells, Berlin Town Administrator Laura Allen, Snow Hill Mayor Charlie Dorman, Snow Hill Councilmember Mike Pruitt and Snow Hill Economic Development Director Michael Day.

Aside from being stranded at the airport on the way back, Day said the group had a “wonderful, wonderful trip” to the Tar Heel state, Dec. 28-30.

Particularly, Day said, he was stunned by the crowds of people the train drew to such a “tiny little town,” even after the busy Christmas holiday.

“They were saying, ‘Oh this is nothing,’” he said. “We met with a former mayor, chamber of commerce people, the director of tourism for that area, and they all said the train just took [the town] big-time over the top.”

“They said in 2008, the stores were boarded up, there was a lot of empty space. Now, 2015, every space was rented and there was a waiting list to get in,” Day continued. “There were people everywhere, and this was a Monday and Tuesday after Christmas. It was just astounding.”

While the Worcester County delegation was in Bryson, the train ran three “Polar Express” trips and one standard excursion line each day. On every one he observed, Day estimated at least 600 passengers.

He and the others rode in both versions, as well as each of the three classes offers – first class, “crown class” and coach.

“There was a big difference in each class,” Day said. “The quality of the entertainment and the quality of what we were doing was obvious. And it wasn’t cheap – it was \$62, \$52 and \$42 for adults, and then kids were about half



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL DAY
The Great Smokey Mountain railroad leaves the station in Bryson City, N.C. Last week, officials from Snow Hill and Berlin traveled to see the train, considering a similar operation in Worcester County.

that.”

Day said he was impressed that the railroad primarily used social media to market the train, suggesting that Worcester County, using a similar model, wouldn’t need a lofty advertising budget.

In Snow Hill, a town still struggling after being hit especially hard during the recession, Day said he believed the train could help revitalize the once vibrant downtown.

Bryson City, with a population of approximately 1,400, is half the size of Snow Hill, and the surrounding county has a rural makeup similar to Worcester.

“You can tell it’s a very depressed area,” Day said. “Riding around, it wasn’t pleasant scenery at times because it’s a very poor, mountain region.”

The biggest problem of bringing a train to the area, he said, would be finding a way to get passengers from stations in Snow Hill or Berlin, using existing track infrastructure, into the downtown shopping districts of each town.

“Our issues will be how do we get

the people from the train station to downtown, and it might work – it might not,” he said, adding that a similar operation in Frostburg faced the same problem. “They’ve tried trolleys [and] they’ve tried different types of transit to get people there. It’s just one of those things.”

“That’s going to be our problem, but if we can get them into Snow Hill, I think that’s a big win,” Day continued.

Wells said that was not as much of a concern in Berlin, where the station would likely have a hub at “Berlin Falls” – the former Tyson’s Chicken plant on Old Ocean City Road that is to be converted into a recreational facility.

“We would probably put a trolley service in,” she said. “I’m not worried about getting people from the train station to downtown. That part doesn’t bother me as much as the impact on our residents and the amount of traffic that we’ll have here. We pride ourselves on our hospitality and our customer service, and we want to maintain that level of satisfaction.”

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Pines releases \$13.6M budget draft for FY 2017

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors began work on the first draft of a 2017 fiscal-year budget during a public meeting on Monday, when General Manager Bob Thompson presented the board with a rough proposal for a \$13.6 million financial package, including capital expenditures.

Thompson gave the seven-member board budget books that outline revenues and expenditures that will be refined by the Budget and Finance Committee in a series of meetings at the country club starting next week.

“They’ll dissect it and that will help me prepare for the next presentation, which will come back to you all, for the formal presentation just before we kick off our board talk about the budget,” Thompson said.

Thompson said the budget books included capital projects that would be budgeted for and some that might be added, depending on what the board wants to do. During previous years, he said, the board voted to include additional capital items not written into preliminary budget drafts.

The board also received an unfinished draft of a reserve fund study and a copy of a “capital facilities planning document.”

“This is effectively a 10-year look ahead for the community for facilities planning. It’s under separate cover because it’s technically a separate document, but we use this as we develop the budget,” Thompson said of the latter document.

The comprehensive plan being developed by Salisbury University group BEACON was not finished in time for budget consideration.

“It will probably be late summer, early spring before that’s done,” Thompson said.

Work on the budget began in September, Thompson said, when he started seeking information from the various department heads. Thompson wrote the draft, with support from his staff.

Budget and Finance Committee review is expected to begin Monday morning, at 9 a.m., and is open to the public.



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Wells: DHCD offering train infrastructure grants

Continued from Page 1

“We would have to make sure that we had adequate parking, adequate restrooms, that the town wouldn’t lose it’s small-town charm,” Wells added.

During the trip, Wells said she focused on the economic impact of Bryson City, talking to shop owners and residents about how they were affected when the train came.

“I wanted to see the general condition of the town and the impact that all those people had on it on a day-to-day basis,” she said, citing concerns from parking to trash pickup. “It was extremely productive, and it goes to show

you that you can’t make any decisions unless you actually see things for yourself.”

Wells said the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has already offered infrastructure grants, if the train were to run from Snow Hill to Berlin, but worried that the length of the trip would warrant an in-between station, potentially in Newark.

“It’s a long ride – the ride that we were on was only six-miles, and we were on the train for over an hour,” she said. “It’s not supposed to be meant for transportation – it’s supposed to be an

enjoyable experience.”

While Wells said everyone was leaving all options open on a specific train operator, she added that no one wanted to see a competition emerge between Berlin and Snow Hill.

“I believe that the high tide raises all ships,” she said. “I think what’s good for Worcester County in general is good for all of us.

“I also don’t want to sacrifice the residents and locals for something that could be a huge impact on everyday life here,” she added. “I want it to be the best possible situation for all – for businesses and for residents.”

Allen said the tour, coming just as the town is preparing to take control of Berlin Falls, gives Berlin the chance to start development there “with a blank slate.”

“It gives us the opportunity to really design something that meets the needs of the folks that are riding on the train – not just the folks that are driving in their cars and leaving them in the depot, but people who are walking up to the train from town,” she said. “It really crystalized the need to pay attention to parking needs as well as pedestrian access.”

See PROPOSED Page 4

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Proposed new excursion train would run Berlin to Snow Hill

Continued from Page 2

She said the goal was to link Snow Hill and Berlin with the train, but agreed with Wells that an intermediate stop might help operations.

“That might mean that some excursions run up from Snow Hill to a location and back, and some run from Berlin to a location and back, and some excursions run the full length,” she said.

She said The Great Smokey Mountain Railroad provides a menu of trip options, ranging from theme rides like “Polar Express,” to day trips to nearby towns, and even rides to white water rafting destinations.

“What I could see us doing is, with the train operator, creating a menu of trip options which would vary in length,” she said. “What’s great about this is there’s lots of potential opportunities, but we’re definitely focused on taking a collaborative approach to the train operation, working with the county as well as working with Snow Hill to make sure that the economic benefits are there, not just for the county, but for both of the towns as well.”

Allen said the town is already adapting to a hefty increase in tourism, with sales at local shops up about 30 percent across the board during the last two years, and traffic already coming

in from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

“I could see the same thing happening with the trains,” she said. “One of the reasons why I think it was so important to go on the trip was so we could see first hand the potential impacts. The key here is to design the system in such a way that the negative impacts are mitigated and the positive impacts are amplified – that’s really our challenge.”

At the county level, Mears said Worcester has stepped back after helping to fund two studies on the economic impact of an excursion train.

Her office, she said, would instead act as a conduit between Berlin and Snow Hill, and would provide support as needed.

“We have linkages with the state Department of Housing and Community Development, which has shown interest in the project,” she said. “We’re kind of in between Snow Hill and Berlin, so we facilitate discussions along those lines, and also with the railroads.”

Mears also echoed the belief that everyone will benefit.

“We have so many amenities in Worcester County and we’re a destination for lots of folks,” she said. “One of the things that this office has seen is



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL DAY

Snow Hill Economic Development Director Michael Day and Berlin Economic Development Director Ivy Wells smile from the Great Smokey Mountain excursion train in Bryson City, N.C. Both were part of a Worcester County delegation that traveled to see the train, considering a similar operation running between Snow Hill and Berlin.

that if we can add to our amenities here or compliment our amenities here, that’s going to give us all a leg up.”

Specifically, Mears said, the excursion could help narrow the large drop-off between the extremely profitable summers, and the less active “shoulder season.”

“There are all kinds of opportunities out there and I think that the folks that are looking into this – the town of Berlin and the town of Snow Hill – everybody is really working well together to do their due diligence and look at the operation as something that’s feasible for both towns together,” she said. “That’s incredibly exciting for me.”

Mears admitted the landscape was different in the rural mountains than in the rural coast, and suggested everyone involved take a few weeks to “process” the trip and apply what they learned to Worcester County.

“We’re all going to come back together, meaning both towns and the railroad and the state, and say, ‘where do we want to go with this?’” she said. “I think we all need some time to review the trip in our minds – what did we like, what didn’t we like, what would work here.”

“We just kind of need to let it process in our minds and then come back in a few weeks and see where we want to go,” Mears added.

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Renaud: Pines assessments likely to increase

Board president says OPA turned profit in FY16; but bad debt remains on books

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) With the release of the new fiscal-year budget draft on Monday, homeowners in Ocean Pines might be wondering how much the next round of assessments might cost. Last year's basic annual assessment was \$921 and according to

Board President Pat Renaud, that number is likely to increase this year. "The situation is there will be an increase, but we don't know how much at this point," he said. "It's not going to be as bad as we seem to think it is, but my understanding is we still have some debt to pay and we're going to have to do it."

Last year, Renaud and fellow Director Tom Terry worked out a compromise that raised dues \$12 a year. The original draft of that budget included an increase of \$25, with \$24 of

that attributed to an increased funding for Fire/EMS.

This year, Renaud said he and Terry had already discussed the budget draft and promised, "We won't have big any surprises like the fire department or anything like that."

"They did ask for more money than we want to give them [and] those are the kind of issues that we have to battle out a little bit when we go to meet [with the budget and finance committee] next week," he said.

"It could have been a lot worse, but the bottom line is that we came out in pretty good shape," Renaud continued. "We came out ahead for the year, but that doesn't always carry over to the next year."

Renaud said Ocean Pines finished roughly \$100,000 in the black for fiscal year 2016, including gains in aquatics. Golf, he said, finished with a loss.

"For a nonprofit that's not bad," he said. "At least we didn't lose money overall."

Directors battle again over golf management

Despite 5-2 vote in Nov., meeting with Landscapes Unlimited never scheduled

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) While the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors met on Monday to discuss the introduction of a new fiscal year budget, talk quickly turned towards golf when Director Dave Stevens reminded the board that an open meeting with golf management company Landscapes Unlimited had been approved in November.

As of Jan. 4, he said, no such meeting had been scheduled.

"What I suggest is that we do it at the earliest possible opportunity, which would proceed where we are now," he said. "Are you just going to ignore that motion and say we're not going to do it?"

Director Jack Collins said the meeting was meant to "open up the process" so membership could hear about the interaction between Landscapes and the board.

Landscapes executives recently

met with the golf committee, which released a lengthy report detailing the interaction.

"I think that's a healthy exercise," he said. "Out of convenience, if they're going to be here for [the] budget process, I don't have any problem with them making a presentation on a unique day, other than the day that they make their presentation to the budget and finance committee concerning this particular budget."

"In my mind, it was designed to be a unique, separate meeting to allow the folks in the community ... to come to this meeting and see what's going on," Collins added.

He went on to say the meeting was not meant to double-check the work of the golf committee, which consists of three board members, but rather to involve the larger community.

"If we go through that exercise and there is not a large number of people that show up, then, hey, we've done our duty," Collins said.

Board President Pat Renaud said he and General Manager Bob Thompson would work to set up the meeting.

Director Tom Terry said he agreed it needed to be done, although he took a slightly gentler approach.

"We also have to recognize that they are a company with executives and their own schedules, and we need to work out a reasonable approach to this with LU as to who's going to attend," he said. "But Pat, the motion was there. It was 5-2 ... you do need to follow up on it."

Following the meeting, Renaud admitted he was stalling, but said, "I didn't know what [the meeting] was for."

"We have the final report [from Landscapes] that's in the budget re-

port, but they want to have an open meeting with everybody there," he said. "That's fine. We argued that out today, which wasn't part of the agenda today – and Dave was reminded about that – but he's steadfast and holding onto that."

Before the meeting was scheduled, however, Renaud said he wanted the board to approve a specific agenda.

"I'm going to notify all of the board as to what the purpose of the meeting is going to be and what the agenda is going to be before we call up LU and ask them to fly in here from Nebraska again," Renaud said.

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Police find tipped toilets, spray paint, at S. Decatur Park

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Berlin police this week reported they discovered several instances of vandalism, including a moderate amount of graffiti, at Stephen Decatur Park on New Year's Eve.

That included spray paint covering all three walls of the racquetball court, as well as damage to two portable toilets at the site.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said police issued a report and were investigating the case.

Speaking during a phone interview on Monday, Police Chief Arnold Downing said there were few specifics.

"The only things we know is the racquetball courts got spray painted," he said. "I don't know if it's been taken off or it's still damaged."

Instances of graffiti, some of which appeared to be lightly painted over as of Monday, included satanic symbols, gay slurs, lewd drawings and the phrase "don't box us."

Wastewater Superintendent Jamey Latchum said town employees painted over portions of the graffiti over the Christmas holidays.

"When we came in on Monday the 28th, that's when we noticed the toi-



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin police and public works officials identified new instances of graffiti at Stephen Decatur Park in late December.

let was tipped over and the door was kicked in on one of the outhouses," Latchum said. "Usually we don't have a problem with that. The only time they get flipped over is from the wind and we didn't have any wind that weekend – and the doors don't mysteriously get pushed all the way in."

He added that additional cleanup was required, but that public works could not paint over the entire wall because of the cold temperatures. Latchum said he was unsure what the final cost to the town would be.

In addition, the word "BIT" writ-

ten in purple paint or marker – on the front of the Visitor's Center in Berlin on Dec. 29. Downing said he was not aware of it.

"No one has called or reported anything at the Visitor's Center," Downing said.

Latchum noted that instances of vandalism were relatively few in Berlin. The last meaningful case occurred nearly a year ago, when more than 30 cars, several buildings and pieces of town property were tagged during a nighttime vandalism spree. Three teenagers, including one juve-

nile, were charged and convicted with crimes stemming from that incident.

"It seems like it's about once a year," Latchum said.

For his part, Downing was out of town during the latest incident, and said he only learned of it when police emailed him pictures.

He said anyone with more information should contact the Berlin Police Department at 410-641-1333.

"We're still trying to get ahead and catch up from the holiday," he said, "We just need people to report it so we can document everything."

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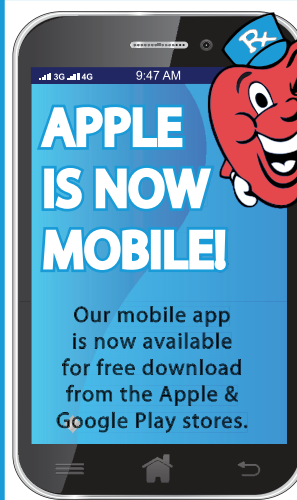
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Thompson: Manklin rumors are ‘white noise’

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Although reports surfaced last month that the cost of the Manklin Meadows Complex project in Ocean Pines far exceeded the original estimate, General Manager Bob Thompson suggested the issue was a case of “nothing to see here.”

Original estimates for overhauling the current complex and adding a dozen new racquet-sports courts were approved by the board at a price tag of \$250,000 in November 2014. Last month, the Worcester County Planning Commission approved the initial site plan, and things seemed to be moving forward.

At least one Ocean Pines director, who wished not to be named, confirmed ballooning costs and said the total estimate was now north of \$750,000.

Officially, members of the board are saying they do not have current-enough information.

Vice President Cheryl Jacobs said she was not sure where the new numbers were coming from, but admitted original estimates were likely outdated.

“I do not believe the original number will continue to be accurate,” she said. “I have not been given any concrete information yet, but I believe it will be forthcoming before too long.”

Dave Stevens echoed that, saying he did not have any information “concrete or otherwise,” about Manklin Meadows.

“The last information the board was provided was in the GM Report on Oct. 29, which stated MM proposals were due back on 15 December, with recommendations to the Board on 17 December,” Stevens said. “Neither the November or December reports provided any updates, and MM and bridges were not even mentioned at the last meeting.”

“I am sure that Cheryl is correct in saying it will be forthcoming soon,”

Stevens continued. “After all, we will see the GM’s budget on Jan. 4, and we are all up for surprises after New Year’s.”

Thompson suggested the issue was being overblown because Ocean Pines only received one bid based on the most recent engineering plan for Manklin Meadows. That, he said, was not enough to move forward in any capacity.

Currently, the plan is to build eight pickleball courts and four new platform tennis courts, along with adding parking and revitalizing the playground.

Thompson would not reveal the lone bid, but said stormwater mitigation and management, reforestation, planning and landscaping all contributed to the total cost. As for the reason for the lack of bids, he said the size and scope of the project might have intimidated other potential construction companies.

“Only receiving one bid on a proj-

ect of this size and scale isn’t enough to make a recommendation to the board on how to proceed,” Thompson said. “What’s happening right now is we’re analyzing what brought us to this point and seeing if there are other, more feasible options to address the issue.”

That could include, he said, “potentially phasing the project in.”

“It’s a project under consideration,” Thompson said. “From a staffing side, we have not received enough good information to make a recommendation to the board on how to move forward.”

“All the white noise about being over budget – none of it is relevant,” he added. “One bidder is not enough to present to the board and say, ‘here’s our cost for the project.’ It just doesn’t give me enough balance. Dropping back a little bit and phasing it in [with] more reasonable and manageable pieces, I think, we might get better results (from potential bidders).”

Berlin planning sessions delayed indefinitely

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Berlin Town Administrator Laura Allen confirmed this week that a series of planning meetings, originally set for Jan. 29-31, have been postponed indefinitely.

The town had hoped to use the sessions to set a long-term agenda for new development.

“In talking to the mayor and looking at our priorities for the year, he felt that quality was important over quantity in all things, and I agreed with him wholeheartedly,” she said. “There were a number of things that we had on our plate that dictated a different timing with regards to planning meetings and the planning dis-

cussion.”

Allen said that included a proposed excursion train, as well as town takeover of the former Tyson’s Chicken plant, now being called “Berlin Falls.”

“Our focus is really on taking acquisition of the Tyson property, moving it from its current state to a park,” Allen said. “That’s going to take a lot of our focus at the staff level.”

Allen said the town would likely take possession of the property in February. In November, the Town Council approved a \$3 million general obligation bond to buy the 68-acre former industrial property. Of that total, \$500,000 is earmarked

for short-term redevelopment.

“One of the challenges that we’re going to have is creating direct, clear access to the property,” she said, adding that the town would explore converting several buildings on the site for other uses.

Berlin will also work on a list on recommendations, provided by an independent insurance firm, that would help bring Berlin Falls up to the same standards as the other town parks.

She added that the town would have to pay design firm Environmental Resources Management for several preliminary meetings, and that the town may continue to use the firm to help develop a new architec-

tural standards, as well as help solve access and other traffic issues.

“We’re working on developing a scope of work with ERM to help us put some design guidelines together in collaboration with the planning commission, the historic district commission and the board of zoning appeals,” she said. “Because we included that as part of the [request for proposals] we are able to go ahead and come up with an estimate for them, for them to work on that piece.”

“Rather than waiting for another year, we feel like that can be its own standalone item,” Allen continued.

The originally planned town-wide growth discussion, Allen said, could come later this year, or next year.



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Another series of setbacks for Berlin's Cannery

Move-in dates for residents delayed again; bad weather and water station to blame

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) The move-in date has been pushed back at the affordable-housing community Cannery Village in Berlin, as poor weather last month interrupted construction.

Berlin's Town Council approved a pilot agreement for the project in November 2014. At the time, developer Andrew Hanson of Osprey Property

Company said construction could begin the following month. That was eventually pushed back to late May, when shovels first went into the ground.

"We're struggling," Hanson said during a phone interview on Monday. "The weather has not been cooperative. We had everything ready to go and then it rained the beginning of the week of Christmas, then by the time everything dried out it was Christmas Eve. Then, it happened again last week. Mother nature has not been kind to us."

Last month, Hanson said he expected the first batch of residents would start moving in following the correction of problems with Cannery's pump station. On Monday, however, he said some of those issues had yet to be corrected.

"We're still trying to resolve some last-minute complications with the utilities and we're working with the town on that," Hanson said. "The

pump station is pretty complicated, because it's a whole little system into itself. The town reviewed it and had some comments, so it's all there. It's all ready to turn on and start up, but they give you what's called a 'punch list,' so they want certain things done and we're just trying to work through those different things."

Hanson declined to give an estimate when final work would be completed.

"I don't want to keep frustrating people," he said. "I wish I knew when they were going to be able to move in. It's got to be soon, or else we might end up having to bring in buckets of water and bedpans."

"I know that we're really close," he continued. "As soon as the pump station is accepted, I think we should be able to get water meters set, so my next call is to talk to the town to see if they can be flexible with some of their requirements so we can get folks moved in. I would love to think in the

next two weeks or less – maybe even sooner – but it's just going to depend on several different things."

The \$14 million, 44-townhome complex includes a "rent-to-own" feature after residents have lived in the community for 15 years.

In November, Hanson said more than 100 people had applied for homes at Cannery, with 10 meeting approval and another 50 pending while their paperwork is reviewed. According to Hanson, 40 had been declined outright.

Each applicant must pay a non-refundable fee of \$30 per adult, which Hanson said goes toward the cost of running criminal and credit checks. The average rent at Cannery is approximately \$800.

Applications for the community, located on Flower Street in Berlin, can be obtained at the visitor's center on 14 South Main Street, or on the web at www.habitatamerica.com/communities/cannery-village.

New art gallery coming to Snow Hill

Paul Volker opening Green Pearl Contemporary Fine Art behind First Shore Fed.

(Jan. 7, 2016) First Shore Federal in Snow Hill will host a groundbreaking and welcoming on Monday, Jan. 11 at 9 a.m. at 112 Pearl Street, which is behind the branch office on Green Street.

Sue Vincent, branch manager and Marty Neat, president of First Shore Federal, will be on hand to welcome Paul Volker, who will be opening up his new art gallery and studio, Green Pearl Contemporary Fine Art, once the renovations are completed.

Over the last 25 years, Volker has

produced more than 3,000 works of art, many owned by collectors around the country and internationally. The gallery will be open to the public and designed so that visitors can look at paintings on display and also observe and talk to the artist at work. There will also be a small retail area featuring cards, prints and small works for purchase.

First Shore Federal has already taken advantage of the town's façade grant program, renovating the front of the building. It will also be helping Volker with interior renovations and will take advantage of the new interior grant program the town will be introducing later this month.

The bank is using this as an op-

portunity to demonstrate its involvement with the town and economic growth.

Snow Hill is a Maryland Art & Entertainment District, designated by the Maryland Department of Commerce. Tax incentives are offered through the state and town for working artists, renovation projects and entertainment events.

For more information about Green Pearl Contemporary Fine Art, contact Volker at 614-395-6783 or email connect@snowhillarts.com. For more information about Snow Hill's Art & Entertainment District, contact Michael Day at 443-735-0957 or email day@snowhillmd.com.



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Berlin presents inaugural Restaurant Week

Discounts for breakfast, lunch and dinner offered at 14 eateries, Jan. 11-17

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Berlin will host its first Restaurant Week beginning on Monday, Jan. 11 and continuing through Jan. 17 to showcase dining options throughout town.

During the event, more than a dozen restaurants will offer special prices on select menus.

“Berlin has never had a restaurant week, and it’s a way to give back to locals in January,” said Ivy Wells, Berlin’s economic and community development director. “For a small town, we have a lot of restaurants who serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

Restaurants slated to participate include Siculi, Leaky Petes, Main Street Deli, Blacksmith, Crush N Crab, Berlin Coffee House, Baked Dessert Café, Drummers Café, the Globe, the Burley Inn Tavern, Raynes Reef, Burley Oak, Maryland Wine Bar and On What Grounds.

“Everyone in town is participating, and it’s all about community in Berlin,” said Denise Cooper, general manager of Siculi. “Participants get to taste all the different restaurants in the ‘coolest small town.’”

The \$10 lunch options being offered at Siculi include a choice of a house or Caesar salad, a one-topping small pizza and cannoli, or a cup of soup, a half chicken salad sandwich and a cannoli.

“Our thin-crust pizza has won the [Delmarva Media Group] People’s Choice award the past two years,” Cooper said.

For dinner, patrons pay \$20 for three courses, including an appetizer, choice of house or Caesar salad and an entrée.

Appetizer choices are eggplant parmesan, meatballs or garlic shrimp. Diners choose between three entrees: filet mignon with two grilled shrimp, potatoes and vegetables, an eggplant parmesan with pasta, or tortellini in a lobster cream sauce.

“Our tortellini is homemade; all our sauces are made from scratch, and it makes a big difference,” Cooper said.

For lunch or dinner, the Main Street Deli will offer \$8 sandwiches including pulled pork, pulled chicken, buffalo chicken, chicken parmesan or meatball with a soft drink and chips.

“We have good food for a good price,” said Main Street Deli Owner Dave Koontz. “Come eat lunch and walk it off at the many antique stores in Berlin.”

The Berlin Coffee House will serve \$6.95 Belgian waffles with or without

sausage, and a house coffee or tea.

For lunch or dinner, patrons can grab a hamburger, fries and a soft drink at Raynes Reef for \$10.

Leaky Petes will offer a grilled cheese sandwich with Swiss cheese, apples and Dijon mustard, in addition to a bowl of cream of crab soup for \$10.95 during lunchtime. For dinner, a pork osso bucco over creamy grits, demi-glace and root vegetables will be available for \$23.95.

Local realtor Cam Bunting came up with the idea to show the variety of restaurants in Berlin. Wells also pitched in, setting up a Facebook page where most of the menus are listed.

“Berlin is thriving, and it’s an opportunity to experience all the new restaurants we have and make it worth their while,” Wells said.

For more information and a list of all menus, visit the Berlin Restaurant Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/1716447405254667, or visit www.BerlinMainStreet.com.

BERLIN RESTAURANT WEEK PARTICIPANTS

- Siculi, Main Street
- Leaky Petes, Main Street
- Main Street Deli, Main Street
- Blacksmith, Pitts Street
- Crush N Crab, Main Street
- Berlin Coffee House, Jefferson Street
- Baked Dessert Café, Bay Street
- Drummers Café, inside Atlantic Hotel, Main Street
- The Globe, Broad Street
- The Burley Inn Tavern, Pitts Street
- Raynes Reef, Main Street
- Burley Oak, Old Ocean City Boulevard.
- Maryland Wine Bar, Main Street
- On What Grounds, Main Street

Christmas tree drop-off sites include Berlin and Snow Hill

(Jan. 7, 2016) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through Friday, Jan. 15. Trees can be dropped off at the Central Landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost to area residents only.

Snow Hill area residents may dispose of their trees at the Central

Landfill. 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 info, contact Recycling Manager Ron Taylor at 410-632-3177.



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Whole Chicken Cheesesteak	\$6.99
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Meatloaf w/ Mashed Potatoes, Gravy & Green Beans	\$8.95
Whole Italian Sausage Sub	\$8.99
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SATURDAY	
Whole Italian Cold Cut Sub	\$8.99
Whole Cheeseburger Sub	\$8.99
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Berlin art stroll moves indoors with 'Big Ideas'

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Cognizant of the colder temperatures outside – and people’s desire to avoid them – Berlin is moving most of its 2nd Friday operations indoors through March.

Berlin Md. Arts & Entertainment, which organizes the monthly art stroll, will host the third-annual “collaborative art show” at The Globe on Friday.

This year’s show is called “Big Ideas.” Printmaker Brian Robertson, who helped organize all three exhibitions, said.

“The first show was ‘Small Things,’ the next show was ‘Medium’ and this one is ‘Big Ideas.’ The artist is open to interpret it however they want, whether it be some kind of social commentary, or some historical reference. It leaves the door open,” he said.

“We did it so it would be a reprieve of all the art strolls,” he added. “No one wants to be out art strolling in -17-degree weather.”

The show, Robertson said, has grown in both attendance and participation each year. This year, he said the show would have roughly 20 different pieces by 15 different local artists, with the media ranging from



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Printmaker Brian Robertson, and more than a dozen other artists, will show work at The Globe in Berlin during the 2nd Friday art stroll, this week. The exhibition, “Big Ideas,” is organized by Robertson and Berlin’s arts and entertainment committee.

oil paintings to collage and photography.

“I think someone is even doing a pollinator wall,” he said. “You would set this wall up outside in the summertime and it allows for bees to colonize.”

All of the work will be available for purchase, with the artists getting 80 percent of the proceeds, and the remaining 20 percent supporting the arts and entertainment committee, including the new mural on the Berlin Visitor’s Center and the

“Movies in the Park” series.

“Hopefully, everyone has a good time,” Robertson said. “It gives people a chance to see some newer art that they probably haven’t seen around here – some different, more contemporary stuff.”

The opening reception for “Big Ideas” runs from 5-8 p.m. at The Globe, on 12 Broad Street. For more information, visit www.berlinmainstreet.com/arts-entertainment or search “Berlin MD Arts & Entertainment” on Facebook.



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New Year's Day Penguin Swim successful

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2016) Approximately 1,035 participants ran into the warmer-than-usual 52-degree Atlantic Ocean on New Year's Day during the 22nd annual Penguin Swim, a fundraiser for Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, recording the largest crowd to date.

"It was a great day all around," AGH Event Coordinator Alli Justice said. "We were fortunate to have superb weather for Jan. 1 and the crowd was record breaking."

Swimmers gathered on the beach behind the Princess Royale hotel on 91st Street before taking their dip.

At 1 p.m., the "penguins" dashed into the ocean, which was a bit warmer than the 45-degree air temperature.

Participants came out dressed as penguins, minions, mermaids, pirates, Vikings, superheroes, bananas and even the "Goonies" crew.

"The participants this year went above and beyond with their costumes," Justice said. "Many teams dressed up together in themes. Bull on the Beach, for instance, paraded down the beach dressed as characters from Noah's Ark. They were even carrying a boat."

An awards ceremony followed the swim inside the Princess Royale

atrium. Awards were presented to the youngest and oldest swimmers, as well as to the top team and individual money-raisers.

The youngest penguin was 3-month-old Vincent Fasano of Ocean City, and Joe Gaffney, 82, of Selbyville, Del. was the oldest participant for the third year in a row.

Craig Kettler of Leesburg, Va., raised \$3,510 and was named the top adult individual fund raiser for several consecutive years. He has participated in the swim for eight years. Woody "Butch" German of Baltimore, a 12-year swim participant, collected \$1,837 in donations, landing him in second place. Gary Miller of Berlin raised \$1,150, which earned him third-place for individual top fund raisers.

In the community group team category, first place went to Ocean City Ravens Roost No. 44 for donating \$12,350. In second place was the Parke Penguins (Ocean Pines), who collected \$4,550. The Jamboys out of Baltimore raised \$2,160 and were awarded the third-place trophy.

The Bull on the Beach team, which included more than 200 swimmers, was the top business team again this year, donating \$28,000. During the 22-year history of the event, the Bull on the Beach team has generated more than \$400,000 for AGH. The Poppin' Penguins collected \$4,000 and Fisher's Popcorn garnered \$1,000 to round out the top three businesses.

'It's a great event to bring our community and visitors together to have a lot of fun doing something a little crazy, and at the same time help one of the most important assets in our community.'

AGH President Michael Franklin

"It's truly impeccable the amount of money Phil Houck and his 200-plus team members are able to raise year after year," Justice said. "They are the definition of dedicated when it comes to this

event in particular."

"We have participated from the beginning and know how important it is to this town," said Phil Houck, owner of Bull on the Beach. "We had a great year, raised a lot of money and look forward to next year."

Awards were also presented to teams and individuals 18 and younger who collected the most donations. Ben Kettler, Craig's 16-year-old son, was the top youth fund raiser for the third year, donating \$525.

Second and third place finishers, Liliana, 18, and Nicholas Franklin, 13, from Berlin pledged \$500 each.

The top team fund raisers in the 18-and-Under Division was Stephen Decatur High School raising \$705. Team Two Beach Cuties pledged \$265 and Team Ty finished out the top three, collecting \$240.

In 22 years, the Penguin Swim has raised more than \$1 million for AGH. The goal for the 22nd annual swim was \$75,075. As of press time, the 2016 Penguin Swim generated well over the goal with \$104,000 raised for AGH, and the number is expected to increase because organizers are still counting and taking donations, Justice said.

"This was the largest crowd I've ever seen for the Penguin Swim," said Michael Franklin, president of AGH. "It's a great event to bring our community and visitors together to have a lot of fun doing something a little crazy, and at the same time help one of the most important assets in our community."

The hospital has been providing health care to residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties as well as Sussex County, Del., since May 1993.

For more information about Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlanticgeneral.org.

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OPINION

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Please send all letters to editor, notices, calendar events and community announcements to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Manklin Meadows reports should not cause concern

There’s no point in jumping to conclusions, which would seem to be the case with reports that the Manklin Meadows project has gone over budget.

It hasn’t gone over budget for one simple reason: no work has been done, outside of the creation of a site plan for an overhaul of the complex, so not much money has been spent.

More simply put, something can’t be over budget until a budget has been set and that hasn’t been the case.

All that has happened is that the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors got an estimate of the cost from one bidder and that estimate apparently falls far short of what will likely be needed to add pickleball courts, more parking and other features.


Further, the operative word in the previous paragraph is “likely” rather than “will,” because the overall undertaking continues to be evaluated.

As General Manager Bob Thompson pointed out, it’s more probable that the single bid did not account for every aspect of the operation, and even if it did, both he and the board would need more than a solitary quote to proceed.

As it is, both Thompson and board know that no matter what the price tag might be, they have options on how to proceed. One approach would be to break the job into smaller pieces to be completed over a longer period of time, or at least be able to see what each component would cost so they have a clearer picture of what the project entails.

With the board just entering the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year, there’s time to decide what makes financial sense and what doesn’t. In the meantime, there’s nothing here that suggests there is any cause for concern.

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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STAFF WRITER

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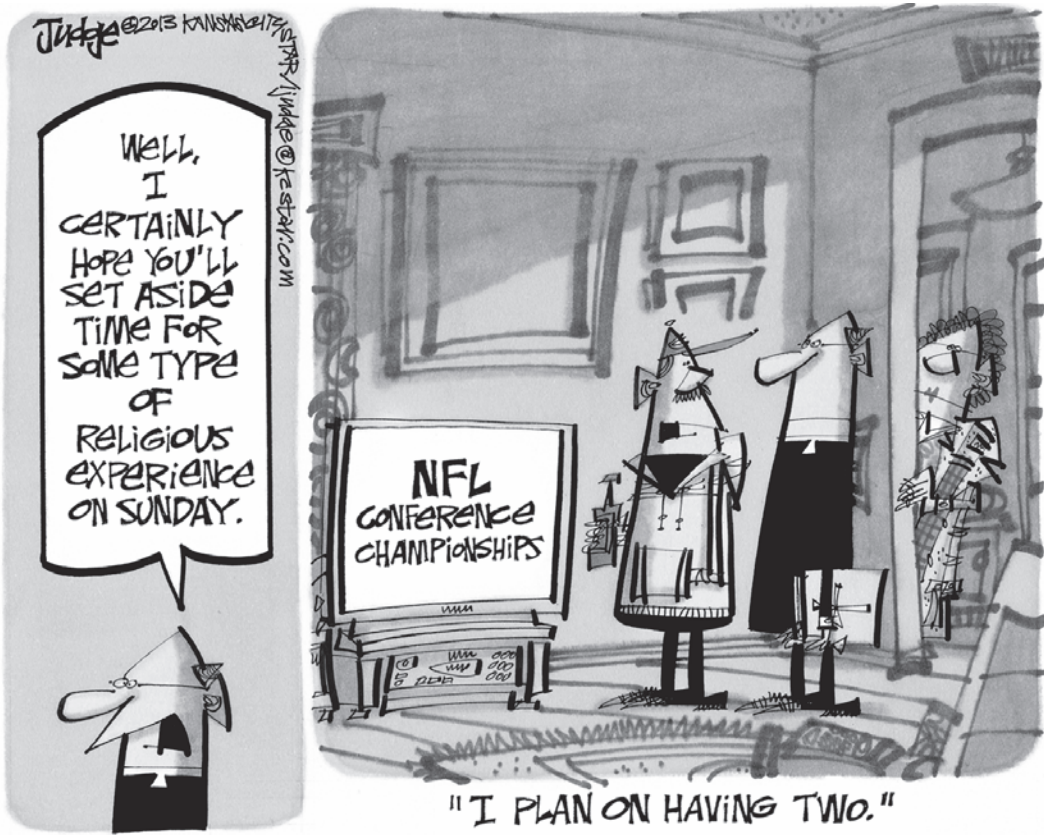
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LETTERS

Thanks from North Pole

Editor,

Mrs. Claus and I would like to thank everyone who made our visit so enjoyable this year. We wish especially to thank the following folks.

First, we wish to thank all the children who came to visit us at the pizza party at Community Church and at the Ocean Pines tree lighting and Breakfast with Santa. We hope you enjoyed meeting us as much as we enjoyed meeting you.

We also wish to thank Bob and Kellie Beck of DeNovo’s Trattoria, Bill and Mary Jaeger of A Bagel and..., Phyllis Mitchell and Andrea Hastings of Mitchell and Hastings Financial Planners, and Roy and Candy Foreman of our local Kiwanis club for providing us with the candy canes we distribute when we visit the elementary schools.

We thank the principals and staff of Buckingham, Ocean City and Showell ele-

mentary schools for allowing us to visit with the students before the “big day.” These visits are the highlight of our season.

Thanks also to the Ocean Pines and Showell fire companies for delivering us safely to Community Church, Whitehorse Park, and the Recreation Center. Their engines are much warmer and more comfortable than the sleigh.

Kudos to Carol Ludwig and the Delmarva Chorus of Sweet Adelines for allowing us to join them in their performance for the Red Hat ladies of the Parke. We thoroughly enjoyed performing with them.

Our thanks also to Brandywine Assisted Living at Fenwick Island for featuring us as part of their 2016 calendar. We’re part of the December page, obviously. Thanks to them also for their donation to the scholarship fund of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City.

Further, we thank Venable’s Cleaners for taking such good care of Mrs. Claus’ gown and Santa’s suit, free of charge, for so many years.

A quick thank you to Kiwanis for the lovely gift we received from them at their Christmas party; it was greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we thank Michael and Marilyn James of the Carousel Group for inviting us to distribute gifts at their employees’ Christmas party. Thanks also to our elves Mary and Maddie James, Terry Frey and Pat Schrawder for helping us to distribute those gifts.

We also, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, thanks to the Carousel group for their generous donation to their scholarship fund.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a happy and healthful 2016.

*Santa and Mrs. Claus
(Carol and Al Kastner
Ocean Pines)*

Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.

CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Et tu Brute? Try this recipe for Caesar salad

Caesar salad. Wow. Where to begin?

It was November, 1984. It wasn't long after I earned my license and started working my first job in Annapolis, the Chart House. But it was the first time that I had experienced one of the truest food-loves of my life; the salad



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

eponymous with the man stabbed on the Ides of March by Brutus himself.

The school year was dragging on, despite the fact that we had only been in session for a mere three months. You see, I hated school – with a passion. I was not a good student until I spent some time in the Marine Corps and realized that there just might be something else out there ... or maybe it was the constant prodding and nagging of my well-meaning late mother, but I digress.

My brother Danny and I had been afforded the opportunity to join our parents in Florida at the Barefoot Mailman, an interesting oceanfront inn that looked as though it was going to provide shelter for the week. But Mother Nature had different plans.

Danny and I spent a 16-hour shift changing hands at the wheel (I was a brand-new driver and he was a “seasoned” second-year driver) of the le Mans that had well-over 200,000 miles on it, and we cruised all the way to Florida.

That was my first time to the Sunshine State, and I can't emphasize enough how excited I was. All that I could imagine were the girls and margaritas that I had heard about. Of course, I was 6'0" and 130 pounds soaking-wet, so I understood the odds, but the sights as trees turned from oak to palm were insurmountable in my tiny brain.

Don Henley's “Boys of Summer” was cranking at that point, and we must have heard it 30 times on the way down. Even as I wasn't an Eagles fan, or a Henley fan for that matter, that song still takes me back to that entire trip; not a moment in that trip, but the entire ride.

We landed at the Barefoot Mailman, and then the rain started. In fact, that's precisely the point at which the hurricane made its land-fall. And it never ended. It went on for the entire week, but our parents took us to a Chart House in the area



and we ate well; very well as a matter of fact.

And you will never guess what I had to start our meal off.

Caesar Salad

Serves 4

- 2-3 Hearts of Romaine
- 2 cup Croutons (recipe follows)
- 1/4 cup Grated Parmesan
- 3/4 cup Caesar Dressing, or to taste (recipe follows)

1. Most romaine hearts sold in bags these days are washed on the farm, thus precluding the need to do so yourself. However, if you are a germaphobe, “type-A thorough” or a clean-freak, please feel free to clean the lettuce by cutting into large, bite-size pieces, rinsing well and then drying

2. Mix everything together, serve on plates, and garnish with a little extra parmesan and croutons.

Croutons

Makes about 2 cups

- 2 cups Diced bread, assorted
- 1/2 cup Melted whole butter, unsalted
- 1/2 tsp. Dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp. Granulated garlic
- Salt & Pepper to taste

1. Place the bread on a baking sheet and place in a 350° oven until dried about halfway
2. Remove and allow to cool
3. Melt the butter, add the thyme, garlic, salt & pepper and then toss the diced bread in this
4. Put back on the sheet pan and bake until crispy, golden and delicious
5. Set aside until ready to serve

Caesar Dressing

Makes about 2 cups

- 2 ea. Egg yolks
- 1 tsp. Anchovy paste or 2 filets
- 2 garlic cloves
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 3/4 cup EV Olive oil
- 1/4 cup Grated parmesan cheese
- Black pepper, to taste

1. This is probably the most important step, so pay attention! Use pasteurized egg yolks only. If you can't find them in a store there are two methods for pasteurizing, as follow:

2. The first method is to cook the eggs sous vide (if you're lucky enough to own a Jewel or Anova sous vide cooker or a Sous Vide Supreme for that matter

3. The second method is to take a cheater shortcut, although I will not and cannot ethically put my name to

it despite the fact that it has been printed in many cookbooks and textbooks over the few past decades. I will tell you that I have used this method, and have eaten many salads with dressing made from this method ... but this is up to you

4. Place the whole eggs in cold water. Heat on a stove and bring to 142 degrees
5. Hold them here for three minutes and then cool immediately

6. There are two proteins in the egg whites; one of which starts to cook at this temperature. It will not affect the end result and safety is the priority

7. Separate the yolks and place in a bowl

8. Whisk vigorously and add anchovy, garlic, mustard and lemon

9. While whisking, slowly drizzle in the oil to form the emulsion that results in a creamy Caesar (we have no time for that “Caesar vinaigrette” garbage)

10. Finish with the parmesan and pepper and either serve immediately or let it rest a spell. It gets better with age

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

PUZZLES

RECORD OF THE YEAR

BY DAVID WOOLF / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Malicious computer programs

6 Essence

13 Chippendales dancer, e.g.

19 One in the closet

21 Band that doesn't play much music nowadays

22 Common gas station attachment

23 2001 foreign film with five Oscar nominations

24 Radishes with long white roots

25 Nag

26 Accepted, as an offer

28 Was behind a register, maybe

30 Battery parts

31 For whom products are designed

33 Passing mention?

35 Short pants

39 McKellen of "The Hobbit"

40 Alternative to Facebook Messenger

42 Golden Bears' sch.

45 Suggest

47 Supreme Court justice who once said "I am a New Yorker, and 7 a.m. is a civilized hour to finish the day, not to start it"

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

12 Boom box pair

117 Looked (in)

119 Lover boys

121 Sole representatives, maybe

122 Gum arabic source

123 Oakland's county

124 Like HBO and Showtime vis-à-vis basic cable

125 Something you can believe in

126 If everything fails

127 Blues musician known as Sleepy John

DOWN

1 Pointer's request?

2 Ending with Cine-

3 Brief race, in brief

4 What keys on a key ring do

5 Setting for van Gogh's "River Bank in Springtime"

6 Sonny

7 Some desktops

8 Running a high temperature

9 Staples Center athlete

10 Stinks

11 Emanation from a pen

12 Doctor's recommendation

13 Box in an arena?

14 One helping with servings

15 Start

16 "You're missing a comma" and others

17 Turkish inn

18 Orch. section

20 Together again

27 Something people do not want to see outside, for short

29 Cartoon exclamation

32 Young ____

34 Setting not actually found in "Romeo and Juliet"

35 Opted for

36 Kind of orchard

37 Mural's beginning?

38 Town: Ger.

40 Singer with the 2012 #1 hit "Somebody That I Used to Know"

41 It splits the uprights

42 Paramecium propellers

43 Kind of professor

44 Some premium seating

46 Licorice flavor

48 Colorful gem

49 Barber's supply

50 ____ Accords

51 Keystone Kops-like scene

53 Icy remark?

58 Diverges

61 Besprinkle, say

62 Suffix with conspirator

65 Church book

67 One of the Obamas

68 Unable to do well

69 Rural community

70 Lack of influence

71 Kentucky Derby drinks

73 Ones up in arms?

74 No longer wanted

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75 More ____ enough

76 ____ Reader

77 Most lipstick options

79 Big lipstick seller

80 Dry (off)

81 Memorable 2011 hurricane

82 Mint roll

84 Rathskeller decoration

86 Breathe in

92 Word often seen in brackets

96 Green grp.

98 Item in a tent

100 Guy's thanks?

101 Cut over, in a way

102 Dollar competitor

103 Convince

104 A lot

105 Horatian work

106 Certain tablet

107 Boil down

108 Handle

110 Publisher of Champion magazine, for short

111 "Who is John ____?" (question in "Atlas Shrugged")

113 Hosp. readouts

114 Lies

115 Just above where 35-Across end

116 They were wiped off the map in '91

118 Daniel ____ Kim, "Hawaii Five-0" actor

120 Remained in inventory

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 74

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 7 2 3 9 6 8 5 1

3 9 8 5 7 1 2 4 6

5 6 1 2 4 8 7 3 9

9 8 7 4 1 2 5 6 3

2 3 5 6 8 9 1 7 4

6 1 4 7 5 3 9 2 8

7 2 9 1 6 4 3 8 5

8 5 6 9 3 7 4 1 2

1 4 3 8 2 5 6 9 7

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S I P O N

U N L O A D

S H O P P I N G

S A W

E L M

D E A D E N D S

S N O R T S

M A O

B L O T

L E E

I C A N

S O D A

L O O T E R

E L F

F A R I N A

A D D L I N G

B O O L A

B L U R

A L B I N O

S A L S A S

R E E S E

A B A S E S

N A T A S H A

C E N T E R

A G E L O N G

I R O N

D I A L

I N T L

N C A A

F O E S

S L O

W I N D O W

P O P

B O G

B A S E S

B A A S

O D E T S

P T A S

M I N N E S O T A

E D A S N E R

E V E N T S

T E A M O

A V I A N S

G A R R E T

R U T S

R H Y M E

S P A I R N

S P A R E M E

E L A T E D

A F I N A L S

A U R O R A

S T P A U L S

F R A M E

M U S H

A L O T

S P A U L S

C A N A L S

J A Z Z

R U D E

E V E R E S T

O T A T W I N S

T O O T A T

P O E M S

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
www.bjsonthewater.com
Jan. 8-9: Full Circle, 9 p.m.
Jan. 13: Reform School, 5 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
Berlin
410-641-0600
www.oceandowns.com
Jan. 8: Aaron Howell Duo, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Jan. 9: Sol Knof, 4:30-8:30 p.m.;
Everett Spells, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30

a.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
www.fagers.com
Jan. 8: DJ RobCee "Unwind
Party," 5-9 p.m.; DJ Hook, 9 p.m.
Jan. 9: DJ Groove, 9 p.m.
Jan. 10: Everett Spells, 10 a.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
www.ocharborside.com
Jan. 14: Opposite Directions, 9
p.m. to 1 a.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095

www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com
Jan. 8: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m.
Jan. 9: Dave Sherman, 5-10 p.m.
Jan. 14: Melissa Alesi, 5-9 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
www.hootersofoc.com
Jan. 9: DJ BK, 8 p.m.

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
www.johnnyspizzapub.com
Jan. 8: Lime Green, 9 p.m.
Jan. 9: Slappy Hour, 9 p.m.
Jan. 13: Randy Lee Ashcraft and
the Saltwater Cowboys, 6 p.m.

KY WEST RESTAURANT & BAR

54th Street

Ocean City
443-664-2836
www.kywestocean.com
Every Saturday: DJ Rhoadie

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. 8-9: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m.
to 2 a.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Jan. 8: Karaoke w/Donnie
Berkey,
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.




RANDY LEE ASHCRAFT & THE SALTWATER COWBOYS
JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB: Wednesday, January 13; 6 p.m.



OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL: Thursday, January 14; 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.



STAR CHARITIES

ALL VOLUNTEERS

Please join us for our

Annual Beef & Beer Fundraiser

Friday, January 8, 2016

Ocean Pines
Community Center
5:00-9:00 p.m.

To Benefit Wounded Soldiers of MD

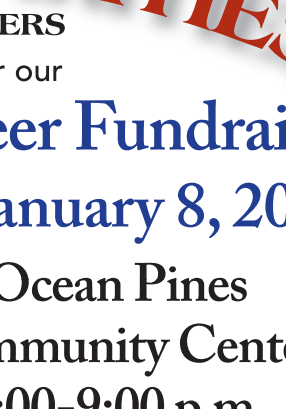

All-You-Can-Eat Beef Dinner
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ROD STEWART IMPERSONATOR

TICKETS \$30.00

Contact Anna Foultz
410-641-7667

A special thank you to Marlene Ott, Associate
Shamrock Realty Group for donating the tickets
and program. We thank you from our hearts.



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For a
variety of Local Services

CALENDAR

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

THURS. Jan. 7

WOMEN'S CLUB OF OCEAN PINES MEETING — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. to noon. Speaker will be Dr. Tracy Rush, who provides professional chiropractic care in Berlin. Light refreshments served and 50/50 raffle. Info: Dianna Bolyard, 410-208-9326.

PLAY TIME — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infant to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME 'ROBOTS' — Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-632-3495.

ZUMBA — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 1 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 7-28. Get your groove on and get fit. Register: 410-957-0878.

FARMERS' MARKET — Urban Nectar, 10019 Old Ocean City Boulevard, Berlin, 3-6 p.m. Featuring local in season produce, gluten free and gluten full baked products, eggs, honey, kettle korn, natural pet treats, soaps and more. Info: 410-713-8803.

BEACH SINGLES — Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour at Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, Del., 4 p.m. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577; Kate, 410-524-0649; or Dianne, 302-541-4642.

CHAIR AEROBICS — St. Peter's Lutheran Church Community Life Center, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1-2 p.m. Free will offering appreciated. Sponsored by St. Peter's Senior Adult Ministry. Info: 410-524-7474.

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. Info: 410-251-8163.

FRI. Jan. 8

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO — Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway (behind St. Luke's Church), Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments for sale. Info: 410-524-7994.

BASKET AND GIFT CARD BINGO — Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, main station, 10709 Bishopville Road. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; early bird games start at 6 p.m.; and regular games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Twenty games including 10

basket and 10 gift cards. Early bird games, specials, 50/50, door prize and food and beverage available. Tickets: 410-352-3101.

8TH ANNUAL BEEF 'N BEER FUNDRAISER — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5-9 p.m. All-you-can-eat beef dinner, door prizes, live auction and live entertainment including OP Youth Theatre and a special performance by Tommy Edward (Rod Stewart impersonator). Cost is \$30, benefiting Wounded Soldiers of Maryland. Tickets: Anna Foults, 410-641-7667 or Larry Walton, 443-831-1791.

LAPTIME — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30 a.m. Children, two years and younger, will be introduced to stories, songs, games and finger plays. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-641-0650.

STORY TIME 'MONKEY BUSINESS' — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. For 2-5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-208-4014.

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Featuring "The Pecan Man" by Cassie Dandridge Selleck. Info: 410-208-4014.

SAT. Jan. 9

'PROJECT 22' SCREENING — Church of the Holy Spirit, 10001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1 p.m. A film that seeks to end the epidemic of veteran and military suicides. No charge. A discussion session led by a Suicide Prevention Outreach Specialist and a veteran will follow the screening. Information on crisis response resources and veterans' services available. Info: 410-723-1973 or 443-982-2716.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Mike Malpezzi, the new Maryland Artificial Reef Coordinator, will discuss anglers attitudes and behavior and their relationship to Marylands Artificial Reef Initiative and the sign-up effort for this year's fishing survey. All welcome. Info: Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662.

LIBRARY ENROLLMENT DAY WITH MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road and Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Help for individuals and families seeking to enroll in affordable health care. Info: 855-445-5540.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS — On the beach at 90th Street, Ocean City, 12:30-2 p.m. Hosted by the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, priests will bless a wooden cross before tossing it into the surf. Swimmer will retrieve the cross

and later have an off-site luncheon. Info: Petros Gjikuria, stgeorgeoc@gmail.com or 443-497-1511.

MODEL TRAIN DISPLAYS — Delaware Seaside Railroad Club, Clayton Crossing, 32422 Royal Blvd., Dagsboro, Del., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., year round. See five layouts. Info: Bill Ziegler, wjziegler1@verizon.net or 302-537-0964.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST — VFW, Post 8296, 104 66th St., bayside in Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. A \$5 donation for all-you-can-eat pancakes or 2-2-2, two eggs, two pancakes and two bacon slices. Info: 410-524-8196.

FARMERS MARKET — White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle korn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. Info: 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006.

SUN. Jan. 10

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS #169 — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Group is a 12-step program for anyone struggling with a compulsive eating problem. No initial meeting charge. Meeting contribution is \$1 weekly. Info: Bett, 410-202-9078.

SUNDAY NIGHT SERENITY AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING — Woodlands in Ocean Pines, Independent Living Apartment Building, 1135 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7:30 p.m.

MON. Jan. 11

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

WRITING FOR WELLNESS — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30-3 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences, like illness, may boost health and psychological well-being. No prior writing experience needed. Info: Don Winslow, 410-208-6613.

STEAM PM 'WATERCOLOR PAINTING

WORKSHOP' — Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 3:45 p.m. "Searching for Treasures With Friends" with Jan Coulbourne. For children 6 years and older. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-632-3495.

SOCIAL 1 1/2 — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Christian social club for those 50 and older are welcome to enjoy games, activities, bike rides, prayer and friendship. Info: 410-641-2136 or Bethany21811@gmail.com.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY — The Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adeline's, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. Info: 410-641-6876.

TUES. Jan. 12

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-4 p.m. This is a very important reorganization meeting to discuss future plans and agenda for the group. No reservation, no fee. Info: www.DelmarvaParkinsonsAlliance.org or Ron and Mary Leidner, 410-208-0525.

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP — Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 6:30-8 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, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org.

IPAD CHICKS - INTERMEDIATE — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. to noon. Drop in to the intermediate session. Men welcome. Info: 410-208-4014.

PLAY TIME — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infant to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-641-0650.

STORY TIME 'THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS' — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-957-0878.

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

ON YOUR OWN, BUT NOT ALONE - WOC

CALENDAR

Fitness, 12319 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, 5 p.m. Weight loss support group with discussions about nutrition, exercise, health and weight loss. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Info: dillon128@aol.com.

WED. Jan. 13

RELAY FOR LIFE NORTH WORCESTER KICK OFF 2016 — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 6 p.m. Play interactive games while learning about the history of The American Cancer Society. Begin planning for the 2016 Relay For Life held on May 6. Info: Dawn Hodge, 443-497-1198; Dj Thompson, 443-366-5440; or Jill Elliott, 410-430-8131.

STORY TIME — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. Info: www.worcester-library.org or 410-524-1818.

THE BLUES PROJECT — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Blues music with Chris English and Ted Nichols. Info: 410-208-4014.

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Featuring “The Book of Unknown Americans” by Cristina Henriquez. Info: 410-524-1818.

MODEL TRAIN DISPLAYS — Delaware Seaside Railroad Club, Clayton Crossing, 32422 Royal Blvd., Dagsboro, Del., Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m., year round. See five layouts. Info: Bill Ziegler, wjziegler1@verizon.net or 302-537-0964.

BINGO — Every Wednesday at Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 138th Street and Sinepuxent Avenue, rear of the Fenwick Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start 6:30 p.m. Food is available. Open to the public. No one allowed in the hall under 18 years of age during bingo. Info: 410-250-2645.

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB — Meets every Wednesday at Peaky’s Rooftop Restaurant & Bar, located in the Fenwick Inn, 13801 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Beginner and intermediate lessons, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dancing 6:30-9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the ’50s, ’60s and Carolina beach music. All are welcome. Info: 302-200-DANCE (3262).

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY — Meets every Wednesday at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. Info: 410-641-7330 or www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

BAYSIDE BEGINNINGS AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7:30 p.m.

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING — Captain’s Table Restaurant in the

Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Info: 410-641-1700 or kbates@taylorbank.com.

ON YOUR OWN, BUT NOT ALONE - WOC Fitness, 12319 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, noon. Weight loss support group with discussions about nutrition, exercise, health and weight loss. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Info: dillon128@aol.com.

ONGOING EVENTS

DIGITAL DROP IN — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., during January. Get help with your new e-reader or tablet. Drop in anytime, any day or schedule an individual tutorial: 410-641-0650.

MAKE AND TAKE CRAFTS — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, all through January. The Craft Cart contains supplies to make: picture frames, jewelry and other artwork. Make what you like and take what you make. For teens. Info: 410-524-1818.

WSW SUPPORT GROUP — OC Office, 12216 Ocean Gateway, Unit 1500, West Ocean City, 1 p.m., third Wednesday of each month. Info: Mary Henderson, 410-213-1177.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES — Temple Bat Yam, 11036 Worcester Highway, Berlin, every Friday, 7:30 p.m. A reform Jewish Synagogue. Info: 410-641-4311.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT & ADVOCACY GROUP — St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, noon to 1:30 p.m. on the second and

fourth Fridays of every month. Info: 410-524-7474.

WORCESTER COUNTY PARKINSON’S SUPPORT GROUP — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, second Tuesday of each month, 2:30 p.m. Speakers, exercise, discussions and more. Info: 410-208-3132.

STAR CHARITIES MEETING — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m., on the first Friday of each month. Meeting of volunteers. Info: Anna Foulz, 410-641-7667.

PINE’ER CRAFT AND GIFT SHOP OPEN — Pine’er Craft and Gift Shop, White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines. Shop will be open every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring the latest creations by members of the Pine’er Craft Club.

AARP — Ocean City AARP 1917 meets the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the Ocean City Senior Center, 104 41st St., Ocean City. Social begins at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Info: aarp1917.org.

NAACP MEETINGS — NAACP meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Info: 443-944-6701.

SUICIDE GRIEVERS’ SUPPORT GROUP — Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, the third Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. Also held at the Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., the fourth Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. Open to anyone who has

lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Free of charge. Info: 410-726-3090 or www.choosetolivemaryland.org.

COMPUTER AND E-READER INSTRUCTION — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway. Staff offers individual computer or E-Reader instruction by appointment: 410-524-1818.

AUMC THRIFT SHOP — Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., in Ocean City. Now open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 410-289-4458.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK THRIFT SHOP — Positive Outlook Thrift Shop, 12637 Ocean Gateway, Trlr 2, West Ocean City, Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located next to Seaside Christian Academy behind White Marlin Mall. Info: 410-251-6971. Sponsored by OC Baptist Church.

THE SHEPHERD’S NOOK THRIFT SHOP — Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Accepting donations of gently worn clothes and small household items.

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.



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AGH PENGUIN SWIM

Approximately 1,035 participants ran into the 52-degree ocean near 91st Street on New Year’s Day during the 22nd annual Penguin Swim, a fundraiser for Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, recording the largest crowd to date. In 22 years, the Penguin Swim has raised more than \$1 million for AGH. The goal for this year was \$75,075. As of press time, the 2016 Penguin Swim generated well over the goal with \$104,000 raised, and the number is expected to increase as organizers are still counting and taking donations.

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5 P.M.

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Director of Human Resources
410-641-3575 ext. 146

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Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand – 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	Inquire	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Daily 11-3	Villas, OC Inlet Isle	3BR/4BR	Condo	From \$740,000	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Sat-Mon 11-4 pm	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Saturday 11-3pm	Summer House, 120th St., Bayside	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$350,000	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Sat & Sun 10-5pm	Sunset Island, Ocean City	—	Condos, Towns & SF	From \$342,500	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort Realty
Sat. & Sun. 12-5	12602 Bay Buoy Ct., Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$329,900	Harbor Homes
Sun. 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2 Full & 2 Half BA	Townhomes	From \$299,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Sun. 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	11769 Maid at Arms Way	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	From \$489,900	Evergreene Homes
Sun. 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2 Full & 2 Half BA	Townhome	From \$294,371	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty

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