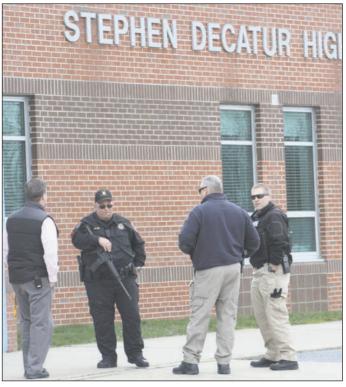
JANUARY 21, 2016

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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE (LEFT)-GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE (RIGHT)

Following bomb threats last Friday at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, students were evacuated to the former Harley-Davidson store on Route 50. In the parking lot, Co-Principal Wynnette Handy tries to keep the peace as parents arrived to pick up their children. Meanwhile, at Decatur, law enforcement patrol the exterior of the building while bomb squads work inside. The incident was the second of three threats to the school during an unprecedented two-week span.

Bomb threats continue at Decatur

Unprecedented string of calls evacuate school three times during two-week span

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin and other county schools have seen an unprecedented level of bomb threats during the last two weeks, triggering evacuations on three different days.

The high school was evacuated on Jan. 13 and 19, and all county schools were cleared on Jan.15.

Last Friday, hundreds of Decatur students were moved across Seahawk Road, to the Harley-Davidson store on Route 50, during the evacuation. Dozens of students crowded into the parking lot on the cold afternoon, while others waited inside for their parents to arrive.

Staff and police took turns directing traffic outside the store, while one school official made announcements over a megaphone. Meanwhile, several armed police officers patrolled the perimeter of the school as bomb squads worked to clear the buildings.

Two other times, the high school students were transferred to Stephen Decatur Middle School, with students returning after the buildings had been cleared. On Tuesday, students were able to return to class by noon.

Lt. Ed Schreier with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office said it was the first time the area had seen so many threats during such a short span.

"This is the first time we've experienced something of this magnitude," he said during a phone interview on Tuesday.

Schreier said "an actual person," believed to be a juvenile student, called in the threat on Jan. 13. The suspect was later taken into police custody.

"The rest have been classified as robo-calls," he said, adding that two of the calls, including the most recent one on Tuesday, specifically mentioned Stephen Decatur High School.

Because of the ongoing nature of the case, Schreier said he could not comment on the specifics of the investigation, but said it involved several agencies.

"Our main priority is the safety of the kids and the students in the schools, so we're taking every measure possible under our guidelines to help ensure that and help eliminate the fear that's produced by these calls coming in. That's the biggest problem, is people's fear gets heightened.

"As soon as we are able to, we will let the public know exactly what's taken place," Schreier continued. "We're trying to put a quick and judicious end to this.

Schreier went on to say the bomb threats were not limited to Worcester County.

"Area wide, we've seen this issue taking place," he said. "We're concentrating on Worcester County, but we're working with other agencies with the overall end in mind to get it taken care of."

In Berlin, Police Chief Arnold Downing said law enforcement was focused on keeping parents and students calm during the evacuations.

"All we did is assisted the various schools and made sure everything was safe," he said.

Downing confirmed federal authorities were also looking into the incidents, and that Berlin did not have an active investigation regarding the threats.

After rocky start, Pines Yacht Club sailing smoothly

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) The Ocean Pines Yacht Club faced plenty of criticism during its first year, from the dining room's resemblance to a school cafeteria, to the lower-than-expected financial performance across the board.

Last year, the second for the new facility, the financials were closer to budgeted numbers, and the facility itself has been – slowly, but steadily – making key aesthetic improvements.

General Manager Bob Thompson said, in hindsight, the club might have opened too quickly. Construction finished just before Memorial Day and doors opened on the Friday of the busy holiday weekend.

"The magnitude of all the elements coming together and our lack of knowledge on the facility, from the heating system to the computers and even how to run the lights correctly – all of that created a challenge for the first year," he said. "We settled in a See THOMPSON Page 4

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Thompson: Right management led to club turnaround

Continued from Page 1

little bit, but in that process we lost the context. We lost the understanding of the service side of things."

Thompson said the "right management" was responsible for the turnaround, namely, Yacht Club Manager Jerry Lewis, who was hired last May.

Lewis, who has more than 30 years in the hospitality industry, said his biggest contribution has been strengthening "a team mentality."

"In any business that you get into, you get into the day-to-day operations and sometimes you lose sight of exactly what you're here for, and I think that happened to a certain degree here," he said. "It's just re-uniting and redirecting everyone into what our purpose is, and I think that's the main thing that's happened just an emphasis on customer serv-

"People appreciate that, and people come back and make good comments and that spreads," he added. "And I absolutely love being here. How can you complain when you're sitting here with this view?'

Thompson said the yacht club also started to grow into its chef, Tim Ulrich, in its second year and now has better "front-end, back-end synergy."



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

General Manager Bob Thompson, left, and Yacht Club Manager Jerry Lewis said the club had improved its financial performance and customer service, and would work to improve the decor during its third year.

"The hardest part was learning to balance the mix of product that meets the diversity of the community. We have the ability to offer steak night every night, but that's a small portion of the community," Thompson said.

Lewis said Ulrich is an incredible chef, and said his food is best experienced during the monthly "Corked Wine Pairing" and "Char Steakhouse"

"I've been in business for 30 years and worked overseas and with some very, very creative chefs, but Tim has blown them out of the water," he said. "He's done some things we these wine dinners that I never knew were possible before.'

The club had to learn how and when to rein that creativity in, something that has helped to lower food costs over time.

"Our menu is in itself a creative little piece of Tim," Lewis said. "What I have found in my eight months here that, because of the newness of the operation, Tim was still feeling his way around - what can I provide, and what does the public want from me?

"I think we're coming to grips with the fact that he knows what he can do, and now he knows what the public expects when they're coming in here," Lewis added.

Managing expenses - including labor costs, the single-biggest expense – is another area of improvement that Thompson credited to

As of December, Thompson said the yacht club was still "in the black" financially, a substantial turnaround considering it was seeing red in September 2014.

"From my experience, I've had to spend a lot less time looking at the monthly numbers when it comes to this particular part of our operation, which is a relatively large one, because we have someone with that level and experience and expertise who has strong financial understanding of how to run a restaurant," he See LEWIS Page 5

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Lewis looking to leave his 'year of firsts' in rearview

Continued from Page 4

said. "Jerry's done a fantastic job of managing the team.'

Thompson said the association still needs to change the public perception that the yacht club is a private facility.

"The word is certainly getting out there with the banquets and events, catering, weddings, etc. With our ala-carte business or day-to-day operations, however, there are a lot of people out there that don't know we're open to the public," he said.

"The quality and consistency of the food and the consistency of the service is all starting to get out there to folks, but people understanding that we're here and that they can come whether they live in the Pines or not, that's probably one of our biggest challenges," Thompson added.

Year three, Thompson said, will be the year the yacht club focuses on more subtle improvements, including the décor.

"First year was get open, second year was focus on service, the third year is sprucing the place up and customizing it a little bit," Thompson said. "We're right on plan for what we said we were going to do. What we're ahead of plan on is the level of service and the consistency we're able to offer under a regular basis, which is why our numbers are where they are."

Thompson said he was aware of the "cafeteria" complaints, and that changes have been made – and more

"People want to compare this to other facilities. If you think about the sheer capacity that we have compared to any other facility - it's so big it doesn't have the [perceived] intimacy that they're thinking of at other restaurants," Thompson said.

"The other restaurants are required to offer that because they don't have the capacity that we do. That's where the differential is," he continued. "What we need to do is create more intimate space within the overall space that we have, and that's part of what this year's goal is.'

He also offered a prediction for the new year: profitability.

"All indications are we're going to end up at or outperforming the budget," he said. "I'm very confident we're going to end strong. We're going to surprise some people.

"Under Jerry's direction, the momentum has been awesome for us," Thompson added. "I actually think we're going to be ahead [of budget], which would just be a killer year for us. And what a phenomenal statement for his ability when that hap-

For Lewis, the new manager is thrilled his "year of firsts" is nearly behind him.

"When you start a new job, you have that first year where everything a first – it's my first Valentine's Day, my first Christmas, my first Easter. I'm looking forward to having my year of firsts over with," he said.

"Everybody's got an opinion. Everybody's got a thought of what they would expect. If we jumped on every single one of them, this place would look like a hodge-podge of I don't know what. By taking our time and seeing what really is a good idea and what works for us, we're going to move forward and we're going to continue to be successful," Lewis said.

First look at Pines '17 budget shows revenue, fee increases

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Although the Ocean Pines Association's board will not formally release a draft of the fiscal year 2017 budget until Saturday, an early copy of the document was made available at the administration building last week.

If that draft does not change, the basic annual assessment in Ocean Pines would grow \$22, to \$943. Water/estate assessments project at \$2,112.

If the current year's revenues and expenses maintain pace, Ocean Pines will finish the fiscal year generating approximately \$10.8 million in revenue against \$10.4 million in expenses.

FY '17 projections would increase about \$300,000 and \$500,000, re-

The Beach Club, Beach Club parking, marina and yacht club are all ex-

pected to be revenue generators during the next fiscal year, with the yacht club showing a net return of more than \$34,000. Projections from the previous period show that facility posting a loss of just over \$101,000.

Revenues at the club would be more than \$190,000 higher than the previous year, while expenses would increase by approximately \$117,000.

The police department budget accounted for the biggest overall jump in expenses, \$158,000 higher than the previous period.

Golf and aquatics are expected to be drags on the budget, with golf finishing \$83,378 in the red and aquatics posting a \$49,832 loss.

Overall, total revenues and expenditures are projected to grow \$1.3 million. Reserves, projected to be \$5 million in May, would increase to \$5.5 million by the end of the fiscal-year period, on April 30, 2017.



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IOSH DAVIS / RAVSIDE GAZETTE

General Manager Bob Thompson, center, went "tab-by tab" through the 2017 fiscal year budget during an Ocean Pines Association board meeting at the country club on Tuesday. Also pictured, from left, are Board President Pat Renaud, Controller Art Carmine and Director Tom Terry.

Golf budget irks Pines committee

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Budget and Finance Chairwoman Pat Supik met with the Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Tuesday to discuss a lengthy list of recommendations, developed

by the committee, for the fiscal year 2017 budget.

The majority of the recommendations were minor, and Supik said the committee's meetings on the budget, held last week at the country club, went smoothly.

What did not go smoothly, apparently, was the committee's review of golf operations. Supik said the group had problems following the business plan and projections provided by golf management company Landscapes Unlimited.

The committee said the budget worksheets were not consistent, the business plan did not "support or clarify" budget numbers, and the information provided was "difficult to analyze" and compare with previous budgets.

The "business plan, which was quite lengthy, did not present a clear picture of LU's plan to achieve its revenue and expense goals," the committee wrote, adding that oversight of golf was "fragmented" and caused "accountability and responsibility confusion to LU and Ocean Pines management."

The committee recommended golf oversight become the "responsibility of Ocean Pines General Manager."

On employee benefits, the committee said the percentage of costs were too high as compared to overall payroll, at 36 percent. Budget and finance cited a Bureau of Labor Statistics study, which showed benefits averaging 31.5 percent of total payroll costs.

Benefit costs were even higher at public works, the committee said, accounting for 58 percent of total payroll. A "thorough analysis" was recommended.

Other areas of concern included parks and recreation. According to the budget and finance report, Worcester County spends an average of \$32.88 per resident to provide parks and recreation services, while Ocean Pines spends \$73.32. To narrow that gap, the committee recommended raising costs for nonresidents.

The committee also singled out one capital purchase, recommending a \$20,000 scissor lift included in the



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OCEAN PINES BRIEFS

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors discussed the following items during a budget review meeting at the country club on Tuesday. The board also met on Wednesday to discuss the budget, after press

Also present during the meeting were General Manager Bob Thompson, Controller Art Carmine and Budget and Finance Committee Chairwoman Pat Supik.

IT position

Supik, speaking on behalf of the budget and finance committee, strongly recommended that the association create an information technology position.

Thompson said the OPA had been exploring just that, either by adding a staffer or using a consulting firm. The latter proved to be difficult, he said, because of the limited pool of local consultants and the cost-prohibitive nature of firms based "over the bridge."

He said the community also had to decide whether it wanted to use a "hosted" or cloud-based system, and that fiber optic cable, recently installed by the county along Route 90, could help bring down costs.

"Sometime this year we have to

get it done," Thompson said, referring to the position. "Are we going to put a stake in the ground this year? Definitely, yes."

Assessments background

While assessments are projected to rise in the next budget, \$22 according to the latest draft, Thompson said that figure was originally a \$67 increase in the first incarnation of the 2016-2017 budget. He added that figure was not unusual, as each draft generally works to lower than number.

Last year, basic annual assessments jumped \$12 in Ocean Pines.

Budget background

While Thompson said the Affordable Care Act and increases in minimum wage were driving factors in creating the fiscal year 2017 budget, the main impetus was the Ocean Pines vision statement.

That statement refers to Ocean Pines as a "premier resort community, offering exceptional value and quality of life to property owners who are diverse in age, economic status and interests."

Directors Dave Stevens suggested the board review statement at some point. Specifically, he took exception to the word "resort."

Continued on Page 8

Next-year budget review could start two months earlier

Continued from Page 6

budget not be purchased, and called for the continued funding towards replacement and "legacy" reserves, which were previously known as the "five-year" funding plan.

According to the committee's report, reserves account for \$348 of the annual assessment, including a proposed \$21 increase for legacy reserves in the fiscal year 2017 budget.

One area of concern the directors echoed during the meeting was the timeline with which the association develops its budget. The general manager starts his process in September, but receives budget guidance from the board two months later.

"I think it's a topic worthy of board discussion to make the cycle really effective," Supik said on Tuesday.

She said if her committee drafted its recommendations earlier, in July rather than September, the board could start work on its suggestions during the orientation meetings in August.

"Actually, I think that's a good suggestion, that the budget and finance committee could have their guidance for the next year's budget available for the orientation. I think that's a good idea," Director Tom Terry said.



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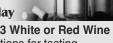
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OCEAN PINES BRIEFS

Continued from Page 7

Beach club benefits

Director Cheryl Jacobs proposed the board discontinue a certain perquisite associated with Beach Club Parking passes.

Currently, for \$175 a purchaser would get one parking pass, good for an entire 110-day season, along with four passes to the Beach Club pool, also good through the season. To compensate for lost revenue at the pool, last year the association transferred \$50,000 from Beach Club Parking to aquatics, which Jacobs said was confusing.

Director Dave Stevens argued that Beach Club parking, a consistent revenue generator in Ocean Pines, was a "somewhat fragile benefit."

Thompson agreed, but said the association would track which passes were used this year at the pool, and review the policy during next year's budget process. Last year, he said more than 22,000 people visited that pool.

Reserve reservations

Perennially an issue, the directors again debated the logic of the two-column reserve system on Tuesday, including the "legacy" reserves, which Stevens said were poorly defined.

'Stop treating them as separate things, because it serves no useful



The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meet at the country club on Tuesday to discuss the 2017 fiscal year budget.

adding, "The total amount of money that we're putting into the replacement reserve ... can be reduced significantly, and it will have a direct budget impact."

Thompson said the legacy funds paid for "major capital items," which he admitted meant whatever the board wanted it to mean.

The second column, he said, put a spotlight on bigger-ticket items, making them more transparent. Thompson went on to suggest the board wait for the results of the reserve study, which he said was "95 percent" finished, and revisit the matter during next year's budget debate.

Question of process

Director Tom Terry asked each board member to make suggestions as Thompson went "tab by tab" through the budget on Tuesday.

Ocean Pines will release a draft of the document during a public meeting on Saturday, and Terry said it would be beneficial for the community to see a budget that was as closed to a finished product as possible.

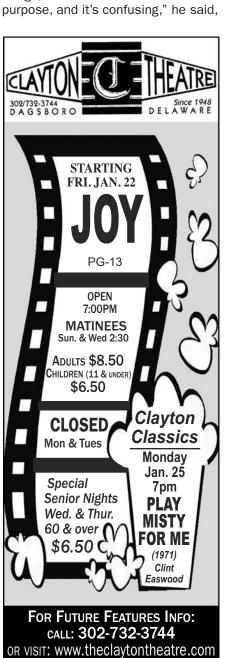
'The budget and finance committee went through [the budget] in two days and made their presentation," he said. "We need these two days today and tomorrow - to mean something. Otherwise, I'm not sure why we're going through it.

"It's unfair to go to the public with a budget presentation that ends up being a mile off," Terry added. "If you're going to raise an issue later, raise it now.

Stevens disagreed with Terry's ad-

"There are major, major issues and were not going to decide them today - or tomorrow," he said.

The directors were scheduled to discuss the fire department budget, and meet with golf management company Landscapes Unlimited, on













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Former Dir. Clarke has own ideas about budget, again

List of recommendations, sent to Pines board, would cut assessments by \$138

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Last year, when Marty Clarke was vice president of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, he proposed several changes to a fiscal-year budget draft that would have saved residents \$130 in assessments.

It did not go well, and the ensuing debate led Clarke to declare he would not seek reelection this past

This week, Clarke, who made good on his promise not to seek another term, sent a new proposal based on the fiscal year 2017 budget draft to the directors, General Manager Bob Thompson, Controller Art Carmine and members of the budget and finance committee, proposing similar changes that would again lower assessments more than \$100.

The proposal included a 50 percent (\$130,500) reduction of the payroll increase, raising the financial performance of the marina just over \$20,000 and increasing the revenue projections at the beach club parking by \$12,494.

Clarke would add road depreciation to the budget, \$227,529, and eliminate the "five-year funding plan," trimming more than \$1.2 million from the budget. Those changes would lower assessments from \$943 to \$804.59.

"I am totally opposed to the implementation of the eighth (8) year of the five (5) year funding plan," Clarke wrote in a letter attached to his proposal. He went on to say certain directors in the past had used the possibility of special assessments as a threat and as a reason to continue the five-year funding plan.

"I personally believe that one of the motivations for the so-called five-year funding plan was an effort to put hundreds of thousands of dollars into our association's bank ac-



count in order to help sell future projects," Clarke wrote. "This is a corrupt use of replacement reserves. There is no scenario, of which I am familiar, that allows for the collection of replacement reserves in order to actually replace an entire facility.

'Some believe that it is easier to sell a referendum to our membership with the money already in the bank. In my opinion, this is not exactly what was in mind when we talked about open and fair disclosure," Clarke continued, insisting that replacement reserves were meant to pay for "components in existing facilities," not necessarily for improvements "above the original function.'

"These kinds of new projects should be funded as a new capital expenditure. Having the money in the bank does not reduce the overall costs one cent," Clarke wrote.

He went on to say the current proposed increase in payroll would cost each homeowner \$30 in assessments and that his adjustments to the marina and parking would simply mirror previous-year projec-

Clarke also advocated replacing the "40-year-old" HVAC systems at the country club and adopting proposed renovations to the beach club bathroom facilities.

These relatively simple and minor changes should reduce the 2017 assessment by approximately \$138.00 per member," Clarke wrote.

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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.

Ask your own questions

Even though writing about budgets is part of reporting, there's no way to present a story with sufficient detail to give the public anything more than a general idea of how a proposed financial package is going to work. Or not work, as the case may be.

Even on the local level — never mind the monsters state governments create or the labyrinthine federal budgets that routinely thwart even the purest of scholars (presidential candidates have no chance at all) — a substantial spending-and-revenue plan involves more entries than can be explored and explained in the amount of time and space allotted.

The problem is not so much the numbers themselves, but understanding why they are what they are. Even the people who produce or adjust these numbers don't have all the answers, as their entries are often variations of figures established by their predecessors.

This is why, as the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors and its budget committee work on the community's next budget, our stories concentrate on the highlights: how spending and revenue compare to the year before, how proposed assessments stack up against the current ones, and what major programs, enterprises and opinions drive the overall plan.

The purpose of such stories, in addition to giving people some idea of how they will be affected, is to encourage them to ask their own questions of the governing body.

The issue is not whether a widget should cost \$1 or \$5, but the political and business philosophy that drives the decision to buy the widget in the first place.

Former director Marty Clarke this week publicly challenged the continuation of a financial set aside plan to cover future expenditures that have yet to be determined. He also says his plan would knock \$138 off next fiscal year's assessment.

In the scheme of things, \$138 isn't that much — a little more than two cups of coffee a week at your local convenience store — so the greater question is why that \$138 is necessary. Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. No amount of coverage is going to settle that argument, thereby putting the onus on property owners to become more involved if they have questions and then to decide for themselves.

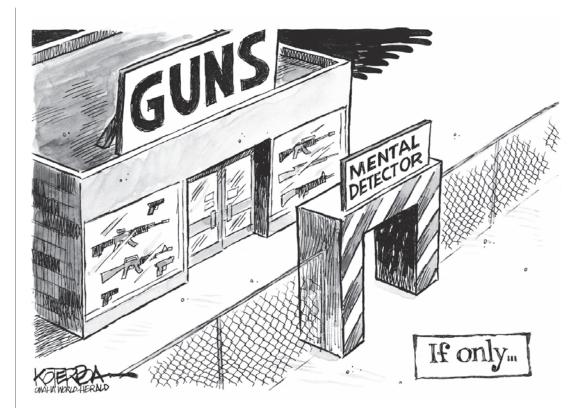
BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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Registration open for Komen Race

Early bird discount, \$15, offered through Jan. 22 for all adults

(Jan. 21, 2016) Registration is open for the Susan G. Komen Maryland Ocean City Race for the Cure, which features a competitive and recreational 5K run/walk and 1-mile family fun course, Saturday, April 16 on the Boardwalk beginning at the inlet.

Through Friday, Jan. 22, Komen Maryland is offering a \$15 early bird discount on all adult registration types, making an adult untimed registration \$20 and an adult timed registration \$25.

This year's call to action is #OneStepCloser.

"Each year there are new discoveries that bring us one step closer to finding the cures for breast cancer," said Kim Marzullo, senior event manager. "Participant fundraising helps fuel those discoveries."

Komen Maryland has made some changes to the race this year, including the new Saturday race date.

"With events planned across the weekend, this inspiring event will offer an opportunity to enjoy a weekend getaway to Ocean City as the sunny spring season begins," said Jessica Evans, Eastern Shore race and development manager. "Working closely with our hotel partners, we're crafting terrific getaway packages for race participants, their teams, families and friends. Local restaurants and area businesses will also offer race supporters a variety of options for dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.'

This year, the race will again begin at 9 a.m. for runners and walkers, but most of the race village activities will take place after the event.

Survivor parade and photo have been moved to the post-race celebration, followed by a Survivor Dance Party and a "Shoe Salute."

After the race, there will be a "Beer Garden" and a

seating area with food and a variety of goodies for sale.

Look for more details on the Komen Maryland Race web site, blog (www.komenmdblog.org) and social media in the coming months.

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease.

Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Komen Maryland is working to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in the local community.

Through events like the Komen Maryland Race for the Cure, Komen Maryland has invested \$27 million in local breast health programs has helped contribute to the more than \$800 million invested globally in research.

For more information, call 410-938-8990 or visit www.komenmd.org.

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.

Berlin Restaurant Week 'wonderful success,' Wells says

By Kara Hallissey

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Berlin's inaugural Restaurant Week was a triumph for the town with many restaurants seeing an increase in sales and foot traffic.

"It was a wonderful success," said Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director. "Businesses were busy and appreciative of the event."

More than a dozen restaurants offered special prices on select menus from Jan. 11-17.

"For a small town, we have a lot of restaurants who serve breakfast, lunch and dinner," Wells said.

"People ate lunch, walked around and shopped before grabbing a coffee or desserts over at Baked [Dessert Café] and this kind of event shows the fabric of this community, how it is interwoven and everyone supports each other in a good way," said Leo D'Aleo Jr., chef of the Drummers Café inside the Atlantic Hotel. "It highlights the community spirit that everyone can rally around."

D'Aleo Jr. said Drummers Café had a nice crowd every day of Restaurant Week including Monday and Tuesday, which is not normally a busy time during the winter. The restaurant had 1,024 covers, he said, which is typical of a week in June before summer is in full swing. In addition, 145 lemon lust desserts were ordered during the sevenday period, which was featured in the lunch and dinner specials.

"It was great and a huge success for us," said Laura Stearns, general manager of Drummers Café. "We did not know what to expect. A lot of people were able to come out."

Denise Cooper, general manager of Siculi, echoed the sentiments of D'Aleo Jr. and Stearns.

"We rocked and rolled all week long during lunch and dinner," Cooper said. "It was crazy busy and like being in the height of August. We want to thank everyone who came out and supported us. We can't wait for the next one [in the spring] and look forward to serving them again."

At Blacksmith on Pitts Street, there was a 30-minute wait for seating at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

"You never see this amount of people on a Saturday in January," said Anna O'Neill, a server at the restaurant.

Local realtor Cam Bunting came up with the idea to showcase the variety of restaurants in Berlin and Wells also pitched in by setting up a Facebook page.

D'Aleo Jr. commended the publicity and planning of Restaurant Week for helping businesses stay busy. He also noted once this event gains traction it will get bigger and better each year.

"It is good to be proud of what you are and we have good food in this town," said Ruth Koontz, owner of Main Street Deli.

A spring Restaurant Week is in the works, but no date has been set.



IOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Employees at Blacksmith in Berlin take a photo break during the busy Restaurant Week rush last Saturday. Pictured, from left, are Thomas Mathers, Anna O'Neill, Julia Galvez and Molly McEvoy.



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Capital facilities plan outlines \$29M in projects

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) A new capital facilities planning document released in Ocean Pines on Jan. 4 outlines more than \$29.5 million in proposed new capital projects, spread out over the next decade.

According to the document, which the Gazette obtained last week, the last such plan was updated in November 2014.

The plan noted that several of the outlined projects were ongoing, including repairs to the Ocean Parkway and Clubhouse Drive bridges, as well as the Manklin Meadows Racquet Center and improvements in stormwater along St. Martin's Lane and the community center.

Two other studies – a reserve study conducted by Design Management Associates Inc. and a comprehensive plan being developed by an internal OPA committee with help from Salisbury University group BEACON – are also under way, and contributed somewhat to the report.

No authors were attached to the study, although it is believed to have originated from the administrative office and General Manager Bob Thompson.

Specific "areas of need" mentioned in the report include bridges, information technology, the country club and golf cart barn, beach club, police department, White Horse Park restrooms, Sports Core Pool and the Manklin Meadows complex. The study also mentioned the need for community meeting space.

Bridges are apparently in the planning stage for repair, although, it was noted, "within the next decade, it is likely both bridges will need to be completely replaced."

Existing IT systems in Ocean Pines have "already surpassed its useful life," the report said, adding that Ocean Pines made "continual short-term investments to keep the system up and operational."

The document also stressed, "serious consideration must be given to the replacement" of both the country club and golf cart barn, adding that combining both facilities could save money in construction and "long-term maintenance."

At the Beach Club in Ocean City, the restrooms and parking continue to be issues. The report advocated building a parking garage to add new spaces, noting that, "a creative design [would] incorporate space for new restrooms."

The current lease with Secrets could also be revisited, the document suggested, noting that doing so could "provide for some unique opportunities"

Perhaps the most radical approach advocated in the study were repurposing the existing community center to focus almost exclusively on "movement and exercise," while also altering the administration building to provide meeting spaces for various groups in Ocean Pines.

A new "Administrative/Public Safety Building" could then be built on association-owned land near Taylor Bank that would include office space for administrative work, fire and police.

The report said the current police department inside the administrative building, gives "minimum consideration" to safety operations, offering no secure prisoner processing areas or prisoner sally ports, and inadequate holding cells, dispatch facilities and waiting areas. Storage and other basic amenities were also deemed absent or inadequate.

While the fire department is working on plans for a new south side fire station, "a new joint use facility would

be uniquely located to maximize capabilities," according to the document.

The need for bathrooms at White Horse Park that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and replastering and repairing the deck of the Sports Core Pool, were also outlined.

During the next two years, the improvements listed in the plan would cost the community \$3.94 million, including \$1.78 million during the 2016-17 fiscal-year period, and \$2.16 million during the following fiscal year.

That would cover the Manklin Meadows complex, bridge repairs, improvements to bulkheads and roadways and renovations at the pools.

The next phase, three-to-five years, would total \$12.91 million and include replacement of two bridges and a new country club, as well as engineering studies at several other sites.

Long-term projects, identified as five-plus years, add another \$12.7 million and include replacement of the Beach Club and Sports Core facilities, and replacement of both North Gate bridges.

Landscapes meeting scheduled for Jan. 21

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Jan. 21, 2016) Following a 5-2 board of directors vote, it took two months to officially schedule a meeting between the Ocean Pines Association and golf management company Landscapes Unlimited.

That meeting will take place as a town hall today, Thursday, at 6 p.m. at the community center, with LU Regional Manager Scott Nissley fielding questions. One director who voted for the motion, however, said he's not satisfied with the format.

"The original intent was to have an open board meeting, properly advertised to the community, requesting [Landscapes] to get involved," Director Jack Collins said. "How it turned into a town hall meeting, to my

knowledge, was a unilateral decision by the chairman. There never was a board vote [on the format] and there's nothing in the motion that says anything about a town hall meeting."

According to the Nov. 19 meeting minutes approved by the board, "[Director Dave] Stevens moved that at our earliest convenience, a special meeting will be called with the entire Board & Landscapes Unlimited to ask questions."

"I would like to see the folks get involved as an accommodation to all the board members, specifically those members who wanted to ask some questions concerning the business plan that LU is proposing," Collins said. "I think it's a healthy exercise – that's all.

"[The meeting] is going in a differ-

ent direction, and it is what it is," Collins continued. "For some reason it's a 4-to-3 board, and it's a shame."

Collins added that he would not be able to attend the meeting because of a conflict in his schedule.

"We've got family things that we have to attend to," Collins said. "It's been on our calendar for a couple of weeks, so it's something we've got to do."

Director Bill Cordwell said the meeting could not be scheduled before the budget hearings, which Landscapes participated in on Tuesday.

day.

"The business plan contained budgetary items," Cordwell said, adding that he had no problem with the format.

"Jack has said several times that

he wants everything to be open and transparent. How much more open and transparent can you get than a town hall meeting? This whole thing has been childish from the beginning," Cordwell said, referring to the previous board's vote to replace former management company Billy Casper Golf.

Cordwell said the board members were given notice of several possible meeting dates on Jan. 8. Originally, he also had plans to go out of town to attend to a family matter. He later changed his schedule to accommodate the meeting.

"This whole thing is just childish," Cordwell said. "We want it open and transparent, but now that we're open and transparent we don't want that either."

Maryland Coastal Bays team with Burley Oak

(Jan. 22, 2016) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Lower Shore Land Trust are teaming up with Burley Oak Brewery in Berlin for a winter fundraiser on Monday, Jan. 25, from 6-9 pm.

Darin Engh and Nate Clendenen from the Saltwater Stringband and Sean Loomis of Drymill Road are slated to perform, while Shelly Messick from West O Bottle Shop, Reagan O'Meara from Harrison's Harbor Watch and Tom Creveling from Deep End Pool Bar will be guest bartending.

There will be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and board games to help raise funds for both environmental programs.

MCBP is part of the National Estuary Program and represents a multiple decade commitment to restoring and protecting the bays behind Ocean City and Assateague. One of only 28 such programs nationwide, the program brings together citizens, local scientists, recreational and commer-

cial fishermen, environmentalists, farmers, business leaders and government officials to create attainable goals for the watershed.

The mission of the Lower Shore Land Trust is to assist landowners and communities to conserve land for the enjoyment and well-being of present and future generations. They protect forests and farmlands for strong local economies; natural resources for diverse wildlife and clean water, and rural landscapes in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Stop by and support these two programs dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment for generations to come. MCBP and LSLT are 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organizations. Donations make it possible for both organizations to continue their work, and are tax deductible. For more information contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or call 410-213-2297 ext. 106.

CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Sour notes, for lemon tarts, are good things

Good old English curd. As tart and sharp as British wit, and as subtle and demure as a lonely seaside village.



By Paul Suplee, CEC PCIII

There is something mystical about a good curd that I was not privy to until a mere five years ago.

Quite frankly,

I never gave a rat's tail end about the stuff, and I lay blame on ill-prepared lemon meringue

pies that I had to suffer through in my childhood.

To be clear, I now adore lemon meringue pies, as long as two conditions are met. One, the curd filling must be tart. The meringue will be sweet enough to counter the tartness, and nothing makes a lemon meringue pie fall flat on its face faster than "meh" on "meh." When the contrasting of the uber-sweet meringue takes the edge off of the tart curd, I'm a happy man.

Two, please oh please cook your meringue (Italian meringue). Nothing ruins a meringue pie more for me than an aftertaste that just reeks of raw egg whites. I can't stand it. OK, the rant is over. And I'm not even writing about lemon meringue pie today; what is the deal?

No, today I'm writing about a cool little tart I cooked for a dinner a couple weeks ago; lemon-basil tarts with poached pear. The pairing of the ubiquitous savory herb and lemon is a parting gift from a former student, Mitch, who showed me the ways and wizardry of adding savory herbs to ades (limeade, lemonade et al). There is such a unique and subtle layer of flavor that emanates to the palate, so I recommend that you play with them as often as possible.

Cheating, I purchased the Athens brand mini-phyllo shells, and they work perfectly. You can certainly make your own phyllo cup, and it is not difficult, but given my druthers, I'll opt for the quick and easy in this case.

To finish my little composed dessert, I thought about all of the great flavors that I could pair with this soft and crunchy dessert that was shaping up nicely already. I opted for poached pears, one of my favorites. I typically use Anjou pears since they'll take the abuse of poaching without turning to mush.

Bringing the pears to a simmer



and then cooling them in their own cooking liquor makes for a grand showing of flavor and textures. When they are chilled, you simply use them as a garnish to the tart, and the flavors meld beautifully. These come in extra handy when the other desserts are six-layer mocha torte and assorted dark chocolate truffles. A little fruit now and then never hurt anybody.

And as winter is now upon us and we get short fused, let's remember to take a step back and appreciate the dry wit and the lovely dessert that have been bestowed upon us.

Lemon Basil Tarts, Poached Pear

(recipe follows)

Makes 30 tarts 30 Phyllo tart shells (I cheated and bought them) about 1.5 cup Lemon-Basil curd 30 Poached pear rounds (recipe fol-

Chiffonade of mint (optional)

Keep tart shells in plastic trays in which they came. This makes them easy to fill as they don't slide all over the place

When the curd is cooled down, you can either transfer to a pastry bag and pipe it into the shells, or you can just use a teaspoon to fill them up

Top curd with a pear round, and a chiffonade of mint or basil.

Lemon-Basil Curd

Dash of Kosher salt

Yields 2 cups from Ina Garten/Foodnetwork.com 2 Lemons 6 ounces whole butter, unsalted 1 cup Sugar 3 Eggs, whole 1/3 cup Lemon juice, or until taste 6 Basil leaves, whole

Cream butter and sugar in a stand

mixer and then add the lemon and zest and salt

Add the eggs one at a time until combined

Add the basil leaves

Pour this into a saucepan and cook on medium heat, stirring often, until it reaches 170F. Do not boil this, as the eggs will curdle, giving your curd an unpleasant, scrambled-egg taste and feel

Pass this through a strainer, making sure not to smash and mash the basil leaves. Remove them so they don't discolor the curd

Allow to cool down completely to use.

Poached Pear

Enough for about 30 tarts

5 Anjou pears

2 cups Shiraz or big red wine

1 cup Sugar

1/4 tsp. Ground cinnamon

Balsamic vinegar, as needed for tartness**

Peel the pears and cut in half, removing the seeds and the fiber that runs down the middle

Next, cut into 3/4" slices that you can then use for cutting the discs out when the pears have

been poached

Combine everything else in a pan and bring to a simmer and add the pears

Cook until the pears are tender, but not mushy

Remove from heat and transfer pears and liquid to a cool, metal or ceramic bowl and place in the refrigerator. It is important that the pears cool down in the liquid so that they soak up all of that incredible flavor

**While I do add the Balsamic for "tartness," there will be plenty from the lemon in the curd. You can simply leave it out, but when you taste the poaching liquid you might find that it could use a little "oomph," for lack of a better way to put it.

 Paul G. Suplee is an Assistant Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com. Page 14 Bayside Gazette January 21, 2016

SNAPSHOTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WILD AT ART

The Assateague Island Alliance (AIA), the friends group of Assateague Island National Seashore, had its first resident artist, Karen McLain, come for a short stay to paint the wild ponies of Assateague. Pictured are local art students from Seaside Christian Academy, who were able to experience, with McLain, painting the wild ponies "en plein air in the field."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AGH DONATION

Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Executive Committee members present a check for \$45,000 to AGH president and CEO, Michael Franklin, for the 2016 annual Appeal (\$40,000) and the 22nd annual Penguin Swim (\$5,000). Pictured, from left, are Barbara Loffler, recording secretary; Ann Hamilton, treasurer; Franklin; Michael Gough, auxiliary president and Janice Slaysman, auxiliary vice president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SDHS TEAM SUPPORTS WSW

The Stephen Decatur High School girls' soccer program presented \$1,300 to Women Supporting Women, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women battling cancer, after raising money from selling socks during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since 2011, the soccer program has raised nearly \$3,000 for the organization. Pictured in back, from left, are Assistant Coach Dale Krantz, Principal Tom Zimmer, Lexie VanKirk, Christina Romano, Victoria Kerkovich, Head Coach Maggie Berke and Women Supporting Women representative Mary Henderson, and in front, Lia Leggour, Alexis McDonough and Holly Nicolle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BACK IN SESSION

Delegate Mary Beth Carozza (District 38C) arrived in Annapolis last Tuesday for the 436th session of the Maryland General Assembly. She is pictured with Gov. Larry Hogan during the Jan. 12 Joint Republican Caucus Luncheon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

KID PAINTERS

Students enjoy painting in Golda Davis' Art class at Seaside Christian Academy. Pictured are first graders Cami Moreland and Charley Davis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FAMILY ADOPTION

The Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society adopted a family for the holidays through Worcester G.O.L.D. Members of the organization raised money by raffling off four gift card trees filled with donations from local businesses. The NHS will also be making a donation to Believe in Tomorrow with the proceeds. Pictured, standing, are Summer Vinson, Elle Bargar, Marley Parsons, Allison Shumate and Hailey Williams, and seated, Caroline Hammond and Alexis McDonough.

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay Ocean City 410-524-7575 www.bjsonthewater.com

Jan. 22: Over Time, 9 p.m.

Jan. 23: Chest Pains, 9 p.m.

Jan. 27: Billie Carlin, 5 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head **Towers Condominium** Ocean City 443-664-2896

www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com Every Friday: Karoake, 6-10 p.m. Every Sunday: Just Jay, 4-7 p.m. Every Wednesday: Open Mic, 8 p.m.

to midnight Every Thursday: Chris Button & Dave Sherman, 5-9 p.m.

Jan. 23: Coastal Storm, 6-10 p.m.

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CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

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Jan. 22: Monkee Paw, 5:30-9:30

Jan. 23: Sol Knopf, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Everett Spells, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road West Ocean City 410-213-1846 www.ocharborside.com

Jan. 22: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m.

Jan. 23: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.; DJ

Jeremy, 9 p.m.

Jan. 24: Opposite Directions, 2-6

p.m.; DJ Billy T, 7 p.m.

Jan. 28: 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. 22: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m.

Jan. 23: Dave Sherman, 5-10 p.m.

Jan. 28: Melissa Alesi, 5-9 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Road West Ocean City 410-213-1841 www.hootersofoc.com Jan. 23: DJ BK, 8 p.m.

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside Ocean City 410-524-7499

www.johnnyspizzapub.com

Jan. 22: OHO, 9 p.m.

Jan. 23: Slappy Hour, 9 p.m.

Jan. 27: Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys, 6 p.m.

KY WEST RESTAURANT & BAR

54th Street Ocean City 443-664-2836 www.kywestoceancity.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. 22-23: Power Play, 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. 22: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.



OVER TIME BJ'S ON THE WATER: Friday, January 22; 9 p.m.



RANDY LEE ASHCRAFT AND THE SALTWATER COWBOYS

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB: Wednesday, January 27; 6 p.m.



MONKEE PAW CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS: Saturday, January 22; 5:30-9:30 p.m.



POWER PLAY

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB: January 22-23; 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PUZZLES

TWISTING ONE'S WORDS BY JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 World-champion figure skater Thomas
- 5 "He did not just say that!"
- 11 Email letters

- 14 Nothing but
- **18** "If only ..."
- 19 Idahoan's pride
- Lubovitch
- Dance Company
- 21 Funnies drawing
- 22 Luge or figure skating
- 24 Basic
- 26 Advanced degree in math?
- army, group that marches across the earth in Revelation
- 28 Hesitate in speech
- 29 Loses juice?
- 30 Round of four
- 32 Mao's successor 33 Thickets
- 35 Dr. J's do, once
- 36 Trespass
- 37 Big swig
- 38 Daily Planet photographer 91 Highly rated issues
- 39 Pop singer Marie
- 41 Solidify
- 43 Newspaper desk
- 45 Motocross racers, for short
- 47 Clatter
- 48 Fall apart

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

- 52 The king of Egypt has a part in it
- 54 Furnace work
- 56 Advancing
- 57 Like villains, often
- 58 Blundering
- **59** 1.5 in a jigger: Abbr.
- 60 Waters who sang "Am I Blue?"
- 62 Some HDTVs
- 64 Application info
- 65 89-Down nickname, with "the"
- **67** Origin of "pooh-bah"
- 70 Pronoun with an apostrophe
- 74 Toss in
- 77 Suckers
- 78 "Lean Forward" sloganeer
- -cow
- 82 Castle-breaching explosive
- 85 Some bank jobs, for short
- 87 Shamans, e.g.
- 89 Pepsi employee
- **90** Bela Lugosi's role in "Son of Frankenstein'
- **92** Journalist Nellie who **4** Question asked went around the world
- 93 Dutch export
- **95** 19 things on a classical guitar
- 97 The "N" of NGO
- 98 Accord competitor 100 "The food of love,"
- per Shakespeare 102 Relieves (of)
- 104 PC key

- 107 Data-storage acronvm
- 108 Snitch
- 109 Symbol of strength
- 110 "To repeat ..."
- 112 Rush
- 114 Third X or O
- 115 Word with party or pail
- 117 Tony-winning role for Robert Morse
- 118 Nickname for the only man to play in a Super Bowl and a World Series
- 120 Wrongdoing
- 122 Some family histories
- 123 Single
- **124** Seedlets
- 125 Fictitious 126 Benzene derivative,
- for one 127 Sen. Gillibrand's
- home: Abbr. 128 Obsolescence
- 129 Anticipatory times

DOWN

- 1 Anticipatory times
- 2 A-teamers 3 Vietnamese sandwich
- while tapping a microphone
- _ vez (again: Sp.)
- **6** Experiences fame
- 7 State capital in a mailing address
- 8 New baby
- 9 Column on a flight board: Abbr.
- 10 Hrs. for eBay listings 68 What a film may be
- 11 Censors

- 12 It makes for smooth sailing
- 13 Drink for Hercule Poirot
- 14 Spreading belief?
- 15 Typed, as data 16 Logician's strong
- point
- 17 Building add-on 21 According to
- 23 Super G shape 25 M.R.I. readers
- 28 "Star Trek" virtual reality room
- 31
 - 33 What causes storms to swirl in opposite directions in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres
- 37 To the point ... or not pointed
- 39 Russian line
- 40 Lee who directed "Life of Pi"
- 42 War of 1812 battle site 44 Confucian doctrine
- _ libre (poetry form)
- 48 Semiliquid lump
- 49 Exude

TV

- 50 Shock, in a way
- 51 -53 Family name of old
- 55 57 Like eyes after an
- all-nighter 61 Expressions of doub
- 63 New Left org.
- 66 Plus or minus thing
- emailed as
- 69 Crawling, say 80
- 71 Last word of grace
- 72 Next-to-last word of grace, often
- 73 Bereavement

122

126

- 75 Big name in Chicago politics
- 76 1856 antislavery novel

puzzle.

- in brackets
- have happened]
- 88 Texas
- 79 "You don't know
- San Lucas, Mexico 82 Klondike bar symbol
- 83 Information often set
- 84 [This is how it might
- 86 Fury
- 89 Big media inits.
- 91 Malady caused by H2N2
- 94 Tasting like lamb 96 Shakespearean title

102

115

124

128

- 99 101 They're the pits
- 103 -

role

- 105 GPS, e.g. 106 Group of friends
- 108 Philosopher Lao-110 Org. with a hotline
- 111 Lightsaber battles 113 Some recap

125

- highlights 115 Actor Robert of "Licence to Kill" and "The Goonies"
- 116 Facility 118 Intel org. officially formed by Truman
- 119 -
- 120 Up-to-date
- 121 -

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HARD - 84

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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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Five promotions announced at Taylor Bank

(Jan. 21, 2016) Raymond M. Thompson, president and CEO of Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company in Berlin, recently announced several

Peggy Welsh has been promoted to executive vice president. Welsh has been with

the bank for 37 years. During her career, she has primarily worked in the Ocean City market as a branch manager, and later, served as regional manager of the Ocean City area branches.

In 2014, Welsh was promoted to chief of branch administration and relocated to the bank's main office in Berlin. Welsh currently directs the operations, management and staffing of the bank's entire branch network.

Tina Kolarik has been promoted to executive vice president. Kolarik has been with the bank for 34 years. During her career, Kolarik has managed several Taylor Bank branches, and later, served







Dean Lewis



Alvsson DuPont



Donna Weaver

Management as well as other human resources related credentials.

Donna Weaver has been promoted to assistant vice president. Weaver has been with the bank for four years. She currently serves as the

Society for Human Resource

bank's compliance officer and internal auditor, where she oversees the internal audit and compliance department of the bank, including department person-

Weaver has been in banking for more than 32 years, having served in various previous management level capacities in the operations, lending and compliance fields.

Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company, founded in 1890 in Berlin, offers a wide range of loan, deposit, and ancillary banking services through 10 offices located in Worcester County and lower Sussex County, Del.

as regional manager of the bank's branches in Berlin, Ocean Pines and

southern Worcester County. In 2014, Kolarik was promoted to chief operating officer. Kolarik currently directs the operations, management and staffing of the bank's Information Technology, Electronic Services and Bookkeeping departments.

Dean Lewis has been promoted to vice president. Lewis has been with the bank for four years.

In 2013, Lewis was promoted to chief financial officer. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has more than 13 years of experience in public accounting and taxation.

He currently oversees the finance and accounting functions of the bank, including department personnel. Lewis is also a member of the bank's Board of

Alvsson DuPont has been promoted to vice president. DuPont has been with the bank for eight years.

She currently serves as the bank's human resources manager, where she oversees all facets of the human resources function of the bank, including employee training.

DuPont holds certifications as a human resources professional from the

Registration open for Delmarva Birding Weekend

(Jan. 21, 2016) Due to the popularity of the annual Delmarva Birding Weekend, organizers are now offering two of the celebrated birding extravaganzas in both January and April.

"We enjoy such a big difference in bird species in winter and spring, it just made sense to open up two weekends," said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger. Now duck, raptor and shorebird lovers can get a winter taste of Delmarva, Jan. 29-31, during the first Delmarva Birding Weekend of 2016."

Traveling thousands of miles, the harlequin ducks, razorbills, swans, shorebirds and falcons are on full display in the mid-Atlantic for about four months a year.

Guided by local birders with decadeslong experience on the shore, the walking tours, boat trips and canoe and kayak paddles during both weekends will accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Every year, birdwatchers from surrounding states flock to the event.

"If participants thought the April

weekend was spectacular, wait until they see what winter has to offer," said guide and organizer Jim Rapp. "The sheer number of bald eagles and ducks will blow people away."

Boasting patient and fun-loving guides, the new winter trips will feature a near-shore maritime boat cruise to enjoy pelagic and arctic migrants, eaglewatching trips, and jaunts in Delaware and Maryland through some of the most pristine habitats on the East Coast.

"Delaware is teeming with bird species in winter," said Southern Delaware Tourism Director Scott Thomas. "And this is a great place to experience them.'

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country's premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

If counting that many species isn't enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they've helped Delmarva's birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation.

Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants and shops. Participants are encouraged to remind local businesses that they are here to enjoy Delmarva's natural areas and the birds that inhabit them.

"It's our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and bald cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation," Rapp said. "During the Weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to birders, and our waterborne trips go where the birds are.

Co-organizer Dave Wilson added that none of the trips are physically taxing and that either event provides a rare opportunity to tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible to

The April event, which celebrates the migration of the spring suite of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors, will open for registration soon and takes place April 21-24.

Sponsors for the events include Southern Delaware Tourism, the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center, Worcester County Tourism, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, the Delmarva Almanac, the Howard Johnson's Oceanfront Plaza Hotel, Days Inn Ocean City, the Boardwalk Hotel Group, Fager's Lighthouse, Town of Snow Hill, the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin, Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy, Somerset County Tourism, The Avenue Inn and the Breakers Hotel and Suites.

Additional sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com.

To become a sponsor or for additional information, contact Rapp at 443-614-0261 or Wilson at 443-523-2201 or Conservation Community Consulting at conservationcc@gmail.com.

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CALENDAR

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.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THURS, Jan. 21

WORCESTER COUNTY TEA PARTY SPEAKER SERIES — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m. Paul Johnston, Emergency Preparation Expert, will discuss "Prepping 101: Overview of How to Prepare for an Emergency or Disaster." Free and open to the public. Info: WCTPPatriots@gmail.com, www.worcestercountyteaparty.com, www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyTeaParty or 443-614-7214

PINE'EER CRAFT CLUB MEETING — Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Refreshments at 9:45 a.m., business meeting and planning session at 10 a.m. No craft this month.

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

YOUNG & RESTLESS 'SPACE TRAVEL' -

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Science, art and imagination for 3 to 7 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-208-

STORY TIME 'SNOWFLAKES' — 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.

LEARN TO MAKE A TOOTHBRUSH RUG -

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 2 p.m. Toothbrush rugs get their name from the tool used to create them and resemble that of a braided or crocheted rug. Register: 410-641-0650.

HOMEMADE SODAS AND SYRUPS -

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Make your own root beer and syrups. Info: 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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BFD DONATION

Bennett Termite and Pest Control recently donated \$500 to the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary. The donation will be used toward the purchase of a new fire truck that the department is mandated to buy. Dean and Belinda Bennett challenge local businesses to meet or exceed their donation within the next two months. To make a donation to the fire company, call 410-352-5757 or 443-235-2926.

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. 22

$\textbf{MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT} - \mathrm{Old}$

Pro Golf, 6801 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. There will be food, beverages, DJ Joe Daddy and raffles. Cost is \$100 for a team of four. Reserve a team: Jen, 302-236-8131. All proceeds go to Children's House By the Sea and support Mike Ciorrocco for prom king.

MARCH FOR LIFE PRAYER BREAKFAST —

Holy Savior Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City. Rosary at 8 a.m., Mass at 8:30 a.m. and continental breakfast. Guest speaker is John Lemon. RSVP: 410-289-0652.

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.

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

SAT. Jan. 23

BASKETS AND MORE! BINGO NIGHT -

Stephen Decatur High School, cafeteria, 9913 Seahawk Road, Berlin. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 6 p.m. Prizes include Longaberger baskets, Pampered Chef, Vera Bradley, cash and more. Tickets cost \$20. Reservations: 410-603-1397 or 410-524-9000. Also, 50/50, raffle, special games and Chinese auction. Food and beverages available for sale. Sponsored by Quota International of Ocean City, Maryland, Inc. Info: permitink@verizon.net.

NATURE IN FLIGHT — Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1 p.m. Children, 5 years and older, create things to fly and test them out. Info: 410-524-

1212

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, 24

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

CALENDAR

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 FAM- ILY GROUP MEETING — Woodlands in Ocean Pines, Independent Living Apartment Building, 1135 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7:30 p.m.

MON. Jan. 25

WINTER FUNDRAISER — Burley Oak
Brewing Company, 10016 Old Ocean
City Blvd., Berlin, 6 p.m. Featuring guest
bartenders, silent auction, 50/50, prizeboard and music by Darin Engh, Nate
Clendenen and Sean Loomis beginning
at 8 p.m. Ten percent of bar ring and
half of tips go to Maryland Coastal Bays
Program and the Lower Shore Land
Trust. Info: Sandi Smith, sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or 410-213-2297, Ext.

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.

CPAP MASK FITTING — Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free, monthly mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-0726

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.

MANDALAS: COLORING FOR ADULTS -

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn the benefits of coloring and why it is being used as a type of creative therapy. Learn about mandalas and their meanings. Info: 410-524-1818.

EASY STEPS TO HOLISTIC HEALTH — Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Learn simple steps to be on the path of having a healthy body and mind. Info: 410-632-3495.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY — The Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adeline's, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Com-

munity Center, 239 Ocean Parkway. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. Info: 410-641-6876.

TUES. Jan. 26

YOUNG & RESTLESS 'SPACE TRAVEL' -

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30 a.m. Science, art and imagination for 3 to 7 year old children. Info: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-641-0650.

EARLY STEM STORIES & ACTIVITIES —

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Children, 3 years and older, will be introduced to science, technology, engineering and math. Info: 410-957-0878.

TAI CHI — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Six-week course to learn the ancient art of Tai Chi with instructor Kim Reed. Register: 410-208-4014.

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 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. 27

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP - At-

lantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 7-8 p.m. The group gathers the fourth Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is not necessary. Info: Pastoral Care Services, 410-641-9725 or gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org.

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

FAMILY NIGHT 'LET'S GO WILD FOR ANI-

MALS' – Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Animal activities for everyone: stories, crafts, games and fun. Info: 410-641-0650.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SIMPLE SUPPER

- Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway (behind St. Luke's Church), Ocean City, fourth Wednesday of each month, 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$7. Cash bar. Info: 410-524-7994.

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,

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.

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.

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.

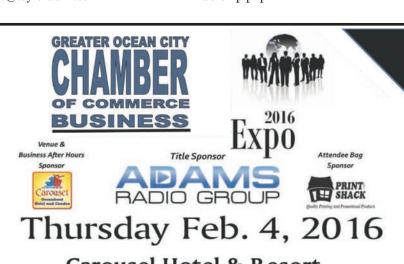
OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEET-ING — Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Info: 410-641-1700 or kbates@taylorbank.com.

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

BOWLING FUNDRAISER — Ocean Lanes, 115 72nd St., Ocean City, Jan. 30, noon to 2 p.m. Cost is \$200 per four person team. Prizes awarded. Reserve a spot: Paul "Speedy" Tracey, 410-430-6829 by Jan. 27. All proceeds go to Children's House By the Sea and support Tracey for prom king.

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB — The group dances to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina Beach music doing the jitterbug, swing, cha-cha, etc. Dances are held in the Fenwick Island and Ocean City areas. For the group's schedule, call 302-200-3262 (DANCE). Sign up for the group's newsletter at www.delmarvahanddancing.com/membership.php.



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Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matrona/Resort Homes
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 11-2pm	128 Hingham Lane #17, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$299,000	Mickey Lobb/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday 11-3pm	Summer House, 120th St., Bayside	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$350,000	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Saturday 11-1	11000 Coastal Hwy., The Capri	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$289,500	Christopher Barnes/Long & Foster
Saturday 2-4	110 81st St., Bay Princess	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$214,900	Christopher Barnes/Long & Foster
Sunday Noon - 2	203 33rd St., Jamaica Daybreak I	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$113,900	Christopher Barnes/Long & Foster
Sat & Sun 10-5pm	Sunset Island, Ocean City	-	Condos, Towns & SF	From \$342,500	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort Realty
Sun. 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	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	5 11769 Maid at Arms Way	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	From \$489,900	Evergreene Homes
Sun. 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	5 Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2 Full & 2 Half BA	Townhome	From \$294,371	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty



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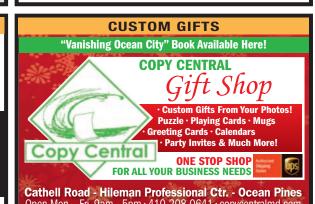
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