



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OP GM Thompson tackles 'different' board of directors

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) Although his name was nowhere to be found on the ballot during the 2014 election in Ocean Pines, General Manager Bob Thompson became the focus of the campaign, with issues ranging from his contract extension to the interpretation of his role as GM often leading the narrative.

Thompson is now facing unfamiliar territory operating under the direction of the new board, led by newly elected President Dave Stevens.

In an exclusive interview with the Bayside Gazette, Thompson addressed the political landscape in the Pines for the first time since the election shook up community leadership.

Thompson began serving as general manager of the Ocean Pines Association in August 2010, following a brief stint on the board of directors.

"I've been in the community 24-25 years now," he said. "I served on several committees and raised my kids here. Of anybody, I can say I've pretty much filled every role here."

Under the new board, Thompson said his role within the organization has not changed, although his activities certainly have.

"How I conduct my daily business and how I go about accomplishing my duties has changed," he said. "I try to work within the guidelines of whatever board I'm working with, whatever their guidelines are, and still perform my duties to the fullest."

"I know it rubs people wrong, but the general manager really works for the membership," Thompson continued. "Every staff member works for the membership. My role as general manager, though, I work through the board, because the board does the hiring and firing of the general manager. I have to find a way to do my job as outlined in the bylaws. I have to do my job in supporting the declarations and restrictions as written, making sure the staff is following up with that, and do so within the confines or constraints or lack of constraints depending on the board and what the board's current posturing might be."

Thompson said his relationship with the current board is "very different" than it was under its previous president, Tom Terry.

"Under the previous boards, my ability to be more flexible and my approach to daily activities and my ability to think a little more outside the box was not only there, but it was encouraged," he said.

See THOMPSON Page 5

EXPLORING BERLIN

The Worldwide Berlin project examines the similarities – and sharp contrasts – between Berlins in more than 100 countries across the globe, including Bolivia. See story on page 7.

Historic Atlantic Hotel celebrates 120th birthday

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) The Atlantic Hotel, the centerpiece of downtown Berlin, turns 120 years old this year and the families who joined to bring it back to life in the 1980s after years of neglect will be honored at a fundraiser at the hotel on Friday, Jan. 30.

"We encourage everyone who loves Berlin and wants to see another year of successful economic progress to attend the tapas and wine tasting fundraising event," said Angela Reynolds, the managing director for Fager's Island, which operates the landmark. "All proceeds will go to the promotion of the Town of Berlin during 2015 in the name of the Atlantic Hotel investors."

Wines and food from France, Spain, Italy and Germany will be featured. During the evening, appreciation certificates for visionary leadership will be presented to each of the 10 families involved in the restoration.

The Atlantic Hotel dates back to 1895, when a fire demolished the entire downtown of Berlin. The mayor and council at that time decided all new structures would be built of brick.

Horace and Virginia Harmonson felt

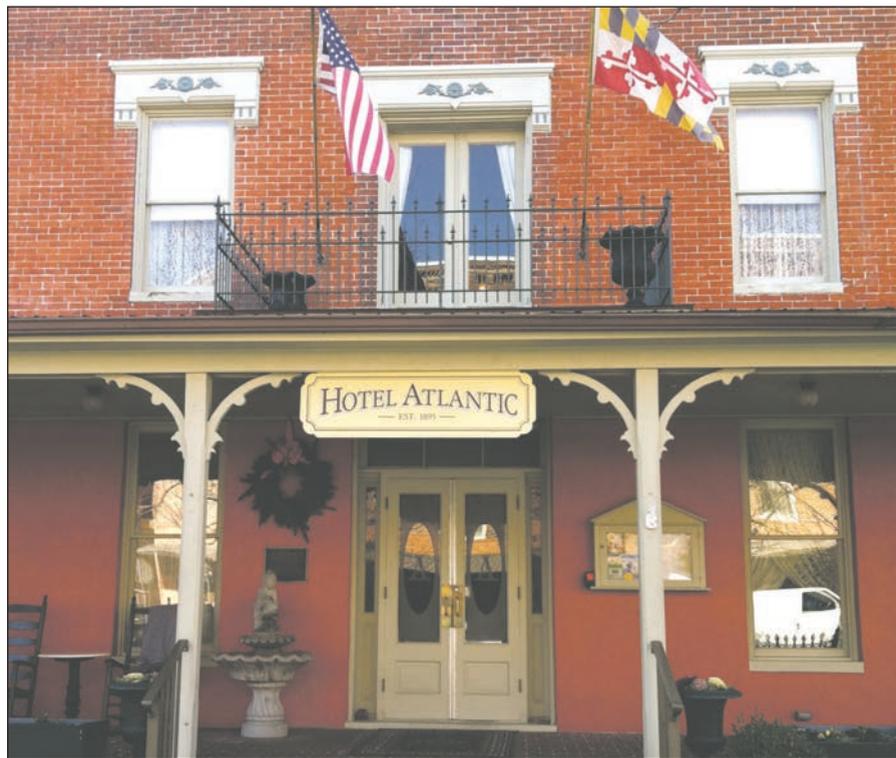


PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA REYNOLDS

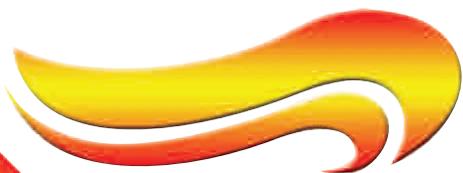
The Atlantic Hotel in Berlin is turning 120 years old and to celebrate, an event to honor the families who were responsible for the 1980's restoration of the hotel is planned for Friday, Jan. 30.

Berlin needed an inn to accommodate the numerous traveling "drummers" who traveled throughout the region selling their wares.

The Atlantic Hotel, which also had a fine dining room, was built in the center of the community. Harmonson added a stable to the rear of the hotel, where

horses and carriages could be rented. In addition, he had a horse-drawn bus that transported guests and picked them up at the train station. Families also were able to rent carriages to visit Ocean City's beaches.

But by the 1960s and 1970s the At-
See RESTORING Page 4



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Restoring hotel was 'labor of love' for Berlin group

Continued from Page 1
Atlantic Hotel had lost its former glory. An addition built in front of the hotel in 1946 where a garden once stood was occupied by stores, while other portions the hotel were home to what was described as unsavory characters. Town officials even thought about tearing it down for a parking lot.

Meanwhile, the town itself was hardly flourishing and some members of the community believed that to save the town they had to save the hotel. In the spring of 1986, local businessman Jim Barrett talked to local attorney Ed Hammond about buying the dilapidated property. Both men, now deceased, had restored other buildings in the community.

After agreeing to take on the project, they contacted father and son businessmen William "Junior" Esham and Billy Esham, along with accountant Bill Mariner because of their known interest in Berlin.

Mariner was asked to make an analysis for restoration and operation of the Atlantic Hotel. His conclusion was the hotel could not make it without repairs, but he was interested in becoming a partner.

Elizabeth Hall was one of the first investors, but she died before the restoration was complete.

Others liked the idea of Atlantic



PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA REYNOLDS

The Atlantic Hotel shown here in 1926, is turning 120 years old. To celebrate this milestone, an event to recognize the families who were responsible for the 1980's restoration of the Berlin hotel will take place on Friday, Jan. 30.

Hotel's restoration and a partnership with 10 shares was formed. The investors were James and Nancy Barrett, Reese Cropper Jr., William and Anna Esham, William and Gloria Esham, Elizabeth Henry Hall, Clark and Jeanne Hamilton, Edward Hammond Jr., Richard and Cheryl Holland, Charles "Buddy" Jenkins and William and Susan Mariner.

Reese Cropper, retired banker, was convinced into investing after listening to a sales pitch by Hammond and Barrett. The men told Cropper restoration

of the hotel was a way to improve the town's image, in addition to giving back to the community.

The partners left restoration and business details primarily to Hammond and Mariner throughout the process.

"I have never been a part of a partnership where everything worked," Cropper recalled this week. "I think since we all knew we weren't getting anything out of it, there was no disappointment. The project cost was double the amount we originally thought, but everyone came up

with the money for its completion."

Hammond and Mariner and their wives traveled for two years to find furniture for the hotel. It was important for the pieces to be accurate to Victorian times. They looked everywhere from old chicken houses to antique markets.

"We are all locals who grew up here and go back many generations. We all knew one another, went to school together and it was important to us," Susan Mariner said. "It was a labor of

See HISTORIC Page 5

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Historic hotel provided spark to Berlin economy

Continued from Page 4
love, Berlin is a small town and we are so proud of it.”

Billy Esham said he decided to invest because his father asked him to contribute. He lived in Berlin and had watched the area deteriorate throughout the years.

“Truthfully, in my heart I knew it was not a good investment, but teaming up to restore the hotel was one of my proudest moments,” Esham said. “It was an act of love for all 10 partners.”

The partnership contacted two local banks, Peninsula Bank and Calvin B. Taylor, asking for a loan of \$1 million. By all accounts, the bank boards had trouble figuring out why 10 successful business people were applying for a loan to lose money, but soon realized the significance and agreed to make the loan.

A local contractor, Larry Widgeon, was hired to complete the restoration and close to \$1.5 million later, the hotel opened in late summer of 1988. The restored hotel was an instant success, albeit of no economic benefit to the partners. But what it did do was spark a resurgence of economic activity throughout the downtown.

Major motion pictures “Runaway Bride” and “Tuck Everlasting” were both shot at the Atlantic Hotel.

In 2009, John Fager, owner of Fager’s Island restaurant in Ocean City

along with a pair of boutique hotels, The Edge and the Lighthouse Club, leased the Atlantic Hotel from the partners.

He provided further upgrades by adding new antiques to the rooms, replaced the aging linens, rearranging the rooms and building on the Victorian feel. In addition, he turned the fine dining area into a ballroom for meetings or parties. He wanted the hotel to closely resemble its original look in 1895.

Currently, the hotel has 17 rooms with period furniture, plush bedding and Italian linens. The historic Drummer’s Café has served the community lunch and dinner for more than 100 years.

Since Budget Travel named Berlin “America’s Coolest Small Town” last summer, the proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to the Town of Berlin to continue the ongoing celebration.

“This event is honoring the original 10 investors who were responsible for the total restoration of the hotel as well as providing a new beginning for Berlin,” Reynolds said.

The party will be held in the Atlantic Hotel Ballroom on Friday, Jan. 30 from 5:30-8 p.m. and tickets cost \$35 per person. They can be purchased at the hotel or at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. To purchase tickets, call the Atlantic Hotel at 410-641-3589.

For more information, visit www.atlantichotel.com.

Thompson acknowledges contention with OP board

Continued from Page 1
said. “Being out in front, addressing issues head on was something highly encouraged by the last three boards I’ve had under the leadership of Tom Terry.

“This particular board prefers my role to be more in the background and not in the forefront,” Thompson continued. “Less out front, less opportunistic with my approach, therefore I’ve dialed back a little bit. It’s challenging because I’m a more driven person. However my biggest concern isn’t my ability to adapt to the board, because that’s something I definitely need to do.”

Thompson is confident he has demonstrated his ability to adapt within his role as general manager.

“However, still trying to meet the expectations of the senior leadership of the board still seems to be a big challenge,” he said. “I’m not sure why. I’ve never had that anywhere else I’ve ever been. I’m having some challenges in that area.”

The perception, from the outside, is that the board and Thompson have a contentious relationship.

“Absolutely,” Thompson said. “I’m not sure where that comes from. The fact that I have continued to adapt my activities and my approach – and it’s still not being received well by the senior leadership of the board – I’m not sure.

I’m certainly doing my very best to adapt to the changing conditions.”

Thompson signed a new three-year contract in early 2014 with a base salary of \$165,000, a \$15,000 raise over his previous contract.

Almost immediately, the extension became an election issue.

“It’s always uncomfortable for me,” Thompson said. “I don’t focus on the amount I make. It’s not something I’ve ever focused on. If you do the right thing every day and you do it to the best of your ability, things like your contract, how much you’re paid, they all follow. It’s staying focused in the right direction that makes the difference.

“For me, when it becomes a big argument about the dollars, it becomes a bit uncomfortable because that really isn’t a focus for me,” Thompson continued. “Doing the right thing and doing my very best in whatever task I’m in is what the most important part of it is. And if I do that I know I’ll be fairly compensated.”

Thompson said he thought it was a fair contract and believes the public perception of his job performance was generally positive.

“I believe from the feedback I get that it is,” he said. “However, from the senior leadership of the board I tend to get, See OP Page 6

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OP GM focuses on positives despite political differences

Continued from Page 5

based on their reactions to my activities, it seems to differ a little bit. Really, it's hard to read right now."

Asked if he felt his position was threatened by the current board, Thompson pointed toward the historical lack of longevity that comes with the role of general manager.

"The average turnover in the role here, and at any [home owner's association] in this type of position, is two-and-a-half to three years," he said. "Some previous GMs have certainly been here longer than that. Tim Stoner was here 12-plus years, so we can show longevity. But, I think as the makeup of the board changes, it puts every general manager at risk because the current board may say, 'This isn't the direction that we want to move in.'"

"This person may or may not be the right person, and that's why the contract was written the way it was," Thompson continued. "The board has an out. If I'm not the right person driving the bus, they have an opportunity to do it. Just do it the right way."

Under Ocean Pines community by-laws, the board elects a handful of new directors each year, while others continue to serve on three-year terms.

According to Thompson, the situation tends to invite uncertainty.

"When you have an election every

year it creates the opportunity for the direction to shift or change every year," Thompson said. "When you're trying to look at long-term stability or long-term positioning on any one item that constant turnover creates some challenges. So you would hope that you have some consistency, either amongst the direction of board or your senior staff, from the general manager to the department heads."

"Without consistency in one area or the other, it does create challenges," Thompson continued. "Over the years, Ocean Pines has been fortunate. Because we have such great membership, we have a lot of wonderful people here who do a lot of great things. We've been able to overcome those challenges in many other ways."

Thompson pointed to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines and the recent flag-raising at the yacht club honoring World War II veterans, as well as weekly activities provided by parks and recreation and aquatics, as positive actions that occurred because of community involvement.

"All those things are really more about what Ocean Pines is about," Thompson said. "That's where the focus should remain. Lately we've had more focus on the differences amongst the senior leadership and less focus on the real positive things our community



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines General Manager Bob Thompson spoke exclusively to the Bayside Gazette about the sometimes-contentious relationship between the GM and board of directors.

stands for.

"That's where the real disconnect for me is," Thompson continued. "We do so much more in our community – the membership of the community represents so much more good than this minor, small bickering, and it's a shame that we tend to focus on the negatives more so than all the positives."

Thompson said he looks at Ocean Pines as a "marketable entity."

"It's supposed to be run business-like," he said. "If you sit down and look at it from a business-like [perspective], does all of the negativity that gets put forward help the bottom-line value of the organization? I'd argue that any Fortune 500 company would say, 'no.' Bickering hurts the stock value, and in our case, the property value."

"A lot of people that move to the community, when they first get here, talk about how wonderful it is, all the amenities, all the great things we have to offer, how economical it is," Thompson continued. "But after a number of years of being here and then you get consistently bombarded with negative, we start to lose sight of all the reasons we moved here, all the positive that's created here, all the great things that membership does, because that gets lost in all the ugliness of what's not right, what's perceived as not right."

Being optimistic, Thompson said, is part of the job description.

"I would hope that any general manager [or] CEO of a company always feels great about the company," Thompson

said. "If that person in that senior role doesn't feel good about the company what does that say about the company?"

"I don't even think it's an option not to feel good," Thompson continued. "If you don't feel good – if you're a senior player in any organization and you don't feel good about that organization something's wrong. I get criticized for being excited or optimistic. You really want someone pessimistic about the organization they're serving? It doesn't add up for me."

Looking back at the 2014 election that saw Stevens and Pat Renaud oust incumbents Terri Mohr and Jeff Knepper, Thompson said participation and visibility is always higher in seemingly contentious environments.

"If they're upset about something they're going to be involved," he said.

Thompson said his obligation was ultimately to the membership and his staff.

"I'll always stay focused with that," he said. "I'll certainly tailor my activities to meet the board requirements or whatever the board believes is the right direction, but I've got to be true to myself."

"I understand that my primary focus needs to be the membership, and I never lose sight of that," Thompson continued. "Everything I do every day is focused on how do we make this a better place, regardless of other pressures. I focus on that because our membership deserves that. If the person sitting in this chair isn't always focused on that then they're focused on the wrong thing."

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Jim Adcock Studio

Film and website looks at Berlins across world

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) "Worldwide Berlin," a new cross-media documentary, explores more than 100 Berlins, from the obvious in Germany, to lesser-known Berlins in Papua New Guinea, South Africa and El Salvador.

DW-TV, a Berlin, Germany-based broadcasting company, launched the three-hour, four-part feature on Jan. 10 in four languages: German, English, Spanish and Arabic.

While the film explores life in the German capital and six other Berlins over the course of a 24-hour day, an interactive website provides a small glimpse into many more Berlins across the globe.

"We have been working on this project for almost two years," Martin Koddenberg, producer of the web documentary and director of the South African portion of the feature film, said. "It started off with someone finding a picture from Berlin, Brazil. We were puzzled by it. It just looked so unlike the Berlin we knew. It felt too strange and too exotic not to be doing anything with it."

When a local television broadcaster approached the creative team, asking for help with a New Year's segment, Koddenberg said, "it immediately clicked."

"We sent out a couple of video journalists to capture video footage of worldwide Berliners sending their New Year's greetings to Berlin, Germany," he said. "We also asked them to shoot some additional footage for us to see if we could develop it into some kind of project. The footage they brought back was amazing and it all went from there."

Koddenberg learned that most Berlins emerged as the result of migration movements. In remote areas, including Papua New Guinea, settlement dates back to early colonial days.

"They tell you of their tribal ancestors who literally lived in the bushes until the white man came along, told them to hand over their valuables and bow to Kaiser William," Koddenberg said. "It always sends a little shudder down my spine."

Beyond the names, the documentary found different thematic links to tie different Berlins together.

"In the film, we link them together with collages that continually interrupt the 24-hour narrative," Koddenberg said. "They often feature seemingly mundane tasks that gain a deeper meaning when put into a global context."

Automobile traffic in Germany cuts to skiing in Russia, luxury sedans in Ohio, motorcycles in Guinea, and canoes in Papua New Guinea.

For the website, the group used a bridging mechanism to jump between different locations.

See BERLINERS Page 8



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Photographers from Berlins across the world submitted shots to the Worldwide Berlin multimedia project, including this one from Guinea.

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Berliners asked to join in 'Worldwide' doc

Continued from Page 7

"When browsing Germany, a clip about a living room will suggest looking at a living room in Nicaragua," Koddenberg said. "So we overcome distances effortlessly; we jump climate and time zones, we switch between Bolivia, Guinea, Germany, Ohio, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Canada, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and Russia – yet, we always stay in Berlin."

The filmmakers also made use of the differences between the varying cultures.

The strangest experience, according to Koddenberg, involved eating a sheep's head in South Africa

"A guy who can't quite remember his own age cuts them in half by splitting the skull," he said. "The tongue then falls to the side, it's called a 'smilie.' After some good boiling, the few bits of meat are tender, but the skin is really chewy and tastes of old leather. It's not really for me."

All told, the research team gathered information about 117 different Berlins.

"It was painstaking work, yet they proved themselves relentless," Koddenberg said.

That includes, of course, the one in Maryland.

"We did come across Berlin, Md. very early on," Koddenberg said. "We

found a picture of the former mayor visiting the former mayor of West-Berlin, Germany in 1987 to celebrate the city's 750th anniversary."

The website includes an interactive exploration of Berlin, Md. with photos and a number of factoids.

According to the site, "This Berlin is known for being 'historically charming and artistically alive,' especially due to its beautiful Victorian architecture. In 2014 it won the BudgetTravel.com contest for America's Coolest Small Town. Its beautiful backdrops were featured in the films 'Tuck Everlasting' and 'Runaway Bride.'"

On the origin of the name, World Wide Berlin states, "The name has nothing to do with the German Berlin. At the site of the today's Berlin two important trade routes crossed there in the end of the 18th century. There was also a business named 'Burleigh Inn.'"

The site also notes that Berlin, Md. is 6655 kilometers from Berlin, Germany.

Koddenberg said the filmmakers are continuing to collect information about Berlins through the website.

"Worldwide Berlin doesn't work without user participation," Koddenberg said. "We need the Berliners from Maryland to send us pictures of their Berlin."

Facebook users can upload photos to the Worldwide Berlin Facebook.

Pictures with the most "likes" receive a prize package.

"This project is all about exploring," Koddenberg said. "Hopefully people will have as much fun watching our project as we had making it. We spent a long time trying to create

an immersive online experience. I hope we created something that is equally engaging, inspiring, as well as food for your senses."

For more information visit www.worldwideberlin.com or www.facebook.com/WorldWideBerlin.

SHA study, sinkholes, pushes back traffic on Md. Route 90

By Brian Gilliland
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2015) The State Highway Administration is conducting its annual review of bridges, leading to one-lane traffic patterns on the Route 90 bridge, intending to complete the process by late next week.

During the inspection, a small sinkhole formed at the eastbound portion of the bridge crossing the St. Martin River in the shoulder. The hole, SHA officials said, was approximately three feet wide and four feet deep, and will be plugged by grout. The hole has since been covered and the SHA will be seeking a contractor to perform the repairs, Charlie Gischlar, SHA spokesperson, said.

The work to ensure the safety of the bridge is taking a long time to complete owing to the overall length of the

bridge, Gischlar said.

The inspection began Jan. 12.

Work will continue between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. until Jan. 29, Gischlar said.

During the work hours, only one lane will be open to traffic. Employees will use familiar flags to control traffic.

"I would suggest using Route 50," Gischlar said.

Maryland SHA reports it performs inspections on the overpasses and bridges it is responsible for every two years. Underwater inspections are conducted every four years. Non-SHA bridges are also on the two-year inspection schedule. Toll bridges are inspected annually.

Gischlar said the inspections are taking place now because of the reduced traffic load on the roads the bridges serve.



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A sinkhole was discovered Tuesday afternoon at the eastbound foot of the portion of the Route 90 bridge crossing the St. Martin River in the shoulder. A State Highway Administration official said the hole measured about three feet across and about four feet deep before being covered and rendered safe for travel Tuesday afternoon. A contractor will be hired to complete the repairs.



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OP gets first look at 2016 budget

Draft includes \$25 hike, raising annual membership fee to \$934 per property

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) The public got its first look at the Ocean Pines Association's fiscal year 2016 budget during last week's Budget and Finance committee work sessions at the country club.

The proposed \$10.9 million budget includes a \$25 increase in membership fees, which raises the total to \$934 per property.

Public works and police showed the two largest budgetary shortfalls, with deficits of \$1.2 million, or \$146 per property owner, and \$1.16 million, or \$137 per property owner, respectively.

General maintenance forecasts a loss of \$472,000, or \$56 per property owner, fire/EMS estimates a \$485,321 loss, \$57 per property owner, recreation sees a \$522,969 loss at \$62 per property owner, aquatics is eyeing a shortfall of \$113,000, \$13 per property owner, and the yacht club predicts an \$87,868 loss at \$10 per property owner.

The golf course budget, which has been the subject of debate, projects a \$14,124 estimated loss in fiscal year

2016. While still in the red, those numbers represent a bullish outlook after the course lost \$536,901 in 2013 and \$326,048 in 2014. Numbers for 2015 are still fluid, although the current projection is a \$91,000 loss.

'My area of concern is the ballooning parks and rec budget, because we continue to pick up more services for out-of-Ocean Pines residents. Of course, we don't have to do that. I think there's a point in time where we say, 'Here's the line - we're not going to cross this line.' We can't continue to grow like this.'

Committee member
Dennis Hudson

Budget numbers for the police department remained relatively flat over the previous year, despite department requests to raise entry-level pay from \$38,000 to \$41,000. Three current employees would be affected by the increase.

The largest capital improvements in the proposed budget include \$175,000 for bridge repairs on Ocean Parkway and Clubhouse Drive, com-

ing from the public works budget.

Aquatics asked for \$100,000 to expand the concrete deck around the Beach Club pool, \$100,000 to resurface the Sports Core pool, \$50,000 to resurface the Sports Core pool deck, \$22,558.87 for bases, chairs, tables and umbrellas and \$12,000 to install a kitchen and snack bar at the Swim and Racket pool.

Recreation and parks requested \$145,000 for a new bathroom facility at White Horse Park and \$45,000 to replace existing software.

Committee Chair Patricia Supik called the proposed budget "imminently doable."

"It's flat, really," she said. "With a couple of the amenities there might be a slight risk in the budget, but I think it's minimal. The dollars are not in any way significant to the bottom line considering the size of the community."

"When I ran down the changes year over year, not a lot popped out," Supik continued. "The yacht club maybe a little better result than last year, but that makes total sense to me given the yacht club will be open a full year and there's been a chance to really get the operations improved there. I think that's doable."

Committee member Dennis Hudson said he was unconcerned about the yacht club projections because of

See OP Page 10

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OP golf forecast raises eyebrows

Continued from Page 9

the relatively low cost per resident.

"We have bigger things we should be looking at that are a lot more cost to the individual," he said. "I think that we've been concentrating our whole life on \$10 and we've got other ones that are \$137. I think we would do better to direct our time towards the bigger fish.

"My area of concern is the ballooning parks and rec budget, because we continue to pick up more services for out-of-Ocean Pines residents," Hudson continued. "Of course, we don't have to do that. I think there's a point in time where we say, 'Here's the line - we're not going to cross this line.' We can't continue to grow like this."

The committee met with General Manager Bob Thompson, as well as several department heads throughout the week.

Following a presentation by Thompson and additional comment from Golf Course Superintendent Rusty McLendon and PGA Director of Golf John Malinowski, the committee pressed for, but did not receive, answers from attending board members about the future management of the course as the directors continue to explore options other than Billy Casper Golf.

Supik admitted the committee was also "back and forth" regarding

the \$14,124 projection.

"The golf course is kind of in a learning phase," Supik said. "Finally, last year was the first year we had the golf course fully operational, so that's a little bit of a new business in a way.

"I'm not sure what the market is," Supik continued. "I hear that golf is declining everywhere and I think that it is somewhat aggressive in some of the more kind of shoulder months for the golf course. I'm not an expert in that arena, but I think it's maybe a little bit of a reach in the off months."

Hudson also expressed reservations about the projections.

"We've got a professional manager managing it and I would say if they don't meet the budget then I would say we need to make a change," he said. "As far as how accurate their forecasting is on things like golf rounds, I have no idea. I have no way to know because we really don't get into the mechanics of how they produce the budget. Is it possible? I think it's possible. Is it likely? Probably not."

The committee appeared to support the software upgrade at recreation and parks, and Supik said the group wanted a stronger push in information technology improvements communitywide, including better Wi-Fi at all of the amenities.

"The committee supports infor-

mation technology, developing, moving forward, becoming a little more up to 2015 in that area," she said. "I know a lot of companies bigger than Ocean Pines struggle with that today. The committee felt that was very important."

Some issues, including the increase in the Fire/EMS budget that drove \$24 of the \$25 membership increase, will likely be left up to the board according to Supik.

The committee debated the reallocation of \$48,000 in revenue from the beach parking to aquatics, although Supik suggested that too would be left for board debate.

"We went back and forth about that," she said. "I think you could make an argument for or against. When you buy the beach parking package, you get four passes to [the sports core] pool, so there's kind of a cost of that pool in that revenue stream. It could make sense.

"The bottom line dollars are what they are and that little bit of allocation, some committee members were in favor - some were not - so we would probably not address that in our recommendation," Supik continued.

Supik said she is finalizing recommendations and communicating with other committee members in anticipation of a presentation to the board of directors on Monday, Jan. 26.

Planning sessions look to map future projects in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) Town officials met with facilitator Christine Becker last Thursday, as Berlin kicked off a series of strategic planning sessions designed to build a municipal road map for the next five years.

The four-hour work session included brainstorming on what makes the town tick, as well as an exploration of Berlin's future and a preliminary list of target issues.

"The Town of Berlin has gone through many transitions since its incorporation more than 150 years ago," Berlin Mayor Gee Williams said. "It is apparent to everyone who is paying attention that Berlin is in the middle of another significant transformation economically, socially and culturally."

Williams said the meetings served as "the first step in a communitywide process of determining where we go from here."

"The guidance we are given through this process will not only greatly influence the future direction of Berlin, but will have a great deal of implying what is important to our family and what we collectively call our shared quality of life," Williams said.

In determining the town's next step, Williams said the town would connect with residents, people who work or volunteer in Berlin, and "regular guests."

"It's taken the active involvement and support of a significant number of people from every part of the family of Berlin to accomplish what has been done since the beginning of Berlin's revitalization," Williams said.

Williams also asked town staff to "lead by example" during the process.

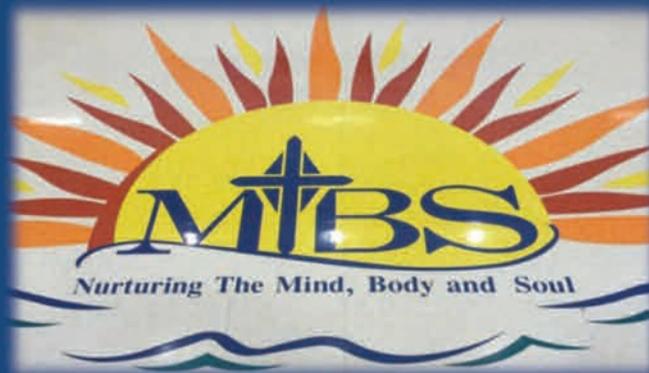
"This is an exciting time for the town of Berlin," he said. "Let us begin the process that will help us carve the path we will pave together that will benefit not only those who are members of the family of Berlin today, but for the generations that follow."

Becker praised the Berlin staff at the meeting, which included councilmembers Lisa Hall, Thom Gulyas and Troy Purnell, as well as Town Administrator

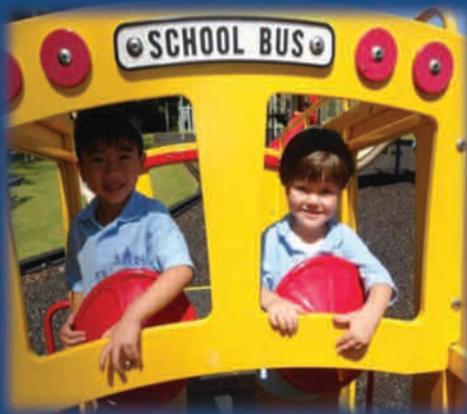
See BECKER Page 11

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Becker 'impressed' as Berlin begins strategic planning

Continued from Page 10

Laura Allen, Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, Electric Utilities Director Tim Lawrence, Finance Director Natalie Saleh, Human Resources Director Jeffery Fleetwood, Planning Director Dave Engelhart, Water Resources / Public Works Director Jane Kreiter and Berlin Police Lt. Robert Fisher.

"I was impressed how much on the same page the group was," she said. "There was a lot of consensus and a lot of consistent thinking."

Rather than come up with a specific set of goals, Becker said the panel came up with a "shopping list" of issues facing the community.

"There are things like infrastructure, transportation, maintaining that sense of community, issues in terms of how to maintain and strengthen the electric utility going forward and economic development and jobs," Becker said. "I don't want to go into the community meetings already having things decided, so we tried to create categories that we'll use to give participants a chance to weigh in on what they think some of the specifics might be, and then we'll give them a chance to prioritize what the major areas they want the council to focus on."

The next step in the process is a series of community meetings seeking public opinion on more narrow areas of focus.

In order to gain the full benefit of the strategic planning sessions, Becker said the town must continue to stay focused throughout the process while balancing the importance of public demand.

"If you're going to invite community input, you have to make sure you're willing to listen to it and that the outcome of your work shows that you listened," she said. "It doesn't mean every single thing you suggest is incorporated, but what they talk about and what they suggest will help shape the final strategic plan."

"If there are recurring themes over all four sessions about important needs, or even specifics, the community gets focused on a very narrow specific I'm not going to ignore it, we're just going to say, 'Okay, how does that fit into the bigger picture because this is very clearly on your mind,'" Becker continued. "My challenge is to keep the conversation at a higher level, not about, 'I want, I want, I need.' I hope the framework and the energy gets them thinking about not all the specific details, but the overall direction."

Becker said the public meetings would mirror the inaugural session with town staff, if in a somewhat abbreviated two-hour timeframe.

"There will be a series of discussions where people spend some time in groups talking about what they love most about Berlin, then talking about what are you most worried about, what's changing in Berlin, and then what do you see are the major issues," Becker said.

From there, Becker hopes to have roughly 10 major focus areas on which the public can make comments.

"We would prefer that people not as-

See COMMUNITY Page 12



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Christine Becker leads a discussion with town staff during Berlin's first strategic planning session on Thursday, Jan. 15.

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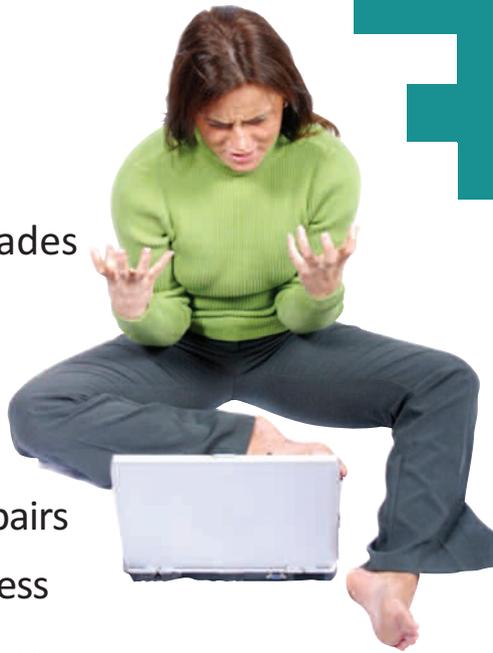
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Community participation urged as Berlin meets to map future

Continued from Page 11

sume they can come for 10 minutes, say, "These are my top-five priorities and then leave," Becker said. "One of the things we talked about is that we communicate that we hope you can participate in the entire dialogue, so that you participate in all the pieces. We want to make sure people understand it's a process and a discussion over a couple of hours."

Community meetings begin on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the multipurpose building on 130

Flower Street.

Additional meetings follow on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall, on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 6-9 p.m. at Buckingham Elementary School and on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the multipurpose building.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services offers free babysitting during the meetings on Feb. 12 and 21. Children may be dropped off a half hour before the meetings begin.

'Five-year' funding plan in Pines now in seventh year

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) The confusingly named "five-year funding solution" continues to stay on the books in Ocean Pines, almost certainly entering its seventh year with the fiscal 2016 budget.

The measure showed up on General Manager Bob Thompson's proposed budget this month and passed through the budget and finance committee last week without much fanfare.

Several members of the board of directors also came out in favor of the funding, which goes towards capital projects and deficit reduction.

"They call it the five-year funding plan because it took five years to put it completely into place," Parliamentarian Tom Terry said. "It was basically a capital fund that was established for major capital projects like the yacht club."

During the first year, property owners paid \$26 for capital improvements and \$4 for deficit reduction, according to Terry. That included the IRS debt associated with the beach parking lot in Ocean City.

The fee increased approximately \$30 each year until reaching a capped limit of \$146; the \$4 fee did not increase during the fifth year.

"Ocean Pines put this in place over five years as opposed to raising the dues all at once for hundreds of dollars," Terry said. "Right now \$130 a year goes into the capital reserve from the five-year plan and \$16 goes into the capital deficit reduction, which takes care of deficits from previous years and/or IRS debts that we may owe. The increase per year has now stopped, but the funding will go on."

Thompson called the funding was "a mechanism that's used to pay for major facilities and major initiatives."

Most recently, that includes the yacht club.

"The yacht club is a great example," Thompson said. "Our referendum materials and everything we said was by 2018 we will have that paid for, and that still holds true with the understanding we're using that five-year funding solution to pay for that."

"What that does, is instead of having to borrow funds to pay for the yacht club,

the yacht club pool, the golf greens, we're able to borrow out of our reserve account because we have reserves built up, but then pay it back out of this annual assessment to replenish it," Thompson continued. "We certainly don't have enough in reserves to do some of these projects, so this is a strategy that was created, adopted and has been in place for seven years."

There is a chance, though highly unlikely, that the board could vote to terminate the funding.

"Every year the board has to reaffirm the inclusiveness, or exclude it, from the budget," Thompson said.

In his opinion, the funding should stay.

"The folks that put it together really had a thorough understanding of our reserve situation, of our potential needs as we move forward, the fact that our reserve funding to date is lower than it could have been," Thompson said. "This is a great way to bridge that gap and do it in a way that was reasonable without borrowing money from outside sources at higher rates. I think this was a reasonable approach."

Terry agreed the fee "has to" remain in place.

"This is where the money is coming from to pay for the yacht club, and it's what we say in the documents that were sent out in the referendum that the yacht club would be paid for by these dollars," he said. "These funds have to continue."

Director Bill Cordwell also backed continuing the funding.

"We've got so many buildings that are 40-some years old and need major renovations or complete tear-downs," he said. "This won't cost residents any more money. It's already built into assessment. I'm definitely in favor of keeping this until we get the next couple of things done, which is going to be years."

Treasurer Jack Collins hinted that the board could eventually choose to explore excluding a portion of the fee, especially once the community makes up its IRS debt.

"The question is, in this year's budget, whether or not that is completed," he said. "That's a good question, and that may come up in future meetings with the board as far as going through the budget is concerned."



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OP police dept. exploring options to stay competitive

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) Looking to stay competitive with neighboring municipalities, the Ocean Pines Police Department is exploring new retirement plan options and is asking the community for a \$3,000 pay raise for entry-level officers.

Currently, officers receive a 401k plan with three percent of their annual salary contributed by the Ocean Pines Association.

"We're competing against police agencies that have a defined benefit program, state retirement, 25-year retirement, and right now we're on a 401k program," Chief of Police David Massey said. "That's an area that we're at a little bit of a disadvantage at."

Massey praised Ocean Pines' medical plan for police officers, but said the community could stand to improve its offerings in other areas.

"It's something we look at from time to time to see if there's a possibility for improvement," he said. "It's a competitive market out there in law enforcement. Those areas that we're not quite up to at competing agencies, sometimes we're at a disadvantage."

According to Massey, Ocean Pines police officers are not entitled to state-funded retirement plans because of the community designation.

"We looked at the state law enforcement officer's bill of rights, and we're not eligible because we're not a municipality," Massey said. "I know our general manager is looking at several different types of alternatives. That's an area we're constantly looking at because we're trying to keep younger officers. It's a benefit to be at an equal footing or close to it."

Massey also asked the community for a pay raise from \$38,000 to \$41,000 for entry-level officers, a move that would affect three members of his current staff.

"That would put us in the middle," Massey said. "Right now we're on the lower tier of the agencies we're competing against."

"We want to keep the younger officers so we don't have much turnover," Massey continued. "When we send a police officer candidate to the police academy, it's a six-month training period, so that's quite an investment, and when we lose a younger officer we're not really getting the full amount for our investment. We're looking at ways of keeping the younger officers from leaving the agency, and one of them is raising the starting salary to what they would compete at within the county."

The six-month training program costs the community approximately

\$20,000, according to Massey.

"We're looking at ways to lower any kind of turnover, and one of the ways we can do that is becoming more competitive with the agencies we're competing against in Worcester County."

One advantage the community does have going for it are the consistently low crime rates, a tool Massey said is often used attract younger officers into law enforcement.

In 2014, Safewise Report named Ocean Pines at the top of the "10 Safest Cities in Maryland" list, while Movoto.com listed the community at number two on the "10 Safest Places in Maryland" roundup.

"We're a very safe community," Massey said. "We're the safest per capita community in Worcester County and indeed we're one of the safest in the state. I think that's a big attraction for our community."

"People need to feel secure in their community, especially people that come down from the metro area," Massey continued. "They come down and one of the greatest attractions is the safety of this community. It's a great county. We have a good sheriff's department and state police, and we work well with all the police agencies."

Massey said preliminary crime statistics in 2014 dropped significantly over 2013, and remain dramatically lower than in neighboring Ocean City.

"Ocean City is a tourist community," Massey said. "Probably 95 percent of the population in the summer are transient. Ocean Pines is a residential community, so we have a much more stable population."

"We don't have the alcohol establishments that Ocean City has, and we don't have quite the alcohol-related crimes that Ocean City would have, the disorderly conduct and some of the more assaultive behavior that you have," Massey continued.

Because of the residential nature of the community, Ocean Pines does have its share of domestic violence cases, child abuse, juvenile crimes, drug-related crime and theft.

"Property crimes is an area that we do have," Massey said. "That can be someone coming in the community and committing a number of thefts. We've had thefts from vehicles, and just about every case it's an unlocked vehicle."

"Sometimes people I think in this community take it for granted that there is no crime, and that's not true because every community has crime," Massey continued. "We just want to make it harder for the criminals to take those easy thefts. Our goal is to reduce the crimes of opportunity in this community."

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Delmarva Health Pavilion on track for spring opening

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) One of the most startling changes in the Ocean Pines landscape in 2015 might be the opening of the massive 20,000 square foot health care complex, Delmarva Health Pavilion.

Construction began in late September, and the facility on Route 589 near Racetrack Road appears to be coming along effortlessly.

That's not to say the entire process has been without its share of setbacks. Developer Palmer Gillis of Gillis Gilkerson made initial inquiries on the property more than 10 years ago.

"Construction was the easy part," he said. "When my kids ask me what I do, I tell them I try to identify something that somebody is going to need five years before they know they're going to need it. In this particular case, it was seven or eight years before they knew they were going to need it."

To date, the majority of construction focused on the first building in what could be a five-building pavilion anchored by Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

PRMC Community Relations Director Roger Follebout said "building one" would consolidate regional offices in Ocean Pines and Berlin, including two family practices, lab services, a community pharmacy and the Guerrieri Heart and Vascular Institute into a "one-stop" health care center.

"The idea behind the whole Delmarva Health Pavilion and the series of health pavilions we have planned is that we want to bring the services directly to the people and bring everything together in one location," Follebout said. "In other words, if you have a primary care visit with the office in Ocean Pines and you need lab



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A rendering of the new Delmarva Health Pavilion in Ocean Pines, set to open late spring/early summer.

work done, the office is right there. If you need a prescription filled, it's right there. We want to make it easy and convenient for people.

"It's really part of health care's triple aim because it provides people in that area those services that they need and they no longer have to travel great distances to obtain that," Follebout continued. "We're bringing the services that are associated with Peninsula Regional Medical Center closer to Ocean Pines. That's the key."

Follebout said the two existing family practices are currently in "aging" buildings.

"We're going to take those two practices and bring them together in this new state-of-the-art building," he said. "It's a beautiful building and it will absolutely meet our needs. We've been looking for a number of years for a way to get those two practices together, so this is just a great opportunity to do that."

PRMC cardiac facilities perform as many as 500 open-heart surgeries each year, along with 4,000 other cardiac catheterizations and electrophysiology procedures.

"Our cardiac rehab component is one of the largest in the state of Maryland, and it is the most comprehensive

in the state of Maryland," Follebout said. "The need is there, and for cardiac rehab patients, in a population like Ocean Pines, it provides those services very, very close."

"Ocean Pines is a great service area for us because it's growing, and the fact that we are able to partner with Palmer and locate our practices in this great piece of property right near the north gate is absolutely wonderful, and we're really excited about getting in there and getting the service rolling," Follebout continued.

Gillis said the first phase construction was on target for a planned late-spring-to-early-summer opening. In order for growth to continue beyond the initial phase developments, traffic issues on Route 589 would have to be addressed.

According to Gillis, any highway improvements would be made without cost to the community.

"We would bare all the costs, but I have to get their acceptance of it," he said. "We like to think we're building something that's attractive to the community. That's our goal."

"I'm not trying to build tract housing or shopping centers or heavy traffic," Gillis continued. "The beauty of medical offices is that it's a perfect

transitional use from highway to residential, meaning it's typically compatible with the neighborhoods, and it typically doesn't have high usage when it's inconvenient for the neighborhoods, which means nights and weekends. So, we think it's a compatible function for the neighborhood, and we're trying to bring more convenience for Ocean Pines."

Pre-K registration opens this month at OC Elementary

(Jan. 22, 2015) Ocean City Elementary School will begin the registration process for the 2015-2016 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs this month.

Children who will be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, may be eligible for the OCES Pre-Kindergarten program. Space is limited and children from families who meet the federal income guidelines will be given priority enrollment.

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, must register for Kindergarten. Children who are currently attending Pre-Kindergarten at OCES do not need to register for Kindergarten. They will be enrolled automatically in OCES Kindergarten.

Call 410-632-5370 beginning Jan. 28 to schedule an appointment.



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Worcester Co. Arts Council offers grants to local groups

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) Although the Worcester County Arts Council gallery closed in January for renovations, the nonprofit will reopen in February with a slate of programs for local artists and art enthusiasts.

The council recently awarded \$20,000 in grants during the last fiscal year to eight different groups in Worcester County and is consistently looking for new organizations to apply during fiscal year 2016, according to Executive Director Anna Mullis.

"It is our mission to support the arts in the community and one of our strongest programs is the Community Arts Development Grant," Mullis said. "We want to make the community aware that we have these funds available for local art groups. We give the money away to nonprofits for projects, events, performances, workshops, or anything that has an artistic component."

WCAC has two grant deadlines in April and November. Projects occurring between July 1 and Dec. 31 must submit applications by April 15. Projects occurring between Jan. 1 and June 30 must submit applications by Oct. 15.

Last year's recipients included the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, the Art League of Ocean City, the Pine Tones Chorus, the Ward Museum, the Town of Ocean City's Arts Alive program, Berlin's Holiday Arts Night, Stephen Decatur mural and the new Movies in the Park series.

"Besides having a pretty place where people can come on 2nd Friday and have a glass of wine and hang out with the artists, there's really a lot going on at the arts council," Mullis said. "I don't want people to associate the arts council only with the visual arts. Our mission is to really support the community through various art-related programs."

That includes a summer arts camp for children serving more than 120 participants each year, many supported by scholarships from the arts council, as well as the artists in education program, Paint Berlin, plein air, adult and children art classes and workshops.

"Last year we gave \$8,000 in scholarships to local students, so we're really focused on giving the funds away," Mullis said.

WCAC also awarded a grant to the Worcester County Library Foundation in 2015 to support the upcoming Ballet of Maryland Performance of "Cinderella" at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center.

"This is the fourth year in a row that we awarded the Worcester County Library Foundation with funding to bring the ballet to the Eastern Shore," Mullis said. "Last year they performed 'Pirates of the Chesapeake,' and the year before there was a performance of 'Aladdin.'"

The council's board of directors reviews each application using determining factors like artistic merit and community influence in determining recipients.

"It is a long process of really making sure the event is really going to benefit the community and that is open to the entire general public," Mullis said. "Most of our programs are free of charge, so they're really affordable for the community to attend."

"Many nonprofits in Worcester County are struggling, and we want them to be aware that there is funding available for their events," Mullis continued. "We are always looking for new performances or new venues that

See ART Page 17



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Arts Council reopens in February, offering a slew of programs for art enthusiasts, as well as grant opportunities for artists.

BERLIN









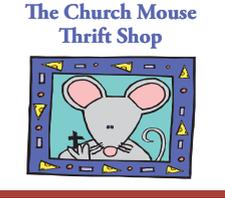


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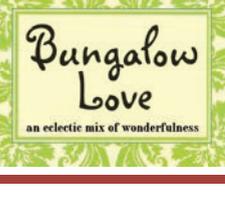


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OPINION

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

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A better way to look at community's budget

The goal of any government or homeowner's association is to give the public the kind of community it wants at a cost it is willing to pay.

Establishing the cost factor is the easier of the two to accomplish, because it's just math, aided by a good read of the public's mood.

Much more difficult is defining what members of any community really want, because many people don't think beyond their tax or assessment bills.

As a result, budget discussions all too often turn to this or that department, operation, division or amenity losing money. That's not how it should work.

Accepting that reasonable limits have to be set and that blatant waste and over-spending is both irresponsible and dangerous, some so-called losses must be absorbed to give people the kind of community they desire.

There is the Ocean Pines golf course, for instance, which has lost a great deal of money in the past few years, but now appears to be on the upswing financially. The first question to ask is not whether the course should be profitable, but whether having a golf course at all makes Ocean Pines a better place to live. Does it help with property values or home re-sales?

The same can be said for the Yacht Club. Regardless of whether a person uses it, does having it make Ocean Pines overall more attractive as a community?

We think the answer in both cases is yes and that it isn't absolutely essential that they turn a profit some day. It would be great if they did, sure, but not necessarily vital.

It's like asking if Ocean City would be better off without Northside Park, or the Ocean City Center for the Arts, or even the new performing arts center.

In considering budgets, people need to look beyond their portion of the price tag and consider the whole package and all its intangibles. The critical question isn't whether something loses money, but whether it makes a community a good place to live.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



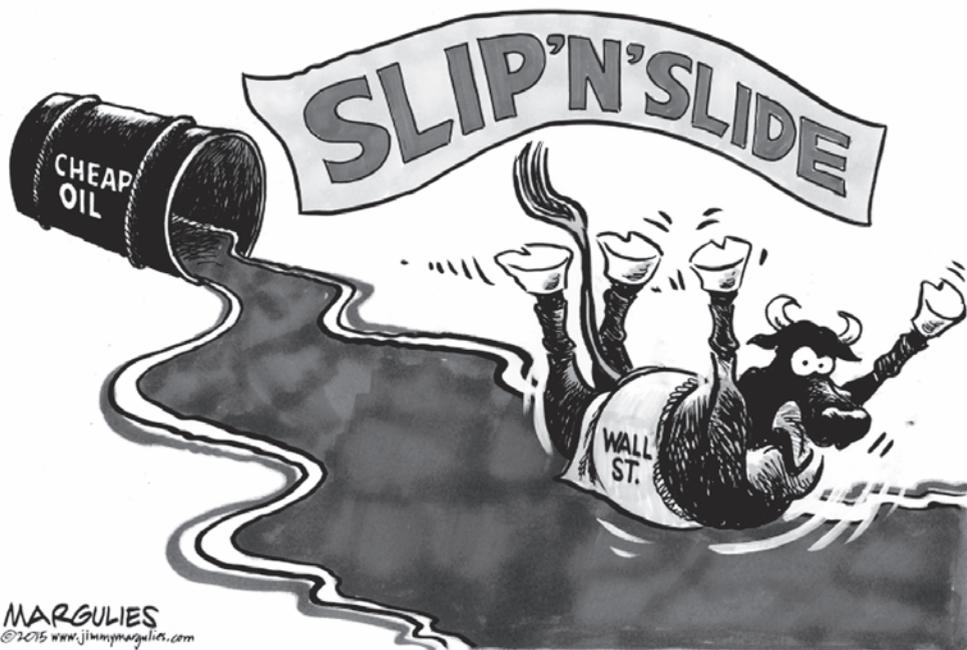
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OC director gets 'Stamp' of approval

By Brian Gilliland
Staff Writer

(Jan. 22, 2015) Hurricane Gloria in 1985 is where it all really started for Clay Stamp, the former emergency services director of Ocean City who late last week was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to run the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

"In 1984, Ocean City was really getting beat up in the press for not having done enough preparation for hurricanes and nor'easters. Mayor Harry Kelley and Fire Marshall Dave Langford drove to Atlantic City, who had just formed their own program, to learn how they did it and proposed a system and wrote the first emergency plan in the spring of 1985. In September, Gloria tested that plan," he recalled.

Gloria was devastating to downtown Ocean City, pulling up entire sections of the Boardwalk and inflicting almost \$2 billion in damages adjusted for inflation.

"We evacuated people and used the command center on 15th Street," Stamp said.

He's been spearheading disaster relief efforts ever since.

"I'm a kid who grew up in OC," he said. "My work ethic comes from being in OC business."

Stamp's family owned properties on 11th and 55th Streets, and all the family members had jobs.

"I was the maintenance man, and my sister did the laundry," he said.

At the age of 14 he joined

the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company Cadet program.

"I say I was raised by wolves at the firehouse, but really I was raised by giants of men," he said, "They taught me to never forget where I came from, and there's always a simple answer no matter how complex the problem."

By the time he was 18 he was an emergency management technician and paramedic and in November 1976 he was named Ocean City's first emergency services director.

He met State Sen. Jim Mathias in the early days, before Mathias began his political career and worked with him as Mathias became a council member and then mayor.

"I think he's the best in the country," Mathias said, "We went through a litany of things together — he's lived it."

Stamp credits Mathias with bringing him along during the aftermath of Sept. 11.

"He took me up there and I was detailed to Pier 92 where I was the night logistics officer for one week. It was a life-changing event. The amount of resources that were pulled together ..." Stamp said, trailing off.

Stamp also was part of the disaster relief team Maryland sent to help as Hurricane Katrina was bearing down on New Orleans.

By this time Stamp had taken advantage of Ocean City's 25-year retirement option and had been headhunted by then-Ehrlich-staffer and now Delegate Mary-Beth Carozza to become the deputy director of the state emergency services.

Here, Stamp distinguished himself by convincing Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield to call the governors of affected states urging an evacuation before Katrina struck.

From the Aug. 25, 2006 archives of The Miami Herald, "Acting upon the advice of Clay Stamp, a key behind-the-scenes figure ... [said,] 'Max, I've been in public safety for 30 years and I know what happens when you come down to the wire and you're sitting with an elected official and you have to deliver what he needs to make a life-and-death decision. There comes a point when they have to talk to the most informed official. That time has come, and you need to talk to the governors of the states.'"

The evacuation order came several hours later.

"My initial interest [in MEMA] was to offer input. As I went through the process it became clear to me there was an opportunity not just to provide input, but to put my name in to be the MEMA director," Stamp said.

Richard "Buzzy" Bayles was Stamp's second in command in Ocean City for a number of years.

"When I was made aware he had been named MEMA director, I got in touch with my contacts in the emergency services community," Bayles said. "All of them are excited, and it's great to hear. They're tickled to death that they know him, he knows the state hazards and they can put a face to the name."

Art council offers shuttle to lobby groups in Annapolis

Continued from Page 15
we can present to the community. We have the funding available, and we want the community to know that this is what we do."

Along with grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, membership fees support many WCAC programs.

"Our members play an extremely important role in benefiting the arts council," Mullis said. "You don't need to be an artist to be a member of the arts council, and you don't need to have artistic skills. We invite anybody who has a passion for art, who loves music, who has an appreciation for beautiful paintings or photographs or sculpture, or people who have a respect for the arts and artists."

The arts council is also looking for volunteers to help run programs.

"We have a big group of volunteers in our organization, but new people are always welcome to join and help," Mullis said. "I really feel like art is a beautiful thing. We all express ourselves through different forms of art, and we invite everybody to join the arts council and to come to Berlin and to attend all the great events we sponsor in Worcester County."

Mullis was also keen to point out that Feb. 10 is Maryland Arts Day, an annual event when citizens can lobby their representatives in Annapolis to support the arts and arts funding.

The arts council will offer shuttle service to Annapolis during the event.

"This is a big event when people all over Maryland can voice their opinion and advocate for the Arts," Mullis said. "We will be taking a trip to Annapolis, so anybody who is interested should contact the arts council."

When the arts council, located on 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin, reopens in February, visitors will have a chance to see more than a month's worth of renovations.

"We are renovating the gallery and getting a new, fresh look," Mullis said. "It's going to be pretty interesting in February to stop by and see how the entire space will be completely new."

For more information call 410-641-0809 or visit www.worcestercountycouncil.org.

Assateague celebrates 50 years

(Jan. 22, 2015) Assateague Island National Seashore marks its 50th year this year, rising as it did in 1965 from the narrow strip of land that was rescued from development.

The year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the seashore will include numerous activities and events to commemorate this milestone.

The Assateague Island Alliance, the friends group of Assateague Island National Seashore, will begin

the festivities this Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9 a.m. to welcome Ranger Liz Davis, assistant chief of interpretation, to present plans for the 50th anniversary celebration and to discuss questions about this national park.

Traditionally a members-only activity, the alliance invites the public to for coffee and conversation with a seashore park ranger.

Visitors will meet at the Assateague Island Environmental Education Center (the former visitor

center) at 7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin.

The alliance is a nonprofit group to benefit Assateague Island National Seashore. It financially supports educational, interpretive, scientific and recreational programs. All funds raised by the alliance are for the direct benefit of Assateague Island National Seashore. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, call 443-614-3547 at or email outreachAIA@gmail.com.

Winter activities abound in Ocean Pines at pool, parks

(Jan. 22, 2015) Ocean Pines will offer a number of activities for families this winter.

One of them, the Sports Core Pool's dive-in movie nights, will feature a showing of "Monsters University" on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. Guests can watch the movie on an inflatable screen while splashing and swimming or floating on inflatable rafts in the heated indoor pool.

The cost to attend the event at the pool at 11143 Cathell Road is \$3 for Ocean Pines swim members, \$5 for Ocean Pines residents and \$7 for nonresidents. Families of more than four may pay a flat rate of \$20.

The Sports Core will also hold a special Valentine's Family Fun Night on Friday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. Guests can have a night at the pool while making Valentine's Day crafts. Pizza and desserts will be available for purchase. The cost to attend is \$2 for swim members, \$4 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents.

For those who prefer to stay dry, there will be two programs at the Ocean Pines Community Center at 235 Ocean Parkway. On Saturday, Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks De-

partment will offer a Valentine's Day craft time for kids.

All materials will be provided; space is limited and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents.

The community center will also offer "Quick Start Tennis," an introductory tennis program for children ages 5-7, beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 6:15-7 pm.

The four-class session will be taught by staff from the Ocean Pines Tennis Center and will cover the basics of tennis using age-appropriate equipment on a smaller-scale court. The cost is \$45 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents and pre-registration is required.

These programs are open to public. For more information or to register for programs at the Ocean Pines Community Center, call the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

For more information about aquatic events, call the Sports Core Pool at 410-641-5255. Information regarding additional recreational programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Winter Activity Guide, is available at www.OceanPines.org.

Decatur students, staff hold job fair in Berlin, Feb. 26

(Jan. 22, 2015) Stephen Decatur High School staff and students invite area businesses to participate in its 2015 Job Fair, to be held at the Berlin school on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In addition to Stephen Decatur students, Snow Hill and Pocomoke students will also be in attendance.

For more information, or to sign up as a vendor, call or e-mail Kim Hudson at 410-641-4410 kludson@mail.worcester.k12.md.us.

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Second annual Wor. Co. food drive runs Jan. 26-30

(Jan. 22, 2015) Worcester County Volunteer Services will hold its second annual food drive for the Maryland Food Bank on Jan. 26-30.

The focus of this food drive is to provide ready-to-eat canned meals. Canned items most needed include meats that are high in protein – such as tuna, salmon and chicken – and hearty stews.

“The 2014 statistics revealed that one in every five children and senior citizens are food insecure, which means they don’t know what or when their next meal will be,” Volunteer Services Manager Kelly Brinkley said.

“No one should have to carry the stress of wondering whether or not they will eat on any given day. You and I working together can help alleviate this stress from our neighbors by donating canned goods that are whole meals in themselves. Together, we can provide them with a healthy and nutritious start to 2015.”

Beginning Jan. 26, canned food items can be deposited in specially marked Maryland Food Bank barrels at these participating loca-

tions:

- Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill.

- All five Worcester County Branch Libraries: Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Berlin, Snow Hill and Pocomoke.

- Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill.

More than 45,000 people on the Eastern Shore can’t depend on having a meal every day and 16,000 of them are children. In Worcester County alone, the food supply is not dependable for 12.8 percent of the population. That is the fourth highest such rate on the Eastern Shore, behind Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico counties.

Thirty-eight percent of these families fail to qualify for federal or state assistance because on paper they do not meet the minimum standards.

For more information about the Worcester County food drive, contact Brinkley at 410-632-0090. Organizations interested in hosting food drives are invited to contact food bank Managing Director Jennifer Small at small@mdfoodbank.org.

Local groups prep to send valentines to Md. veterans

(Jan.22, 2015) Start the year off by thanking a veteran for his or her service with a Valentine’s Day card.

For the 15th year, cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated and not forgotten. All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards), but homemade cards are particularly appreciated. No postage is necessary, and the card is addressed to “A Veteran.”

Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be deliv-

ered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center and Perry Point Hospital.

Drop off locations are: Re/Max Office, 11049 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines; Copy Central, Cathell Road, Ocean Pines; the Ocean Pines Library, the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks building.

The deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 27.

For more information, call 443-614-2614, email charlottecathell@gmail.com or call 443-614-3957 or email louetta@mcclafin.com.

This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.

Commission seeks women noms

(Jan. 22, 2015) The Women of Tomorrow Awards honor young women who have made significant and outstanding contributions to their communities.

The awards are based on community service, demonstrated leadership, commitment to and pursuit of academic and future goal achievements.

The Worcester County Commission for Women seeks nominations for young women who will be recognized as Women of Tomorrow at the Women’s

History Month Luncheon to be held on March 18, at the Clarion Hotel on 101st Street in Ocean City.

The women will be honored in three groups: Grades 7-8, Grades 9-10 and Grades 11-12. Two awards are given for each grade level, first place and honorable mention.

Nomination forms may be obtained by calling L. Eloise Henry-Gordy at 443-235-3214. Nominations are due no later than Jan. 31.

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Daily 11-3	Villas, OC Inlet Isle	3BR/4BR	Condo	\$795,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Daily 10-4	1111 Edgewater Ave	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	From \$595,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Mon-Sat 10-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Mon-Sat 10-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2BA/2 half baths	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Thurs.-Mon. 11-5	12602 Bay Buoy Ct. West Ocean City	3,4,5BR/2.5-2.5BA	SF-New Construction	From \$299,900	Harbor Homes/Monogram
Friday thru Sunday	Sunset Island	-	Condos, TH, SF	\$389K/\$509K/\$900K	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort
Saturday 10-1	505 Edgewater Ave.- Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$599,900	Darryl Greer/Resort Real Estate
Sat & Sun 11-4 p.m.	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sunday 12-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Sunday 12-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty

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SNAPSHOTS



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

THANKS FOR SERVICE

Robert Fralley, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, was presented with a Legion of Honor plaque for 50 years of service during the organization's weekly meeting, Jan. 7. He is the longest serving member of the club. In recognition of his 50 years of service, President Carolyn Dryzga baked him 50 red velvet cupcakes.



PHOTO COURTESY LISA HALL

THAT'S A WRAP

Berlin Town Council and staff members donate gifts to Toys for Tots during their annual Christmas party.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MURIEL HINZ

CELEBRATION

The Literary Ladies of Ocean Pines celebrated 2014 at a luncheon at The Inn on the Ocean in Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Sharon Armstrong-Saffran, Marion Winslow, Sandy Glassman, Diane McGraw, Marlene Lombardi, Mary Jo Scarbath, Kay Gibbons, Jeanne Stiehl, Muriel Hinz, Sally Kohler and Shirley Schaefer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Members of the Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society raised money throughout the fall to support two local non-profit organizations, Believe in Tomorrow and Worcester G.O.L.D. National Honor Society members present Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation Coordinator Wayne Littleton with a \$1,500 check. The SDHS NHS has donated more than \$15,000 to the organization since 2005. Pictured, in back row, are Principal Tom Zimmer, Michaela Mitchell, Jake Lathroum, Conor May, NHS President Jake Gaddis, Littleton, Ryan Bennett, Craig Snyder and Arielle Miras, and in front, Samantha Hill, Delilah Purnell, Kayla Alcantar and Katie Bear.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY DONATION

Members of the Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society raised money throughout the fall to support two local non-profit organizations, Believe in Tomorrow and Worcester G.O.L.D. National Honor Society holiday committee adopted a Worcester G.O.L.D. family to support throughout the holidays. Pictured, in back row, are Delaney Iacona, NHS President Jake Gaddis, Matthew Scott, Mallory Rolleston and Chelsea McLane, and in front, Brooke Davis, Kaylen Johnson, Conor May, Gabrielle Evans and Jennah Lupiwok.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WPS SGA FOOD DRIVE

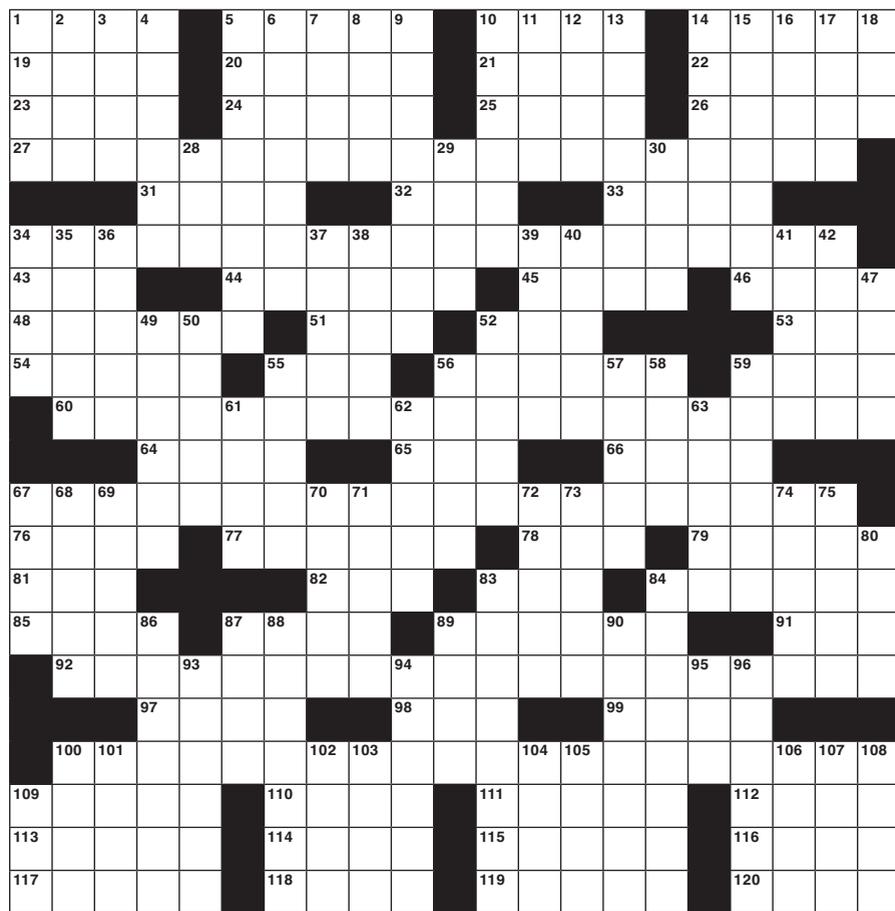
Worcester Prep students in grades Pre-K through 12 worked with the Student Government Association under the leadership of president Erik Zorn and faculty advisor Frank Love to collect food donations for needy families. Funds donated were used to purchase hams and other items needed for the baskets. Food baskets, boxes, and bags, prepared by Worcester Prep students, were distributed via six truckloads of donations to Diakonia in West Ocean City, Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, The Joseph House in Salisbury and St. Paul United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church and Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen in Berlin. Pictured are Upper School students Chris Rilling, Devin Hammond, Biola Eniola, Sambina Anthony, and Anthony Rilling.

PUZZLES

CHANGELINGS

BY JOE KROZEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hirer/firer
 - 5 Iron setting
 - 10 Food processor setting
 - 14 One with accounts, for short
 - 19 Darn, e.g.
 - 20 Jets or chargers starter
 - 21 Doozy
 - 22 Revolutionary patriot Silas
 - 23 Asian cuisine
 - 24 Put in the minimum stake
 - 25 Actress Lena
 - 26 Willing to do
 - 27 Gigantic sled hauls firewood quite a bit
 - 31 1970s-'80s TV sheriff
 - 32 Tell a story
 - 33 Grub
 - 34 Domestic worker claimed shifting beach engulfed basin
 - 43 Hong Kong, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 44 No-no on gym floors
 - 45 Voting no
 - 46 Band news
 - 48 Put an end to
 - 51 Catastrophic start or end?
 - 52 Word after camper or before Camp's
 - 53 Fused
 - 54 It may go from sea to shining sea
- DOWN**
- 1 This and that
 - 2 Home of Hanauma Bay
 - 3 Solo, in a way
 - 4 BP logo shape until 2000
 - 5 QB who led the Cowboys to victories in Super Bowls VI and XII
 - 6 Varnish ingredient
 - 7 Art Deco artist
 - 8 First person to die in the Bible
 - 9 Adjust, as pitch
 - 10 Shut
 - 11 Oceanic body
 - 12 This and that
 - 13 Strong and sharp
 - 14 Majority group
 - 15 Silt, e.g.
 - 16 Whole bunch
 - 17 Nephew of 8-Down
 - 18 As stated in
 - 28 "Was ist ____?"
- ACROSS**
- 55 Word in many California city names
 - 56 Blue
 - 59 "You wish!"
 - 60 Friends who have never been to the beach don't walk by the girl so often
 - 64 Characteristic times
 - 65 Driver's assignment: Abbr.
 - 66 Arrangement of hosing?
 - 67 Children show their affection for model Kate above all others
 - 76 Comics canine
 - 77 Energetic sort
 - 78 "That's ____-brainer"
 - 79 Stuffing ingredient
 - 81 "Waking Devine" (1998 movie)
 - 82 Hubbub
 - 83 Solution for some housework
 - 84 Villain
 - 85 [I am shocked!]
 - 87 ____ Romeo
 - 89 Generic
 - 91 Lines around Chicago
 - 92 Boisterous oaf confused the previous set of actors
 - 97 Outdoor party
 - 98 Info for a limo driver
 - 99 "Ta-ta"
 - 100 Mr. Chamberlain intends to top off his gas tank
- DOWN**
- 109 Capital where snail noodle soup is popular
 - 110 Pew, for one
 - 111 Coquette
 - 112 Sly
 - 113 When prompted
 - 114 Sleeveless item, for short
 - 115 Like some brewing containers
 - 116 Mosque leader
 - 117 Bog accumulations
 - 118 Head of a Tatar group
 - 119 Comics canine
 - 120 Early 1900s gold rush locale
- ACROSS**
- 29 Bombay and Boodles
 - 30 H. H. Munro pseudonym
 - 34 This and that: Abbr.
 - 35 Music grp.
 - 36 Actress Massey
 - 37 Model add-on
 - 38 Composer Camille Saint-____
 - 39 Cars once advertised with the slogan "Find your own road"
 - 40 Record of the year
 - 41 "Necktie"
 - 42 Mila of "That '70s Show"
 - 47 Court V.I.P.'s
 - 49 Literature's Nan or Gay
 - 50 Supply room worker
 - 52 Metaphors for serious headaches
 - 55 Flip
 - 56 "Midnight Cowboy" role
 - 57 Loop around the West?
 - 58 Mil. decorations
 - 59 "Sometimes you feel like a nut" nut
- DOWN**
- 61 Not free
 - 62 Super
 - 63 Pago Pago locale
 - 67 "King ____"
 - 68 Toy company that made Betsy Wetsy
 - 69 Playground comeback
 - 70 Bungle
 - 71 Upset with
 - 72 Quaint contraction
 - 73 "Love Story" co-star
- ACROSS**
- 74 The Beach Boys' "Surfer Girl" vis-à-vis "Little Deuce Coupe"
 - 75 Works
 - 80 Egg holder
 - 83 California city where the first Apple computer was built
 - 84 "Hush!"
 - 86 Retreat
- DOWN**
- 87 "There oughta be ____"
 - 88 Comedian who said "Every day starts, my eyes open and I reload the program of misery"
 - 89 Cry of innocence
 - 90 Non-PC person
 - 93 Border payments
 - 94 Kept
- ACROSS**
- 95 1960s chess champion Mikhail
 - 96 Halloween prop
 - 100 Die down
 - 101 Early cultivator of potatoes
 - 102 Mrs. Rabin of Israel
 - 103 "Rama ____ Ding Dong" (1961 hit)
- DOWN**
- 104 Show bias
 - 105 Like some lashes and tans
 - 106 Fendi ____ (men's cologne)
 - 107 Activity at a doctor's office
 - 108 Tick-borne affliction
 - 109 Leapfrog



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



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•'03 CHRYSLER SEBRING	•'97 BMW CONVERTIBLE	•'95 FORD SUPER DUTY
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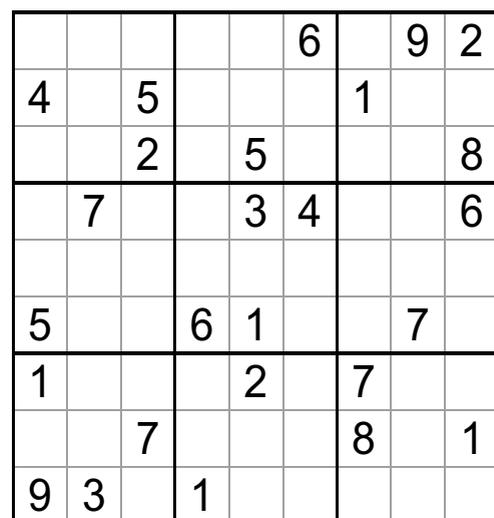
(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

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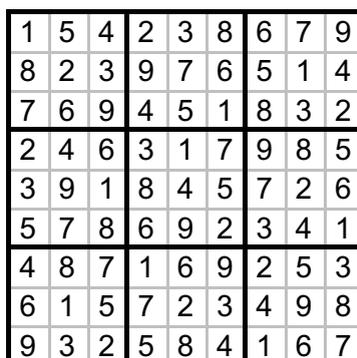
© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 24

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



CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Matzo adds twist to chicken and dumplings

It's hot. I mean, it's cold. I mean it's snowing. Argh, now it's sleeting.

Welcome to Delmarva Winter the way it used to be. Ah, the golden days on the Shore; when winter is merely a hiccup between our amazing autumn and the always-welcome spring. We have been spoiled the last few years with tremendous snowfall, and yes I am in the minority that wishes that there was at least one mountain down here for snowboarding and sledding.

Regardless, it is time to make some soup for these rusty old bones, but luckily our kids are coming around the bend in terms of liking homemade broths and soups.

It all started at a Japanese steak house when the tykes fell in love with the chicken broth with scallions and shaved mushrooms. We used that as a launching pad and began regularly offering it for their school lunches and eventually daring to make it from scratch. Yes, my kids prefer canned soups, or at least they did.

After some prodding, I was convinced to make some homemade chicken soup, but not the 'brown' stuff I usually make, because that tastes like gravy. Whipping up some fresh chicken soup proved to be acceptable to the masses, so it has stayed on our rotation throughout the winter season if you can call it that.

Lately, I've been craving a good matzo ball soup, one of my favorite chicken soups, but one I have not made since I worked in restaurants. So, I picked up some matzo meal at the store along with a fresh chicken and some mirepoix, and I set out to recreate that famous dish of chicken and dumplings (well, I might get some emails about calling them dumplings, but they are, kind of).

When I served this to the family, I did add a mountain of shaved button mushrooms, now a standard in the



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII



house. This adds a lovely, full flavor to the broth and only adds to the overall complexity of this simple dish.

So as the next storm breezes through, bringing with it that bone-aching, joint-screaming dampness, make sure to boil up a chicken, as my mom used to say, and create the nectar that warms to the core. And with some substance added to the soup via the matzo balls, it becomes a no-brainer until spring, when the cold soups will start making their rounds.

Matzo Ball Soup

4 servings
1 1/2 qt. Chicken soup (recipe follows)
8 ea. Matzo balls (recipe follows)
Place 2 matzo balls in each soup bowl
Ladle soup over and serve while hot

Chicken Soup

1 whole chicken
2 stalks celery, large chunks
1 large white onion, quartered
2 carrots, peeled and large chunks
1 parsnip, peeled and large chunk
1 tsp. whole black peppercorns
Celery and carrots, brunoise for garnish

Swaying from conventional wisdom, I must advise you to cook your chicken stock much longer than the traditional three hours. When we buy rotisserie chicken, I'll make a brown stock with the leftovers and let it go overnight.

Put all ingredients in a stockpot, and cover with water until it is an inch and a half over the top part. Even better, if you have some chicken stock in the freezer from a previous batch, start with that, or if you are really cool you can start with remouil-

lage, but that's for a different conversation altogether.

Bring the water to a low boil, and turn down to a simmer, skimming the froth as you go. Be careful not to remove too much of the fat, since you will be using this to make the matzo balls.

Once you have the simmer regulated, let it for at least six hours and preferably overnight

Strain and reserve or serve immediately with your garnish of brunoise, celery, carrot and shredded chicken.

OK, I can't let this remouillage (remi) thing go. If you have time, top your spent bones and veggies from the stock with more water, just to the top. Bring to a simmer and cook for about three hours. Then strain this and freeze until your next batch of stock. If you do this regularly, you will have an amazing, unctuous and wonderful stock

Matzo Balls

Makes enough for 4 people
4 eggs
1/4 c. Chicken fat
1/4 c. Water
1 c. Matzo meal
Salt to taste

Beat the eggs and add the fat, water and meal, adding salt at the end to your preference.

This might be a little loose, so let it set up in the icebox for at least two hours. It could be made a day ahead, and the meal will continue to hydrate.

Bring a pot of fairly heavily salted water to a boil and add the balls.

Reduce to a medium simmer, cover with a cloth (caution if you have gas flames) and a lid.

Allow to steam for thirty minutes or until fluffy and cooked through.

You can let them steep in the chicken soup if you like or serve immediately.

— Paul G. Suplee is a certified executive chef and ProChef certified Level-3. He is a writer and culinary instructor. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

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Calendar

Submit calendar items to: editor@oceancitytoday.net. Submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, the week of publication. Local submissions have priority. Area event listings are subject to space availability.

THURS. Jan. 22

SUICIDE GRIEVERS' SUPPORT GROUP — 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.choosetolive-maryland.org.

WORCESTER COUNTY TEA PARTY MEETING — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m. Bill Badger Jr., Director of Worcester County Economic Development, will discuss Moving Worcester County Economy Forward in 2015. Admission is free and open to the public. Info: WCTPPatriots@gmail.com, www.worcestercountyteaparty.com, www.facebook.com/WorcesterCountyTeaParty or 443-614-7214.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY LUNCHEON MEETING — The Lighthouse Sound Restaurant, St. Martin's Neck Road, Bishopville. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., meeting begins at 11 a.m. Worcester County Commissioner, Jim Bunting, will discuss the challenges that face the County Commissioners in 2015. Cost of lunch is \$17. Reservations: Ann Lutz, 410-208-9767 or annlutz@verizon.net.

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM — Germantown Heritage School, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 6 p.m. Enrollment deadline for MD Health Connective is Feb. 15. Certified staff to talk about enrollment, answer questions and set up appointments. County Commissioner Diana Purnell will also preside to swear in the Worcester County NAACP Executive Board Members for 2015-2016. Info: 443-944-6701. Sponsored by the Worcester County NAACP.

BEACH SINGLES — Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour at Harpoon Hanna's, Route 54 and the bay, Fenwick Island, Del., 4 p.m. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577; Kate, 410-524-0649; or Dianne, 302-541-4642.

BINGO — American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., in Ocean City, every Thursday, year round. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Food available. Open to the public. Info: 410-289-3166.

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.

FRI. Jan. 23

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

SAT. Jan. 24

10TH ANNUAL 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; Thirty-one, etc.; and cash games. Raffle, 50/50, special games and Chinese auction. Tickets cost \$20. Refreshments available. Sponsored by Quota International of Ocean City, Inc. Reservations: 410-603-1397 or 410-524-9000. Info: permitink@verizon.net.

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 corn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. Info: 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WAREHOUSE OPEN — Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County Warehouse, 7033 Worcester Highway, Newark, 8 a.m. to noon. Currently accepting donations in the form of gently used furniture, appliances and building supplies. Info: 410-208-4440.

BULL & OYSTER ROAST — Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, Del., 2-5 p.m. Bull, oysters and cole slaw served buffet style, \$2 Miller Lite/Coors Light Drafts and 50/50 raffle. Tickets cost \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door, cash only. Proceeds benefit Home of the Brave Foundation. Info: www.harpoonhannas-restaurant.com; facebook, twitter or instagram (@HarpoonHannas); info@harpoonhannasrestaurant.com; or 302-539-3095.

SUN. Jan. 25

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.

MBCS OPEN HOUSE - Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 11242 Race-track Road, Berlin, 1-3 p.m. Tour facilities and speak with administrators regarding enrollment possibilities. Info: Lisa Edmunds, 410-208-1600.

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.

LUAU BULL & PIG ROAST — Blue Ox Bar & Grill, 12601 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-6 p.m. Served with all the fixings, one drink coupon and music by JJ the DJ. Wear your ugly Hawaiian Shirt. Cost is \$20 at the door. Benefits Ravens Roost #44 College Fund & American Cancer Society. Info: www.facebook.com/theblueox, www.theblueox.com, 410-250-6440 or info@theblueox.com.

MON. Jan. 26

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.

LIVING WELL WORKSHOP — Northern Worcester Senior Center 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 23. Free, six-week workshop that teaches how to live a quality life with chronic disease. Chronic conditions include diabetes, arthritis, depression, asthma, bronchitis, pain, heart disease or any condition that hinders you. Pre-registration required by calling Laura Small, 410-629-6820.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELIN 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. 27

ATLANTIC COAST CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND SALTWATER SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING — Lion's Club, 12534 Airport Road, West Ocean City. Doors open at 7 p.m., meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome. Topic will be surf fishing and updates regarding 2015 fishing regulations. Info: www.mssa.net or fish@mssa.net.

RELAY FOR LIFE KICK OFF 2015 MEETING - Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 6:30 p.m. Group will begin planned for the 2015 Relay For Life - North Worcester County to be held on May 8. All are welcome. Info: Dawn Hodge, 443-497-1198; DJ Thompson, 443-366-5440; or Jill Elliott, 410-430-8131.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY OPEN HOUSE - Berlin group 331, Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. The open house is a free introductory meeting to understand TOPS and help you get started in the new year. Meet the groups Area Captain, group members and get new ideas to help you lose weight. 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.

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TET OFFENSE - Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, 8 Pinehurst Road, 10 a.m. To recognize the 47th Anniversary of the TET Offense and those who fought in this battle on Jan. 31, 1968 and those who did not return home will be honored. Info: Sarge Garlitz, 443-735-1942, commander166@msn.com.

WED. Jan. 28

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP — Atlantic 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.

SIMPLE SUPPER — Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway (rear of St. Luke's Church) in Ocean City, last Wednesday of each month, 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 11 and younger. Reservations: 410-524-7994.

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

CALENDAR

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.

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

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.

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.choosetolive-maryland.org.

'CINDERELLA' PERFORMANCE — The Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, March 7, 2 p.m. Featuring the Ballet Theater of Maryland. Meet Cinderella and Prince Charming after the show for photos. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at all Worcester County Library branches and the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office.

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

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS MEETING — Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 9:30-11 a.m., second and fourth Wednesdays through May. The program is designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. Free childcare. Contact: MOPScop@gmail.com, 410-641-5433 or www.facebook.com/groups/MOPScop/.

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
Jan. 23: Mood Swingers, 9 p.m.
Jan. 24: Chest Pains, 9 p.m.
Jan. 28: Aaron Howell, 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
Jan. 24: Bad Since Breakfast, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; New Dawn Duo, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the
Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449
Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 6-10 p.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
Jan. 23: DJ Hook
Jan. 24: DJ Groove

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
Jan. 23: Ladies Night w/DJ Bill T
Jan. 24: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Jan. 25: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
Jan. 23: Dave Hawkins, 6-10 p.m.
Jan. 24: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m.
Jan. 28: Bobby Burns, 3-6 p.m.

Jan. 29: Aaron Howell, 6-10 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Rd.
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
Jan. 23: Ladies Night w/DJ BK, 8 p.m.

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
Every Wednesday: Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys
Jan. 23: Harry O & Johnny C
Jan. 24: Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
Every Thursday-Sunday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Jan. 23-24: Power Play, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SECRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
Jan. 23: Captain Jack, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Jan. 24: Opposite Directions, 5p.m.; The Benderz, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Jan. 29: Opposite Directions, 5-8 p.m.

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Ocean Pines
410-641-7501
Jan. 23: Kaleb Brown, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Jan. 23: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.



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We are looking for skilled individuals to join our maintenance and building department. Experience in plumbing, electrical, painting, drywall and carpentry highly desired. Certifications are a plus. Prior hotel experience is preferred, but not mandatory.

We offer an excellent compensation package commensurate with experience and skill level. Email your resume to jobs@carouselhotel.com or come in and complete an application at the front desk. We require satisfactory pre-employment drug testing and background check.

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The Carousel Group will be holding a **Job Fair on Tuesday, February 3rd from 10am to 5pm** for the following seasonal positions:

- Night Auditor
- Reservationist
- Front Desk Clerk
- Housekeeping Inspector
- Room Attendant
- Houseperson
- Laundry Attendant
- Security/Guest Services
- Maintenance
- Recreation Attendant
- Hostess/Cashier
- Banquet Service Staff
- Restaurant Server
- Bartender
- Line Cook

We are looking for experienced personnel with customer service skills. Must be flexible with hours. If unable to attend the Job Fair, email resume to jobs@carouselhotel.com or stop by and complete an application at the Front Desk. We require satisfactory pre-employment drug testing and background check.

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Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, antique and vintage items.
Date: SATURDAY, Jan. 24th, 2015
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and suffered internal bleeding, hemorrhaging, required hospitalization or a loved one died while taking Xarelto between 2011 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation.

Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727



HELP PLAN BERLIN'S FUTURE!

We Invite You to Attend Our Community Meetings

The Mayor and City Council are putting an action plan together to guide the Town's work for the next several years. Come tell us what's great about living in Berlin and what we can do better. We want to hear from you.

**Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services is offering FREE babysitting for the Strategic Planning Meetings to be held on Thursday, February 12th and Saturday, February 21st. Children may be dropped off at Worcester Youth & Family ½ hour before the meeting begins.*



For more information visit
www.berlinmd.gov
410.641.2770

COMMUNITY MEETING DATES

Thursday, January 29
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Building
130 Flower Street

Saturday, February 7
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Berlin Town Hall
10 William Street

*Thursday, February 12
6 pm - 8:30 pm
Buckingham Elementary
100 Buckingham Road

*Saturday, February 21
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Building 130
Flower Street

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES:

JOIN US AT THE
WELCOME CENTER,
(14 SOUTH MAIN ST.)
FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE MEETINGS ON THURSDAY,
JANUARY 29TH AND
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH.