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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Robin Tomaselli, left, Heather Layton and Gregory Purnell discuss the perception of “East” and “West” Berlin, and what can be done to help bridge the gap, inside of Baked Dessert Café on Nov. 14.

Pines nonprofit gathers support, gifts for soldiers

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2016) With the holiday season approaching, Anna Foultz and fellow Star Charities volunteers closed out its annual Christmas drive on Sunday by providing local Army National Guard members with care packages for military members stationed overseas.

“It’s been about 18 years, I guess. It’s been so many years,” she said. “Before I did Star Charities, my husband and I used to do it. It started out with four people and then it got bigger and bigger every year.”

Major Rob Wille, with the 115th Military Police Battalion in Salisbury, said the donations would provide a morale boost for nearly four dozen of his fellow soldiers stationed abroad.

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Opening the dialogue: ‘East’ and ‘West’ Berlin

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Heather Layton and Robin Tomaselli from the Berlin Arts & Entertainment committee sat down over coffee inside Baked Dessert Café with Gregory Purnell last Monday to discuss the committee’s “Artists Giving Back: Meals for the Hungry” drive next week.

The goal of the event at Paul’s United Methodist Church on Flower Street in Berlin is to feed up to 200 people a hot, holiday meal. But for Layton and Tomaselli, the hope is that the event will become the start of something more meaningful – and ambitious – for the greater Berlin community.

That notion, according to Tomaselli, started about a year ago when the A&E committee began working with local school children on a public mural.

The first group of students came from Buckingham Elementary, and a second panel was developed with the input and brushstrokes of students in

the Berlin Youth Club at Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

“I’m not from here – I grew up right outside of [Washington] D.C., so I’ve only lived here for six years, Tomaselli said. “But I didn’t have a business here long before I felt what I’ll just call the ‘great divide of 113’ — the neighborhoods on either side of the Route 113 highway in Berlin.

On one side, the predominantly African-American area surrounding Flower Street is commonly referred to as “East Berlin,” while the Main Street area that’s filled with shops and is home to the majority of town events is sometimes called “West Berlin.”

While the highway exists as a physical divide, added Purnell, a Berlin native who has been active in the black community for decades, it also continues to act as a “cultural divide.”

“We really experienced that when we worked with the kids on this mural project,” Tomaselli said. “It be-

came really evident, particularly when dealing with the young kids, and they even articulated to us that they don’t feel like [Main Street] is part of their community.

“We really want to continue to be part of a big outreach to everyone in our community – not just artists and merchants that are on this side of 113, but to people that make up the community as a whole,” she added. “To us it’s very apparent that there is, for whatever reason, kind of a disconnect there. If Arts & Entertainment can be even a small part of reaching out to make people feel more connected to the community as a whole, we really do want to be a part of that.”

As a starting point – and perhaps a symbol – the committee wondered what they could do for the multipurpose building on Flower Street.

“When we worked with Worcester Youth and Family, we decided to have our first meet and greet with the kids there,” Tomaselli said. “A lot of the kids that were in the summer program of Worcester Youth and Family

live near there, and when I first walked into that building, to me, it was just a shame [to see] the condition of some of the facilities.”

Tomaselli said she was aware that the building is used for Head Start programs in Berlin, as well as other outreach programs of Worcester Youth and Family.

“The kids that live across 113 will tell you openly that they do not feel like this part of Berlin is part of their community,” Tomaselli said. “After being in the multipurpose room, I thought to myself, if that is where you go as a child and you look at that, and you come across 113 and you see what’s happening over here, then why on earth would you not feel disenfranchised?”

“That space could somehow be improved to be a very welcoming space for the people that utilize it,” she added. “And the fact of the matter is, from an arts standpoint, it’s one of the only places other than the Globe that has a stage that can be used for

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OPA mulls online accounts and in-house comp. survey

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Ocean Pines homeowners – and possibly all residents – could soon have authenticated online accounts hosted by the association that would allow for payment of assessments and purchasing of memberships to the various amenities.

That notion was floated last Thursday evening, when the OPA Board of Directors met with the Comprehensive Planning Committee to discuss the implementation of a survey it had been working on for the better part of a year.

Committee Chairman Frank Daly said the group had been eyeing SurveyMonkey as an inexpensive, online tool to conduct the questionnaire. Interim General Manager Brett Hill, however, said Ocean Pines already had its own mechanism to conduct surveys, but that it had not flipped the “on” switch.

Daly said the committee had been working on the survey as a means to inform a new comprehensive plan, and that he hoped to turn that document over to the general manager’s office for implementation.

“This committee has absolutely no ability to the execute plan,” Daly said. “If we write this plan, submit it to you and you approve it as a board, our recommendation is going to be that it gets turned over to the general manager and it becomes incorporated in the annual planning and budgeting process.”

While he said something like SurveyMonkey would only cost about \$300 and could be promoted through Ocean Pines’ existing database of users through regular “e-blasts,” a more expensive alternative, about \$3,800, could be conducted through mailings.

“The whole purpose ... is to give you the information that you need to understand the communitywide needs and priorities,” Daly said, adding the committee was shooting for a 20 percent response rate.

Board Vice President Dave Stevens argued that the committee at least needed to offer mailed copies of survey “to eliminate the bias” because not everyone in Ocean Pines was computer literate.

“Absolutely,” Daly said. “And we can handle it.”

Hill said one solution could be sending the survey out with assessments. While the annual bills are generally printed on two pages, he said about eight pieces of paper could be included in the envelope without increasing the postage cost.

Moreover, Hill said Ocean Pines already owned a “survey engine” and had the “full ability in house to do electronic surveys that are tied directly to membership.”

“But, it’s been a while since we’ve touched it and I don’t believe it’s ever been utilized, but at some point ...

someone asked for it and we had it built and it’s in there,” Hill said. “We essentially own our own SurveyMonkey.”

To get the best results, Hill said, the association would need better data about its membership – specifically, their email addresses. He guessed Ocean Pines had those records of about 1,600 of the more than 8,400 homeowners.

“We’re within a clickable reach of being online, as far as our membership, and that would be to paying our assessments as well as registering for amenities,” Hill said. “For whatever reason we haven’t gotten all the way there. Whatever software click had to go through to turn it on hasn’t been done.”

He said an information technology work group, led by Director Doug Parks, was working to address that as well as other technology issues in the Pines.

Hill said the association had the ability to activate dedicated online accounts for each homeowner, and that the systems could access renters. He said the annual assessment, mailed to each homeowner in March, could be used “as a means to get some type of authenticated electronic account on our membership base.”

“Hopefully, we have an IT person [hired] very soon, so it would be asking the IT person to do this in a couple weeks,” he said.

In the meantime, the directors agreed to discuss via email the specific questions developed by the committee for the survey. That topic will likely appear on the agenda of the next board work session on Monday, Dec. 5.

“We really want to give you the best available data to make really good, informed decisions,” committee member Gail Blazer said.

“I want to see this through. I’ve been on [the committee] a long time,” she added. “I really am passionate about this ... we’re here as your committee. We want to give you the data so you can be great leaders.”

Ultimately, Hill said what the comprehensive planning committee puts together could be invaluable for whoever takes his place in the general manager role.

“If we leave them a vehicle where we’re not making somebody recreate a new map in here – we can use this process over again – I think we’re in a position to really get a lot more value out of what you’ve created here than just today,” he said. “I’d like to do the best I can to help us leverage the long-term value and leave the process here so it’s not another committee having to redo it.”

“I think we have a lot of potential here and I hope the rest of the board can see that and invest the efforts necessary and the resources necessary to leave us in a good place going forward,” he added.

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BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

It was a lovely fall morning on the banks of the Pocomoke River last Friday, with a calm river, clear skies, colorful leaves and a sailboat moored along the riverbank.

Most Worcester Co. towns see windfall from state tax error

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Peter Franchot, Maryland's comptroller for the past decade, admitted last week that his office misdirected about \$21.4 million worth of local income tax payments for years, and for most municipalities in Worcester, the outcome is favorable — except for Snow Hill, which ended up owing the state money.

The error was initially believed to be confined to Montgomery County for \$8.7 million, but another \$12.7 million in misdirected funds was discovered later, according to published reports.

Berlin will get the most back from the state, as Town Manager Laura Allen said she received notice from the state that the municipality is owed \$134,779 in back tax revenues.

Ocean City is next, but is only getting a little more than half of what Berlin is being refunded at \$76,800, according to City Manager Doug Miller.

Pocomoke City is getting back about \$31,000 due to the error, according to City Manager/City Attorney Ernie Crofoot.

Snow Hill, however, was found to owe the state \$17,784 according to Town Manager Kelly Pruitt.

The money, which is expected to be delivered to the municipalities soon, will be deposited in the towns' general funds, and each city or town council will decide what to do with the windfall.

As for Snow Hill, Franchot provided an overview on what the repayment schedule would look like in his official comment on the situation.

"For those jurisdictions that owe money as a result of this reconciliation process, we are mitigating the financial impacts by providing ample time for long-term budget planning," the statement reads. "Those jurisdictions will not have to begin repaying what is owed until 2024, and they will have the flexibility to repay the

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Pocomoke approves election regs

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) After giving members two weeks to review the proposed changes to the charter, the Pocomoke City Council voted to approve a host of new election regulations on first reading during its regular meeting Monday night.

The changes include requiring all elections to be conducted with paper ballots, barring citizens from mounting write-in candidacies from public office, the inclusion of two alternate positions on the Board of Elections and new provisions for tie votes and election certification.

The additions were made to the town charter in response to the situation that developed after the contested election for city council between incumbent George Tasker and challenger Sheila Nelson.

Blamed on an unspecified "mechanical error" with the antiquated mechanical voting machines, 127 votes were counted, but election records showed 132 people voted that day in April.

The Pocomoke City Charter didn't foresee this kind of difficulty, and provided little direction for the council or board of elections on how to proceed.

The charter states "The candidate or candidates for Councilman with the highest number of votes in each general election shall be declared

as Councilman," and requires elections to be certified 12 hours from the time the polls are closed.

Because of the confusion, the town decided to hold another election at the end of May, when Tasker edged Nelson 98-91.

By changing to a paper-ballot only system, the town hopes it will not have a repeat of this kind of error.

The new legislation also included provisions to remove write-in candidates from city elections entirely. The proposed code requires two declared candidates in a race in order to hold an election. If there are fewer than two candidates, the registered

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Decatur teacher case moves to Wor. County Circuit Court

Sexual solicitation charge dropped; Martin will face sex abuse of minor, 25 yrs.

By Brian Gilliland and Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) During his initial appearance in Worcester County District Court on behalf of Stephen Decatur High School teacher Austin Martin, defense attorney John Phoebus on Monday revealed his client had been indicted by the grand jury and the matter will now be handled by the circuit court.

Martin, 27, of Ocean Pines, had faced two charges — sex abuse of a minor and sexual solicitation of a minor — that could have carried maximum penalties of up to 35 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine.

Phoebus said, and the state's attorney agreed, that the sexual solicitation charge would not be pursued by the prosecution. The maximum penalty for that charge is 10 years in jail and the fine. Martin still faces a potential 25-year sentence for his relationship with his 17-year-old teacher's aide.

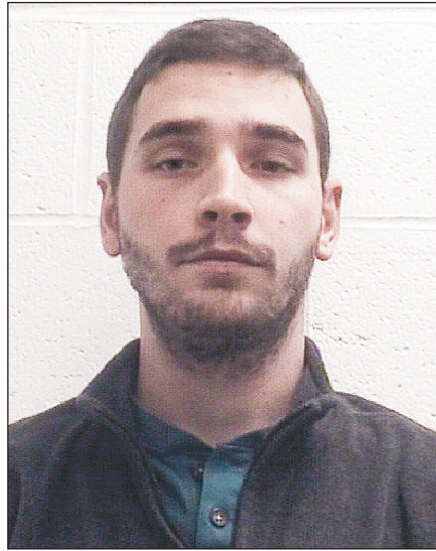
The two allegedly had a relationship that spanned six months, dating back to April or May of this year, when the student "confided in Martin about her relationship" with an ex-boyfriend.

When she didn't show up for school one day, Martin sent the student an Instagram message and gave her his cellphone number, the statement alleged. Eventually, via text, he asked the student for photos.

A text thread shown by Martin to police and spanning from May to November allegedly included several pictures of the student in "semi-nude poses" that appeared to have been taken by the student in her bedroom.

Martin allegedly reciprocated with a similar photo of his own, according to the charging documents.

According to police, Martin and the student met at Buffalo Wild Wings in Salisbury and discussed



Austin Martin

that they "could not have an intimate sexual relationship."

"However, Martin agreed he and [the student] were walking that 'thin line' by exchanging semi-nude photos and sexual innuendo," the officer wrote in the charging documents, which also make mention of Martin's wife.

"Martin knew his relationship with [the student] was inappropriate, but could not provide an answer as to why he never stopped the relationship," the officer wrote, adding that Martin knew his relationship with the student violated school policy.

Carrie Sterrs, Worcester County Public Schools spokesperson, released the following statement in response to the charges: "Worcester County Public Schools is aware of the investigation into Stephen Decatur High School teacher Austin Martin."

"When the school system was made aware of this matter, Mr. Austin was immediately placed on administrative leave until further notice. The safety and security of our students is of the utmost importance to our school system, and we will continue to be proactive and steadfast in ensuring our learning environments are safe for the children of Worcester County."

Martin's next court date has not yet been scheduled.

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Arts group eyes building as community bridge

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musical concerts and plays. It reinforced for us, what can we do to be a part of positive change and to reach out and really envelope the entire Berlin community?"

Purnell said arts and entertainment was one of the first things to help "bridge the gap" between races in Berlin, as he recalled seeing movies at the former Globe Theater – now the Globe restaurant – in his youth.

"We would come from that side of town, from all over that area, to the Globe for movies Friday and Saturday nights," he said, adding that he remembers both 25 and 12-cent screenings.

At one time, Purnell said, Flower Street was a black enterprise zone with its own movie houses and a number of thriving businesses there. Now, it's al-

most exclusively residential.

"It was out of necessity, because you couldn't come [to Main Street] to do things, so you had to set things up on your own area," he said. "In city hall there's a map which shows that area as 'Flower Town,' just another subdivision, and the main street was Flower Street.

"When they built the highway it just became a physical barrier – like a fence," Purnell said. "Your outreach now to the community – to the youth of the community – will turn that around. But that's not going to happen overnight."

Purnell used to march with one of the many high school bands in the Memorial Day parade in the early 1960s that started at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, came up Flower Street to Bay Street, and then crossed

the highway and traveled down Main Street.

Decades later, he became a regular emcee of the parade that now starts and ends on Flower Street, and is largely confined to just one section of the populace.

"We haven't reached out to the entire Berlin community, or the entire Berlin community hasn't come to support us – it's still seen as 'their' parade," he said. "It's not our Memorial Day, but it's 'our' parade. There hasn't been a unifying Berlin parade for 20-some years. That still kind of sticks in everyone's mind – whatever happens over here is us; whatever happens over there is 'them.'"

As signs that some progress has happened in Berlin, Purnell pointed to notable businesses owned Patrick Henry, Glendola Bowen and Jesse Turner. The two longest-serving Berlin Councilmen are African-American – Elroy Brittingham and Dean Burrell – as is the police chief, Arnold Downing.

"The norm is no longer the norm, but there hasn't been too much outreach to the community," he said. "It's deep-seated, but it's not in marble – its just sand. You can move it, but like what happens when nature moves sand, somebody keeps putting it back."

While Purnell said it was certainly not the purpose of development in downtown Berlin to alienate a large segment of the populous, he also admitted that "generation after generation of disenfranchisement" had occurred.

"I've lived here long enough to know not to point fingers, but there have been certain challenges," he said.

He credited Mayor Gee Williams as a unifying force in the town, bringing much-needed infrastructure improvements – including improved roads and sidewalks – to the Flower Street area, and said a proposed new community center across from Henry Park could provide a major boost to morale, although plans for that may not take shape for about a decade.

"Will the new civic center extend this part of Berlin to that section of Berlin, or will it unite us there at that line? I think the answer to that is kind of up in the air," he said. "Would a new multipurpose building be for all of us?"

"There's kind of a mindset of people that have lived under certain systems for as long as Berlin has been," he said. "When I walk uptown now, it's the most beautiful small town and I am so proud to be in Berlin. I've walked these streets when I was a little kid, and now to see tree-lined boulevards and people walking hand-in-hand and buses coming to little Berlin and a couple movies being made – you would think that would radiate throughout, but it kind of hasn't."

He guessed the current multiple purpose building dates back to about

1961. When the former Flower Street Elementary School filled up, that building was used as a satellite.

"They didn't have a room for a cafeteria and they didn't have a room for doing plays and so forth, and at that time the black teachers were instrumental in the arts and activities for children," Purnell said. "We gave a lot of Easter plays and Christmas plays, so the multipurpose building became a facility for that."

After 1970, the last year of segregated schools in Worcester County, the multipurpose building became surplus and went up for auction. A civic group bought the building from the board of education for \$1 and formed the Berlin Improvement Community Association, or BCIA, to oversee it.

"They had all the ideas, but none of the resources," Purnell said of the group. "In all that time, it has been the only place to go, but no one has ever stepped up and improve it."

He said there had been some discussion at Town Hall to help fund improvements there, but that it was "a flame and then it began to simmer, and now it's just a few sparks."

A few meetings have been held there, including stormwater and planning sessions, and the building has been used as a polling place during local elections.

The building needs a new roof, the bathrooms are dilapidated – Tomaselli said the women's restroom doesn't have a working door on any of the stalls – and the inside is generally in a state of neglect or disrepair.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said there are plans and funds set aside to build a new community center on Flower Street, but that it would likely be 5-10 years before that happens.

Tomaselli spoke with both Allen and Williams and was told the town "budgeted a certain amount of money towards maintenance and repairs" for the existing building, but with a caveat.

"They were reluctant to add anything to that budget because the roof was in such poor condition that it would have to be fixed in order for them to invest any more money," she said.

The goal of the Berlin Arts & Entertainment Committee is to find a stopgap solution for the multipurpose building that would allow it to become its own independent entity once the new center is operating. The Red Doors Community Center in Ocean City could serve as a model for programming, according to Layton.

"It seems to me that if everybody were to come together to do some brainstorming and maybe get different estimates in what would be the best solution with the least cost, then in the interim maybe there would be more interest on the town's part to invest a little bit more money on improvements," Tomaselli said. "How do we all come together to make that a place where people want to go,

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where children want to spend time, where you could have artistic performances that would be beneficial to everybody in the community?"

Flower Street is part of the Berlin Arts and Entertainment District, a designation that could open the door for grant money. However, a consensus exists that any renovation would also require donations from the community at large, and that outreach is a necessity.

Purnell said his goal as a native and long-time resident was to "touch the hearts of both sides" of Berlin. The multipurpose building, he said, could be an excellent starting point to that end.

"That is what's going to bridge the gap," he said. "When someone says it's been too long like this, it's got to be more than the oppressed that is saying that. What is the old axiom? In order for evil to conquer, it is only left for good men to do nothing? It is that kind of a situation.

"If we have enough voices saying – with all the success that Berlin has had – we're going to move the barrier, we're going to radiate out to the town limits of Berlin, then we're moving," Purnell added. "It's not because someone's at fault, because we're all at fault for just sitting back and allowing it to happen."

He encouraged meetings, with the

BCIA and others who have influence, to discuss what could be at the current multipurpose building, what could become of the proposed new center, and what activities could happen in either space that could draw in all of Berlin as one, unified community.

"A new multipurpose building would generate so much interest because it's something not just new, but it's something that has been in the hearts of people. They just don't know how to get to it," Purnell said.

"Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come, and its time for progress," he added. "If we've got people that are willing to invest and to make this happen here, then we've got to listen and see how we can assist – and I mean really assist – and then you've got inclusiveness."

Purnell said all of this while sitting in the window of a shop on Bay Street that faces a busy, bustling sidewalk near the rear entrance to Town Hall. It's picturesque, to be sure, but it is also indicative of what "West Berlin" typifies.

"Everybody that comes by here will look in and they'll see me and I'll get a second look. Not some – everybody," he said. "Why? Because this is not my place, even in today's world. We really have to get rid of that invisible wall that has almost always been

there, and then we can do some things.

"What you're going to do [with Meals for the Hungry] is going to be great, but it has to have more than food with it," Purnell continued. "It has to have the connecting tissue that says, 'this is why we're doing this.' And when you've got the people there you've got to tell them 'this is what we're really trying to do – how can you help us do it? We're willing to go this far and do this – what can we do to help you?'"

Artists Giving Back: Meals for the Hungry will run from 2-5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at St. Paul United Methodist Church on 405 Flower Street.

The menu will exclusively feature items donated by local Berlin businesses: macaroni and cheese from Blacksmith Berlin, turkeys from Berlin Butcher Shop, green bean casserole from the Atlantic Hotel, bread from Siculi Italian Kitchen, desserts from Baked Dessert and Brooklyn Baking Barons, and coffee from Berlin Coffee House. Burley Inn Tavern, Fins Ale House and Raw Bar, and the Globe will provide additional food.

Bungalow Love, Bruder Hill and Church Mouse will help offset the cost of all paper goods. Additionally, artists Mark Huey and Holden Becker have donated art, available for

purchase at Baked Dessert and Bungalow Love, which will help fund the dinner. Any additional money collected will be donated to area non-profits.

During Meals for the Hungry, eat-in and take-out meals will be available for needy individuals and families, and delivery will be offered for those who are homebound.

For more information, call Tomaselli at 301-785-6161.

"Our group is a small group, but it's a small group of really invested people that are interested in bringing about really positive change not only in the art community in Berlin, but in the community as a whole," Tomaselli said. "We're reaching out to try to gain some clarity and some good direction.

"We understand it's not going to happen overnight and maybe it will be just one step at a time, but we're interested in making a commitment to take those steps and to spend the time in the community, allowing people to get to know us and to understand and trust what our true intention is," she added. "As far as the multipurpose building, I think it's great that the town is going to invest in maybe building another facility, but 10 years is a long time. If you're a child in this community in 10 years you're grown and out of here."



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Pocomoke to return to paper ballots, bar write-in candidates

■ CHARTER continued
candidate would be declared the winner and no election would be held.

The council also approved an expansion of the five-member board of election supervisors to include two alternates to fill vacancies. The alternates serve at the discretion of the board chair for any reason, including conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

Election certification will be handled a different way under the new law, where the Board of Election Supervisors will advise the city council if there is a tie vote or not, or if there are any issues with the vote totals.

The investigation thereof, or the decision not to pursue any sort of investigation into election issues will go to the city council.

"Nothing herein shall affect or impede the right of any candidate to challenge an election with the mayor and council or seek any legal remedy available," the revised code reads.

In the event of a tie vote, the candidates will draw from a previously unopened pack of playing cards that has been shuffled by the current mayor. The candidate with the high draw wins.

The proposal moved to second reading, which will be held during the next regular meeting on Dec. 5.

Snow Hill only Worcester Co. town not on state rebate list

■ TAX ERROR continued
funds over the course of 10 years from that point forward."

Franchot said he is implementing a new initiative, Project Perfect, to make "technological upgrades and procedural modifications" to ensure the mistake is not repeated.

Franchot said 99.9 percent of the money handled during his term has gone where it should, but the new initiative should make that 100 percent.

"Many taxing jurisdictions don't mesh with how we describe ourselves geographically," Andy Schaufele, director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates for the state, said.

Schaufele said it was fair to draw a comparison between these taxing districts and a gerrymandered congressional district.

Schaufele used the example of the Annapolis Mall, which, he said, isn't in the same taxing district as the city. However, the people who live close to the mall have their mail sent to an Annapolis address and think of

themselves as residents of the city — and may report it as such when they file their taxes.

The existing software system, Schaufele said, was installed in the 1990s, and so uses mid-1980s technology, and isn't robust enough to catch these errors.

One thing the system does do is search for things like people claiming duplicate dependents, he said. However, if a return is flagged in this manner, it bypasses the taxing district question altogether and uses the code put in by the user, which could be incorrect.

Another source of error, Schaufele said, occurred when the comptroller stopped sending forms to taxpayers in 2010 in favor of online filing. If no changes were made by the user from one year to the next, he explained, the system just carried over the previous tax district code, which could have been incorrect.

"The wrong codes, the shortfalls in the system, the good news is it's all fixable," he said.

Wor. GOLD kicks off holiday season with Giving Tuesday

(Nov. 24, 2016) Giving Tuesday is an international effort to promote charitable giving on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. As part of this effort, Worcester GOLD will be in front of the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin on Nov. 29 collecting toys and donations for the Helping Hands for the Holidays program, which provides gifts for local children in need.

There are several ways members of the community can participate. GOLD volunteers will be stationed in front of the Atlantic Hotel, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. collecting monetary

donations and donations of new, unwrapped toys.

Members of the community are encouraged to stop by and get some refreshments and help GOLD stuff a miniature antique truck full of toys. Santa may even make an appearance. Raffle tickets will also be sold for the chance to win an American Girl doll gift package.

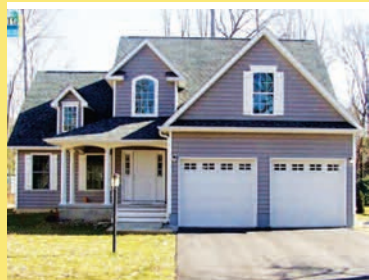
For those who can't make it to Berlin on Nov. 29, monetary donations can be made through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's ShoreGivesMore.org site.



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State police release name of Berlin hit-and-run victim

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Maryland State Police investigators announced on Monday that the victim of an apparent fatal hit and run in Berlin on Nov. 11 has been identified as 49-year-old Carlos Enrique Morales Barrios of Ocean City.

According to a press release on Monday, Barrios was found dead on the Route 50 roadside near GlenRiddle. He lived at the 200 block of South Philadelphia Avenue.

During a phone interview on Monday, police spokesperson Elena Russo said the victim's foreign nationality made it difficult to notify his family and resulted in a delay in the release of his name.

"They had trouble identifying this guy – that's why it took them about a week – because he had a passport with him and they had to go through the Mexican Consulate to get to his next of kin," she said. "That was a little bit challenging for them."

No suspects were named and the case remains under investigation. Russo admitted that will be difficult, because police are depending on the possibility of witnesses and are analyzing "some debris that was left on the side of the road."

"Perhaps that would help them – [even] a paint match. I don't know exactly what kind of evidence [police have], but if they found pieces of a vehicle, like a puzzle, it just fits," she said. "If they had a vehicle that somebody described they thought was in the area, they could hunt down that vehicle and see if that piece fits the damage on the car."

"I don't think there are any cameras in that area because it's so rural, that's why they really rely on getting this information out through the media," Russo added. "Hopefully, witnesses have something. It's a tough one."

Police discovered the body after receiving a 911 call from a motorist who thought he had spotted a dead deer near a ditch, but found, upon further examination, that it was a body.

The man apparently spoke with state police at the Berlin Barrack, and troopers arrived to find the victim "deceased ... in a grassy ravine between Maryland Route 707 and Route 50 in Worcester County" according to a state police press release issued later that day.

The release went on to stay a preliminary investigation suggested the victim was involved in a fatal hit-and-

See OFFICIALS Page 11

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Stabbing suspect nabbed after three-day police search

(Nov. 24, 2016) After eluding police for several days, Kimberly Hinkley, 50, of Ocean City was arrested early Sunday morning and charged with attempted second-degree murder, first-degree assault, second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and possessing a dangerous weapon with intent to injure after an apparent altercation with her boyfriend, 53-year-old Mark James Bell in Ocean City on Nov. 15.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office reported that Hinkley was at large on Friday, but that the trail had gone cold after she evaded a "large scale search" that include a K-9 unit and a Maryland State Police helicopter.

A police deputy was traveling on Route 50 in West Ocean City on Friday afternoon when he spotted Hinkley and recognized her as a suspect in

a stabbing incident. Police said Hinkley fled when she saw the deputy, triggering a search that included Worcester County Police, Maryland State Troopers and Ocean City Police.

Police continued searching for Hinkley during normal patrols and, at about 4 a.m. on Sunday morning, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office apparently received information on Hinkley's whereabouts.

County and state police found Hinkley at a residence in West Ocean City and took her into custody without incident.

She is being held without bond at Worcester County Jail, without bond.

According to court records, Hinkley has faced assault charges before — in 2009, 2010 and 2014 — but was not found guilty in any of them.

Officials still searching for clues in hit-and-run case

Continued from Page 10
run "due to the physical evidence and debris left at the scene."

Police are asking that anyone with information related to the case contact the Berlin Barrack at 410-641-

3101.
The Lower Eastern Shore Crime Solvers are offering up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest for the person responsible. For more information, call 410-548-1776.

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Foultz continues to lead successful holiday collection

■ STAR CHARITIES continued

"Currently, our battalion has about 40 soldiers deployed in Gitmo (Guantanamo Bay detention camp) and about seven more deployed elsewhere," he said. "We'll work with our family support program and get the donations here packaged and sent out."

Wille said numerous organizations collect comfort items for active duty military members throughout the year, but said this drive was time-sensitive.

"With Star Charities, they specifically wanted to get the donations to recipients during or before the holidays," he said. "I've been involved in others, but this is my first time with Star Charities in my current role."

Spec. Eric Fletcher said he has participated in donation pickups in the past and recognizes the value in this altruistic pursuit.

"It's important because it shows the community actually appreciates what we are doing," he said. "It just shows their way of giving back to us."

Although stateside at the moment, Fletcher said community donations provided a lifeline during his past tours in Afghanistan.

"Once you see the care package, and it's got notes and everything, it softens your heart and it gives you a reason to



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Star Charities co-founder Anna Foultz, center, shares a moment of levity, with members of the Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion, from left, Spc. Shaun Paulin, Spc. Eric Fletcher, Ssgt. Linwood Harmon, Major Rob Wille and Spc. Keegan Britton, who stopped by her Ocean Pines abode on Sunday to collect holiday donations for overseas troops.

keep pushing," he said.

Although donations usually include practical items, such as toiletries, Wille said recreational items account for a significant portion and often allow military members to make positive connections with native populations.

"If they're deployed in Afghanistan, or other regions, and we're working with the local populace ... sometimes organizations will [include] things like stuffed animals, puzzles and we've even received toys," he said. "The soldiers will then take those items and re-gift them to local children and, believe it or not, that builds a relationship."

Wille said in such instances dona-

tions have second and third order benefits in addition to providing comfort for overseas troops.

"It's saved lives because those relationships with the locals often lead to intel," he said.

From his experience, Fletcher feels the spirit of support can be contagious when organizations like Star Charities conduct care package drives to support the troops

"The more people see these types of donations, the more others get the idea to do the same," he said. "It catches on like a chain reaction."

In addition to seeing numerous donations from individuals and small

businesses, Foultz said several new partners made contributions this year. That list includes the Daughters of the American Revolution's Berlin chapter, AARP Ocean Pines chapter and the Rite-Aid on Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines.

Foultz, 90, now has her attention focused on Star Charities' annual Beef & Beer Fundraiser, which raises money for wounded soldiers in Maryland.

The event takes place on Jan. 27, from 5-9 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Pkwy. Tickets cost \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Foultz at 410-641-7667 or Larry Walton at 443-831-1791.

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Snow Hill Road opens again after October washout

By **Brian Gilliland**
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) After more than one month of winding, weaving and exploring the back roads between Snow Hill and Salisbury, the most direct route between the towns, Snow Hill Road, was finally reopened to traffic this past Friday.

Last month while most of the lower shore's eyes were squarely focused on Hurricane Matthew, which ended up not having a great impact on the area, a line of strong storms struck Snow Hill, leaving some areas — particularly the north end of town — hip deep in the Pocomoke River.

A few miles to the north a different kind of trouble was brewing, as a recently-paved section of Snow Hill Road near Mt. Olive Church Road was washed away by the deluge, leaving a canyon impassible to automobiles. Residents in the area between the washout and the town were all but stranded for a few days until the waters receded, or they ventured onto the back roads of the county.

Charlie Gischlar, State Highway Administration spokesman, said at the time old infrastructure beneath the roads was the primary cause for the road giving way.

During the heavy rains, the SHA



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Snow Hill Road is now completely open to traffic as repairs caused by the October flooding were completed on Friday. The road had been completely washed out by the deluge, and had been detoured onto Old Furnace Road and Millville Road for about one month.

was reinforcing many of its roads against the heavy downpour with rip-rap, or softball-sized rocks. Those rocks were delivered by trucks, and were extremely heavy. The weight of the trucks may have played a role in the erosion leading to the washout, Gischlar said.

More to blame, Gischlar said, were the 42-inch drainage pipes under the affected road, which were due to be replaced anyway. Those pipes had been in place since the road was first built, and were about 50 years old, he said.

The SHA has since updated its design guidelines, and the replaced road

now conforms to those improved standards.

Work began quickly to repair the road, and the early estimates of between three to four weeks to complete the project proved to be close to the mark.

Drivers had two routes to get north to Salisbury from Snow Hill. The official detour took commuters down Old Furnace Road onto Millville Road, which merged back into Snow Hill Road. Perhaps less well known was another route, from Mt. Olive Church Road eventually onto Airport Road and back onto Snow Hill Road.

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Lights out, then on in Snow Hill, Wednesday

Tree lighting and more at Byrd Park to brighten town; mayor will address crowd

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Not only will the town's tree at Byrd Park be lit up during an event scheduled for Wednesday beginning at 5:15 p.m., but all of the

town's decorations, from the displays lining the loop of the park to the swans on the drawbridge to the snowflakes on the utility poles marking the route between them, will as well.

Kicking off the event at the park and warming up the crowd will be Nick Haglich, who has been scheduled to play holiday favorites until about 5:30 p.m. when the event formally begins.

Hot chocolate will be served, carols will be sung and spirits will be made light, first figuratively, then literally as the holiday displays are turned on for the season.

"Both the Free Indeed Baptist Ministries choir and the Snow Hill Middle School choir will perform, and Snow Hill Elementary School teacher Connie West will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas," Ann

Gibb, event organizer, said.

Mayor Charlie Dorman is scheduled to address the crowd, and Pastor Ken Ellison is scheduled to deliver the invocation.

"Everyone will get a red bow to decorate the tree, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company will be serving hot chocolate," she said.

Children's hot chocolate will be free, sponsored by the Berlin Ocean City Optimist Club, and hot dogs will be available to purchase for one dollar. Hot chocolate can be purchased for 50 cents, Gibb said.



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Patty Falck of Ta Da oversaw decorations of the official Town of Berlin Christmas tree, which will stand unlit on the patio of the Atlantic Hotel until Mayor Gee Williams throws the proverbial switch on Friday at 6 p.m.

Berlin to flip switch on town Christmas tree, Friday night

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Berlin's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony serves as the kickoff to the holiday season in town and that is how it will be this year, as regular carriage rides will begin, along with visits from Santa and a Main Street decorated for the occasion.

This year, Patty Falck of Ta Da decorated the official town tree, which will stand unlit on the patio of the Atlantic Hotel until Mayor Gee Williams throws the switch on Friday at 6 p.m.

The Casino at Ocean Downs will sponsor the return of ice artist Erik Cantine, who will provide ice sculpture demonstrations. As a new feature this year, the town will also offer an interactive, ice sculpted corn-hole board.

Carriage rides will start downtown during the event, and the town will sponsor free rides during weekends in December from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the tree lighting generally draws upwards of 1,000 people.

Several-dozen downtown shops will

be open for business, many of which are offering special sales, unveiling new product lines, and/or hosting holiday charity drives. About 10 downtown restaurants and coffee shops will also be open during the event, which runs until about 8 p.m.

Wells said shopping in Berlin is unique, because many of the items found in the stores are literally one of a kind.

"When you come down to shop in Berlin, a lot of the gifts that you can purchase here are actually made in Berlin. Berlin is unique from the other downtowns because of that," she said.

That includes everything from hand-made foods at Gilbert's Provisions, to holiday ornaments and art pieces from Jeffery Auxer Designs, soaps from Uncle Jon's Soap and hand-sewn items at NEST.

Coming up in Berlin is the annual Berlin Christmas Parade, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. downtown, a visit from Santa at the Berlin Visitor's Center on Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the Berlin New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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Holiday Arts Night to open doors in downtown Berlin

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Berlin Arts & Entertainment Committee Chair Heather Layton has been attending Holiday Arts Night for close a decade.

The event literally helped put her on the map and now, she helps organize the annual affair.

"I personally have been attending ... as a patron since the late 1990s," she said. "My sister, Kristie Maxa, and I were the featured artists during the Holiday Arts Night at the Globe in 2009. The sales from that show allowed me to open my own shop, and in 2010 I was able to host my first Holiday Arts night at Bungalow Love."

Holiday Arts Night dates back to 1988, when local painter Patrick Henry held an open house inside his gallery, then housed at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets.

Coinciding with the annual tree-lighting ceremony, the event eventually expanded into a town-wide art stroll overseen by the A&E committee and Berlin Main Street.

"Holiday Arts Night is really about kicking off the holiday season with a laid back, small town charm," Layton said. "Although the town is packed and there is so much to see and do, the downtown is so charming and beautifully decorated that you can't help but feel the community pride and get into the holiday spirit."

Layton said virtually all of the shops now participate by decorating their storefronts and extending their hours. Many shops will also host local artists and artisans.

This year a new gallery, Wooden

Octopus on 8 Jefferson Street, will participate for the first time. Henry and Kate Cashman, who both operate their own galleries at Union Station on Old Ocean City Boulevard, will open the doors to their respective studios.

"The Holiday Art Stroll is hands down the busiest, most well-attended art stroll of the year," Layton said. "It's so wonderful to not only see all the merchants stay open late and participate, but to see so many local faces as well. It's a true community event; you get family members that are visiting from out of town, newcomers

that just heard of Berlin and want to check it out and of course the regulars you see just about daily. It's a wonderful, family friendly event."

"My hope is that everyone that visits will have an amaz-

ing time, get into the holiday spirit and leave with a little piece of Berlin in their heart," Layton added.

Holiday Arts Night runs from 5-8 p.m., this Friday.

Up next, on Saturday, Dec. 3 from noon to 8 p.m., the committee will host the first Berlin Artists Holiday Studio Tour, when individuals and businesses in the Arts and Entertainment District will open their studios to the public "for a day of exploration and shopping."

Participants will include Henry, Cashman, Mathew Amey, Jeffrey Auxer, Patti Backer, Matt Dove, Caroline Forrester, Stephanie Karn, Lynne Lockhart, Kirk McBride, Jordan Pippin and Brian Robertson.

For information, visit "Berlin Md Arts & Entertainment" on Facebook or www.artsinberlin.org.

'Holiday Arts Night is really about kicking off the holiday season with a laid back, small town charm'
Heather Layton

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Pocomoke first out of gate with Christmas parade

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) With the coming of the holidays is the coming of the Christmas parades — every municipality in Worcester has one — and Pocomoke City takes its traditional lead role with its parade on Tuesday, starting at 7 p.m.

“It’s the kickoff of the parade season and of the holidays on Delmarva,” event organizer Mike Shannon said. “We’re putting our best foot forward.”

Doing so requires planning and organization, and starts before the first whistle sounds.

“Registration isn’t a first-come, first-served situation,” he said. “We put it together so it’s a very enjoyable parade from beginning to end.”

Registration ends Friday, and, after all the applications are in, Shannon said he will take a look at who is participating and start building the parade from there.

“It’s not just for kids, and you don’t want to have five fire companies back to back to back,” Shannon said.

So, Shannon will do a bit of organizing. A school band here, a local non-profit there, all with the intent of making the free event as enjoyable as possible. All told, there should be more than 100 individual entrants into the parade.

“We put a lot of thought into the way we set it up for everyone to enjoy,” he said.

This line of thinking begins at the parade route, which is Market Street between 14th and the bridge.

“If you have a little one that needs to go to bed early, or you have to wake up early for work the next day, you want to set up close to 14th Street, because the parade will pass you first. If you’re not as concerned about that or want to be close to Santa Claus when he arrives downtown, then you want to be down by the bridge,” he said.

Shannon said organizers are making every attempt to have the jolly old elf downtown by 9:30 p.m. so children will be able to tell him their Christmas wishes.

Pocomoke’s Christmas parade is professionally judged, and cash prizes are available to most of the contestants. However, the local school bands and ROTC chapter are not eligible to win prize money, but they are judges to see how well they perform against other teams.

“For some of our local nonprofits and churches, it takes a lot to put together a float, so I’d like to make sure they get something back for the effort,” he said.

Shannon said after so many years of putting on a parade — Pocomoke’s began in 1972, he said — it’s become a science.

“There are six or seven of us putting on the parade, and I wouldn’t be able to do it without them — especially on parade day. I’d say 90 percent of the crew that started with me on the parade are still involved today,” Shannon said. “The support I have from them is unbelievable.”

In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be postponed until Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m.



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Snow Hill earns spot in Md. Main Street Affiliate prog.

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Described as a sort of training wheels program for the more formal Main Street Maryland program by economic development consultant Michael Day, the Town of Snow Hill has recently earned a spot in the state's Main Street Affiliate program.

"We're going to do what we did in Berlin," Day said. "Where we pretended like we were a Main Street community for three years before we applied and got it."

Enrollment in the affiliate program gives local government and businesses time to adjust to the requirements of the program and any changes that could be in store.

"Participation in the Affiliate program gives communities an important set of principals, guidelines and examples that may immediately be put into practice," the application materials read. "Following an initial site visit and assessment, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development staff will work with the community to develop an Affiliate Action Plan that will provide information on resources the local government and stakeholders can utilize to meet their specific commercial district challenges."

The program provides access to funding and technical support for towns seeking to revitalize their traditional business districts.

"Resources ... include available funding from DHCD and other state agencies as well as access to the ... network of local nonprofits and government agencies, a range of expert consultants and targeted professional consultation," the application reads.

Day said the town's formal application to the Main Street program was still a few years away, unless the program takes off, in which case he said he would adjust his timeline.

"The affiliate program is not a full Main Street designation, but is a new program the State of Maryland's Dept. of Housing and Community Development is offering for communities that may not be interested in or not quite ready for the full designation, which has a much more involved application process, and requires the commitment of a staff person to the Main Street program," Susan Shepard, project manager for the state program, said. "The affiliate program offers technical assistance and one on one time with our DHCD staff that can help them get to the full designation, and/or focus on certain areas of their downtown revitalization plan."

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Berlin bullish on state Bikeways program

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Six months ago, the Berlin Town Council approved up to \$20,000 to create a pedestrian and biking path linking Berlin Falls park to the downtown area.

The funding was specifically earmarked for acquiring licensing fees for a right-of-way easement to use the area near the existing rail line owned by the Maryland-Delaware Railroad Co. At the time, Planning Director Dave Engelhart said a grant from the Maryland Bikeways program could help pay for design work.

While it took a little longer than expected, the town was approved for the grant late last month and work on the project is moving forward — albeit at a somewhat unhurried pace.

As of last Friday, Engelhart said

he's waiting to hear from the railroad on the access agreement and that he had to check in with the Maryland Department of Transportation, which oversees the Bikeways program, by Nov. 30.

After that, the town would move into the design phase.

"Hopefully, we can get [design work] done by May or June in time for the next grant cycle," he said. "If we had that design done, which is paid for by the first grant, we could be looking for construction money and start building it."

Exactly who will do the design work is still up in the air, although

Engelhart said the town would likely release a request for proposal to solicit bids.

He said the path would be 10 feet wide with two feet of "freeboard" space on either side.

"That fits in the railroad right of way nicely, and that's the ideal bikeway path," he said. "I don't know yet if it would be blacktop or concrete or whatever."

If all goes well, the first phase of the path could be finished by October of next year, he said.

"I would think [the first phase] would run from Berlin Falls at Old Ocean City Boulevard in the railroad right of way down to where it hits

Main Street, where the new library is going to be," Engelhart said. "A mid-town section could pickup on the other side of Main and run down through town, that would be phase two.

"Eventually it could run to the southern border of town, right to the Brittany Lane, Evans Road area, and, hopefully, the county could partner with us," he added. "Maybe we could have the [path] in the railroad right of way all the way to Snow Hill or all the way to Pocomoke. There are a lot of options for it."

Nationally and in Maryland, Engelhart said there is a huge push for more biking and pedestrian paths.

"It ties in good with the park, and if the first phase ends by the new library, that's also a good thing," he said.


'Maybe we could have the [path] in the railroad right of way all the way to Snow Hill or all the way to Pocomoke'
Planning Director
Dave Engelhart



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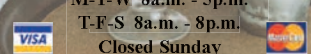


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Solar co-op enrollment soars to 39

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Now boasting a roster of 39 people, according to Corey Ramsden, project manager, the Worcester County Solar Cooperative continues to grow as the deadline to join approaches.

Originally slated to end at the end of October, the interest was both slow and steady enough for the deadline to be extended until the end of November.

Though new recruits won't have a say in choosing a vendor to install solar panels on a property, a decision made earlier this year by co-op members, they can still avail themselves of the lower negotiated rate for photovoltaic solar cell installation.

"The Worcester co-op is one of

the largest we've helped organize on the eastern shore with more than 35 participants who've joined the group so far. Members are seeing between 15 and 20 percent savings on the cost of their systems," Ramsden said.

At last update in early October, the group had 28 members, with 21 of those already in some stage of the installation process, according to Ramsden.

The group formed earlier this year, under Ramsden's guidance through MD Solar, a nonprofit dedicated to encouraging communities to adopt a co-op format for solar panel installations, to develop a request for proposals from solar installers.

Those interested can still visit www.mdsun.org/worcester to regis-

ter with the co-op. On the site, visitors will find a form requesting several pieces of information, including the address of the home to be outfitted with panels.

Using satellite imagery, the installer will perform a check to see if the home is a good fit for solar generation. Ramsden warned that the images are sometimes out of date, so if the installer reports the home is a poor fit for panels, users may want to consider reviewing commonly available satellite images, like Google maps, of their neighborhood to ensure fair representation of their property.

If the house is a good fit, a site visit is planned from which a proposal is generated, leveraging the buying power of the co-op to bring down the installation price.

Community Briefs

Commended students

Stephen Decatur High School seniors David Mitchell, Jackson Pielstick and Ian Waggoner have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Bernard accepted

Cassie Bernard, daughter of Joseph and Rebekah Bernard of Pocomoke City, was recently accepted into Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society, at Salisbury University.

Bernard is a sophomore majoring in early childhood education and a graduate of Holly Grove Christian School.

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Opinion

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

Thankful on Giving Tues.

Even though the historical purpose of Thanksgiving is to acknowledge our good fortune, that has become secondary to many of us, as our comfortable circumstances allow us to look on the holiday as less of a day of thanks and more of a time to eat as much as we can possibly hold.

If that thought brought about a touch of indigestion, there's a cure for that — give someone else something to be thankful for, and you can do it through the online donation event known as Giving Tuesday, when it goes viral on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

Giving can be second nature to most, but there's always that thought lurking in the back of your mind, "How will this help me?" It appears we have lost the meaning of giving. Yet, the world continues to give us opportunities to contribute to the welfare of those around us.

This Giving Tuesday, set aside that lurking thought and give simply because it's the right thing to do. Give to a local nonprofit because all they do is give to others, often with no tangible reward.

In 2014, when Giving Tuesday was just a couple years old, the campaign estimated \$46 million dollars in donations. The average donor contributed at least \$100 dollars to this cause.

When I was growing up, I was always shown that giving is not all about money. It's also about time and love. It's the little donations, such as helping a stranger to his or her car, that make our hearts full.

And while those giving principals will always apply, today's world is driven by commerce and dollar signs. The idea that someone is asking you for your money seems beyond ironic, but that's where we've lost the idea of giving. It's not about your money, it's about what your donation can help more than 60 local nonprofits achieve for the audience they serve.

Take at least 5 minutes on Tuesday, Nov. 29 to find a cause or maybe even multiple causes that can donate to and stand behind. Remember that giving is not about receiving.

Visit www.ShoreGivesMore.org to donate, the link goes live starting at midnight on Giving Tuesday. In the meantime, visit the website for more details and save the date.

— Alexandra Jones
Worcester County Developmental Center



"And you say you were just passing by. You didn't see anyone suspicious, no teenagers with spray cans?"

Letters

Make parks, not war

Editor,
Thank goodness the election is finally over. I heard the term "Election Stress Disorder" this fall and it immediately resonated with me and many others I know.

Part of the "Election Stress" for me related to the continuous news cycle and the overwhelmingly negative tone of the Presidential election this year. But there also is a deeper anxiety emerging in our country around the obvious economic and social divides that were laid bare by the election.

It seems to me that conservation of parks and farms and open space could provide a bridge across some of the divides that America faces. At the political level both Democrats and Republicans have storied traditions in conservation from Republican Teddy Roosevelt's creation of the National Park system to Democratic President Obama's creation of the Arctic Marine Sanctuary.

In our communities parks are the melting pots where we all come together to celebrate, recreate, and participate with each other forming critical community bonds. And at a personal level, I believe

we all have a deep need for access to land and nature and elbow room in an increasingly urbanized world.

As our new leaders take office at all levels please encourage them to support parks and nature preserves and open space. Think of the foresight of Teddy Roosevelt in starting our National Park System. We need that foresight now on the Eastern Shore and in our communities.

These public spaces are critical infrastructure to be secured now for the benefit of our children and grandchildren. God blessed America with beautiful and verdant lands and waters and wildlife. And God Blessed the Eastern Shore even more so with terrific soils and a deep heritage of communities committed to the future of this beautiful place. I hope you will join me in encouraging our new leaders to create new conservation legacies.

Rob Etgen
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Successful drive

Editor,
I would like to thank those members of the

Worcester County Bar Association who contributed to the Bar's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

I would also like to thank Sav-A-Lot, Acme and Food Lion for facilitating delivery of our food.

This year, we were able to provide approximately 353 less fortunate families with complete Thanksgiving dinners, which they could prepare in their own homes. We united once again with Worcester County Gold and Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Buckingham and Showell elementary schools to identify those families with children to attempt to reach our goal that no one in our county should go hungry on Thanksgiving.

I acknowledge that our goal is a lofty one that perhaps will never be completely met. We are proud, however, that as our Thanksgiving Food Drive has grown over the past 15 years, we are getting closer.

Thank you for being our brother's/sister's keeper and attempting to take care of our own.

David C. Gaskill
Committee On Charitable Endeavors
Worcester County Bar Association

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Sneaker Dreams come true in downtown Pocomoke City

Former NYC teacher moves south to be close to family, opens his own shoe shop

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) Daniel LaMontagne left teaching high school math behind, for now, to do what a lot of serious hobbyists wish they could do — open a store dedicated to their passion in order to devote themselves to it full time.

LaMontagne's passion is sneakers, and has been with him for a long time.

"I was born in 1985 when sneaker culture really took off, with Run DMC's "My Adidas" and Michael Jordan took Nike to the next level," he said. "I love reminiscing about those days."

His personal collection includes about 100 pairs, give or take the several shoes now in stock at his downtown Pocomoke City store, Sneaker Dreams.

Open for about a month now, the store features a tiny fraction of what LaMontagne envisions as the eventual end product of his passion.

"I want to get to 400 pairs of sneakers at least, and have ten times the amount of clothes I do right now," he said. "It's hard to keep the clothes in stock, because I'm selling them so cheap right now."

More clothes are due in soon he said, with some local vendors providing the goods.

LaMontagne set up Sneaker Dreams as a buy-sell-trade shop, where customers can trade in their own kicks for store credit, and then use that credit towards another purchase.

"I like the shoes to be about an 8/10 as far as condition, but will

make exceptions," he said.

LaMontagne, a native of New York City, was looking to move closer to relatives in the Virginia Beach area and away from the high cost of living the city requires. He eventually landed a job on the lower shore of Virginia, but decided it wasn't a good fit. One evening, hanging around downtown Pocomoke City with his fiancée and enjoying a sandwich, he said he had an epiphany.

"We were sitting on the bench outside of X-O Beanery, and I just thought how beautiful it was down here," he said. "So I asked about one of the empty stores here. Rent is cheap, so I decided to go for it."

He said his goal is to get the shop to where he wants it to be, and then he might consider a return to teaching, but he's in no rush.

"It's nice not having people tell me what to do. I find myself very easy to work for," he said. "Do I miss the kids, do I miss teaching? Yes. But it's a cool, unique perspective here too. People feel they can be authentic here."

Right now Sneaker Dreams is heavy on the brand names: Nike, Asics, Puma, Saucony, and exclusively stocks sneakers — no loafers or Dr. Marten's here. However, the selection favors higher-end sneakers and their lower-cost counterparts — there's not a lot of middle of the road styles yet.

"I do special orders though too. I'm also back and forth to New York all the time, and I know sellers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, the whole way," he said.

The store is set to take on a sports theme, with televisions in the back just waiting to be installed.

"We're going to have all the games on. I'm also going to hook up my PlayStation 4 and have that going before long too," he said.



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Daniel LaMontagne with sneakers, sneakers and more sneakers, at his new shop in downtown Pocomoke City called Sneaker Dreams. While he eventually wants to add more clothing and athletic gear, the focus right now, he said, is on sneakers.

OP leaf collection scheduled

(Nov. 24, 2016) The Ocean Pines Association announced leaf collection procedures for its residents this fall. Ocean Pines Public Works and Republic Services will both aid in the collection.

Current Republic Services customers may place up to four bags of leaves curbside for each scheduled pickup. This is in addition to regular trash pickup.

Trash collection days for residents south of Route 90 are Tuesdays and Fridays. For residents north of Route 90, the collection days are Mondays and Thursdays. Republic Services will also pick up branches if they are tied in bundles no longer than four feet.

Leaves and other yard debris bagged in paper bags will also be collected by Ocean Pines Public Works Nov. 21-Dec. 22. Bags will be picked up on days opposite from Republic Services' collection days. Only paper bags will be accepted, and there is no limit to the number of bags that residents may place curbside.

Thirty-gallon paper bags may be purchased at public works for \$1 each.

Additionally, public works will run the vacuum truck through each section to vacuum ditch leaves that have been raked to the street. Yard leaves that have been raked to the street will not be picked up. These leaves must be placed in paper bags for collection.

Ocean Pines residents may also bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the public works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane near the south station fire department.

The yard will be open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 21-Dec. 22. No contractor dumping or plastic bags will be permitted. There will be no collection or drop-off on Thursday, Nov. 24 or Friday, Nov. 25.

For more information, contact Ocean Pines Public Works at 410-641-7425 or email Linda Martin at lmartin@oceanpines.org.

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berlinmainstreet.com

Berlin commercial design standards discussion tabled

By Josh Davis
 Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) All seven members of the Berlin Planning Commission were present on Nov. 9 in Town Hall to go over a new set of commercial design standards.

The discussion did not last long, as the commission decided to shelve talks until the county finalized its own standards update.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the county document was being updated because the current standards were seen as ineffective and not friendly to businesses.

According to Engelhart, a task force of county staff and citizen stakeholders was developing an updated draft that could be released later this month.

Before adjourning, the commission briefly worked from a draft of new standards prepared a year ago by commission member Pete Cosby. That included plenty of discussion on minutiae – use of the word “must” in-

stead of “shall” – as well as procedures for issuing certificates of occupancy and how to safeguard against an overabundance of administrative waivers, which is apparently a frequent complaint of the county standards.

Cosby asked about closing potential loopholes that might occur between the Berlin Historic District Commission findings and those of the planning commission. Engelhart told the commission he would look into it.

Following up on a suggestion Engelhart made at the previous planning meeting. Chairman Chris Denny got no response when he asked if three members of the commission wanted to work on a subcommittee to develop the Berlin standards.

Cosby moved to adjourn until the commission could get a look at the county draft, and a unanimous vote ended the meeting.

The Berlin Planning Commission will reconvene on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in town hall.

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New AGH cancer center named in honor of Burbage

(Nov. 24, 2016) Atlantic General Hospital Foundation unveiled the name of the hospital's new cancer center during the Foundation's annual Thanks for Giving event held recently.

Michelle Fager, co-chair of the Atlantic General Campaign for the Future, announced that the new cancer center will be named the John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center in honor of Jack Burbage's personal and financial contributions to the hospital and the community.

Burbage, who is also co-chair of the Atlantic General Campaign for the Future, is a resident of Berlin and CEO of Blue Water Development Company. The Stephen Decatur High School graduate has deep roots in the community.

He sits on the Board of Directors of Taylor Bank, is a board member for Diakonia and is a member of the Maryland Builders and the Maryland Bankers Association. He has two sons and four grandchildren.

"We're very fortunate to have Jack's support for the new cancer center and the Campaign for the Future. The community's response has been overwhelming," Fager said. "We are excited to have already secured over one quarter of our total goal of \$10,000,000 in pledges, commitments and grants."

The new 18,000-square-foot Regional Cancer Care Center, which is to be built on hospital-owned property at the corner of Route 113 and Old Ocean City Boulevard (Rt. 346) in Berlin, will provide one centrally-located, convenient facility for the care and treatment of individuals with cancer and blood disorders.

In addition to existing medical oncology and chemotherapy infusion services and integrative therapies, the new center will include radiation oncology; PET imaging; laboratory services; community education and support facilities; and telemedicine technology that will allow patients and their physicians to consult with other cancer care experts, preventing unnecessary travel for consultation and follow up care for patients who may require more intensive cancer care services.

Construction is due to begin in July 2017, with completion in early 2018.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Atlantic General Hospital Foundation recently unveiled the name of the hospital's new cancer center during the Foundation's annual Thanks for Giving event held recently. The new cancer center will be named the John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center in honor of Jack Burbage's personal and financial contributions to the hospital and the community. Pictured, from left, are Michael Franklin, president and CEO, Atlantic General Hospital; Burbage, Jr., co-chair of the Atlantic General Campaign for the Future; Todd Ferrante, chair of the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation; Lou Taylor, chair of the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees; and Michelle Fager, co-chair of the Atlantic General Campaign for the Future.

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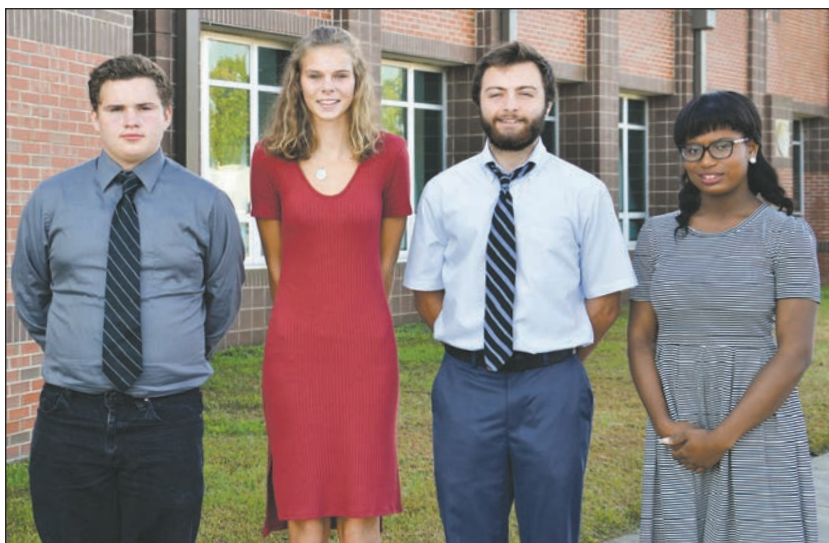
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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ten years, 100,000-plus hours of service, one decade of incredible service-oriented student leaders is what the Stephen Decatur High School Presidential Service Award ceremony, with guest of honor Maryland Del. Mary Beth Carozza, celebrated on Oct. 18. This year, 62 Stephen Decatur High School students received the Presidential Service Award for community service. Pictured, from left, are Cole Norman, Jenna Shumate, Dominic Klebe and Areyon Collick, the four recipients of the gold award, given to students earning over 250 hours of community service.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HAT DAY

Fifth through eighth grade students at Seaside Christian Academy in West Ocean City gather for a group photo to show off their funny hats during "Hat Day at SCA," Sept. 26.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MBS WALKATHON

Students from Most Blessed Sacramento Catholic School in Berlin participate in their annual Walkathon fundraiser and Family Fall Festival on Oct. 21. These events, sponsored by Most Blessed Sacramento Catholic School's Home and School Association, promote health and fitness school-wide for students ranging from Pre-K 3 through eighth grade as well as community fellowship. The monies donated will benefit the MBS Home and School Association's support to school.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FIRE PREVENTION DAY

Ocean City Deputy Fire Marshall Ryan Whittington talks to students at Seaside Christian Academy in West Ocean City on Fire Prevention Day, Oct. 12, about the importance of using their cell phones wisely, and when they spend the night at a friend's house, to make sure that home has working smoke detectors.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WPS HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

The Charles R. Jenkins Chapter of the National Honor Society at Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) inducted 39 new members on Nov. 2. Pictured, in front, from left, are Jack Fager, Olivia Parker, Sophia Bandorick, Sydney Boright, Marissa Grosso, Sammy Wolpin, Reese Gittelman, Maddie Simons, Sarah Savage, Deborah Marini, Leigh Menendez, Kaylee Dickson, Emilee Dorey and Camryn Sofronski; middle row, Sara Mapp Young, Jamie Gittelman, Stevie Eppard-Annis, Grace Nichols, Colby Noble, Ronnie Ferrell, Annemarie Cherry, Maya ZiaShakeri, Cameron Langel, Caroline Pasquariello, Eliza Chafournier, Sandra Karsli and Austin Taylor; and in back, Jay Poduval, Joshua Bredbenner, Brenner Maull, Sam Cantello, Connor Cebula, Luke Crowe, Brendan Miller, Tucker Brown, Seth Lewis, Reid Odachowski and Nick Abboud. Not Pictured: Anchita Batra.

County celebrates generosity during 'Giving Tuesday'

Community Foundation to oversee online campaign

(Nov. 24, 2016) "Shore Gives More," a Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) online campaign to promote charitable giving to Lower Eastern Shore nonprofit organizations takes place Tuesday, Nov. 29.

Worcester County Volunteer Connection is encouraging residents to support their favorite local charity during this year's campaign.

"More than 20 nonprofit organizations serving Worcester County residents will directly benefit from financial gifts made during Shore Gives More," Worcester County Volunteer Services Manager Kelly Brinkley said. "These nonprofits are listed on the Shoregivesmore.org website, so you can choose the organization you would like to support. This is a dollar-to-dollar campaign, meaning no administrative fees will be taken out of your gift, so 100 percent of your tax-deductible contribution will go to the charity you choose to support."

The effort, which CFES began last year with Worcester County nonprofits, has grown to include nearly 60 nonprofit organizations serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

"Last year was the first time the Community Foundation organized a Giving Tuesday campaign in collaboration with nonprofits in Worcester County," CFES President Erica Joseph said. "This year the campaign includes nonprofits from all three counties on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore."

Shore Gives More provides opportunities for charities, families, businesses, community groups and students to come together for one common purpose, to celebrate generosity by giving. All online donations made through Shoregivesmore.org will solely benefit qualified nonprofit organizations.

"This campaign gives you the opportunity to make a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one," Brinkley said. "Make one or more donations in the name of friends and family members, maybe someone who's difficult to buy for during the holiday. Then tuck cards into their holiday bags announcing those gifts made in their names."

One hundred percent of all charitable gifts made by donors through the Shore Gives More website will benefit the nonprofits participating in this year's online campaign.

To learn more about "Shore Gives More" online Giving Tuesday and to view a list of the local nonprofits that will benefit from donations to be made during the campaign visit www.cfes.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GEE WHIZ

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams and wife, Betsy, take part in the festivities during Masquerade at St. Martin's, the gala benefitting Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County held on Oct. 29 at Historic St. Martin's Church in Showell.

Thanksgiving Buffet

Thursday, November 24, 2016 • Seatings Begin at 1:00 pm

Holiday Selection Includes:

Roasted Turkey with Giblet Gravy, Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Honey Glazed Baked Virginia Ham, Baked Atlantic Salmon, Imported & Domestic Cheese Display, Seasonal Bread Basket, Bountiful Fresh Salad Selections, Fresh Harvest Medley, Candied Yams, Whipped Potatoes, Chef's Famous Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Bisque & Holiday Dessert Table Featuring Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, Chocolate Cake & Ice Cream Bars

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 Nov. 26: Lower Case Blues, 7 p.m.

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75th Street and the bay
 Ocean City
 410-524-7575
 www.bjsonthewater.com
 Nov. 25: Over Time, 9 p.m.
 Nov. 26: Dust N Bones, 9 p.m.
 Nov. 30: Sir Rod, 5 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
 Ocean City
 443-664-2896
 www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
 Nov. 25: Dave Sherman, 7-11 p.m.
 Nov. 26: Monkee Paw, 7-11 p.m.
 Nov. 27: Just Jay, 6-9 p.m.
 Nov. 30: Open Mic, 6-9 p.m.
 Dec. 1: Chris Button, 7-11 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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

due, 5:30 p.m.

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
 Berlin
 410-641-0600
 www.oceandowns.com
 Nov. 25: Sol Knopf, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
 Nov. 26: Sol Knopf, 4:30-8:30 p.m.;
 Everett Spells, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the
 Montego Bay Shopping Center
 410-250-1449
 www.duffysoc.com
 Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-9 p.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
 Ocean City
 410-524-5500
 www.fagers.com
 Nov. 25: DJ Greg, 3 p.m.; Colossal Fossil Sauce, 5 p.m.; DJ Hook, 9 p.m.; Tranzfusion, 9:30 p.m.
 Nov. 26: DJ Louie T, 9 p.m.; Animal House, 9:30 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
 West Ocean City
 410-213-1846
 www.ocharborside.com
 Nov. 25: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m.
 Nov. 26: Simple Truth/Side Project,

2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.
 Nov. 27: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 30: Karaoke w/DJ Jeremy
 Dec. 1: Opposite Directions, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
 Fenwick Island, Del.
 800-227-0525
 302-539-3095
 www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com
 Nov. 25: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m.
 Nov. 26: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m.
 Dec. 1: Kevin Poole, 6-10 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
 In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
 101st Street and the ocean
 Ocean City
 410-524-3535
 www.clarionoc.com
 Every Wednesday-Sunday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
 Nov. 25-26: Power Play, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
 Ocean City
 410-524-4900
 www.secrets.com
 Nov. 25: Darcy Dawn & Company, 5-9 p.m.; Nowhere Slow, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Nov. 26: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Joe Bachman & The Tailgaters, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
 Dec. 1: Full Circle Duo, 5-9 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
 Ocean City
 410-723-6762
 www.skyebaroc.com
 Nov. 25-26: Kayla Kroh, 4-8 p.m.

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

1 Mumford's Landing Road
 Ocean Pines
 410-641-7501
 www.oceanpines.org
 Nov. 25: On The Edge

TOUCH OF ITALY

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

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
 Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
 443-365-2576
 www.whiskersbar.com
 Nov. 25: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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'Edible forest' gets ready for winter as students aid ACT

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Nov. 24, 2016) On a blustery, arctic-like Monday in Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin, representatives from the parks commission, Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) and AmeriCorps worked with 70 students from Stephen Decatur Middle School on an ongoing "edible forest" project.

The project, which counts towards students' service learning hours, was approved by the Town Council in Oct. 2015 and is overseen by the trust. Blueberries, chokeberry and daikon radish have already been planted, and more crops will likely be added next spring.

While it was too cold to work on the edibles, trust Outreach Coordinator Matt Heim said it was the perfect time to frost-proof the area.

"The idea is this is a perennial garden that, once it establishes itself, it will be something that everybody in Berlin can enjoy for years to come," he said. "We planted the garden last spring, and what we're going to do today is clean it up a little bit and get it ready for winter, and then we're going to add some more plants to it in the spring."

Heim said the trust has been a regular presence inside the classroom at



PHOTO COURTESY MIKEY WILEY

Assateague Coastal Trust Outreach and Communications Coordinator Matt Heim talks to students from Stephen Decatur Middle School about the edible forest project at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin. The students were there on Monday, braving the cold, in order to help prepare the area for the winter months.

Decatur Middle School and has been involved in discussions of both the garden and other local environment issues.

The Berlin Parks Commission is a partner in the project and provides additional resources.

"With our limited budget, it's nice to have the volunteers from the school and to be able to partner with Assateague Coastal Trust," committee Chairman Mike Wiley said.

He said the students would help with a small experiment using cardboard to prepare an area for a wildflower garden that would be planted during the spring.

"We're going to basically do the same work that we did last year for the edible forest, and that is putting down cardboard, covering it with leaves and then putting bales of straw around it so the leaves don't blow away," Wiley said. "By spring the cardboard will probably be pretty well disintegrated and the grass will be dead. It's better than either spraying or trying to dig it out - this kills completely and naturally."

Wiley added that do-it-yourself landscapers can use that same method at their homes.

Despite the freezing temperatures this week, it's not too late to add new

plantings to your garden according to Mary Beth Tierney, an AmeriCorps service volunteer.

"It's actually a good time of the year to plant, because things go into dormancy. I just planted three hydrangeas in my yard yesterday," she said.

She recommended using the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center at www.extension.umd.edu/hgic as a resource.

"You can also Google 'native plants' in their keyword search, and those are good things to plant because it's a habitat for animals in the area," she said.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GRAND REOPENING

Downunder Subs & Pizza in Snow Hill held a ribbon cutting recently to celebrate its reopening. Pictured, from left, are Lisa Moyer, executive director Show Hill Chamber of Commerce, owner Bob Torrey, general manager Candy Newnam and Snow Hill Councilman Mike Pruitt.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Members of the Ocean Pines Garden Club decorate their club's Christmas tree for the Ocean Pines "Hometown Christmas," to be held at White Horse Park this Saturday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DAR DAY OF SERVICE

General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently delivered 16 pounds of items including Slim Jims, beef jerky, powdered drink mixes, chewing gum, playing cards, puzzle and coloring books, socks and toiletries to Star Charities President Anna Foulz for its "Holiday Gifts for Our Soldiers" drive. General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Patricia Ayres, left, delivers items donated by chapter members to Foulz for the holiday drive.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation recently received a donation of \$50,000 to be used for the programs and services offered by the hospital, as well as toward the Campaign for the Future, its \$10 million philanthropic community support initiative. The Wilde family has a long-standing history in Berlin and Ocean City and continues to operate several commercial properties in the Ocean City area. Atlantic General Hospital sits on what was Wilde's great uncle Powell's dairy farm. His grandfather, Hugh F. Wilde Sr., was raised in Baltimore City and moved to Ocean City after serving in the Air Force. Ryan Wilde presents a donation to Michael Franklin, AGH president and CEO, left; Michelle Fager, co-chair of the AGH Foundation Campaign for the Future; and Tammy Patrick, AGH Foundation Development officer, right.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WPS HOMECOMING COURT

Worcester Preparatory School hosted its Upper School Homecoming Dance on Oct. 22. Pictured, from left, is the 2016 Homecoming Court, Junior Prince Power Cammack, Junior Princess Sydney Boright, Senior Prince Brad White, Senior Princess Maggie Coutu, Senior Queen Madison Bescak, Senior King Luke Buas, Sophomore Prince Jaye Eniola, Sophomore Princess Remy Trader, Freshman Princess Abbi Nechay and Freshman Prince Jacob Lewis.

Lower Shore Land Trust and MCBP join for benefit, Tues.

(Nov. 24, 2016) Come out and celebrate Giving Tuesday at Berlin's Burley Oak Brewery on Nov. 29 from 4-9 p.m. to support two local environmental non-profit organizations – Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP).

MCBP is partnering with LSLT to host a happy hour at Burley Oak Brewery to promote the Giving Tuesday campaign, where individuals are encouraged to donate to area nonprofits.

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's (CFES) has created the Giving Tuesday online giving day to consolidate local end-of-year charitable fundraising opportunities. For one day, there is a link provided to donate to over 60 area nonprofits, including MCBP and LSLT. It's an easy one-stop shop to donate to local charities. The effort is known locally as "Shore Gives More" and those interested in donating can visit www.shoregivesmore.org.

Through sponsorships, the CFES has raised funds to contribute to some of the charities that are able to capture several

support incentives. LSLT and MCBP are competing for the most donations during happy hour time, 4-7 p.m., so it is only fitting that they encourage donors to give while having fun.

For each person that donates as little as \$5, a raffle ticket will be given to win a prize during the happy hour time slot. To be entered into the raffle, guests must be present at the event and show proof of donation. Mike Dryden will be providing music during happy hour and there will be appetizers from local restaurants.

MCBP works with local, federal and state agencies to help protect and preserve the Coastal Bays. For more information, visit www.mdcoastalbays.org. LSLT is dedicated to preserving rural lands, to promoting vibrant towns, and to building a more healthy and connected Eastern Shore. For more information, visit www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

For more information on this event, contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or call 410-213-2297 ext. 106.

Openings available on several of Worcester County's boards

(Nov. 24, 2016) Worcester County currently has openings on 25 boards and commissions. County residents interested in volunteering to fill these open seats are invited to contact the County Commissioners, identifying the boards or commissions that are of interest to them.


Vacancies are available on the Adult Public Guardianship Board, Commission on Aging Board, Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Agricultural Reconciliation Board, Building Code Appeals Board, Economic Development Advisory Board, Board of Electrical Examiners, Ethics Board, Housing Review Board, Local Management Board/Initiative to Preserve Families Board, Board of Library Trustees, Local Development Council for the Ocean Downs Casino, Lower Shore

Workforce Investment Board, Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Board, Social Services Board, Soil Conservation District Supervisors, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Tourism Advisory Committee, Commission for Women, Youth Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Water and Sewer Advisory Councils in Mystic Harbour, Ocean Pines, and West Ocean City.

Information about the duties and responsibilities of each board and commission is available at www.co.worcester.md.us. Send a letter of interest, along with a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience, to the County Commissioners at admin@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Government Center, One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863.

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HARD - 29

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.

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Answers to last week's puzzles

3	1	5	8	4	6	2	7	9
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CROSS REFERENCES

BY ED SESSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Like good whiskey</p> <p>7 Signed notes</p> <p>12 They might jump through hoops for you</p> <p>20 Civil rights activist _____ Helen Burroughs</p> <p>21 Place for a home pool, maybe</p> <p>22 Comforting words</p> <p>23 What Bart Simpson has been since 1989</p> <p>24 Draw forth</p> <p>25 One of the Borgias</p> <p>26 Rap's Salt-N-_____</p> <p>27 Bad thing to be behind</p> <p>29 Shame</p> <p>30 Wham-O toy introduced in 1961</p> <p>33 Late actor Bill who played Radio Raheem</p> <p>34 Some break dancers, informally</p> <p>35 Diminutive suffix</p> <p>36 Quickly</p> <p>37 Entice</p> <p>38 Bit of fiction</p> <p>39 See 2-Down</p> <p>41 Blow away</p> <p>43 Famous crosser of the 12-Down</p> <p>48 Brisk rival</p> <p>49 It's easy to park</p> <p>51 Euro pop?</p> <p>Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).</p> | <p>52 Baghdad's _____ City</p> <p>53 Highway infraction, for short</p> <p>54 Zuo Zongtang, a.k.a. General _____</p> <p>56 "Vox populi, vox _____"</p> <p>57 Biblical figure referred to as a "son of the desert"</p> <p>60 Blue Moon _____, three-time World Series winner for the 1970s A's</p> <p>63 Deletions</p> <p>66 Famous crosser of the 45-Down</p> <p>68 Ben who played the Wizard in Broadway's "Wicked"</p> <p>70 See 62-Down</p> <p>72 Yes vote</p> <p>73 Fidgety</p> <p>74 Separated by a hairbreadth</p> <p>75 Picked as the one, say</p> <p>77 Fourth-largest news agency in the world</p> <p>78 "Rugrats" baby</p> <p>79 Internet _____</p> <p>81 Abbr. seen in some dictionary definitions</p> <p>83 Little more than</p> <p>85 Flair</p> <p>87 Bugged?</p> <p>91 Beseeches</p> <p>94 Patron saint of soldiers and athletes</p> <p>96 Mama baaer</p> <p>97 Put on</p> <p>99 "The Tell-Tale Heart" author</p> | <p>100 Pale purple shade</p> <p>102 Like gymnasts</p> <p>104 Outside: Prefix</p> <p>105 Spread by light strokes</p> <p>108 "Teach" at a college</p> <p>109 Famous crosser of the 90-Down</p> <p>111 Airline with famously tight security</p> <p>112 Summoned from the office, say</p> <p>114 Tenerife, por ejemplo</p> <p>115 See 86-Down</p> <p>117 May 8, 1945</p> <p>118 As well</p> <p>120 Displaced</p> <p>121 Civil rights leader Medgar</p> <p>122 Fidgety</p> <p>123 Alms recipients</p> <p>124 Bullpen setting</p> <p>125 Coral-reef predators</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Grabs before someone else does</p> <p>2 Famous crosser of the 39-Across</p> <p>3 Like jumpsuits</p> <p>4 Ready to be drawn</p> <p>5 7-up, e.g.</p> <p>6 Partridge family mother</p> <p>7 Cassock wearer</p> <p>8 Was creative</p> <p>9 Employed</p> <p>10 _____ truck</p> <p>11 Earthy color</p> <p>12 See 43-Across</p> <p>13 Milk shaker?</p> <p>14 Letters teachers send to colleges, informally</p> <p>15 Yossarian's tent-mate in "Catch-22"</p> <p>16 Sound from the Road Runner</p> <p>17 W.W. II beachhead</p> <p>18 Hoity-_____</p> <p>19 Wins over</p> <p>27 Protester's sign</p> <p>28 Hunky</p> <p>31 Commerce pact mentioned in the 2016 presidential debates</p> <p>32 Surveilled</p> <p>34 Catcher near the plate?</p> <p>37 Chivalrous deeds</p> <p>38 C.E.O. and pres.</p> <p>40 Puts out</p> <p>42 Iraq War subj.</p> <p>44 D.C. nine</p> <p>45 See 66-Across</p> <p>46 Jill Stein's group, with "the"</p> <p>47 Unauthorized withdrawals?</p> <p>50 Anarchic action</p> <p>55 Mantra syllables</p> <p>57 Gives the runaround</p> <p>58 In one's dotage</p> <p>59 Schoolroom with brushes and paint</p> <p>61 Olive _____ (Popeye's gal)</p> <p>62 Famous crosser of the 70-Across</p> <p>64 9mm gun</p> |
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| <p>65 Main character on "How I Met Your Mother"</p> <p>67 Pertaining to bones</p> <p>69 Goggle at</p> <p>71 Instant: Abbr.</p> <p>72 Long Island campus</p> <p>74 "Pretty please?"</p> <p>76 Major theme of Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"</p> | <p>80 Something observed in church</p> <p>82 Something observed in church</p> <p>84 Write again</p> <p>86 Famous crosser of the 115-Across</p> <p>88 Damsel, to a knight</p> <p>89 Register, as for a class</p> <p>90 See 109-Across</p> | <p>92 Pepsi Max, e.g.</p> <p>93 Field for Alfred Kinsey</p> <p>95 Trinity part</p> <p>98 Supports the Red Cross, say</p> <p>101 Should that happen</p> <p>103 Parent's definitive "End of argument!"</p> <p>105 Opening</p> <p>106 First Hebrew letter</p> | <p>107 Wilkes-____, Pa.</p> <p>108 Like windows</p> <p>109 Used hip boots, say</p> <p>110 One dishing out digs</p> <p>112 Name</p> <p>113 "Whip It" band</p> <p>116 Actress Saldana</p> <p>118 Certain cat</p> <p>119 Yoko from Tokyo</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

Challenger named '16 Md. Tourism Person of the Year

(Nov. 24, 2016) Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger was named Maryland Tourism Person of the Year during the Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit at the Baltimore Inner Harbor Marriott on Nov. 3, for her exceptional commitment to enhancing and perpetuating the Maryland tourism industry.

"I just believe in surrounding myself with really terrific people every day," Challenger said. "I partner with a great bunch of people on a daily basis who make it possible to accomplish so many great projects that promote Worcester County."

Known for her success in developing regional partnerships, Challenger was recognized by her peers across the state for her creativity and incessantly positive approach to identifying and developing new tourism markets.

A few of the projects she has spearheaded include the Wilds of Worcester video series, Eat, Drink and Buy Art campaign, Worcester Green Award Program, Beach and Beyond website and mobile app, West Ocean City Commercial Harbor and African American historic markers, Delmarva Birding Weekend, the social media campaign that earned Berlin the title America's Coolest Small Town, and inclusion of the Beach to Bay Indian

Trail on the Department of the Interior's National Recreation Trail.

"Lisa has gone above and beyond for many years, and she was certainly deserving of this coveted title," said Susan Jones, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association executive director. "Her dedication, coupled with her passion for Worcester County has helped generate new tourism and travel within the county."

Challenger has headed up Worcester County's tourism efforts since 1989. In 2014 she was appointed to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority by Gov. Larry Hogan. She is a founding member of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, and current Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations vice chair. She also organizes the Eastern Shore economic data handout to explain tourism's value to the Eastern Shore Delegation.

"Having worked with her for almost two decades, I can attest to her devotion to tourism, desire to work with others in the industry to amplify the effect of any individual effort, as well as her regional approach and dedication," said Ann McGinnis Hillyer, State Ventures, LLC chief executive officer and ShoreCraftBeer.com creator. "Lisa



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger, center, receives the 2016 Maryland Tourism Person of the Year award from Frederick County Tourism Director John Fieseler, left, and Prince George's County Tourism Director Matt Neitezy, during the Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit in November for her exceptional commitment to enhancing and perpetuating the Maryland tourism industry.

truly exemplifies hospitality and furthers tourism for her county, her region, the Eastern Shore, and the entire state of Maryland."

Challenger is the third Worcester County professional to be recognized as Tourism Person of the Year. The title also went to Ruth Waters in 2004 and Susan Jones in 2009.

During the tourism summit,

Worcester County Tourism also won the Best Digital Campaign Award for running an advertising campaign on WashingtonPost.com that utilized cutting-edge, 30-second videos to connect with Washington Post readers on the site and across the web. The advertising campaign was recognized for its quality and the sheer volume of viewers and click-throughs.

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American Craft Gin (750ml) \$15**

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Cuisine

Thankful for black garlic and country ham

This column originally ran in a Nov. 26, 2015 edition of the Bayside Gazette.

I drank the Kool-Aid and decided to do the famous social media exercise of pronouncing my month of being thankful. Every day I would find thanks for anything from my family to pets to country ham. It was a difficult period in my life, as publicly announcing positive things every day goes against my very nature as a Suplee. We have to complain about something, for god's sake.

Admittedly, it was refreshing to take the time to

reflect on the things in my life that mean the most to me; and yes, country ham definitely makes the top-10 list, despite the fact that it has nothing to do with this week's article.

But what this week does discuss is the kickoff to the holidays. As I sit in the dining room at school at a table set for a Thanksgiving feast (for American Regional Cuisine), the smells invigorate my senses, and the excitement of the students makes me happy. I've already had one Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, and then I have this treat today, and of course one on Thursday.

Talk about being thankful ... but I ramble.

With the onslaught of the holidays comes holiday entertaining, and with a few strokes of a pen I hope to engage you on the path of creating and service. One of my favorite, simple dishes is the cheese tray. Nothing sets off a dinner party or cocktail party like a well-organized platter of cheese, salume if you're lucky, and some crispy baguette.

I made a trip to Liquid Assets earlier in the week to pick up some California cheeses for class, and with some left-over – and with a luncheon ready to start – I figured there was no need to waste a bit of it.

I was quick to make a blistered tomato confit with sweet, savory and tart nuances that accent the cheeses splendidly. The cheeses, "Humboldt Fog" and "Tremor," have such a pronounced flavor that any sort of accoutrement must stand up to it without overpowering it.

And no sooner had I finished the cheese tray were students (and myself) devouring the cheeses, practically scraping the Himalayan pink salt to finish the job.

Cypress Grove is the cheese maker that makes the Humboldt Fog and Tremor. Both formidable cheeses, I find it important to encourage you to seek out a source to buy these. I constantly tell people to befriended a chef if they are not in the business themselves. Chefs can source things that "normal" people cannot, unless they buy online. Of course, going the route of the latter means that you will be paying a premium for such goods.

We have the ability to buy products wholesale, and when it comes to terminology and buzzwords, the industry takes full advantage of it, charging the general public exorbitant rates for specialty items such as truffle salt and sheet gelatin. Once you figure out where to source such items, then cooking killer, restaurant-style food becomes a breeze. Such companies even sell curing salts for curing and smoking meats. With a few of these



thrown into the arsenal, you will be unstoppable.

The other little treat that you will see in the picture, and in fact the focus of the picture, is black garlic, a fermented specialty out of California. With a distinctive flavor that borders garlic and black currants, this spreadable delicacy is well paired with a tart cheese. All in all, I guess you had better make nice with a local chef to see if he or she will hook you up with the good stuff.

And when all is said and done, you will be the envy of the block party, and with the holidays right around the corner, you better believe that more than a few will be held. I'm thankful for that.

Cheese Tray with Black Garlic

Enough for four (or just me)

4 ounces Humboldt Fog Cheese
4 ounces Tremor Cheese
Half a baguette, toasted
1/2 cup Tomato-bacon confit (recipe follows)
1 head black garlic, with a few cloves out

1. Place everything on a serving platter, slate, or as pictured, Himalayan pink salt slab

2. Serve. Yes, it's this easy, although if you want to go a little further, consider throwing some dried and cured charcuterie on there as well. Harris Teeter just recently had a very nice selection of dried Italian salume

Tomato-bacon Confit

Makes about 3 cups

1 cup Assorted hothouse mini tomatoes
1/4 cup chopped bacon
1 cup Red onion, julienne
1/4 cup Sherry vinegar
1/4 cup Sugar, or to taste
Black pepper, as needed

1. Get a saute pan smoking hot and add the tomatoes. They will blister on the smallest part of the orb that is touching the pan

2. Move them around until the skin is peeling and then add your bacon

3. Cook until some fat has rendered and the bacon is starting to crisp

4. Add the onions and continue to cook

5. When the onions have cooked down and are soft, add the vinegar and sugar and cook until the tomatoes, while retaining a little bit of their shape, are tender and spreadable

6. Season with the pepper and adjust as needed (levels of sugar, vinegar and pepper can vary on your taste)

7. Cool down until ready to use. I prefer this at room temperature, so if you refrigerate it, simply pull out prior to service

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

Calendar

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

THU, NOV. 24

9TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

Oceanside and Lewes Street, Fenwick Island, DE, 8 a.m. The untimed 2.2 mile fun run/walk starts oceanside on Lewes Street in Fenwick Island, goes south to the Maryland state line and back. All are welcome, including leashed pets. Holiday or any festive costumes are encouraged. There is no charge to participate, but donations will be collected for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Team 4 the Girls. Commemorative T-shirts will be sold for \$20. Pre-order is recommended; limited quantities at the Trot. Lori Martin, 302-539-1290

38TH ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., Ocean City, MD, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone who is looking for fellowship and friendship on Thanksgiving Day is invited to dinner. RSVP: 410-289-4054, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner will also be served to shut-ins in Ocean City and West Ocean City. Call and give location for delivery.

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 2 to 3 p.m. Providing physical and emotional support for survivors and caregivers to share personal experiences and challenges. Coping strategies also discussed. Dawn Denton, ddenton@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9268

BEACH SINGLES

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

BINGO

American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available at 5:15 p.m. Open to the public. 410-289-3166, <http://www.alpost166.org>

FRI, NOV. 25

34TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S FAIR

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Unique handmade merchandise including art and craft items, hand painted furniture, quilted handbags, ornaments, candles, jewelry, florals, toys, pet items, sports related memorabilia, nautical items, stained glass, country woodcrafts, lighted baskets and ceramics. Non-profit organizations also

on hand. Free face painting and games for children. Santa will make an appearance on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Door prize drawings held every hour on the half hour (must be present to win). Non-shopper's lounge and food court. Weekend admission is \$3 for adults and free to children 13 and younger. mcollins@oceancitymd.gov, 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326

DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will have many one-of-a-kind hand created products and the materials to make it. On-going demonstrations at most booths on how mittens are knitted, how shawls are woven or how wool is spun. Admission costs \$3 for the day of \$5 of the weekend. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <http://woolandfiber.com>

REASON FOR THE SEASON HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

The Church Mouse Thrift Shop, 101 N Main St, Berlin, MD, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take a canned food item to the Church Mouse or Inca Ruins and get a free raffle ticket for an Inca Ruins \$100 gift certificate. Take the ticket to Inca Ruins and with a \$25 or more purchase receive a scratch ticket for gifts, discounts and more. Every ticket is a winner. Ten percent of all sales go back to the Church Mouse. Drawing gift certificate will be done Nov. 28 and the winner notified. 410-641-4385

FREE INTRODUCTORY PICKLEBALL CLINICS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, Ocean Pines, MD, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Every Friday through Dec. 16. Free clinic for brand new players. Registration is required by calling 410-641-7052.

SAT, NOV. 26

FARMERS MARKET

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Held every Saturday. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle corn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006

34TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S FAIR

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Unique handmade merchandise including art and craft items, hand painted furniture, quilted handbags, ornaments, candles, jewelry, florals, toys, pet items, sports related memorabilia, nautical items, stained glass, country woodcrafts, lighted baskets and ceramics. Non-profit organizations also

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DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

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FALL LUNCHEON

Powellville United Methodist Church, 35606 Mt. Hermon Road, Powellville, MD, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oyster fritters, homemade soups, chicken salad, BBQ pork platters and many desserts. Eat-in or take-out. 443-880-8804

REASON FOR THE SEASON HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

The Church Mouse Thrift Shop, 101 N Main St, Berlin, MD, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take a canned food item to the Church Mouse or Inca Ruins and get a free raffle ticket for an Inca Ruins \$100 gift certificate. Take the ticket to Inca Ruins and with a \$25 or more purchase receive a scratch ticket for gifts, discounts and more. Every ticket is a winner. Ten percent of all sales go back to the Church Mouse. Drawing gift certificate will be done Nov. 28 and the winner notified. 410-641-4385

6TH ANNUAL 'A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS' AND TREE LIGHTING

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 6:30 p.m. Trees decorated by Ocean Pines businesses, clubs, families and individuals will be on display and illuminated at the event. Also featuring local choral groups, hot chocolate and Santa Claus. Free and open to the public. Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052

SUN, NOV. 27

34TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S FAIR

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Unique handmade merchandise including art and craft items, hand painted furniture, quilted handbags, ornaments, candles, jewelry, florals, toys, pet items, sports related memorabilia, nautical items, stained glass, country woodcrafts, lighted baskets and ceramics. Non-profit organizations also on hand. Free face painting

and games for children. Santa will make an appearance on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Door prize drawings held every hour on the half hour (must be present to win). Non-shopper's lounge and food court. Weekend admission is \$3 for adults and free to children 13 and younger. mcollins@oceancitymd.gov, 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326

DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors will have many one-of-a-kind hand created products and the materials to make it. On-going demonstrations at most booths on how mittens are knitted, how shawls are woven or how wool is spun. Admission costs \$3 for the day of \$5 of the weekend. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <http://woolandfiber.com>

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 2:30 to 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. Bett, 410-202-9078

MON, NOV. 28

ANNUAL POCOMOKE CHRISTMAS PARADE

North on Market Street from 14th Street to the Pocomoke River Bridge, Market Street and 14th Street, Pocomoke City, MD, 7 to 9 p.m. More than 100 units featuring high and middle school marching bands from seven counties and three states, lighted floats, marching units, fire departments, equestrian units and Santa Claus. The judges stand is located in downtown Pocomoke City just in front of the Mini park. Rain date is Nov. 29. Mike Shannon, 410-726-5777, <http://www.pocomokechristmasparade.com>

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 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. Bett, 410-202-9078

NURSING HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Wor-Wic Community College, 32000 Campus Dr, Salisbury, MD, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Higher education fair for nurses interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher to be held in the lobby of the

Calendar

Allied Health Building. Representatives from numerous universities will be available to discuss their programs. Information will also be provided on other online nursing schools. 410-334-6774

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

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

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

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

TUE, NOV. 29

SNOW HILL ROTARY CLUB MEETING

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

GIVING TUESDAY COLLECTION

Atlantic Hotel, 2 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Worcester GOLD will be in front of the Atlantic Hotel collecting toys and donations for the Helping Hands for the Holidays program, which provides gifts for local children in need. Raffle tickets will also be sold for a chance to win an American Girl doll gift package. Monetary donations can be made online through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's ShoreGivesMore.org site. 410-677-6830, <http://www.worcestergold.org>

MAKE N TAKE CRAFTS

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10:30 a.m. Make a craft to take home. All supplies provided. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-957-0878, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GIVING TUESDAY CELEBRATION

Burley Oak Brewery, 10016 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, MD, 4 to 9 p.m. The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is partnering with the Lower Shore Land Trust to host a happy hour to promote the Giving Tuesday campaign. The two groups are competing for the most donations during happy hour time, 4-7 p.m. For each person who donates \$5, a raffle ticket will be given to win a prize during happy hour. To be entered, you must be present and show proof of donation. Music provided by Mike Dryden. Appetizers from local restaurants served. Sandi Smith, sandis@mdcoastalbays.org, 410-213-2297, Ext. 106, <http://www.shoregivesmore.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Berlin group 331. TOPS is a sup-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CHANGE OF WATCH

The Ocean Pines Boat Club recently named its 2017 officers during the "Change of Watch" annual meeting and dinner-dance on Nov. 6, at the Clarion Hotel on 101st Street in Ocean City. Pictured are Vice Commodore Patricia Marcesiello and Commodore Richard Marchesiello.

port and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. jeanduck47@gmail.com

BINGO

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

WED, NOV. 30

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY

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

AGH NEW OFFICES OPEN HOUSE

James G. Barrett Medical Office Building, 10231 Old Ocean City Boulevard, Suite 207, Berlin, MD, 4 to 6 p.m. Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. for the new location of Atlantic General Surgical Associates and Atlantic General Bariatric Center. The community is invited to come meet the providers, learn about the services and take a tour of the new facilities. Light refreshments served. agodwin@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9644

FAMILY NIGHT 'BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LETTER "S"

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 5 p.m. Slime, scavenger hunts, crafts, games and a greeting card making station. For all ages. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SIMPLE SUPPER

Columbus Hall (behind St. Luke's Church), 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 5 to 7 p.m. Takes place on the last Wednesday of each month. Receive a full meal for only \$7. Cash bar. 410-524-7994

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

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

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

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

ONGOING EVENTS

HOLIDAY FRUIT SALE

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City is taking orders until Dec. 1 with delivery date between Dec. 15-18. Cost for the approximately 20 pound boxes are as follows: oranges, \$23; red grapefruit, \$22; and combo boxes, \$29. To place orders, call Ralph Chinn, 410-208-6719. Proceeds benefit youth of the community. Info: www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! OFFERS HALF PRICE ADMISSION

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 401 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, MD, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 18. Maryland residents receive half price tickets for participat-

ing attractions including: Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium, Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze and Ripley's Impossible LaseRace. Local photo ID or proof of residency required. Dustyn Ivey, 410-289-5600, ivey@ripleys.com.

FALL AND WINTER BUS TRIPS

Spend the day in Manhattan on Dec. 3. The bus will arrive in New York at approximately 10 a.m. and depart at 6 p.m. Cost is \$85, which includes transportation only.

On Dec. 18, enjoy a performance of "Kinky Boots." The bus will leave Ocean Pines at 9:30 a.m. and arrive at the DuPont Theatre in Wilmington, Del. for the 2 p.m. show. Cost is \$90, which includes show and transportation.

On Jan. 7, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. presents "Wicked." The bus will depart Ocean Pines at 8:30 a.m. to arrive in time for the 1:30 p.m. performance. Cost is \$120, which includes show and transportation.

Open to the public. Reservations required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

THE AVENUE OF TREES

Along Baltimore Avenue from 15th Street to 33rd Street, through Jan. 1, 2017. Info: 410-250-0125.

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, through Jan. 1, 2017. Board the Winterfest Express and tour hundreds of animated, lighted displays. The heated, Winterfest Village pavillion features hot chocolate, Yukon Cornelius' gift shop and photos with Santa. Admission is \$5 or adults and free to children 11 and younger. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-626-2326 or 410-250-0125.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

RCIA is a process for individuals, adults and children 8 years and older, who are seeking Baptism. Also for those already baptized in another Christian tradition who want to come into the Catholic Church. Call Rita at 410-289-7038 or come to a session held on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Father Connell Parish Center, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD. All are welcome.


RAVENS ROOST 58 MEETS MONTHLY

28th St. Pit & Pub, 2706 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD, the first Tuesday of each month and for the Sunday NFL games to raise money for local families in need. Ravens Roost 58 is seeking new members and new officers. Dues are \$20 per year. Stop by the restaurant if interested.

AUMC THRIFT SHOP

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Monday through Saturday, year round. Located behind the church with a donation drop off room that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 410-289-4458

CALL
410-723-6397
BY MONDAY
5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE CLASSIFIED


Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.net and baysideoc.com.

HELP WANTED

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



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North OC. Mature Roommate needed to share Lrg. furnished townhouse on bay-side. \$650 monthly. Includes utilities, cable & WiFi. **Call 410-603-5110.**

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Nov. 24 - Dec. 1 Weekly

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matriona/Resort Homes
Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand - 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	Inquire	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Daily 11-5	West Harbor Village	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$270,000	Dan Demeria/Harbor Homes
Sat-Mon 11-4 pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sun 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	11769 Maid at Arms Way	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	From \$489,900	Evergreene Homes
Fri, Sat & Sun 10-5pm	Sunset Island, Ocean City	-	Condos, Towns & SF	From \$369,000	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort Realty
Friday 10-2	617 Bayshore Dr. #45, Ocean City	2-3BR/2BA	Condo	\$394,900	Buddy Dykes/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Saturday 10-2	37 Duck Cove Crl., Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Buddy Dykes/Berkshire Hathaway PenFed
Sat 9:30am-12:30pm	717 94th St.-OC, Caneel Cay West #3	3BR/2.5BA	Townhouse	\$349,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Res. Brokerage
Saturday 1-3	7 137th St. - OC, Ocean Dunes #103	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Res. Brokerage
Saturday 10-2	134 High Sheriff, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$234,900	Paul Cook/Bunting Real Estate
Saturday 1-3	12 High Sheriff, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$257,500	Paul Cook/Bunting Real Estate

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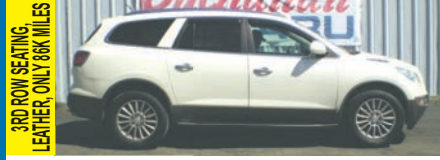
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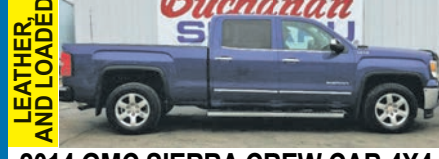
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