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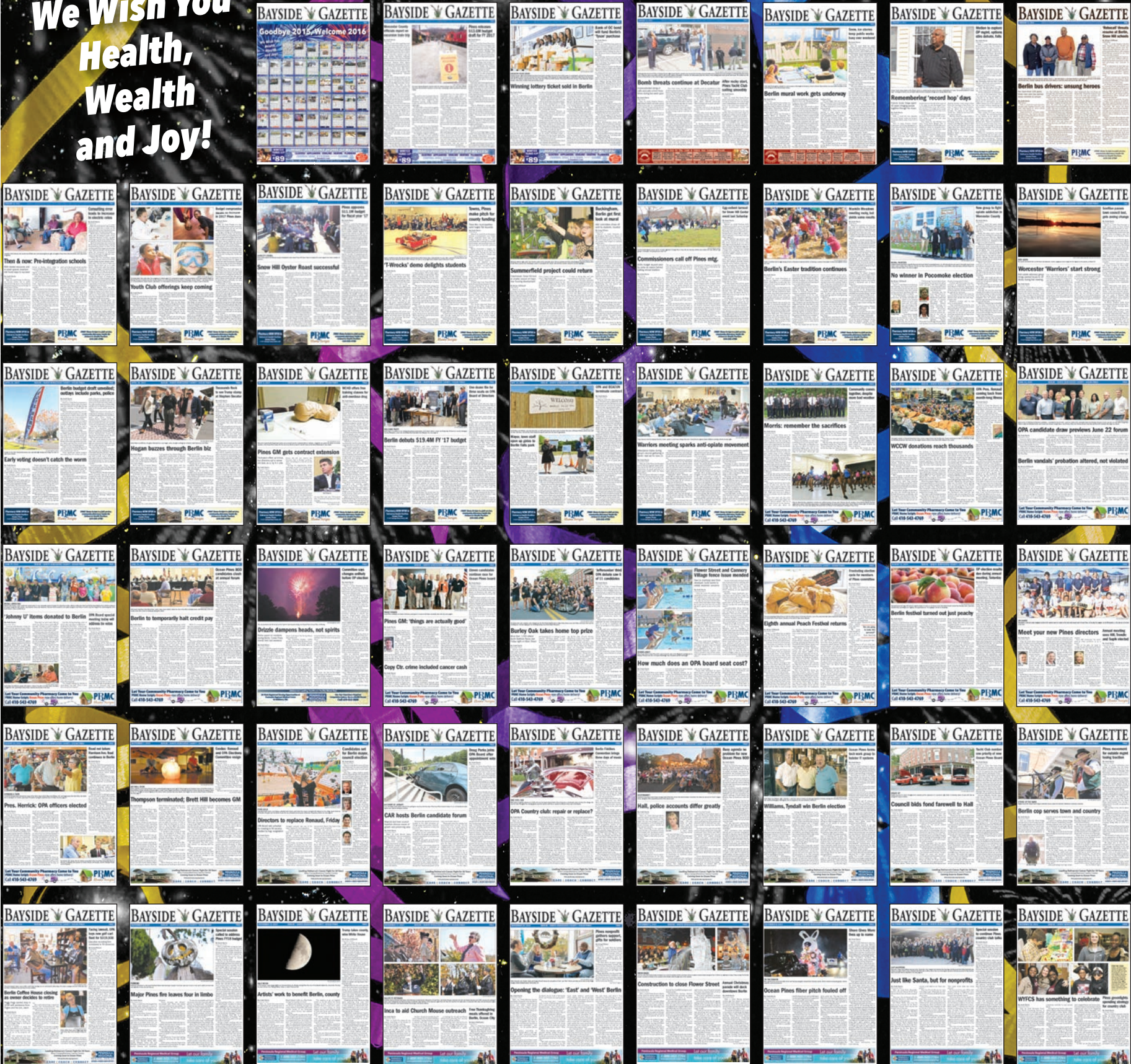
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Trump election tour included stop in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) Just days before the Maryland Primary Election in April, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump made a surprise stop at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, rallying thousands of his supporters in a county he would go onto win in a landslide.

Although the state would vote Democratic, the president-elect went on to shock pundits in November, earning an Electoral College win despite losing the popular vote.

Police and the Town of Berlin were given just 48 hours notice before Trump's April 20 visit. Threats of protests were mostly overblown, as

people parked in cornfields near the school and lined up on the street hours before the evening's stump speech inside the gym.

Reportedly, the crowd was roughly three times greater than what the school could hold, and the lines wrapped around the enormous makeshift parking lot, tucked between farmland and a former Harley-Davidson store, now gone out of business. State and local police guided traffic – cars and people – and swept the area with German shepherds.

At around 4 p.m., the first Trump



Donald Trump

supporters filed in through the school towards the gymnasium, which, on a good day, can hold maybe a thousand people.

Tickets given out for the event were said to be in upwards of 20,000, and police estimated 10,000 attended and 3,000 were let into the building.

At about 6:45, Decatur student Heather McDonough, a senior, sang the national anthem. Just after, chants of "U.S.A." and "build that wall" briefly erupted, then dissipated.

Trump arrived a half-hour late, at about 7:30 p.m., having flown into Salisbury airport and traveled by escorted motorcade down a cleared Route 50 to Berlin. He spoke for just less than 45 minutes, starting with the topic of his decisive primary election victory in New York, the day before.

"We had a great night last night," he said. "The media was saying you can't get over 50 [percent]. Very hard to get over 50, even if you're really against two guys who don't have what it takes. Yet, we got 61."

He went on to predict a decisive general election win against former secretary of state and senator Hillary Clinton.

"'Crooked' Hillary Clinton will not have a chance. She's not bringing jobs back. She doesn't know about the economy. She makes bad decisions ... she's got bad judgment. We are going to beat her so badly," he said. "It's going to be something that you're going to watch and really enjoy watching."

Trump vowed to make the military "strong again," erase trade deficits with China, Mexico and Japan, and lower taxes for the middle class and for businesses.

At one point, Trump introduced staffer Kevin Chmielewski, a Stephen Decatur High School graduate, class of 1998.

"I don't know what they produce at this school, but this guy is a champ," Trump said. "He's great. He's been with me right from the beginning and he's tough as hell."

The crowd briefly breaking out into chants of "Kevin! Kevin! Kevin!" as Chmielewski approached the micro-

phone, chewing gum and appearing more than a little flummoxed.

"Thank you guys," Chmielewski said. "He's a great speaker too," Trump said, deadpanning.

Trump promised those in the audience that they would look back on his appearance years later. Election Day, he said, was "when our country will have started."

"The vote from Maryland is very, very important. " We're going to do things that have never been done before. We're going to make, not only our country great, we're going to make our country better than ever before," he said.

After he finished speaking, Trump stayed to sign autographs for hundreds of supporters who flocked around the staging area.

Trump went on to win 62.8 percent of the county vote and 54.6 percent statewide during the Republican primary.

He did similarly well in Worcester in November, winning 61.5 percent of the vote, although statewide Trump took in 853,004 votes (35.1 percent) against challenger Clinton's 1,476,048 (60.7 percent).

Overall, however, Trump took in 306 electoral votes to Clinton's 232 to earn the White House and cap an improbable run that both stunned critics and elated his millions of supporters.

In other notable local races, Democrat Chris Van Hollen defeated Republic Kathy Szeliga to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski.

Congressman Andy Harris won big again, gathering 16,755 votes, or 66.1 percent, to Democratic challenger Joe Werner's 7,674, or 30.3 percent.

In local school board races, longtime District 3 incumbent school board member Sara Thompson edged out Frank Gebhart 1,867 to 1,724, or 51.6 percent to 47.6 percent.

In District 5 Elena McComas defeated Tom Terry 2,041 to 1,926, or 51.2 percent to 48.3 percent.

District 2 representative Barry Brittingham ran unopposed, winning all but 31 write-in votes cast for others.

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Snow Hill adds new events, businesses during busy 2016

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) With the addition of Michael Day, erstwhile Berlin economic development director, as a consultant to the town, Snow Hill has changed greatly in the past year — particularly with the additions of new shops downtown and a more robust events calendar.

Though it met with delays, the town worked a deal with Comcast to provide free, publicly available WiFi to the town, and upgraded the municipal phones to boot.

Four transponders were installed: one on Green Street, two on River Street and another on Bank Street.

That hardware should be enough to provide coverage to Sturgis Park and the Pocomoke River Canoe Company along the north edge of town and wouldn't go much farther east, but would continue west to the area near the police station and likely as far south as Market Street.

Not long after the WiFi went live, the vacant Emporium had a new owner, and a new direction.

Jack Helgeson's goal in taking over the Emporium was to ensure that it wasn't recognizable to anyone as the old Emporium.

To wit, it's not even called the Emporium any more (despite the sign remaining on the façade for now), he's redubbed the building "A Diamond on Pearl," which is a play on the address, 111 Pearl Street.

It's also not an eatery any more. Helgeson is also the owner of Chop-tank Charlie's in Cambridge, and A Diamond on Pearl is building off the ideas he started there — selling art, interior design, window treatments and formal wear — and with many of the same associates.

Primarily, Helgeson said, he's going to be offering a mixture of art from four artists: Dawn Tarr, Kirk White, Marty Gillard and himself.

Just a couple of weeks later, Day's first new event, Return to Goat Island,



Ann Gibb, left, serves refreshments as Michael Day, town economic development consultant, displays the reason for this year's first "Return to Goat Island" paddling event, which drew hundreds to the shores of the Pocomoke River in Snow Hill.

gave paddleboard and kayak enthusiasts something to cheer about.

Those not paddling on the Pocomoke River played Frisbee games, cornhole or built Lego projects while others blew bubbles, used the nearby playground or visited the petting zoos.

Spectators and participants listened to performers, including Nick Haglich, who opened for the Dukes of Delmarva, while others basked in the sun, ate or caught up with neighbors.

All the while dedicated and amateur paddlers raced around the spit of land, and the single goat denizen stood sentinel.

A total of 130 paddlers participated for the inaugural event.

Meanwhile, Lori McAllister was wondering aloud what her post-graduation options were, when she realized what it was she wanted to do next.

"I know because I'm from Snow Hill and I kept talking about how terribly the town needed a coffee shop," she said. She didn't know at the time, but

soon found out, one of the people she was discussing this idea with is a friend of Michael Day.

"Before I knew it, I was having a conversation with Michael, and then the next thing I knew I was writing a business plan, marketing plan ... all sorts of plans," she said.

Those plans came to fruition in July, when the Daily Brew Coffeehouse opened full time in downtown Snow Hill on Washington Street.

After weeks of speculation, rumors were also put to rest in July when Richard and Debbie Seaton, Snow Hill natives both, became the first takers of a program the town put forward late last year — renovate a building and, after fulfilling certain conditions, the town will turn over the structure to its occupants.

The Seatons own Toy Town — an antique and vintage toy shop — in Berlin, and their lease is up in April 2017. The Seatons said they don't intend to renew, but will move the operation from the 4,800-square foot

location in Berlin to the more than 6,800-square foot space available at the corner of Market and Washington Streets in Snow Hill.

The building, vacant for nearly 30 years according to several sources within the town, could be subdivided into a number of storefronts, but the Seatons said they'd use the whole thing to expand their shop.

However, the Seatons will have their hands full with a number of other improvements first.

The Town Council voted to declare the building surplus, contingent on a memorandum of understanding between the town and the Seatons. This MOU establishes the requirements necessary, and a timeline of 5 years, before the Seatons formally acquire the property.

In another high profile poach from Berlin, the Lower Shore Land Trust announced at the end of July that they too were moving to Snow Hill.

"The timing couldn't be better. Snow Hill is ramping up its effort to

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position itself as the outdoor recreation hub of the Eastern Shore, and it's really exciting to create more opportunities to use these areas," Kate Patton, executive director, said. "We know Snow Hill wants to act as a gateway to these activities and we want to build our own capacity to meet those needs."

The nonprofit's mission is to build a future where the lower shore's towns are the centerpieces of engaged rural communities surrounded by thriving natural and working lands and healthy waterways.

In August, the Blessing of the Combines — the town's signature event — drew more spectators than there are residents of Snow Hill.

The event began with a parade of tractors and combines. Hundreds and hundreds of people were already lining the streets when the parade began, and the vendors were already active when the combines arrived, awaiting their blessing.

Several speakers were featured, including Mayor Charlie Dorman, County Commissioners Ted Elder and Jim Bunting and Capt. Willie Dykes. Steve Hales acted as the emcee, and Rev. Andy Frick, of Whatcoat Methodist Church, delivered the blessing.

In addition to the speakers, Delegates Mary Beth Carozza, Charles Otto and Carl Anderton as well as State Sen. Jim Mathias were present, along with

the mayor and council of Snow Hill.

Pearl Street was transformed into a kids' area with a bounce house, soybean pit and petting zoo, while a block north on River Street, featured a lot of the vendors and food service areas.

In September, and as part of the effort to bring down Bike Week traffic into Snow Hill, which had been mostly overlooked in the past, Day brought in the "Ride to Sturgis," a play on the name of one of the town's parks and a famous motorcycling destination.

While the prevailing wisdom and the ultimate justification for Bike Week and its related events is the amount of business their arrival attracts, yet Snow Hill's first foray into a motorcycle-themed event, the "Ride to Sturgis" brought a lot of people to the namesake park, but not very many to downtown shops.

"It's definitely coming back next year," Michael Day, town economic development consultant, said. "This was one of those things where the people who came this year will tell all their friends, so we'll have more next year."

Moreso than the town, the ride along Route 113 is considered the draw. Rolling fields, wide open spaces and very few billboards and signs line mainland Worcester's major north-south highway.

A couple of weeks later, and following the surprise announcement that the Courtney Brooke Salon downtown

was shutting its doors forever, another announcement was made, and if Betsy Brittingham were asked in April if she thought by October she'd be running her own salon in Snow Hill, the answer would have been "no."

While it was always her dream to open her own salon, at that point in April, she was just starting out on two new adventures: starting a job at the Courtney Brooke, and returning to work following the birth of her son, J.J.

After Courtney Brooke announced its closure effective Sept. 24, Brittingham's timeline accelerated.

It also helped that this wasn't her first foray into the world of haircuts and color. Brittingham was the former manager of the Great Clips franchise in Salisbury, but was also looking for something a little closer to home when she accepted the job at Courtney Brooke.

With October well underway, it was time for Oktoberfest, and hopefully the end of a rivalry.

For what organizers hoped was the last time, Snow Hill's Oktoberfest was scheduled to compete with Berlin's event.

"We're going to try to work it out for next year. We'd like to expand our event a little bit, but would like it to remain kind of a locals' thing. Berlin makes a big show," Day said.

Day said this is only the second time

Snow Hill has hosted an Oktoberfest, and the town and organizers were still "feeling their way through it."

In November the town received word it had been accepted into the Main Street Affiliate program, described as a sort of training wheels program for the more formal Main Street Maryland 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.

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

Finally, in December, Snow Hill welcomed the last of its new 2016 businesses, with a marathon run-up to welcome Mark Schramek's Olde Town Candy Company at the final First Friday of the year.

The shop is, of course, dedicated to desserts and snacks. Bulk candy, such as white and dark chocolates and gummy bears, will be sold by weight at a rate of \$8.99 per pound. The new store also offers gourmet candies, sodas, chocolate bars and other treats imported from all across the country.

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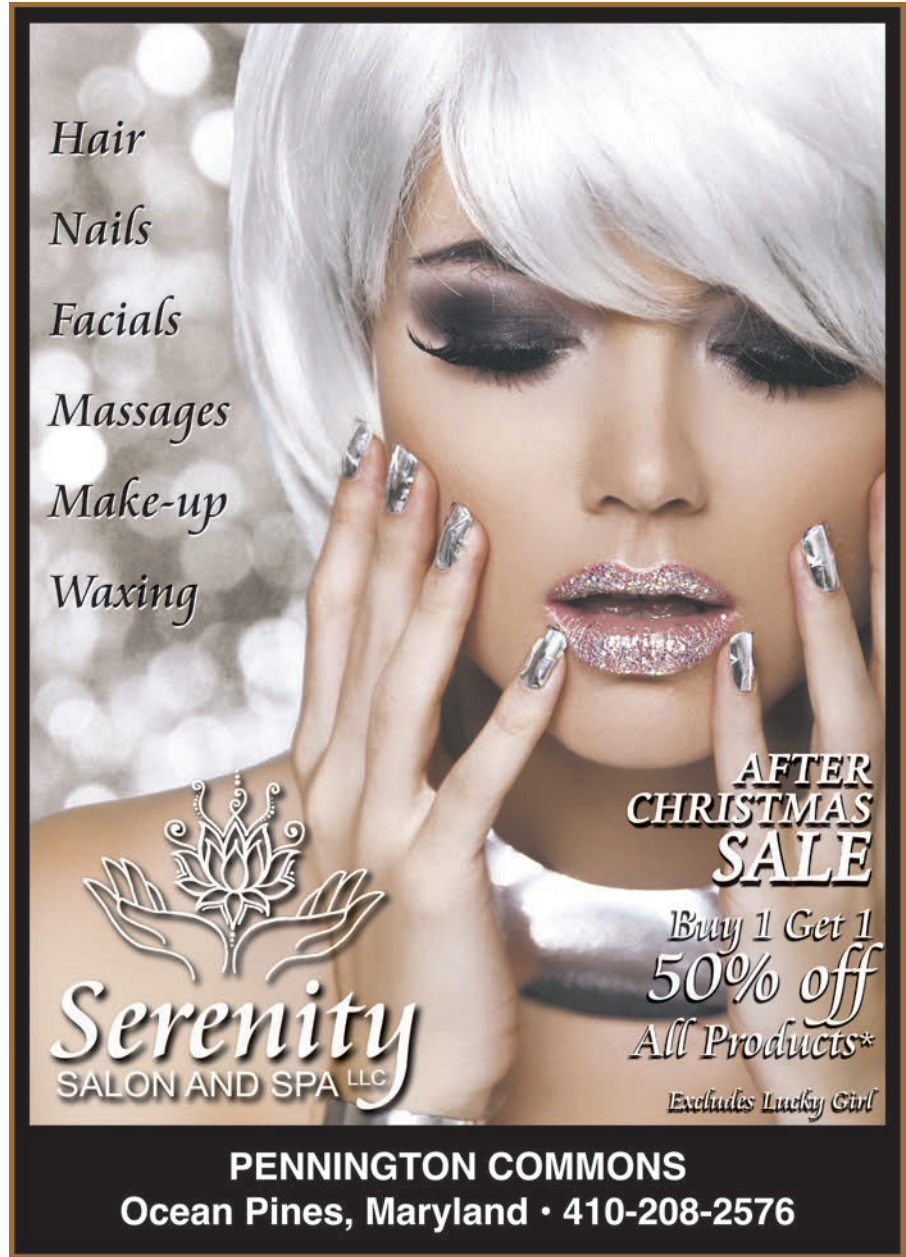
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Gee Williams reelected big in Berlin; Tyndall takes District 2

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) Berlin Mayor Gee Williams won a decisive victory to earn a third term in office, while Councilman Elroy Brittingham won an uncontested reelection in District 3 and newcomer Zackery Tyndall took home the council seat in District 2.

Things, at times, got a little weird during the town election, which wrapped in October.

Williams tipped his hat early in the year that he would run, but did not formally file until late August. His challenger, former District 2 Councilwoman Lisa Hall, filed in June.

The race got off to a rocky start for Hall in August when, during an interview related to her new business the Berlin Butcher Shop, she vowed she would leave town if she did not win the election.

“I’m sick of it,” she told a reporter during a break in the discussion. “If I don’t become mayor, I’m selling my house, I’m moving outside of Berlin, I’m going to let all these wealthy residents promote my business on their dime and thank you very much, because I don’t live here and I don’t pay no taxes.”

Hall went on to compare the Town Council to Donald Trump’s accusations about Hillary Clinton.

“You talk about ‘Crooked Hillary?’ Well, we’re all crooked, because I have to sit there and watch this s—t go on and can’t say nothing,” she said.

She also suggested the town’s recent \$95,000 land purchase on Flower Street was politically motivated.

“Do you think if Gee was running for mayor this fall that he would have done that \$100,000 deal with that developer?” she asked. “And why was Elroy voting? He sold them some of that land. You guys gotta ask the right question. Elroy should have recused himself.”

If Councilman Brittingham had recused himself the vote, 4-1, would not have changed.

Asked why the town’s ethics commission did not look into the matter, Hall replied, “They don’t look at s—t.”

“That just frustrates me, in that they’re watching me like a hawk here [in the shop]. Let me do something without a frickin’ permit or something,” she said. “It’s like, why am I going to spend all my time and energy if everybody’s running around doing whatever the hell they want?”

Asked about the outburst later, Hall said she wanted to retract her previous

statements.

“You all aren’t doing this to me,” she said. “I didn’t say that. I deny it.”

Then, about a month later, it came out that Hall and a female companion were charged in Charleston County, South Carolina was charged with marijuana possession on April 29.

Hall was scheduled to appear during a hearing on a marijuana charge on Oct. 19, but a court administrator at the City of Charleston Municipal Court said that case would be “continued” on Jan. 19.

Williams went on to win 588 votes townwide on Tuesday, Oct. 4, while Hall received 137 votes.

Tyndall won with 185 votes — 177 on regular ballots and eight on absentee ballots, besting fellow newcomer Jack Orris, who won 116 votes in District 2.

Brittingham earned reelection with no challenge to his seat.

Joining the third-term mayor during a victory-night celebration at Burley Oak Brewing Company were Brittingham and councilmen Troy Purnell and Thom Gulyas.

Brittingham termed the victory for Williams a “landslide,” while Purnell praised the turnout, which he called “good for Berlin.”

Williams, after a long wait, seemed relieved and appreciative of the results.

“I’m very grateful that all the work that the town has done — not just during my two terms as mayor, but for the generation or so that preceded that — I think we’re validated tonight,” he said. “I think that vision of deciding that the future was a good place and not a fearful place, it is now not a matter of question, but is a matter of our culture. It is who we are.

“Hopefully, in our own way, we can become an example to other small towns that the future is not a place to fear, but a place to embrace if you’re willing to make changes that are necessary for all people to succeed,” Williams added.

As for his agenda, Williams said he would continue “thoughtfully, on the same path” that he had set out during his previous eight years in office.

Williams celebrated the victory with his wife, Betsy, other family members and friends.

Tyndall was equally grateful for being selected at the District 2 representative.

“I want to thank my family, friends and neighbors for their constant support as I start my political career as councilman for the Town of Berlin,” he said in a statement the following morning. “Growing up, my parents instilled in me the importance of never compromising your character. Throughout this election, I have maintained my integrity and stood for what

See BRITTINGHAM Page 8



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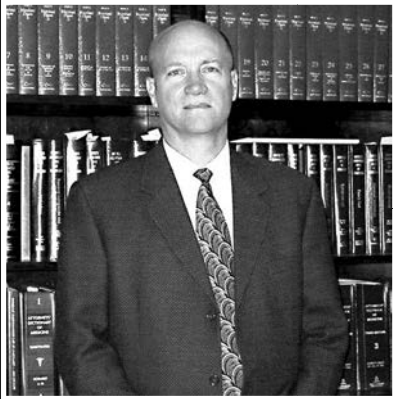
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Brittingham again reelected; council bids farewell to Hall

Continued from Page 6
I believe is right. I look forward to working with the council, Mayor Williams and the public to keep Berlin a great place to live and visit. Thank you again for the opportunity to give back to the community that raised me.”

Elroy Brittingham

During Hall’s final meeting as a councilwoman, Oct. 11, she was widely praised by her colleagues – including Williams.

“Quite frankly, I think this has been a very productive team,” he said. “I think everyone here has contributed ... we’re just part of the process, but I think Councilmember Hall has been an integral part of the success that we have achieved as a mayor and council.”

Zackery Tyndall

Williams added, “Every time one door closes another one opens.”

“On behalf of the mayor and council we wish you success with your new business venture, right down the

street, the Berlin Butcher Shop, and we also wish you all the best as you now take on even the greater responsibility of those wonderful grandchildren.”

Brittingham said he enjoyed working with Hall, while Councilman Dean Burrell added, “ditto, ditto, ditto.”

“Thank you for your commitment [and] service to the citizens of the town of Berlin, and I look forward to patronizing your butcher shop,” Burrell said.

“Well, as my husband would say, I look forward to getting in your pockets,” Hall said.

Hall, for her part, said he hoped the council would continue working with the Maryland Municipal League, with which she was heavily involved.

“It’s been a very pleasurable eight years,” Hall said. “It was [a] very difficult time when the mayor first got elected. It was a horrible time – it was probably the worst economy since the Great Depression. And had a lot of things ahead of us that seemed overwhelming.

“We were kind of like in our own little bubble here. We were very lucky,” she added. “We worked well together and we miss Councilmember [Paula] Lynch too. She was integral.”

Snow Hill, Pocomoke flood; some streets closed for weeks

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) While much of the state, and the East Coast, were focused on the possibility of a direct hit by Hurricane Matthew, Pocomoke City and Snow Hill were struck by strong thunderstorms that flooded the towns.

However, the effects weren’t felt simultaneously. Pocomoke City’s storm hit on Sept. 19, and by late afternoon, flood waters had crossed Route 113’s southbound lanes north of Pocomoke City in at least two places, Route 756 was about to be shut down, and both Market Street and Clarke Avenue were closed in places due to the rising water from the storm.

By Tuesday morning, City Manager/City Attorney Ernie Crofoot said things have calmed down, and the flash flooding had started to subside. He said cleanup efforts were underway.

“The combination of the volume of rain, the short time factor and the fact that stormwater mitigation swales and other measures can only hold so much water led to the flooding,” Crofoot said.

Reports of a lightning strike at Pocomoke’s Hartley Hall were confirmed by Gary Crowley, administrator. The strike did not hit the center itself, but nearby, causing minor issues

but not interrupting services to residents. Though the flooding was severe near Hartley Hall, the facility did not take on water, Crowley said.

“The heavy rain was a result of many ingredients coming together over Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore on Monday,” Ava Marie, morning meteorologist at WBAL, said. “There was a low pressure system spinning off the coast of North Carolina, left over from what was once Tropical Storm Julia. That low carried moisture into Maryland’s atmosphere, giving the setup for heavy rain.”

A cold front approaching from the west helped center the storm over the lower shore, she said.

“Pocomoke City experienced rainfall rates of one to three inches per hour for several hours and the radar estimates up to seven inches of rain fell in just 12 hours on Monday,” Marie said.

Crofoot said local estimates were in the 10-inch range.

“While it caused flooding in the short term, this helped make a huge dent in the drought that was forming in the region,” Marie said.

Days later, another storm hit Snow Hill, flooding much of the north end of town and washing out a portion of

See EVENTS Page 9

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Events cancelled, traffic stalls due to October floods

Continued from Page 8
Snow Hill Road that would remain impassible until late November.

“The area has a bunch of 42-inch drainage pipes that were scheduled to be replaced next year,” Charlie Gischlar, spokesman for the State Highway Administration said at the time. “We’re also addressing areas with lane washouts with rip rap — those aren’t a big deal,” he said. “In other cases, it’s like trying to hold back the ocean with a broom.”

The sandy yet waterlogged soil began washing away causing a sink-hole in the road, which quickly widened into a total breach.

“That was first built 30 to 50 years ago,” Gischlar said at the time. “We use different materials and methodologies now. We’ll have to do the design and get the materials. We’re very cognizant of what needs to happen, but we may not start until after we know what Matthew is going to do, because then all of our work may be for naught.”

Whiton Crossing Road, Porter’s Crossing Road, Algonquin Trail and Nassawango Road were all closed during and after the storm.

The Pocomoke River engulfed



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Snow Hill Road north of town was under feet of water for days after strong storms struck suddenly at the beginning of October. A few miles north, a section of the road was washed out, forcing detours for about a month until repairs were completed.

nearby Byrd Park almost entirely, and the surging river caused a “combined sewage overflow” of more than 10,000 gallons at the adjacent wastewater treatment plant. Residents were warned to avoid contact with the floodwaters due to this, and other, contamination.

“To put it in perspective here in Worcester, we have a washout of whatever was in the flood zone potentially washing into the river. You have solids: logs, branches, debris, even natural scat like deer spoor if they lay in an area that was washed out,” Bob

Mitchell, director of environmental services for Worcester County said. “There are many contributing elements to what is in the creek in the churning floodwaters that are moving through our county at the present.”

Though Wicomico, Salisbury and other points northward of Snow Hill in Maryland weren’t seeing overflow from wastewater treatment plants, the water washing down to Snow Hill was undoubtedly dirty and residents were warned to keep clear. After several days the water began to recede.

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.

Snow Hill Road remained impassible for weeks, but 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 was finally reopened to traffic on Nov. 18.

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Sewell, Savage, Green, U.S. vs. Pocomoke

By October, because of the failure of state and local officials to attend the reconciliation meeting after the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined reasonable cause existed, Sewell, Green and Savage alleged Title VII violations, which

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Chief convicted of misconduct; Green gets PBJ

ultimately attracted the attention of the Department of Justice.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the federal law that prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on their sex, religion, color, race or national origin.

The DOJ filed a motion to intervene in the case, since the consequences of the litigation could affect the rights of others not party to the case.

“Federal law protects against discrimination and retaliation in the workplace,” Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, said in a release following the announcement. “In police departments, that protection is vital not only for individual officials, but also for the communities they serve. The Justice Department is firmly committed to ensuring that our nation’s state and local law enforcement agencies comply with Title VII’s promise of a workplace free from racial discrimination and retaliation.”

Through the case the plaintiffs, and now, potentially, the United States are seeking “all appropriate monetary relief” including back pay and pre-judgment interest to Sewell,

Green and Savage, as well as compensatory damages.

In addition, the plaintiffs are seeking to force the defendants to develop and implement policies, procedures and training to prevent similar circumstances from happening again.

It took until December for District Judge J. Frederick Motz to rule the United States Department of Justice can intervene as a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Also in December, It took less than an hour for the jury to convict former Pocomoke City Police Chief Kelvin Sewell of misconduct in office, and he was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 fine and court costs.

A three-year jail sentence was suspended. Maryland State Prosecutor Emmet Davitt requested a six-month jail term during sentencing, while the attorney for the defense, Barry Coburn, argued successfully that imposing jail time on a 30-plus year police officer with no prior criminal

record for what amounted to a traffic case would be excessive.

The jury, drawn from a pool of predominantly white Worcester County residents, was narrowed to eight men and four women, with only one member, a female, of obvious African-American descent.

The facts of the incident were never disputed. Close to midnight on Nov. 21, 2014 Doug Matthews, a guard at Eastern Correctional Institute at the time, was returning home from the Masonic Lodge in Pocomoke City. As he was making the drive, which was only a matter of blocks, his car struck two others but he continued to

his residence, about another three blocks, before the car stopped functioning.

Matthews was not questioned by either party about what had happened in his home. He testified he fell asleep at the wheel, and was as shocked as anyone when he exited the vehicle to find the wheel missing, after making two turns to complete

his journey home.

Former Pocomoke City Police Officer Tonya Barnes said the chief told her to write the incident up as an accident, not a hit and run, because the damaged vehicles were unoccupied at the time of the crash, no one was injured and Matthews reported the crash to the police, in the form of Green.

Barnes, an officer with seven years experience in Baltimore City but still a new hire on probation in Pocomoke City, said she felt compelled to write the report that way though it was against her better judgment. She testified she felt she was obeying an order from her supervisor in writing the report in that fashion.

Barnes continued her service in the Pocomoke City Police Department for another year before leaving. She is currently an officer at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Barnes’ report was approved by Green.

Matthews was not charged with any crimes, nor was he issued a single ticket related to the incident.

Green was charged similarly to Sewell, and is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 19.

No date has been set for the discrimination case.

‘The Justice Department is firmly committed to ensuring that our nation’s state and local law enforcement agencies comply with Title VII’s promise of a workplace free from racial discrimination and retaliation.’

Vanita Gupta



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines celebrates the holiday season with a luncheon held at Waterman's restaurant in West Ocean City, Dec. 1.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EDUCATION GRANT GRANTED

Cato Inc. representative Kathleen Abercrombie and her daughter, Delaney, a 10th grader at Worcester Prep, present Upper School science teacher Tom Westcott with a \$500 Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program grant. Exxon Mobil believes in investing in educational programs for the next generation to pursue studies and careers in fields involving math and science. Westcott plans to use the grant to take his AP Biology students on an ecology canoe trip.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DAR HEARS HARDWARE

Hardwire President and Chief Operating Officer Emily Tunis, right, was the featured speaker for a National Defense program during a recent meeting of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Tunis described how the company has solved challenging military and defense problems such as armoring U.S. Mine Resistant Ambushed Protected (MRAP) vehicles. She also brought samples of armored products they manufacture to protect police forces, SWAT teams, and schools across the country. General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Patricia Ayers models one of the vests.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PLAYING SANTA

"Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes were recently filled by the congregations of Wilson and Zion United Methodist churches in the Bishopville area. They contained small toys that will be delivered to children.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPLGA DONATION

The Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association held its annual Pink Lady Golf Tournament at the Ocean Pines Golf & Country Club on Oct. 4 to raise money to help provide mammogram screenings through the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostics Center at Atlantic General Hospital. The association raised \$2,079, bringing the total contribution over the past six years to more than \$6,800. Pictured, from left, are Norma Kessler, OPLGA; Michael Franklin, FACHE, Atlantic General Hospital president and CEO; Janet Stoer, OPLGA Pink Lady chair; Maria Phillips, director of radiology at the Women's Diagnostic Center; Tammy Patrick, Atlantic General Hospital Foundation development officer; and Stephanie Banks, lead radiology technician at the Women's Diagnostic Center.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

SOUTHWELL ELECTED

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City held a special election to fill a vacated spot on its Board of Directors for two years. Tom Southwell was the winner among five candidates and was installed by President Barbara Peletier during an October meeting.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016



Eleven Ocean Pines candidates for board of directors participate in a forum at the Parke community in July. Three were elected to serve three-year terms on the board when the votes were counted in August.

Unprecedented election in Pines

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) A record number of candidates entered the ring in yet another heated Ocean Pines election that resulted in three new board members, the resignation of a sitting board member and the entire membership of an advisory committee, and the termination of General Manager Bob Thompson.

When candidates were certified in May, a dozen men and women were among those seeking three seats on the board, although businesswoman Sharona Ezaoui would drop out of the race in June.

Eleven others remained: Frank Daly, Slobodan Trendic, George Simon Jr., Tom Janasek, Doug Parks, Steve Lind, Brett C. Hill, Ray Unger, Patricia Supik, Jack Collins and Larry Perrone.

It did not take long before Thompson became the central issue of the campaign.

During the first of three candidate forums, in June, business owner Hill hammered Thompson, saying his office lacked accountability, did not do proper research and enjoyed a “rubber stamp” coming from the board of directors.

“The majority of the proposals for spending that come in front of that

board are a website, an EBay listing – there aren’t real quotes,” he said. “How do we run a \$14 million budget and not solicit competitive quotations?”

“I run \$120 million budget every year [and] I get bids on everything,” Hill continued. “The board has to hold the GM accountable to that, and the GM is responsible for doing that research, bringing the vendors, soliciting for RFPs and holding his staff to a level of prudent spending of our money. That’s how the relationship is supposed to work and that’s how I would see it work on the board of directors.”

Thompson again became a target during a second forum, in July.

Lind, a former police officer, was the first to mention Thompson and did so during his opening remarks.

“It doesn’t take a detective to figure out that for the last three elections the general manager has been ‘the’ campaign issue,” he said. “The general manager has been the center of much of the controversy and much of the divisiveness, and for the good of the community this personnel issue must be quickly resolved before we can get back to conducting the people’s business.”

Lind said he had never seen such “political battling” over a general man-

ager during his 17 years of residence in the Pines.

“We need to take politics and personality out of the GM office,” he said. “Simply sitting at the table and voting on spending projects based only on the facts and opinions of one unelected person – the manager – is not enough.”

Parks said he was concerned that the general manager “dominates ... most, if not all, of the discussion.”

Trendic called Thompson’s \$165,000 base “outrageous,” and blamed him for deteriorating infrastructure, outdated information technology, “ongoing controversy” at the yacht club and a lack of transparency.

“Do you know that the board pays our general manager the same salary that [the] Maryland state governor makes?” he asked.

Trendic went on to say the “key difference” between the roughly five or six candidates focused on ousting Thompson was just how fast they would move to do so.

“As your new board member, I will move promptly to address our concerns with the general manager’s performance. I believe that has been the root cause of most controversies that has plagued the board and divided us

See HILL Page 14

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Hill, Trendic, Supik were seated on OPA board

Continued from Page 13

as a community,” he said.

Hill said Ocean Pines had “too much money sitting around in the hands of, really, one person.”

He said Thompson was at fault for the poor performance of several amenities. During the Fourth of July weekend, for example, Hill said business at the yacht club suffered because of a broken credit card machine and a tiki bar that was “shut down ... with 150 people on the deck to watch fireworks.”

“How is that a board of director’s problem? That’s management,” he said. “Management has to be fixed, and the board of directors is responsible for doing that.”

During a final forum at the Ocean Pines Library, the debate began with a question about Thompson, when the moderator asked if any of the candidates would have supported his recent contract renewal.

Five of the six candidates answered “no.”

Trendic called Thompson’s contract “outrageous,” and said the average community manager salary was about \$63,000 in the U.S., and that the top 10 percent had average salaries of \$123,000. Thompson has a base salary of \$165,000.

“The numbers speak for themselves. These are the things we need to correct,” he said.

Trendic continued to hammer Thompson during his closing statements, insisting that the general manager was the cause of most controversies in Ocean Pines. He drew a line between candidates who believed “all is well,” and those who did not.

“Within [the latter] group of candidates, the key difference is at which speed some of us will move to address these issues,” he said. “As your new board member, I will move promptly to address the concerns related to the general manager’s performance.”

Adding to the controversy surrounding Thompson was the Ocean Pines Elections Committee, which similarly fell under fire. Specifically, several of the candidates did not approve that election rules in the association called for ballots to be counted during a closed session.

That spilled over just prior to a committee meeting in late July, when committee Chairman Bill Wentworth lashed out at Director Tom Herrick.

Wentworth confronted Herrick, the board’s liaison to the committee, apparently angry that Herrick did not aid the committee when the board in June considered removing the words “in closed session” from Resolution M-06, which explains vote-counting procedures in Ocean Pines.

When Herrick asked Wentworth to explain exactly what was bothering him, Wentworth replied, “Be quiet long enough for me to tell you.”

Wentworth said accusations of impropriety were affecting the current election cycle, and that the issue should have been dealt with after the election. Officially, the board of directors tabled the issue, but several candidates have discussed showing up when votes are being counted.

“It’s all geared up now. These people are nuts,” Wentworth said. “It’s become personal with me ... because of all the B.S. I’ve got to put up with, with all these goofballs.

“I hope they show up and try to do something, because half of them are going to get locked up,” Wentworth

added, referring to several candidates who threatened to bring lawyers to the vote count.

Wentworth went on to say if the board had changed the rules in June, “There wouldn’t have been any election.”

“Next year, I don’t give a hoot in a hell storm how it’s going to happen,” he said. “If I decide I’m going to resign at the end of this year [as chairman], this is just a small part of it. I’m tired of being micromanaged.”

Committee member Judy Butler said that, as the appointed board secretary, Herrick needed to “support the current rules for this election committee.”

Because of the controversy, Butler said the elections committee was being portrayed as “the bad guy.”

“We are not the bad guy,” she said. “We are owners and occupants of this Ocean Pines Association. We chose to help do this election. We are not the ones who made these rules, and we are the ones who have to take care of this.

“If nobody can stand up for us, then nobody is going to do this job in the future and you can just contract out the whole thing, which is maybe what should be done,” Butler continued. “Now, is that good, or would you rather have five members of this community who care about this community enough to do this job, to be in this room and count those votes? It is very discouraging to think that this board doesn’t support us.”

At least one candidate, Hill, filed a complaint with the Maryland Attorney General’s Office that alleged the committee’s closed-door vote counting process violates the Maryland Homeowners Association Act.

“I will be at the vote count with my attorney, and I expect the vote count to be open,” he said. “I would hope that the board and the elections committee would do what I feel is the right thing and just do not go into closed session. Leave it open and leave it transparent.

“If they want to postpone making changes to the resolution until after the election, that’s fine, but at least for

this election I would hope that they would concede this to transparency and push this through until there’s a better long-term solution to the problem.”

Hill, Trendic, Lind, Janasek and others made good on the threat to show up during the vote counting, although no on-duty attorneys were present.

They were not let into the room where the elections committee and a contractor worked on tabulating votes, although Thompson did appoint a “third-party” to watch the process, selecting then-Controller Art Carmine to do so.

While Hill and others were not exactly pleased with that selection, it was apparently enough to hold off further legal action.

Still, Hill said being locked out was “extremely disappointing.”

“I expected more out of the elections committee and the administration,” he said. “I guess we’ll see where it goes the next couple of days.”

Asked, if elected, how big of a priority changing the rules would be, Hill replied, “It has to start day one.”


“This can never happen again,” he said. “It needs to be an independent, but transparent process so that both sides – administration and the board – can see an accurate and nonconflicting process, as well as [having] the association participating. There has to be some assurance that everything is being done by the books and following the rules.”

On the following day, it was announced that Hill was the leading vote getter, followed by Trendic and Supik.

Hill led the way with 1,900 votes, followed by Trendic with 1,520 and Supik with 1,428.

Rounding out the vote totals were Frank Daly, 1,028, Steve Lind, 875, George Simon, 816, Jack Collins, 782, Tom Janasek, 770, Doug Parks, 576, Larry Perrone, 342 and Ray Unger, 242.

Three directors, Tom Terry, Bill Cordwell and Collins, went off the board. Terry served two consecutive terms and could not run again because of term limits, and Cordwell opted not to run for reelection after serving one term.



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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Dualization work ramps up for spring 2019 finish

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(YIR 2016) Each year, the state ask counties to submit a ranked list of its transportation priorities for the next year, and every year for about the past 20 years it's been the same in Worcester: Route 113 dualization.

The road, which narrows from a four-lane divided highway to just two lanes slightly north of Langmaid Road, and reverts back into a divided highway just to the south of the Business 113 junction in Snow Hill, has been considered a hazard for many years.

So when his office announced Gov. Larry Hogan's schedule for his first, and to date only, Eastern Shore tour in early April and noted a transportation press conference at the Worcester County Board of Education building in Newark, the topic of conversation could only have been Route 113.

The governor made good, and announced funding for the final roadwork phase of the Route 113 dualization project, with construction expected to begin in early spring next year, and opening to traffic two years later in 2019.

"Worcester County did it right," Jim Ports Jr., deputy secretary of operations for the Department of Transportation, said during the press conference. "Route 113 was put in as a priority and never once went off. This has been through several governors, but this governor is getting it done."

Currently underway is Phase 3, which spans the area from Massey Branch Road to the north down to Five Mile Branch Road in the south. Construction began in 2015, and this section is expected to be open to traffic in late 2017 or early 2018.

Bicycle and pedestrian improve-

ments will be included, according to the state.

During the offseason, according to information provided by the state, this section of road carries 9,250-13,000 vehicles daily, with a couple hundred more during the summer. By 2035, the state estimates traffic will increase significantly.

This section is expected to cost \$50.4 million, the lion's share of which is to come from federal sources. The state's share is reported to be \$14.2 million, with federal dollars making up the balance.

Phase 4 is a 4.3-mile stretch between Five Mile Branch Road in the north to Public Landing Road to the south, and is the final section of road to be converted from two-lane highway to four. Construction will be advertised later this spring, and traffic estimates for this section of road mirror those of Phase 3.

According to figures provided by the state, this phase will cost a \$86.4 million, with \$67.2 million coming from federal sources and the remainder coming from the state.

The dualization project contains a Phase 5, which is an overpass at the junction of Route 113 and Snow Hill Road and no road construction. The completion of Phase 4 signals the end of major expansion efforts on the road.

"I inherited an infrastructure that had largely been ignored," Hogan said at the time. "Transportation funds had been syphoned. State funding was slashed 96 percent. Local roads will get \$6 million more in the coming fiscal



Gov. Larry Hogan announces funding for the completion of the Route 113 dualization project, the county's top priority transportation project for decades. The project is currently in Phase 3 of five phases.

year, and I'm going to commit \$2 billion to infrastructure. We're moving forward with every highest-priority item in the state — all 86 of them."

Local advocates and officials were pleased by the announcement.

"The county wants to thank Gov. Hogan. We've traveled a long road to get here. Route 113 was once a dangerous road, and there were too many lives claimed. The project started in 1999, and there's one more phase to go, which is now going to be completed. Thank you governor," County Commissioner President Jim Bunting said.

Ports then introduced Bob Hulburd, president of CRASH, (county residents action for safer highways,) who has worked on getting Route 113 dualized since his cousin, Lee Figgs, was killed on the highway in 1994.

"The community advocated for this for decades," Ports said. "The CRASH team deserves credit for keeping the pressure on us."

Hulburd took the podium in the board of education meeting room, where he had spent a decade as a member.

"I've never been accused of being speechless, but I might be today," he said. "It's a red letter day ... the community had had enough — 97 people died in the 20 years we've pursued this. It became a question of 'people preservation,' and lives have been saved today — maybe yours, or someone you love," Hulburd said.

"Thank goodness for what we have. Thank goodness for the people who came before. I hope to live long enough to see it completed," he said.

Hulburd said he expected to walk on the completed road with SHA district engineer Donnie Drewer, who retired in October.

The work proceeded without commuter impact until late August, though the work was delayed more than once by the State Highway Administration.

A total of four overnight closings near Newark were necessary as work on the project continued. Each job involved the excavation and removal of old stormwater management pipes, plus installation of new pipe up to 72 inches in diameter. The road was

See CONSTRUCTION Page 17

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Construction will call for reduced speeds in 2017

Continued from Page 15
closed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Three installations were just south of Langmaid Road, and the fourth installation was north of Basket Switch Road. Drivers will use that street as well as Newark Road as bypasses.

The SHA measured the detours at about one mile in each direction.

As the four crossings were completed, the SHA revealed as many as six additional crossings need to be made as Route 113 is widened. Some of that work is underway now, but so far has not affected normal traffic patterns.

In November, the State Highway Administration announced drivers with a degree of familiarity with the stretch of Route 113 between Snow Hill and Langmaid Road will need to readjust the cruise control as the State Highway Administration has lowered the speed limit in the work area to 45 m.p.h.

Speeding fines are doubled in the reduced speed zone.

Robert Rager, the district community liaison for the SHA, said the reduced speed requirement would last until the dualization of this stretch of road is complete at the end of 2017.

The cost to dualize the road has exceeded \$200 million, with most of the money coming from the state and federal governments.

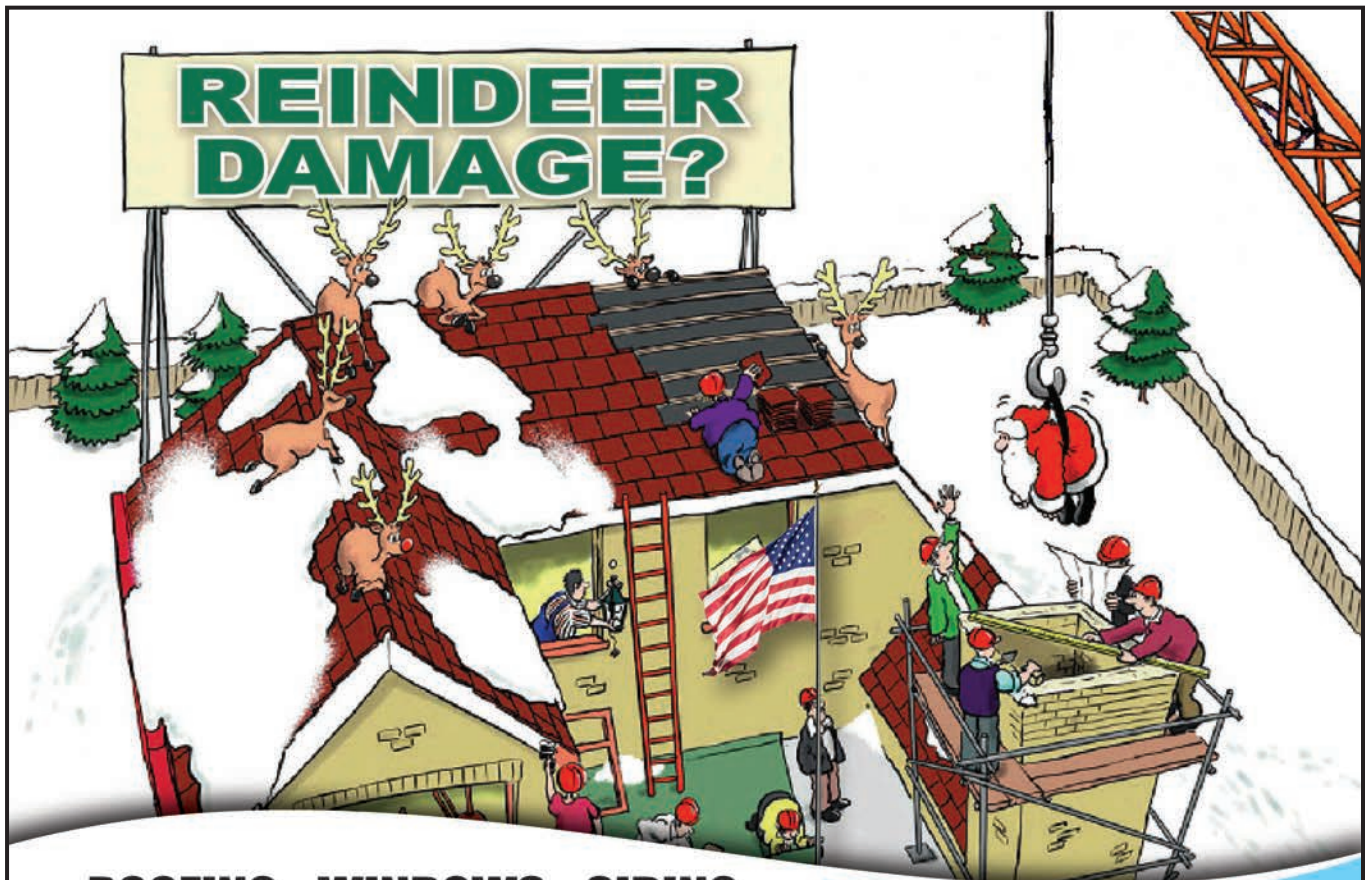
“Work zone speed reductions are fairly common where we expect significant work/lane closures on the existing road or a lot of construction vehicles entering/exiting the road during peak travel times or in areas with limited sight-distance,” Rager said. “Most of the work to date on US 113 has been clearing and grading — off the road with minimal impacts to traffic. As you well know the pipe crossings have been done under full closure and detour.”

The pipe crossing work finished in October, but more crossings to replace aging drainage infrastructure will be necessary before the project is complete. No schedule for those closures has been released.



BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The State Highway Administration lowered the speed limit on the area currently undergoing dualization in southern Worcester County. The change will remain in effect until the project is complete.



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Happy 2017

The Bayside Gazette thanks its readers and advertisers for making 2016 a successful year for us and we look forward to continuing that partnership in the new year.

We pledge to do our best and, again, thank you for making it possible.

May the new year be a prosperous one for us all.

— Bayside Gazette Staff



Police investigating reported cell scam

State and other local officials looking into death-threats texts from the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack, threatening text messages originating from sender isigman@conejousd.org have been circulating in the area.

The message reads, “I’ve been paid to kill you but wish to spare you. Inform the police or anyone else you die. To be spared, contact vsdky@hotmail.com immediately via email.”

Police advised anyone who received the message to not respond.

For more information, contact the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack at 410-641-3101.

CFES to host open house on Jan. 5

‘Community Needs Grants’ program will cover three counties

(Dec. 29, 2016) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) will host a “Community Needs Grants Open House” on Thursday, Jan. 5, starting at 10 a.m., for nonprofit organizations in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. The open house will be held at the foundation’s offices at 1324 Belmont Avenue, Salisbury.

“Whether your nonprofit is big or small, the Community Foundation can help you find the resources you need to carry out your mission,” Erica Joseph, CFES president, said. “Join our staff as we discuss our foundation’s Community Needs Grants Program. The grant application and award process will be reviewed in its entirety.”

This open house is offered in advance of the Feb. 1, 2017 grant deadline for community needs. Organizations serving citizens on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland are encouraged to apply for funding. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations providing nonsectarian programs, or eligible programs within government agencies. These competitive grants are awarded at least twice each year.

Grants are awarded to a wide range of nonprofit organizations, including, but not limited to those that serve health and human services, education, arts and culture, community development, environment and historic preservation.

Copies of grant guidelines and application forms are available by visiting www.cfes.org or by calling 410-742-9911.

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Have an opinion?

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

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Election ‘16 fallout: Thompson ousted, others in OPA resign

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) Newly elected leadership in Ocean Pines worked swiftly to make good on a key election promise to fire General Manager Bob Thompson just days after the results were announced.

On Aug. 21, the board met and elected Tom Herrick, the leading vote-getter in 2015, the new president, replacing Pat Renaud after one year in that office.

Veteran Director Dave Stevens was elected vice president and two newly elected directors, Slobodan Trendic and Pat Supik, were confirmed as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Brett Hill, who received the most votes during the summer election, was not appointed to an office.

Five days later, the new board fired Thompson in a 4-3 vote and appointed Hill as interim general manager.

Thompson, whose six-year tenure as the association’s chief operating officer was a political lightning rod during the election, worked at the pleasure of the board and was dismissed for “convenience,” or without specific cause.

The vote happened during a closed meeting and followed a special session of the board in the administration building. As the board wrapped up its more routine business, Hill called for a closed session to discuss “contractual issues ... specifically the general manager’s contract.”

Although Hill’s motion related to a potential renegotiation of Thompson’s agreement, he tabled his proposal once the closed session began and, according to reports, Stevens then introduced a motion to dismiss Thompson immediately.

“It was a guise – it was a setup,” Renaud later said in an interview. “We were all shocked. When (Hill’s motion) was tabled, Dave said, ‘Well, I have an alternative motion.’ I said to him, before we table the motion, I’d like to know what the alternate is, and he said ‘no.’ So, they tabled the motion and he produced this alternative, which was to fire [Thompson].”

“I thought it was unusual, at least from the standpoint of Brett, why didn’t he go back and say, ‘I won’t vote for the motion – I would rather go back to the table.’ But he didn’t. So, it was a setup all the way.”

According to Renaud, when Herrick appointed Hill as the interim general manager, Hill replied that he “had a business to run.”

“He didn’t object too strongly,” Renaud added.

Thompson was not present during any portion of the meeting, but was presumed to be in his office working just a few feet away from the boardroom.

“[The directors] were all sort of sitting around looking at each other and I



Bob Thompson speaks out about his future – and his legacy – days after the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors terminated his contract as general manager. He served in the position for six years.

said to Tom, you have to go tell him – you’re the president,” Renaud said. “He did not like that.”

Leaving the building that night, Renaud said the lights were still on in Thompson’s office.

“I don’t think Bob was surprised about it at all, but I was surprised that it was this fast,” Renaud said. “Obviously, this special meeting was a setup to get Bob. I hate to be that way, but the way it came down, that’s what the whole intent of the meeting was – was to fire Bob.”

According to reports, Thompson’s severance package includes nine months pay and benefits, as well as compensation for any unused vacation time, believed to be valued at a total of close to \$200,000.

Thompson became general manager in August 2010 after a newly elected board ended its contract with then-general manager Tom Olson, who had been brought on in October 2006.

Olson fell out of favor with the board for failing to make the association’s amenities, especially the yacht club, profitable.

That was a complicated move in that Thompson, who operated a financial advisory business in West Ocean City, was a member of the board of directors while also running for Worcester County commissioner against eventual winner Judy Boggs. He stepped down as a director to assume the general manager’s post and closed his business.

A day after the firing, Hill issued a statement on the matter.

“To the residents of Ocean Pines, thank you to all of you who voted for me to serve on your board of directors,” he wrote. “When I was elected two weeks ago, I would never have thought in such a short period of time my peers would ask me to step up and serve the community as an interim general manager.

“I am very confident in the staff of our association and I firmly believe that the community is in a strong position. This community is not run by one per-

son, but a large staff that possess a wide range of skills and deep knowledge base within their trade to support the diversity of services offered by our HOA. That staff will still be here, as it was during the last general manager change, continuing to support our daily operations.

“The next few months, under the guidance of the current board, will allow this community to take a fresh look at our future plans, and set the course for the next chapter of Ocean Pines. I believe the short tenure of the new board has already shown we have a great leadership team. We took aggressive steps early in the board year to start setting our financial plans, commenced budget reform and project evaluations, and we implemented measures to begin moving our community forward. I am honored to work with a team of such fine individuals, and know with their support, we will

quickly move to bring the best solution for the management of the Association.

“Additionally, I wish to thank all of those who support our community as volunteers, like myself. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but trust that with all of the support that exists within the community, we will make great things happen and enjoy the success together.”

Renaud announced his resignation from the board during the following week, as did the entire membership of the Ocean Pines Association Elections Committee.

During a phone interview Renaud said, simply, “I’ve had enough.”

He said he had handed in a formal resignation letter and sent copies to each director.

The termination of Thompson’s contract, Renaud added, was “one of the main reasons” for his resignation.

“Another reason is that I have had
See PARKS Page 20



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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Parks takes over for Renaud; entire election cmte. out

Continued from Page 19
some health problems that I have to take care of,” Renaud said. “I’ve had enough. I’ve talked to my doctor and everything. It’s all done.

“I don’t think there’s anything I could accomplish in this year if I stayed on, except to be more frustrated” he added.

Renaud had missed several meetings because of health issues and was once hospitalized after being diagnosed with sepsis and cellulitis.

On Sept. 9, Doug Parks was selected to replace Renaud on the board. Parks had finished ninth during the August vote.

Election Committee Chairman Bill Wentworth and committee members Steve Smith, Cheryl Bissell and Judy Butler also announced resignations.

In part, Wentworth said the committee members left because of controversies that arose during the most-recent election cycle, which officially ended with the announcement of three new directors on Aug. 13.

Several of the candidates and some board members believed the votes should be counted in public as opposed to the closed vote-count under current Ocean Pines guidelines.

“It all rolls back to, we were in a situation where the bylaws and the resolutions, which everyone is expected to follow, we followed to the Nth degree and unfortunately we had two board of directors who didn’t think it was important to follow those things,” Wentworth said.

“They kept pimping the idea of, ‘well it should be transparent – people should be able to be in there,’ which is a violation – until they change it – of the resolutions and the bylaws.”

Wentworth said the firing of Thompson affected the timeline of his decision.

“I definitely was not going to do another round of [committee work], but the fact of Bob Thompson being terminated certainly had an impact on my feelings toward exactly how I was going to end what I was doing,” he said. “I had some things together for the year-end



Interim Ocean Pines Association General Manager Brett Hill slides over the necessary paperwork to Doug Parks, making his appointment as a director official during a meeting in September. Parks replaced retiring director Pat Renaud, who stepped down two years into his three-year term, citing health reasons and frustration with the new administration.

report, but I’m just not going to do it. “What’s going on [with the new board] just makes no sense at all,” Wentworth continued. “You’ve got a group of people who are in a situation for maybe seven or eight days, and then they’re going to fire somebody. You just can’t live with some of the things that they’re doing – that they’ve done.”

He went on to say there was “no rhyme or reason” to the actions of the new board.

“It seems to me they want to make change just for change’s sake,” he said. “I think it may have devastating effects on the direction of the community with what’s going to happen.

“I feel sorry for the employees,” Wentworth added. “They’re under the gun. If they did that to the general manager with no provocation – or in the night of darkness so to speak – what could happen to one of these people if they happen to say the wrong thing? Are they going to just move them out? It’s got to be a very uncomfortable climate for those people who are working in the administration office, and I feel for them.”

In a separate interview, Thompson later admitted he was not at all surprised at his dismissal.

“Any time there’s a change in a board of directors – and certainly in Ocean

Pines – it opens up the opportunity for changes, either in direction or in management itself,” he said. “I think Tom Herrick dealt with it appropriately. It’s a tough situation.”

He did, however, admit the move was a “disappointing” one.

“At the same time the board has the right to make decisions. The community voted for the new board members that were clear on the direction that they wanted to head in, and the community supported that,” he said.

“I can’t really fault anybody – it’s the process. That’s the way it’s supposed to be,” he added. “The community spoke and the board took the action they thought they were elected to do. I can’t have hard feelings about that.”

Thompson feels he is leaving the association on strong footing. Ocean Pines was again named one of the safest communities in the state, based on its low crime rate, and amenities like the yacht club were honored by several publications as “best” in the region.

He said he was “absolutely” upbeat about the future of Ocean Pines.

“I’ve been here a long time. For me, I support the community where I live and I think I’ve shown that over the years,” he said. “I’ve raised my kids here, I’ve been involved building play-

grounds and being on all the committees. I was very active and involved, and I think I did it with integrity and being upfront. Admittedly, I have a strong personality, but that’s part of what I believe a good leader has to do.”

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community for six years,” Thompson continued. “I feel real good from where we started to where we are. From when I arrived to when I departed, I think the community is stronger for it and I feel pretty good about that. I like to think I leave a place a little better than when I stepped into it, and with the team in place now, I feel very comfortable that’s occurred.”

During the most recent board meeting, Dec. 9, Hill said two other directors had helped narrow a list of general manager search firms down to three, and said request for quotes would be drafted shortly.

Ironically, Hill came under fire during a meeting on Dec. 5 when members of his company, FTS Fiber, made a presentation to bring high-speed Internet infrastructure to the community.

Hill recused himself during the pitch, but some members of the board and the association suggested a conflict of interest was present and called on him to resign.

Berlin to host annual New Year’s Eve bash

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 29, 2016) While most of the roughly two-dozen annual events in Berlin are designed to bring new faces – and shoppers – into the community, the town’s yearly New Year’s Eve bash is geared toward area residents.

Tyler Horton, aka DJ Bigler, the voice of the Delmarva Shorebirds, will emcee and spin records with Ocean 98 personality Big Al Reno.

Three outdoor bar areas will be available for the first time: at the

Blacksmith restaurant on 104 Pitts Street, outside the Atlantic Hotel on 2 North Main Street and at Fins Ale House and Raw Bar on 119 Main Street.

At midnight, a large steel ball covered in multicolored lights will descend from the Town Center Antiques building, opposite the hotel. Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said that was commissioned as art by resident Barb Stack several years ago.

She said DJ Bigler and Big Al Reno

would award prizes in exchange for correct answers to trivia questions, and that vendors would include Crush N Crab and Eastern Shore Kettle Korn. Carriage rides will also be offered.

“It’s all weather dependent, but I think we’ll get a nice crowd,” Wells said. “Always during an event the economic impact is to introduce anyone that’s new to downtown, but New Year’s Eve is really more for the locals. It gives everyone a chance to get together where they can walk down-

town without having to worry about driving anywhere, especially since there’s usually alcohol involved.

“The main goal of having the celebration is to celebrate with the community and your friends and neighbors,” she added. “The restaurants will be open serving dinner, and we encourage people to walk or bike down. There’ll be plenty to eat, plenty to drink and lots of fun to be had.”

New Year’s Eve is Saturday, Dec. 31. The event officially runs from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Take plunge during 23rd annual Penguin Swim

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Dec. 29, 2016) The annual Penguin Swim takes place on New Year's Day every year with hundreds of people dashing into the ocean off 91st Street to benefit Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin.

"The community involvement is overwhelming, whether you are a volunteer, visitor, local, business or organization," AGH Event Coordinator Joy Stokes said. "All ages are coming together to ring in the new year, have fun and make memories for a great cause. The 2017 Penguin Swim promises to be filled with fun and excitement."

There will also be carnival games, girls dressed as mermaids, costume contests, live entertainment, Lollipop the Clown and ice art from Erik Cantine.

In 2016, a record-breaking 1,035 people on 60 teams plunged into the surf for the swim and raised more than \$106,000 for the hospital. There were also 46 sponsors, Stokes said.

Organizers expect more than 1,000 people to take the plunge, Stokes said.

"The Penguin Swim is one of our largest fundraisers in support of Atlantic General Hospital's mission to create a coordinated care delivery system that will provide access to quality care, personalized service and education to improve individual and community health," Stokes said. "All proceeds from this event benefit the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation."

Besides knowing that it's all for a good cause, swimmers will have other incentives and each registered participant will receive an official 2017 Penguin Swim T-shirt.

Penguins who raise anywhere from \$26 to \$99 have the choice of a bag or swell bottle while those who collect \$100 to \$129 will take home an official Penguin Swim long-sleeve shirt. Swimmers who collect \$250 to \$499 will be given a Penguin Swim beach towel, and anyone raising \$500 or more will be able to choose one prize from each level, Stokes said.

The top three donors from each category, which includes individuals and adults, teams, businesses, community groups and 18 and under, will be awarded trophies and prizes. There will be a costume contest in five categories and special recognition will be given to the oldest and youngest penguins.

For the fourth year, participants who will be out of town on New Year's Day can engage in a "virtual swim." These penguins still raise money and register online, but must take a photo of their dip wherever they are and post it to social media sites. The photos will be shared at the event through a live feed. To show out-of-town photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, use the hashtag #OCPenguinSwim.

Before swimmers take the plunge, the Bull on the Beach team will parade

down the beach in honor of being "the Emperor Penguin" and a legacy sponsor who has participated for 23 consecutive years.

Registration and check-in for the 2017 Penguin Swim starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, at the Princess Royale Hotel on 91st Street, with the swim taking place at 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 per swimmer.

Early registration and advance check-in will be available on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 2-4 p.m. at the hotel.

An award ceremony will follow the swim inside the Princess Royale atrium and there will be dollar carnival games including frog hop, hoop shoot, football toss, bottle ring toss and cover the spot. In addition, there will be girls dressed as mermaids in the pool, Lollipop the Clown will offer face painting, there will be a cash bar and apparel sales in addition to a

selfie station.

To sign up for the 23rd annual Penguin Swim or to make a donation, visit aghpenguinswim.org or text PENGUIN to 51555. The event can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/penguinswim or call the hospital foundation office with questions at 410-641-9671.

Organizers are always looking for sponsors and checks can be made out to the AGH Foundation and mailed to: 9733 Healthway Drive Berlin, Maryland, 21811.

"Any individuals, business or organizations can still sponsor and help make the event a great success," Stokes said. "The Penguin Swim is one of our largest fundraisers in support of Atlantic General Hospital."

For more information on event sponsorship opportunities, call 410-641-9671 or email penguinswim@atlanticgeneral.org.

atlanticgeneral.org.

Proceeds from the event support strategic plans started by Atlantic General Hospital and back its mission to improve individual and community health.

"The 2016 Penguin Swim raised more than \$106,000, which will enable the Atlantic General Hospital and Health System to strengthen programs, enhance services and medical technologies, attract the best clinical staff, fund renovation projects and maintain a healing environment in the coming year," Stokes said.

The hospital has been providing health care to residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland as well as Sussex County, Delaware, since May 1993. Since its inception, the Penguin Swim has raised more than \$1 million for the hospital.



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116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Dec. 30: Dave Sherman, 7-11 p.m.
Dec. 31: Lennon & the Leftovers, 7-11 p.m.
Jan. 1: 2 Guys & A Mama; Randy Lee Ashcraft, 6-9 p.m.
Jan. 4: Open Mic, 8-11 p.m.
Jan. 5: Chris Button, 7-10 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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

5:30 p.m.

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
Berlin
410-641-0600
www.oceandowns.com
Dec. 30: Sol Knopf, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Everett Spells, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Dec. 31: Special NYE Show w/Mon-kee Paw Duo, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Aaron Howell Duo, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; DJ BK, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Jan. 1: Matt Lafferty Trio, 12:30-4:30 p.m.; Tear The Roof Off, 5:30-9:30 p.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
Dec. 30: DJ Hook, 9 p.m.; Jumper, 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 31: Everett Spells, 7 p.m.; DJ RobCee, 9 p.m.; Jumper, 10:30 p.m.
Jan. 1: Everett Spells, brunch

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road

West Ocean City
410-213-1846
www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 30: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party w/Chris Button, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 8 p.m.
Jan. 1: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 6:30 p.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com
Dec. 30: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m.
Dec. 31: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m.
Jan. 5: 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
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve w/On The Edge and Power Play

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
www.secrets.com
Dec. 30: Rew Smith, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Bash w/Full

Circle, 4-8 p.m.; Rew Smith, 8 p.m. to midnight; Garden State Radio, 8 p.m. to midnight; 9-Mile Roots, mid-night to 3 a.m.; The Benderz, 1-4 a.m.
Jan. 1: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 31: No Byscuys

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Ocean Pines
410-641-7501
www.oceanpines.org
Dec. 30: Bryan Clark, 6 p.m.

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
Dec. 30: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



FULL CIRCLE

Seacrets: Sunday, January 1, 5 p.m.



DJ HOOK

Fager's Island: Friday, December 30, 9 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION & BALL DROP

December 31, 2016 · Downtown Main Street, Berlin, MD



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Hundreds of people gather in the early afternoon on New Year's Day 2016 to take a walking tour of Assateague Island State Park. Former National State Park Service Ranger Chris Seymour led the stroll and delivered useful information about the park's history, wildlife and legacy.

New Year's Day Beach Walk in park

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Dec. 29, 2016) Look forward to new additions including four stations highlighting the theme of climate change along with a scavenger hunt on a self-guided beach stroll during the 37th annual Ilia Fehrer/Judy Johnson New Year's Day Beach Walk at Assateague State Park on Sunday, Jan. 1.

"This event has grown over the years. We felt the need to do more and make it a better experience," said Assateague Coastal Trust communications coordinator Matt Heim.

The Assateague Coastal Trust has partnered with the National Park Service, the Assateague State Park, Former National State Park Service Ranger Chris Seymour, and the Friends of Assateague State Park to put on the event this year.

Attendees will visit four stations along the beach path that will have information about ways to monitor or mitigate the impact of climate change on Assateague Island.

"Each station will be taking a look at different angles of climate change that affects the island," Heim said.

The stations and scavenger hunt will lead participants north, up the beach to scenic and pristine views, with Ocean City's strip in the distance. Everyone will meet on the deck of the concession stand next to the beach, and cookies in addition to hot chocolate will be available throughout the event, Heim said.

The walk has uncovered skeletons of sea life, clam shells thousands of years old, boat wrecks, dolphin carcasses and even a giant navigation buoy was spotted from Egg Harbor, New Jersey throughout the last 36 years.

Organizers encourage attendees to dress accordingly for the two-hour event, which also takes participants along loose sand.

The ACT office started the tradition years ago, when the beach walk first began. Everyone who participated would sign a clam shell to record the memories. This started when only 20 people were partici-

pating. The shells are displayed in the office to remind everyone how special the New Year's Beach Walk is to everyone involved.

Anywhere from 250 to 300 people come out every year on average and the numbers fluctuate depending on the weather, but seem to be growing.

"It is a great opportunity to come down and go on a nice walk during the holidays and celebrate a place people work really hard to preserve," Heim said.

The history of the beach walk is as rich as Assateague Island itself and everyone will gather at 1 p.m. to hear about highlights before attendees divide themselves among stations and complete the scavenger hunt at their own pace.

"It is a free-range approach this year," Heim said. "We needed something to break it up a little bit."

In the early 1970s, Judy Johnson formed the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island to draw attention to its beauty.

Around the same time, Ilia Fehrer, of Snow Hill, came down to Assateague on New Year's Day wanting to reconnect with the wilderness. She was an avid voice in preserving the wetlands and shorelines on Assateague Island. Her family continued to join every year, even coming down from Baltimore. The invite went out to Assateague Coastal Trust, formally the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island, to join and members started participating. It became bigger and bigger every year.

"It's a family tradition that turned into an organization's tradition. We just keep it going," said Assateague Coastkeeper Kathy Phillips.

The first beach walk was organized by Fehrer and Johnson on Jan. 1, 1980, the same year former President Jimmy Carter declared "Year of the Coast."

The free New Year's Day tradition is now named in their honor.

"We use the walk to commemorate our founders," Heim said. "It's always a great way to start the year off walking along the beach with more than 30 miles of undeveloped seashore."

Meet at the Assateague State Park concession stand at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1 to join the walk and participate in the scavenger hunt.

From Route 50, follow Route 611 south across the Verrazano Bridge, then drive to the end of the road and turn right into the State Park's parking lot.

Call ACT at 410-629-1538 or visit ACTforBays.org for more information.

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Puzzles



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HARD - 24

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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		E	R	O	D	E		C	L	E	O	P	A	T	R	A		I	N	T	E	R
		R	A	Z	O	R		I	T	I	N	E	R	A	N	T		K	I	D	S	

MARRIED COUPLES
BY KEVIN G. DER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Leave a permanent mark on
5 Stows, as a banner
10 Ice carving?
15 Frequently
18 Romance writer Roberts
19 Ultimately succeed
20 Coin portraying Queen Victoria, once
21 Quaint cry of disapproval
22 Play by heart?
25 Monastery title
26 Sphere
27 Personal problems
28 Relay segment
29 Roman emblem of power adopted by Mussolini
31 Big name in grills
33 Toward the back
34 Gymnastics event
36 Means of death for Judas Iscariot
37 A plus average?
41 Tight-lipped
42 Took first
43 2007 Peace Prize recipient
44 Rio greeting
45 Makes minor observations?
50 Gum that comes in Fire and Ice varieties
53 Begot

54 Letterhead?
55 "Star Trek: T.N.G." counselor
57 Leeway
58 Life force in Eastern medicine
60 Handle with care?
64 Chart of the heavens
68 River more than 2,700 miles long that crosses the Equator twice
69 Two turtledoves, e.g.
70 Cry at a surprise party just before the honoree arrives
72 Get a groove on?
73 Drink Gatorade after a workout, say
75 Calm before the storm?
78 Blow it
79 Red-haired biblical twin
80 Marco Polo crossed it
81 "Gnarly!"
82 What a lead runner sets
85 Learns
88 Some Bavarian brews
91 Under the weather
92 "Pronto!"
93 Part of a film studio tour
95 Disney Channel's "___ and Maddie"
96 Grab and go?
104 Land bordering Nepal
105 Errands, e.g.
106 A.T.M. expense
107 Provider of limited coverage?

109 Subject to a recall, maybe
111 Ginger ___
112 "You betcha!"
114 Middle X or O
115 Milne young 'un
116 Stay ahead of the curve?
120 Dec. 31, e.g.
121 ___ Hawkins dance
122 Glossy fabric
123 Baja's opposite
124 Setting for much of "Lord Jim"
125 Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse ___
126 Stuck-up sort
127 Spot for brooding

DOWN
1 Support, as a foundation
2 Dara who swam at five Olympics
3 Curmudgeonly
4 Common Christmas entree
5 Former Saudi king
6 Release from shackles
7 Way up a bunny slope
8 San ___ Obispo, Calif.
9 Thérèse, e.g.: Abbr.
10 Make available
11 Bars for swingers?
12 Go (for)
13 Coral bleaching locale
14 Drive mad
15 Salty or spicy
16 Event with steeply discounted prices

17 Interest piquer
19 Sports team tally: Abbr.
23 Boeing competitor
24 Dollar, in slang
30 Pittance
32 One of nine for Tina Fey
34 Swedish lake that's the largest in the European Union
35 Suffix with beta or cyclo-
38 Drops
39 Metaphor for punishment
40 Standing
45 Luau locale
46 Cupronickel, e.g.
47 Like some uncertain dates
48 Popycock
49 1998 N.L. M.V.P.
51 Night at the museo?
52 ___ the line (obeying)
53 Canoe builder's bark source
56 "Quite true"
59 Padlock's place
61 Find common ground
62 What spirits can do
63 Toward the back
64 Kept for later
65 "A Visit From St. Nicholas" writer
66 Very loud
67 Isn't over yet
71 Maker of the fragrance Sauvage
74 Wreck, informally

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17
18					19						20						21		
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31			32		33				34				35		36				
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68						69					70		71			72			
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91				92						93		94			95				
96			97					98	99				100	101			102	103	
104						105						106				107			108
109					110		111				112				113			114	
115				116		117				118							119		
120					121						122						123		
124					125						126						127		

76 Russian moolah
77 Triangular road sign
79 Big purveyor of sports talk
82 Imagines
83 Like a machine that prints, scans and faxes
84 Provider of the fizz in a gin fizz
86 Worm or fly

87 Blubber
89 Setting for some aerial maneuvers
90 "Well, Did You ___?" (Cole Porter tune)
92 "Hurry!"
94 Soy-based frozen-dessert brand
97 Flight attendant's offering
98 Fisher of fashion

99 Design feature
100 Hawks' hangouts
101 "John Wick" star
102 Mark with spots
103 Passes
108 Onetime alternative to Facebook Messenger
110 Website with a Watch list

112 Vigorously debate (with)
113 Man cave, maybe
117 Employee badges, e.g.
118 It's a "gift"
119 Name whose Italian equivalent is Giovanni

Cuisine

Turn those holiday leftovers into potpie

So Christmas is over, and now it's time to prepare for New Year's Eve. When I say that, all I mean is that I have to buy a pork loin.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

That's about the extent of our festivities these days, as we're more concerned with socializing with family than actual ball drops and huge crowds. Besides, the drive home is nonexistent ... a wonderful gift when you've had a drink or two on the last day of the year that has been insane, to put it mildly.

But now that the holidays are officially underway, which in turn means almost

over, we are inundated with leftovers. As my youngest daughter and I worked our way through the refrigerator we realized that we were up against an army of undigested edibles.

Turning leftover roasted chicken and vegetables into a scrumptious soup was the first order of the day, and I took care of that. Next, I had to decide which items I could turn into hors d'oeuvres for our small New Year's Eve gathering and then I was left with my Thanksgiving Dinner, part Deux.

We love Thanksgiving dinner so much that we have it twice in a month's time; the turkey, the mashed potatoes, the sweet potatoes, the stuffing (best my wife ever had, by the by), and the gravy. Our last serving of this mighty American feast was on Christmas day, and one would think that we would not have too many leftovers, but herein lays the quagmire.

My children resemble the three daughters in "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman," the Chinese movie (with subtitles) about the chef in Taipei who goes to great lengths to cook for his adult daughters every Sunday. He does so only to be decimated at the table by their overly harsh criticisms of his great lacking of skill in the kitchen. Of course, down deep they appreciate his efforts, but as his children, they cannot let it show. They must remind him regularly that he has failed them.

I have that problem, so I can watch that opening scene a hundred times over and empathize completely. However, it all stops at the gravy. No one complains about the gravy. No one. In fact, in our house gravy is called "soup" and we might as well serve this meal in a bowl with the dinner slathered in this rich and unctuous, thickened broth.

We made it through Christmas dinner, and while the kids didn't complain as much as usual (there were the typical "eww, can I have cereal" comments), we had a fair amount of leftovers nonetheless. Having sat for two days in the outside refrigerator, it was now time to move them along.

Fortunately, and this rarely happens, my beautiful wife blurted out "I'd like potpie. Can you make some potpies? They sound good, don't they?" And I as the doting husband what would I do? Yes, I made her potpies.

It's seldom that I get a request for food based on what we already have in-house so it was a true relief to be able to make the entire thing from what we already had in the icebox.

Working with our daughter, we made a pie dough using just butter as Julie asked for a "buttery" crust. I know that I can add half shortening



and half butter, but just using all unsalted butter did the trick. I spruced the dough by adding truffle salt, and I highly recommend that you keep this on hand for days such as this. It is truly a convenient addition to many savory dishes.

In the end, I was told that it was the best potpie that my wife had ever eaten. I'll take that on the heels of my children's' criticism. It's all in a day's work.

And now on to 2017. Good night 2016. You've done enough damage at this party.

Turkey Pot Pie

makes four individual pies

Double recipe of buttery pie dough

5 Tbsp. Butter

1/2 cup Diced white onion

1/2 cup Diced carrot

1/2 cup Diced celery

6 Tbsp. All-purpose flour

2/3 cup Whole milk

1 1/2 cups Turkey or chicken stock

3 cups Roasted turkey leftovers, diced

Salt, as needed

1. Preheat the oven to 425

2. In a fry pan large enough to handle all of the

ingredients except for the pie dough, heat the butter

3. When sizzling, cook the onion, carrot and celery until halfway tender

4. Add the flour and cook for two minutes

5. Slowly add the water, making sure that the flour is incorporated evenly and not lumpy

6. Next, add the milk and do the same

7. Finally add the turkey and then season to taste. You can even add some pepper and truffle if you feel like it. The sky is the limit with this simple dish

8. Finally, divide the dough into eight pieces, and roll them into discs. These will serve as the tops and bottoms of your pies

9. Press a disc into a soup crock or bowl and try to get the dough as far up the sides as possible

10. Divide the filling into the four crocks and top with the remaining discs

11. Seal as well as possible and bake until golden brown and the filling is bubbling

12. Allow to cool for at least ten minutes before serving this volcano to anyone

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

Calendar

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

THU, DEC. 29

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

BEACH SINGLES

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

SAT, DEC. 31

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS AND WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 p.m. The fireworks display, which will begin promptly at midnight, will be accompanied by live entertainment, hot chocolate and the opportunity to ride through the Winterfest of Lights. Hours for the Winterfest of Lights will be extended until midnight. 800-626-2326 or 410-250-0125

SUN, JAN. 1

PENGUIN SWIM

Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD, 11:30 a.m. Annual dip into the Atlantic Ocean benefits Atlantic General Hospital. Registration and check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. swim. Pre-registration and advance check-in from 2-4 p.m. on New Year's Eve. There will be carnival games and other fanfare in the hotel's atrium. Special recognition for best costume and oldest and youngest penguins, plus first, second and third place trophies awarded to top fundraising individuals and teams. Same-day registration is available at no extra charge. penguinswim@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9671, <http://www.aghpenguin-swim.org>

MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT

OC Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Featuring a meet and greet with the Mayor, City Council and representatives from several community organizations from 1-1:30 p.m. The Delmarva Big Band and Bryan Russo's Bargain Scotch will perform a free concert beginning at 1:45 p.m. Doors open to the Performing



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

The Republican Women of Worcester County held its annual November dinner meeting at the Golden Sands Condominiums in Ocean City on Nov. 17. The guest speaker was Wicomico County Sheriff Michael A. Lewis, who spoke to more than 70 members and guests about his experiences in law enforcement and shared his views on the political future of our country. Pictured, from left, are Del. Mary Beth Carozza, Lewis, and RWWC President Beverly Bigler.

Arts Center at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments provided. Jessica Waters, 410-289-8967

MON, JAN. 2

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

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

TUE, JAN. 3

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.

STORY TIME

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

YOUNG AND RESTLESS 'PAINTING FUN'

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-957-0878, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center, 9730

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

BINGO

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

WED, JAN. 4

GRACE PARKER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, md, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eggs any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, country ham, homemade biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee and tea. Cost is \$8 to eat in or \$6 to carry out. Milk, soda and orange juice available. 410-289-9340

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>

YOUNG AND RESTLESS 'PAINTING FUN'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-524-1818, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

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

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. cliffo917@aol.com, 410-641-1700

BINGO

Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave, Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. All cash prizes; \$1,000 Jack Pot. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-250-2645

THU, JAN. 5

PLAY TIME

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

STORY TIME

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

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

BEACH SINGLES

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

FRI, JAN. 6

CONTRAPTIONS

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

Calendar

SAT, JAN. 7

FARMERS MARKET

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

BUS TRIP TO THE KENNEDY CENTER

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

MON, JAN. 9

STEAM PM ‘TECHNOLOGY TRICKS’

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 3:45 p.m. Children, 6 years and older, will explore the Library’s Homework Help Options by participating in a race for the answers. Practice coding and play some computer games. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CURIOSITY CLUB

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

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

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

TUE, JAN. 10

SNOW HILL ROTARY CLUB MEETING

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

PLAY TIME

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

WEE READERS

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center,



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PAJAMA DRIVE

To help make the holidays a little warmer for those less fortunate in the community, the Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) National Honor Society sponsored a “Pajama Drive” for the Pajama Program Eastern Shore Chapter. Furthermore, Scholastic Books, a partner of the Pajama Program, donated a new book to accompany each pair of the donated pajamas. WPS Upper School students collected hundreds of pairs of new pajamas in November that will be distributed this holiday season. Pictured, from left, are Grace Nichols, Deborah Marini, WPS English Teacher and NHS Advisor Kathleen Otway, Pajama Program Volunteer Mary Anna Pavlos, and Reese Gittelman.

9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Berlin group 331. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. jean-duck47@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, JAN. 11

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY

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STORY TIME

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OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

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ONGOING EVENTS

FALL AND WINTER BUS TRIPS

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. perform-

ance. 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

STAR CHARITIES MEETING

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

DIGITAL DROP IN

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Call the library at 410-641-0650 to schedule your individual tutorial.

WSW SUPPORT GROUP

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

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

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

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CLASSIFIED

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

HELP WANTED

Part-Time Church Secretary
- First Baptist, Pocomoke, MD. Seeking Christian applicant with computer skills. For Job Description/Application Check: www.fbcpc.us or stop by church @ 204 4th St.

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.

HELP WANTED

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The Comfort Inn Gold Coast located at
112th Street and Coastal Highway, Ocean City
No phone calls please

HELP WANTED

Maintenance Man
Looking for reliable individual to work hotel maintenance. Pool knowledge helpful. Must be personable, hardworking and possess a valid drivers license. Exp. in plumbing, electrical, HVAC a plus but not necessary. Weekends & Evenings required.
Lifeguard
Part-Time Lifeguard for Indoor Pool. Must be available weekends, including Sundays. Must be Red Cross Certified with Valid Certificates.
Applications available at the Front Desk or email
info@fskfamily.com

HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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YR. WOC-3BR/1.5BA Home, C/A, W/D, DW, attached 1-car garage. \$1200/mo. plus utilities. Call 443-880-4053.

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Lifeguard
Part-Time Lifeguard for Indoor Pool. Must be available weekends, including Sundays. Must be Red Cross Certified with Valid Certificates.
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HRS: Mon - Thurs. 9 am - 5 pm; Fri. 9 am - 5 pm; Sat. 9 am - 2 pm



OPEN HOUSES

Dec. 29 - Jan. 5 Weekly



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matriona/Resort Homes
Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand – 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	Inquire	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Daily 11-5	West Harbor Village	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$270,000	Dan Demeria/Harbor Homes
Sat-Mon 11-4 pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sun 12-5 & Mon-Sat 10-5	11769 Maid at Arms Way	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	From \$489,900	Evergreene Homes
Fri, Sat & Sun 10-5pm	Sunset Island, Ocean City	—	Condos, Towns & SF	From \$369,000	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort Realty
Saturday, Jan. 7, 11-1	1201 Points Reach, Ocean Pines	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$359,900	Debbie Bennington/Berkshire Hathaway Penfed
Friday, 11-2	37 Duck Cove Crl, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Buddy Dykes/Berkshire Hathaway Penfed
Saturday, 10-1	617 Bayshore Dr. #45, Ocean City	3BR/1.5BA	Townhouse	\$394,900	Buddy Dykes/Berkshire Hathaway Penfed
Saturday, 11-1	5 Garrett Dr., Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$219,900	Lauren Bunting/Bunting Realty



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<div><div>2004 JEEP WRANGLER \$8,550 Stock# S2320</div></div>	<div><div>2012 DODGE JOURNEY \$8,550 Stock# S2376</div></div>	<div><div>ONE OWNER, 4X4</div><div><div>2008 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE \$8,550 Stock# S2437</div></div></div>	<div><div>LEATHER, MOON ROOF</div><div><div>2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LIMITED \$8,550 Stock# S2443</div></div></div>
<div><div>LEATHER, NAV, MOONROOF</div><div><div>2013 DODGE DART LIMITED! \$9,660 Stock# S2458</div></div></div>	<div><div>AUTO, AC, HEATED SEATS AND AWD</div><div><div>2011 SUBARU IMPREZA PREM \$9,660 Stock# S2425</div></div></div>	<div><div>2013 SUBARU IMPREZA \$9,660 Stock# S2277</div></div>	<div><div>2014 CHEVY CRUZE \$9,660 Stock# S2331</div></div>
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<div><div>3RD ROW SEATING, LEATHER ONLY 8K MILES</div><div><div>2009 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL \$13,880 Stock# S2343</div></div></div>	<div><div>2011 CHRYSLER TOWN AND COUNTRY \$13,880 Stock# S2426</div></div>	<div><div>ONE OWNER, CLEAN VEHICLE</div><div><div>2014 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$13,880 Stock# S2454</div></div></div>	<div><div>2013 FORD FOCUS \$13,880 Stock# S2475</div></div>
<div><div>2015 CHEVY MALIBU \$15,990 Stock# S2350</div></div>	<div><div>2015 CHEVY MALIBU 2LT \$15,990 Stock# S2354</div></div>	<div><div>2015 TOYOTA COROLLA \$15,990 Stock# S2412</div></div>	<div><div>2013 HYUNDAI TUCSAN \$15,990 Stock# S2431</div></div>