

Committee to plan OP semicentennial looks for sponsors

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Sponsorships are available for the next year's celebration of Ocean Pines' 50th anniversary, and include the opportunity for sponsors to be patrons of several marque events.

Plans for the yearlong semicentennial celebration include an anniversary sign dedication on Jan. 6, anniversary license plate event on March 24, parade and community day on June 2, golf tournament on June 30, 5k run on July 4, beach bash on July 22, time capsule opening and cocktail reception on Aug. 11, racquet sports tournament on Aug. 18 and winter gala on Nov. 10.

During a 50th anniversary committee meeting on Monday, committee member Tim McMullen said he was especially excited to show off the newly renovated Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex. Several new platform tennis courts were recently added to the complex, which already featured a number of tennis and pickleball courts.

McMullen is also the chairman of the recreation and parks advisory committee.

"We now have the best outdoor facility on the Eastern Shore," he said. "This is a great chance for us, not only to celebrate the 50th anniversary, but to let people know what we have here as far as this facility. It's fantastic."

For sponsors, individual event and overall backings are available, ranging from platinum levels at \$5,000, to "Friends of Ocean Pines" starting at \$50.

Gold level sponsorships are \$3,000, silver are \$1,500 and patron/bronze are \$500.

Larger, corporate sponsors will receive benefits including prominent listing on 50th anniversary save-the-date rack cards, entry into the 50th anniversary parade and plaques and banners to be displayed during events, among other perks.

For more details, visit www.ocean-pines.org/administration/sponsor-2018-anniversary or contact Director of Marketing and Public Relations Denise Sawyer at 410-641-7717 ext. 3006 or email dsawyer@ocean-pines.org.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Town of Berlin Christmas tree, decked out on the porch of the Atlantic Hotel, shines brightly over Main Street, downtown. Included on the tree, decorated by volunteers and town staff, are a series of ornaments representing both residents and businesses.

After fire, Berlin family will rebuild

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Hank and Julie Koenig of Berlin are rebuilding their home, following a fire at their 100-year-old residence on South Main Street last week that destroyed family heirlooms and claimed the lives of two beloved housecats.

The home, built in 1914 and known locally as "The Pruitt House," had been featured during Victorian Christmas tours of Berlin.

Linda Walls, Julie Koenig's sister, said she was on her way to Newark last Tuesday when she got a phone call delivering the bad news.

According to Walls, Julie accidentally left her cellphone at home that morning and was busy at work, at a doctor's office West Ocean City, when neighbors reported the fire to the Berlin Fire Company. Other responders included fire departments in Showell, Ocean Pines, Newark and Ocean City.

After receiving a call at work, Julie went home at about 1:30 p.m. and the house was still ablaze. Hank arrived later, followed by their son, Lucas, and daughter, Lindsay, who drove from her home in Baltimore.

"They were in shock, as anybody would be, and, of course, grieving," Walls said, last Wednesday.

She remembers standing on front porch with the Koenigs, Tuesday night, surveying the damage with

flashlights.

"It was an electric fire, according to the preliminary findings of the fire marshal," Walls said. "It came from the den and the desk and the computer area. The left side of the house was especially involved ... you could see scorch marks all the way up to the attic dormers. And there were several places where the roof had holes in it."

See BERLIN Page 6



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Community support has been strong for the Koenig family in Berlin, following a significant fire at their 100-year-old home on South Main Street, last Friday.



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Newark woman dead after stoplight collision in Berlin

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor
(Dec. 21, 2017) Newark resident June Gravenor, 73, died as a result of a car accident in Berlin that occurred at about 10:20 p.m. on Sunday evening.

According to police, Gravenor was traveling south on Route 113 and Bay Street in a Kia Soul at about 2:10 a.m. when her car collided at a traffic light with 19-year-old Berlin resident Cody Bunting, traveling east on Bay Street in a jeep.

Police reported Gravenor was taken by Berlin EMS to Atlantic General Hospital and then to Shock Trauma in Baltimore, where she later died.

Rescue personnel from Showell apparently took Bunting to Penin-

sula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. He had non-life-threatening injuries and was released, according to police.

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing said alcohol was involved, but did not necessarily contribute to the accident. He said police are looking into phone records and waiting for medical reports.

"There is an outstanding witness. A black male was in a vehicle at the opposite intersection when the accident occurred and spoke to deputies, but did not leave his information," Downing said. "We're waiting to make contact with him. We believe we have a phone number for a witness and we're hoping it's the same individual."

No charges are being filed at this time and police are not assigning fault, Downing said. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Berlin Police Department at 410-641-1333.

Notice of changes that affect Rural Housing Programs

(Dec. 21, 2017) USDA Rural Development is conducting a review of all areas under its jurisdiction to identify those that no longer qualify as rural for housing programs.

The last rural area reviews were performed in 2012-2013 using the 2010 census data. This review, which is done every five years, will utilize the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Based on the 2015 ACS data and rural area guidance located in Handbook HB-1-3550, Chapter 5, the rural eligibility designation is under review for the following areas in Worcester County:

- Ocean Pines area

Extends the ineligible area from the Isle of Wright Bay down Turville Creek by following Turville Creek west to Racetrack Road (Rt. 589). Follow Racetrack Road (Rt. 589) north through Taylorville to Windmill Creek. Follow Windmill Creek north to the St. Martin River and its tributaries. Follow the St. Martin River east and southeast to the beginning point at the Isle of Wright Bay/Turville Creek.

The public shall have 90 days from Dec. 1 to submit comments regarding the potential loss of eligibility for Rural Development housing programs. Comments should be sent to Mailbox@wdc.usda.gov. For details, or questions about specific changes, contact the Delaware/Maryland Rural Development Housing Program staff at 302-857-3595.



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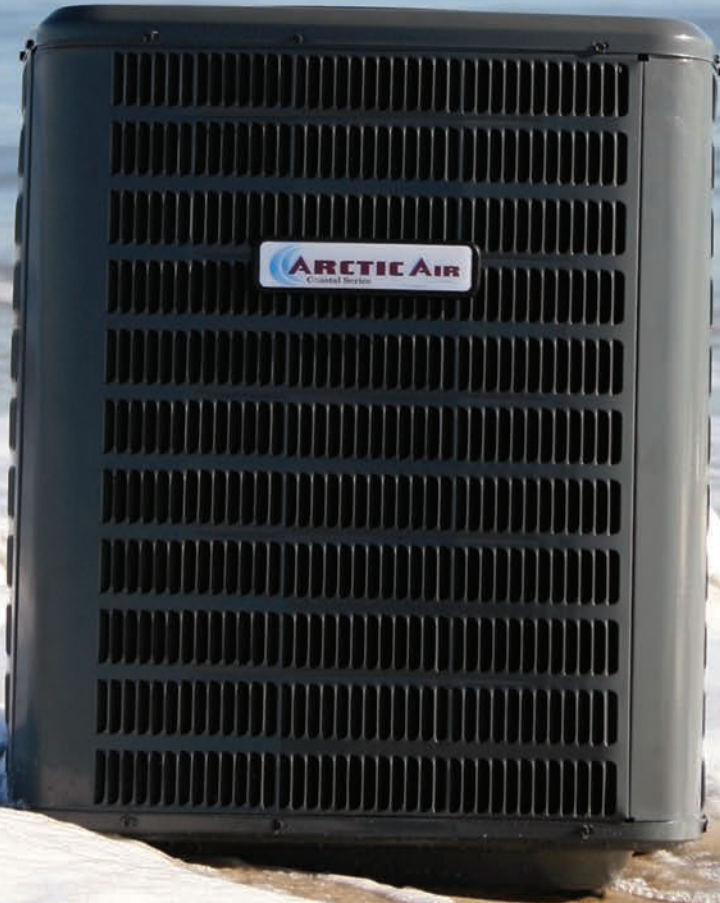
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‘Not a race, it is a marathon journey’ for Mayor Morrison

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Pocomoke City Councilwoman Esther Troast continues to provide updates on hospitalized Mayor Bruce Morrison, who remains at Christiana Hospital in Newark, Delaware following a subdural hematoma on Nov. 29.

Troast, on Monday night, said she was “wishing I could tell you that our beloved mayor and my dear friend would be making it back to his town to spend Christmas. Although we don’t think that will happen this year, this girl can still make that her holiday wish.”

Troast said Morrison was moved to a step-down unit and given a feeding tube and is “making baby steps each day.”

“The doctors say this is not a race, it is a marathon journey,” she said. “The past two days he has studied his watch as if he has some where to be. My guess, he’s watching the clock till he can come home. He has widened his eyes in expression and has shared a few mischievous grins.

“His family and all of us ask that you continue to pray for healing. We still need that Christmas miracle,” Troast continued. “It is really hard for me to imagine Christmas in Pocomoke without him here to spread his enthusiasm for the holidays. He has an infectious spirit all year, but especially at this time of year. I ask myself daily, ‘what would Bruce say or do?’ My thoughts are that he would say, ‘I trust you to do whatever you think is right.’

“Please continue to keep him in your prayers, keep sending those well wishes with cards or messages,” she said. “It is heartwarming the many ways people have sent their well wishes. The staff at the hospital surely knows Pocomoke is the friendliest town on the Eastern Shore and I am certain Bruce can feel the love.”

Cards and notes can be sent to Christiana Hospital, Neuro Critical Care 2D room #2Bo6, 4755 Ogle-town-Stanton Road, Newark, Delaware, 19713.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sturgis Park in Snow Hill is lit up by a tall, artificial Christmas tree covered in strands of lights and beaming over the scenic Pocomoke River.

Snow Hill’s burgeoning art scene

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) For a town of about 2,100, an unusually high number of artists live and work in Snow Hill.

A rough estimate is that about two-dozen people are creating art or running studios and galleries, while the works artists create and galleries shows range from blown glass to oil paintings to experimental art.

On Tuesday, five prominent artists convened in the old firehouse on West Green Street to talk about what makes the Snow Hill art scene unique and why people unfamiliar with it should take notice.

Jim Adcock operates Adcock Studio and Gallery on 106 East Green Street, both a working gallery and a place to display his paintings. He is also a regular contributor to the Bayside Gazette.

Decoy carver and woodcarver Doug Fisher has a residency each Tuesday and Wednesday, offering carving demonstrations inside Bishop’s Stock Fine Art, Craft & Wine on 202 West Green Street.

Painter Paul Volker operates Green Pearl Contemporary Fine Art on 114 Pearl Street and is perfecting a technique using recycled plastic and Styrofoam in sculpture and mixed media. He runs the website directory www.snowhillarts.com.


Nancy Ellen Thompson runs Nancy Ellen Thompson Studio & Gallery on 107 Pearl Street, primarily a working studio for her watercolor paintings. She also takes groups to Europe on painting and sketching trips and teaches workshops in town.

See TOWN Page 8




JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

For a small town, Snow Hill is rich with artists, studios and galleries. Pictured, from left, are Paul Volker, Doug Fisher, Don Cheeseman and Jim Adcock. Nancy Ellen Thompson is seated.



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Snow Hill inches closer to property purchase

Town in negotiations to buy former chicken plant next to public works building

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Snow Hill government's desire to purchase a property adjacent to the public works building on Cypress Lane became more formal last Tuesday, when the Town Council unanimously approved a resolution allowing for the sale.

Cost estimates, however, are still being worked out, according to Mayor Charlie Dorman, who added that he expects the final price to be less than \$200,000.

"We haven't purchased it yet – we just had to do a resolution so we could purchase it once things are final," he said.

He said the property, a five-acre former chicken plant, would be used for future expansion of the sewer plant. Dorman said money had been set-aside in a savings account for just that purpose.

"It might not be now – it might be 20 years from now – but it's the only property that's next door to it and will take our sewer plant to over a million gallons, if we ever grow down here," Dorman said. "If you wouldn't buy it now and you tried to buy it 20 years from now, it might be twice the price or three times the

price, or somebody might try to put a house on it."

He added there was "no opposition whatsoever" from the council.

"The next step is, once we get our title insurance and all the other stuff and make sure everything's in line, we just purchase it," he said. "We've been negotiating the price of this for almost a year. Right now, it's under \$200,000."

Dorman said a 30-day extension was a part of the negotiations, to allow for an additional survey of the property.

"We want to put it all together so that, when we buy it ... the citizens of the town are not getting screwed," he said.

Also during the meeting, the council discussed conversion of the Oscar M. Purnell House on East Market Street, currently owned by the town, to a doctor's office.

"We're working on an agreement with those people to finalize what they're going to put into it, and they're hoping to be open in June," Dorman said. "That'll put eight doctors there ... [and] they're looking to spend \$600,000 to renovate that building."

Dorman said what would have been the final work session of the year on Dec. 26, would not be held. The Snow Hill mayor and council are scheduled to meet again on Jan. 2.

AINS proposes doubling seven-day pass fee

Park considers raising rate from \$5 to \$10; comments accepted before Jan. 19

(Dec. 21, 2017) During the past three years, an average of 368 visitors to the Assateague Island National Seashore were assessed a charge for going to the park on a bus tour with a non-commercial group.

The National Park Service is considering raising that fee from \$5 per person for a seven-day pass to \$10 per person to bring the rate in line with what other parks charge.

"We certainly want to keep recreational use of the park affordable," Park Superintendant Deborah Darden said. "With this change, we will keep our prices in line with other National Seashores around the country."

The park service estimates about 2.3 million people visit the National

Seashore each year.

"Eighty percent of the money collected from entrance and camping fees stays right here at Assateague to improve facilities, infrastructure, and visitor services," Darden said.

Entrance fees for non-commercial groups visiting the park by bus are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or to holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Senior, Ac-

cess, Military, and Every Kid in a Park (fourth grade) passes. These passes may be obtained at the seashore.

The proposed change will also not affect visitors entering the park via Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, only those entering the park through the Maryland entrance.

"We invite the public to share their thoughts and comments," Darden said. Comments can be submitted to

the online NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AS-ISFeeIncrease2018> before Jan. 19, 2018.

Alternatively, written comments can be mailed to Superintendent Deborah Darden ATTN: Fee Change Comments Assateague Island National Seashore, 7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811.



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These funds were raised because of the generous donations from so many businesses and friends. We would especially like to thank...

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We are also so grateful for the tremendous group of workers at The Cricket Center that open their hearts day in and out for these children and their families. We are truly blessed to have them.

We hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season and that you will continue to help us to raise funds as we fight this epidemic of abused children. Please also help us as we try to raise awareness of the needs of so many.

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Berlin Welcome Center helps gather donations for Koenigs

■ AFTER continued
She said all the windows were shattered, many of which were original to when the home was built.
The fire, Walls said, did slightly less damage to the right side of the house, although smoke and water damage persisted throughout.
“It was very much in the air still – the results of the fire and the odor,” she said. “I know I was coughing a lot.”

The Koenigs celebrated their annual Christmas party the previous Saturday and were known for their love of holiday. The house was heavily decorated, inside and out, with tinsel, lights and scores of antique decorations. Walls said one tree in the home had about 1,500 ornaments.

“They’re so into Christmas and Christmas tradition, and all of the family Christmas pieces that have been handed down [were damaged or destroyed],” Walls said.

Also lost were two of three family cats, Bud-Bud, a large, yellow cat with a bent ear, and Oreo, who was black and white. Walls said both were about 15 years old.

“That was the toughest thing to hear, because they’re so close to their cats and always have been over the years,” she said. “They usually have about three or four cats at a time, and they’re all gigantic and they all live their lifespan with them. They’ve had probably three generations of cats – maybe four – in that house.”

“For all of them it’s so hard, but Hank is just such an animal lover,” Walls added. “He loves all animals, but especially cats.”

Dalí, named after painter Salvador Dalí, was outside at the time of the fire and survived.

Walls said the family was humbled by the outpouring of community support that started immediately after news of the fire spread.

“So many loving people they knew and people they didn’t know were walking up to the sidewalk [last Tuesday] ... saying ‘we want to help, what can we do to help?’” Walls said. “It’s really hard for them to accept help, because they’re giving people and receiving is difficult for them.”

A GoFundMe page, as of Monday, raised \$11,415 of a \$10,000 goal in just five days.

Sherrie Beckstead set up the page, designed to cover noninsured expenses associated with the fire.

“We have known the Koenig family since they moved to South Main Street [in 1995]. Our children grew up together and have shared commemorative moments as families and

friends,” Beckstead said. “Our entire family and all of the neighbors are deeply saddened. Julie and Hank exemplify the passion and pride of the Berlin family community.”

Walls, in an email on Friday, added it “just blows my mind how folks in Berlin have been mobilizing to help in a myriad of amazing ways.”

“[Hank and Julie] would like to thank the five volunteer fire companies who responded, neighbors, friends and local churches who offered immediate prayers and comfort, the Beckstead family who set up a GoFundMe page, the Facebook community for providing donations and words of encouragement, the Waystead Inn, Ivy Wells and the Town of Berlin, and all the folks, both known and unknown, who have offered a helping hand, supplies, prayers, donations and love,” she said. “Out of this trying time has emerged an abundance of goodness.”

She said the Koenigs are planning on “rehabbing wherever possible and rebuilding the sections [on the home] where the fire was worse.”

The Berlin Welcome Center is accepting donations on behalf of the family, which can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Dec. 22 and 26, or mailed to Berlin Welcome Center, 14 South Main Street, Berlin, Maryland, 21811.

Walls said items needed include gift cards to Home Depot, Marshall’s, Goodwill, ReStore, Dollar General and local restaurants.

A list of additional items needed include:

- Small and medium storage bins with lids and handles, or larger bins with wheels
- Battery-powered or solar lanterns
- Battery-operated motion lights
- AA, C and D batteries
- Canned or bagged cat food
- Cleaning products to clean soot from glassware, wood and other surfaces
- Paper towels and soft rags for cleanings
- Buckets
- Sandwich and quart-sized freezer bags
- Large trashcans with lids and trash bags
- Breathing masks to use while cleaning the home
- Quilted or cushioned containers for packing dishware and glassware, including clean, empty egg cartons
- Boxes and bins designed for packing ornaments
- Insulated mailing bags for packing wall art
- Bubble wrap
- Bottled water and healthy snacks for volunteers, including granola or energy bars, juice boxes and apples
- Bath towels, new or old, for packing

For questions, contact Walls at 410-758-7335.

Mold found, but no air quality hazard at Pines yacht club

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Ocean Pines officials are working to remove a small amount of mold found at the yacht club that was not found to be hazardous to the air quality.

Costs are thought to be negligible and remediation efforts are not believed to disrupt normal winter hours at the facility, according to General Manager John Bailey.

"The analysis for overall air quality is fine. We're well within the guidelines for safe operation and occupancy. However, we do have some mold issues to take care of and we set about immediately to take care of them," Bailey said Tuesday.

Bailey said "heavy spore counts" and elevated humidity were found in the attic of the waterfront property.

"Contractors are installing an air scrubber and a dehumidifier, and we're also cleaning the registers with a biocide," Bailey said. "It's believe that the problem stemmed from moisture buildup during the summer months, therefore we're also having an HVAC contractor evaluate the entire system for any leaks and/or any other adjustments we need to make in order to deal with future condensation issues."

He said a specialist would take additional samples and perform a more detailed inspection of the yacht club, including using a camera to look at conditions inside of the walls.

"Right now those areas are contained, so there's nothing to worry about from a breathing and operational standpoint," Bailey said.

A cost estimate for remediation efforts was not available, although Bailey does not believe it will be significant.

"This is little stuff as far as putting the scrubber in and doing some cleaning. Right now we're not doing anything major," he said.

Bailey went on to say mold is a common problem, especially in coastal areas and places where humidity is high.

"A lot of people don't know that — they hear the word mold and immediately jump to, 'oh my God, the world is coming to an end,'" he said.

Temporary closure at YMCA pool

Pocomoke facility replacing outdated dehumidification system; funds being raised

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) The pool at the Lower Shore Family YMCA in Pocomoke City will close until late spring, while the dehumidification system is replaced at a cost of more than \$500,000, according to Robbie Gill, CEO of YMCA of the Chesapeake.

Gill estimated more than 10,000 people in Worcester County and surrounding areas use the pool each year.

"There's no damage as it relates to the pool itself," he said. "The dehumidification system that's utilized to control the humidity and airspace temperature is an old unit that was original from when the building was

built, so that unit has to be replaced."

He said the nonprofit went through an engineering process and solicited bids, and plans are to close the pool this week. Gill said no other part of Lower Shore Family YMCA operations would be affected.

"The problem we're running into is, to operate the pool in this cold weather and not have a dehumidification system would have a negative impact on the building itself," Gill said. "We're better off to just go ahead and close it to protect the building, and that gives us a chance to do some upgrades to the painting and some upgrades to the structure."

"The facility is fine, it's just that unit that's met is life expectancy and needs to be replaced," he added. "Those are customized units, so they're not something you can buy on the shelf. They're a substantial investment, to over a

half-million dollars, [but] that pool is a crucial asset to the community, so you've got to take care of it. That's where we teach kids to swim and do water-safety programs and everything else."

Hill said the facility is one of the main pools serving Worcester and Somerset Counties. Water-safety programs are offered to fourth graders in both counties and high school swim teams use the pool as a practice facility, not to mention all the programming offered for YMCA members.

"It's an important asset and we need to take care of it," he said. "That facility's been there for coming up on 20 years — it met its match with Father Time and it's time to be replaced."

Contributions to the pool repairs or to YMCA operations can be made by visiting the website www.ymcachapeake.org/give.



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Town offering incentives to help lure artists

■ SNOW HILL'S continued

Don Cheeseman recently opened Swimming Dog, where he makes fused glass pieces, instructs classes and rents out use of his kilns, and runs a small retail space.

Additionally, Ann Coates operates Bishop Stock, Ellen Tolliver and Gary Weber run Regal Beast Clay Studio, Jan Coulbourne oversees 101 Green Street Gallery, Kelly Deutsch heads Vintage Pink Quilt Studio on 212 North Washington Street, Jack Helgeson runs A Diamond On Pearl on 109 Pearl Street and David Thompson will soon open 1/2 Gallery on 301

North Washington Street.

Other artists of note in Snow Hill are Jerry Nolte, Olga Deshields, Steve Mathews, Christine Taylor, Joe Scukanec, Dawn Tarr, Sharon Himes and Scott Dolby.

More notable than having so many spaces for art, Volker said, is how many people in the town actually make things.

"There's a lot of small towns that have a lot of interesting things to see in gift shops ... but I think the fact that there are so many people painting and carving and melting and building and all the stuff here is kind

of interesting," he said.

"It's a diverse group. We don't all paint – some carve and some use glass," Fisher said. "I think, for a town that has a population of 2,100 ... that says we're very art minded."

What all the artists have in common, Cheeseman said, is they enjoy living in Snow Hill.

"This is a great place – maybe you shouldn't tell anyone that," he said with a laugh.

Economic and Community Development Director Michael Day jokingly said the town mantra is something like, "we want people to come spend their money and then go home."

Day said Snow Hill uses the Arts and Entertainment District designation as a promotional tool. Because of recently changed state regulations, he said an artist can get tax benefits by living and working in Snow Hill, where rent is relatively low, but also get the same benefits selling work in any of the other 23 districts statewide.

"Compared to other places, it's fairly inexpensive here," he said. "We're trying to showcase this as a place to come and check out."

He said there's a saying at the state level that Easton is Berlin on steroids and Frederick is Easton on steroids.

Where does that leave Snow Hill?

"We're on vitamins," Fisher cracked.

Thompson moved from South Carolina in 2001 and remembers scouring the area for two weeks, meeting with scores of Realtors and generally feeling unsatisfied with what was available. Then, she discovered Snow Hill.

"I had a list of things that I wanted and Snow Hill checked all those boxes," she said. "I wanted to live in a town that had a sense of community, I wanted to live in a historic district, I wanted to have a loft so I could have a work and living space, I wanted to be near good medical, and I wanted to be near water. And we have all that ... and it has never let me down."

"We have our ups and downs as any small town does, but this is an incredible place for the arts," Thompson added.

Volker said art, itself, is "an open-ended concept" that plays into the diverse interest of Snow Hill artists.

"It lends itself to a lot of different interpretations. Some people think art is something that's going to be wild and crazy and they can find it here. Some people think art is something that's classical, or something nice for my house to buy, or expensive to buy, or cheap to buy, and it's all here," he said. "It doesn't exclude anybody."

Adcock said traffic overall has picked up and the town does a great

job of including each artist in event promotions.

What's more, Volker said, is the town is willing to work with artists interested in moving to Snow Hill. He fell in love with a vacant storefront on Pearl Street "with no floor – it just had gravel. It had no electricity. It had no plumbing."

Volker went to the bank that owned the property and convinced them to renovate the space. The town added a small grant for façade improvements.

"I said [to the bank] you're a sav- ings and loan aren't you? And they said, 'Yeah.' I said don't you loan people money to fix up their property? And they said yes. And I said, maybe you could loan yourself some money and fix up that store front," Volker said.

"It'll be good for me because I need a place, it'll be good for the town and it'll be real good PR for the bank," he con-

tinued. "I tell people to go talk to the land- lords because they all need somebody who's interested in the spaces ... the landlords will do that and they'll help you get going on it. Peo-

ple are really welcoming.

"When people come here I say this is the time to get in on it. Don't wait three years – do it now," Volker said. "Now is when places are vacant and they're available. You can talk to the landlords and work out a sweet deal ... and move your studio here. Get in on the bottom floor."

The State of Maryland and Town of Snow Hill offer benefits and resources for artists including Maryland Arts and Entertainment District tax credits, low-interest loan opportunities, façade improvement funding, VOLT loan programs, building improvement funds, enterprise zone funding, Maryland Small Business Development funding, Snow Hill business loans and Maryland Historic Trust tax credits.

"Snow Hill is a great place for these artists. Everyone is looking at small towns now, but where else does somebody go that can also make a living and have quality of life?" Day said.

"We don't have a lot to offer in town in terms of nightlife, but there's plenty 45 minutes away in either direction. We're 15 minutes from Berlin if you want that dining experience and there's a community college and two universities within a short drive.

"We've got a lot to offer and still have that small town feel ... sometimes it's almost like a family, especially during events when everyone gets together," he added. "You're probably not going to sell gang-busters here, but it's a great base of operations."

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Berlin officials will look into downtown parking problems

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Hoping to address parking concerns downtown, Berlin officials are considering the inclusion of a parking study in the next fiscal year's budget.

"There's lots of conversations going on around parking and the need for additional parking," Town Administrator Laura Allen said. "The town is looking at the budget process and the budget cycle that's coming up for fiscal year 2019, and what I'm recommending to the mayor at this point is that we put some money in the budget next year for parking analysis to determine the extent to which we need additional parking and get a detailed description of what the issue really is."

Allen said "anecdotal perspectives" are available, but not much in the way of analysis.

"I've had some people tell me they can't park in what I call the primary parking lot or the Taylor Bank parking lot. They can't park there to get to work [or] they come to town for lunch and they can't find parking," she said. "To what extent that's happening year-round versus during the summer months, I'm not sure."

She recommended having engi-



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Town officials say a parking study is in the works in Berlin and likely to be included in the next fiscal year budget.

neers come in during the summer "when parking is at its most challenging."

"I think the question really is how much parking do we need, to what extent is the town going to grow, and what kind of parking or how much parking makes sense now versus in the future?" Allen said. "We've got a requirement to update our comprehensive plan, which would focus on grow and include parking in the next fiscal year, so the thinking is to fold the parking discussion in, with a lot of

detail, and make it part of that conversation that would start after the beginning of the year."

Planning Director Dave Engelhart, during a planning commission meeting last Wednesday, said a parking garage was discussed as a possible solution.

"I understand you've had that discussion in the past, before my time here," he said. "We're looking into a grant right now with the Smart Growth Initiative with the state [and] part of that would be a parking study."

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Bailey: bulkhead replacement pgm to return

Assessment collections for scheduled repairs not likely to be suspended, GM says

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) Ocean Pines officials plan to have a new multi-year bulkhead repair schedule in place by next year, according to General Manager John Bailey.

The association will not, however, suspend bulkhead collections because of recent inactivity.

Bailey responded to a homeowner complaint by Richard Nieman, sent on Dec. 12 and forwarded to several media outlets.

Nieman said one newspaper article suggested Bailey would not accept his recommendation to suspend property assessments for bulkhead repairs for one year.

Scheduled repairs were halted under a previous administration and have not yet been reinstated, leading to multiple homeowner complaints. Owners of lots with bulkheads pay a higher assessment rate in order to collect for bulkhead repairs.

In the letter, Nieman said he worked in budget and finance fields

for more than three decades and “knows that it is conservative to budget in excess of your needs.”

He said he understood Bailey, hired only recently, in September, needed some time to get up to speed.

“However, it is super conservative when the Ocean Pines Association continues to ‘bankroll’ bulkhead reserves in excess of the money needed for next year’s budget,” Nieman said. “I certainly hope that you are not developing a budget that will spend in excess of \$3 million on bulkhead replacement next year.

“As outlandish as this may seem, even an outlandish proposal for next year could be funded out of the next year’s [bulkhead] reserve estimated to be about \$3.4 million by May 1, 2018. Based on previous years’ requirements, on the average, only \$800,000 per year was spent. Unless you are proposing a program to replace the bulkhead in only five or 10 years in lieu of 20 or 30 years, I cannot conceive a need for the coming budget year’s bulkhead as-

essment.”

Nieman said the program was supposed to be “pay as you go.”

“I hope you can shed some light on your rationale for needing additional funds,” he wrote. “I also hope you will reconsider your decision and support a one-year suspension of the bulkhead assessment for all property owners.

“I hope your desire to retain the excess reserves and increase them will not continue until a program and its related costs can be developed,” Nieman continued. “I applaud your desire to get this program into full swing by the start of the budget year, but historically, a program with this complexity, will probably not be executed as quickly as you hope.”

Bailey, in a statement emailed to the Gazette last Wednesday, said he recognized the point Nieman was trying to make “and could even agree with him if the OPA were to continue to function without a multi-year bulkhead replacement program in place.”

“However, I do not believe that is

going to the case, as by the new fiscal year we expect to have a new bulkhead replacement contract in place and a multi-year plan to go with it,” Bailey said.


“Furthermore, let’s do the math looking at the annual bulkhead contributions to the reserve. For every lot, \$19 of the \$921 assessment goes for maintenance of common area bulkheads. The waterfront lots (with some development exceptions) pay an additional \$465 per lot per year as a contribution to the Bulkhead Replacement Reserve.

“If the 1,370 waterfront lots have an average of 72 linear feet of bulkhead each, and the average cost of replacement is, let’s say \$220 per linear foot (not including landscape repairs and other side-costs), then with an annual bulkhead replacement contribution of \$465, that lot owner would have to pay into the bulkhead reserve for 34 years to have fully paid for even a one-time replacement of their respective bulkhead. In other words, a lot owner is getting quite a deal on the replacement cost of their bulkhead, even with an annual bulkhead replacement reserve assessment of \$465.”

Bailey added he planned to respond directly to Nieman.

‘A lot owner is getting quite a deal on the replacement cost of their bulkhead, even with an annual bulkhead replacement reserve assessment of \$465’

John Bailey
Ocean Pines GM



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Rewritten EDU policy offers financing for expanding biz

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) The Town of Berlin policy to offer new developments financing for up to five EDUs over five years will be extended to existing businesses that wish to expand.

The original policy for EDUs, ("equivalent dwelling units" used to measure water consumption) was formally adopted in January, but had been an unofficial practice of the town for a number of years.

Town Administrator Laura Allen several elected officials were interested in allowing expanding businesses to take advantage of financing for EDUs, which can be costly to purchase outright.

Councilman Elroy Brittingham said the move was an incentive for businesses to expand.

"I see it as a form of ... shop local," Allen said. "It's sort of an incentive for our current businesses to stay and reinvest in Berlin."

Permitted uses now include existing businesses that wish to expand, undeveloped properties currently served by well and/or septic tanks and undeveloped properties whose

owners ask to be connected to town water and sewer services.

According to a staff report included in the council packet, "Enabling businesses to finance EDUs delays the payment for water and sewer capacity to the Town. Experience has demonstrated that does not create a cash flow issue for the Town."

'It's sort of an incentive for our current businesses to stay and reinvest in Berlin.'

Elroy Brittingham
Councilman, Town of Berlin

Councilman Zack Tyndall said he was concerned "in the very near future we're going to have an issue where our financing rate is going to be significantly lower than what somebody's going to receive at a bank, which is going to encourage financing through the town."

"I don't think the government should be the sole route of financing," Tyndall added.

However, Finance Director Natalie Saleh said the financing charge was not meant to be competitive with bank loans, but was simply a means of cost recovery for the town.

"It's not a bank interest rate ... by any means," Saleh said.

Councilman Troy Purnell moved to approve the policy change and the vote was unanimous.

Police to step up patrols of holiday shopping centers

(Dec. 21, 2017) Maryland State Police Barrack in Berlin will increase the number of patrols in local shopping centers.

Troopers will monitor suspicious activity in and around the centers, which historically show an increase in criminal activity during the holiday season.

Officers hope to enhance community policing efforts by making contact with citizens, using a proactive approach designed to reduce crime, increase visibility and educate the community on how to be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday shopping season.

As a reminder, the Maryland State Police would like to provide the following holiday safety tips:

- Keep packages and other valuables in the car trunk and out of sight.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Carry a purse under your arm with the strap across your body.
- Put wallets in an inside pocket of your jacket or front pants pocket.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- If shopping after dark, shop with a friend if possible.
- Always park your car in a well-lit area.
- Always check the interior of your car before you unlock the door to get in.
- Lock your car doors and windows even if you are only gone for a few minutes.

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Maryland troopers from the Berlin Barrack loaded the police bus with youngsters for a trip to Wal-Mart during the annual "Shop with a Cop" event last Saturday.

Cops take kids shopping for gifts

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2017) State troopers and area elementary school children brought the spirit of Christmas to life during the fifth annual "Shop with a Cop," at the Berlin Wal-Mart last Saturday.

As in past years, troopers from the Berlin Barrack, along with family members and volunteers, provided a memorable shopping and bonding experience for children in Worcester County.

The tradition began in 2013 after Senior Tpr. Marlin Myers, who was on-board once again in 2017, read about similar programs elsewhere in Maryland and promoted the charitable campaign to his cohorts.

"We took 18 kids this year," Myers said. "They were having a ball and were wearing our hats."

Prior to arriving at Wal-Mart aboard the Maryland State Police Bus, the young holiday shoppers convened at the barrack for a facility tour and police vehicle show-and-tell. They also received honorary Junior Maryland Trooper Badges.

Each child was partnered with an officer and given \$100 to spend.

"In many cases, the troopers chip in a few more dollars if needed," he said.

Six-year-old Peyton Bateman peppered Tpr. Brian Reilly with questions as the pair inspected the shelves to select

holiday purchases.

"I'm excited," Bateman said. "I'm buying gifts for my whole family."

Before transferring to Berlin, Reilly was on patrol in Montgomery County, where he participated in a comparable "Shop with a Cop" event organized by the Rockville Barrack.

"This is my first year doing it down here," he said. "This is pretty much a statewide event. [Rockville] does it a little bit differently, but it's the same concept."

As Reilly continued gift consultations with Bateman, he noted the selfless nature of the youngsters.

"Usually kids are pretty humble too," he said. "They buy stuff not even for themselves but really for their families."

To illustrate that point, Reilly said Bateman's initial present selection was intended for his entire household to share.

"The first gift that Peyton got was Monopoly because he's keeping his family in mind during the holidays," he said. "He wants to spend time at Christmas together with his family to play games."

Layne Gray, 8, said the bus ride over was a bit different than a typical school bus experience.

"It was fun because you get to sit next to your trooper and in the bus the seats are like stalls," she said.

Inspecting her purchases after check-out, Gray said she was excited to ride the

bus back to the barrack, where event volunteers would serve lunch and assist children with gift-wrapping.

"I've got one for my mom and dad and my baby brother," she said.

Ebbin Phillips, 8, said he managed to stretch the allotted holiday budget beyond the nuclear family.

"I bought a gift for my grandmom," he said.

Still, children will be children, as evidenced by Bateman's final holiday investment.

"You've still got \$15, what are you going to spend it on ... or we could just get more Pokémon cards?," Reilly said.

To which Bateman ecstatically responded, "More Pokémon cards."

The program has continued because of donations from Wal-Mart and the National Wal-Mart Foundation, Harbor Marine in West Ocean City, DeNovo's Trattoria Restaurant in Ocean Pines, Chick-fil-A in West Ocean City, Atlantic Physical Therapy in Ocean Pines, the Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Women, private citizen donations, the Worcester County Board of Education, the Worcester County Health Department, the Worcester County CRICKET Center, and the men and women, both sworn and civilian, of the Maryland State Police Salisbury, Princess Anne and Berlin barracks.



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(Dec. 21, 2017) Worcester Preparatory School is offering a scholarship for students entering the ninth grade in September 2018.

An outstanding student will have the opportunity to join the Worcester community which is recognized for its high academic standards, small classes, individual attention and strong sense of community.

A need-based, four-year high school scholarship covering tuition is available for a new student— a value of more than \$57,000 over four years.

Selection is based on the following criteria: new student entering the ninth grade, strong academic ability, strength in the arts and/or technology and demonstrated financial need. Application deadline is Feb. 14.

For more information about the Sara Chase Carlson Scholarship, contact Tara Becker, Worcester Prep director of Admissions, at 410-641-3575 or email tbecker@worcesterprep.org.

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Berlin Briefs

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

Way-finding signs

The Town of Berlin recently received an \$11,000 Main Street Improvement grant for new way-finding signs for the downtown area. Town Administrator Laura Allen said the new signs would replace the old ones. Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, during a council meeting last Monday, said additional signs would be added “further out, on [Route] 346” to help better inform new visitors to the town. Signs were previously discussed with the Historic District Commission, which endorsed the new designs.

“These are the same signs that we had taken to the Historic District Commission earlier to seek their approval,” Allen said. “This is just the next step in the process. Once we get the grant award, [Wells] works on getting the signs put together and installed.

PNC building

Both Allen and Planning Director Dave Engelhart said last week it was unlikely the former PNC building downtown would become another

bank. Engelhart mentioned just that during a planning commission meeting last Wednesday. “I don’t know any specifics, but Ivy Wells ... said there’s been a lot of proposed ideas for that building,” Engelhart said. “She’s fielding all those inquiries. “From what I understand, they won’t lease it to another bank, naturally,” he added. “You won’t have a replacement bank in there.” According to Allen, PNC put the building up for sale, but is not eager to sell to another banking company. “I think that’s the case, which makes sense,” she said. “Although I have had some people say, ‘Gee, it would be nice to have another bank there.’”

Christmas wrap

Allen said the new, reversed route for the annual town Christmas parade worked well and received generally positive feedback. She said some spectators complained about the location of the judging stand, which was in front of the Atlantic Hotel and closer to the beginning of the parade route. This caused a few of the participants to trail off before completing the entire route, which ran to the Berlin Fire



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
New way-finding signs are on the way in Berlin, both replacing the current signs downtown and adding several to surrounding entranceways.

Company station on Main Street. “Some of the groups that were performing in the parade were under the impression that once they were finished performing in front of the judges that they were finished with the parade,” Allen said. “We’re making sure they understand their participation in the parade means we’d like them to entertain throughout the en-

tire route, from where they start to the firehouse.” As with any first, Allen said, some hiccups are likely. “We will be reaching back out to the participants to make sure they understand the length of the parade and dealing with those issues. I don’t expect those same types of problems to pop up again next year,” Allen said.

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Berlin anniversary
logo contest gets
deadline extension

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 21, 2017) The Town of Berlin last week announced a contest to design a logo commemorating the 150th anniversary of the town.

Town Administrator Laura Allen said the announcement was posted on social media and “all of the local artists and art associations have been contacted.”

“I think it’s a great way to celebrate one of the many things that’s cool about Berlin, which is broad participation from members of the community, especially our artists,” Allen said.

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams spoke about the landmark anniversary during a tree-lighting ceremony, last month.

“It’s going to be a very special year, here in America’s coolest small town,” Williams said at the time. “With deep appreciation for our past ... [and] with great hope and optimism for the future, let us together begin the celebration of the Town of Berlin’s 150th anniversary next year.”

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, during a Town Council meeting last Monday, said designs would be used on “banners and T-shirts and other merchandise” celebrating the incorporation of the town, in 1868.

Wells said the contest was forwarded to the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee and the Worcester County Arts Council.

“They’re very excited about it,” she said.

The contest deadline was recently extended to Saturday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. The winning designer will receive \$100 in gift certificates to downtown shops and restaurants. The design will be presented during a mayor and council meeting.

Designs must be suitable for use online and in print, and should be flexible, meaning having the “ability to re-size and look good in black and white,” according to official contest rules.

All ages may enter the contest. Designs must be five colors or less and must include mention of “1868 – 2018; Berlin, Maryland and 150th.”

Entries must be original work of the artists. No third-party artwork or images, including clipart or copyrighted graphics, can be used. Previously published or exhibited work is also not permissible.

Electronic entries should be JPG or PDF format. Print submissions should be no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches.

To enter, email iwells@berlinmd.gov, mail to 150th LOGO Contest, Town of Berlin, 14 South Main Street, Berlin, Maryland, 21811. Drop off submissions at the Berlin Welcome Center on 14 South Main Street.

Include the artist’s name, address, phone number and email.

For more information on guidelines, visit www.BerlinMainStreet.com or www.berlinmd.gov.

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Building four of six coming to Berlin center

Planning Commission gives approval for site plan work; no construction start date

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor
(Dec. 21, 2017) The Berlin Main Place plaza, which houses single-story medical and professional offices near the corner of routes 818 and 50, will add a 9,000 square-foot building.

The Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday endorsed the project, the fourth building in a planned series of six.
Developer Palmer Gillis, president of Salisbury-based firm Gillis Gilkerson Inc., said the original goal for the complex was to build multi-story buildings with office and retail spaces on the ground level and apartments on the upper floors, similar to structures on Main Street.

"I don't know if the economics will do that any more," Gillis said.
Current Main Place tenants include a dialysis center and dermatology and chiropractic offices.
Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart said he is awaiting construction permits, before work on the building can start. He said stormwater work for the entire complex was done during the initial phase of construction.
Commission members, also during

the meeting, briefly discussed a set of architectural design standards for the town. Engelhart is developing a draft based on county standards and is waiting on a series of sample photographs that would be unique to Berlin developments.
The commission is expected to continue work on the standards during future meetings. The next scheduled session is Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Record amount of holiday travel forecasted

AAA projections show more than 3 percent uptick over 2016; backs national trend

(Dec. 21, 2017) AAA Mid-Atlantic projects nearly 2.3 million Marylanders will travel for the year-end holiday period from Saturday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 1, reflecting a 3.2 percent increase over 2016, and the highest volume on record for this holiday season since 2001, when AAA began forecasting holiday travel volume.
Maryland's forecast mirrors the nationwide trend, as a record number of Americans, over 107 million are expected to get away, a 3.1 percent increase.

This year's forecast also reflects the ninth consecutive year of growth since 2009, after holiday travel declined very slightly in 2008. For the fifth consecutive year, Maryland's travel volume is anticipated to exceed two million travelers.
"Because the year-end holiday travel period always encompasses two week-ends, travel volume is the highest of all travel holiday weekends throughout the year," said Ragina Cooper Averella, manager of Public and Government Affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic. "This year, AAA's forecast reflects a record-breaking volume of travelers thanks to a strong economy and labor market that are generating rising incomes and confident consumers. Marylanders are

willing to open up their wallets not only for holiday shopping, but to spend on travel this holiday season, as well."
Nearly 2.1 million Marylanders, 91 percent of travelers, intend to drive to their destination, a 3.1 percent increase over last year's holiday.
"Despite gas prices being approximately 6 percent higher than last year at this time, road trips will rule as is typical with holiday getaways," Averella said. "This is the second consecutive year, where over two million Marylanders will drive to their destination. Typically, the year-end holiday ties with Thanksgiving in generating the highest percentage share of auto travelers compared to the other major holiday weekends."

Last year, Marylanders paid an average price of \$2.30 per gallon for regular gasoline on Christmas Day and an average of \$2.34 on New Year's Eve.
The number of Marylanders taking to the skies is projected to grow at the highest percentage compared to the other modes of travel.
"At an increase of 3.8 percent, air travel is outpacing overall year-end holiday travel growth, as over 126,000 state residents, intend to fly to their destination compared to 2016," Averella said.
Travel by other modes, including bus, rail and cruise ship is expected to experience significant growth for this holiday as well, with an increase of 3.5 percent.

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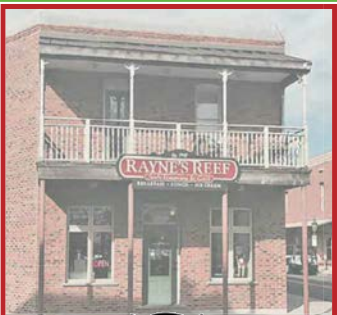
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Opinion

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

On open communication

At the last Town of Berlin council meeting, there was plenty of good that came out of Councilman Dean Burrell’s questioning of the recently released marketing video of the town.

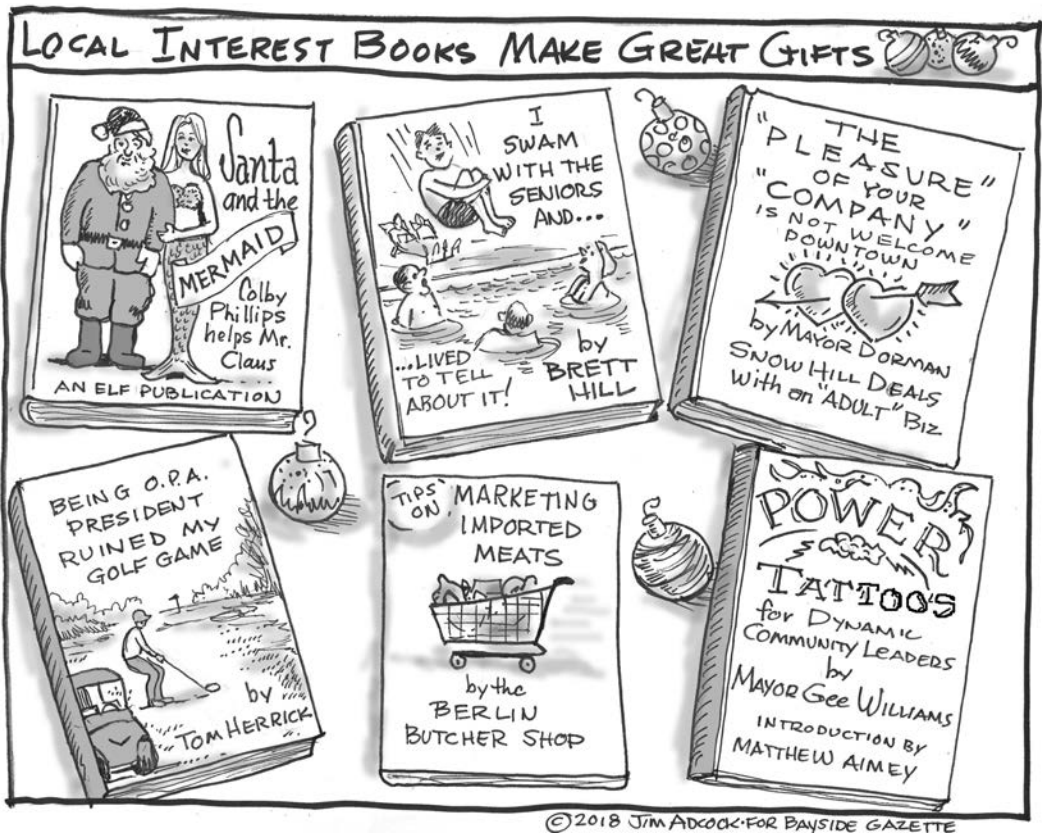
Burrell did the right thing by bringing up the issue in public rather than allowing any misunderstanding to fester behind the scenes. As a representative of the town’s constituents, it’s his job to ensure those who may feel any struggle to be heard that the council is listening.

Burrell’s questioning of the lack of diversity in the video allowed those involved in its making an open forum to satisfactorily explain and put to rest any feelings of discontent from members of the community, who felt the broad spectrum of town residents was not being represented.

Without raising the question, residents would not know that the video, the focus of which was on shopkeepers rather than the community at large, was just one in a series that will be introduced this coming year. Other videos marketing the town’s events and amenities are in the works, and will provide a look at the entire fabric of the community.

While some felt his comments made too big of a deal out of the situation and others saw the circumstance as evidence of division within the community, there is a much more positive takeaway: it is refreshing to find a community where issues, sometimes sensitive in nature, can be openly discussed with understanding and lack of rancor.

Open and honest communication is really the only way any community can move forward to bridge any divide that may exist.



Letters

Video proves there’s a hole in the bucket

Editor,

I wish to respond to the comments made in the Dec. 14 edition of the very fine *Bayside Gazette* by Ivy Wells and likewise to the assertion of Laura Allen about the lack of diversity in the Berlin video.

Both of you fine people are known to many and to me professionally, and I’ve personally sung praises to the work and progressive endeavors both of you have made for Berlin. This town is blessed beyond compare to have you both associated with its sustainability and growth, I say that without hesitation or biting my tongue.

But ... in this case of Berlin entering into any competition for recognition or accolade, whether it be local, regional or national ...

has no bearing upon the production that was utterly incomplete with inadequate representation of Berlin’s downtown patronage.

Any thing that has taken eight months to assemble has surely had the opportunity to be truly respectful and representative of all participants. You cannot in “Good Faith” conclude that people of color have not been present in at least some of the events displayed. Pointing that out to everyone shouldn’t be explained away nor even a suspect attempt at pacification in future ventures.

Since it was a downtown expose, that certainly shouldn’t exclude those of us that frequent downtown activities, yet, it did ... it just did, that is, save the one brave soul shown waving. Did you wonder why everybody saw her? Chief of Police Downing is almost

always downtown somewhere.

Ladies, sometimes we just have to face the facts and accept the truth and errors in the pudding recipe. Someone left out some very important ingredients and to some it tasted sour and flat. If you’re perplexed as to why it was so noticed, it actually comes out in an Ole Rounds song from my school days, ironically used currently in an advertisement. There’s a hole in the bucket Dear Ivy, Dear Laura, there’s a hole in our/the bucket, Dear ladies ... a hole!

One final thought, had it been more representative, would it have been less worthwhile or credible? Please, fix the hole then Dear Ivy, Dear Laura, fix the hole then dear ladies, fix the hole!

Without any malice or forethought,

Gregory Purnell
Native Berlin Citizen

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N.O.E.L. to host Christmas dinner

Organization provides hot, holiday meals to needy, as well as to first responders

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2017) A Christmas dinner with ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and dessert will be served at Holy Savior Catholic Church on 17th Street, Monday, Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Anyone who is homeless, unemployed, underemployed, shut-in or needs a friend during the holiday is encouraged to attend the 20th annual Christmas dinner, presented by the N.O.E.L. (Nothing Other than Eating and Loving) Community.

“Twenty years is special because the possibility and success of providing a meal on Christmas all these years is based on the generosity and commitment of businesses and volunteers from the community who provide donations of money and food as well as volunteers who donate time to plan, coordinate and serve this meal,” said Monica Martin, volunteer chairwoman of the N.O.E.L. planning committee.

Tables will be set up in the decorated church for guests to enjoy their meals. There will be live entertainment, a visit from Santa Claus and gifts for children. Attendees will also have the option to select from an assortment of sweet treats on the dessert table.

“We will have carryout meals available as well and continue the tradition of providing meals to first responders in Ocean City as well as town employees and others working on Christmas Day who would enjoy a hot meal,” Martin said.

Last year, the N.O.E.L. Community provided more than 200 hot breakfast meals to guests on Christmas Eve in addition to bags of food to prepare a Christmas dinner. They also delivered 53 hot meals to first responders and employees working for the Town of Ocean City on Christmas Day, she said.

“Over the past few years, providing this meal on Christmas has had challenges as a result of the fire at St. Paul’s by the Sea in 2013 and the loss of Father David Dingwall,” Martin said. “We have gone from providing take-home meals to prepare at City Hall, to providing a hot breakfast with a meal to take home at St. Paul’s and back to providing a hot dinner meal on Christmas this year.”

‘Worcester County is filled with many generous people who support many charitable organizations’

Monica Martin, volunteer chairwoman of the NOEL planning committee

Because of construction at St. Paul’s by the Sea in downtown Ocean City, Holy Savior Church staff offered to host the Christmas dinner this year.

“Worcester County is filled with many generous people who support many charitable organizations,” Martin said. “Donations received through our annual drive prior to Christmas supports many programs including the N.O.E.L. dinner, Shepherd’s Crook, and other local food pantries. Funds are also used to help support foster children in

Worcester County, adults who receive services through the Department of Social Services, Surfer’s Healing and the Cricket Center.”

Volunteers provide approximately 50 lunches every Saturday to Shepherd’s Crook year-round and they actively work with the local food pantries, shelters and social service groups to identify what is most needed in the area.

Thousands of canned goods, dry goods, fruits, desserts, toiletries, clothing, paper products, cleaning supplies, baby products and other items are donated to families and individuals in need.

The N.O.E.L. Community is asking for monetary and food donations. Checks can be mailed to: 302 North Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland, 21842. Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries from individuals and organizations will be accepted on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy Savior Catholic Church on 17th Street and Coastal Highway.

In addition, these items can be dropped off at the Shepherd’s Crook food pantry located on Baltimore Avenue and Third Street in Ocean City, which is open every day except Sundays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

N.O.E.L. organizes events throughout the year and its gLOVES drive will take place in February. New gloves, hats, socks and blankets will be collected for those in need on Feb. 11 at St. Paul’s by the Sea on Third Street and Church of the Holy Spirit on 100th Street.

For more information about the N.O.E.L. Community or the Christmas dinner, call 410-289-3453.



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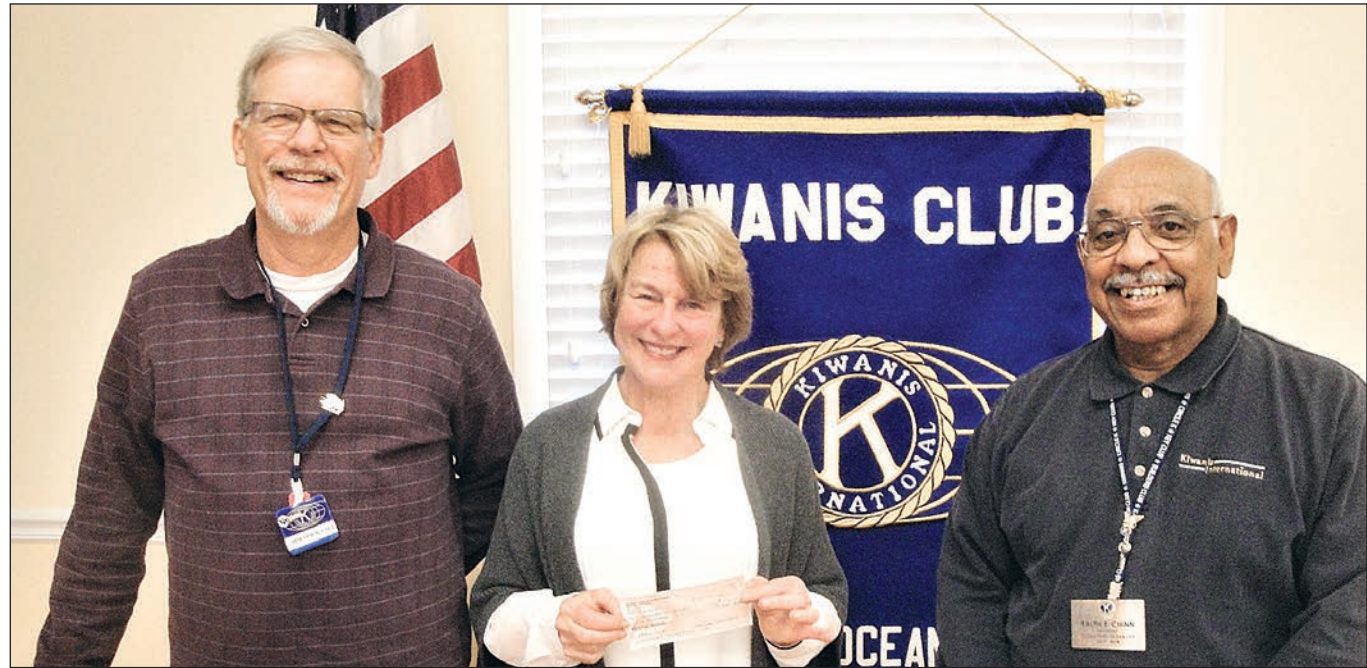
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BACON WRAPPED SCALLOPS \$15.95
GRILLED SALMON \$16.95
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SUNDAY
4 PC. FRIED CHICKEN \$9.95

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GIVING GOLD

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City supports Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity) with semi-annual donations of \$400. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club's Chair for Worcester GOLD, Jim Spicknall, Worcester GOLD Board President Carol Jacobs and Kiwanis Club President Ralph Chinn. Worcester GOLD administers a pantry supporting young children from pre-natal until age 4.

Pines PD honored during ceremony at community ctr.

(Dec. 21, 2017) The Ocean Pines Police Department held a special departmental meeting on Dec. 7 at the Ocean Pines Community Center to honor exemplary efforts put forth by members of the agency.

“Our officers work hard to keep our community safe,” Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey said. “The actions of these police personnel are in the best traditions of our police department. I am proud to command such personnel.”

Along with Massey and Officer of the Year Lt. Leo Ehrisman, General Manager John Bailey attended the presentation of awards.

“It was an opportunity for me to be reminded of how dangerous such jobs are, because they deal with the unknown every minute,” Bailey said. “I encourage everyone to continue to say a word of thanks and appreciation for what they do.”

During the special presentation, seven members of the Ocean Pines Police Department were recognized and received the following awards:

Meritorious Service Award: Awarded to any member of the police department who distinguishes him/herself by performing his/her duties in a manner that clearly exceeds what is normally required or expected or for a highly creditable police accomplishment.

Meritorious Service Award for 2017: Pco. Kim Carmine

For the first time, the FBI conducted an audit of criminal history computers in all police departments in Maryland. Each police department had to submit a preliminary audit statement prior to the FBI arriving for an on-scene inspection.

When the FBI auditor arrived, he stated that Ocean Pines had submitted the most thorough and complete audit from all other police agencies he had inspected. The result of this audit later determined that Ocean Pines had only minor corrections needed for the audit. The excellent results of this audit were largely due to the efforts of Pco. Carmine.

Excellent Police Performance: Awarded to any member of the police department, including civilians, for an act or achievement above that which is normally required or expected.

Excellent Police Performance for 2017: Pfc. Dylan Miller and Cpl. Chris Tarr

Pfc. Miller conducted a routine traffic stop of a suspicious vehicle. The operator of the vehicle did not have a valid driver's license. Seeing the vehicle on the road at a later date, Miller followed the vehicle to a residence in Ocean Pines.

Seeing numerous vehicles frequent this residence at odd hours, and with computer information obtained about possible prostitution, See OUR Page 23



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

UNITED WAY 5K

Stephen Decatur Middle School hosted The United Way 5K on Nov. 18. Eighty runners participated. The event raised \$1,500 for the Worcester County United Way Fundraising Campaign. Pictured are the first-, second- and third-place winners for each category.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VOLUNTEER DINNER

Worcester County Humane Society held its annual dinner at Ocean City Fish Company in West Ocean City on Nov. 10, raising over \$8,000 for the no-kill animal shelter in Berlin. Longtime humane society volunteer, Bill Morison, is joined by his daughter, Michelle Haas.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GIVING BACK

Brandon Ely, general manager of Ripley's Believe It or Not in Ocean City, recently honored three fourth graders from Berlin Intermediate School. Students received a certificate and tickets to the museum. The students honored for November were Nicholas Perella, Caydence Walter and Nate Winklbauer. They are pictured with Erin Grunden, special education teacher.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCIENCE CLASS

Stephen Decatur High School science teacher Nicole Billetdeaux, center, demonstrates a sheep brain dissection in her Anatomy and Physiology class during American Education Week. She is pictured with Bruklin Waters, Ka'Mell Tatum, McKenzie Dancy and Aleyah Lewis.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

SDMS BUILDERS CLUB

Stephen Decatur Middle School Builders Club, a Student Leadership Club of Kiwanis, collected money, food and supplies for Believe In Tomorrow, which were donated at the school's Health Fair on Nov. 16. Pictured with some of the 35 boxes of collected items, in front, from left, are Charlie Klein, Skylar Cook, Kylie Sens, Hailey Bowden, Brooklyn Durham, Lilyanne Hartley and Skylar Griffen, and in back, Teacher Advisor Mindy Oullette, Ariann Gray, Aria Islam, Evan Ritz, Georgia Ogelsby and Lilly Deveraux. Not pictured are Kiwanis Club Advisor Jackie Todd and Builders Club Co-Teacher Advisor Leah Olson.



PHOTO COURTESY ADRIENNE KOZMA

SCOUTS FOR TROOPS

Girl Scout Troop 812 of Berlin collected personal items for active U.S. servicemen and women overseas. They teamed up with Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School for the November drive. Pictured, from left, are Julia Kozma, Summer Brenner, Evelyn Walsh, Emery Busko, Chloe Beall, Isabella Johnson, Stephanie Sampson and Summer Banks.

New Year's at Princess Royale!

**New Year's Day:
The Fun Continues!**

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- Pool Party w/ Drink Specials
- Live Entertainment
- Penguin Swim!

New Year's Eve at Schooners Restaurant:

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Drink Specials All Night
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5 Course Gourmet Dinner:

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Stuffed Rockfish, Arugula
Holiday Salad, Mashed
Potatoes, Chef's Vegetable
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Atrium Stars Party

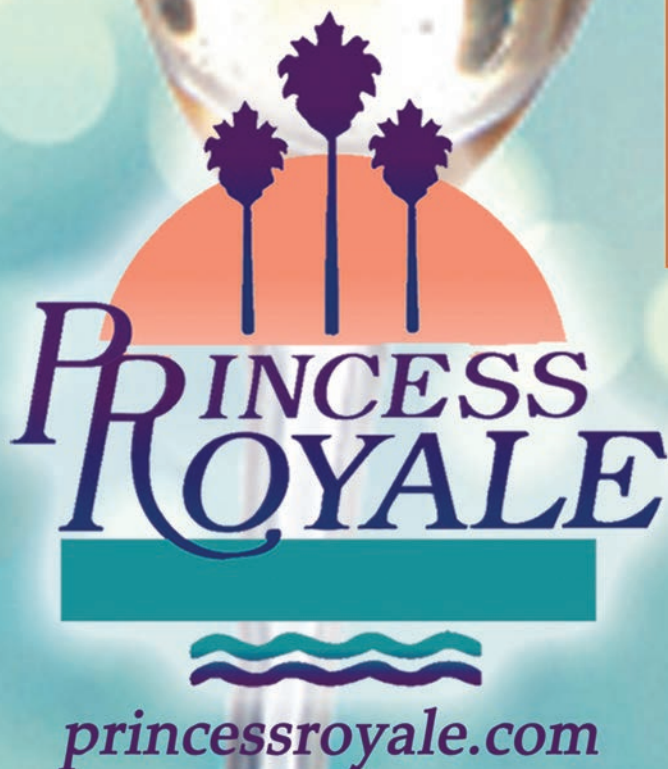
Bountiful Buffet:

**Baked Salmon, Beef
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Seafood Newburg w/Rice,
Chicken Parmesan, Chef's
Choice of Vegetables & Salads
plus 6 Hour Open Bar!**

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Dec. 23: Over Time, 9 p.m.
Dec. 27: Ricci LaRicci & the Left-overs, 6-9 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
Ocean City
443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Dec. 22: Bagabon, 7-10 p.m.
Dec. 23: Kevin Poole, 7-10 p.m.
Dec. 27: Open Mic, 8-11 p.m.
Dec. 28: 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 22: Sol Knopf, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Dec 23: Sol Knopf, 4:30-8:30 p.m.;
Monkee Paw Trio, 9:30 p.m to 1:30 a.m.



FULL CIRCLE
SEACRETS
Saturday, December 23, 5-9 p.m.



EASTERN ELECTRIC
THE COVE AT MUMFORD'S LANDING OCEAN PINES
Friday, December 22, 8 p.m.

THE COVE AT MUMFORD'S LANDING OCEAN PINES

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Ocean Pines
410-641-7501
www.oceanpines.org
Dec. 22: Eastern Electric, 8 p.m.
Dec. 23: Trivia Night, 4 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449
www.duffysoc.com
Dec. 22: Bob Hughes, 5-9 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 22: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 23: Side Project/Chris Button, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

HARVEST MOON TAVERN

208 W. Green St.
Snow Hill
410-632-9890
harvestmoontavern@gmail.com
Dec. 22: Ted Elliot, 7-10 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
www.clarionoc.com
Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 22-23: Power Play

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-4891
www.picklesoc.com
Dec. 23: Beats by Adam Dutch, 10 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900

www.seacrets.com
Dec. 22: JJ Rupp Band, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 23: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.; The Benderz, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
Dec. 28: Full Circle Duo, 5-9 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 22: Christmas Party w/The Stims, 4:30 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922
www.whiskersbar.com
Dec. 22: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



DJ JEREMY
HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL
Saturday, December 23, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Team Grim was the winner of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club Miniature Golf Tournament at Old Pro Golf on Oct. 21. Pictured, from left, are Barbara Pardee and John and Jeff Grim with President Margaret Mudron. Lou Ann Grim is not pictured. The Ocean City/Berlin Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Captain's Table Restaurant (Courtyard Marriott Hotel) 15th Street and N. Baltimore Ave. in Ocean City.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/JUDY DAVIS

NAACP MEETING

Worcester County NAACP hosted newly-elected Snow Hill Councilwoman LaToya Purnell during its November meeting at the Snow Hill Library. Pictured are NAACP members and guests with Purnell, third from left.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ROOST DONATION

Diakonia Executive Director Claudia Nagle was recently presented a donation by Ravens Roost #44 representative Eric Waterman.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Beth Rodier, president-elect of the Republican Women's Club, was the guest speaker during a recent meeting of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Rodier, left, is pictured with chapter Regent Patricia Ayers.

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Cuisine

Falling in love with Berlin all over again

What a great week this has been. Meeting up with my Coffee Crew at Coastal Coffee Roasting, getting the house cleaned and ready for Christmas, making merry at Bleached Butterfly in Berlin last night with some friends – some old and some new – and getting out of my grinchy Christmas funk. I keep talking about getting out more and socializing myself like a puppy, and it does make for a better day. I even took my buddy Keith around to the alpaca store. Who knew? I’m pretty sure that my daughters will like the socks in their stockings in a few days.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Recently, walking through our quaint little borough, I happed upon the new J&M Meat Market and was ecstatic that their doors are open. I know just about everyone who opened it and who works there, so I knew that it would be good. What I did not know is that they have a butcher who comes in twice a week (I think that’s what they told me) and handmakes all the sausage.

Fresh sausage? Yes, please! I make my own at work regularly, but I lack the equipment at home, so any time a local guy that I can trust is making it, I can jump on board that train pretty quickly (and reference Toby Gilbert here as a standby on that front as well).

It makes me happy to see so much talent moving into Berlin and accentuating the talent that already existed in town. It makes our lives, as foodies and social little butterflies, just that much easier.

Upon my first visit to the Market, I got my hands on some of the organic chicken breast, some tenderloin steaks, two different types of sausage and of course I couldn’t leave without one of Mike’s cold cut subs. It was a winner of an afternoon.

Upon getting home, the first thing that I thought about throwing the sweet sausage in was a marinara that would adorn my super-simple fresh pasta with some sautéed mushrooms and shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Now before you get all in a tizzy, I understand this is not a traditional marinara. I understand that your grandmother’s would have far-exceeded this. That’s fine. Out of all the lineages that bless my family, Italian is not one of them and never would I pretend otherwise. As far as I know, I am French (obvious if you look at the name), Irish, Scottish, German, Swiss and possibly a few more – but not Italian.

But this sauce is the bomb, as the kids say these days, and this is so easy to make. The seasoned sausage develops the sauce for you and basically this dish makes itself.

So get out there, buy some fresh goodies and get ready for the big day! This was a week that truly made me love our little town.

Fresh Pasta, Sausage Marinara

serves about 6

2 cups Shiitake or Crimini mushrooms, sliced
1 Tbsp. Unsalted butter
1 Tbsp. EV Olive oil
1 1/2 lb. Fresh pasta (recipe follows)
2 cup Fresh sausage marinara (Recipe follows)
Parmigiano-Reggiano, as needed



Italian Parsley and Basil chiffonade, as needed
Salt & Pepper, as needed

1. Sauté the mushrooms in the oil and butter until tender. Season and keep warm until service
2. Assuming that your sauce is done, mushrooms are sautéed and parm is shaved, bring a pot of water to a boil
3. Drop the pasta in the water for about three minutes. Fresh pasta takes nowhere near as long as dry pasta to cook, so cook it quickly
4. Drain, sauce and garnish with mushrooms, herbs and cheese
5. Serve with a nice Sangiovese

Fresh Pasta

makes about 2#

1 pound Hi-gluten flour
8 ounces 00 Flour (available online)
1/4 cup Whole milk
2 whole eggs
salt & Pepper, as needed

1. Place flours in stand mixer with the dough hook attachment and pour in milk and add eggs as it is spinning
2. Adjust the flour and/or milk to get a nice doughball while still maintaining some flexibility
3. Knead for about eight minutes and allow to rest covered in plastic
4. When ready to roll, put some flour on your pasta machine and roll to the desired thickness. Use the owner’s manual per machine as they all

differ, but the end result must be thin

5. When the pasta is rolled, let it sit out on a clean counter to dry out a little bit
6. When it is still malleable but not tacky at all, run through the cutter of your choice to make anything from pappardelle to spaghetti
7. Set aside until ready to use

Sausage Marinara

makes about two quarts

1 pound Fresh sausage from J&M Meat Market
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 red onion, minced
1 Shallot, minced
2 cans diced tomatoes
1 cup Dry red wine
1 tsp. Fresh oregano, finely minced

1. Cook the sausage, breaking it up until it resembles ground beef in texture. If it is low fat, start with some olive oil
2. When the sausage is cooked, add the garlic and onion (& shallots) and cook for about five minutes
3. When everything is tender, add the tomatoes and the red wine, cooking until the flavors have married and most of the wine is cooked off
4. Finish with the oregano and season with salt and pepper. Keep hot until service

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

Puzzles

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- '14 NISSAN ALTIMA
- '05 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
- '12 CHEVY CRUZE
- '02 CHEVY SUBURBAN

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HARD - 72

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

A	W	A	L	K		S	H	E	L		I	N	N	O	T	I	M	E
T	O	M	E	I		T	A	L	I	B		H	O	T	L	I	N	E
O	W	I	E	S		E	V	O	K	E	S	E	A	R	T	H	A	K
M	E	G	A	S	T	A	R		E	L	W	A			V	I	T	A
D	O	N	C		H	E	A	D		S	L	A	L	O	M		I	L
						N	A	V		J	O	H	N	L	E	G		
Z	A	P				M	O	I	R	A		O	N	E		N	O	L
E	T	O	N			C	O	I	N	O	P				B	A	N	G
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U	S	E				S	A	V	I	O	R		O	L	I	E	R	
R	E	N	A	L						N	O	T	R	E		P	A	S
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N	E	O	N			S	I	G	N				T	S	A	R		

OH, ONE LAST THING

BY ANDREW J. RIES / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Neighbor of Sudan

5 Queen in the "Star Wars" movies

12 Basics

16 Things that people like to have ripped?

19 First sentence of a news story

20 Party animal

21 Comedian who was a regular on "The Steve Allen Show"

23 Sources of lean meat

24 Comparatively strong, like some French wine?

26 Grime

28 "Yo!"

29 Went by

30 Fearful

32 1998 De Niro thriller

34 Highway noise barriers

38 One who's in it but doesn't win it

40 Egyptian leader obsessed with his appearance?

43 Certain Lincoln Center soprano?

45 It may pop on a plane

46 Dietary std.

47 China's Chiang ____-shek

48 Yes or no follower

49 Light on one's feet

131 Submissive

132 Fleet

133 "Totally awesome!"

134 Bit of food ... or feud?

135 Part of a house

136 Peach ____

137 ____-frutti

138 Buttonhole, e.g.

139 Shooting craps while waiting for one's train?

140 Actress Hatcher

141 All skin and bones

142 "I had a dream, which was not all a dream" poet

143 George Eliot's "____ Marnier"

144 Finely decorated

145 Antagonist

146 Much of Mongolia

147 Automaker sold by G.M. in 2017

148 Territory

149 White undercoat

150 Broadbrim, e.g.

151 Inits. for getting around the Loop

152 Protagonist in David Foster Wallace's "Infinite Jest"

153 Comment from a cook who cools the cheese sauce before serving?

154 Woodwind that's O.K. to play?

155 Something that's free of charge

156 Weapon seen on the Kenyan flag

157 Big stinks

158 Done, slangily

159 Units for binge watchers

100 Actor Patel of "Lion"

101 "Don't ____ me"

104 Cupid's catchphrase?

110 Part

111 Attention hog's cry

112 Vigilant

113 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff

114 Intimidate

115 One of eight in "The 12 Days of Christmas"

116 Egg-shaped Hasbro toys introduced in 1971

117 Certain soft drinks, informally

DOWN

1 Score marking

2 Powerful engine, for short

3 Nighttime Cartoon Network programming block

4 Wipe off the map

5 Start of MGM's motto

6 Quaint "I believe"

7 Like Wrigley Field's walls

8 Brave

9 Landon who lost in a landslide

10 Pastoral locale

11 Big name in 1980s-'90s TV talk

12 State capital that's the setting of "Ironweed"

13 Betty ____

14 Mean, lowdown sorts

15 Court conference

16 CNN commentator Navarro

17 The Cougars of the West Coast Conf.

18 Determination in a prenatal exam

22 Holiday meal

25 Came down

27 Long lunch?

31 It's to be expected

32 Leveled

33 Eleven: Fr.

35 Cheesy dish

36 Seminal symbol of mass production

37 Lose

38 Paul who sang "Lonely Boy"

39 King who said, "Nothing will come of nothing"

40 Woman's name that means "truth"

41 Disloyalty

42 Loft filler

44 Director of 1991's "Mississippi Masala"

49 Genesis brother

50 Early Beatle

51 Sam who ran the bar on "Cheers"

53 Unconcerned with right and wrong

54 Parts of supermarkets

55 & 57 Very nearly

58 Topic at the Kinsey Institute

60 32-ounce purchase at 7-Eleven

61 Mining supply

63 Free

64 Chasm

65 It decreases a QB's rating: Abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19				20							21			22				
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			63						64	65				66				
			67				68					69						
70							71				72	73		74		75	76	77
78						79							81				82	
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104	105	106								107	108			109		110		
111										112						113		
114						115				116						117		

66 Busy hosp. areas

67 Best of the best

70 Knee-highs, e.g.

72 Doesn't know for a fact, say

73 ____ buco

75 Secreted signal

76 El ____

77 Cricket rival of Harrow

79 Material once set afire and put in a catapult

80 Grasp, informally

81 Human, typically, diet-wise

84 Announcement upon a grand arrival

85 Entertainment with camels, maybe

86 It sank after W.W. II

87 Go cold turkey

88 Said

90 Goaltender Dominik in the Hockey Hall of Fame

91 Wrinkle-free, say

92 Lincoln's place

96 Wild

98 Old-movie dog

99 ____ Valley

100 Give a beating

102 Go forcefully (through)

103 1979 Roman Polanski film

104 Inc. relative

105 Win on "Hollywood Squares"

106 "I shall return," e.g.

107 Des-Moines-to-Dubuque dir.

108 Add years

109 Sentence fragments: Abbr.

Calendar

THU, DEC. 21

REINDEER GAMES

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10:30 a.m. Holiday science, art and fund for 3 to 7 year old children. 410-208-4014

STORY TIME ‘HOLIDAYS’

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-632-3495

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT

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, 3 to 6 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577 or Kate, 410-524-0649. <http://www.BeachSingles.org>

LAP TIME

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 3:30 p.m. Children will be introduced to songs, games and finger plays. For children under 2 years old. 410-524-1818

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Those Clever Canines, 11022 Nicholas Lane, Unit 9, Ocean Pines, MD, 4 to 8 p.m. There will be food and beverages for attendees and their pets plus opportunities to take holiday photos, join in sing carols and even some reindeer games. Also, collecting pet food, toys, litter, beds, etc. for a local charity.

FRI, DEC. 22

FIBER FRIENDS (FORMERLY BALLYCASTLE KNITS)

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your lap work and join these informal get-togethers. Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, etc. are welcomed. Victoria Christie-Healy, moonlightknitting@gmail.com, 703-507-0708

LAP TIME

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. For infants and toddlers up to age 2 and their caregivers. 410-641-0650

FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5 to 11 p.m. Friday’s festivities include photos with Santa and an elf (cookies and hot chocolate served) from 5-7 p.m., holiday movies by the pool (candy and popcorn served) from 7-9 p.m. and a singalong of holiday favorites in the Dunes Piano

Lounge with Shirley Toms from 7-11 p.m. 410-289-1100, <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS CHRISTMAS SHOW AND BENEFIT

Dry Dock 28, 2709 N. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5 to 9 p.m. Performance by Jimmy Charles. St. Mary Star of the Sea/Holy Savior Parish Food Pantry & Assistance Program. <http://www.jimmycharlesmusic.com>

SAT, DEC. 23

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

‘THE CORDDRY COMPANY CROSSING’ TRAIN GARDEN

The Pocomoke River Canoe Company, 2 River St., Snow Hill, MD, 1 to 4 p.m. Featuring an operating O gauge train garden. Fun for all ages.

FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD, 4 to 11 p.m. Saturday’s festivities include holiday crafts and children’s games from 4-6 p.m., photos with Santa and an elf (cookies and hot chocolate served) from 5-7 p.m., Polar Express Dinner & Movie Experience from 6-8 p.m. and a singalong of holiday favorites in the Dunes Piano Lounge with Shirley Toms from 7-11 p.m. Reservations are required to attend “The Polar Express,” and each family that attends is asked to donate a new toy, which will be donated to Diakonia. Reservations: Tracy Rice, trice@dunesmanor.com or 410-289-1100. <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

SANTA’S HOUSE

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 4 to 7 p.m. Children are encouraged to come visit Santa and mail their letters in Santa’s special mailbox. Open to the public. Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

SUN, DEC. 24

FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Decorate your own cookies for Santa. 410-289-1100, <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

‘THE CORDDRY COMPANY CROSSING’ TRAIN GARDEN

The Pocomoke River Canoe Company, 2 River St., Snow Hill, MD, 1 to 4 p.m. Featuring an operating O gauge train

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

ASC&D Gives, a committee within ASC&D Serves, donates to employee-nominated charities or causes throughout the year. ASC&D donated \$1,000 to the Believe in Tomorrow organization to sponsor its upcoming fundraiser. Believe in Tomorrow provides respite housing for families with children who are fighting life-threatening illnesses. Wayne Littleton from Believe in Tomorrow is pictured with Kasi Queen, Laura Bren and Rachel Thompson.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

KIWANIS RECOGNIZED

The Salvation Army’s Red Kettle 2017 campaign began with the annual Kickoff Breakfast in Salisbury recently. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines – Ocean City received the second-place award for its 120 hours of manning the Red Kettle in the “Clubs & Non-Profit Organizations” division. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club’s Chair for Red Kettle Campaign Stella Hartington, Kiwanis Club President Ralph Chinn and Honorary Kiwanian Wilma Chinn.

garden. Fun for all ages.

OLD FASHIONED LESSONS & CAROLS

Historic St. Martin’s, 11413 Old Worcester Highway, Showell, MD, 5 p.m. Complimentary parking. <http://www.historicstmartinschurch.org>

MON, DEC. 25

20TH ANNUAL N.O.E.L. COMMUNITY DINNER

Holy Savior Catholic Church, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited. Serving ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and desserts. Also, featuring music and a visit from Santa. Carryouts available. Donations can be sent to The N.O.E.L. Community, c/o St. Paul’s by the Sea, 302 N. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842. St. Paul’s by-the-Sea, 410-289-3453

TUE, DEC. 26

WINTERFEST SOCCER CAMP

Northside Park Recreation Complex,

Calendar

200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camp, held Dec. 26-27, is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 14 years old and includes top-notch instruction directed by Colby Fell. Cost is \$50 for Ocean City residents and \$60 for non-residents. All campers will received a soccer ball, T-shirt, a 4x6 photo with their coaches, a certificate of completion and a pizza party. Register online at <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/>, call 410-250-0125 or stop by Northside Park for a registration form. Camp gift certificates are also available.

REINDEER GAMES

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. Holiday science, art and fun for 3 to 7 year old children. 410-641-0650

MAKE AND TAKE

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Use the maker cart to draw, paint and create. 410-957-0878

FAMILY NIGHT MOVIE

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 5:30 p.m. Enjoy the movie "Happy Feet" and popcorn. 410-524-1818

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. The group meets each Tuesday. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and health lifestyle. 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, DEC. 27

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>

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children, 7 years and older, will learn lifeguarding skills, play games, visit the local fire department and enjoy a pizza lunch. Participants must be strong swimmers. Cost is \$75 and includes a T-shirt, whistle, first-aid kit, lunch, snacks and drinks. Open to the public. Register: Ocean Pines Aquatics Department, 410-641-5255

LAP TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10:30 a.m. For chil-

dren under 2 and their caregivers. 410-208-4014

STORY TIME 'WARM AND COZY'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10:30 a.m. Best for 2 to 5 year old children but all are welcome. 410-524-1818

STITCH-N-SIP FIBER ARTS GROUP

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 11 a.m. Open to people who knit, crochet, cross stitch and all other textile arts. Beginners welcome. Light refreshments provided. 410-957-0878

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 to 9 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina Beach music. A \$5 donation per person to benefit Veterans and local charities in the Delmarva region. Elk members and their guests welcome. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

ONGOING EVENTS

BERLIN RESTAURANT WEEK

Participating restaurants will feature food and drink specials for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner and dessert, from Jan. 8-14. Customers can also participate in a raffle to win a basket of gift cards and \$100 cash. Participants will be given a card to be stamped at three different locations and turned into the Berlin Welcome Center. <http://www.berlinmd.gov>

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, through Dec. 31. Featuring more than one million holiday lights and hundreds of animated light displays. The heated Winterfest Village pavilion, features photos with Santa and hot chocolate. Admission is board the train is \$5 for adults 12 years and older. Children, 11 years and younger, ride free. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. www.ococean.com

CRAFTY SATURDAY MADE & TAKE 'WINTER HOLIDAYS'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road,

Duo heads south, Appalachian Trail hike moved to Fla.

(Dec. 21, 2017) Two intrepid women began a long Appalachian Trail hike in support of the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund last week, but due to unforeseen circumstances, Snow Hill resident Jean Schrecengost and her friend, Melissa Ordway of Alaska, have had to change their venue.

They will now be hiking the Florida Trail from Pensacola to the Everglades, 1,000 miles.

"I commend and admire these two women for continuing their mission despite setbacks. They are an inspiration to many who struggle with mental illness and suicidal thoughts," said Fund President Kim Klump. "They are spreading the word about warning signs of depression and suicide and fundraising for the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund."

Schrecengost, 37, and Ordway, 36, were scheduled to start their trek in New Hampshire on Dec. 13 and head south before finishing up on Feb. 1 in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, depending on the weather. Now they have moved further south. They will still be distributing information about suicide prevention and awareness in addition to posting on Facebook throughout their journey.

This is not their first time on the trail. The duo completed the Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Pine Grove portion of the trail, from April to July in 2013. The entire Appalachian Trail is approximately 2,181 miles.

Ocean Pines, MD, every Saturday in December, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Use your imagination to create holiday themed crafts provided by the library. For all ages. 410-208-4014

MAKE & TAKE 'GIFT TAGS'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, through December. The Make & Take cart will feature supplies to decorate your own gift tags. 410-524-1818

BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Any branch, through January. Need some one-on-one help with your resume, job application, E-Reader or basic computer skills? Contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment.

2018 ADULT READING CHALLENGE

Stop by the Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD in January to pick up a checklist for the challenge. Check off categories as you complete them and come back to the library to be eligible for prizes. 410-632-3495

MAKE & TAKE 'BINOCULARS'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, all through January. The Make & Take cart will feature supplies to decorate your own dinocu-



PHOTO COURTESY JEAN SCHRECENGOST
Friends, Jean Schrecengost, left, and Melissa Ordway will walk the Appalachian Trail from Pensacola to the Everglades in Florida while raising awareness and funds for the local Jesse Klump Memorial Fund.

"The goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund," Schrecengost said. "This is an important and worthy cause because it affects every single person in the world. A large part of the greater community is struggling with addiction, which is a part of mental health. It is important to create a space to talk about it and not be ashamed."

Visit "On The Trail To End Suicide" on Facebook for updates. Donate at <https://jessesaddle.donorpages.com/OntheTrailtoEndSuici/OntheTrailtoEndSuiciname>.

lars. 410-524-1818

BAY TO OCEAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

This is a day for all who have been inspired to write a blog or poetry, research non-fiction, get cracking at that next novel or increase your income with other forms of writing. Offering a holiday gift discount for non-members, now thru Dec. 31, of \$95. Go to www.easternshorewriters.org and register before Dec. 31. After that the price is \$120.

TRIP TO JAMAICA RAFFLE

Believe In Tomorrow candidate Maria McEvoy is raffling off a four night, five day trip to Jamaica at Sandals Resort in Ocho Rios. Tickets cost \$10 each or 3 for \$20. The drawing will take place on Prom Night (Feb. 3, 2018). For tickets, stop by Sandals Bridal Shop in West Ocean City or call McEvoy at 443-944-4763. Funds can also be doated through www.gofundme.com/believein-tomorrow.

AUTOGRAPHED GUITAR RAFFLE

Believe In Tomorrow candidate EJ Foxx is having an ongoing autographed guitar auction, which is signed by Jason Aldean, Brothers Osbourne, Luke Bryan and Brad Paisley. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the K107.7 station in Salisbury or at various locations announced on the radio station.

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