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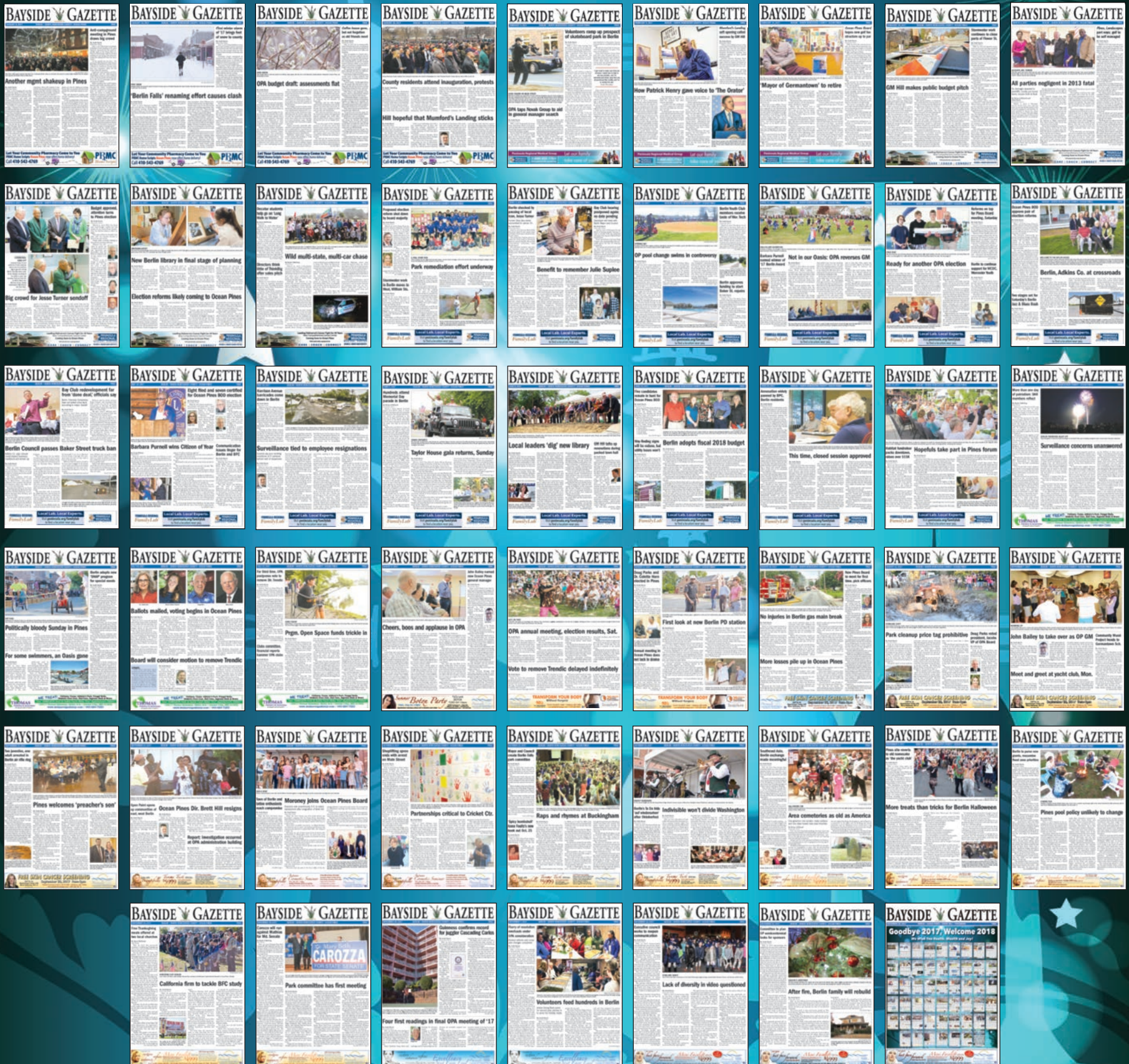
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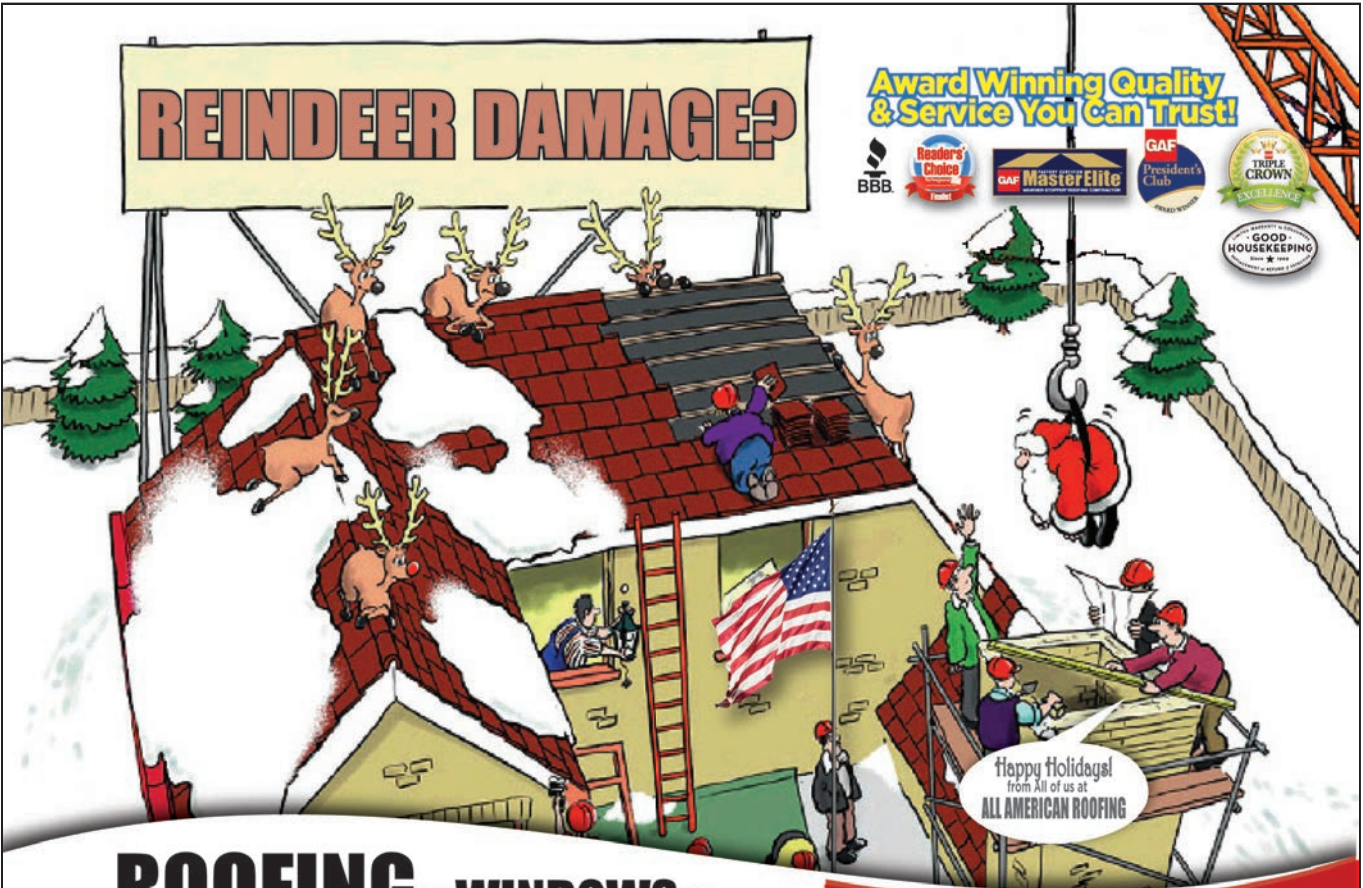
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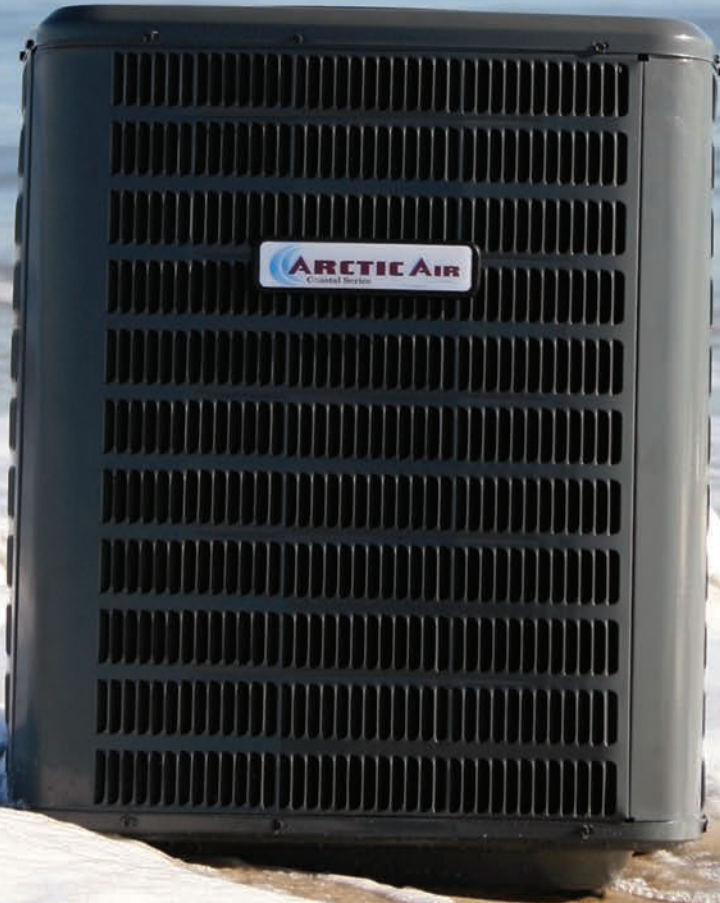


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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Remembering Shoe Box owner Jesse Turner

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 28, 2017) Berlin and the surrounding area lost many familiar faces in 2017, from Julie Suplee and former Mayor Rex Hailey, to former Ocean Pines Directors Bill Zawacki and Dan Stachurski, to unofficial town mascots like Brady in Berlin and Sarge in Snow Hill.

Another loss that reverberated through the community was that of Jesse Turner.

Former owner of the Berlin Shoe Box, Turner passed away on Friday, March 31 following a battle with cancer. He operated the iconic shop in downtown Berlin for several decades.

His influence, however, was more than business owner and cobbler. People in the community fondly referred to him "The Mayor of Germantown."

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams reacted to the news of Turner's passing by saying, "Shock is an understatement."

"I'm just so thankful that the mayor and council and the entire community got a chance to express and show our appreciation to Jesse and to let him know how much he meant to us," Williams said. "I wish he had had a longer retirement, but he certainly had a wonderful life in all the classic terms."

"He will be long, long remembered," Williams added.

Family friend Gregory Purnell said he had lost "Masonic Brother," and the entire community had lost a good friend.

"This community will always remember him as a true servant," Purnell said. "Jesse was one of those once-in-a-lifetime figures. He strived for excellence, and sitting at his feet taught me much about being of service to our community in particular and mankind in general."

"He will create a gap that will require more than any one man to fill," Purnell added. "His life was synergistic – he was a man without peer."

Turner spoke about his life and his legacy during an extensive interview in the Gazette in February, following

the public announcement of his retirement.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and the longtime organizer of the Old Fashioned Memorial Day Parade in Berlin as well as a past master of the Masonic Lodge, past president of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and member of the American Legion Post 231 – not to mention a husband, father and grandfather – and the most successful racer in the history of the

"We were working people [and] he owned half of Germantown," Turner said. "He was a local preacher at New Bethel Church, and I would sit right in the front row."

Despite coming from what would have been middle-class roots, Turner set about to make a name for himself independent of his upbringing. After high school, he landed a job in a chicken plant, although he only lasted for about a week.

shoes and just keep getting them fixed," having new heels and soles put on, rather than discarding them.

The clientele at the time was a melting pot of the county – rural and middle-class, black and white, from field hands and factory workers to schoolteachers, all coming to the same place for the same reason.

Work was briefly interrupted when Turner was drafted into the army in 1954. He served for two years, taking



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Shoe Box owner Jesse Turner passed away suddenly in March at the age of 86, just weeks after announcing his retirement. Turner was heavily involved in the Berlin and Germantown communities for most of his life.

Berlin Bathtub Races.

Born in Accomack County, Virginia in 1930, Turner moved to the area when he was five years old. His grandmother, who worked in a tomato cannery, and his step-grandfather, I.B. Henry, raised him.

Henry was a farmer and a landowner who came into Turner's life a year or two after the family moved to Worcester County. Along with being a father figure, he would become a mentor.

Walking down Commerce Street in Berlin, Turner noticed a large "help wanted" sign in the window of Joe's Shoe Store, a sales and repair shop run by Philadelphia native Joe Ciacco. The year was 1949.

"I came uptown where I could kick my boots off and that was it," Turner said.

Business was steady, as buying new footwear was not a regular practice during the early 1950s. Turner said most people would "hang onto

basic training in Columbia, South Carolina and then moving between bases in Georgia and Arizona. After his tour of duty ended, he resumed his job in Berlin.

During the 1960s, Joe's Shoe Store moved to 112 North Main Street.

It became Berlin Shoe Box when Ciacco retired and Norman Bunting took over during the mid-1980s. Turner would buy the business in 1988.

Continued on Page 5

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

‘Mayor of Germantown’ was integral to town

Continued from Page 4

Still, Turner did much more during that span than simply cobble and wait for his turn to own the business. He joined the American Legion upon his return from the army, and was a leading member of the Masons for more than 50 years.

He also sold cars in the 1960s, learning from Wilmore Teagle, and became a landowner and landlord during that time – using whatever

money he made to buy small pieces of property, one-by-one. He also started what would become the largest grass-cutting service in the county.

Turner was instrumental in the development of the Germantown School, and he helped resurrect the Memorial Day Parade on Flower Street in Berlin.

Around 1990, Turner became active in the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. He was president of that

organization when the late Jim Barrett launched the Bathtub Races – now a tent pole event in the town – and he later became the most-successful entrant.

He remained an integral part of Berlin during the last decade, when the Main Street started earning “best of” honors among small towns, both statewide and nationally.

“Just about everything they had in town, I would participate in,” Turner said. “I just feel good about it, I tell you. The town’s moving and I see it moving more and more in the last five years – it really jumped. You see a lot of improvements and you hope it carries on.”

His overall legacy, as Turner saw it, was as a businessman.

“I enjoyed all of things that I’ve done,” he said. “And I enjoyed making money. The more I made, it just kept coming to me.”

He employed dozens – perhaps hundreds – during his years as a business owner, and gave shelter to many more as a landlord. He served his community on nonprofit boards and as a community organizer, and was an active member of New Bethel United Methodist Church.

His influence was undeniable. On several occasions during the inter-

view, Turner had to stop to inform customers he was no longer taking work orders.

He stopped each time they came in and paused to talk to them, going as far as to tell one woman, with step-by-step instructions, how he would have fixed her tattered leather shoe.

When asked how far away the closest cobbler was, he told the would-be customers to try shops in Salisbury – or Dover.

“What I’m going to miss most is being on Main Street,” Turner said. “Most of the time I’m the first shop that they see when they park their cars. They come in and ask a lot of questions about where is such a thing and what’s the best place to eat. And a lot of times, at City Hall, if they want to know something about [the town’s] history they send them down here to me.”

Berlin resident Purnell, who knew Turner for more than half a century, called him “a Martin Luther King that didn’t speak.”

“This man is an icon,” Purnell said. “He’s known the shore over. How he has helped people and helped the community is a story unto itself. Whatever you want to do in Germantown, even today, the first name that

See BERLIN Page 6



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Shoe Box owner Jesse Turner, after receiving a citation from the town, posed with members of his family and Berlin Mayor Gee Williams during a town council meeting in February. Turner, who had owned the Shoe Box since 1988, worked in the industry for 68 years.

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Berlin, county, state officials honored legacy of Jesse Turner

Continued from Page 5

will come up is Jesse Turner.”

Less than a month before he passed away, the Berlin mayor and Council recognized Turner during a public meeting.

Turner sat in the front row with his family, including his wife, Agnes, and two daughters, as Williams called him, “very respected and loved member of Main Street, Berlin.”

“I can’t remember when I didn’t know Jesse, and I think most of us who live in town can say the same,” Williams said. “One thing that’s been consistent, regardless of what the town’s been through ... Jesse has always been one of the most-consistent gentlemen we’ve ever had, and we thank you for that.”

Turner received a proclamation from the town. It stated he graduated from high school in 1949 and responded to a help-wanted ad for a “shoe shine boy.”

“He continued to work hard, learning the trade, advancing and becoming an experienced shoe cobbler, where he continued working for the next 68 years,” Williams read.

Turner had his picture taken with the mayor and the framed citation, and with members of his family, before receiving a warm round of applause from audience in the council chamber.

“I’ll still be around,” Turner said, drawing a laugh, before exiting the room.

Another ceremony honoring Turner was held at the Berlin Visitor’s Center a week later, when close to 100 people came to pay their respects.

Among them were old friends, many dressed up for the occasion, along with fellow Main Street business owners and a handful of local politicians who brought proclamations for a man who obviously meant a lot to the town during his 68 years in business.

Turner was also dressed up, sporting a dark green sports coat that could have doubled for business casual on St. Patrick’s Day. He stood in the center of the room between Williams and County Commissioner Bud Church.

Carol Rose, chairwoman of several Berlin committees, flanked Church and represented Del. Mary Beth Carozza and Del. Charles Otto.

A cake with white icing and the Berlin Shoe Box logo sat on a small table in the back of the room. It was inscribed, “Happy retirement Mr. Jesse Turner. We will miss you!”

“This is a very special occasion – the first of its kind in the 150-year town history. But not many people come along in 150 years like Jesse,” Williams said. “We’ve kept him out of trouble for as long as we can, but he’s also done some wonderful things for so many people.”

Williams said Turner spent his entire adult life helping people. Many of those people, Williams said, had nowhere else to turn.

“From my perspective, as the mayor, this town has come on a long, long journey since it’s founding,” Williams said. “And just remember that every journey begins with a first step, and this gentleman next to me, Jesse Turner, has helped people to make those steps day after day, year after year, decade after decade.”

Church presented a letter of recognition to Turner on behalf of the county commissioners. He said he and Turner went back a long way and joked traffic on Main Street would likely drop about 25 percent without the Shoe Box.

“Between my wife and I, my kids and my grandkids, we’ve spent enough money in Jesse’s store that he should’ve retired 10 years ago,” Church said, drawing a big laugh.

“We have spent a lot of time together, all enjoyable, he continued. “He’s been my hero, he’s been my pal, and I’m glad you’re finally taking a little time off to smell the roses.”

Church said Turner ran an iconic business and was a community leader.

“This is from all the county commissioners and all of the citizens of Worcester County. You’re a hero. You’re an icon,” Church said.

Rose said it was a big deal for her to be there to honor Turner because she has known him since childhood. She presented him a proclamation on behalf of Carozza and the state senate.

Turner spoke last.

“I want to thank everybody for supporting me in my time being here,” he said. “It’s been a pleasure.”

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Pocomoke City digs deep for water solution

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 28, 2017) As Pocomoke officials pushed toward two solutions to address decades-old water quality issues in 2017, residents are holding out hope red-tinged flow from their faucets will soon become a distant memory.

In early December, City Manager Bobby Cowger said public work crews would be removing underground water pipe in the Pocomoke Heights area on 14th Street. This action came about after unexpected insights were gained following a water leak the previous month in front of the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company.

"We had cut out a piece of the existing water pipe that was there," he said. "This is on Market Street, and it's leaving and going down into the Heights."

After installing a foot of plastic piping to replace the removed section, Cowger said crews opened a nearby fire hydrant and let it run for 20 minutes, before sampling water quality.

Mayor Bruce Morrison related his experience during the November water testing.

"I was totally shocked when I put my hand inside a pipe and it came out black," he said. "It was greasy. The hydrant ran for 35-40 minutes and it never cleared up."

Cowger said the initial section on 14th Street would be done in-house for about \$25,000 in materials and \$15,000 in labor, while estimating a contractor would charge closer to \$100,000 for the equivalent work.

"Every pipe we do, there should be a little bit of an improvement, especially where our water treatment plant is being rehabbed," he said. "That'll be done by the end of December or middle of January at the latest."

Cowger said the town also would investigate obtaining a grant, for at least \$1 million, through the Maryland Department of the Environment.

"We're going to take a full look at the entire pipes, some of Market Street and any other bad areas that we've having, and we're going to put a grant application in to see how much money we can get," he said. "We do feel that we have an upper hand on getting a grant because of the [poor] quality of our infrastructure and the quality of water that's coming out of it."

In May, the City Council approved a \$100,000 emergency expenditure for repairs at the water treatment plant based on a suggestion from former City manager Ernie Crofoot.

Crofoot had presented the council a report by Hungerford & Terry, a water treatment contractor, which identified problems with the filtering

media and water flow control valves at the treatment plant.

"Over the years, the backwashing apparently has been at an inappropriate pressure, which has caused a significant amount of the filtering material to go down the drain," he said. "There were also valves ... not opening and closing at the right time."

In addition to replacing six water valves, Crofoot said the report also recommended changing the filter media in four water filters.

"They say we should consider this as an emergency situation to repair and, quite frankly, I understand why," he said. "The filtering mechanism we need in our water filters isn't there."

When backwash pressure levels are set appropriately, Crofoot said, impurities are removed while the media is flushed and water is filtered.

"If the pressure's too high, that media goes out with the stuff that's washed out of the filters," he said.

In July, the council approved borrowing an additional \$259,000 to complete the repairs at the water treatment plant.

City Clerk Carol Sullivan said the city received bids from two local contractors to replace filtering media, butterfly valves and water meters, with Somerset Well Drilling, in Westover, selected for the project.

Included in the scope of the project, Somerset Drilling will remove

See CITY Page 8



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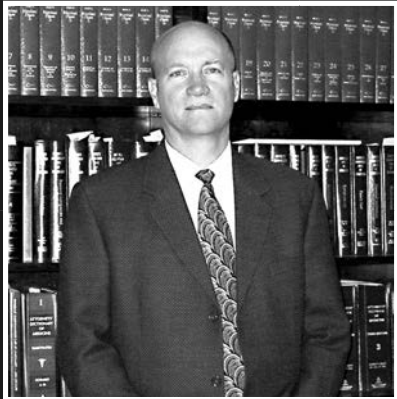
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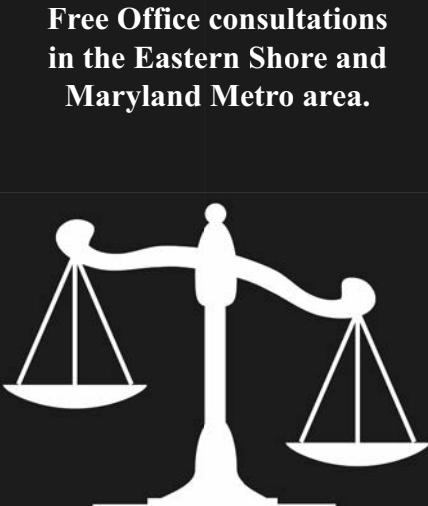
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pocomoke City Public Works in December started replacing water pipes in the Pocomoke Heights area. City Manager Bobby Cowger said the work, intended to improve water quality, was “30 years in waiting.” The projected is estimated to last three weeks.

City plans phased approach
to replace old water pipes

Continued from Page 7

and replace filtering media in all four tanks at the water treatment plant. New support beds of gravel, green-sand and anthracite will be installed. Also, 17 butterfly valves will be replaced.

Another approach came to light during a council meeting in early November when Cowger presented a section of heavily corroded underground water pipe discovered after an unanticipated water leak on Market Street.

Councilmember George Tasker said the section of pipe had an unpleasant and all-too-familiar aroma.

“You can take that pipe and scratch and sniff it, and it smells just like what comes out of my spigot,” he said. “How are you going to get rid of that smell unless you change the pipes?”

With underground metal piping that dates back roughly six decades in some cases, Cowger said the solution is self-evident.

“That piping needs to be replaced,”

he said. “It’s time that we need to address it, whatever we’ve got to do.”

Engineers contacted by the city had suggested deficiencies at the water plant caused the brownish water residents, particularly in the Heights neighborhood, have complained about for years. However, Cowger said although the 20-year old facility needs repairs, the problem lies elsewhere.

“We’ve spent a lot of money with these engineers, you’re taking half a million to a million dollars, and the water is as bad or worse than it was 20 years ago,” he said. “The water was just like that in 1997 when the plant was brand new.”

Cowger, who came of age in the Heights, said solving the water quality problems is a top priority.

“The town has been waiting for 30 years. They’ve been misled for a long time by the past administration,” he said. “That was my number-one commitment when I came here, that I was going to do something. I’ve been here four months and now it’s coming to fruition.”



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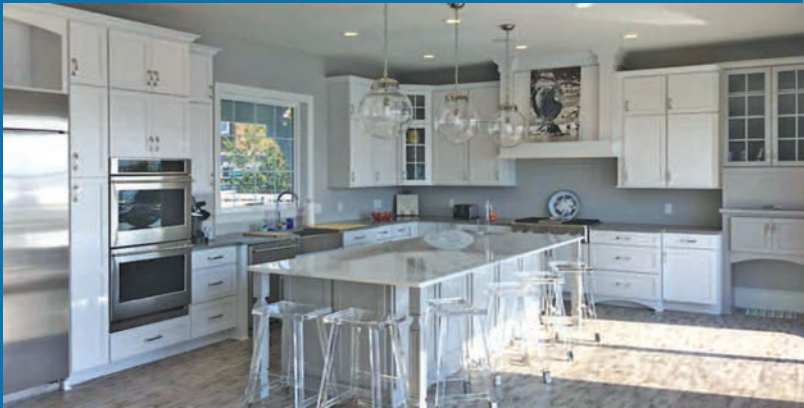


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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017



Former Ocean Pines Director Brett Hill, left, addressed the association in September 2016, shortly after taking over as interim general manager. Also pictured is Director Tom Herrick, who at the time had recently been named association president.

Divisiveness reigns during Brett Hill era in Ocean Pines

Key employee resignations mark tenure as interim GM

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor
(Dec. 28, 2017) While there was no shortage of political lightning rods in Washington during 2017, Ocean Pines saw its own share of intrigue as Brett Hill, a fresh face during the election the previous August, swiftly assumed a pivotal role as both board member and interim general manager.

Hill was plagued by controversy throughout the year and his legacy, as it stands, is one of historic financial losses, allegations of wrongdoing and the departure of some high-level employees.

News broke just before the New Year that yacht club manager Jerry Lewis was fired. Not long before, the yacht club itself was rebranded “Mumford’s Landing,” the restaurant inside redesigned “The Cove at Mumford’s Landing,” and a new 20-foot bar just inside the main entrance was to be called “Tuffy’s Tavern.”

Hill was given room by the board to make adjustments at the yacht club and other Ocean Pines amenities, including the beach club and country club, but often, what initially seemed like sound ideas, including interior renovations at both facilities, had seemingly opposite effects.

New Year’s Eve did not go over well at the yacht club, when the computer systems crashed and the only dishwasher on duty sliced his hand open early during the evening. As a result, the executive chef also left to drive the injured worker to the hospital.

Other problems rippled throughout the amenity and most of the staff was subsequently let go.

“I think we hit kind of a breaking point where everything just kind of burst at the same time,” Hill later said. “All I can say is thank goodness it’s January. If this was June, the cost to the association would be unimaginable.”

Many of those issues persisted and the club posted disastrous numbers throughout the summer, including net operating losses of more than \$160,000 in July and \$230,000 in August.

Meanwhile, a mass exodus of personnel occurred during Hill’s watch, including Chief Financial Officer Mary Bosack, Controller Art Carmine, Beach Club Manager Lynda Huettner, Golf Course Superintendent Rusty McLendon, Facilities Manager Jerry Aveta, Recreation and Parks Director Sonya Bounds, Marketing and Public Relations Director Teresa Travatello, Office Coordinator Linda Martin and information tech-

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Director Trendic led opposition of Hill policies

nology specialist Paul Fazzalaro.

Ocean Pines also parted ways with several individuals and firms with which it had worked with for a decade or more, including long-time bulkhead repair and replacement contractor Dean Fisher and Fisher Marine, attorney Joe Moore, and auditing firm Trice, Geary and Myers LLC.

While some high-level departures, like Carmine, were believed to be cases of retirement, many others were reportedly because of Hill's management style.

Among the accusations were that video and audio surveillance took place inside offices at the administration building and at other facilities in Ocean Pines, as instituted and monitored by Hill.

Sources said employees sought help from the board leadership, but got no response.

"The environment has become very toxic and the working conditions are very unhealthy and stressful," one official said on condition of anonymity.

Those environments and months of bad blood between Hill and several board members boiled over during a meeting in July.

Director Cheryl Jacobs said an ar-

ticle in a local monthly newspaper accused her and Director Slobodan Trendic of approaching Ocean Pines employees to undermine Hill.

Jacobs said that was incorrect and that several employees had approached her, asking for help. Normally in Ocean Pines the general manager would handle human resources issues, but because Hill was serving as interim general manager and was the subject of the complaints, that was not possible.

"We are in a different situation now with our interim GM, who has created all kinds of chaos as it relates to employment and I am no longer doing to be silent about this and have my name defamed," Jacobs said.

"The only thing I have ever done is keep the confidence of employees who felt uncomfortable going in any other direction," she said. "And because I'm an attorney and because they knew they knew that they could come to me in confidence and it would not be breached – that's what happened."

"That's because of the situation we have found ourselves in, thanks to Mr. Hill," she continued. "And I am not going to be defamed by ... anybody else because I have done nothing other than try to be helpful to



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association Director Slobodan Trendic gathered himself before speaking during a public meeting in July. An unusually large and rowdy crowd attended the meeting, breaking into applause several dozen times and, occasionally, booing several of the board members.

employees who find themselves in this predicament.

"I have not gone to anybody. I didn't go to Mary Bosack – Mary Bosack came to us," Jacobs said. "Mary Bosack came to us because she went to other directors and felt her complaints fell on deaf ears, so much to

the point that she felt she had no recourse but to resign, so don't you dare accuse me of any wrong doing – I have done nothing wrong."

Trendic was also critical of Hill, saying there was "chaos going on at the operational level that some of us

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Bailey took over as general manager in Sept.

Continued from Page 11

have tried to put a stop to.”

Director Dave Stevens, however, said Trendic was the one responsible for the chaos.

“Your disagreements with the general manager have been open, and they have been carried to the employees,” he said.

Stevens said the directors, during a closed meeting in June, agreed to not approach employees – or the press – about the matter until a new general manager was hired.

“And yet you, Slobodan, are the first one to violate the agreement,” Stevens said. “Let’s settle down until we bring in a new general manager. And we want to bring in a new general manager where we all have happy faces. As I think Director Jacobs said, ‘you mean we have to pretend?’ And I said, yeah we do. As a matter of fact, it’s a good thing to do.

“We all know that there is one person who has created this chaos. Well, I think I’d almost agree with that, except I don’t think we agree on who it is, Slobodan. Many of us agree that it’s you,” Stevens continued. “You have consistently hammered at the

general manager since I don’t know when, with things that have no foundation.”

When Trendic appeared to laugh, Hill became indignant.

“None of this is funny,” Hill said. “This affects the lives of 8,000 homeowners and 300 employees. And you’re right, there is one person responsible, because it’s been six months that you have been after me.

“I’ve held the high road on all this. I’ve come in everyday, unpaid, and done the job at the expense of my family and my career, for the betterment of Ocean Pines. And you have constantly been on an attack for me,” Hill continued. “I don’t know how in the hell any general manager is going to come in here and succeed if you’re involved in anything related to Ocean Pines.

“This is not a funny matter – sitting in here with that smirk on your face and laughing about half the s... in this meeting today is absolute bull....,” Hill said. “This is ridiculous. I haven’t been the one going to the paper every week. I’ve been sitting here, doing the best I can for this association while two people constantly

undermine everything that this association is about. It is absolutely disgusting.”

Following the meeting, Hill proposed a motion to remove Trendic from office stating, “Director Trendic has conducted himself with behavior that has violated not only attorney-client privilege, but also breached his fiduciary responsibilities as an officer of the corporation by disclosing confidential information to the press, in public meetings and in direct conversations with employees.

“The board needs to discuss the ramifications of Director Trendic’s actions and determine the best course to move forward in the best interest of the entire Association.”

Several special meetings to vote on the motion were called, announced publicly, postponed, and were never held.

In August, an appointed director, Doug Parks, and a newcomer, Colette Horn, were elected to three-year terms on the board.

Later that month, Ocean Pines announced John Bailey would be the new general manager. He officially started on Sept. 11 and was intro-

duced that evening at the yacht club.

Bailey, in October, stated the facility would again be referred to as the yacht club and that it and all food and beverage operations were under his review.

Hill resigned from the board of directors on Sept. 15 and apparently resigned as head of his former company, FTS Fiber, shortly thereafter. Ted Moroney replaced him in Ocean Pines on Sept. 21.

Two lawsuits were filed against Hill in September and October alleging he did not repay the balance of loans intended for his company.

One of two lawsuits was decided in Worcester County Circuit Court in Snow Hill.

Circuit Court Judge Richard R. Bloxom signed a judgment of confession against Hill on Oct. 31 for \$108,120.90. The suit was originally filed on Oct. 6.

Kenneth Lawhorn filed an earlier suit against Hill in the circuit court Sept. 15, alleging Hill did not pay back the balance of an \$80,000 loan. That suit appears to still be open.

Lawhorn was a senior advisor to Hill at FTS Fiber.

Contested elections in Pocomoke, Snow Hill

Mayor Bruce Morrison was hospitalized in November after subdural hematoma

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 28, 2107) Voters in Pocomoke and Snow Hill went to the polls this spring for a pair of contested council races, in one case returning a familiar face, while welcoming a new official in another.

The Pocomoke District 3 race pitted incumbent Councilman Dale Trotter against challenger Monna Van Ess on April 4.

Trotter was returned to office after defeating Van Ess 86-67.

Mayor Bruce Morrison ran unopposed for his third term in office.

During the campaign, Trotter said serving the residents of Pocomoke was his primary motivation for seeking office. He also noted a background in the military and law enforcement helped instill a service-oriented perspective.

“Service has been my watchword and I have made it a life-long aspiration and choice,” he said prior to the election. “During my first term as city councilman I have been, and remain committed to, making Pocomoke City a better place for us to live.”

Van Ess and her supporters campaigned vigorously, hanging fliers and knocking on doors to encourage

participation from the 250 households in District 3.

“I do know the town and I think I know what I’m getting into,” she said. “I think I know how to communicate or interpret things for people.”

Healing racial-based divisions between residents and police was another aim for Van Ess.

“I want to try to remove that divide and try to bring things together and have everybody live in peace,” she said.

The candidates shook hands and exchanged well wishes when the final vote count tally was announced at about 7:30 p.m. on April 4.

Trotter noted that evening’s turnout was larger than the 2014 election, when he received 62 votes. Van Ess concurred the community involvement in the municipal election was noteworthy.

“I think it was a big turnout,” she said. “The weather played a lot in that ... it was such a nice day.”

Van Ess said despite the election loss she would remain a fixture at council meetings, honoring her principal campaign pledge to provide a voice for residents.

Speaking on election night, Morrison expressed uncertainty about his own political future.

“Most likely, this would be my last term,” he said. “There are a few more things that I need to complete [in office] that I had on my list.”

The three-term mayor, who previously served two-terms on the Pocomoke Council, is recovering after undergoing emergency surgery to treat a subdural hematoma. Morrison was rushed to the hospital overnight on Nov. 29 after losing consciousness.

On election night, Morrison said he “enjoyed every minute” of his time in office.

“After 15 years it’s time for some-

one else,” he said. “When I retire – when I finish – I’ll be 67.”

In Snow Hill, two political newcomers faced off for the Western District seat, with Latoya Purnell defeating Sylvester Dale by a 45-36 tally on May 2.

Councilwoman Jenny Hall, who was unopposed, returned for another term as Central District representative.

See PURNELL Page 13



LaToya Purnell embraced Sylvester Dale seconds after Mayor Charlie Dorman told the candidates for Snow Hill Council western district representative that Purnell had won the May 2 election by a 46-35 margin.

FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Purnell, Trotter win close elections

Continued from Page 12

Initially the sole entrant, Purnell announced her candidacy in mid-March after incumbent Michael Pruitt offered to step aside in an effort to improve minority representation on the council. An election was mandated when Dale submitted his application on the March 31 filing deadline.

Both candidates ran amicable campaigns, with Dale explaining his rationale for entering the race was simply to give voters a choice.

"I know she lives right down the street from me and I have no objection against her running," he said. "The reason why I ran is I just didn't want one person to run."

After serving on multiple municipal boards, including the Property Reuse Committee and the Housing Review Committee, Dale said he hoped to continue the positive trend

the town has charted.

"It's changed for the good, Snow Hill has," he said. "There have been a lot of improvements in town."

For her part, Purnell said engaging the community was the most rewarding part of her campaign.

"The outpouring of support has really been amazing," she said. "I've been truly blessed to be able to network with people."

Both council hopefuls worked the shoe leather to share their visions for positively impacting Snow Hill directly with constituents, with Purnell expressing pleasant surprise at the community reception.

"I had a lot of people that I was hesitant to approach and they welcomed me with open arms," she said. "I've had people come to my house to talk to me."

Dale, who served as a Marine during the Vietnam War, attempted a

similar approach during the amicable campaign.

"I'm a battlefield man, so I walked door to door and exposed myself," he said. "I think that was the best way to talk to people."

On election night, both candidates huddled outside the Old Train Station on Belt Street awaiting vote totals. Despite coming up just short, when Dale learned Purnell was victorious his face beamed approvingly as the pair embraced.

Mayor Charlie Dorman thanked both candidates for their well-run campaigns and desire to improve the community.

In 2018, Pocomoke Council members Brian Hirshman, District 4, and Esther Troast, District 5, end their current terms.

In Snow Hill, Dorman and Eastern District representative Alison Cook are up for re-election next year.

Year of quiet progress at Berlin Falls

Project coordinator hired, committees formed and several studies came back

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 28, 2017) What started with a raucous meeting in January turned into a quietly productive year for the yet-to-be-developed Berlin Falls park.

Behind the scenes, and during several committee meetings, groundwork was laid that should benefit advancements at the former industrial site for years to come.

It all started when resident Bill

Todd, during a mayor and council meeting, offered a petition he said was signed by 300 people to rename the park in honor of former mailman James Tingle. A large crowd was present and Todd had spoken about the idea extensively on social media, in at least two newspapers – including this one – and on the radio.

He did not, however, run the idea by Mayor Gee Williams before approaching the council, and Williams was quick to show his displeasure.

Todd said he wanted to rename the park "in honor of a beloved member of our community ... for his 30 years of service to the United States Postal Service."

"The people who've signed this petition feel that he's worthy of this honor," Todd said. "He went well above and beyond what is called for, for the average postal worker. He was a great ambassador for this town when he was working and he is very highly thought of by the people that know him."

Todd added the petition was "reflective of a popular sentiment around that town that the name of our newest park, Berlin Falls, is not very well received at all."

Williams objected to the way Todd had handled the petition.

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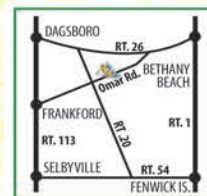
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Controversy leads to new public naming policy

Continued from Page 13

“This is Mickey Mouse,” Williams said. “This is not the way representative government works. No one called me. No one called the council. No one said, ‘Hey, we have some ideas here.’”

He said this was the first “social media driven petition” the council had faced, adding, “it does not meet any of the standards which I think are critically important to a fair and well-represented government.”

“This is the wrong thing at the wrong way at the wrong time, and

nobody even bothered to ask about the name,” Williams said. “That’s not the way we got to where we are.”

Several others present during the meeting voiced their own opinions and things appeared to be getting out of hand, when Councilman Zackery Tyndall, looking to diffuse the situation, suggested the town come up with a blanket policy on naming both public property that is donated and property that is purchased by the town.

Tyndall moved to form a committee to study the issue and said Todd

should be a part of that as “a representative of the people” who signed the petition.

A vote on the motion was unanimous.

“We have talked about the obligation of government and who’s supposed to do what here this evening,” Councilman Dean Burrell said. “I would like to suggest that we don’t place blame or point fingers, because I think as the Town of Berlin we’re bigger than that.”

“As part of this local government, I think one of our obligations is to lis-

ten. I can say that we have heard your concerns,” Burrell continued. “As we go forward, because this is not something we can settle or do here this evening ... your concern and your consideration will be weighed by not only the mayor, but by the entire council.”

“Speaking on behalf of the council, you can bet your bottom dollar that your concern will be considered,” Burrell said. “That’s why we’re here – that’s what we’re supposed to do. I just wanted to say that and to assure the group and the 300 petitioners that you’ve been heard.”

Two weeks later, during another public meeting, six voting members of the “Naming Parks and Public Spaces Committee” were announced. They included Todd, Tyndall and Burrell, as well as Berlin Parks Commission Chairman Mike Wiley, Berlin Historic District Commission Chairwoman Carol Rose and Berlin Arts & Entertainment Committee Chairwoman Heather Layton.

Also during the meeting, David Deutsch, a former city manager, was announced as the new project coordinator at Berlin Falls, overseeing the park’s development.

“It’s a great opportunity for the community and I appreciate the con-



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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Studies show high cost for park remediation

fidence that you've demonstrated with me," Deutsch said. "Clearly it's going to be a team effort, and once the project goes through a couple of phases I think the community will be really amazed at what can be produced out there. Developing consensus as we go through the project will be part of where I think I can be helpful in facilitating the various kinds of community meetings ... that need to happen."

By May, the Town Council unanimously adopted a naming and re-naming policy for town property developed by the committee, with Tyndall serving as chair and Town Administrator Laura Allen providing assistance.

Tyndall said the group worked well together, drafting a three-page policy based on a similar document used by a town in Florida.

The policy applied to town structures and real property including open spaces, parks and memorials.

Individuals or organizations can request names for existing items by submitting a written request to the town administrator. The policy says the mayor and council "may direct the town administrator to publicly solicit ideas for naming new items."

A public hearing must be held to

receive comments "on all naming or renaming requests," the policy states.

More than just policy work, the town also commissioned several studies designed to determine the cost to rehabilitate areas of the park once used for industrial purposes. The results of three such studies were announced in August and a fourth was announced in September.

The cost to return the lagoons at Berlin Falls park to a healthy standard could be more than \$6.7 million, according to a study by EA Engineering, Science and Technology Inc., and the cost to rehabilitate the property's main building could be more than \$2.3 million, based on a study by Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc.

The good news? A third study by volunteer scientist group Thriving Earth Exchange found that samples it took showed no presence of harmful pathogenic bacteria on the property.

Deutsch said the main building

had not been used for more than a dozen years. He said Davis, Bowen & Friedel sent a structural engineer to examine the building. The engineer produced a "detailed analysis of the condition of the walls, of the roof, of the flooring."

Deutsch said \$2.3 million "gets you a building that, basically, gets repaired ... but it doesn't give you a building that's ready for active use because there's no mechanical, electrical, heating, plumbing systems in place."

As a follow-up, he said the town requested an estimate on full or partial demolition of the structure.

"The ground is valuable for potential future activities, even if you decide not to retain the building," Deutsch said. "Those prices should be coming in shortly — as soon as they come in we'll report to you."

Allen said the EA Engineering and Thriving Earth Exchange studies were done to determine whether a

microbiological hazard was present in the sediment. She said initial tests of the water, before the purchase of the property, showed E. coli was present.

"The scientists determined there was no microbiological hazard, so there's no impetus or health and safety need to remediate the ponds. To me this is good news, because the EA report indicated if the town were to remediate all three of the ponds the price tag would be about \$7 million," Allen said.

She said EA was asked to provide a separate estimate to remediate the southern-most pond, closest to the park entrance.

"You might remember the preferred conceptual plan that the council had in place had that first pond filled in with an eye towards having an amphitheater or some sort of entertainment venue being constructed there," Allen said. "EA's estimate is about \$2.5 million to fill in that first pond, but do it in a way that would make it possible to construct on top, so we're not just talking about throwing in some soil."

The fourth study was presented to the council in September by Conservation Community Consultants, who

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'The scientists determined there was no microbiological hazard, so there's no impetus or health and safety need to remediate the ponds'

Town Administrator
Laura Allen

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Committee will help determine park purpose

Continued from Page 15
suggested the property was best served by drawing out and enhancing what was already there, rather than undertaking a major redevelopment.

At an estimated price tag of almost \$276,000, the report identified 11 projects ranging in cost from \$5,000 to \$75,000. However, with funding opportunities and possible town employee involvement, co-founder Dave Wilson said the actual cost could be much lower.

“Realistically, it’ll cost between \$150,000-\$180,000 to do everything ... The goal is to protect the natural assets and draw them out,” he said.

The costliest proposal was the addition of a nature playground to give children a centralized play place. Next, the report recommended adding five piers to the park, with a high chance of the town having to foot the bill.

The second-most expensive item in the report was wetland construction, although it was suggested the Chesapeake Bay Trust could help fund the project and possible involvement of Public Works could reduce the final price.

Other items included floating is-

lands, additional trails, tree and meadow planting, installing bird boxes, and adding interpretive panels describing local wildlife.

As for eventual development, Williams said the town was still “at the beginning of the beginning” and he planned to propose an advisory committee of both elected officials and private citizens.

“Yes, it’s ambitious and I know there are some people who think ... very small. This town did not get where it is by accepting what everybody else says is possible,” Williams said.

He called the park a “generational project ... that will evolve with the community and the interest of the community.”

“Youngsters in our community today will be playing a role and making decisions about future uses of this park,” Williams said. “As exciting as this project, I believe, is, we’re not going to set any artificial deadlines just because we want to see something happen right away.”

Membership of the latest committee was announced in October, and again it included Tyndall.

Other members of the Berlin Falls Park Advisory Committee are Councilman Troy Purnell and residents

Amy Barra, Amy Field, Roger Fitzgerald, Kate Gaddis, Bruce Hyder, Joan Maloof, Shaneka Nichols, Jack Orris and Kate Patton.

The group met for the first time in November, with additional assistance from Deutsch and Allen, and an introduction by Williams.

“This has been a long-anticipated evening,” Williams said. “When we first started discussing the possibility of what is, for now, called Berlin Falls park, we got a lot of laughs. We got a lot of people who said this is beyond anything Berlin can imagine.

“I can’t tell you how thrilled I am to be able to ... transfer the responsibility for this very unique opportunity to you folks,” he continued.

“Each of you brings some very unique talent to this endeavor, but you also bring what I’ll call an understanding that you belong to a greater family. And, like with any family, you just don’t care about your own lifetime ... but you think about the generations that will follow.”

Williams reiterated, as he has often done during Town Council meetings, that fully realizing the potential of the 60-acre property could take generations.

“There is a point in your life where you realize that you do as much as

you can and then you trust in the folks that follow. I have great trust in all of you,” he said. “Our little community has succeeded for the last several generations not because we’ve discovered some secret, but because we recognize we are family first.”

Deutsch said the group was “more than ... an academic exercise.”

“[We’re] really going to rely on you to help us move this process forward and focus on those options [of development],” he said.

He mentioned the YMCA as an organization he and other town planners have already met with, and said the property would need to balance active and passive uses, with more active uses likely on “the front half,” near Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Deutsch said the park needs to be inclusive of the entire community and any developments should compliment the downtown, but not detract from it.

“I think we’ve got a great opportunity here. We’ve got a great group of people with a diverse, community background,” Deutsch said.

The committee will meet again on Jan 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall. A tour of the property was tentatively set for Jan. 6 at 9 a.m.

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— Bayside Gazette Staff



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Two ceremonies for Berlin’s New Year

Family friendly bash planned at 6 p.m., ball drop at midnight

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 28, 2017) Berlin’s annual New Year’s Eve celebration will expand this year, with a separate ceremony for families and young children earlier during the evening as well as the traditional countdown at midnight.

A New Year’s Eve party is scheduled to run from 5-6 p.m., downtown, with free hot chocolate and cookies for children. The countdown, at 6 p.m., will coincide with the midnight festivities in Berlin, Germany.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the town would lower a special Christmas tree with a present underneath, rather than the traditional ball drop.

“When it gets lowered, a trap door opens with a fishing line and candy and glow sticks will drop out of the

bottom,” she said. “We’ll also be rolling out some giant plastic sheets of bubble wrap, so the kids can jump up and down.”

Councilman Thom Gulyas has, for several years, lobbied for an earlier start time.

“I’m very glad that the Mayor and Council are able to offer a traditional, early family event,” he said.

“Thom Gulyas is very excited about this,” Wells added. “He’s beyond excited. I think he’s going to be down there jumping on the bubble wrap too.”

For grownups, the traditional New Year’s Eve celebration will still be offered, culminating in a countdown and ball drop at midnight.

This year, rather than have a stage setup, Wells said emcees Big Al Reno and Schwab from Ocean 98 would run the show from the balcony of the Atlantic Hotel.

“We’re going to do a countdown projection clock on the side of the [Town Center Antiques] building, as well as a slide show of all

the photos that were taken this year,” Wells said.

The Atlantic Hotel will sell beer and wine from an outdoor bar and Burley Oak Brewing Company will sell locally brewed craft beer, with proceeds benefiting the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Council.

Wells said a special beer toast was planned at midnight, instead of the traditional champagne salute.

She said about 1,000 people generally attend the event, geared especially toward residents.

“The whole idea is to give people something to do, so they don’t have to drive anywhere,” she said. “They can just walk downtown and drink in the street and dance and have a good time, and then walk back home. Everyone’s invited to come, but it’s definitely a party for locals.”

Starting in the New Year, Berlin will celebrate the 150th incorporation of the town during dozens of sanctioned events, starting with Spring Celebration on March 31.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Oasis, but not an oasis; pool rules change sets off Pines

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 28, 2017) Of all the strange goings on that occurred in Ocean Pines this year, perhaps none elicited as much passion as the abrupt policy shift of the Oasis swimming pool.

In early spring, a seemingly small change to the schedule at the pool, nearest to the community yacht club, set off a firestorm and led to the board of directors calling a special meeting to address the controversy.

Resident Gary Miller, a member of both the clubs and aquatics advisory committees, noticed a change in the spring/summer issue of the Ocean Pines Activity Guide released on April 4 and brought it to the attention of several board members and others in the community.

On page 26 of the activity guide, the Oasis pool, formerly called the yacht club pool, was listed as the "Adults-only pool (except for Sundays June 4-Sept. 3, 2-6 p.m.)"

This was a shock to some members of the community because the Oasis pool had long been an adults-only facility. According to several sources, the changes were made by interim General Manager Brett Hill without consulting the other directors.

Miller stated his objections to the change in a letter to the board and local media on April 5.

At the time, several directors also spoke out.

"This change did not include any discussion with the Board. However, there will be discussion forthcoming. Speaking for myself, I am opposed to this change," Director Cheryl Jacobs said.

Director Doug Parks wrote he was in favor of maintaining the adults-only status of the pool, while Director Dave Stevens wrote in an email, "Changing a policy that has been in effect since the beginning of Ocean Pines nearly 50 years ago is hardly in the class of the routine ... I believe that the most straightforward way to address this issue is for a board majority to request a special meeting, which will make it clear that our long-standing use of the of the pool as 'adults-only' is policy."

About 200 people, an unusually large crowd, attended the special meeting and heard what they hoped: the introduction of family night on Sundays was not going to happen.

After hearing resident after resident decry the schedule shift, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors voted 5-2 to reverse Hill's decision.

That victory was short lived, and the board would announce in July via press release that the Oasis pool would now be open to all ages, all the time. The vote was held in closed session.

The text of the release read, "The Board of Directors of the Ocean Pines Association unanimously approved the following motion, introduced by Acting

General Manager Brett Hill, after consultation with legal counsel in closed session, on Sunday, July 9:

"I move that, after reviewing concerns raised by residents and legal counsel about whether the prohibiting children from using the adults only yacht club pool complies with state and federal law and Ocean Pines' tax exempt purposes, the prohibition on children using the yacht club pool is temporarily suspended to allow time for further review, effective immediately."

Hill elaborated on the announcement in a statement emailed to the Gazette.

"The pool has been restricted from those under the age of 18 for over 30 years," he wrote. "The decision was made after exhaustive research by our legal firm, Lerch, Early, and Brewer, who have extensive HOA experience. They searched for every reasonable alternative, but at this time, have been unable to find any."

"There was not a strong demand for change, but there has been significant dialogue regarding the legality of the operation, which prompted OPA attorney involvement. The decision agreed to yesterday was the recommendation of counsel, which was approved unanimously by the board."

"As far as a timeframe, the board took prompt action upon receiving the legal opinion, but is still exploring other avenues to accommodate a facility of similar operations if legally permissible in some manner for the association. There has been some initial resistance from regular users of the adult pool, however this was a matter of complying with the laws of the state of Maryland, and the Fair Housing Act, which supersede the authority of a Board."

After the decision was made public, a group of homeowners held a protest at the Oasis.

"Everybody's pissed," LizAnne Inscore, a part-time resident and homeowner, said. "There's five pools in the neighborhood and four allow children. This is the only adult-only [pool] and it's nice to come and relax and have some peace and quiet and not have to worry about little ones."

"We've raised our kids. We've been there, done that. It's just nice to have a place to ourselves," she added.

Homeowner Don Tomb called the policy change "the stupidest thing I've ever heard."

"They're cutting their own throats, because, as a consequence, there's a lot of people who aren't going to join - I'm not going to join. If I want to go swim with kids, I'd go to any of those other pools," he said. "I like nice peace and quiet. There's plenty other places for kids to go to swim."

He added allowing children to swim in a pool that was formerly restricted to adults, and often used by the elderly,

See CALMING Page 20



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YEAR IN REVIEW 2017



A larger-than-usual crowd turned out, last April, to voice opposition to a policy change at the adults-only Oasis pool in Ocean Pines.

FILE PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Calming rules sought for Pines pool

Continued from Page 19

adults, and often used by the elderly, was a safety issue.

"I'm not sure where [the decision] is coming from," he said. "I don't understand why kids want to come to this pool anyway. They can't dive, they can't jump in. There's no deep end. It makes no sense to me."

Miller would later resign from the aquatics committee to form the Oasis Pool Work Group and further look into the matter.

Aided by homeowner donations, Miller hired attorney Jim Almand from Ocean City firm Ayers, Jenkins, Gordy and Almand to get a second opinion, which apparently yielded some suggestions to soften the blow, but none to reverse the board decision.

Instead, the five women and two men present during the meeting considered rules that might help calm certain activities at the pool that were deemed undesirable.

"What we as group need to decide is what we want to recommend to the board and [Aquatics Director] Colby [Phillips]," Miller said. "As much as I would like to be able to say, 'Hey, we're going to get back an adults-only pool,' I don't think that's realistic. I think the best we can hope for is a quiet, adult-friendly Oasis pool."

About a week later, the committee forwarded to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors a four-page letter of recommendations.

"Unfortunately, this sudden and drastic change to a long-standing amenity, without public input or discussion, caused a tremendous amount of suspicion, frustration and anger among a large segment of Ocean Pines residents," the letter states.

"Many wonder how this could happen after so many years with no questions about the legality, and question if the law applies to a community that has five pools with only one designated as adult only. Because his research and legal recommendations were, and con-

tinued to be, discussed in closed session, many are suspicious of the findings acted on by the board.

"There were several heated confrontations this past summer between adults with young kids and long time YC pool users. Most of these were due to kids splashing and jumping near older residents, who were fearful of being knocked down and possibly injured. At times, the resulting confrontations almost got out of hand."

Almand's opinion, according to the statement, was changing pool rules to eliminate some of the behavior pool users found undesirable would be easier — and less legally treacherous — than banning younger swimmers altogether.

"There is ... currently no law that would prohibit Ocean Pines Aquatics from prohibiting certain types of conduct at a particular pool as long as it is age-neutral, meaning it has to apply to ALL patrons," the letter states. "The courts opinion specifically states that '...setting aside certain hours for lap swimming ... or imposing restrictions on making noise ... or running or roughhousing in the pool area' is allowed."

"After reviewing all of the information, it appears that Ocean Pines can best address this issue by creating a 'Quiet Pool,' an environment similar to an 'Adults-only' pool but without violating the FHA. This can be accomplished by prohibiting certain conduct at the pool rather than prohibiting a particular status or age group. Charging a premium rate for use of the Oasis pool, and addressing the underage alcohol consumption concerns are additional options."

The statement continued, "The best option, in our opinion, is to create a true 'Oasis Pool' atmosphere at the YC pool. This can be accomplished by instituting additional strict rules of conduct that will apply to EVERYONE using that pool, such as no running, no cannonballs, no shouting, no loud noises, no Marco-polo, etc."

"The problem with this plan is en-

forcing the new rules. Younger kids may not listen and some parents may not pay attention. Asking a young lifeguard to tell an adult that they have to keep their child quiet or under control is not going to work and is really not fair to the lifeguard."

The group recommended publicizing new rules "as soon as approved by the Board," and giving a copy and requiring a signature to anyone who purchases a pool membership or day pass. Adult lifeguards should be on duty at the pool and rules should be strictly enforced, the group stated.

Additionally, they advised emailing lapsed pool members to encourage their return.

"It is our hope that the efforts of this group of concerned Ocean Pines Residents to find a reasonable solution in an open public forum, to a problem that has divided the community, will be discussed and considered by the BOD and GM," the statement concluded. "We would also ask that these findings and recommendations be included as a topic in an upcoming public Board meeting."

Parks, who was appointed association president by a board vote in August, praised the work of the committee, but said it would not be a topic for discussion during the final board meeting of the year, Nov. 30.

"I applaud them for taking the initiative and vetting the process a little bit more," he said. "One, it validates the fact that the legal opinion was correct and there was no other recourse. It also showed there was a whole lot of passion there ... they took it upon themselves to get a number of different perspectives to see if there was anything else, rather than just throwing their arms up, and I applaud them. I think they did a service to the association by doing that."

"I think we should really move forward with the behavior aspects [of the pool]," he continued. "I think they're easy to identify and they're easy to manage when there's a set of rules of there."

Winter Quarters ongoing debate

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 28, 2017) With a six-month fiscal reprieve set to expire next month, the debate whether to maintain operations at Winter Quarters Golf Course despite prolonged financial losses will be revisited by the Pocomoke City Council at its meeting on Jan. 8.

With strong opinions on both sides of the issue, the topic generated prolonged and heated discussions at multiple council meetings and budget discussions during 2017.

Concerned over apparent rumors of closing the 9-hole municipal course, Will Stevenson, whose family donated the 45-acre parcel to Pocomoke, reviewed details of that arrangement during the April 10 council meeting.

"My family has lived in Pocomoke for over 200 years and promised to give the land for the golf course to the town in 1937."

With fiscal year 2018 budget work still looming, Stevenson understood sentiment existed to shutter the course, which lost approximately \$114,000 in fiscal 2016, with an anticipated shortfall of roughly \$143,000 in fiscal 2017.

Stevenson said the original agreement limited uses to either a municipal golf course or park facility for a period of 30 years, with an additional 100-year limitation on commercial development following that period.

Former Pocomoke City Manager Ernie Crofoot, while estimating the city's fiscal 2017 budget was on track to lose a half-million dollars, highlighted the municipal park concept as being a revenue neutral venture.

Crofoot reiterated that point, as the topic garnered increased attention, during the next council meeting on May 1.

"It's not a profitable venture," he said. "That takes truckloads of money and a passive park wouldn't do that. It would save a lot."

Continued on Page 21

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Future of Pocomoke golf course still up in air

Continued from Page 20

Concurring with Crofoot during the May 1 meeting was Monna Van Ess, who had conducted an impromptu community poll.

"I could not find any residents who want to keep it open," she said. "For 20 years, it lost almost a \$100,000 every year. It's time to call it quits."

Countering those arguments was Barbara Tull, with the Winter Quarters Ladies Golf Association, who spoke in favor of maintaining the course and increasing marketing efforts.

"The course has been and still is a very important part of Pocomoke City," she said.

Councilman Dale Trotter blamed the city.

"We have failed the golf course, not the golf course has failed us," he said.

During a city council budget work session on May 12, Trotter suggested funding the golf course for the next six months to see if the fiscal picture would brighten.

"If it's improved compared to previous years, then approve it again for the following six months," he said.

Crofoot said this strategy would cut the fiscal 2018 estimated net loss to approximately \$77,000, while noting after six months the budget could be amended to keep the course operational.

Later that month, more players entered the picture, as the course's future continued to elicit heated discussions as budget deliberations continued during the May 22 council meeting.

Duane Durham, a resident in the Winter Quarters neighborhood, presented a petition drive he spearheaded seeking the course's closure.

He also said resident Leona Hill had pledged \$25,000 in matching funds to convert the property into a park commemorating her two deceased children.

"I am not aware of any golfers offering substantial money to keep the property going as a golf course," he said.

Speaking in favor of preserving Winter Quarters was Jim Covington, who noted municipal parks have associated maintenance costs and raised safety concerns over potential criminal activity.

Covington also said efforts were underway to pursue a National Historic Registry designation for the course tied to the circa-1940 Winter Quarters Log Cabin located on the parcel.

John Linton, who recently purchased the adjacent "Winter Quarters," house, the centuries-old Stevenson family homestead, offered his assistance with developing a revived marketing campaign.

Winter Quarters resident Carol Stroh, See LOSSES Page 23



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Carol Stroh spoke about a campaign to have the Winter Quarters Golf Course declared a National Historic Site during the Pocomoke City Council meeting on May 22.

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www.duffysoc.com
Dec. 29: Bob Hughes, 5-9 p.m.
Dec. 31: DJ Lefty, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

DUNES MANOR

28th Street, Oceanfront
Ocean City



CHEST PAINS BJ'S ON THE WATER Saturday, December 30, 9 p.m.

410-289-1100
www.dunesmanor.com
Dec. 31: NYE Party w/Rewind (ticketed event), 8:30 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 29: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 30: Side Project/Chris Button, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 31: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

HARVEST MOON TAVERN

208 W. Green St.
Snow Hill
410-632-9890
harvestmoontavern@gmail.com
Dec. 29: Wayne George, 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. 29-31: On the Edge (OC)
Dec. 31: Power Play (CB)

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-4891
www.picklesoc.com
Dec. 30: Joey Harkum, 10 p.m.
Dec. 31: Bond & Bentley, 10 p.m.

PRINCESS ROYALE OCEANFRONT RESORT & CONDOMINIUMS

91st Street, Oceanfront
Ocean City

410-524-7777
www.princessroyale.com
Dec. 31: NYE Party w/Good Feet (ticketed event, Palmetto Ballroom), 9 p.m.; NYE Party w/Out of Order (ticketed event, Atrium Stars), 9 p.m.
Jan. 1: Penguin Swim w/Harry O, noon to 4 p.m.

PURPLE MOOSE SALOON

108 S. Atlantic Ave.
Ocean City
410-289-6953
www.purplemoosesaloon.com
Dec. 29-30: DJ Mazi, 9 p.m.
Dec. 31: One Louder, 10 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
www.secrets.com
Dec. 29: Nowhere Slow, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Dec. 30: John McNutt Band, 5-9 p.m.; Steal The Sky, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
Dec. 31: New Years Eve Bash starts at 5:30 p.m. Full Circle, 4-7:30 p.m.; Rew Smith, 8:15-11:30 p.m.; Garden State Radio, 8:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.; 9 Mile Roots, midnight to 3 a.m.; The Benderz, 1-4 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 31: NYE Party w/Monkee Paw, 9 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922
www.whiskersbar.com
Dec. 29: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



DJ JEREMY HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL Saturday, December 30, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Losses lessen, but still \$100,000

Continued from Page 20
said obtaining a historical designation could be a year-long process and asked the council to permit sufficient time for the multi-pronged effort to yield results.
“The Winter Quarters community will work with you,” she said. “We love it, so let’s make this work.”

The council held a first reading and public hearing on the fiscal 2018 budget at its June 5 meeting, which reviewed financial compromises and changes but failed to generate audience feedback.

The lack of public reaction was similar when the council approved the fiscal 2018 budget on second reading during its June 19 meeting. As previously proposed, the golf course was budgeted for the first half of fiscal 2018, at an estimated loss of more than \$76,000.

For the remainder of the summer, course advocates ramped up efforts to lure more golfers.

Bobby Cowger, who took the reins as city manager in late August, reviewed the first round of fiscal 2018 revenue figures at the Sept. 25 council meeting.

During July and August, Cowger said the course collected more than \$26,000 in revenue, but recorded expenses of more than \$31,000, creating an operat-

ing loss of about \$5,000.

“At this time last year, they were at about a \$20,000 loss in two months,” he said. “It’s on a better track than it was, by far.”

Based on cart rental fees, Cowger said play was nearly double what it was the year before.

Councilmember George Tasker said the data is evidence the campaign to revive the course has been impactful.

“It’s obvious that it was never advertised enough,” he said. “I think it’s a good idea [if] we find some revenues to be able to do the same thing again.”

Mayor Bruce Morrison agreed the revamped advertising campaign should be continued.

“That’s the only way it’s going to work,” he said. “You’ve got to advertise it.”

Cowger provided further financial numbers during the Dec. 4 council meeting, noting the course had revenue of approximately \$27,000 between July and November, up from roughly \$15,000 during that period in 2016.

“The play has picked up significantly and I think a lot of the advertising and some of the stuff that’s been changed definitely contributed to that,” he said.

“The play and revenue has [rebounded] from last year.”

Cowger said with expenses in the neighborhood of \$84,000, Winter Quarters has lost about \$46,000 during the current fiscal year.

“We’ll have to add December into it,” he said.

He estimated that figure could increase to approximately \$53,000 by month’s end, while also noting the course lost \$149,000 during fiscal 2015, \$155,000 during fiscal 2016 and \$143,000 during fiscal 2017.

“Looking at the play, if the weather holds up, the worst it would be this year would probably be \$100,000 [loss],” he said. “That puts it at anywhere from 30 to 50 percent better than it’s been for the last three years.”

Impressed by the turnaround, Tasker suggested holding off on deciding the future of Winter Quarters for the moment.

Councilwoman Esther Troast said if forced to vote she would opt to close the course.

“I’m on the fence,” she said. “My heart says don’t close it [but] my better judgment says to close it.”

The council voted unanimously to table any decisions until its next meeting.



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CHILDREN 9.⁹⁵

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Cuisine

Amazing community came through in ‘17

What in the name of all that is holy happened to this year? Ups and downs, peaks and valleys, good times and bad. Regardless, I have one thing to say: Goodbye 2017. Good riddance. Sayonara. Ciao. Adios. I digress.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

As we march ever so slowly through this holiday season, I once again find myself up against a deadline that is way too close for comfort. Not being one who believes in New Year's resolutions, I won't even pretend that I'm going to change next year. After all, it's only a handful of days away and I don't foresee any sort of

personal journey filled with introspective revelations that will assuage this terrible habit of mine.

With a phone call from an offshore fisherman who has hooked me up before, it looks like I'm getting my hands on some big bluefish, so that means I'm firing up my smoker after a quick brine. There is nothing better than a cold-water bluefish that is hot-smoked. So many people treat blues as trash fish or just throw them back, when in fact they are amazing and quite possibly the best smoking fish I have ever worked with.

Other friends of mine in Selbyville, Ashley and Brad, got a hold of a couple bags of true Chincoteague salts and threw me a nice box of them as a Christmas gift. They have helped tremendously with my house as I get it back in order and finally get moved in with the kids and my mother-in-law. They create magical pieces in their store Attics of my Life behind Town Hall in Selbyville and seriously make the coolest things out of anything that they can repurpose; vintage bikes, 100-year old barn wood, cabinets and more.

I'm lucky enough to have the propeller to the original Tortuga, Ocean City's first head boat that sank off Chincoteague. They salvage the wreckage and that piece of local history now adorns a cubby over the toilet in the master bath. I mean, where else would you put a boat propeller?

So, with a hot grill and some melted butter (adorned with some other ingredients), a simple flash on the barby yields me a delicious grilled oyster, which is an all-time southern favorite. Doused in the herbed butter, these mouth watering morsels will liven up any party, and since you will be reading this before New Year's Eve, it gives you plenty of time to visit your fishmonger and get a few dozen for your fete.

Usually, I write these articles after I have a picture and my mind can navigate through the visual nuances of the image. But not today. I am knocking this out first, and the more that I put down on paper (yes, virtual paper), the more I'm resembling Pavlov's dogs, drooling at the thought of throwing back a dozen of the perfect starters.

Hopefully I will have enough for New Year's, and if not I'll have to head off to hunt down some more of the elusive bastards to make a second batch. I haven't even eaten the first one and I'm ready for the second!

Which brings me to the last point of 2017 (as far as this column is concerned). As a family, we have learned some amazing lessons through our tribulations, and at the end of the day, we are lucky to have each other. 2017 may have presented us with



some life-changing hardships, but I once again learned exactly how amazing our community really is. Whether it was the fundraisers out in town, people reaching out to help with the kids, people allowing us to help them on their personal journeys in the horrible world of cancer, and generally just people being kind.

It all comes down to what we can do for others, regardless of what we're going through. Our friends and family need us as much as we need them, and sometimes strangers can use a smile or a helping hand as well. I guess if I could take one thing from 2017, that would be it.

So go out, help someone you don't know, love the world, find some new friends and make a difference. And then throw a party and grill some oysters as you bring this landmark year to a close.

Happy Holidays, from all of us to all of you!

Grilled Oysters

yields one dozen

- 1 dozen Chincoteague Salts
- 1 stick Unsalted butter
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed

- 3 Tbsp. Fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup Finely grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. Paprika
- 1/4 cup Italian parsley, minced

1. Scrub the oysters until they are nice and shiny and pat them dry
2. Melt the butter and cook until the water has evaporated and it starts to color
3. Add the remaining ingredients and remove from the heat, allowing the flavors to come together and marry. Set aside until the oysters are grilled
4. Heat your grill and simply lay your oysters on it in a single layer. As the oysters cook and steam, the shells will pop open
5. Remove the top shell and place on a plate or platter. You may use rock salt or, what I like to do, is to amend it with anise star, juniper berries, black peppercorns or anything else that will add a touch of aroma as you serve these
6. Pour the butter on the oysters and serve hot

— 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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- '05 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
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HARD - 71

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

CHAD	AMIDALA	ABCS	ABS
LEDE	REVELER	LOUIS	SNYE
EMUS	STIFF	FASABORDE	AUX
FILTH	HEY	ELAPSED	
TREPID	RONIN	BERMS	
ALSORAN	VANITY	PHARAOH	
NEWYORK	MEZZO	EAR	RDA
KAI	SIREE	SPRY	MEEK
ARMADA	RAD	BEEF	GABLE
MELBA	TUTTI	SLIT	
ROLLING	INTHE	DEPOT	
TERI	GAUNT	BYRON	
SILAS	GILT	FOE	STEPPE
OPEL	TURF	GESSO	HAT
CTA	HAL	IREST	MYQUESO
KOSHER	PICCOLO	NEUTRON	
SPEAR	REEKS	FINITO	
SEASONS	DEV	TEMPT	
LOVE	SIN	THE	ARROW
LOOK	AT	ME	ONGUARD
COW	MAID	WEEBLES	DEWS

MAKING A FAST BUCK

BY MARY LOU GUIZZO AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Speedway brand

4 West Indies native

9 Bounds along

14 "Just a ____!"

17 Drain opening

19 Chip away at

20 Symbol of the National Audubon Society

21 Colorado tributary

22 Plot device in "The Shining" that has significance when spelled backward

23 Restaurant chain founded by the Raffel brothers (hence the name)

24 Elevator choice

25 Turns briefly?

26 Some Carnival performances

28 Called from the cote

30 Telephotos, e.g.

32 Ancient Greek

34 Male that might be in a rut?

35 Stymies

37 Relative of a birch

38 College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

39 Country singer Crystal

40 Screwy

43 Pitch

46 One of the Wayans brothers

50 Wine: Prefix

DOWN

1 Tears to smithereens

2 It's read from a scroll

3 Large column of smoke

4 Terminated

5 Opposite of dep.

6 Heists

7 Description of rustic life

8 Importune

9 It moves a cursor back

10 Body check?

51 Christmas ____

52 Prince, e.g.

54 A, in Austria

55 Base supporting a statue

57 Branded baby carriers

61 Symbols on 10 state flags

63 They might be thrown around in a rodeo

65 Digitally endorse

66 Sleigh-bell sounds

67 Terminate

68 "____ God" (psalm words)

69 Chemistry exam?

70 Skin art, informally

71 Descartes's conclusion

72 Clear

73 Yule sound?

75 ____ guerre

77 Range grp.

78 & 80 One of TV's Property Brothers

82 "Really!"

83 Spotted

84 Nicholas, e.g.

86 Give a ring?

88 Hallmark.com suggestion

90 Divan

92 "____ welcome!"

93 Cow poke?

94 Avoid a bogey, barely

97 Neighbor of a bishop: Abbr.

98 Souped-up cars

102 Mahershala ____, Oscar winner for "Moonlight"

103 One of the record industry's former Big Four

104 Carpenter's aid

106 Hypotheticals

107 "Just kidding!"

108 Ainer of "Christmas in Rockefeller Center"

109 Sanctuary

111 "Hey ____" (1963 #1 hit)

113 Mobile home: Abbr.

114 Actress Audrey of "Amélie"

117 Animal on Scotland's coat of arms

119 Kind of cabinet

122 Written history

123 Who's depicted in this puzzle when the circled letters are connected from A to Z and back to A

124 Games of chance

125 Prison part

126 Sorts, as chicks

127 Downsize?

11 Whiz kids

12 Want-ad abbr.

13 Having streaks

14 W.W. II ordeal at Leningrad

15 Notably nonunionized workers

16 Mama of song

18 Decorates brilliantly

21 One of a dozen good things?

27 Friend

29 Oodles

31 Vulcan mind ____

33 Beginning to do well?

36 Kind of skirt

40 "Fanfare for the Common Man" composer

41 Hair straighteners

42 Licorice-flavored brew

44 Singer with a No. 1 hit about 123-Across

45 Feature depicted in the upper left of this puzzle

47 Hatmaker

48 Like van Gogh, in later life

49 Les ____, "WKRP in Cincinnati" news director

51 & 53 123-Across, in song

56 One of many in a Swiss Army knife

58 Letters on some Navy carriers

59 Infantry members, briefly

60 Alternative to J.F.K.

62 1990s tennis great Huber

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17			18	19				20					21		
22				23				24					25		
26				27		28		29				30	31		
	32				33		34			35	36				
			37				38			39					
40	41	42			43		44		45			46	47	48	49
50				51				52			53		54		
55				56		57		58	59	60		61	62		
63				64		65				66					
67			68			69				70			71		
72			73			74			75	76			77		
78		79		80			81		82				83		
	84		85		86		87				88	89			
			90		91		92			93					
94	95	96				97				98			99	100	101
102				103			104			105	106			107	
108				109		110			111	112				113	
114			115	116		117			118			119	120	121	
122						123						124			
	125						126						127		

64 Align

66 First name at Woodstock

74 Political org. since 1854

76 Shout of approval

79 Three ____ Men

81 Didn't hedge one's bets

82 Starting point for an annual flight

83 ____ City (Baghdad suburb)

85 "In your dreams!"

87 Result of a sack on third and long, maybe

89 Bunks in barracks robotically

91 "Brava!" elicitor

93 Punxsutawney prognosticator

94 Deliverer of Christmas packages

95 Capital whose name ends in its state's postal code

96 Cousin of an alpaca

99 Functioning robotically

100 Repetitive bit of computer code

101 A-listers

104 Boy in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

105 Tombstone marshals

110 California's Big ____

112 Durham sch.

115 Roofing material

116 ____ Father Christmas

118 Crew member

120 Games org.

121 Fiscal-year part: Abbr.

Calendar

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

THU, DEC. 28

PLAY TIME
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. Learn new skills while playing with educational toys. For infant to 5 year old children. 410-632-3495

STORY TIME ‘HAPPY NEW YEAR’
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-208-4014

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

STAR WARS PARTY
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Celebrate all things Star Wars. Costumes encouraged. 410-524-1818

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 2 to 3 p.m. Providing physical and emotional support for survivors and caregivers to share personal experiences and challenges. Coping strategies also discussed. Anne Waples, awaples@atlanticgeneral.org, 443-614-5720

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>

FIRESIDE CHAT
Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 3 p.m. Explore new authors and genres. Lively chat about favorite reads. 410-641-0650

FAMILY NIGHT ‘LEGO FIDGET SPINNERS’
Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Fun for the whole family. Teens welcome. 410-641-0650

FRI, DEC. 29

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HONORING VETS
Ocean Pines platform tennis honored veterans on Nov. 11 with an afternoon lunch and play. Over 40 people attended. Sue Walter in her tribute to veterans stated, “All military, active or retired, should have thanks and respect. A veteran, whether active duty, discharged, retired or reserve, is someone who at one time in his or her life wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for the amount of up to and including his or her life.”

NOON YEAR’S EVE PARTY!
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 11:30 a.m. Special celebration of the New Year. Count down to noon, make crafts and enjoy snacks. 410-524-1818

FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES
Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD, 7 to 11 p.m. Friday’s festivities include a holiday movie by the pool with free candy and popcorn, 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>

SAT, DEC. 30

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

HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. Join pianist Richard Eckerd and Perpetual Commotion for a holiday sing-a-long. Bring an instrument or use those provided. Snacks and hot cocoa with be provided. 410-208-4014

NOON YEAR’S PARTY
Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 11 a.m. Ring in the New Year a little early with crafts, food, music and a countdown at noon. Fun for

all ages. 410-957-0878

‘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 from 4-6 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>

SUN, DEC. 31

NEW YEAR’S EVE DAY WORSHIP
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. Celebration of carols, seasonal readings, John Wesley’s Covenant Service and Holy Communion. All are welcome. 410-641-2186

‘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.

NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St, Ocean City, MD 21842, 5:30 p.m. Hours for the Winterfest of Lights will be extended until midnight. Travel through the winter paradise of lights, listen to live enter-

tainment and enjoy hot chocolate while waiting for the countdown to midnight. Fireworks display begins at midnight. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326

MON, JAN. 1

24TH ANNUAL PENGUIN SWIM
Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 1 p.m. Registration and check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration and advance check-in from 2-4 p.m. on New Year’s Eve. Carnival games and other fanfare in the hotel’s atrium before and after the swim. Trophies awarded for top fundraising, best costume and oldest and youngest penguins. Same day registration is available at no extra charge. Proceeds benefit Atlantic General Hospital. Joy Stokes, penguinswim@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9671, <http://AGHpenguin-swim.org>

MAYOR’S NEW YEAR’S DAY CONCERT
Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Mayor Rick Meehan and members of the Ocean City Council will treat residents and visitors to a free concert. After a brief meet and greet, the concert will feature performances by Bryan Russo and Nadjah Nicole from NBC’s “The Voice.” The concert begins at 1:45 p.m. Seating will be first come first serve. 800-626-2326, <http://www.ococean.com>

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, Ocean City, MD, 1 p.m. “Toast to the New Year” will feature

Calendar

such compositions as Fledermaus Overture, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake - Second Movement, 2nd; a duet from "West Side Story" and more. Tickets: midatlantic-symphony.org or 888-846-8600.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK

Assateague State Park concession stand, 6915 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, MD, 1 p.m. Chris Seymour will lead the walk focusing on the theme of "Assateague Surprises." He will be speaking about sea turtle nesting, fowls being born and unexpected moments that happen throughout the year. The walk is about an hour long and under a mile. Entry into the park is free for the walk and hot chocolate and cookies will be offered at the end. ACT, 410-629-1538, <http://www.ACT-forBays.org>

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

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

TUE, JAN. 2

JUNK JOURNAL JUNKIES

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. Swap and share supplies and ideas. 410-632-3495

PLAY DOUGH CREATIONS

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-957-0878

STORY TIME 'WINTER WONDERLAND'

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-641-0650

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections. Lisa Harrison, 410-632-3970

SOOTHING STORIES 'THE WAY I FEEL'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 4:30 p.m. Children of all abilities welcome every other Tuesday. Providing a calming story, along with playtime using sensory toys and activities. 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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TEAM HONORED

The Worcester County Commissioners applaud the county finance team for being awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the ninth consecutive year.

WED, JAN. 3

GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST

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

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY

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

PLAY DOUGH CREATIONS

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-524-1818

HYPERTENSION CLINIC

Rite Aid, 10119 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Wednesday of every month. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Michelle, 410-641-9268

HYPERTENSION CLINIC

Rite Aid, 11011 Manklin Creek Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Wednesday of every month. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Michelle, 410-641-9268

INFORMATION LITERACY: ONLINE BANKING AND SHOPPING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 2 p.m. Learn how to do your banking and shopping online.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

CATHELL VISITS KIWANIS

Judge Dale Cathell has been a guest speaker several times at the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City meetings. The retired Maryland Court of Appeals judge, and author, shared stories about the history of Ocean City during his recent visit. After he spoke, Cathell, left, accepted the Kiwanis pen from Club President Ralph Chinn.

410-208-4014

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

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road,

Ocean Pines, MD, 7 to 8 p.m. The support group is open to the public and meets the first Wednesday of each month. Speaker and education related to Diabetes provided at the meetings. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education program, 410-208-9761

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matrona/Resort Homes
Daily, 10-5	Gateway Grand – 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	Inquire	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Sat-Mon, 11-4 pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Friday, 12-3 pm	Coral Seas #304	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$449,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Res. Brokerage
Saturday 2-4pm	510 Penguin #302B	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$168,900	Lauren Bunting/Bunting Realty



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