



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Showell Elementary School students, winners in the School Sponsored Float category, perform during the annual Berlin Christmas Parade, last Thursday.

Thousands brave cold for annual Christmas parade

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Below-freezing temperatures did little to deter the crowd of several thousand spectators who lined up to watch Berlin's annual Christmas parade, last Thursday.

Eighty-two groups participated in the parade, sponsored the Town of Berlin and Berlin Main Street, and paid for from donations by Berlin-area businesses.

"It went really well and every year we will come up with new ways to make it better. We got really good feedback from our entries and everyone had a really good time," said Allison Early, Berlin Economic and Community Development administrative assistant.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells agreed.

"The kids did an amazing job with their floats, as did the businesses, plus a big thank-you to our sponsors ... the parade would not happen without

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Pines signs point to Northstar

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) A decision on new financial software narrowed on Friday, as the Ocean Pines Board of Directors appeared to rule out outsourcing through Legum & Norman, a regional subsidiary of the Associa corporation that manages 8,000 communities in the U.S.

Following that apparent decision at a board work session, the only other option being considered is buying Northstar Club Management Software and running the operation in-house, which was the original recommendation of a technology work group begun in 2016.

A special board meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 14, at 8 a.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines community center on 235 Ocean Park-

way to continue the discussions. The meeting will include a presentation by Northstar representatives.

When the nearly two-hour work session began on Friday, Director Slobodan Trendic said he wanted to stay away from "single-source" or proprietary options for finance that he said had inflicted pain on Ocean Pines operations.

The association currently runs a LANSa system said to be highly customized. Consequently, finding software support has been difficult. In addition, the systems are outdated and unable to deliver reports in a timely fashion, the directors said.

"We need to decide if we really want to continue with that kind of a model," Trendic said. "A single-source solution, in my mind, is not desirable, if for no other reason because we have had that

kind of operation in place for years and we know the disadvantages."

Association President Doug Parks said proprietary was something of a misnomer and didn't really apply to Northstar.

"One could argue that anybody's system is proprietary," he said. "What we're doing now is comparing a purpose-built environment to a custom-designed environment."

"LANSa is a development environment and they developed a system around that, which ... ties you in to overhead for support that's not going to be within your organization, so it's an automatic added cost," Parks added.

Among the remaining questions for Northstar is whether its systems could interface with existing software favored by department heads. That list appar-

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Utility deficits eroding general fund, audit shows

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) A Town of Berlin fiscal 2018 audit report on Monday night came with several notes of caution, as representatives from Ocean City firm PKS & Company said negative fund balances were rapidly eating away at the general fund.

Auditing Partner Michael Kleger began by presenting an unmodified, or clear, opinion overall, which is the highest level of assurance and means the town financial statements were presented fairly and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

PKS Manager Leslie Michalik said total revenues for the year were \$5.9 million, against total expenditures of more than \$7.7 million. She said overall the

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Berlin names Christmas Parade winners

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them.” she said.
The lone hiccup of the night was when a 4-H float broke down for several minutes in front of the judges’ station. Eventually, several people helped push the stranded vehicle out of the way.
“After listening to feedback, next year’s parade will require everyone to decorate their vehicles and the timing between floats will be monitored as well,” Wells said. “Kudos to town staff and volunteers for pushing the broken down 4-H truck out of the way too.”

Treasa Bartle, Robin College and Sandy Waybrant judged band, ROTC and commercial parade units, while Louis Taylor, Elaine Brady, Linda Hess, Terri Westcott and Bill Shockley judged additional floats. Wayne Cannon emceed the event.
Local artist Jordan Pippin of Steel N Glory created the trophies.
Winners were:
Marching Band: Snow Hill High School and Pocomoke High School (runner up)
Youth Sponsored Float: Coast Kids/Assateague Coastal Trust and

Girl Scout Troop 346 (runner up)
School Sponsored Float: Showell Elementary School and Berlin Intermediate School (runner up)
Adult Sponsored Floats: Assateague Island National Seashore and Habitat for Humanity ReStore (runner up)
Fire Units: Berlin Fire Company and Ocean City Fire Company (runner up)
Commercial Units: The Harrison Group and Trimpers Rides (runner up)
Adult Marching Units: Ocean City Honor Guard and Duncan-Showell

Post #231 (runner up)
Youth Performing: Seaside Dance Academy and Worcester Preparatory M&Ms (runner up)
Vehicle Clubs: Hogs & Hero’s Chapter 8 and East Coast Car & Truck (runner up)
Crowned Youth: Pocomoke Fire Company and Worcester County Farm Bureau (runner up)
Antique Cars: Cropper’s Towing and Bad Monkey (runner up)
ROTC Marching Units: Snow Hill High School and Pocomoke High School (runner up)



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Special software meeting, Friday in Pines

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ently includes golf, public works and recreation and parks.

On golf in particular, General Manager John Bailey said, "The whole ... issue is a little bit more complicated," because the EZLinks program currently in use is also widely used locally.

"The package play issue and ease of tee times ... that complicates the question about golf," Bailey said, adding the question needs to be asked, "How does Northstar's golf tee time system, for example, work in relation to what we need in this area?"

Tom Terry, who helped lead the technology work group, said not all of the department heads are going to be happy "with whatever decision you come up with."

He said the work group, which included more than 200 years of institutional knowledge on software and financial systems, "went out to evaluate Ocean Pines" rather than explore different types of software. Requirements were then built into a request for proposals that eventually led to the Northstar recommendation.

"If you look at the report from the technology working group, it clearly states that there are internal processes within Ocean Pines that are old, ancient and have run their course – and that's how they work today and those things have to change," Terry said.

"In order to change, to take advantage of any new software that is state-of-the-art today, you have got to be willing to change the way you do things," he continued. "Transition is painful ... transition from an old procedure that you're used to using for 20-plus years is not going to be easy."

Trendic argued Northstar was a relatively new company and that Ocean Pines may be better served by bringing in an industry standard or "best in class," frequently mentioning Microsoft Oracle.

Northstar, according to its website, was launched in 2003 and is described as "the premier Community Association Management Software Solution provider covering all operational and management aspects of running a community association."

"There is no way, as an individual director, I would vote in favor of turning over our back-office operation ... on a small, niche player, which is basically what this company is," Trendic said.

Parks, meanwhile, said he had received an email just one-day earlier with a list of some of Northstar's biggest clients. He said they included one association with 70,000 homes. Several directors said they would like to check those references and Parks agreed.

Other board members said they were apprehensive of the estimated \$1

million price tag to implement Northstar, although Parks said the one-year cost was about \$380,000. He said the \$1 million figure being thrown around was based on a six-year estimate provided by the technology work group.

Legum & Norman was said to be far more costly, with some suggesting there was a reason for the wide differential.

Larry Perrone, a member of the budget and finance committee, said, "When you see a bid like that, it may be that they don't want the work."

Legum & Norman was added to the short list after several directors asked for an outsourcing option not originally explored by the technology work group. The company, known for managing homeowner's associations, was approached and asked if there was a way to use only some of their services.

"To be kind, their response to the equivalent of an RFP as to what their software does and doesn't do ... was, in general, 'Well, we're not sure until we study you,'" Terry said.

"There are times that you don't want a customer," Terry continued. "In my personal opinion, the response that was given ... was a statement: 'We're in the consulting business and the replacement of management business – we are not in the business of being a software provider to other people.'"

What's more, Parks said Legum &

Norman systems would require a desktop client to be "installed on every one of the computers that are going to access the system." Northstar, he said, was system agnostic and cloud-based, and "much more efficient, much more effective and requires far less support."

The debate continued, but several directors that previously favored Legum & Norman appeared to back-track.

Trendic said he believed Legum & Norman had "a huge, one-time entry cost" and inferior technology.

He also evoked Terry's earlier argument as something he had not previously considered.

"[Legum & Norman] are looking at us ... as a sort of one-off," he said. "To them, we are a customer that has some unique requirements that are outside of their usual offering. So ... you're now a custom project. That, in itself, is going to generate some expenditure."

"It's really what we're trying to stay away from," Trendic continued. "I think what we want is what Northstar and the likes of Northstar are offering: cloud, web-based, standard, off the shelf, easy to maintain, easy to upgrade, easy to support – those are all huge plusses."

"It seems like L&M truly isn't an option, just based on their technology," Director Esther Diller said.

"You guys have been talking about this for two years. I will say, the one thing Ocean Pines does well is we beat the crap out of every subject," she continued. "I'm one of the ones who threw a kink into the Northstar thing ... because I do believe – and still do – that outsourcing, in today's business society, is a very commonplace thing, a cost-saving thing, and had to be explored before I could vote."

At the same time, Diller said she understands the community's frustration with the process dragging on, adding, "Believe me, I want to stop talking about it too – I want a decision."

"Let's just wrap this up," she continued. "I was really an initial fan of L&M and I will say that very publicly. I know Director Trendic [and she] had talked about it at length. But, I think L&M's off the table."

"I don't chase vendors for my businesses – it's not my job to chase them, it's their job to chase me," Diller added.

"If you guys are comfortable, I'm comfortable with taking them off the table," Director Frank Daly said.

Trendic said he was looking forward to hearing from Northstar's references. He said he was somewhat torn "between going with a standard, leading back office" and letting Northstar "cover all the other modules that are related to our front office," or simply adopting Northstar as an all-in-one solution.

"I'm kind of deferring my thoughts with this until actually I view the references and get their financials," he said, adding the board should now "vet them out, at the business level, and make sure we are comfortable with them."

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Audit comes with note of caution

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general fund declined by more than \$1.8 million.

The general fund balance has declined from approximately \$8.4 million in 2016 to \$5.25 million at the end of fiscal 2018. According to PKS projections, the balance could fall to \$3.7 million by the end of next year.

Largely to blame were losses by three of the town's utilities that operate under separate funds, or budgets. Of those, the sewer fund was hit the hardest with an operating loss of more than \$900,000.

"Because these funds have had operating losses over the last several years, the cash being generated in these funds has not been sufficient to cover the operating expenses ... and the capital costs, so you've been forced to borrow funds from the general fund," Michalik said.

She said over a four-year period, more than \$3.9 million in operating losses from the sewer and stormwater funds was replenished by the general fund, including nearly \$3.4 million from the sewer fund alone.

"It's really gone up over the last two years – about a \$1 million a year – to reach that point," Michalik said.

Kleger said it is a concern that "those funds have not generated enough cash flow to pay those funds back."

"Realistically, there's really not enough cash here to pay those [funds] back and it's a question of how you're going to handle this," Kleger said. "To us, those are kind of critical issues, getting those couple of enterprise funds at least to a break even."

Michalik said it was "essential for the town to maintain an adequate level of a general fund balance."

"It helps you mitigate current and future ... risks, such as revenue shortfalls [and] unanticipated expenditures," she said. "It also helps you to stabilize your tax rate, so you want to work very hard to not continue to chip away at your fund balance, so that it reaches an unhealthy level."

Included in the report was a recommendation that the town "establish a formal policy setting the level of unrestricted fund balance that should be maintained in the general fund."

"The Government Finance Officers Association recommends a balance no

less than 60 days of general operating expenses. However, for most governments, including the Town of Berlin, realistically you need a significantly higher fund balance than that two-month minimum," Michalik said.

"You need to look at the unique characteristics of the town and your circumstances. Look at some of your history and look ahead at your plans, and you need to come up with and develop what the right number is for you to maintain a balance in the general fund."

Councilman Zack Tyndall asked what levels PKS sees in the other municipalities they serve.

"It kind of needs to deal with ... the particulars of the town. Look at how consistent your revenues and expenses are from year to year. You have to look at your vulnerabilities and your risks," she said. "It's really kind of a case-by-case basis."

Mayor Gee Williams said the Town Council for months has tried to "plant the seed" that some fees might soon have to increase to cover rising costs.

"It's something we started talking in the early part of this year, publicly and in the papers and so forth," Williams said. "As a community ... we have to decide what level of fees – utilities and what level of property taxes – will support what people either desperately need or really want. And that's going to be a very interesting part of this year's budget process."

Williams said the town recently tackled several longstanding issues, including operating its own electric utility to help dramatically lower electric bills, and building a new police station, "which needed replacing when I was young."

"We got that squared away, and we've gotten some other major utilities and upgrades to some of our streets that were in dire straits, and now we're in decent shape," he said.

Also a factor was a significant funding increase to the Berlin Fire Company and EMS services, Williams added.

"Temporarily [that's] coming from a prior-year surplus, but we can't keep doing that," he said. "I think we look forward to having some very good community conversations about, OK, where's the balance?"

"I don't think it's all one or all the other – I think that it's somewhere in between. But, we'll figure it out," Williams added.

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County found not in compliance

Commissioners' disclosure did not provide adequate details, state board says

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Based on an Oct. 9 complaint filed with the state's Open Meeting Compliance Board by this paper, the Worcester County Commissioners were cleared of violating the open meeting act in one instance, but found not in compliance in another.

In a letter dated Dec. 10 from Jonathan A. Hodgson, Esq. and April C. Ishak, Esq. of the Open Meetings Compliance Board, the complaint alleged "that the County Commissioners of Worcester County ... met behind closed doors on September 18, 2018, to conduct business that the Open Meetings Act required to be conducted in a public meeting."

"Specifically, the complaint alleges that the Commissioners 'agreed to waive thousands of dollars in fines for a local business,' that the minutes of the Commissioners' open session do not reflect a discussion of the matter, and that the Commissioners likely discussed the matter in closed session. The complaint additionally alleges that the Commissioners' summary of a closed session that day does not disclose such a discussion," the letter said.

Attached to the original complaint was a Sept. 20 letter to the local business in which County Chief Administrative Officer Harold Higgins said on Sept. 18 the commissioners "reviewed ... the violations and fines ... for your property" and that "the County Commissioners have agreed to waive the current fines issued for violations."

In a response to the complaint, County Commissioner President Diana Purnell said discussion of code enforcement matters fell within the administrative function exclusion and was therefore beyond the scope of the Open Meetings Act.

According to the Compliance Board, closed session meeting minutes were attached to the county's re-

sponse and "bear out the president's characterization of the discussion."

"The submissions raise two questions: First, were the Commissioners performing an administrative function when they discussed the waiver of fees in the code enforcement matter? Second, did the Commissioners comply with [the Open Meetings Act], which requires public bodies to disclose some information about administrative function meetings held during a recess from an open session?" the letter said.

In the first instance, the board found the commissioners' discussion did fall within the administrative function, adding, "The closed-session minutes show that the commissioners addressed the particular code enforcement and did not stray into broader policy issues."

As to whether the commissioners disclosed some information about the administrative function, the Compliance Board ruled they did not.

"Section 3-104 requires the public body to include, in the minutes of its next open session, two categories of information about the administrative function meeting," the letter said. "The Commissioners provided the information required by the first category: time, place, date, persons present at the meeting ... The second category calls for 'a phrase or sentence identifying the subject matter discussed at the administrative function meeting.'"

According to county meeting minutes, "Topics discussed and actions taken included discussing potential acquisition of real property for public purposes."

"These descriptions do not provide the public with any information about the 'subject matter' of the administrative function discussions," the letter said.

"Although the response states that the County provided the Complainant with the information in response to his Public Information Act requests, that does not address the problem created by a public body's failure to disclose, in its meeting minutes, the

events of its closed meetings: If a member of the public has no way of knowing that the public body discussed a particular subject, how will that person know to ask for more information? We encourage the Commissioners, when they adopt their open-session minutes, to review their closed-session disclosures for completeness—a disclosure of each topic discussed—and to provide as much detail as it can.

"We find that the Commissioners violated [section] 3-104," the letter said.

Purnell, on Monday, said she had not yet seen the Compliance Board response.

"We are doing what a lot of businesses and governments are doing — we are making sure that we are up to date on what we are doing and how we are supposed to be doing it when it comes to transparency," Purnell said. "When they got back with us and said you need to be doing this and you need to be doing that, then we are falling in line and doing those things."

Purnell added that County Attorney Maureen Howarth was the one "making sure that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, and doing it correct."

"As the commissioners, we are doing what we are ordered to do, because we want to be as transparent as we can," Purnell said.

Howarth, in an email on Tuesday, said, "Transparency is always a top priority to the County, thus the County respects the decision of the Open Meetings Compliance Board and will ensure our disclosure of the subject matter for each administrative function item discussed."

"This will not affect how the County Commissioners operate going forward, however, the minutes will provide more detail for the administrative function items discussed. I do not discuss legal advice between myself and my client, the County, but the Commissioners are committed to complying with the Open Meetings Act and will take the advice from the Compliance Board," she said.

General manager asked to explore OPA organization

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) A special Ocean Pines Board meeting on Friday was short-lived, as the directors said they had already discussed the lone agenda topic, board priorities, at length.

The top priority that emerged was an exploration of the organizational layout of the association, with directors tasking General Manager John Bailey to deliver a formal report by the early part of next year, just in time for consideration in the next fiscal-year budget.

Director Ted Moroney, in introducing the topic, said the board had "indirectly taken a shotgun approach to directing the administration to chase and address multiple issues concurrently, without prioritizing and staying focused on the most important problems or needs facing our association."

Last year, Moroney said, the board and Bailey tackled a record budget deficit and addressed "pressing issues" related to food and beverage operations blamed for much of the deficit. Directors also approved a forensic audit after theft allegations were made that the association was missing thousands of dollars.

"By concentrating on these priorities, we were able to address each and every one to the betterment of the operation," Moroney said. "We need to follow that formula that worked last year and collectively attack the critical issues, without regard to individual or group agendas."

Moroney said in November board members each submitted their three top priorities. He said all seven directors listed "organization," while five named the budget, four cited the country club, and three said new financial systems were a top priority.

Association President Doug Parks said the meeting was "the culmination of a lot of discussion that we've had amongst ourselves," adding the directors were now largely "all on the same page."

"The bottom line is this — the community wants some decisions," Director Esther Diller said. "We've been beating

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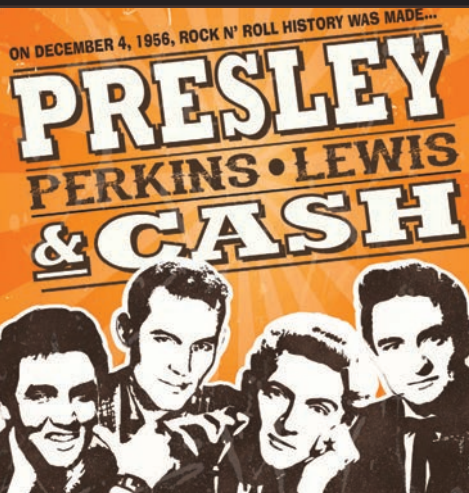
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Budget, software also priorities

Continued from Page 6

to death the country club and IT before I got here ... I think we can get to some resolutions on some of these issues that have been lingering for two years.”

Parks reiterated the top-four priorities and said the meeting served to establish those publicly. The meeting was adjourned after just 10 minutes.

Afterwards, Association Vice President Steve Tuttle explained just what was meant by the top priority: organization. “What the board has asked [General Manager John Bailey] to do, is take a look at the current organizational chart and ... come up with some recommendations of how that might need to be re-worked to be more effective in the management of the association,” he said.

Asked for an example, Tuttle said, “Potentially, it could be something as simple as an assistant general manager” or “it could be repurposing some of the staff into different roles.”

“It’s really a blank canvas right now,” he said.

Tuttle said Bailey spent the better part of his first year on the job “putting out all these little fires everywhere around the organization.”

“I think we’ve resolved a lot of issues that were there when he came in ... and now we’re ready to move forward,” he said. “And he’s got a lot of experience. This is not his first time being the general manager for an HOA.”

Parks said Bailey was somewhat encumbered by a management structure he inherited in September of 2017. The board has asked him for a report on whether any changes need to be made to make him more effective in his role.

“If it requires a change in the organization [and] a change in the resources, then you have to consider that,” Parks said. “The GM should be ... the front-face, that executive that’s interfacing with the county, interfacing with the press, and kind of general oversight rather than, ‘I’m over here in the weeds.’”

“Our intent was to try to make sure that we support that,” he continued. “The take-away is, if you think a change is required, let us know because we’re not going to the ones who say, ‘no, it can’t be done.’”

Bailey, for his part, said a lot had been done over the past year, including an improved budget, finalized reserve study and communitywide survey.

“At 50 years old, as an association, a lot of things are going really well, [but] there’s some things that we can tweak and make better, both operationally and structurally,” he said. “The board is interested in ... how do we position ourselves, organizational-wise, to best meet the needs not just now, but five years from now [and] 10 years from now.

“It’s not something that I had not been thinking of and looking at – I just hadn’t fully implemented it yet,” Bailey continued. “Now that there’s a little emphasis by the board on that, I can put that in a more formal [report].”



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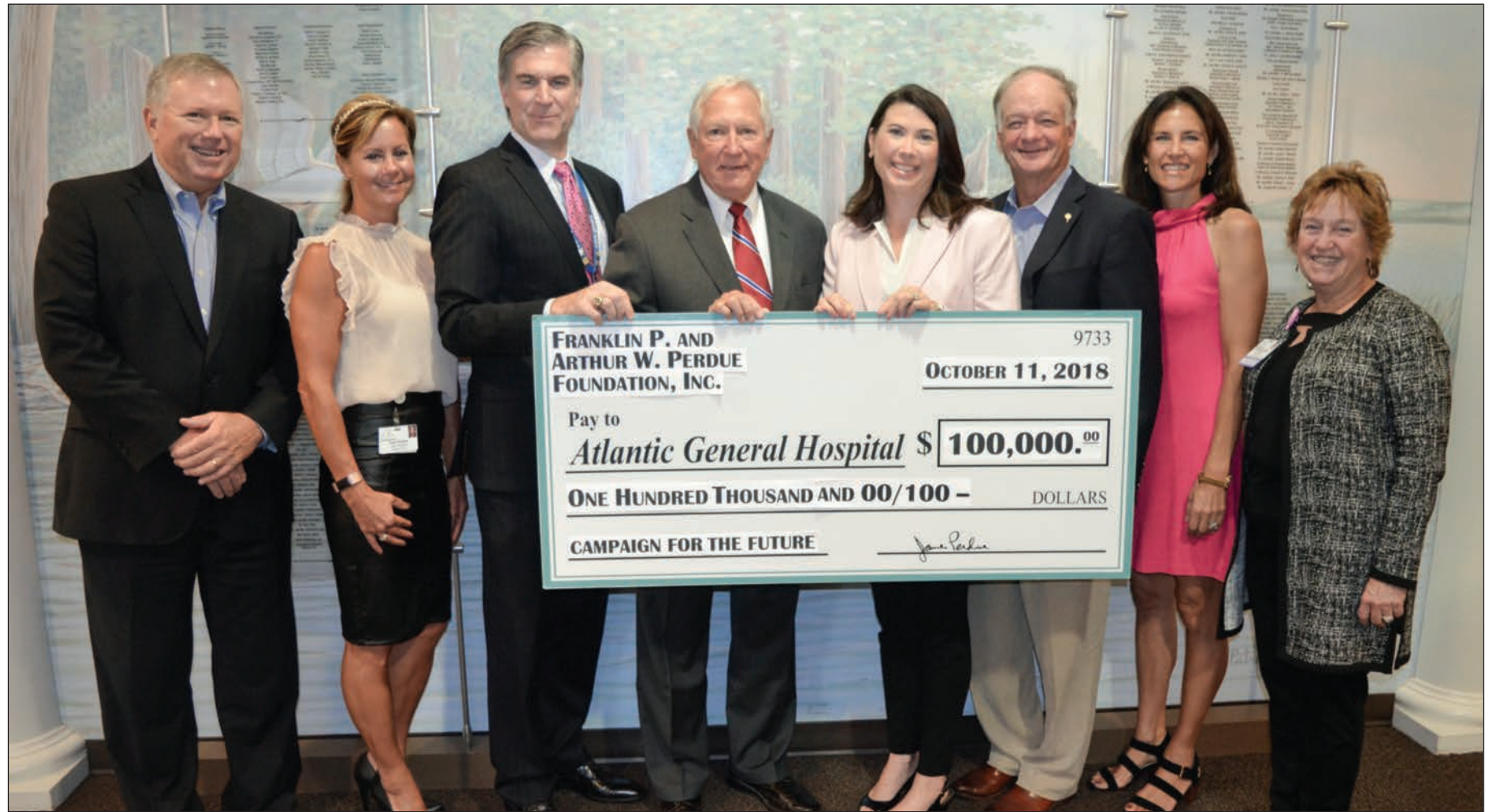
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If renovation costs soar, BOD could consider new building

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Addressing poor conditions at the Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club has become a top priority for the association board of directors, although a decision on what to do next has now dragged on for well over a year.

Originally thought to cost around \$500,000, renovation estimates for the second floor now exceed \$1 million and some are wondering how high costs have to escalate before other options are considered.

“Ocean Pines, right now, is committed to doing the renovation. That’s what we’ve bid. That’s what we’ve spent money on drawings for. That’s why we’ve investigated all of the other problems on the outside of the building – including the full envelope of the building – so we can eliminate the additional leaking going on downstairs,” Director Ted Moroney said. “So, we’re committed to doing this.”

There is, however, a caveat. “If the number is tremendously out of the ballpark and is not a sustainable number for what we get at the end, then I believe the board would at least look at the possibility of [building] a smaller facility,” Moroney said. “That smaller facility could be golf only – which I doubt would be done – or could be a combination of golf and meeting rooms, just done on a single level with a much more efficient layout and modern construction and HVAC.

“At this point, the board is not considering, or have they bid anything on a new building. Certainly, that has been floated around for a number of years but, given the problems downstairs, we’ve got to fix the entire outside of the building – that’s first and foremost,” he added.

Asked what “tremendously out of the ballpark” might be, Moroney said anything over \$1.5 million would probably warrant additional discussion.

“You’re then in that area of wanting to decide, is this the best long-term solution for Ocean Pines,” he said, adding several years ago a previous board and

general manager did estimate a \$2 million to \$2.2 million cost for a smaller new building.

“Was that golf only? Was that golf and meeting room space?” Moroney asked. “If, for some reason, the number were out of the world and we were going to go a different direction, I would not be in favor of a golf-only rebuild.

“If we end up having to consider that, I would want the building to have enough space to be used by a large bulk of the community for things other than golf. I would still want to look in that direction,” he said.

According to General Manager John Bailey, costs are already soaring toward the warning track.

“I believe the total costs for the project – the bid numbers plus contingency and upfitting costs – will be between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million,” Bailey said, adding that anything above \$1.7 million “would require referendum approval by the membership.”

“As for a new build, the answer all depends on the size/square footage,” he continued. “One also has to factor in the cost of full demolition and additional planning and design costs.

“In the end, it’s probably not necessarily cheaper to build new. However, to build new may be the better investment of our dollars as well as for the future of the amenity,” Bailey said. “This applies not just in terms of its impact on golf, but also to its value added concept of the facility’s design, and availability to be utilized by the entire community for meetings and gatherings that are not related to golf at all.”

During a board meeting on Dec. 1, Bailey said five contractors attended a pre-bid meeting related to country club renovations in November. He said engineering firm Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc. has been in contact with 13 contractors said to be interested in the project.

The bidding deadline is Dec. 14.

“The review of the proposals will take place later in the month ... and then it will be up to the board to consider the next steps with that project, some time in January,” Bailey said at the time.



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Left: Berlin Council members on Monday said traffic patterns near the new Ocean's East development are unsafe. Right: Councilman Dean Burrell said he preferred traffic patterns similar to the Ocean Pines medical center on Racetrack Road.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

New traffic pattern still concerns council

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Berlin Mayor and Council members are still not comfortable with traffic patterns coming out of the new Ocean's East apartment complex onto Seahawk Road and near Stephen Decatur High School.

Town officials complained of unsafe conditions during the last several months and asked Planning Director Dave Engelhart to ask State Highway officials what could be done.

Engelhart said he was told "Seahawk Road is our road," and that meant dealing directly with Oceans East contractors

and developers.

He said a site meeting last fall was not attended by everyone involved in the project, so he and Wastewater Superintendent Jamey Latchum met with site contractors and paving contractors again, earlier that day.

"Jamey, I've got to give him credit, because he stood up for the town forcefully and said it was unacceptable what was there, as far as the condition of the road surface," Engelhart said. "We walked the whole thing ... and they came up with a two-part solution."

According to Engelhart, contractors will first try to literally iron out some of the ripples in the road by heating it. If that doesn't solve the problem to the town's satisfaction, they will mill the road and resurface it.

"Either one of those solutions will wait for the spring, when we have warmer weather," he said. "So, that's what we all agreed upon onsite today."

Council members had also asked for curbing on the road. Presently, a "traffic island" is painted onto the road surface to separate the four lanes of traffic coming out of the development and heading

toward Route 50.

"State highway, of course, didn't review it, but they didn't think that was necessary. They're aware of what we put there [and said] the striping is adequate," Engelhart said.

He added one solution would be to install reflective bumpers, but Mayor Gee Williams was not a fan.

"We're not going back to that – that's not an option," Williams said. "Whatever's cheapest is always [offered first]. We're not looking for cheap, we're looking for effective."

As he had done during recent meetings, Williams again offered his support and the support of the council if political pressure were needed.

"We are experiencing the future now," he said. "East Berlin ... is a growing, dynamic place and we just can't accept solutions from the distant past."

Councilman Dean Burrell said the developer needed to solve the problem.

"When his project was being considered, he sat there and promised us that that traffic would go out of that development and would have only one way in and one way out," he said. "And, like the

mayor said, we're not looking for cheap – we're looking for effective.

"A curb in the highway needs to be put back [on the table], because that is the only way to ensure that that traffic goes the way in which it was planned," Burrell continued. "I have seen and watched people make that U-turn."

He compared the situation to the Peninsula Regional Medical Center complex on Racetrack Road in Ocean Pines, with only right turns possible both in and out of the lot.

"If you make that U-turn, you tear your car up, because they've got the pavement in the middle of the street. Needless to say, that U-turn is not made," Burrell said.

"I think the day when you can just draw a stripe for something that's not a traditional, everyday traffic pattern is not realistic," Williams added. "We need to find a solution that will truly solve this problem."

Engelhart said the traffic island "isn't there as a deterrent, it's there to separate the four lanes."

"If we determine that it's not sufficient, then they would have to add it," he said.



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Salisbury University Students and children from Berlin Intermediate School collaborated to create several pollinator gardens meant to attract bees at Berlin Falls Park.

Students abuzz over Berlin project

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Salisbury University students worked on several fronts this year to help make the Town of Berlin a better Bee City USA.

The designation, adopted by the Town Council in May, is overseen by The Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that “endorses a set of commitments ... for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet,” according to an official website.

Students from Dr. Sarah Surak’s environmental studies senior seminar gave an overview of their activities at a Town Council meeting Monday.

Madison Workman said three groups formed to focus on social media outreach, to provide plans for a future pollinator garden at Berlin Falls park, and to create educational materials both for the public and the park.

Dean Keh and his group produced a promotional video about pollinator efforts at Berlin Falls.

“Berlin Falls park has a bright and promising future, and I wanted to display the potential,” Keh said. “With some interview questions, a camera, some video editing software and a few peaceful walks through the park, I was able to produce something that I hope will be of use to the town.”

In the video, Town Administrator Laura Allen noted the importance of the designation.

“The town’s got a very strong environmental ethic and, [with] this beautiful park that we’re in the process of renovating, it gives us an opportunity with that Bee City designation to really focus on the importance of pollinators. And so, we’ll be putting in a couple of pollinator gardens and doing a little bit of promotion.”

“It is our hope that his pollinator park will help to strengthen our partnerships with various entities within the community ... [including] the local

schools and the library, and possibly the hospital,” Councilman Dean Burrell said. “This is an opportunity for our community.”

According to Keh, a separate group of Salisbury students built bee boxes and painted them with assistance from Berlin Intermediate School students.

“They will be placed in the park to increase native bee populations,” Keh said. “Berlin hopes to see more collaborations with the community – for the park and their Bee City certification.”

Keh, citing Bee City USA, added, “one in three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination” and 90 percent of all wild plants and trees rely on pollinators for survival.

“Because of habitat loss, poor nutrition and pesticide use, bees and pollinators face a global decline,” he said. “Small community acts like these give them a fighting chance against extinction.”

Casey King’s group met with Berlin Falls Park Project Coordinator David Deutsch, Lower Shore Land Trust Executive Director Kate Patton and Land Trust volunteer Joe Leib to help design an easy-to-follow pollinator garden template.

She said the design was recommended for use at Berlin Falls and will could be made available “to community members that are interested in creating their own do-it-yourself gardens at home.”

King said town staff and volunteers plan to install the pollinators during Take Pride in Berlin week, next April.

“While it’s important incorporating the pollinator gardens into highly visible and natural landscapes such as Berlin Falls park, long-term pollinator success depends on access to pollinator plans throughout the whole community,” she said. “We hope that after community members visit the Berlin Falls park garden, they’ll find inspiration to plant their own garden.”

Megan Buonpane’s group created pamphlets they hope will help educate the community about pollinators.

“It is vital to the process of maintaining Bee City USA affiliation that the individuals in the Town of Berlin understand where pollinators play a role in their community,” she said. “Our goals encompassed helping the people of Berlin understand the process of pollination and how they can be part of the sustainable initiatives.”

Buonpane said the pamphlets could be handed out during town events. They are also available at the Berlin Welcome Center. Her group also made bee boxes and created a “post-consumer bee sculpture” to support pollinator awareness.

Additionally, the group worked with Dr. Allison Seth’s graphic design class at Salisbury University to create new signs for Berlin Falls Park.

“Our final component includes designing smaller signs with fun facts about bees, Bee City USA and other pollinators that we suggest placing around downtown for the community to see and engage,” Buonpane said.

Mayor Gee Williams congratulated the students on doing something he said had never been done before.

“I’d like to think that Berlin, for many years, has always tried to have a strong environmental ethic,” he said. “I think this is another example of that.”

Williams said the project was also an example of a partnership that helped improve the quality of life for Berlin residents.

“It’s the example you set that matters here ... [and] we can accomplish so much more together,” he said. “Collaboration is great word for this town ... that’s something hopefully you’ll take from this for the rest of your lives.”

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Pines anniversary has one last big event

Organizers said yearlong slate of events successful and inclusive of community

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) A 50th Anniversary Sock Hop, the final event of the year celebrating the Ocean Pines semicentennial, is set for Friday, Dec. 14 from 6-10 p.m. at the community center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

Event organizer Cheryl Jacobs described the happening as “a time to come and have fun” in a simple, old-school setting.

“We’re trying to have another event to close out the year, that’s not very pricey,” she said. “For some people who, for whatever reason were not able to make it to the gala [last month], this will serve as another opportunity for them to have some fun and close out the wonderful year of celebrations for

our 50th anniversary.”

Dino Fradelos, also known as the “Dean of Doo-Wop” on local radio station WEES 107.9 FM, will spin classics from the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s. Costumes are encouraged, but not required, and a prize will be given to the best-dressed sock hopper.

Jacobs and other members of the Ocean Pines 50th Anniversary Committee planned a full slate of events throughout the year, starting with a sign dedication ceremony in January and concluding with the sock hop.

Tickets are \$15 per person and include food, water or soda, and giveaways. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door, but guests are encouraged to buy tickets in advance at the community center.

Partygoers must be 21 or older and BYOB is permitted. The event is open to the public.

Prior anniversary events included a parade and community day, golf tour-

nament, beach bash, racquet sports tournament, cocktail party, and the winter gala last month at the yacht club.

“Every one of them served a different purpose,” Jacobs said. “We tried to reach as many people in the community as possible and give them different opportunities to come out and celebrate. I think they all have been extremely successful, and I’m just hoping that this last one will also give people an opportunity to have a lot of fun.”

Committee member Sharyn O’Hare said anniversary events have been “the one thing to bring people together this year, which we desperately needed to do.” She said the anniversary helped spread community pride and positivity.

“We live in such a fabulous place and we exposed so many parts of the community when we featured them,” she said. “For example, the golf tournament showed off the beautiful golf

course. That was sold out in January for a June golf tournament.

“And the yacht club did an outstanding job at the gala,” O’Hare continued. “That was probably the best party we’ve ever had in Ocean Pines. And the tennis club hosted a tennis tournament that did very well. So, every facility has pretty much been featured with events.”

She said events were all volunteer-run and paid for by sponsorships.

“It hasn’t cost Ocean Pines any money at all to do this,” she said.

O’Hare, who organized the yacht club gala, said that was her probably favorite event of the year.

“I also thought the parade was a great event and the family fun [community day] at the Veteran’s Memorial Park was awesome,” she said. “There was just a lot of fun things.


“I’m also looking forward to the sock hop, but I need a poodle skirt! If anyone has one, let me know,” O’Hare



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Semicentennial sock Hop scheduled Friday

added with a laugh.

50th Anniversary Committee Chairwoman Jennifer Cropper-Rines agreed, "The gala was spectacular.

"I think it was top-notch and it was really, really just the bomb," she said. "I also thought the history panel [in July] was very well attended for what it was, and the community day – so many people came out for that and the parade. The beach bash was also really fun, and the cocktail party was on my birthday!"

Following the sock hop, Jennifer Cropper-Rines said a final wrap of financials would be done and a new time capsule would be put together in January.

"It think [overall] it's been excellent," she said. "We achieved the goal of having something for everyone, and I think all of the events were well attended, well received and enjoyed. Everybody seems to have gotten involved and enjoyed it all, and I think it's

been really good."

A surplus from the 35th anniversary celebration helped to establish the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial in Ocean Pines. Cropper-Rines said she did not yet have an estimate for how much surplus funding there would be following the 50th anniversary.

"I expect that we will [have a surplus]," she said. "Probably at our January meeting we'll have a better idea of our excess revenue. I do believe there's going to be some and we have to talk about what we want to do with it.

"It all depends on what we end up with. We've talked about a few different things, but nothing that we prioritized enough," Cropper-Rines said.

Throughout all of the events, O'Hare, who organized the 35th anniversary, said Cropper-Rines "has been amazing" as a leader.

"She made it all come together, juggling a lot of different hats in the air," O'Hare said. "And Denise Sawyer, [the

marketing and public relations director] at Ocean Pines, has kept all the volunteers from jumping off a bridge all our event events. Denise has just been wonderful through the whole thing. It's been a great, all-around event."



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club march down Ocean Parkway during a parade celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Ocean Pines Association, last June.

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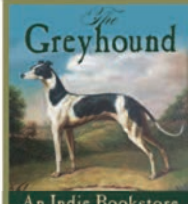
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Wor. Youth Snack Shack seeking donations

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) With the final “Bus Stop Snack Shack” scheduled next week, the program’s organizers are focusing on continuing the monthly events next year while also tackling issues of hygiene.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin began the Bus Stop Snack Shacks in June as a way to “provide snacks, community resources and free books to children as they get off the bus,” according to a press release.

The first Snack Shack was at Dr. William Henry Park in Berlin and the program has moved each month to different towns throughout Worcester County, including Snow Hill and Pocomoke.

Worcester Youth billing and insurance specialist Debbie Smullen started the program after reading about a similar endeavor in neighboring Wicomico County.

“It really seemed important to me, because a lot of kids get off the bus by themselves,” she said. “There’s nobody home, so it provides a good after-school snack for them, as well as someone they can talk to. And it allows us to meet people in their own neighborhood, where they may feel more comfortable talking about their needs or the things that are important to them.”

Smullen said the Snack Shacks have

been well received. This month, because of an influx of donations and an apparent need in the area, the program will briefly change gears.

“What we have decided to do for December is to deliver 100 bags of toiletries and cleaning supplies to the Head Start programs in Stockton and Newark,” Smullen said.

She said 60 bags were given to the Stockton Head Start this week and 40 more would be brought to the Newark Head Start on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Worcester Youth is collaborating with the Judy Center at Snow Hill Elementary School, a program established by Worcester County Public Schools to enhance early childhood education services “by creating a network of education, health and social services.”

“What we have found, and the information that we have received from the Judy Center, is that people go without basic toiletry needs and cleaning supplies long before they would actually reach out and request food donations,” Smullen said. “That’s a need that we’re trying to fill for those families.”

“We have had really a lot of community support for this,” she added, including donations from the Berlin Lioness Club, Church Mouse Thrift Shop, Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Harrison Group and Salisbury University sports teams.

“We also received a large donation from the American Legion Post #166 in Ocean City, and we had a private donation from a local Avon representative who donated quite a few toiletries,” Smullen said. “We’re also working with



PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES
Children in Berlin enjoy free snacks and giveaways during a Bus Stop Snack Shack event last month hosted by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

the Stephen Decatur Middle Kindness Club, so people reach out from a lot of different areas in the community.”

Collections will continue through Monday, Dec. 17, with drop-off at the downtown Berlin Worcester Youth office on 124 North Main Street, Suite C.

Smullen said the nonprofit has a large

supply of toiletries, but is still short on cleaning supplies. She said “just the basics” are needed, such as laundry detergent, trash bags, toilet paper and paper towels.

“Those basic things that we all have to have, they’re not covered if you’re part of that [food stamps] program, so you still have to find a way to supplement to purchase those things,” Smullen said.

“This time of year it seems like it brings out the basic needs of people that I know I, personally, take for granted. So, those are some of the things that we’re trying to fulfill for families,” she continued. “There are a lot of organizations, including ours, that do provide holiday gifts for children, but the basic needs of the families sometimes aren’t met and so that’s a gap we’re trying to fill this year.”

As for the Bus Stop Snack Shack, Smullen said the program would return to Snow Hill in January and to Pocomoke in February. Dates have yet to be set.

For more information, or to donate to the Bus Stop Snack Shacks, contact Smullen at 410-641-4598 or email dsmullen@gowoyo.org.

“We are looking for monthly sponsors, as well as groups that would like to get involved to help promote the things that they do for the community and to help reach out to the children,” Smullen said.

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Berlin HDC prefers classic Taylor Bank signs

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Members of the Berlin Historic District Commission last Wednesday appeared to hold their noses as they approved new, more modern signs for Calvin B. Taylor Bank.

Both before and after the 3-2 vote, commission members said they preferred the current signs as more in keeping with the historic downtown.

Designs for three new signs included in the meeting packet showed rectangular white, vinyl hanging signs with diamond-shaped symbols in blue and green, and the words "Taylor Bank" written in blue in a simple, contemporary font. These would replace the old wooden hanging signs on Main Street and Broad Street that read "Calvin B. Taylor Bank, EST. 1890" that feature the iconic pineapple logos.

"I like the old one better," commission member Laura Stearns said. "The whole thing with that bank is it's historic ... to me, I just think it's a contemporary sign on an old building that doesn't go with it."

"It looks like the Bank of Ocean City," commission member Mary Moore added. "It would be nice to just see something more traditional in town ... I'm going to

vote against it, because I don't think it's in keeping [with the historic downtown]."

When the vote was called, commissioners Norman Bunting and Robert Poli voted to approve the signs. Chairwoman Carol Rose paused and then said, "I guess I'll 'aye.'" Moore and Stearns were opposed.

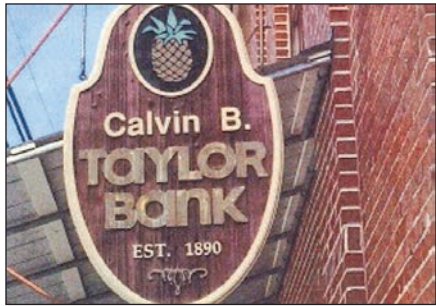


PHOTO FROM MEETING PACKET
Members of the Berlin Historic District Commission last week said they preferred the old Calvin B. Taylor Bank logo, seen here, to the new, more modern graphic.

Later during the meeting, commission members again turned to the subject of the bank signs.

"Whenever I go in that bank ... I always think, this is the way a bank should look," Stearns said. "I think it's beautiful."

Moore said she had seen the Calvin B. Taylor Bank as "that stately building on the corner," but joked they might as well add a Starbucks at this point.

"Oh, we're so hip, we're so cool," she said. "There are things ... that need the dignity of a proper sign."

Stearns agreed. "Before, it stood out to me as something unique for our town," she said. "Now, it does just like [a building in Ocean City]."

Also during the meeting, commission members unanimously approved home improvements for three houses on Main Street.

They include a pole building on 417 South Main Street, an addition on 507 South Main Street, and replacement windows and repairs to a side porch on 21 South Main Street.

Rose, prior to all of the approvals, made a statement.

"Three of the items on the agenda tonight are regarding three single-family homes in the district," she said. "I just want to make sure that, when the applicant comes up, that we understand completely what you're asking and that, when we vote, the applicant understands what we have voted.

"It's our purpose here to work with everyone that comes the best we can, to help you with whatever you want to do with your property and the district," Rose continued. "I feel that, if you have invested in a home in the historic district, you care about our town, you care about our heritage and the homes, and that you will work with us to try to maintain the integrity of the properties. All the homes this evening are especially important to the district."

Later during the meeting, she cautioned one applicant, "If something comes along that you may want to do something different than what's approved, you've got to come back.

"You can't evolve something two-to-three weeks down the road," Rose said. "What we've [approved] tonight is what you've gotta do. And I'm serious about this."



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HOLIDAY CHEER
More than 80 local organizations participate in the 48th annual Berlin Christmas Parade, last Thursday. Trophies, created by local artist Jordan Pippin, were given out in a dozen categories for first place and runner up.
JOSH DAVIS/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Worcester Prep M&Ms (Second Place, Youth Performing)



Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services

Disbelief following cell tower lease rejection

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 13, 2018) Calvert Crosslands partner Barb Pivec said she was blindsided by the Worcester County Commissioners' decision last week to reject a lease agreement for a cell tower site at the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Pivec said she entered the meeting with the belief the lease would be approved.

"Yes, it was quite a shock. It was quite a shock," she said.

Pivec said Calvert Crosslands took over a proposed five-year lease for the property from Verizon Wireless so the county's need for space for its own communications equipment could be accommodated.

The county would be able to use the tower for free, and would have been paid \$20,000 in rent for the first year, with 2 percent each year thereafter.

She said Calvert Crosslands also recommended that the county permit it to make the tower taller to provide room for the county's equipment. According to last week's discussion, that space would have been the top four feet of a 160-foot tower.

Pivec said the company worked with the county to move the project through the procedural hoops.

"You have to make sure the tower is built to handle that weight and that loading," Pivec said. "Calvert Crosslands said, 'no problem,' we'll ... design this tower to handle the county."

Pivec added the proposed tower could support the weight of several carriers, a broadband company and the county's equipment.

"Not only will we design this tower to handle the county," she said this week. "But we will design the tower to handle not only ... Verizon and the county, we will design the tower to handle another three installations."

As for Pivec's belief that a deal would be reached, she said, "We worked really, really, really hard to get it done," with county officials and encountered no objections then, only to have them expressed at the last minute.

"I was shocked, and I don't really know what we're going to do at this point in time," she said.

Pivec told the commissioners last week that the site had been recognized as a desirable location for more than five years, but this week she clarified the "location's actually been an area need since 2008."

Because Ocean Pines is such a densely populated residential area, she said the wastewater treatment plant site property was attractive because it satisfied the county's zoning regulations.

The selection of that (or any site) tower location was preceded by assessing the area's need, she said.

Once that had been done, the project required working with consultants, analyzing the area's zoning requirements, looking for possible sites, evaluating those parcels, and applying for the approvals from federal and local governments.

"It's very long. It's very involved. It's very thoughtful," she said. "It involves working with lots of different people."

Pivec said projects like the proposed cell tower can take years to complete.

"Yes, this site was supposed to be built in 2017, and ... originally it was supposed to be built in 2010," she said. "And they just kept pushing it out and pushing it out."

The county's zoning regulations stipulate that a tower or monopole must be at least 1,000 feet from a residential structure or where one is permitted, and be least 2,000 feet from a school, day care or nursing home.

When scouting potential sites, Pivec said she usually works with private landlords.

"If there was a private landlord

out there, that certainly would have been the first candidate, not the county wastewater treatment plant," she said.

Further complicating a site search is that not just anywhere will do. It involves radio frequency ranges, possible overlaps with other signals, or gaps between signals.

"You want a seamless network," she said.

And it must be profitable for the tower companies and the big communications outfits that rent them.

"[They work] with private companies like mine.

We actually build the infrastructure and then they become our tenant, and ... the carrier's cost is the installation, not the installation and the infrastructure," she said.

Creating that infrastructure is complex as well. It's more than a cell signal.

"A tower network needs fiber. A fiber network can't handle the distribution of all services to all people, and neither can a wireless network," Pivec said. "I think a lot of people don't understand that that we're not

just building the tower, we're building part of an overall network."

In last Tuesday's county commissioners meeting, Commissioner Joseph Mitrecic suggested a location off St. Martin's Neck Road.

"I'm gonna contact him and find out exactly where he thinks that location is," she said. "I know that there is another location that is not funded at this point in time that's closer."

Pivec said the St. Martin's Neck area wouldn't be impossible, but does present a different set of issues, because of its natural environment.

"We can't impact minor woodland creatures. We can't impact wetlands. The list goes on," Pivec said. "I mean, that whole area down there is really environmentally sensitive."

Pivec said she wants to give a more complete presentation to the Worcester County Commissioners "because they didn't have the advantage of having all that information when they made their decision," Pivec said. "They only had the information about the lease."

She added she'd not only provide photos of what the tower would look like, but also do a balloon test "so that they and others can see what the impact would actually be not what people perceive it to be."

'I was shocked, and I don't really know what we're going to do at this point in time.'

Calvert Crosslands partner
Barb Pivec

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Opinion

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

‘Person of the Year’ honors are reminder

Rachel Pacella, formerly of Ocean Pines, and Rick Hutzell, who started his newspaper career in Ocean City, are among those honored by *Time* magazine this week as its “Person of the Year.”

They and the rest of the staff at the *Capital Gazette* in Annapolis join Jamal Khashoggi, the *Washington Post* reporter who was murdered in Turkey for writing columns critical of the Saudi crown prince, two *Reuters* journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who now sit in prison in Myanmar for reporting on a mass killing committed by the government, and Maria Ressa, who faces imprisonment for publishing stories critical of the Philippine president.

As Marylanders and many others know, five *Capital Gazette* staffers were shot and killed in the Annapolis newspaper’s office last June because the paper had reported on the shooter’s guilty plea in a criminal harassment case.

In an extraordinary act of courage and commitment to the public, the surviving staff put out a paper the next day and went on to give their own painful account of the massacre.

Time presented its persons of the year as “The Guardians of the Truth” — the writers, reporters, editors and others in the media who do their jobs despite the consequences.

And the consequences these days are substantial, even when they don’t involve the extremes of murder or imprisonment. Journalism, especially at community newspapers like the *Capital Gazette*, is a public trust, even when the public doesn’t return that trust.

Social media smears and propaganda, politically inspired defamations and bumper-sticker sound bites have combined to foster an image of reporters and editors as a threat to, rather than protectors of, civilized society.

Yet, it is this supposedly civilized society that murders and imprisons them for doing a job that an increasing number of people wish they weren’t doing.

Time’s Persons of the Year recognizes these difficulties and sacrifices, while the honorees like the *Capital Gazette* staff remind the rest of us that journalistic principles include doing the job no matter what.



“First Rudolph, then Prancer ...it’s only a matter of time.”

Christmas concert this Friday

Pine Tones coming to Ocean City church

(Dec. 13, 2018) The Pine Tones Chorus will present its Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church, on Baltimore Avenue and Fourth Street in Ocean City, Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert theme is “My Favorite (Things)–Songs” and offers a variety of festive holiday selections.

Classical music such as Handel’s “And the Glory of the Lord” and the “Hallelujah Chorus,” will join Christmas selections from Mendelsohn and John Rutter.

Popular favorites will include several holiday carols. The song “My Favorite Things” from the beloved show “Sound of Music,” will feature soloist Mary Price. A duet arrangement from Bing Crosby and David Bowie, “Peace on Earth, with Little Drummer Boy,” will be performed by Frank Davis and Dan Kerr.

The song “Jingle All the Way” introduces new, whimsical lyrics into that old fa-

vorite tune, “Jingle Bells.” Playful new words composed by Gloria Shayne tell how the season’s joys include so much shopping, mailing of gifts, and other chores.

Jim Meckley, the Pine Tones assistant director, has musically arranged the song with multiple tempos and modern harmonies to go with those new, amusing lyrics. This offers a jaunty combination.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes more than 55 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City and nearby areas. June Todd is the chorus director and Jenny Anderson is the group’s pianist.

Guest musicians will include Kristilyn Friese playing cello, Sally Hendon playing flute, Tom Baione on string bass, and Becca Doughty on drums.

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas

since 1984. For additional information, call Chorus President Dave Holloway at 410-641-5672 or Todd at 410-289-7373.

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities has been from individual donations and patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Letter

Thank you to good samaritans

Editor,

Thank you to the three people that came to our aid when I fell in the Ocean Pines Food Lion parking lot on Dec. 5.

I was so embarrassed that my manners seemed to escape me. I was very touched by your kindness.

Sue Walter
Ocean Pines

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.

at 8200 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842.

The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.

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

Young Professionals spread holiday cheer

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 13, 2018) Simply having a wonderful Christmas time.

Those song lyrics apparently rang true for children who participated in the Ocean City Young Professionals' Christmas Spirit Shopping Campaign on Dec. 1.

Cate Nellans, co-chair of the Christmas Spirit Campaign, said more than 80 children between pre-K and fifth grade were able to go on a \$100 tax-free shopping spree at the Berlin Walmart.

Nellans, whose duties included finding children to participate in the event, said the group reached out to area organizations and school guidance counselors.

Once in the store, children were able to select gifts – specifically toys or clothes – for themselves or for family members.

“We’ll wrap them and label [the gifts] for them, and then we’ll send them home so they can put them under the tree and have something to open on Christmas morning,” she said.

Organizers said they were truly moved by what they heard as children walked the aisles.

“Some of the stories when we hear back from the chaperones that actu-

ally go one-on-one with the kids, I mean it’s heartbreaking,” Nellans said. “One of the little kids said, ‘You know, I want to get a pillow. I’ve never had a pillow before.’ Or, ‘I need a mattress. I don’t have anywhere to sleep.’

“To us, it’s everyday necessities, [but] to them it’s the whole world,” she added.

What happens when a volunteer or event organizer hears something like that? Nellans said they direct some cases to other agencies that help tackle some of the bigger problems. She said the organization alerts other charities in certain situations, asking, “Hey, we had this kid come through and they said this. Can you help?”

She said organizers often see many of the same children returning year after year.

“We love having them back but, on the other hand, it is a downer they have to come back,” Nellans said.

She went on to say the event allows children to find something that’s truly meaningful to them.

“It’s heartbreaking to hear it, but to them it’s Christmas and some of them will go in and find that toy that they’ve been dying to get, and that’s the only thing they’ll get and they’re dead set on it,” Nellans said.

There were more than 100 volunteers and at least 100 donors for this

year’s event, according to an Ocean City Young Professionals Facebook post.

Those who wish to volunteer must pass a background check, have a valid driver’s license or identification card, and be at least 16 years old.

Nellans said the group wants to continue to expand the shopping campaign, as it means a lot to the children who receive the gifts, but it all depends on fundraising and volunteer efforts.

“For us, this is our main event,”

Nellans said. “We will volunteer at other programs in the area as young professionals, but this is our own thing that we do just as our own core group.”

The actual event happens prior to the holiday, but for the children who participate, the anticipation is there as if it was actually Christmas.

“Even at five in the morning, these kids are like roaring to go and so excited to go get presents, not just for themselves but their family, and it’s just really amazing,” Nellans said.



PHOTO COURTESY CATE NELLANS

Worcester County children are featured in a photo taken at the Ocean City Young Professionals' Christmas Spirit Shopping Campaign on Dec. 1. The children were able to go on a \$100 tax-free shopping spree to get presents for themselves or other family members.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Art by Jordan Pippin, seen here, and nearly a dozen others will feature in a special exhibition at Pippin's Steel N Glory Studio in Berlin, this Friday.

Berlin art stroll taking trip to 'Other Side of the Tracks'

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 13, 2018) Rather than the traditional 2nd Friday art stroll this month in Berlin, two local artists on Friday will host an exhibition of “nontraditional art for nontraditional people.”

Dubbed “Other Side of the Tracks,” illustrator Pedro Mule, aka Pete Mueller, and metalworker Jordan Pippin will be joined by eight others at the Steel N Glory studio on 304 Washington Street.

Additional artists set to show work include Marc Emond, Adam Weir, Patti Backer, Ashley Brown, Deb Rolig, Tim Thompson, Brian Robertson and Austin Widdowson.

The show, scheduled from 6-10 p.m., will also feature Evolution Craft Brewing Company beer and food by Gilbert's Provisions.

Pippin, who has run Steel N Glory for close to two years, said this would be the first time he's hosted such a show not

just in Berlin, but in general.

“I have this shop here in Berlin and have a little bit of extra space upstairs, and I kind of wanted to be able to use the space a little more and have a fun event in the process,” he said.

Pippin said he and Mueller sought out like-minded artists – including abstract painters, those workings in mixed media and at least one printmaker – to join them.

“The whole theme of it is kind of non-traditional [art],” he said. “This [exhibition], in particular, is to try to have a little bit of affordable art available for the holiday season.

“I'm just excited to put it on and I'm hoping for a good turnout,” Pippin continued. “If things go well, I'd hope to and have intentions to do this a little more often, maybe every few months or so.”

For more information, search “Other Side Of The Tracks : non traditional art for non traditional people” on Facebook, or visit www.facebook.com/steel.mule.39.

Bring donation and get your gifts wrapped, Sat. in Berlin

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Dec. 13, 2018) The Berlin-Ocean City Jaycees hope to spread holiday cheer for a good cause this Saturday during its free gift-wrapping event.

Anyone interested can bring their gifts to Stevenson United Methodist Church on 123 North Main Street in Berlin, and have them wrapped from 12-5 p.m.

Channel Chaplin, management vice president, said this would be the organization's first holiday event following the chapter's reinstatement last December.

Chaplin said the organization prides itself on being community oriented through events like holiday gift-wrapping.

“We are committed to be the young leaders through community service,” Chaplin said. “We put effort to make an

impact and bring positive changes in our community.”

Chaplin said the entire chapter, which consists of 20 members, is expected to take part in Saturday's event, and those interested are welcomed to volunteer their time.

The organization requests participants donate a new coat – all sizes needed – or a toy in exchange for having gifts wrapped. Chaplin said the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin is expected to deliver the items donated to families in need.

The Berlin-Ocean City Jaycees is a community driven organization with members ages 18-40 dedicated to positively impacting the area.

For more information, visit the “Free Gift Wrapping Event” on the “Berlin-Ocean City Jaycees” Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BerlinOCJaycees.



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AGH trustee board appoints new chairman, vice chair

(Dec. 13, 2018) During its annual Corporation meeting, Atlantic General Hospital's Board of Trustees appointed a new chairman, Greg Shockley, who is the former treasurer of the board.

They also appointed William E. Esham as the vice chairman, Doug Cook as the treasurer and Charlotte Cathell as the secretary.

Shockley, owner of Shenanigan's Irish Pub in Ocean City, was the 2012 recipient of the Paul Hazard Award, named after one of the original Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association members.

Shockley is a founding member of the Boardwalk Development Association, helping to implement \$5 million in Boardwalk improvements, and serves on the Maryland Tourism Development Board.

He has also served as president of the Ocean City Development Corporation and the OCHMRA.

He has served other roles on the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees, and has just recently begun his term as board chair in November.

"We acknowledge Greg's dedication and willingness to work hard for Atlantic General," said Michael Franklin, FACHE, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. "We are thrilled to welcome Greg as the board chair, after just serving as the board treasurer. We are likewise especially grateful for the year that Hugh Cropper served as our board chair, and the impact that he has made on our hospital."

Hugh T. Cropper, IV., the outgoing board chair, served in this position from November 2017 to October 2018.

Cropper practices as an attorney, and he is a partner in the law firm of Booth, Booth, Cropper & Marriner, PC.

Cropper is the chairman of both the Board of Directors for Bank of Ocean City and the Board of Directors for the Lower Shore Land Trust. He was formerly a member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association, and he is a member of the Judicial Nominating Committee for the First Circuit.

Cropper was a member of the Board of Trustees of Atlantic General Hospital since 2007. He was secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees before becoming the chair.

Esham has been named vice chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Esham is an attorney with Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, P.A. He graduated from Washington & Lee University in 1987.

He was admitted to the bar in 1991 after obtaining his law degree from University of Baltimore. He served as law clerk to the Honorable William R. Buchanan, Sr., and in Circuit Court for Baltimore County, and is a member of the Worcester County and Maryland State Bar Associations.

In addition to serving on the Board of

Trustees at Atlantic General, Esham is a member of the Board of Trustees of Worcester Preparatory School, the Board of Directors of Ocean City Golf Club, attorney for the Ocean City Planning and Zoning Commission and past president of St. Martin's Church Foundation.

Cook is the chief lending officer and executive vice president at Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company.

Over the years, Cook has been involved in Atlantic General Hospital by serving on the Finance Committee and also on the board for Atlantic ImmediateCare.

Cook also serves as a trustee member for the Life Crisis Center.

"The betterment of our community is important to me. AGH is the most vital asset to our area," Cook said.

Cook holds a masters of business administration degree from Salisbury University and a bachelor of sciences degree in finance from Regis University. He served in the United States Army as well. Cook and his wife Lisa have two children, Garrett and Austin.

The Honorable Charlotte Kerbin Cathell was first sworn into office as the Register of Wills for Worcester County on Dec. 3, 1998. A lifelong resident of Worcester County, Cathell is married to Judge Dale R. Cathell.

She is also on the AGH Foundation Board of Directors. Cathell was a founder and president of Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a former long-time member and vice president of the Worcester County Commission for Women and is on the Board of Directors of Taylor Bank.

Cathell has resided in Ocean Pines for over 40 years and is the first county-wide-elected official from Ocean Pines. She was recently named the Citizen of the Year by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce.

Atlantic General Hospital has been providing quality health care to the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland and Sussex County, Delaware, since May 1993.

Built by the commitment and generosity of a dedicated community, the hospital's state-of-the-art facility in Berlin combines old-fashioned personal attention with the latest in technology and services.

It provides quality specialty care such as weight loss surgery, orthopedics, outpatient infusion for individuals with cancer or blood/autoimmune disorders, retina surgery and a comprehensive women's diagnostic center.

Atlantic General Health System, its network of more than 40 primary care providers and specialists, care for residents and visitors throughout the region. For more information about Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlanticgeneral.org.



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Dec. 15: Identity Crisis, 9 p.m.
Dec. 17: 2 Guys & A Mama, 6 p.m.

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116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium
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443-664-2896
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Dec. 14: Dave Sherman, 7-11 p.m.
Dec. 15: Kevin Poole, 7-11 p.m.
Dec. 16: Vagabonds, 6 p.m.

Dec. 18: Tony Sciuto, 6-9 p.m.
Dec. 19: Reform School, 6 p.m.;
Open Mic, 9 p.m.
Dec. 20: Chris Button, 7-10 p.m.

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STEAL THE SKY
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Dec. 14: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.
Dec. 15: Toys For Tots Karaoke Party,
3 p.m.; Karaoke w/DJ Chuck D,
8 p.m. to midnight

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www.ocharborside.com
Dec. 14: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 15: Side Project/Chris Button,
2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 16: Opposite Directions, 2-6
p.m.; DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Dec. 20: Opposite Directions, 6 p.m.

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410-289-4891
www.picklesoc.com
Dec. 14: Beats By Jeremy, 10 p.m.
Dec. 15: Eastern Electric, 10 p.m.
Dec. 17: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Dec. 20: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
www.seacrets.com
Dec. 14: Christmas Party, 5-10 p.m.;
DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; The 5:55,
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 15: Opposite Directions, 5-9
p.m.; DJ Bobby-O, 6 p.m. to 1:50
a.m.; DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.;
Steal The Sky, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
Dec. 19: Grad Night Celebration, 4
p.m. to 2 a.m.; Shake 3X, 10 p.m.
to 1:50 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
www.skyebaroc.com
Dec. 14: Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.
Dec. 15: Monkee Paw, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922
www.whiskersbar.com
Dec. 15: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The Coastal Association of Realtors (Coastal) welcomed 19 new members during New Member Orientation on Nov. 8. New Member Orientation is a requirement for all members of Coastal. Attendees are introduced to services provided by the association. The class is held quarterly. "We welcome these new members and wish them the best of luck as they venture out into the market on the Lower Eastern Shore," said Coastal President Bernie Flax. Pictured, in back, from left, are Kevin Smith of ERA Martin & Associates in Salisbury; Reginald Polk of Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva in Salisbury; Harold Cyr-Townsend of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury; Barbara DeTota of ERA Martin & Associates in Salisbury; Veronica James of ERA Martin & Associates in Salisbury; Michael Mastracci of Re/Max Advantage Realty in Ocean City; Julie Sebastian of EXIT Realty At The Beach in Ocean Pines; John Brown of Coldwell Banker Residential 64th Street in Ocean City; Cynthia Outten of Long & Foster Real Estate in Salisbury; Robert Kenton of Coastal Resort Sales & Rentals in Ocean City; Richard Rosario of Rosario Realty in Cockeysville; and Robert Mikelskas of Rosario Realty in Cockeysville; and in front, Paula Pugh of ERA Martin & Associates in Salisbury; Wendy Stever of Long & Foster Real Estate in Salisbury; Lisa Rill of Shamrock Realty Group in Ocean Pines; Lauren Dyer of Esham Real Estate in Salisbury; Lakia Predeoux of Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva in Ocean City; Paula Leeper of Long & Foster Real Estate in Salisbury; and Kelly MacPherson of Shamrock Realty Group in Ocean Pines.

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Ernest Hemingway no match for Facebook

It is not unusual for people to ask me where I get my inspiration to write this scintillating tome week-



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

after-week. Even I have to admit that this is a question that I ponder regularly. Truth-be-told, we are going on almost a decade and a half of blabbering gibberish, countless revisions and nail-biting

deadlines, yet I'm not too sure how to answer.

Is it Hemingway? Well, he is one of my favorite writers, melancholy, droll and sharp-witted. Perhaps it could be Van Aken with his ripostes on food, travel and drug-induced Key West adventures in the 70s that led him to become one of the beacons under which hundreds of world-class chefs would blossom. Bukowski with his irreverence, raunch and indifference to society? I'm not sure.

On the other hand, maybe it is my love of Shakespeare, me having intentionally taken his Comedies and Tragedies classes at Loyola years ago (yes we are talking about two semesters-worth and I opted to. It was worth every second).

I sit, I type and I drink a glass of wine, relaxing in front of a roaring fire. It becomes entirely too clear.

My inspiration comes from Facebook. There is nothing exciting about all of this.

Sometimes I will walk around aimlessly, randomly finding myself face-to-face with a random, possible quip in the mall or at the grocery store which I can then spin into a mesmerizing tale of crepes or gingersnap cookies, segues to which are vague and superfluous according to my editor. On the other hand, I can run across an online post, whether it be of me or my girlfriend or friends or family, and a flood of words passes through my mind. In the end, it becomes this.

At no time was this no more evident than tonight. As I stumbled across a post of us hunting pheasant last weekend, it contented me as to why I like to live down here, away from the city lights (which I still love, have no fear).

There is just something so special about living on Delmarva. Granted, the three slowest and coldest months do bring with them a fair amount of



ennui, but it only makes the other nine months an amazing time to live here.

When the tulips break through the frosted ground in the spring, I jump right back into my flip-flops, late snowstorms be damned. I hate shoes with a passion, and you can often see me working in sandals, as my feet prefer their freedom.

Summer is a given down here, as the beach beckons us to surf, swim, paddle, sunbathe, work and make money or simply lounge at the pool or sit around a bonfire. Moreover, of course, one can do just about all of these things any time of the year, but perhaps they won't be too enticing to everyone reading. I know for years I would not go into the ocean after November, despite driving to Indian River in the 80s in mid-February to hit a chilly little swell. However, now that I am officially old and my sensibility is leaving my mind in droves as it did in my teenaged years, I don't mind throwing on a hoodie, booties and gloves and getting out there.

Autumn is of course my favorite season to be sure. Known as "local's summer," it is a time when the sun is still shining, the ocean and sand are still warm and local haunts start of-

fering their weekly specials. Yes, this is definitely the best time to call yourself a local.

Which leaves us with shrimp salad with avocado, no segue or clever pivot point. Just a shrimp salad in avocado. Is it delicious? Absolutely. Will you love it? I don't know. Does it have anything to do with this? Absolutely not. But I feel inspired.

Shrimp Salad, Avocado

serves 4

- 2 soft avocados
- 12 ounces Shrimp, shell-on
- 1 fresh lemon, halved
- 1/4 cup Old Bay
- 1 rib celery
- 1/2 cup Duke's Mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp. Old Bay
- 1/2 tsp. Fresh lemon juice

1. Do not halve the avocados until you are ready to serve these. If you cut them too soon, they will brown unless you squeeze some lime or lemon juice on them. You may certainly do this, but it's just as easy to cut them as you serve

2. Bring a pot of water to a boil (enough water to cover the shrimp by around three inches

3. Add the lemon and first amount

of Old Bay and add the shrimp, stirring to blend flavors thoroughly

4. Cook for about four to five minutes, or until the shrimp are just barely cooked through

5. Add some ice to retard the cooking and allow to cool until you can handle them, remove from the water and discard everything but the shrimp

6. Peel the shrimp and cool completely (you may certainly use peeled shrimp, but shell-on will lend more flavor to the finished salad)

7. Chop the shrimp and add remaining ingredients to make a shrimp salad

8. Adjust seasoning and set aside

9. Halve the avocados and, using a spoon, remove the flesh. Dice and toss very lightly in EV olive oil and a touch of salt & pepper

10. Fill each avocado half with chunked avocado and shrimp salad

11. Garnish with fresh herbs, candied or grilled lemon and more cracked black pepper if desired

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

Puzzles

WHAT A ZOO!

BY ROSS TRUDEAU / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

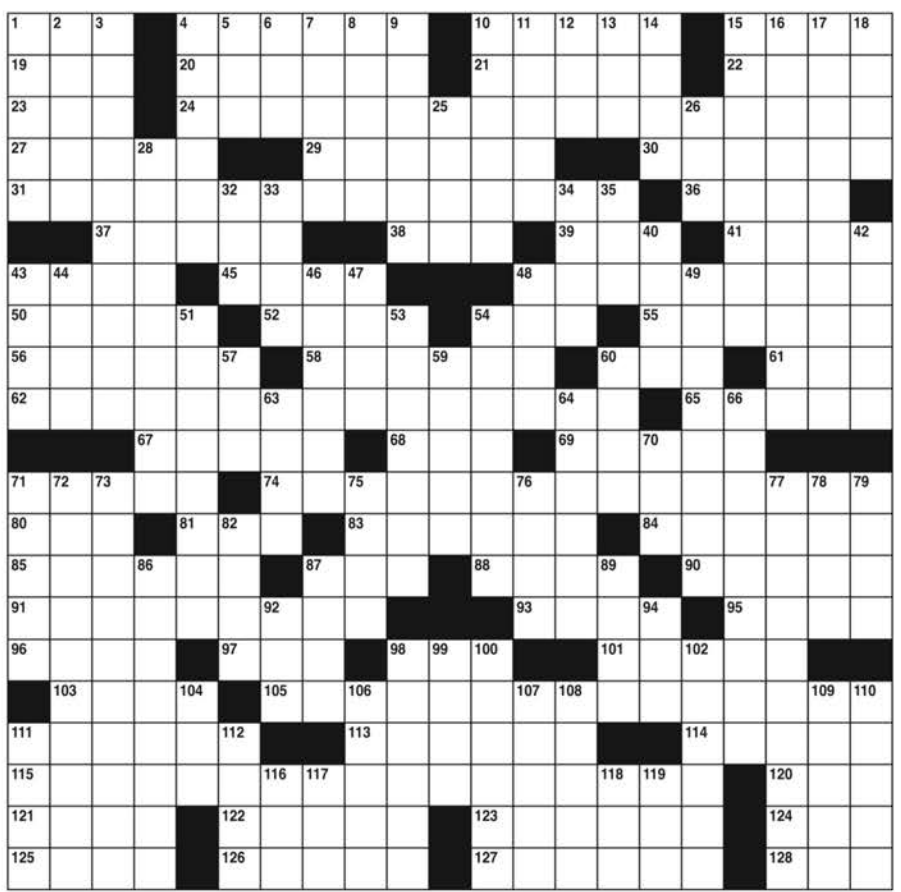
ACROSS
1 Cranky baby's need
4 "Inspector Gadget" antagonist
10 Eschew
15 Starbuck's order giver
19 Brown ____
20 Best seller subtitled "The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English"
21 Pomme de ____ (French for "potato")
22 Part (of)
23 Part of U.C.S.F.
24 Cryptid of the 91-Across
27 Cordial relations
29 Gave two big thumbs down
30 Pluck
31 Cryptid of the 115-Across
36 Kids' TV character who speaks in a falsetto
37 Adler in Sherlock Holmes stories
38 Freshly painted
39 Talk like one smitten
41 Singer Del Rey
43 Cabinet selection?
45 When crepuscular animals are active
48 Cryptid of 105-Across
50 Jersey and others

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

52 Asian territory in Risk
54 Traitor
55 Surgically remove
56 Inventor Otis
58 "Am not!" rejoinder
60 Smallish batteries
61 P
62 With 68- and 74-Across, J. K. Rowling's first screenplay, with a hint to three pairs of answers in this puzzle
65 Indulges in to an unhealthy degree, briefly
67 Dispense
68 See 62-Across
69 Of service
71 " ____ bleu!"
74 See 62-Across down
80 Northeast state sch.
81 Meas. in a T.S.A. carry-on rule
83 Failed the class
84 Perfumery oil
85 Barbie's strawberry blond sister
87 Kingston bro
88 Stagger
90 Real Madrid vis-à-vis F.C. Barcelona
91 Creation after the Indian and Eurasian plates collided
93 Total hunk
95 Tape or patch
96 "Happy Birthday" writer, maybe
97 It's not your fault
98 ____ rap (music subgenre)

101 Word before and after "say"
103 Penne ____ vodka
105 It borders Iceland's eastern coast
111 Event not intended to be repeated
113 Bricklayer's tool
114 Weather-controlling "X-Men" character
115 Gaelic's home
120 One with a backstage pass
121 Fast time
122 Sort with a stiff upper lip
123 Capital of Kazakhstan
124 Squeeze (out)
125 "... ____ they say"
126 Cupboard with open shelves at the top
127 What old army buddies might discuss
128 "Far out!"

DOWN
1 Like Bob Dylan's voice
2 "Remember the ____!"
3 Medical discovery of 1928
4 ____ Johnson a.k.a. The Rock
5 Burgle
6 Corp. mogul
7 Hobbles
8 2007 No. 1 Alicia Keys album
9 Narrow down
10 In a perfect world
11 African grassland
12 Cent : U.S. :: ____ : Sweden
13 Return letters?
14 Blue Book value decreaser
15 Also
16 Housewives and househusbands
17 Voice-activated device since 2014
18 Nota ____
25 Mother of the Virgin Mary
26 Be beholden to
28 Like a top-rated Michelin restaurant
32 Demise
33 Junior in the Football Hall of Fame
34 Real: Ger.
35 Shad delicacy
40 Gumbo ingredient
42 Playwright Chekhov
43 Feudal domain
44 Actress Fisher
46 Ghost
47 Person who's happy to go bust?
48 ____ Ski Valley
49 Repair, as a metal joint
51 Certain product of pyrolysis
53 Classic Chrysler
54 Highway gunk
57 Silent communication, for short
59 The golden rule, e.g.
60 Italian wine town
63 Carries away
64 Nursery-rhyme seat
66 Harm
70 Motor ____
71 It can come in rolls



- 72 Like chemotherapy drugs
73 Adaptable sorts
75 Big things for megalomaniacs
76 Telephone buttons that lack letters
77 Acts like a helicopter parent to
78 Panache
79 ____-mannered

82 Enthusiasm
86 Massimo who wrote "The Goodbye Kiss"
87 Adding and subtracting
89 Breather
92 Until now
94 Opus ____
98 Make wealthy
99 Robert who pioneered in electronic music

100 "And if I don't?"
102 Poughkeepsie campus
104 Rearward
106 Value system
107 From Swansea, say
108 Tickle
109 Eleniak of "Baywatch"
110 Psyched

111 Capital on the same parallel as Seward, Alaska
112 Angle
116 Original Beatle Sutcliffe
117 Having many fans ... or needing a fan?
118 "Fuhgeddaboutit!"
119 Bit of forensic data

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(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 21

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

Calendar

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

Thurs., Dec. 13

STORY TIME ‘ELVES’
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Enjoy stories, movement, songs and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STEAM STORYTIME ‘REINDEER GAMES’
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Holiday science, art and fun. For 3-7 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GRIEF SUPPORT
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education. Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Takes place every Thursday. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

OC WRITERS’ GROUP
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Monthly gathering of local writers who share their independent work and receive encouraging feedback from fellow participants. All writers welcome.

COOKBOOK CLUB
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:00 PM. Choose a cookbook from the library containing recipes according to the monthly theme. Make it and bring it, with a serving utensil, to the meeting to share. This month’s theme is Soups and Starters.

ACADIA COUNSELING AND WELLNESS OPEN HOUSE
Acadia Counseling and Wellness, 9954 N. Main St., Suite One, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Appetizers will be served. Diane Brissey, LCSWC, 410-973-2567

ANIMATION AFTER HOURS
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Educational showcase of rare, classic, groundbreaking and bizarre animation from every era around the world. Program is designed for adults. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

Fri., Dec. 14

FIBER FRIENDS
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work and join this informal group. Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, etc. are welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, moonlightknitting@gmail.com, 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

LAP TIME
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30

AM. Stories, rhymes, songs and finger plays. For children up to two years of age and their caregivers. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

LUNCH AND LISTEN STORY TIME FOR ADULTS
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:00 PM. Adult story time featuring everything from classics to contemporary literature. Hear a story read aloud by library staff and you can bring your lunch. Soft drinks provided. December’s story time will feature selections by author Chris Stewart. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Featuring The Ladies Room by Carolyn Brown. Copies of books are available in advance at the library.

STEM FOR HOME SCHOOLERS ‘WEATHER’
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Learn all about weather at this special monthly STEM session just for homeschoolers, ages 5 to 12. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OYSTER FRITTER SANDWICH
American Legion Berlin Post #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., 3:00 PM. Cost is \$9. The public is welcome.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA
Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Photos with Santa and hot chocolate and cookie bar. Free and open to the public. <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

OCEAN PINES 50TH ANNIVERSARY SOCK HOP PARTY
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Dance instructor Mary McCormick will teach dance steps, turns, easy spins and moves for doo-wop, ‘50s, ‘60s music. There will be a dance contest as well as best-dressed sock hop party-goer. Tickets cost \$15 and include admission, food, water and soda and giveaways. Open to the public. BYOB is allowed. Must be 21 or older to attend. Cheryl Jacobs, ckjacobs@mediacombb.net

UGLY SWEATER NIGHT
28th Street Pit & Pub, 2706 Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Featuring an Ugly Sweater contest, guest bartenders, raffles, Tricky Tray and silent auction, 50/50 and more. Also, offering \$10 crab cakes all night. A \$1 of every cocktail, wine and beer will be donated to The Children’s House By The Sea. Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842, <http://BelieveInTomorrow.org>

PINE TONES CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105

4th St., 7:30 PM. The concert theme is My Favorite (Things)-Songs and offers a variety of festive holiday selections. Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, refreshments will be served in the church social hall. Dave Holloway, 410-641-5672 or June Todd, 410-289-7373.

Sat., Dec. 15

‘BELIEVE IN SANTA’ BREAKFAST
Residence Inn Marriott, 300 Seabay Lane, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Hot breakfast buffet, children’s holiday crafts, children’s activities, photos with Santa, baked goods and raffles. Donations are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3-9 years (includes free new stuffed animal) and free to those 2 and younger. Advance tickets: Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842. Proceeds benefit Believe In Tomorrow Children’s Foundation. <http://BelieveInTomorrow.org>

WALK WITH A DOC
Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, 11144 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. There is a short presentation on a current health topic followed by a walk around the pond at your own pace. Family and pet friendly event. Michelle, 410-641-9268

CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE ‘HOLIDAY DECORATIONS’
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Create themed crafts using materials provided by the library. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center, As-sateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:30 AM. The speakers will be OP Anglers Club members Ken Thompson and his son Adam who traveled to Nova Scotia in October and documented their trip to fish for giant Bluefin Tuna. Updates on fishing issues and awards will also be presented for the Top Anglers of the Year. Members are asked to bring a canned good or a donation for the Diakonia Shelter. All are welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

SANTA’S TRAIN WONDERLAND
Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Santa arrives at 2 p.m. by boat. Take pictures with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. <http://www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org>

HOLIDAY PARTY
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 11:00 AM. Join Santa as he reads some stories of the season. Make some crafts and have your picture taken with Santa. Light refreshments provided.

<http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ANNUAL ‘COOKIES BY THE POUND’ SALE
St. Mary’s Church, 18 3rd St., 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Cookies and craft items for sale. Cost for cookies is \$8 per pound.

BRIAN’S CHRISTMAS SONGBOOK
Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City conventtion center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM. Featuring the Mid-Atlantic Symphony. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the OC Convention Center Box Office. Proceeds go toward fighting opioid addiction. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326

PHOTOS WITH SANTA
Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Photos with Santa and hot chocolate and cookie bar. Free and open to the public. <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

Sun., Dec. 16

THE SUSSEX DANCE ACADEMY PRESENTS ‘THE NUTCRACKER’
Ocean City Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City conventtion center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$20 (\$17 for seniors 60+ and students through high school) and \$17 (\$14 for seniors 60+ and students through high school. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

POLAR EXPRESS EXPERIENCE
Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Featuring movie, hot chocolate, swag bag and Santa visit. Cost is \$5. All proceeds will be donated to Believe in Tomorrow. Open to the public. <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

THE SUSSEX DANCE ACADEMY PRESENTS ‘THE NUTCRACKER’
Ocean City Performing Arts Center in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 5:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$20 (\$17 for seniors 60+ and students through high school) and \$17 (\$14 for seniors 60+ and students through high school. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

DARK NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 7:00 PM. A special service of prayers, scripture and music to acknowledge that God is especially present with those who struggle. Rev. Connie, 410-641-2186

Mon., Dec. 17

CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway

Calendar

Drive, 12:00 AM. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

LAP TIME
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Children, under 2 years old, will be introduced to songs, stories, games and finger plays.
http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCH
Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 11:30 AM. Food donations will go to The Spirit Kitchen. 410-973-1021

SCULPTING DEMONSTRATION AND INSTRUCTION
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Renowned sculptor, Rick Casali will demonstrate the creation of a bust. Participants will then be given the opportunity to sculpt their own art. Register: 410-632-3495.
http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE PICKLEBALL CLINIC
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. The clinic is free but participants are required to pay a \$5 drop-in fee for use of the gym facility. This introductory class is for first time players and covers rules, terminology, primary skills, coordination and more. Equipment is provided. Register: John Hanberry, jhanberry@comcast.net or 703-598-6119.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. Group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern ready selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. Lisa Harrison, 410-632-3970, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

LAP TIME
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:30 PM. Children, under 2 years old, will be introduced to songs, stories, games and finger plays.
http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

DIY CHEMICAL FREE BEAUTY PRODUCTS
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:00 PM. Join Crissy Bowie-Smpson for an essential oil infused skin care class and kick some of those toxins to the curb. Participants will have the opportunity to make chemical free makeup remover pads and a rejuvenating sugar scrub. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

Tues., Dec. 18

BUS TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS CHRISTMAS
Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM. Experience the joy of the season at Longwood Gardens as it transforms into a festive winter wonderland. Proceeds will benefit the Art League of Ocean City. Art League of Ocean City, info@artleagueofoceancity.org, 4105249433, https://artleagueofoceancity.org/event/bus-trip-to-longwood-gardens/

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. An informal session to discuss library resources including eBooks, databases and the library catalog. Coffee and donuts provided. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'HOLIDAY FUN'
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 9715 Healthway Drive, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Support group for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. It meets the third Tuesday of each month. Open to the community. Jo Davis, 410-629-6123

COLOR ME CALM
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Monthly adult coloring sessions. Explore different patterns. Bring your own coloring pages or use pages provided by the library. Colored pencils, gel pens and felt tips available, along with coffee and cookies. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

KNAPPING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. This is a basic class teaching the methods of making arrowheads. Learn how to do what is known as pressure flaking. Bring lightweight leather gloves. Register: 410-208-4014. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

FAMILY TIME 'MOVIE: THE INCREDIBLES 2'
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. The movie will begin 4:30 p.m. Before, during and after the movie enjoy crafts and activities related to The Incredibles 2. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

Wed., Dec. 19

MARYLAND VA REPRESENTATIVE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs representative Michelle Licata offers outreach services to veterans and their families on the third Wednesday of each month. No appointment necessary. 410-713-3482, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. Learn new skills while playing with educational toys. For infant to 5 year old children. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Regional Cancer Care Center Conference Room, 9707 Healthway Drive, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Women Supporting Women/AGH Support group for women and men who are battling breast cancer (current patients and survivors). Lunch is provided. RSVP: 410-548-7880.

UPCYCLED CLOTHING
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Gather up your shirts and get ready to make something old ... new again. Bring two or more garments. Register: 410-641-0650. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHRISTMAS COOKIE CONTEST
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Bring a plate of your best holiday cookies to be entered in the competition (one recipe per participant) to be judged by a panel of cookie enthusiasts. Prizes will be awarded. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - LIFE AFTER LOSS
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. A special meeting date for the month of December. A supportive and safe place for members to share stories confidentially and spend time with others who understand. No sign-ins and no special advanced requirements to attend. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlantic-general.org, 410-641-9725

ONGOING EVENTS

LONGWOOD GARDENS BUS TRIP
The Art League of Ocean City is sponsoring a bus trip to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. on Dec. 18. This season, Longwood Christmas pays homage to the Christmas tree. The bus will depart from Ocean City Center for the Arts at 8:30 a.m. and return at 8 p.m. The cost is \$70. Proceeds from the trip will benefit Art League programs. Participants may bring their own lunch or lunch at one of the cafes at the Gardens. Tickets: artleagueofoceancity.org or 410-524-9433.

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., and throughout Ocean City. Featuring a 50-foot Christmas tree, more than one million holiday lights and hundreds of animated light displays throughout Northside Park. The Winterfest Village pavilion offers hot chocolate, photos with Santa and the Winterfest Express. Admission to board the train is \$5 for adults and free to children 11 years and younger. The event runs through Dec.

31. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m.

BOOK A LIBRARIAN
Any branch, through December. Need some one-on-one help with your resume, job application, E-Reader or basic computer skills? Contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment. www.worcesterlibrary.org

OP REC & PARKS BUS TRIPS
On Saturday, Dec. 15, see "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. The cost is \$115 and includes the show and transportation. These trips are open to the public. Reservations are required: 410-641-7052. Info: OceanPines.org.

FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MONTHLY MEETINGS
Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Ocean City American Legion Post, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, at noon. Open to all fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen. Info: firststatemarines.org

THE SHEPHERDS CROOK
St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 N. Baltimore Ave. in the DeWees Hall. Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Offering dry food goods with NOEL carry out lunches on Saturdays. Use the DeWees Hall north entrance door located at the top of the driveway. Info: 410-289-3453. Volunteers contact Jane Ellis, 540-808-6055.

DIAKONIA THRIFT SHOP
Used to be Mine, Route 611 and Sunset Avenue, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Newly expanded and redecorated. Furniture, clothing, toys and household goods. Info: 410-213-0243.

SUICIDE GRIEVERS' SUPPORT GROUP
Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, the third Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. Knock at the south door for entry. Open to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Free of charge. Info: 410-726-3090 or www.jessespaddle.org.

HELP FOR PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG ABUSE
Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free assessments and referrals: 800-775-8750 or www.narconon.org.

OCVFC LADIES AUXILIARY
The group meets monthly on the first Monday at 7 p.m. at the West Ocean City Fire Station, second floor, Keyser Point Road. New members welcome. Info: Denise, 443-359-2014 or any Ladies Auxiliary member.

CALL

410-723-6397

BY MONDAY

5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE

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

HELP WANTED



is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Y/R Exp. Hostess, Cooks, A/V Staff, Boutique Sales, EMT, General Maintenance & Painter

For more details or to apply, please go online to www.seacrets.com/employment

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Busy Dental Office
Seeking Receptionist-Pt/Ft, Dental knowledge req. Looking for Dental Assistant (FT), Radiology Cert., good clinical skills req. M-F, Benefits & Monthly Bonus.

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302-732-3852 or email:
BrafmanFamilyDentistry@mchsi.com

PT Church Secretary: OC. 9-2 daily. Strong computer & Internet skills incl. MS Office, Publisher, QuickBooks, website management. Previous secretarial & bookkeeping experience required. Church experience helpful.

Email resume to
stgeorgeoc@gmail.com

RENTALS

WINTER WEEKLY RENTALS

4BR House \$500/week
2BR Apartment \$300/week

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RENTALS

WR - 1BR Condo - Off 28th St. - Furnished, \$700/mo. w/WiFi. \$500 sec. deposit. 1BR w/queen & full size bed. House avail. upon request. **No smoking/pets. 410-768-1791**

3BR Unit. Available weekly, weekends, month to month, or for 3-4 months. **Call Teigram, 443-365-1326.**

Year-Round Rentals available in West Ocean City.
2 bedroom, 1 bath and 1 bedroom, 1 bath.
Call 1-877-289-1616 for more information.

Winter Rentals available on St. Louis Avenue, right before 1st Street, Ocean City. **Call 301-331-2209.**

- WATER DAMAGE RESTORATION TECHNICIANS & MANAGERS (IICRC, WRT, ASD certifications a plus)

- EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS/FRAMERS

- INTERIOR REMODELING PROFESSIONALS

- PAINTERS

- DRYWALL INSTALLERS

- DECK COATING APPLICATORS

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Worcester County (DCCWC), local arm of the State and National Party anticipates vacancies in; District 6 (Northern), including "at-large" membership on the Committee, up to three "at-large" (male) gender balance members, and "auxiliaries" vacancies for "at-large", District 1 (Southern), and District 6 (Northern members). Auxiliaries, while not voting members, are given leadership and important support roles with the Committee and as specified by the Bylaws serve in an alternate role on the Committee. These are volunteer positions.

The DCCWC is seeking applications from Registered Democrats who are residents in Worcester County and the District for which they are applying. Applicants should be committed to the principles and platform of the Democratic Party and be willing to dedicate time and energy to advancing the party in this county. It is helpful if applicants have experience in community, church, government, party, education and other groups.

By January 15, 2019, applicants should send a letter or resume describing their education, experience and participation in political and organizational development activities to **DCCWC, Box 34, Berlin, MD 21811** or email it to dccwcmd@gmail.com

For information about the DCCWC visit the website, wcmddems.org, or call 410-629-9107 and leave a message.

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COMMERICAL

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Berlin: Atlantic Business Center. Office space 225 sq. ft. for rent. Utilities incl. \$300/month. Also, several storage units available \$95/month. Call 410-726-5471 or 410-641-4300.

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SERVICES

House and Rental Clean Out, small and local moving, and removal of junk and furniture. Also, will clean out garages/sheds. 302-222-7297, 302-422-9390

Leaf Removal and Yard Clean Up all winter long. Please call Tyler Layton. 410-920-4292

DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.

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BUSINESS SERVICES
Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network - Let MDDC help you grow your business! Call TODAY at 410-212-0616 to increase your customer base and get results.

EDUCATION/CAREER TRAINING
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Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. Homes from low \$100's, No HOA Fees. Brochures Available
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Advertise in MDDC
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Weekly OPEN HOUSES

Dec. 13 - Dec. 20

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point., Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matrona/Resort Homes
Sat-Mon, 11-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat. & Sun. 11-2pm	Muirfield Lane., River Run	3-4BR/2-3.5BA	Single Family	\$399,900-\$479,900	Ed Wehnert/Coldwell Banker
Sat. & Sun. 11-4pm	29 Boatswain Dr., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$459,000	Greg Steen/Steen Realty
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