



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Delmarva Chorus raises its collective voice in tribute to longtime community volunteer Anna Foultz during an emotional namesake room dedication ceremony filled with heartfelt memories from a host of friends and family at the Ocean Pines community center on Thursday.

It's official: Fleetwood town admin.

Berlin Council agrees he's right person for position

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Berlin's Acting Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood dropped the "acting" part of his title after his promotion to town administrator was announced Monday evening.



Jeff Fleetwood

"I'm embarking on a new role in the Town of Berlin, and my commitment to you, and my commitment to these folks ... is to give 100 percent," he said.

Mayor Gee Williams said during the council meeting that the position became official on Monday after the Town Council decided to make the change last week.

See IT'S Page 8

Foultz room dedication emotional

Ceremonial speeches full of plaudits and praise

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Gone, but not forgotten, community volunteer Anna Foultz was lauded by family and friends for her decades of community service and charitable pursuits during a room rededication ceremony at the Ocean Pines community center on Thursday.

Known as the world's oldest serving Girl Scout, Foultz was an integral part of numerous community organizations, including Star Charities, which she co-founded with her husband, Carl, in 2007.

The emotional ceremony featured numerous cohorts who shared testimonies about the indelible impression Foultz left on them.

Star Charities volunteer Barb Peletier introduced more than a half dozen members of Foultz's charity.

"We're here to say goodbye to a little lady with a very big heart," she said. "Anna instilled in the Star Charities volunteers that one can never do or give enough to the community or those in need."

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) and Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) presented Foultz's son, Carl Jr., and his wife, Janet, with citations from the Maryland Senate and Gov. Larry Hogan.

"Yes indeed, Anna Foultz is smiling down," she said. "Anna Foultz was a true servant leader."

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, who featured a column by Foultz in the Courier newspaper for years, referenced an old show business adage that epitomized her civic-

minded spirit.

"Leave them wanting just a little bit more," he said.

Bertino said Foultz was perpetually lending aid and moving forward.

"Her daughter told me the best way to honor Anna was to keep the momentum going," he said. "I don't think I would be able to keep up with the pace that Anna set."

Foultz was involved and a common fixture at Ocean Pines Association meetings, Bertino said.

"It wasn't uncommon to spot her in the front row, hair and attire perfect," he said. "If she had something to say ... she was going to say it regardless of the topic being discussed at the time."

Even in her advanced years, Foultz remained engaged when many others would be slowing up, Bertino said.

See FOULTZ Page 4

Body of man found in ditch on Old OC Blvd.

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) A 41-year-old man was found dead this past Friday afternoon on Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin, the Berlin Police Department said Tuesday.

Jonathan Michael Driessen, of Berlin, was found in a ditch on Oct. 25 behind Rite Aid on 10119 Old Ocean City Blvd., according to police.

Police answered a call around 3:18 p.m. from a person who discovered Driessen's body

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Bylaws weighs resolution changes

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) The Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee discussed amending Declarations of Restrictions guidelines to permit hastened enforcement of violations, including heightened court action with the potential to recoup legal fees during its meeting last Wednesday.

The considerations were part of a multi-tiered proposal presented for first reading during the Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 2.

Board member Frank Daly introduced a handful of recommendations, including replacing resolution M-01 with newly written M-10 for more timely enforcement of violations for non-compliance, along with revising resolutions M-04 and C-02.

Based on continuing challenges to enforce violations by a small fraction of homeowners, Daly said General Manager John Viola had established a workgroup to delve into the matter. The group includes Daly, Architectural Review Committee chairwoman Lisa Schwartz and Dino McCurdy with OPA Compliance, Permits and Inspections.

"CPI handles up to a dozen complaints a day," he said. "Most are resolved within 30 days."

After examining the issue, it was discovered there were, at this point, only 17 ongoing violations.

"We have violations of the deed of restrictions that have been going on for years," he said.

Daly attributed the long-term violations to a combination of subpar board oversight, management practices and inadequate processes.

Daly said the workgroup focused on developing methods to obtain compliance with declaration of restrictions when normal processes fail, including implementing a structure for fines.

"We've looked at it and said the most egregious cases would just ignore the fines," he said.

In lieu of levying penalties, the aim shifted to speeding up the process of seeking court actions for violations over 30 days, Daly said.

"We can do it faster if we want to," he said.

Daly said the proposal includes a 30-days-and-out process, which could involve rescinding resolution M-01 for the new M-10.

The workgroup also focused on ensuring the ability to recoup legal fees associated when obtaining a court

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Comcast and Rt. 589 roundabout updates

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) OPA President Doug Parks provided status updates on a proposed Route 589 roundabout and the pending introduction of Comcast cable and internet services during a town hall meeting on Saturday.

Recognizing the proposed traffic circle on Racetrack Road piqued massive community interest, Parks recently contacted the Maryland Department of Transportation about it.

“I don’t want to use the word on

‘hold,’ they called it suspended because they haven’t had any funding,” he said. “They say the whole project is still in concept phase.”

While the traffic circle is still under consideration by state highway officials, Parks said potential timeframes remain unknown.

“I’m sure there’s a lot of moving parts with regard to the factors that go into them turning it from a concept into something tangible,” he said.

Parks said the community would be informed as more information becomes available.

“It obviously will effect a lot of people in Ocean Pines,” he said.

Turning attention to the recently approved Comcast contract, Parks said infrastructure installations are almost ready to begin.

“They’ve got the beginning of their implementation plan [and are] finalizing it,” he said. “I have a meeting with them next week to review these plans.”

While exact installation dates have yet to be established, Parks said it appears unlikely Comcast would employ a “single-thread,” approach.

“I got the sense they’re not just going to start at one side and work one by one all the way around,” he said. “They actually floated the concept, if they can do it, of doing multiple sections at the same time.”

In terms of infrastructure plans, Parks said while details could yet be altered, a few assurances have been provided.

“They’re running fiber on the major thoroughfares,” he said. “How they aggregate their network from there might go a number of ways.”

See TOWN Page 5

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Foultz remembered for her service

Continued from Page 1

"She was always looking ahead, and I don't think she ever looked in the rearview mirror," he said.

Foultz was known for her constant smile and kindness.

"She wasn't overwhelmed by status or stature. With her people were just people," he said.

Welling up with emotion, Bertino theorized heaven surely exists and undoubtedly includes musical accompaniment.

"I believe Anna is enjoying both in Carl's arms," he said. "We are fortunate to live in our community, and we are blessed that, for a time, we lived in the community that Anna called home."

Sue Walter, who served as Star Charities secretary in recent years, praised her departed friend's altruistic nature.

"Anna is watching over us today [and] taking pictures," she said.

Recalling the pair always closed conversations by stating, "I love you," Walter said she was fortunate to have shared those sentiments during her friend's final days.

"I'm blessed that I got to say those words to her just three days before she passed," she said.

"You spread happiness for all the years you were here on Earth," she said. "Rest in peace sweet Anna."

Larry Walton, who rubbed elbows with Foultz in Star Charities and numerous community groups, said the bottom line was service.

"She was such a giver to the community," he said. "If we could all follow in her footsteps, what a community we'll have."

Highlighting a donation drive to support Star Charities' current "Holiday Gifts for Soldiers" campaign slated for that Saturday at the Ocean Pines Food Lion, Walton said that would be the groups' final venture as the non-profit's name will be retired.

Paul Mazzei who bonded with the Foultz in multiple community organizations, including Star Charities and the Sons of Italy Ocean City Lodge #2747, said Anna set an example more should follow.

"Anna belonged to a lot of organizations but she's not like most of us ... she

took an active part," he said.

Her dedication to those less fortunate bordered on the obsessive, Mazzei said.

"She could not do enough for Star Charities," he said. "There's no doubt in my mind the second day she was in heaven, God had to call her aside ... and say, 'Anna, I'm in charge up here.'"

Mazzei then recalled the long-running Readers Digest column, "My Most Unforgettable Character."

"Anna Foultz is my most unforgettable character of Ocean Pines and, thanks to the dedication today, she will not be forgotten," he said.

Former Worcester County Commissioner Judy Boggs counted Foultz among her circle of close friends.

"I want you to know there was a side of Anna that no one knew about," she said.

Boggs recounted a heart-to-heart conversation years earlier where Foultz expressed self-doubts.

"We would not think of Anna as modest [or] unsure of herself because we know how she barrels into a room and takes it over," she said.

Boggs said Foultz once confided in her that she had received an accolade she did not deserve.

"One day, she called me asking for help. 'I've been elected the businesswoman of the year for the whole country,' and I said, 'Anna, that's wonderful,'" she said. "She said, 'no it isn't, I'm a fraud [and] not a businesswoman.'"

Boggs set about to convince Foultz the honor was well-earned.

"I said, 'OK, let's write down what a businesswoman does, and she said, 'they make money,'" she recounted. "I said, 'you make more money than all of them, but you give it away.'"

"It took two sessions to get her to believe she was indeed a businesswoman and deserved that [because] she wanted to give it back," she said. "She went across the country, made a speech, and knocked them dead."

Ocean Radio 98.1 general manager and morning personality Bulldog shared impressions of Foultz formed during multiple on-air discussions.

"Anna spent more time in the studio than some of my employees," he



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Carl Foultz Jr. and his wife, Janet, attend the dedication ceremony for the "Anna Foultz Room" in the Ocean Pines community center on Thursday.

quipped. "Every time she came into my studio, she came in to help someone else."

Bulldog then boiled her personality down to three points.

"She is the epitome of goodness [and] selflessness and she left the longest answering machine messages I've ever heard in my life," he said.

While radio interviews do affect listeners, Bulldog said Foultz's guest spots never failed to elicit a large reaction.

"I would get emails and texts, 'We love her, she's great, can she come back,' and I said, 'She will, trust me,'" he said. "You know what, I'm not so sure she not coming back again."

In addition to the room dedication on Thursday, Peletier said the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines and Ocean City will award an, "Anna Foultz," scholarship to a high school senior next May.

In closing, Anna's son, Carl Jr., said his parents would be reunited with funeral service plans that include a resting spot next to her husband.

"She told me a thousand times that she wanted to go to Arlington [National Cemetery] and be buried with my dad," he said.

Anticipating up to a 10-month delay for the funeral service because of Arlington's procedures, Foultz said details would be forthcoming.

"She loved this community and everybody here more than you could know," he said.



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Bylaws considers resolution updates proposed by Daly

Continued from Page 2

order.

“As Ocean Pines has developed, we have at least 22 different declarations of restrictions [and] no two are alike,” he said.

Daly said the workgroup discovered that sub-sections of Ocean Pines with deed of restriction rules written before 1995 lack language specifying the ability to collect legal fees.

In his guidance on the topic, OPA attorney Jeremy Tucker said Maryland adheres to the common law, “American Rule,” which generally does not award attorney fees to the prevailing party unless permitted, in this instance, by statute.

“Under ‘American Rule,’ ... if the wording is not there, you can’t do it,” he said.

Highlighting costs, Daly said Tucker had estimated the price tag to pursue a court injunction for aesthetic violations could range anywhere from \$5,000 - \$50,000, with a procedure to collect legal fees sorely needed.

“Nobody questioned the top number is possible,” he said.

Potentially amending resolution C-02 that covers procedures when entering properties to remove rubbish or maintain grass was also examined, Daly said.

“CPI, public works and the police have a deep aversion to the board sending someone on property with a vote of directors,” he said.

In addition to opening the debate over what precisely constitutes trash, Daly said the hesitation also stems from a desire to avoid verbal or physical altercations.

“Even when the board voted to go onto a property ... the police said get a court order to back that up,” he said.

Bylaws chairman Jim Trummel

suggested that reviewing the new language in M-10 should be done before considering rescinding M-01.

“I would prefer replacing M-01 with M-10,” he said.

Trummel also suggested sending M-10 to Tucker for a legal opinion.

“I do believe this is one that should have an attorney review,” he said.

Trummel also raised concerns over delineating enforcement authority between the general manger and the ARC Committee.

“It’s never really been clear what the authority of ARC is,” he said.

Previous public comments during board meetings have expressed hesitation that the changes would remove the boards’ authority to pursue court action.

“Aren’t you delegating to ARC?” he said.

Daly said the proposal is not intended to alter violation processes during the first 30 days after notification.

“It’s not to empower or cut back ARC,” he said. “It’s at the end of 30 days when we go through, what I call, our merry go ‘round slow dance is what I want stopped.”

Daly said the board delegates authority for the general manager to initiate legal actions but remains the ultimate deciding body.

Trummel reiterated the need to review resolution C-02 to confirm designation of enforcement authority is clearly established.

“I see in here, at a minimum, language that needs to be cleaned up,” he said. “We need to make sure that we clarify the authority of the ARC Committee.”

The committee agreed to vet the proposals further and return comments to Daly and Schwartz.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA President Doug Parks, right, shares the latest update from state officials regarding the proposed Route 589 roundabout and pending infrastructure work to bring Comcast service to the area, with Board of Directors members Steve Tuttle, left, and Frank Daly in tow during a town hall meeting at the community center on Saturday.

Town hall meeting provides status for pending projects

Continued from Page 3

Depending on the distance from the demarcation point to individual residencies, a co-axial line could be employed.

“They did say it was going to be a hybrid network,” he said. “It’s not going to be fiber all the way to the residence.”

In terms of service packages offered, Parks stressed that the OPA entered into an agreement for Comcast to access right of ways and easements,

which did not include retail terms.

“We don’t dictate rates to them,” he said. “They are the ones that control the rates to provide their own service.”

Parks said the terms grant the OPA 1.6 percent of Comcast’s gross revenue.

“Truth be told it’s just a pass-through,” he said. “They bake that into their retail rate and we get 1.6 percent of that, which goes back into the OP coffers.”

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i.g. Burton dealership annexation continues

Town Council approves resolution to incorporate portion of land into Berlin

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) The annexation agreement that will allow the i.g. Burton car dealership to overhaul some physical aspects of its Berlin operation was approved by the Town Council at its Monday evening.

There is roughly 6.0975 acres that would be annexed into the town, according to an agreement between i.g. Burton and the Town of Berlin.

The annexation applies to the Chevrolet dealership. The company also plans to demolish the current shop and rebuild it. The parcel where i.g. Burton's Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep shop is already inside the town limits.

At the county level, the property is zoned C-2 Commercial, but that designation would change to B-2 Shopping District, according to the annexation agreement.

The Town of Berlin would provide several services, including police protection and water service, and i.g. Burton would agree to pay "ready-to-serve" fees for seven equivalent dwelling units of wastewater service to the property.

Attorney Sandy McCallister Jr., who represents i.g. Burton, said he's been

working with Worcester County and the state to get final annexation approval.

When speaking with Worcester County officials, McCallister said that Barrett Road was a topic of discussion.

McCallister said as a condition of the annexation, county officials wanted to include the road. However, he added that Berlin officials asked that i.g. Burton assume the responsibility of maintaining the road.

McCallister asked the mayor and council "to move forward with you folks and keep the process going."

Berlin's Planning Commission issued a favorable recommendation on the annexation during a July meeting.

i.g. Burton acquired the dealership on Old Ocean City Boulevard from the Barrett family in the summer of 2018. The company also has dealerships in Milford, Lewes, Smyrna and Seaford, Delaware.

Mayor Gee Williams then called for a public hearing to allow townspeople to express their opinions on the matter, but no one opted to participate.

Councilman Zack Tyndall asked whether the company could switch from its current electric service provider, Delmarva Power, to the town's electric utility, and cited a previously annexed property that had been allowed to do that.

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Drawings showcase plans for a completely redone i.g. Burton Chevrolet dealership on Old Ocean City Boulevard in Berlin. i.g. Burton's Director of Operations Pete Renzi and Attorney Sandy McCallister Jr. addressed the Town Council Monday evening to get a resolution approved to move forward with the annexation of the dealership.

Town Attorney David Gaskill said that property, a proposed gas station and convenience store on North Main Street near Route 50 developed by Spiro Buas, had "a special agreement" between Delmarva Power and the Berlin Electric Utility that was approved by the Public Service Commission. He added something like this wouldn't typically apply for new annexations.

"We would expect not to see that because it's not within our right to decide who can serve them electric power," Gaskill said.

Councilman Thom Gulyas moved to continue with the annexation process, which was approved in a 3-1 vote. Tyndall was the sole dissenter.

Councilman Dean Burrell was absent from Monday evening's meeting.



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Berlin issues RFP for Heron Park

Request for proposals to include work on demolition, clean-up on town property

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) It's take two for Heron Park as the Town of Berlin town has issued a request for proposals to complete demolition and cleanup projects at the site on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood released the requests for proposals on-line last week.

The park, a former Tyson chicken processing plant, has found itself in trouble in recent months after an undisclosed amount of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda or lye) was spilled in June during demolition work done by another contractor.

Mayor Williams said during a Sept. 23 meeting that the town has spent \$265,000 on the cleanup project, and will have spent about \$283,000 once everything is completed.

Williams informed staff, council members and residents during a Sept. 23 Town Council meeting that Goody Hill Groundwork could finish the remaining demolition if the town authorized up to \$55,000 to pay for a series of

projects.

Williams' initiative was dismissed after receiving opposition from the public and some council members. The park was also closed indefinitely in a 3-1 vote with Councilman Dean Burrell dissenting.

However, Fleetwood called Williams' proposal a "high-end figure" that was "making a lot of assumptions for the unknowns."

Fleetwood also clarified that "the unknowns" consisted of a scenario where underground piping could be discovered during the excavation process.

"I also want to emphasize that the discussion that evening about \$55,000 ... that was [a] worst-case scenario," he said.

When asked about the reason for issuing the request for proposals, Fleetwood said that "we don't have the materials nor the capabilities" to complete the demolition projects.

In addition to demolition, the request for proposals also allows for removal and disposal of any rubble.

Fleetwood said officials planned to more of take a realistic approach by delegating some of the work to town staff. He added that they would remove some debris and "backfill" any existing holes with dirt.

"Those are probably the two biggest factors," he said.

A mandatory pre-bid visit is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Friday at the site. The visit is expected to last for one hour, and contractors will be able to survey the area and ask town staff any questions, according to the request for proposals.

Fleetwood said he is using the bid solicitation to get a better idea of how much demolition would cost for each project.

Following the site visit, contractors will have until Nov. 7 to submit additional questions. Inquiries can be sent to jfleetwood@berlinmd.gov. Responses will be returned by Nov. 12. For more information, visit berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/.

Contractors should submit an original bid and four copies to the Town of Berlin, Attn: Jeff Fleetwood, 10 William St. Berlin, Maryland 21811 by 11 a.m. on Nov. 20. The bid envelope should also have "Attn: RFP 2019-02" clearly marked, according to the request for proposals.

Fleetwood said staff would open bids, and the successful bidder would then go before the mayor and council. The exact meeting date is unclear, but Fleetwood said expected it to be on the schedule in early December.

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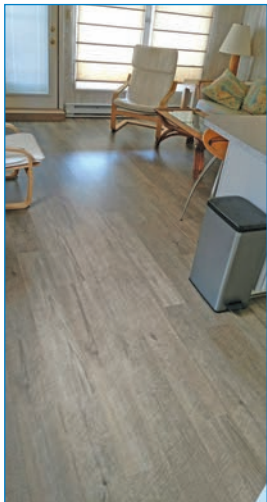
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It's official for Fleetwood, he's now town administrator

Continued from Page 1

Williams said he's "very pleased with the transition."

Fleetwood served as acting town administrator for more than one month after former Town Administrator Laura Allen was fired on Sept. 16.

He started working with the town in 2010 as the human resources director. He was promoted to managing director in 2017. Apart from human resources, he also was responsible for working on special projects and with department heads, as well as meeting with businesses and citizens.

Fleetwood emphasized the importance of continuing to have a dialogue with area residents, merchants, town employees and department heads.

"I'm open. Call me. I'm not going to change the way I do business," Fleetwood said.

Several town officials expressed confidence in Fleetwood's handling of his new position.

"Congratulations, Jeff. I know you'll do a good job," said Councilman Elroy Brittingham. "I know you get here bright and early every day."

It's unclear when Fleetwood's former position will be filled.

Councilman Dean Burrell was absent from Monday's meeting.

Body of missing man found, no 'unusual signs of trauma'

Continued from Page 1

while he was walking his dog.

The Worcester County Bureau of Investigation assumed the case, and no foul play is suspected, according to police.

Driessen had been missing for a while, according to detectives on scene.

According to the on-call medical examiner, Driessen did not have any "unusual signs of trauma," police said.

Driessen was then taken to the chief medical examiner's office in Baltimore for an autopsy to determine a cause of death, according to police.

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OP Golf Committee reviews financials, clubhouse proj.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) In preparation for the pending annual budget report, the Ocean Pines Golf Committee on Tuesday received the current financials and a clubhouse project update, and discussed the need to develop a long-term plan to increase membership and assess future staffing needs. Director of Golf John Malinowski opened the committee meeting with a review of September profit and loss numbers, which are trending ahead of budget.

“Mother Nature has been kind,” he said.

Despite winter weather coming into sight, Malinowski said mild temperatures could help continue the positive bottom line figures.

“If the weather is decent, we can actually make a good amount,” he said.

Malinowski said at this point in the current fiscal year the golf course is roughly \$125,000 ahead of last year.

Turning to greens and fairways maintenance, Malinowski said the return to work last week of course superintendent Andre Jordan after an extended absence would bolster the effort to address turf issues.

“The course is in really good shape and bounced back nice,” he said.

Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association President Ann Shockley said, despite minor precipitation during an early round that morning, the course conditions appeared to be stellar.

“The green itself is really nice,” she said.

Malinowski said compiling the golf operations annual budget report is getting underway with a draft likely for review by the next committee meeting in November.

Golf committee Chairman Larry Davies noted board liaison Frank Daly had suggested the group examine the course for potential improvements in light of upcoming budget talks.

“How do we have a discussion on budget when we haven’t been presented with the budget?” he said.

Davies suggested the budget talks would be more effective after committee members review the draft proposal and inspect the links.

Shockley concurred with Daly’s earlier recommendation.

“Some people have never even been on the course,” she said.

Saying suitable golf weather is likely the next few weeks, Davies pro-

See OP Page 10

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OP Golf Committee preps budget

Continued from Page 9

posed scheduling the course tour as soon as the committee could coordinate times.

Turning to the clubhouse project, Malinowski said construction is moving along with the bulk of cinderblock foundation work completed.

"It's moving along fine," he said. "The cart barn will probably start demolition within the next two weeks."

Installing the prefabricated cart barn should take no more than six weeks, or less with favorable weather conditions, Malinowski said.

Davies inquired about golf cart maintenance.

"I was on one last week that sounded like the transmission was coming out of it," he said.

Malinowski said an annual maintenance plan typically starts next month and should be wrapped up by year's end.

"We do have someone come in and take a look at them," he said.

Shifting to turf concerns, committee member Frank Biancaniello asked about upcoming plans to address greens and fairways.

Malinowski said several green surrounds identified as problematic are being examined.

"We've got some areas seeded ... and that's starting to take hold," he

said. "I don't know if they'll all come back ... if not, we'll probably lay some sod."

Shockley complimented Malinowski on recent improvements on the forward tee box for the eighth hole.

"The next time the goosegrass even starts, that's what we're doing," she said.

Davies asked if other tee-boxes are slated for attention.

"Are we going to do that on other tee boxes where the goosegrass has gone crazy?" he said.

Malinowski said the issues probably could be controlled with chemical fertilizers.

"It dies off in the wintertime," he said.

Malinowski said additional tee boxes could be stripped and covered with fresh sod if that action is warranted.

Davies also asked about plans to improve the fairway approaching the eighth hole.

Malinowski said the trouble spot is being assessed.

"[It's] our number one area we're looking into right now," he said.

Committee member Joe Lynch asked Malinowski for details about a pair of outside consultants brought in at the end of summer to review course conditions and chemical fertilizer applications.

Although reticent at this point to reveal the experts' identities without their authorization, Malinowski said both consultants are golf course superintendents with over 30 years of experience.

"They didn't start coming in until the end of August," he said.

Malinowski said the additional expertise was required after Jordan was forced to take a brief medical leave not long after losing an assistant su-

perintendent.

The goal now is for the consultants to assist with training additional staff to obtain state certifications to apply chemical fertilizers.

Davies asked if outside consultants would continued to be used in light of Jodan recently returning to oversee course maintenance.

"It's a great way to help improve what you do," he said.

Malinowski said the outside assistance would be solicited as needed.

"We'll have more eyes than we've had on it before," he said.

Davies also confirmed the intent to include consultant fees as a line item in the upcoming budget.

"There's nothing wrong with having somebody look over our shoulder to help us get better," he said.

Other budget inclusions Davies said the committee has entertained include hiring an assistant golf pro to aid Malinowski and a marketing firm to boost membership.

"That's a big nut because we're asking to hire somebody here," he said.

In terms of future marketing efforts, Malinowski said although the course is an amenity, it needs to be operated like a business.

"Sure, membership numbers are going down but they're going down everywhere," he said. "People are just not joining golf clubs. Thinking in terms of five-year plans, Davies said the course membership is likely to continue trending downward.

"We already know that our business model has to be built on revenue generated from outside playing or non-members," he said.

Shockley suggested building in value to attract new players.

"You've got to have something to market besides the course itself," she said.



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Costs continue to rise to fix Berlin's stormwater problem

Past, present and future projects outlined in talks concerning area flooding

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Mitigating flooding in Berlin has come with a hefty price tag, with \$2.273 million spent so far on stormwater management projects, according to Darl Kolar, a consultant with E.A. Engineering, Science and Technology Inc.

"We've made a ton of progress. We've got a ways to go. I don't know what else to say," Kolar said at the Monday night meeting of the mayor and Town Council.

Six projects were completed throughout town from 2014-2018 to address water quality and water quality, according to Kolar. He added that four other projects are still in the design phases, but are estimated to cost around \$3.7 million.

That's nearly \$6 million before the work is complete. Kolar stressed the importance of finding federal and state grants to help pay for these projects.

Kolar said that the Town of Berlin has revamped its stormwater priorities in recent years, and has completed several projects

- in April 2014, a culvert was replaced with natural stones and boulders on West Street. It cost \$134,000 with 25 percent of funds coming from the town and 75 percent from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

- In November 2016, a Flower Street offline wetland was created along Hudson Branch to provide water quality and flood mitigation. It cost \$399,000 and was paid for via a community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- In March 2017, a culvert on Flower Street was replaced with two elliptical pipes and two box culverts. A community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development covered the \$330,000 project.

- In July 2017, crews completed the replacement of a storm drain on West Street by inserting a larger plastic pipe in place of the existing metal pipe. The project cost \$426,000 and was covered by the town.

"This project was considered an emergency stormwater project with significant road failure," Kolar said in his presentation.

- In October 2017, the William Street offline wetland and culvert replacement projects were completed. Kolar said that a wetland was created along Hudson Branch to help with runoff. Workers also installed larger concrete pipes to replace two metal

elliptical pipes. The projects cost \$354,000, with \$41,000 coming from the town, \$188,000 coming from the state's department of natural resources and \$125,000 coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- In July 2018, phase I of stormwater improvement projects on Cedar Avenue, Maple Drive and Pine Street were completed. The state's department of natural resources covered the \$455,000 project.

"This project is phase I of the needed stormwater improvement in the area from William Street, to the intersection of Graham Avenue, and Nelson Street," Kolar said in his presentation. "It was divided into two phases to utilize available grant funding."

Officials are now tackling the submerged gravel wetland project at a town-owned property on Graham Avenue. Kolar said construction is expected to finish by the end of December.

The town is covering \$45,000 of the project's costs, with Chesapeake Bay Trust contributing \$175,000, and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program will give \$55,000 through additional funding from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

See FUTURE Page 12

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Future flooding initiatives

could cost roughly \$3.7M

Continued from Page 11

ment of Natural Resources.

As for future projects, Kolar out-

lined four areas of interest:

• Phase II of the Franklin Avenue,

Nelson and Pine streets, which

would connect the submerged gravel

wetland on Graham Avenue to phase

I of stormwater improvements on

Cedar Avenue,

Maple Drive and

Pine Street. The de-

sign status is 95

percent complete,

and is estimated to

cost approximately

\$850,000.

• West Street and

Abbey Lane’s “existing stormwater

pipng” is “significantly undersized,”

according to Kolar. He added that it

could cost about \$1.8 million to fix,

and Kolar is working on the design

concept to find additional grant fund-

ing.

“This street is certainly in a dire

need,” Kolar said. “That intersection

is just [a] deluge of water.”

• Installing new stormwater piping

to account for correct elevations and

sizes in Henrys Mill and Henrys

Green. Kolar said it’s still in the de-

sign concept and the project is esti-

mated to cost about \$450,000.

• Improving downstream channels

to the existing sanitary sewer lines

along Hudson Branch and Bay Street.

Kolar said it’s important to “prevent

the submergence of sanitary piping.”

The project is also still in the design

phase, and it’s estimated to cost ap-

proximately \$600,000.

When referencing the flooding is-

sues near West Street, several resi-

dents, including Shane Warren,

expressed their frustrations.

Warren complained about an

overgrown ditch behind his home

near the railroad tracks that run par-

allel to West Street.

He pressed town

officials about why

it hadn’t been

cleared, and said he

took the issue to his

representative,

Councilman Zack

Tyndall.

“If it wasn’t for

him, I don’t know what we would

have done,” Warren said.

Tyndall said he worked with then-

Town Administrator Laura Allen to

address the issue and found that ex-

posed ditch was shallower than ex-

pected. He added the ditch had some

debris.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleet-

wood said the ditch was on the sched-

ule for cleaning.

Mayor Gee Williams empathized

with Warren’s concerns, and sug-

gested people call Water Resources

Director Jamey Latchum the next

time a major rain occurs to ensure

that everyone is on the same page.

Williams also underscored the im-

portance of mitigating flooding and

stormwater management in Berlin.

“We have some catching up to do,

but we’re committed to doing it,”

Williams said.

“We have some catching

up to do, but we’re

committed to doing it.”

Mayor Gee Williams

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Beach Memories welcomed on Main Street

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Beach Memories owner Michele Krempa embarked on a new journey Friday evening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at her Main Street jewelry store.

“The best part of my job is when people come in and they smile,” Krempa said.

While the grand opening was this past Friday at the shop on 106 N. Main St., Krempa said the store officially opened on Aug. 9.

Krempa said that the store will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. She added that she also plans to stay open until 8 p.m. on Fridays during the holidays.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Krempa said she felt welcomed by the town, residents and fellow merchants. Local, state and national dignitaries in attendance also said a few words.

Berlin’s Mayor Gee Williams called the town and the business community “an extended family,” as he recalled Berlin’s revitalization efforts in recent decades.

“We’re so excited for you, and looking forward to much success, and welcome to the family,” Williams said.

Williams also recognized State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38). Carozza

said a shop like this is a real asset to Berlin.

“When mayor mentioned that ‘Mary Beth’s like family,’ part of that also is I spend a lot of money in Berlin,” Carozza said. “Because I believe locals should support locals, and we really have that.”

Rep. Andy Harris (R-1st) agreed. He emphasized the importance of small businesses, and the role they play within the overall economy.

He then wished Krempa luck on her new venture in town.

“You have a jewel here, no pun intended,” he said.

Krempa said she’s looking forward to sharing her handmade jewelry with Berlin’s residents and visitors.

“I felt for the type of work I was doing that Berlin brings in the type of customer that I’m looking for,” Krempa said.

While Beach Memories is Krempa’s store, she also uses the studio to produce wholesale beads for about 200 retailers across the nation and in the Caribbean through her company, Seachelle Designs.

“I think it’s just going to benefit the community because ... it’s going to be a Berlin locally made product, and people can come watch the art of the working the glass,” Krempa said. “That in itself is always fascinating.”

Larnet St. Amant, executive director



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Beach Memories owner Michele Krempa gets ready for the grand opening of her jewelry story on Main Street in Berlin this past Friday.

of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, agreed.

“It’s just a nice way for our town to grow in another aspect and ... not necessarily made in America, but made here in Berlin, which is huge for us,” St. Amant said.

In addition to manufacturing, Krempa said her retail store has jewelry ranging in styles and price points that can be a keepsake for residents or visitors.

“When people do visit the town that aren’t local, they’re going to be able to take a memory back with them, especially with our beads that have the

Ocean City sand in them,” Krempa said.

Krempa said she has other gifts and products crafted by American artists that keeps with the overall beach theme of the store. The shop is also equipped with a “hot glass studio” and all of the beads are made on the premises.

Krempa said she plans to hold classes where people can learn more about the glass bead making process. She added that there’s a weeklong glass bead-making class for \$300. The class would run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first day and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second day.

See STORE Page 14



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Bunk Mann publishes second book about OC

By Josh Kim
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) The western wall of Hunter “Bunk” Mann’s living room is covered from ceiling to floor with history books.

“I put them up when journalists come over,” Mann joked.

Despite a long, fulfilling career in the insurance industry, Mann said his dream — if he could go back in time — would be to become a history professor at a small college.

His love of history is what inspired him to write his first book, “Vanishing Ocean City,” and now his latest book, “Ghosts in the Surf.”

“The title of the book ... it’s not about Halloween or something,” Mann cracked. “The ghosts are the memories and the people that have passed on.”

Mann’s new, 340-page book has well over 700 photos and hundreds of anecdotes from Ocean City inhabitants, past and present.

The book is available for purchase for \$54.99 at select locations in Ocean City, Berlin and Salisbury. It is also available online at vanishingoc.com.

Mann was born and raised in Salisbury, but spent many summers vacationing in Ocean City with his family.

During high school and college, he worked every summer at various jobs: on the beach as a beach boy, at Eng-

lish’s restaurant on 15th Street and as a waiter at Embers restaurant on Philadelphia Avenue.

He double-majored in political science and history at the University of Maryland College Park, and graduated in 1969.

“The day after I graduated ... my parents moved to Ocean City permanently,” Mann recalled. “I spent eight years paying rent in the summer, and they moved to Ocean City the day after I graduate, when I have to go out and get a real job.”

Despite his love of history, Mann chose to pursue a career in the insurance industry and founded Mann Insurance in 1979, which later became Mann & Gray Insurance Associates with the addition of business partner Charlie Gray.

Before retiring, Mann spent seven years working on his first book, “Vanishing Ocean City,” which documents life in the resort from 1870 onward.

“Vanishing Ocean City,” was a great success—the original 5,000 copies sold out quickly, and another 4,000 soon followed.

“Of the 170 people I interviewed for ‘Vanishing Ocean City,’ at least 50, possibly more, have passed away,” Mann said. “Their memories—if they hadn’t been recorded at the time—would be lost.”

Mann said he decided to write, “Ghosts in the Surf,” which documents the resort’s history from 1945 to spring of 2019, following his retirement from full-time work four years ago.

“I didn’t know what to do with myself, I was bored,” Mann said. “I always had somewhere to go, something to do...and for about three or four months I didn’t know what to do with myself.”

During this slump, several people encouraged Mann to write another book.

“I thought about it, and I said, ‘No, I did everything I could in the first one,’” he said. “But I thought about it more and more, and I realized there were so many people I had not interviewed ... and there were a lot of stories out there that had not been told.”

His second book would take him two and a half years to complete.

He spent the first two years conducting interviews and doing research for the book, often using archival resources at the Ocean Pines Public Library and the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum.

In the final six months, he focused entirely on writing.

“To appreciate where you are today, you have to understand where they were years before,” Mann said “... Everybody has a story. The people I’ve interviewed for both books, many of them would say, ‘I don’t know much ... I wasn’t important,’ [yet] everybody I talked to I learned something from them.”

Mann said one of his favorite interviews he conducted for this project was

See LOCAL Page 16

Store offers shopping, classes

Continued from Page 13

Krempa said she also wants to hold a holiday jewelry class “where people can make fun Christmas jewelry.” Admission would cost \$50 per class.

As for her business philosophy, it appears the golden rule doesn’t just apply in life, but also in her work. She added that she strives for exemplary customer

service.

“If a customer ever has a problem with a piece of jewelry, we are there to fix it for them and make it great, because I ... want to treat my people like I want to be treated,” she said.

For more information about Beach Memories, visit facebook.com/beachmemories/.

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Frene couple to sell Victorian Charm in Berlin

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Victorian Charm owners Debbie and Steve Frene will soon say goodbye to their shop on Main Street in Berlin.

The couple is in the process of selling the store, and they expect everything to go through next week.

Debbie said it's been a whirlwind, and that the process has lasted roughly two months.

"It's been so fast," Debbie said. "We

just thought let's just see what happens ... and it's just bam bam."

Debbie opened the shop on 100 N. Main St. in 1996 with the help of her mother, Carole Smith. She said her place has evolved from a gift shop to a retail store with clothing and accessories.

"Gosh, I just love Berlin," Debbie said. "I just love the community of Berlin, and how everybody knows everybody."

Steve and Debbie agree that great

customer service is crucial.

"That's important to us to go out and talk to people," Steve said.

Steve added that he's maintained friendships with his customers as they come back year after year.

"We have grown up with people," he said. "We have grown old with people."

They'll soon pass the torch to new owners Melissa Stover and Chris Yuengling, of Salisbury. Debbie added that the shop's name, employees and

overall vibe will stay the same.

"I'm actually helping them order a couple things to help them get ready for Christmas," Debbie said.

As for Debbie and Steve, they said they're not exactly sure what's next for them, but they'd like to travel and spend time with family.

"We're going to enjoy the holidays first," she said. "We're going to enjoy the holidays, and then I don't know what we're going to do. It's happened so fast we haven't even made plans."

Local author releases 'Ghosts in the Surf'

Continued from Page 14

with members of Ocean City Beach Patrol—Capt. Butch Arbin, Lt. Ward Kovacs and Kristin Joson.

"I got to spend the day with [Arbin], riding up and down the beach in his Jeep, and see how the Beach Patrol worked ... I was so impressed with that organization," he said.

Mann said his most memorable one-on-one interview, however, was with former Ocean City Mayor Roland "Fish" Powell, who passed away last year on Aug. 29.

"He was a child when the inlet was created," Mann said. "He tells me this

story about how he saw the inlet for the first time. He was five years old. This gentleman, a friend of the family, had taken him down to see it and he said, 'Take a good look, you'll remember this the rest of your life.'

"And Fish looks at me, and he was in his 70s when we did this, and he looks at me, he looks straight in my eyes and says, 'And I have.'"

When he asked Powell where his nickname "Fish" came from, the former mayor told him, "I don't know, they just started calling me that," Mann recalled fondly.

He dedicated two pages in his new

book to the former mayor, whom he greatly respected.

The book is generally sectioned off by decades and each decade's notable events. However, there are individual sections such as "Stinky Beach," and "Lost Buildings of Ocean City," as well.

On the first page of each section, Mann begins with a short historical overview of the decade, before allowing the anecdotes and photos to paint the nitty-gritty details.

He said he was incredibly grateful to the people who took the time to tell him their stories, to his publisher Sandy Philips and to Arlington artist

Paul McGehee, whose artwork is the cover for both of Mann's books.

Mann's new book, "Ghosts in the Surf," does not simply tell the story of Ocean City, but it immortalizes and breathes new life into the memories of those who witnessed the city's transformation from a sleepy, small village to a booming beach resort.

"It [Ocean City] is a town formed by fires and storms, and the people that lived in this town, that made it great, they had obstacles to overcome," Mann said. "It took a whole lot of really special people to make this town into what it is today."



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Tuttle updates capital projects at town hall

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Numerous capital project updates were given by OPA Board of Directors member Steve Tuttle during a town hall meeting on Saturday.

Tuttle kicked off the presentation by updating progress on the new craft building.

“If you look over in White Horse Park, you’ll see the craft building is up,” he said. “We’re waiting to get a roof on it.”

With construction well underway, plans to occupy the new structure are coming into view.

“I think the craft people are planning to move in there the first of the

year,” he said.

Tuttle also said construction is about to begin for the expansion of the police and administration building.

“Work will be [beginning with] Nov. 4 the projected start date,” he said. “We’ll be adding about 3,400 square feet on the end of the existing building.”

As plans have been firmed up and after recognizing new roofing would be required for, at a minimum, the addition, expanding the scope has been discussed.

“We’re looking at the possibility of re-roofing the whole building and also upgrading the siding, so it will have a uniform look across the building,” he said.

Swinging attention to the Ocean Pines Golf Course, Tuttle said construction on the new club house is well underway, with foundation work now completed.

“The plumbers are on site putting the plumbing in that has to be under the slab,” he said. “The target right now is to pour the floor slab next Thursday.”

Future project targets are also factoring in upcoming cold temperatures.

“Our hope is to have that building up and enclosed by the end of the year, so they can finish the inside work throughout the winter months,” he said.

The club house is slated to open May 1, contingent on the weather over

the winter and early spring.

Tuttle said demolishing the current golf course cart barn is scheduled for this week.

“That’s going to take about two months to build a new cart barn,” he said.

Also referred to as a “butler building,” the cart barn structure is a relatively simple structure comprised of a metal skin, Tuttle said.

Road repairs and drainage fixes are also being handled, Tuttle said.

“Depending on where you live, you may have seen some paving going on [and] there’s drainage work going on,” he said. “I think our public works departments been pretty busy over the last several months.”

County vetoes White Horse Park appeal cases

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) The Worcester County Department of Review and Permitting rejected the five appeal cases from full-time residents of the seasonal White Horse Park campground subdivision before they could go to the Board of Zoning Appeals, effectively throwing another roadblock in the path of their movement to live at the park year-round.

Claiming they didn’t know about the zoning regulation or that they were told it didn’t matter, the residents originally sought to remain in the park when local attorney Hugh Cropper proposed a text amendment that would allow full-time residents as of June 2018 to remain in the park until they sell the unit, live there seasonally or die.

Both the county planning commission and county commissioners rejected the amendment, citing the park’s lack of infrastructure to serve residents year-round. Cropper filed five appeal cases for his clients on the basis that the county waited too long to enforce the zoning code, therefore invalidating the fines of up to \$1,000 the county warned of via letters to all residents.

However, Ed Tudor, director of review and permitting, rejected the appeal on the basis that its mention of the Department of Review and Permitting and enforcement action is incorrect.

“There was no enforcement action taken,” Tudor said. “It was a letter stating what could happen.”

He also maintained that it was not the department that held responsibility for the enforcement plan, but rather the county commissioners. However, Cropper said he respectfully disagreed with Tudor’s interpretation of enforcement action and the county commissioners.

“I don’t think there’s a reasonable

person in this county that would not believe that to be an enforcement action,” Cropper said. “If you got that letter in the mail that says if you don’t move out of your house you’re going to be fined up to \$1,000 a day, I think you would see that as enforcement action.”

He added that the county commissioners would have to rely on staff from development review and permitting to enforce the zoning regulations.

“The department is an agency of the county commissioners,” Cropper said. “The department doesn’t exist independently of the county commissioners.”

He voiced frustration that none of the full-time residents have received proper housing assistance, even when they attended the meeting the county set up to connect them with local agencies.

“From a humanitarian perspective,

I really don’t understand it,” Cropper said. “Are they really going to take people on a fixed income, who can barely afford their mortgage, and fine them \$1,000 a day and effectively throw them out of their house because they stay there two or three months too long in the winter?”

He said he plans to take the issue to a higher court, but isn’t sure exactly what that will be yet.

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Opinion

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

Roles change in Berlin for staff, shopkeepers

Double congratulations are merited this week in two separate circumstances that nevertheless reflect the constant evolution of the Berlin community.

In one instance, Debbie and Steve Frene, owners of Victorian Charm on Main Street, have decided to move on after more than two decades as a mainstay of the town’s commercial revival. Opened in 1996, the store has been a constant presence during the reinvigoration of the town shopping experience that took place around it.

They expect to settle with new owners next week, whose intentions are to maintain the same style and approach as practiced by the Frenes. The couple, meanwhile, will do ... whatever their new freedom allows.

Not maintaining the same style and approach as his predecessor, however, will be Jeff Fleetwood, who saw the “acting” prefix dropped from his town administrator title.

Although no one doubted that the job would become his, after he stepped in to fill the void created by the departure of Laura Allen, it still must be gratifying for him to win the vote of confidence the Town Council awarded him by making his appointment official.

Because of his solid work for the town, first as the human resources director and then as sort of a second-in-command as managing director, Fleetwood’s qualifications were never in doubt.

He will do the job the mayor and council have wanted done for some time with quiet efficiency.

Still, he, like the Frenes and Victorian Charm’s new owners, Melissa Stover and Chris Yuengling, of Salisbury, could always benefit from some good luck.

In that regard, we wish them all good sailing.



“All I said was that all of my Christmas presents were purchased and wrapped and she pushed me to the floor!”

Letters

Change smoke alarm batteries

Editor,

Every six months, you hear from firefighters – when you change your clock for Daylight Saving Time, change your smoke alarm batteries.

This is more than a slogan. Firefighters see firsthand that smoke alarms save lives. A working smoke alarm gives you and your loved ones more time to escape safely in the event of a fire.

Statistics back this up. Nearly two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarm. With a few simple fire safety precautions and preparation twice a year, that number can be greatly reduced.

Changing your smoke alarm battery is important, but there is more you can do to protect your family in the event of a fire in your home.

First, make sure you have the most up-to-date smoke alarm. Firefighters recommend replacing any smoke alarm after 10 years, and that you have the correct type of smoke alarm.

Photoelectric smoke alarms are more effective at warning of smoke from smol-

dering fires, while ionization smoke alarms are quicker to alert you to free-burning fires.

With that in mind, and realizing that the sooner the alarm sounds, fire fighters recommend installing a combination photoelectric and ionization smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside of every bedroom and on each floor of your home.

Firefighters understand that in an emergency, knowing what to do can mean the difference between life and death.

In addition to properly installed and working smoke alarms, practice evacuating your home. Make sure that your family has at least two ways of escape from your home, including bedrooms. This may include drawing up a map to show both exit paths.

Test the alarm for its loud warning so that all family members know the sound, then practice exiting the home as if it were an actual emergency.

Having a predetermined meeting place once you leave the home will help fire fighters quickly know if everyone is out of the house and, if not, where they need to search

first.

Most important of all, remind your family that once they are out of the house they should stay out until fire fighters give the all clear to re-enter.

So, remember, when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time, Ocean Pines firefighters encourage you to take a few moments to check your smoke alarm – and go the extra step for fire safety to keep your family safe.

Melissa Bragg,
Firefighter/Paramedic
Public Information Officer,
Ocean Pines Fire
Department

Praises Salisbury University play

Editor,

Recently I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand what a treasure Salisbury University is to the Eastern Shore.

The Theater and Music Department has put on two performances in the last few weeks that were outstanding.

The play, “Medea,” based on the Greek Tragedy by Euripides, was wonderful – the

Continued on Page 19

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Budget committee receives strong numbers

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) The improved financial situation of the Ocean Pines Association continued through September, with overall positive budget numbers for the month, Ocean Pines Director of Finance Steve Phillips reported to the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee last Wednesday.

Net operating costs for September, budgeted at more than \$630,000, wound up running just a little more than \$576,000, for a positive monthly variance of \$57,788.

Phillips also reported that net revenues for September exceeded the budget projection by \$48,435, with receipts totaling \$523,000 versus the \$475,000 budgeted.

Tracking year-to-date figures for fiscal 2019/2020 that started on May 1, Phillips said the operating fund is \$517,611 ahead of budget projections.

The variance of more than a half-million dollars is a combination of revenue exceeding budget by \$460,717, with total expenses under budget by \$56,894 to this point in the fiscal year.

Phillips said the strong financials are largely driven by amenities, most notably the yacht club.

To this point in the fiscal year, the yacht club is reporting net revenues more than \$347,000 above budget,

while expenses are running about \$116,000 above estimates, for a positive operating variance of \$180,703.

During September, yacht club wages finished about \$16,000 under budget, while net revenues topped projections by about \$80,000.

“Wages are right on what was spent last year ... even though the top line is up,” he said.

The seasonally related labor savings during September at the yacht club leave wage costs, which currently total more than \$548,000, roughly \$12,000 under budget for the year.

OPA Board member Larry Perrone noted yacht club banquet sales figures have increased over last year’s totals so far.

“The banquet numbers are up as we expected they would be,” he said.

During September, banquet sales were about \$3,000 better than budget, adding a smidgen to the more than \$103,000 positive variance for the year.

Phillips also highlighted strong financial numbers for marina operations.

“They’ve put up record sales,” he said.

September revenues beat budget projections by more than \$9,600 to put the operation ahead overall by more than \$8,400.

This continues a lucrative season for marina operations, with revenues after expenses ahead of budget by nearly

\$50,000 for the current year.

Teeing up links data, Phillips said despite not making budget by \$5,000 for September, combined golf operations has trended positively for the year, with net revenues of almost \$870,000 topping projections by more than \$60,000, leaving net operations ahead \$30,624 after expenses.

During the current fiscal year, golf operations report net revenues of \$869,796, which significantly outpaces the \$640,827 earned at this point in 2018.

Turning to reserve funds, Phillips reported as of Sept. 30 the trio of replacement, bulkheads and roads funding was more than \$10.2 million.

Reserve funding totaled more than \$8.8 million to begin the fiscal year, with subsequent additions including about \$2.5 million from assessments, roughly \$126,000 from interest income and \$325,000 in casino funds. On the flip side of the ledger, deductions included about \$572,000 for bulkheads, just over \$900,000 to finance capital projects and more than \$117,000 for road repairs.

Keying on the most vital spreadsheet column, Phillips noted the year-to-date variance of more than \$517,000 leaves net operations in the black by more than \$5.4 million, which outpaces the \$4.3 million total at the end of September 2018 by \$1,075,044.

Letters

Continued from Page 18
acting, the set and costumes.

I have rarely seen anything done as well as this, until last week when I had the opportunity to see the “Singers’ Showcase - From Ship to Shore: Celebrating 400 Years of Human Resilience Through Music.”

The phrase “blown away” has become almost trite in its usage; however, it is the only phrase that really fits the way I and other attendees felt about the production.

Dr. John Wesley Wright and the students were amazing – I am not a music or drama critic and do not know the proper verbiage – I can only say “well done.”

A beautiful tribute to the resilience of the African slaves brought to America starting in 1619.

I doubt anyone left the theater that night untouched by the tragedy and beauty of this performance.

*Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines*



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Bark for Life at Windmill Creek this Sunday

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Animal lovers and their pets can help raise money for cancer research during the third annual Bark for Life, this Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery, located at 11206 Worcester Highway in Berlin.

Bark for Life is co-organized by Stephen Decatur High School's Relay for Life team and Relay for Life North Worcester County. A portion of the proceeds will go toward the team's fundraising goal.

"It all goes to the American Cancer Society and the fight against cancer," Event organizer Dj Thompson said. "It's giving more exposure to the disease and at the same time [acknowledging] it's not just a human disease, it's also one that our furry loved ones get as well.

"Dogs tend to really be great caregivers," he continued. "That's one thing we do, which is celebrate through American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Bark for Life, those people and dogs and animals that give back in a different way just by being there for us, giving us that unconditional love that we will need during the struggle."

The cost is \$10 admission for a dog to attend with its owner. If a pet owner

has more than one dog attending, then the cost is \$5 per additional dog.

Each participant will receive a goodie bag as a token of appreciation.

"Even if you don't have a dog, it doesn't mean you're not welcome," he said. "It is an open event for everyone just to kind of come out and enjoy some time together."

Last year, the event was held at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin in September. It was moved back to November because of a lower turnout due to nice weather.

"Last year we had about 50 people attend when the year before was around 100," Thompson said. "We had moved it earlier hoping to bring in more people, but it was such a beautiful day that everyone was trying to get their last beach day in. That's why we pushed it back to November."

Windmill Creek Winery will be providing musical entertainment from 4-7 p.m. as well as food and drinks.

This year will be different as there will not be any vendors participating, although there will still be plenty of pooch friendly activities.

Dogs and humans can participate in a costume contest, which also includes the best look-alike contest.

Other games and activities include musical sit, a bone toss and a walk



Nora Duke and her dog, Flex, pose for a photo during the second annual Bark for Life event last year at Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin.

through the gardens and vineyards.

"The biggest thing comes back to our three words ... to celebrate, to remember and to fight back," Thompson said. "So it's a great opportunity for us to celebrate all the dogs out there, all the pet owners and just all the love we get from them while also remembering those that we might have lost, whether it be from cancer or not, but just lost in the past because we all hold our furry loved ones dear to our heart."

Attendees must clean up after their animals. Event organizers require

proof of rabies vaccination and leashes shorter than six feet long for all canine participants.

For more information, visit the event Facebook page at Bark for Life at Windmill Creek Winery.

Relay For Life is a community-based fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and many other cancer-related institutions, societies and associations.

The next Relay for Life event in Worcester County will take place on Friday, May 8, 2020, at the Frontier Town campgrounds in Berlin.

Wor. Habitat for Humanity honors Esworthy couple

(Oct. 31, 2019) Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County's ReStore named Joe and Charlotte Esworthy its Volunteers of the Month.

They became involved in volunteering through their oldest son, Habitat for Humanity Board Member Josh Esworthy.

"The grand opening of the ReStore was our wedding anniversary. We stopped by to support it as part of our day, and decided that we would start volunteering," Charlotte said.

Since then, they have filled several shifts a week moving and arranging donated items, cleaning, organizing and assisting customers. Joe has also volunteered on the site of Habitat's Bish-
opville build this summer.

The couple retired to Berlin from New York, where Joe was an attorney and Charlotte raised their four sons. They enjoy remaining as active as their health allows.

Charlotte has become involved with Questers, a group dedicated to preserving sites of historical interest, and they have both found that ReStore is a good fit for their desire to contribute to the community.

"However much time you have to volunteer, as little as one or two hours, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Joe and Charlotte Esworthy have been named Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County's ReStore Volunteers of the Month.

ReStore can work with your schedule," said Joe, who often moves furniture donations and emphasized that "youth and muscle are always needed."

"I like that I can work at my own pace," Charlotte added. "There's always a task to be done, always a way to make yourself useful."

The ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and other items to the public at a fraction of the retail price.

Proceeds are used to help build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in Worcester County.

Those interested in volunteering should email volunteer@habitatworcester.org. The Habitat ReStore is located at 9026 Worcester Highway in Berlin, and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

'Fall Just Walk Berlin' to get people moving this Saturday

Fitness event to take place at Stephen Decatur Park

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Oct. 31, 2019) Area residents can take a stroll this Saturday morning during the eighth annual "Fall Just Walk Berlin" at Stephen Decatur Park.

Registration for the walk is free, and will open at 8:30 a.m. The walk is expected to begin at 9 a.m. at the park on Tripoli Street off Route 113. Walkers can choose from one-, two- or three-mile courses.

Participants are also eligible to win a Fitbit from a free raffle during the event, according to organizers.

Mimi Dean, director of prevention services for the Worcester County Health Department, said 31 people participated in last fall's event.

Mike Wiley, a member of the Berlin Parks Commission, added that typically half of the participants will come back year after year.

Representatives from the Worcester County Health Department, Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Town of Berlin, and Atlantic General Hospital joined forces to stage the walk.

"This is a great event, and another example of productive partnerships within our community," said Travis Brown, public information officer for the health department. "The days may be getting shorter, but there is plenty of time to explore our Worcester County parks and to get outside and get moving."

Dean added that the walk's priority is to promote health and wellness.

"It encourages and promotes physical activity in our beautiful, local parks, and connects community residents with one another and nature," Dean said last week.

Walking offers a variety of health benefits, including strengthening bones and muscles and helping to prevent or manage heart disease, Type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure, according to health experts.

Other improvements include maintaining a healthy weight, as well as improving one's mood, balance and coordination, health experts said.

Dean said the health department also sponsors a do-it-yourself Just Walk program, in which participants self-report their activities.

For more information about the program, visit justwalkworcester.org.

Model ship dedication, Nov. 7

(Oct. 31, 2019) A model ship first given to Ocean Pines by community originator Boise Cascade in 1975 has been restored and installed as a display piece at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

The 50th Anniversary Committee, in one of its final acts, will host a dedication ceremony for the vessel on Nov. 7 at 4 p.m., at the Yacht Club.

Representatives from the commit-

tee and the Ocean Pines Board will attend, along with General Manager John Viola, Operations Director Colby Phillips and others.

Funds raised during the 50th anniversary celebration, last year, went toward the case that now houses the boat. Resident Joe Costello designed the case.

"It's one of the few tangible artifacts

that Ocean Pines has, given to us by Boise Cascade, and the 50th anniversary committee wanted to be certain it was preserved in a place where people can see it," Committee Chairwoman Jenny Cropper-Rines said.

The ceremony is open to the public.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A model ship first given to Ocean Pines by community originator Boise Cascade in 1975 has been restored and installed as a display piece at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. It will be dedicated on Nov. 7.

Berlin watershed cleanup, Sat.

(Oct. 31, 2019) Assateague Coastal Trust and The Delmarva Free School invites the public to a Community Watershed Cleanup on Holly Grove Road, in Berlin on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Holly Grove Road swamp drains to Ayers Creek, which flows to Newport Bay before coming to the confluence of Sinepuxent and Chincoteague bays behind Assateague Island.

This community watershed stewardship opportunity will focus on removing the accumulated trash on a public transportation route.

To ensure the safety of all volunteers during the cleanup, Assateague Coastal Trust and The Delmarva Free School have organ-

ized for two Worcester County law enforcement patrol vehicles to accompany participants for the duration of the event.

Assateague Coastal Trust and The Delmarva Free School will have on-site compostable trash bags, gloves and safety vests for participants.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own trash "grabbers" if they have them, wear sturdy boots and weather-appropriate clothing.

Those planning to attend must RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 31 by contacting Billy Weiland at billy@actforbays.org or Kelly McMullen at thedelmarvafreeschool@gmail.com.

Participants will meet Assateague Coastal Trust and The Delmarva Free

School at the recycling center in front of the Berlin Walmart at 9 a.m. for check-in, team organizing and supplies.

A passenger van will shuttle participants from the recycling center to Holly Grove Road for the cleanup at 9:30 a.m.

Weiland and McMullen have spent the past several months organizing this pinnacle, advocacy-oriented event through a series of ecopsychology gatherings that took place over the summer on Assateague Island.

This project was made possible by a funding award from the National Park Service and Outdoor Founda-

tion.

The Assateague Coastal Trust's mission is to promote and encourage the protection of the health, productivity, and sustainability of the coastal bays watershed of Delmarva through advocacy, education and conservation. Visit www.ACTforBays.org for more information.

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Snapshots



JOSH KIM/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HEALTH FAIR

Peninsula Regional Medical Center Exercise Physiologist Caroline Farrell, left, and Registered Nurse Erica Daniels perform a series of tests to determine Ocean Pines resident Marcella Crowe's BMI and body fat percentage during the Ocean Pines Health Fair, held at the Ocean Pines Community Center on Oct. 19.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMENDED STUDENTS

Worcester Preparatory School's Acting Head of School Mike Grosso announced that, from left, Kurt Leinemann, Kat Marini and Max Huber have been named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PERFORMANCE

The Delmarva Chorus provided a summer-themed benefit performance at Temple Bat Yam in Berlin earlier this month.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMENDATION

Berlin Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence, left, accepts a safety commendation from Mayor Gee Williams during a Town Council meeting earlier this month. The department was recognized for its safety practices and received an award from the 2019 American Municipal Power/Ohio Municipal Electric Association Annual Conference last month.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LITERARY SCHOLARS

Stephen Decatur High School's top literary scholars were inducted into the National English Honor Society on Sept. 24. The society has many service campaigns including holding an annual book drive, managing the school's writing center and partnering with local elementary schools for reading and literacy projects. Pictured, in back, are Blake Marshall, Hunter Selzer, Andrew Ball, Hunter Wolf, Macy Dietrich, Maeve Donahue, Ulyssa Jacobs, Gavin Connor and Rachel Peretz, and in front, Mariana Juarez-Quio, Layla Chrysanthis, Mikayla Denault, Eileen Eslin, Gabrielle Schwendeman, Madison Mann, Lydia Woodley and Morgan Carlson.

Puzzles

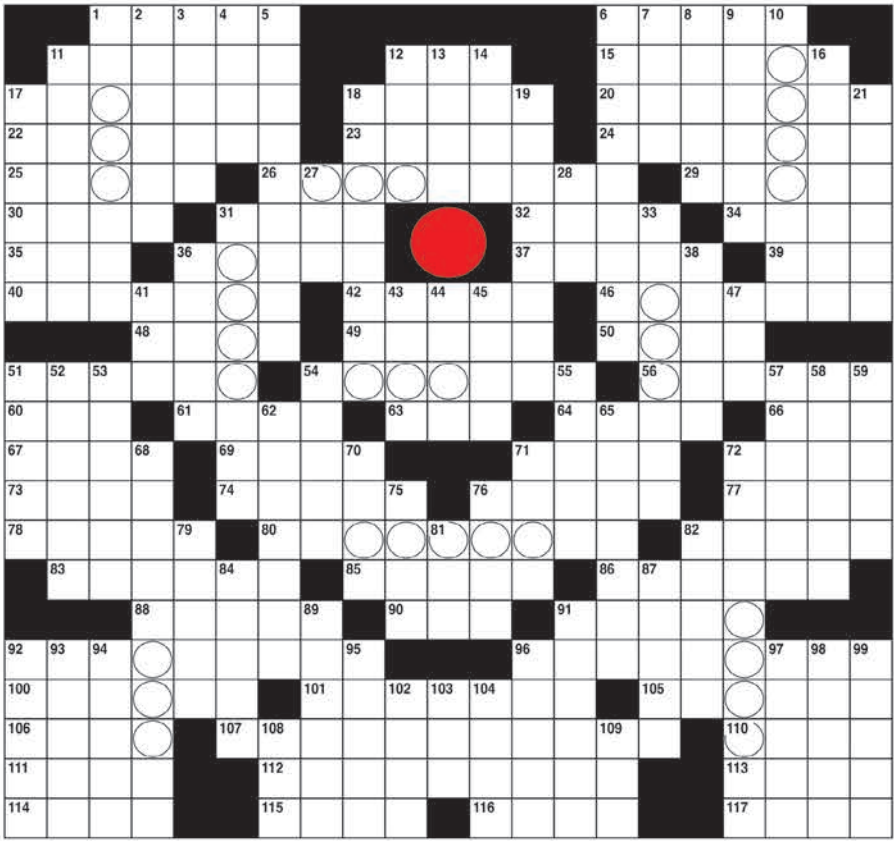
BE PATIENT

BY NATAN LAST / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Natan Last, 28, is a student at Columbia University working on a master's in public policy. He has been a frequent crossword contributor to The Times since 2007, when he was 16. For this puzzle's theme, Natan says, "I wrote a computer program to help me find words that [] once you []." You'll know what goes in the blanks once you've finished it. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
1 World capital with the historic Temple of Hercules
6 Responses to an offer, colloquially
11 ____ Dunphy, "Modern Family" matriarch
12 Slow Wi-Fi woe
15 Actor Don of old Hollywood
17 Uninteresting and self-absorbed
18 One-named electronic musician and D.J. with multiple Grammys
20 Paranoid types, slangily
22 Futon alternatives
23 Stand that an artist might take
24 Villainous brother of Prospero in "The Tempest"
25 E-sports enthusiast
26 Melt down, as fat
29 Occasion to sing "Dayenu"
30 Long narrative poem
31 Ice-skating spot
32 Crew
34 Faux pas
35 Picasso's "____ Demoiselles d'Avignon"
36 Baseball hit just beyond the infield
- 37 "No kidding!"
39 Malawi-to-Kenya dir.
40 Element used in old television tubes
42 Creator of a philosophical "razor"
46 Best friend of Potter and Weasley
48 Banquet vessels
49 Speechify
50 One frequently saying "Sorry, I missed that"
51 Like classic Disney films
54 Golfer's vehicle
56 "No fighting!"
60 Geologic period
61 Eye roll accompanier, often
63 Muscle Beach sight
64 Their eggs are incubated by males
66 Eldest of the "little women" in "Little Women"
67 Wettish
69 It's always something
71 What may follow bigger or better
72 Farrah Fawcett's signature do
73 Sikorsky of aviation
74 "Message received"
76 Rabid enthusiast
77 Warrior, e.g., in yoga
78 Actress Roberts of "Everybody Loves Raymond"
80 Homeowner's need
82 Like most standardized tests
- 83 Tribe famous for weaving and sand painting
85 Crème de la crème
86 Really tickles
88 Russian ruler known as "the Moneybag"
90 It's in the bag
91 Fruit in an often-parodied William Carlos Williams poem
92 Dark forebodings
96 N.B.A. franchise whose mascot is the fireball Burnie
100 Kind of tuna
101 Troglodyte
105 Base of a column
106 Juul, e.g.
107 It can open a lot of doors for you
110 Historical role for Peter Lorre in "The Story of Mankind"
111 Party that might not start till midnight
112 Classic kids' game involving removal of body parts ... with a hint to this puzzle's theme
113 Qatari leader
114 102-Down, affectedly
115 Minuscule, informally
116 "It is the ____, and Juliet is the sun"
117 Actress Cannon
- DOWN**
1 Top celebs
2 Red wine from France
3 Middle-distance runner
4 Nickname for an ESPN baseball commentator
5 Post production locales?
6 Weapons thrown by the Dark Knight
7 Volunteer's phrase
8 Sights on many music festival grounds
9 Seconded, so to speak
10 Karaoke selection
11 Gift that grows on you?
12 Fabulist
13 Semidomed church area
14 Secluded valley
16 Saint-____, capital of the Loire department
17 With wisdom
18 Wisecracking Marvel superhero
19 Experienced one
21 Worker at a recycling plant
27 British rocker Brian
28 Cry of terror
31 Contact electronically
33 Middle of a diamond
36 Hawks, e.g.
38 They might be hawked
41 Lament
43 Mobile home?
44 Ukulele accessory
45 Not much
47 Writer Anaïs

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



- 51 Fixed up
52 Old kingdom of Spain
53 Author Pierce of the fantasy series "The Song of the Lioness"
54 Way down
55 Response to tickling
57 "Hi, honey!" follower
58 Finishes
59 Urged (on)
62 "Now that was funny!"
- 65 Peace Nobel who went on to become president
68 Outhouses
70 Well, I'll be dammed!
71 Drain
72 Treated meanly
75 Inclination
76 Brine-cured cheese
79 Classic Harlem ballroom, with "the"
81 Go (for)
- 82 Language from which "curry" comes
84 King who lent his name to a Bible
87 Like most oatmeal, modern-style
89 Plant, as an idea, pejoratively
91 Communist sympathizers, pejoratively
92 He was "thumb" critic!
93 Bishop's deputy
94 "Mercy!"
- 95 Metric of corporate success
96 Frenzy
97 Other side
98 Features of many malls
99 Part of an acacia tree
102 See 114-Across
103 Subj. of a "Delayed" sign
104 Speck
108 Decorative fish
109 "The Lord of the Rings" tree creature

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HARD - 75

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

NOW PLAYING



NEW CENSATION

Ocean Club Nightclub: Friday & Saturday, Nov. 1-2, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.



DUST N' BONES

Harborside Bar & Grill: Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m.

BEACH BARRELS

13207 Coastal Highway, Ocean City
410-250-0522 / www.beachbarrels.com
Nov. 1: Dust N' Bones, 9 p.m.
Nov. 2: 33 RPM, 9 p.m.
Nov. 5: Open Mic, 8 p.m.
Nov. 6: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-7575 / www.bjsonthewater.com
Nov. 1: Thin Ice, 9 p.m.
Nov. 2: Chest Pains, 9 p.m.
Nov. 6: Old School, 6 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, Ocean City, behind Fountain Head

Towers Condominium
443-664-2896 / www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
Nov. 1: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci, 5 p.m.; Rusty Foulke, 8 p.m.
Nov. 2: Rusty Foulke, 8 p.m.
Nov. 3: Vincent, 6 p.m.
Nov. 6: Reform School, 6 p.m.; Open Mic, 9 p.m.
Nov. 7: Chris Button, 7 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave., Ocean City
410-289-7192 / www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street, Ocean City, Montego Bay Shopping



JOHNNY BLING

M. R. Ducks Bar & Grille: Nov. 2, 2 p.m.



NOWHERE SLOW

Seacrets: Nov. 1, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Center
410-250-1449 / www.duffysoc.com
Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.
Every Saturday: Karaoke w/DJ Chuck D, 8 p.m. to midnight

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road, West Ocean City
410-213-1846 / www.ocharborside.com
Nov. 1: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Nov. 2: Chris Button, 2 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Nov. 3: Opposite Directions, 2 p.m.
Nov. 6: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.
Nov. 7: Opposite Directions, 6 p.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City
410-213-1841 / www.hootersofoc.com
Nov. 1: DJ Wax, 4-8 p.m.
Nov. 2: Classic Vibe, 4-8 p.m.

M.R. DUCKS BAR & GRILLE

311 Talbot St., Ocean City
410-289-9125 / www.mrducksbar.com
Nov. 1: DJ Batman, 4 p.m.
Nov. 2: Closing Party w/Johnny Bling, 2 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
410-524-3535 / www.clarionoc.com

Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Nov. 1-2: New Censation, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City
410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com
Nov. 1: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Nov. 3: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Nov. 5: Beats by Adam Dutch, 9 p.m.
Nov. 7: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com
Nov. 1: Nowhere Slow, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Nov. 2: John McNutt Band, 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.
Nov. 7: Opposite Directions, 5-9 p.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City
410-723-6762 / www.skyebaroc.com
Nov. 1: Marky Shaw, 4-8 p.m.
Nov. 2: Ricki & Lennon LaRicci, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17, Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
410-208-3922 / www.whiskersbar.com
Nov. 1: Karaoke Halloween Party w/Donnie Berkey

Phillips, Santa partner on letters

Pines operations director, once again, gives children direct link with North Pole

(Oct. 31, 2019) For nearly a decade, Ocean Pines Operations Director Colby Phillips has worked with the North Pole to help send letters from Santa Claus to local children.

Eight years ago, Phillips went online to look for a service that would deliver a holiday letter to her two daughters, then 10 and 5 years old.

“There were plenty out there, but they cost upwards of \$15. That seemed high for a letter I could probably write myself, with Santa’s help,” Phillips said. “So, Santa and I came up with a fun letter and offered the same service to a few friends, and it’s just grown over the years.”

Each year, Philips sends letters from Santa to 400-500 children in the Ocean Pines area and beyond. She starts in October to keep up with the high demand, and said she’s used enough glitter over the years to fill several large warehouses.

“My house glistens for a few months, and my dogs sparkle for sure!” she said.

Phillips recalls her early realizations that St. Nick exists.

“Because I have always believed in him, he trusts me to help him carry out

this important tradition,” she said. “He truly is a jolly person! And his sweet tooth is as big as mine, so we enjoy discussing letters over sweets!”

Along with getting to know Father Christmas, Phillips said she’s met with his loveable, furry sidekicks.

“The reindeer are wonderful!” she said. “Last year, a new reindeer named Peppermint was born into the family and Santa sent a picture in his letters to all the children. This year, he will talk about Peppermint’s learning to fly! Oh, and who knew, but reindeer love Rice Krispies.”

Community donations over the years have helped cover the cost of sending the letters, and neither the North Pole nor Phillips has ever charged for the service.

To receive a letter from Santa, simply email santaphillips@yahoo.com by Dec. 1 and include the child’s name and address.

“If children write a letter to Santa (he loves those!) they can drop them off at the Ocean Pines post office, as I also receive those,” Phillips said. “A personalized letter will be sent back to the children at one address. Santa mentions a bunch of stuff he has been

doing and adds some fun details in the letter too.

“And, don’t worry, Santa does not promise anything, especially puppies or iPhones, even when asked!” she added.

For Phillips, continuing the tradition is a wonderful way to stay in touch with an old friend, who just so happens to be made of Christmas magic. It also warms her heart to help share good tidings each year with hundreds of area kids.

“I love the innocence of children,” Phillips said. “Children really teach us about faith, believing in something they don’t actually see with their own eyes, like Santa coming into their house at night. I feel that, in this day and age, if we can keep them believing in the miracle of Christmas and bring a smile to their face, then I have accomplished what I set out to do.

“Spreading joy is contagious and I love being a part of that, and I believe Santa is thrilled with me helping him!” she continued. “There are so many good boys and girls and, with the elves so busy building toys, Mrs. Claus and I can help with the letters.”

“Spreading joy is contagious and I love being a part of that, and I believe Santa is thrilled with me helping him!”
Ocean Pines Operations Director Colby Phillips

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Calendar

Thurs., Oct. 31

LOCAL'S APPRECIATION WEEK AT MUSEUM
Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave. Free admission, Oct. 25-31. 410-289-4991, <http://www.ocmuseum.org/event/locals-appreciation-week>

SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR COMMUNITY WATERSHED CLEANUP
Assateague Coastal Trust and The Delmarva Free School are inviting the public to come together for a Community Watershed Cleanup on Holly Grove Road in Berlin on Nov. 2 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Compostable trash bags, gloves and safety vests provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own trash grabbers. RSVP: Billy Weiland, billy@actforbays.org or Kelly McMullen, thedelmarvafreeschool@gmail.com by Oct. 31. <http://www.ACTforBays.org/Watershed-Cleanup>

DR. MADDOCKTER'S MAD LIBRARY
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 11:00 AM - 5:30 PM. Featuring Berlin Branch's haunted house experience. All ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Providing physical and emotional support for survivors and caregivers to share personal experiences and challenges. Coping strategies also discussed. Anne Waples, awaples@atlantic-general.org, 443-614-5720

BINGO AT THE LIBRARY!
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Play for your chance to win one of the prizes provided by the Friends of the Library. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FIRESIDE CHAT
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:00 PM. Join this group for a lively chat about their favorite good reads and get great ideas for new authors and genres to explore. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WHITE MARLIN MALL HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT
White Marlin Mall, 12641 Ocean Gateway, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Treats available from participating merchants for costumed children ages 12 years and younger.

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Beach Singles, 45 years and older, meet for happy hour. Info: 302-436-9577, 410-524-0649 or BeachSingles.org

GRIEF SUPPORT
Thursdays - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City sponsors student leadership programs in all but one of the northern Worcester County public schools. The Buckingham Elementary Kiwanis K-Kids Club in Berlin, an after-school program, is up and running for the 2019-2020 school year. Pictured, in back, from left, are Faculty Advisor Tanya Jones, Ocean Pines-Ocean City Kiwanis Club advisors Wilma and Ralph Chinn and Faculty Advisor Marie Fontello with 11 members of the K-Kids Club.

Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

Fri., Nov. 1

FIBER FRIENDS
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work and join this group as they knit, crochet and embroider. All are welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WORCESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY MEMORIAL GATHERING
Ocean City Fishing Pier off the Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., 3:00 PM. The purpose of the gathering is to provide a personal moment to remember, reflect and offer gratitude to those who have died. Everyone is invited to either bring their own seashells, or Coastal Hospice will have shells available. Attendees will be asked to write their loved one's names on the shells and following a brief time of reflection will return the shells to the Atlantic Ocean. Coastal Hospice staff will be on hand to offer support. Free and open to the public. Free parking available to attendees.

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION
Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and see the new exhibits featuring a variety of local artists. Free and open to the public. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

Sat., Nov. 2

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
Ocean City Presbyterian Church, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

FALL BAZAAR
Friendship United Methodist Church, 10537 Friendship Road, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. There will be breakfast and lunch sandwiches, homemade chicken salad and soups, a bake table and a Second Time Around table. Vendors include Premiere Jewelry and Usborne Books. Susan Glenn, 410-641-0121

'KINGS OF THE MAT' YOUTH WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Teams from across the Mid-Atlantic will battle it out to see who will be the Kings of the Mat. Cost is \$20 per day or \$30 for the weekend. ToddMartinek@gmail.com, 443-614-2743, <https://kingsofthemat.com>

FALL JUST WALK BERLIN
Stephen Decatur Park, 130 Tripoli St., 8:30 AM. A free fun walk with 1-, 2- and 3-mile routes. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. All walkers are eligible to enter a free raffle for a FitBit and a Berlin Goody Bag. Strollers and friendly, leashed dogs welcome.

COMMUNITY CHURCH'S BAZAAR
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Featuring trees, wreaths, home décor, bake goods, white elephant treasures and fashion accessories and gifts. 410-641-5433

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FESTIVAL
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Featuring specialty items such as jewelry,

witchery creations, beach décor, glass and holiday decorations. The Pine'er Artisan and Gift Shop will also be open. There will be baked goods, breakfast and lunch items as well as coffee and other beverages.

FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM. Novice and established writers gather to share their writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop-in welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36536 Mount Pleasant Road, 11:00 AM. Menu includes chicken, vegetables, beverages and desserts. Cost is \$14 for adults, \$7 for children and free to those 5 and younger. Bake table and carry outs available. Nelda Dennis, 443-614-9898

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Featuring live music, chef demos, children's activities and other special events. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Nov. 3

'KINGS OF THE MAT' YOUTH WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Teams from across the Mid-Atlantic will battle it out to see who will be the Kings of the Mat. Cost is \$20 per day. ToddMartinek@gmail.com, 443-614-2743, <https://kingsofthemat.com>

CALENDAR

BRIDAL SHOW
Smokey Hollow, 37632 Lakeridge Drive, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Featuring more than 30 vendors. Tickets cost \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Brides receive free admission with two purchased tickets. Tickets: barefootbeachbridesoc.com. Vendor tables are still available, and those interested can contact barefootbride-jodie@gmail.com.

Mon., Nov. 4

CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

HYPERTENSION CLINIC
Apple Discount Drugs, 314 Franklin Ave., #600, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Monday of every month. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Donna, 410-629-6820

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. The group meets twice a month to discuss reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. 410-208-4014, <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

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Open to the public and meets the first Monday of each month. Speaker and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

MEDIA AND CHILDREN PART 3
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 6:00 PM. This final session focuses on kids on social media and bridging the school-to-home media gap. A round table discussion about media mentorship follows. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. Come and sing. Drop-ins welcome. Carol, 410-641-6876

Tues., Nov. 5

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION
Atlantic General Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Classes will be held Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26. The program is



NAACP MEETING
Worcester County NAACP hosted a discussion with Denise Shorts, Worcester County Board of Education chief academic officer, Pre-K through grade eight, during its September meeting. Shorts described the curriculum changes and expectations for this current school year. Testing results were also reviewed. Worcester County NAACP meets monthly on the third Thursday, with gathering held throughout the county. Call 443-944-6701 for information.

recognized by the American Diabetes Association for quality education and is covered by most insurances and Medicare. Advance registration and a referral from your primary care provider (which the program can obtain) are required. Register: 410-208-9761.

TUESDAY CRAFTAFTERNOON
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The group will be making teddy bears, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3 and 10. The bears will be hand-sewn and decorated over several weeks using a variety of materials, patterns and techniques. Register: 410-641-0650 by Nov. 1. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP
Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center Conference Room, 9707 Healthway Drive, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. A cooperative effort for local Worship Centers and Atlantic General Hospital & Health System to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

DOCUMENTARIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Featuring two short documentaries, one about the balance between ecology and economy, the other a virtual reality doc about the state of the bay. Discussion welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

YOGA WITH SHULI TOR
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 5:00 PM. A class for stretching and relaxation based on yoga and qigong. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

INFORMATION SESSION ON KIRWAN COMMISSION
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 7:00 PM. State Senator Mary Beth Carozza and officials from the Worcester County Commissioners, Board of Education, and the Teachers and Educational Support Personnel Associations will host the information session and discuss the potential impacts on Worcester County.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. jeanduck47@gmail.com

Wed., Nov. 6

GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM. All-you-can-eat eggs to order, ham, sausage, bacon, biscuits, pancakes (both plain and buckwheat). Cost is \$9.

WITTY KNITTERS
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts, needle artists of all skill levels are invited. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

HYPERTENSION CLINICS
Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place at Rite Aid, 10119 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin and at Rite Aid, 11011 Manklin Creek Road, Ocean Pines, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Donna, 410-629-6820

INTELLIGENCE²: QUEEN ELIZABETH I VS. QUEEN VICTORIA DEBATE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Philippa Gregory, bestselling

author, makes the case for Elizabeth I, with widely acclaimed actor Fiona Shaw reading from Elizabeth's speeches and letters. Daisy Goodwin, writer of the hit series Victoria, argues the case for her heroine. Award-winning star of stage and screen Greta Scacchi performs extracts from Victoria's diaries and personal missives. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital, the group is open to the public and meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Speaker and education related to Diabetes provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education program, 410-208-9761

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP/OC
Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB
Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities in the Delmarva region. Members and guests. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OC/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Wednesdays - Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 6:00 PM. 302-540-2127

BRIDGE WEDNESDAYS
Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Knowledge of basic Bridge (Goren/American Standard). 410-596-5498

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RESTAURANTS | HOTELS | SHOPPING | EVENTS | REAL ESTATE

OC

Guide Book

OC Guide Book helps you find top Ocean City, Maryland hotels, restaurants, entertainment and fun things to do in one of the Mid-Atlantic region's most popular vacation resorts. Whether you live at the beach or are in town for a weekend, OC Guide Book is handy to have with you, as it also features up-to-date weather, tides and travel advisories as well as information on special events and special deals.

DOWNLOAD THE APP FOR FREE!

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Residential & Commercial • Licensed & Insured

CLEANING SERVICES

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Family Owned and Operated Since 1983

CLEANING SERVICES

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- Organization
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References Available

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

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Bernie Flax

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DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matrona/Resort Homes
Sat-Mon, 11-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Thurs-Mon 11-5pm	9800 Mooring View Ln., West Harbor Village	3BR/2.5BA	Duplex/Townhouse	From Low \$300,000s	Kathleen Clark/Monogram Realty
Sat. & Sun. 11-5	13120 Muirfield La., Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$414,995	Kathy Clark/Monogram Homes
Saturday 12-2	17 Watergreen La., Ocean Pines	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$173,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 3-5	9 Stacy Ct., Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$574,900	Power of 2/Hileman Real Estate



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