GAZETTE BAYSIDE **DECEMBER 19, 2019 BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES**

SWINGING TIME

Amanda McWilliams, of Whaleyville, shares a giggle with her son, Daniel, 4, while sampling the recreational options at the White Horse Park playground in Ocean Pines, Sunday, Dec. 15.

Rec committee returns to action

Inactive for months, it will resume its facility reviews as budget sessions begin

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) With the Ocean Pines Association budget process kicking into high gear in January, board of directors member Larry Perrone said a reconstituted Recreation and Parks Committee is slated to meet next month to examine facility upgrades and program expansions.

Although the advisory committee has been inactive in recent months, Perrone said several new and returning members will convene in early January.

"During that week is when we start the budget process," he said.

Perrone said the first step during the pending committee meeting would be distributing perti-

nent resolutions from the OPA governing documents, selecting a chairperson and establishing goals.

"We'll briefly go over that [and] talk about what we should be looking for as part of a group," he said. While campaigning for the board

of directors earlier this year, Perrone said criticism was expressed over a perceived lack of recreational facilities for children

"One of the things I heard when I

was running ... was there's nothing to do for children here in Ocean Pines.' he said. "I don't think that's the case at all, as evidenced by the new playground at White Horse Park.'

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Implying that improvements could be on tap for additional park areas in the pines, Perrone said the matter would be fleshed out during the budget process.

"Since we'll be right in the middle of the budget process we may be able to see if the GM is looking at those particular parks for any renovations or updates," he said.

In light of taking over as recreation and parks committee liaison this year, Perrone reached out to former liaison Dr. Colette Horn to ascertain what earlier priorities See REC Page 5

Paper, digital? election com. wants to know

Voting system discussion needs members' opinions

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) While considering voting system vendor options last week, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee concluded that gauging commu-

Steve Grabowski

nity sentiment and assessing HOA bylaw requirements should occur prior to adopting revised balloting systems for future OPA Board of Directors elections.

OPA IT Manager Steve Grabowski followed up on discussions the month before by returning to the committee meeting last Friday with additional data regarding voting systems. He also included a price quote for online or telephone elections.

While awaiting further price quotes, Grabowski said it appears evident that See COST Page 5

Planning officials continue to look at rental policies

Town wondering what kind of regs to impose on Airbnb

By Rachel Ravina Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Members of the Berlin Planning Commission discussed the status of a short-term rental policy in town for the third consecutive meeting last Wednesday.

Chairman Chris Denny asked Planning Director Dave Engelhart about the procedures for staying in rental properties operated through online companies such as Airbnb.

See BERLIN Page 3





Larry Perrone



Viola continues successful path

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola, who stepped up to take the reins after a leadership upheaval last spring and signed a six-month contract in June, can now continue to lead the association's financial and operational turnaround through June 2022.

The OPA Board of Directors agreed unanimously on Dec. 4 to extend Viola's contact for 30-months, running from Dec. 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

Commenting on the association's continually improving financial picture, Viola said numerous departments have been instrumental in bolstering the bottom line.

"We're getting things done and that's a testament to the work that



everyone is doing," he said. "Across the board, from the marina to public works to rec and parks, aquatics and the yacht club, everyone is producing, and the numbers prove that."

Following the ouster of former General Manager John Bailey in March, Viola appeared uniquely qualified to take over, at least as a stopgap measure, as both the acting OPA treasurer and previous budget and finance committee chairman.

"I believe my six years with the Budget and Finance Committee helped me get an understanding of not just how the finances work in Ocean Pines, but also how the process works, and how that also includes working with the board of directors," he said.

When Viola took over as general manager, an emergency management team was formed with support provided by Colby Phillips, who was shortly promoted to Operations Director, along with Director of Finance Steve Phillips and Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett.

"Colby has been with the association for some time and worked her way up and proven herself," he said. "She has stepped up to develop in other areas."

Viola credited the partnership formed with Steve Phillips for the improved fiscal path.

"He shares my vision for the finance department," he said. "The turnaround is also a credit to the See GM Page 4





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Berlin drafting short-term rental ordinance

Continued from Page 1

"We're working on a draft now to come up with an ordinance," Engelhart replied.

Engelhart said Berlin's code has language for owner-occupied bedand-breakfasts, but nothing else.

"There was no such thing as Airbnb when they wrote the code for Berlin," Engelhart said during a November meeting. "Now we're here, we're in the 21st century."

Engelhart added the discussions would focus on the R-1 and R-2 residential districts. It's unclear if apartment sectors would be applicable. Engelhart clarified that shortterm would be considered less than 28 days as is the case in the policies of Ocean City and Worcester County.

Ocean City strengthened its rental license program and Worcester County has been working on instituting one. The Worcester County Commissioners voted last month to set an annual license fee for short-term rental properties, which is considered less than 28 days, to \$200 per vear. The fees would also cover employment for two county staff positions and software costs.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood further pressed the issues when he asked for the commission members' opinions on the matter.

"I wouldn't want to live next to it," Denny said.

Planning Commission member Ron Cascio expressed his concerns with the potential for problems. He cited the impacts short-term rentals were having in Delaware, partly because of increased traffic they gener-

ate

"In Lewes, people are moving, long-term residents are moving out of town," Cascio said during a November meeting.

While some members took a hard stance on the issue, others, like Planning Commission member John Barrett appeared to waiver.

"It's a hard thing to answer because I don't know. I'm not sure," Barrett said.

Engelhart said that he'd like to have a draft ready for the commission members to review by January.

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Berlin permits show uptick as end of 2019 draws near

By Rachel Ravina

Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Berlin's Planning and Zoning Department had a busy year, with 10 permits filed for singlefamily homes, and more than 200 overall permits, Director Dave Engelhart told members of the Town Council during a meeting last week.

This year's permits were higher than in recent years. There were six permits filed in 2018 as well as in 2017.

"They've climbed since I've been around. So the values are there," Engelhart said in an interview last Wednesday. "If you've owned the lot, there's probably not a better time to build between interest rates and the value ...'

Engelhart attributed the uptick in new construction with the town's rising popularity over the past decade.

'It's the lifestyle, the family-type

town, the schools right?" Engelhart said. "That's why people want to be in Worcester County."

Engelhart also cited the economy and interest rates as reasons for the increase.

You know you look at the interest rates, they're historically low for mortgages," Engelhart said.

Permits are typically used to make a change to a home or business.

Property owners applied for 236 permits in 2019, according to Engelhart. There were 195 permit applications in 2018 and 235 permits granted in 2017.

Among the changes in homes and businesses that require a permit are signs, fences, sheds, decks and renovations.

"It's always best to check with the planning department for what requires a permit," Engelhart said.

'Resiliency element' discussed

By Rachel Ravina Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Members of the Berlin Planning Commission began reviewing a potential policy addition to the town's comprehensive plan during a meeting last Wednesday.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart brought forth the "resiliency element," which would be "designed to take into account sea level rise and climate change and how it's going to affect the town.'

Engelhart also said the municipality's infrastructure, including the electric, stormwater and wastewater treatment plants could be involved.

Engelhart said preliminary discussions began last January, with several meetings to inform area residents of the proposal. Taking this next step would allow for a more formal procedure

"We want to have something to re-view and put out for public comment," Engelhart said.

Engelhart said Worcester County does have a hazard mitigation plan, but having a town-specific procedure is important because "it does affect us far as our infrastructure.'

Engelhart said he wanted to continue the conversations with the commission to gain feedback on potential revisions to the addendum.

However, Planning Commission Member Pete Cosby said he might need more time.

"It just seemed to me this is an awful lot to digest in a month," Cosby said.

Engelhart said the element's amendment to the town's comprehensive plan would need to be approved before the end of 2020.

GM Viola renews terms with OP

Continued from Page 6

work that he's done and the team he's put together in finance."

Viola also intends to continue developing and training internal talent.

"Of course, continuing to work with the team that's in place is a major reason I agreed to stay on," he said.

Viola cited the value of forming work groups to capture the expertise of both association members and employees when pursuing improvement and capital projects.

"So far, it's paid off in projects like the new golf clubhouse, using our experts in construction and project management to help us stay on budget," he said. "It's helped us with the compensation study, Northstar implementation, dredging and drainage, and many more initiatives and issues that arise."

Looking toward the start of 2020, Viola said the next fiscal year budget, which begins May 1, is ahead of schedule with a draft version likely on track before the end of this month.

"We believe we're moving in the right direction, bringing in several major projects on time and on budget and ... have a solid budget draft that's going to help continue our success into the next fiscal year," he said. "The team continues to operate on all cylinders, and I hope we will continue to deliver for Ocean Pines."

Bayside Gazette

Cost, convenience part of ballot discussions

Continued from Page 1

retaining the current paper ballots would be problematic if contracting for updated voting systems.

"That limits us quite a bit because a lot of these places are just online," he said. "If we're not going to go completely online, our only option is to go online and telephone [so] we would have to eliminate paper ballots completely."

Grabowski said combining paper balloting with online or telephone options would be challenging to accurately track.

"You almost have to take a vote," he said. "Send out a ballot to see which way people want to vote and then send them out the ballot for voting."

Reviving a point from the group's November meeting, committee member Mark Heintz asked if the additional insight would negate the idea of a "hybrid" voting system.

Grabowski said it appears the only fiscally feasible option would be a hybrid of online and telephone voting.

"If you're going to do paper, I think our only option is to do all paper," he said.

Based on a price quote from vendor Simply Voting, of Montreal, Canada, the cost to manage elections would include a \$1,695 base charge, with another mandated \$850 fee to manage the contest and \$859 to include a telephone option.

Although the vendor does include an option for paper ballots, at \$2 per vote, the cost would be exorbitant, Grabowski said.

"Those are basically our two choices," he said. "We either update our old system ... or we do online/telephone."

Committee member Bob Windsor said combining paper ballots with other options appears difficult.

"It seems like it would be an administrative nightmare to keep track of who has a ballot and who doesn't have," he said.

Grabowski said return on investment should be weighed if pursuing the online or telephone options.

"If you want to do this as a service, it's best to start that now," he said.

By comparison, if the option of developing revised paper ballots is preferred, it would likely take a couple of years to recoup the initial investment, Grabowski said.

Grabowski also noted the newly adopted Northstar financial software has a potential option that was deemed insufficient after further investigation.

"Basically, it's more of a survey than it is an election," he said.

Windsor asked if handing election oversight to an outside vendor could elicit criticisms.

"If the electronic election process is managed by someone here, then somebody would say it's not independent," he said.

Grabowski said those sentiments could be widespread and agreed contracting for services also surrenders control.

"It's completely out of our hands if we do the service," he said.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said there could be general community sentiment in favor of retaining paper balloting.

"The acceptance of the process by the community is overwhelming unless there's some incredible cost challenge," he said. "It's become an accepted way of doing business here."

Grabowski said the community should be polled prior to abandoning paper ballots.

Habeger said an inquiry could be included in the 2020 election mailing to gauge interest in the change.

"A separate piece of paper that would say, in the future, we are considering going to online and possibly telephone," he said.

To help inform voters before they respond, Windsor suggested providing a detailed picture of associated costs.

To further muddy the waters, Habeger noted specific requirements in the OPA governing guidelines outlining election procedures.

"According to the bylaws, we are required to inform every member for the upcoming annual meeting," he said. "No matter how we conduct the balloting and the election, we're into that mailing."

Habeger also said during the group's November meeting, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman Jim Trummel explained that abandoning paper ballots might require amending related resolutions.

Grabowski concurred there are potential legalities in play.

"We need to get a definite understanding of the bylaws because it mentions paper, but it doesn't mandate paper," he said. Echoing those bylaws concerns was Windsor.

"It was written toward that, but it doesn't mandate that it has to be paper," he said. "It says there has to be a mailing ... of election materials to members eligible to vote and a procedure for safeguarding and tabulating returned ballots."

Grabowski said if a resolution amendment is required, additional time would be involved.

"If that has to be changed, and has to be done by referendum, then we're not making that this year," he said. "The good news is a new paper balloting system gives us 2-3 years to get all this stuff under our belt."

Habeger proposed developing a new paper balloting system for the 2020 election, while continuing to research future options in terms of costs, community sentiment and bylaw requirements.

"We need a system that looks a lot like what our previous system has been ... for the coming election," he said.

Rec committee re-energized

ALEX'S

ALIA

RESTAURANT

Continued from Page 1 remained.

"There were some projects we were looking to move forward, but we didn't have money in the budget," he said. "This may be timely if there are some projects that the committee wants to bring to (program supervisor) Debbie Donahue who is running park and recs at this point."

Perrone said the committee should be on schedule for inclusion with the upcoming budget disbursements.

"We should be in the middle of the process and we'll be able to see if any additional projects are available," he said.

Perrone said aside from funding

considerations, the committee's objective would likely be assuring equitability of resources.

"From my perspective, the focus is going to be that we are looking at continuing to improve the availability of facilities for both children and the adults here in Ocean Pines," he said.

Emphasizing that the committee is advisory in nature, Perrone said the goal is coordinating actions through the board of directors and in conjunction with both General Manager John Viola and Donahue regarding maintenance issues and program offerings.

"Since we're sort of re-energizing the committee, they'll be a lot of things to discuss," he said.



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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Elections Committee member Bob Windsor, left, and Committee Chairman Steve Habeger review proposed updates to resolution M-06 to refine election validation processes during the group's meeting last Friday.

Election committee weighs changes to vote validation

Group members mull over resolution M-06 amended language before board vets

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Seeking to define election validation processes, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee reached agreement on updates to resolution M-06 last week with the revised language set for a first reading by the board of directors meeting on Jan. 4.

The principal modification to resolution M-06, which outlines election and referendum procedures, is language clearly stating what constitutes validation of vote results.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman Jim Trummel had forwarded recommendations that were previously shared with the board.

"Over the past few years, the chair of election committee and the board have done different things to validate," he said.

Subsequent confusion was generated by the varying methodology.

"The situation was exacerbated at the last annual meeting, when there wasn't a quorum," he said.

Resolution M-06 outlines two validation processes: it can be handled at the homeowners annual meeting, assuming a quorum is present, or, in the absence of a quorum, the board can hold a special meeting to validate the results

While the defined procedure was followed, it did generate questions as to what exactly signifies that results are finalized.

"There was confusion as to what that is," he said. "The essence of it is if we change M-06 to say ... the act of presenting the results is the validation."

Habeger said the committee should agree on an approach before forwarding the issue to the board.

Board liaison Steve Tuttle, while noting the question had initially been raised by OPA President Doug Parks, said the procedural task mainly falls within the purview of the election committee.

"Once you guys announce the results, done deal, it's been validated," he said. "The board doesn't really validate."

Committee member Bob Windsor stressed that the process is transparent.

"We have records if somebody wants to audit it," he said.

Tuttle said while not a common occurrence, tight races might result in requests for a second glance.

"In a really close election somebody might want to say, 'Hey, can we get a recount," he said.

Habeger said in that eventuality, the board would be responsible for outlining the process.

Committee member Mark Heintz asked when candidates would be expected to request a vote recount.

Habeger said strategic procedural approaches have been developed to allow for the eventuality.

"That is what led us to announce the ballot count ahead of the annual meeting," he said. "If you wait for the annual meeting and you're a candidate [who was] two votes short ... the train's already gone."

The committee voted to approve the amended language and forward the matter to the board.

Two other included revisions concerning candidate seating and questioning order at board election forums were also vetted.

Berlin commission recommends annexation

Planning members give OK to incorporate restaurant, business into town's fold

By Rachel Ravina Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) An agreement to annex more than 100,000 square feet of property into the Town of Berlin was given a favorable recommendation by the Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday.

Attorney Joseph Moore, of Williams, Moore, Shockley & Harrison in Ocean City, said the land is located on the south side of Route 50 and the east side of Seahawk Road.

There are 104,811 square feet eligible for annexation, according to an Oct. 24 memorandum. The old McDonald's restaurant and Myers Tool Rental properties are in question. The aforementioned area is also near the old Harley Davidson property on Route 50, according to Planning Director Dave Engelhart.

It's designated as a C-2 Commercial zone in Worcester County, according to the annexation memorandum. If approved, the area would be rezoned to B-2 Shopping District within Berlin's town limits.

"I will say to you, and it is important, we are already in a growth area, established by the Town of Berlin," Moore



PHOTO COURTESY BERLIN PLANNING COMMISSION

The Berlin Planning Commission issued a favorable recommendation to annex the former McDonald's restaurant and Myers Tool Rental into the Town of Berlin during a meeting last Wednesday.

said. "The growth area actually extends beyond the property to which we are asking you to recommend annexation." The property owners would also pay

ready-to-serve fees associated with the

allotted equivalent dwelling units, Moore said. During the public hearing, resident

Marie Velong asked several questions about the piping required and what would be involved with bringing these properties into the town's fold.

"A lot of times we tend to add into things without taking [them] into con-See MCDONALD'S Page 8

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Choptank eyes broadband service

Electric cooperative asking for regulatory flexibility with proposed state legislation

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Choptank Electric Cooperative, which began providing power to homes and businesses on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1938, is lobbying for state legislation next year to provide broadband services to more than 54,000 member customers in nine counties.

In a recent plea for Eastern Shore customers to contact area legislators to communicate the lack of adequate Internet service in the largely rural region, Choptank CEO Mike Malandro said the Federal Communications Commission is slated to auction off more than \$20 billion to support broadband delivery to rural communities next year.

"I'd like to position Choptank to bid on those funds to provide broadband to members faster and more comprehensively than other startups," he said. In August, the FCC announced that \$20.4 billion would be earmarked to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which seeks to provide broadband service to roughly 4 million homes and small businesses in rural areas that currently lack ac-

'I'd like to position Choptank to bid on those funds to provide broadband to members faster and more comprehensively than other start-ups.' Choptank CEO, Mike Malandro

cess to digital services.

Recognizing the critical need for broadband access in rural areas to foster economic development, create employment opportunities and provide educational advancement, last year the FCC provided \$1.48 billion through its Connect America Fund to develop universal service support over the next decade. The action is anticipated to provide improved In-

Election Committee discuss changes for vote validation

Continued from Page 6

Habeger said the present language requires seating and questioning candidates in ballot order.

The revised language, while removing an existing reference to permitting randomly assigned seating, also authorizes the election committee to assign the sequence of candidate responses, with all required to respond.

["]I think it's not fair to the candidates and boring for the audience," he said.

Tuttle concurred, adding that varying the sequence of questioning could provide voters a better idea of candidate perspectives.

"If they're always in the same order, you don't get a real good picture of each candidate," he said.

With the committee agreeing on the resolution changes, Tuttle will request a first reading for the M-06 amendments at the next board meeting on Jan. 4.



ternet access to more than 700,000 homes and businesses in 45 states.

Prior to pursuing the FCC funding, Choptank wants to be sure sufficient regulatory flexibility exists to build an economic formula that meets minimum upload and download speeds.

To that end, Malandro is requesting members to contact their state delegates and senators to lend support to a bill permitting the electric cooperative to be classified as "member regulated," like more than 80 percent of comparable entities in the U.S.

The change would provide Choptank's board of directors sole discretion to establish rates and services.

The Choptank board consists of 10 seats, including one for each county on the Eastern Shore and the Ocean Pines District. Board members are elected for three-year terms at the cooperatives annual meeting.

For more information or to support the effort visit https://supportchoptankfiber.com/

McDonald's, Myers Tool Rental parcels seeking annexation

Continued from Page 7

sideration," Velong said.

Moore answered her inquires, and said the properties would be connected to the town sewer. As for the financials, the property owners would bear the responsibility, he said.

Robert Mitchell, director of environmental programs for Worcester County, served as Moore's witness for the annexation proposal. Mitchell also said that the properties are classified as W-1/S-1 (planned to be served within two years).

"So that is an area there that really is in need of public service," Mitchell said.

Following the approval, the annexation agreement will go before the Town Council at a later date.



Berlin police officer named 'Everyday Hero'

By Rachel Ravina Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Berlin Police Officer Joseph Kerr represented the state of Maryland as an "everyday hero" and received an award for his contributions last week.

"It was a proud moment," he said.

Kerr said his wife, Christy, nominated him in the Norwegian Cruise Line's Encore Moments campaign, which aims to recognize people who've made a difference in the lives of others in their community. The company also launched the campaign prior to the debut of a new ship, the "Norwegian Encore."

For Kerr, he said his wife chose to name him because of the exemplary role he plays as a father and stepfather.

"I've tried, no matter how hard my schedule is, to always be there for everything," Kerr said.

Kerr also said as a police officer, he goes into the area schools and teaches children about police officers, stranger-danger and overall safety. He also works with Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, and takes children on trips to water parks during the summer.

Additionally, Kerr delivers meals to seniors through Stevenson United Methodist Church's Spirit Campaign. After Christy nominated him on Facebook, Kerr said nominees' profiles were uploaded to the cruise company's website. People were then able to vote for 30 days, and the contest ran from Sept. 18 to Oct. 18, according to the company's website.

The contest chose one winner from each state and province, according to the company's website. Kerr added that the top three candidates per state were then vetted before the top hero in each state was selected.

Andy Stuart, president and chief executive officer of Norwegian Cruise Line, said it's important to recognize people who have a large impact on the community.

"We believe it is very important to make the time to celebrate and thank the people whose acts of kindness and compassion make a difference in the lives of their friends, families and communities," Stuart said in a statement.

Kerr traveled to New York City on to attend the award ceremony on Friday, Dec. 13 as the representative of the state of Maryland. He won a three to five-night cruise on "almost any Norwegian Cruise Line ship."

Kerr said that he was "honored" and "humbled" to receive the commendation after being notified last month.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Berlin Police Officer Joseph Kerr has been named an "everyday hero" after winning the Encore Moments campaign sponsored by Norwegian Cruise Line.

"It was kind of amazing, because in law enforcement you, don't get a lot of 'good jobs,' so it was really nice to have all these people come up to me and tell me what a great job that we're doing; what a great job I'm doing," he said.

For more information about the campaign, visit encoremoments.ncl.com.



Berlin K-9 officers participate in certification

Narcotics, explosives focus for testing last week; dogs called 'invaluable resource'

By Rachel Ravina Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Several K-9 officers and their handlers with the Berlin Police Department underwent testing for an annual certification last week in Powellville.

Cpl. Chris Bireley and K-9 officer Luke, an 8-year old German shepherd, Cpl. Jessica Collins and K-9 officer Dock, a 2-year-old golden retriever, and Senior Ofc. Aaron Titerence and K-9 officer Cyrus, a 5year-old malinois, participated in the detection testing through the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy at Wor-Wic Community College.

Luke, a narcotics K-9, completed testing to find drugs inside and outside vehicles, inside buildings and inside lockers, Bireley said.

Bireley added Luke needed to identify the smell of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine.

K-9 officer Dock focuses on explosives, according to Collins. To obtain a certification, Dock needed to find explosives in several places on the interior and exterior of a vehicle and in an area. Additionally, Dock would



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Several Berlin Police Department and Worcester Bureau of Investigation K-9 officers receive certifications after testing last week in Powellville, Maryland. The following K-9 officers and their handlers who participated, from left, are Senior Ofc. Aaron Titerence and Cyrus, Det. Cpl. Jessica Collins and Dock, and Cpl. Chris Bireley, with Luke.

need to sniff out materials used to make a bomb.

The K-9 officers will work to complete the second part of the certification next month, when they will focus on several areas, including tracking, patrol work and bite work, Collins said.

In order to keep the K-9 officers in tip-top shape, Collins said they conduct monthly exercises as part of the K-9 officer training program. She added that they also work to "increase the difficulty" by expanding the coverage area and leaving the object out longer.

"We are constantly working with them because we want them to be the best, and do their best, so any chance that we can [do] to set up problems and do work, they work constantly," Collins said.

Collins and K-9 officer Dock, members of the Worcester Bureau of Investigation, are called to assist in the event of bomb or suspicious packet threats at several places, including at schools and event spaces, she said. They also help find firearms.

Collins also said the task force helps neighboring counties and she's previously conducted safety checks prior to events at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury.

As for K-9 office Luke, he's on patrol with Birely and helps with detecting drugs during traffic stops, he said. "Then they call Luke to sniff the

outside of the vehicle," Bireley said.

Collins said that any dog is eligible to become a K-9 officer, but having certain traits helps to be successful, including "hunt drive" and training.

"They just have to possess the

qualities necessary and the want to do the job," Collins said.

For example, Collins said that Dock's responsibilities with explosives and firearms are well suited for his breed.

"He has a good nose on him. He's really good at tracking and finding explosives and guns and things, so we kind of keep them breed-specific as far as what they're good at," she said.

Collins also said the K-9 officers play a vital role in the safety of the community in Berlin and Worcester County.

"They're an invaluable resource for the officer mainly because their smell and their ability to do their job is far more superior than what humans can detect as far as the odor recognition," she said. "So without them, I mean there'd be a lot more drugs, a lot more threats out there."

For Bireley, he said that K-9 officer Luke serves as a companion while on duty.

"Actually for me, it's just nice having the dog with me, because I mean many times I'm the only officer working in the whole town, so having him there as a backup is comforting for me," he said.

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December 19, 2019

Bayside Gazette



The Ocean Pines Library will stage a Lego building challenge for children ages 5-14 on Saturday at 1 p.m.

OP Library to hold Lego build challenge Saturday at 1 p.m.

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Interest continues to mount in the Ocean Pines library monthly Lego building challenge slated for Saturday at 1 p.m.

Karen Earp, library youth services specialist, said the creative building activity targeted to children between ages 5-14 began in October as part of the Maryland STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Festival.

Earp said each month a different theme is included that seeks to engage youthful creativity, with participation growing from a few kids in October to more than a dozen at subsequent gatherings.

"This one is trying to write your name with Legos," she said.

Despite having to provide initial guidance, Earp hopes to avoid stifling originality.

'I give them a theme but no instructions," she said. "I want them to engineer their own solutions."

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In light of the age range skewing as young as five, Earp said slightly larger Lego alternatives, or Duplo blocks, are also available to help avoid concerns over toddlers indiscriminately taste-testing small plastic pieces.

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Cost

Bayside Gazette



Keynote Speaker: Darryl Strawberry

A baseball legend, he was at the top of his MLB game in the 80s and 90s, winning a World Series with the New York Mets and three with with the New York Yankees. But life took a different turn after baseball. Drug abuse, house arrest, and rehab was just the beginning. Today Darryl is an ordained minister and Christian speaker. with a story that is filled with truth, hope & inspiration....



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National Park Service entrance fees raised

Modest increase to impact all properties requiring cost such as Assateague Island

(Dec. 19, 2019) The National Park Service will institute a modest increase for all parks that charge entrance fees.

The additional funds will be used for infrastructure and maintenance needs to enhance the visitor experience.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, entrance fees at Assateague Island National Seashore will be modified to align with standardized rates being implemented nationwide for similar national park areas.

In response to public comments on a fee proposal released in October 2017, there will be a modest increase for all entrance fee-charging parks, rather than the higher peak-season fees initially proposed only for 17 highly-visited national parks.

The National Park Service has a

Lego build event challenges youths to create designs

Continued from Page 11

"These kids are so amazing," she said. "The only rule is have fun."

Earp said despite the availability of safety-conscious Duplo blocks, in general, regardless of age, most kids prefer working with Lego blocks.

"It seems like the little kids want to do what the big kids do," she said.

To further the sense of accomplishment, completed Lego creations are displayed at the Ocean Pines library until the next building challenge event transpires.

"They bring their grandparents in," she said. "It has a cross-generational appeal."

The next Lego Building challenge at the library will take place Saturday, Jan. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 15.



standardized entrance fee structure, composed of four groups based on park size and type. Some parks not yet aligned with the other parks in their category will raise their fees incrementally and fully incorporate the new entrance fee schedule by Jan. 1, 2020.

The fee schedule at Assateague Island National Seashore will change according to the following:

A seven-day pass to the park will be \$25 per vehicle, \$20 per motorcycle, an annual park pass will cost \$45, individuals will be charged \$15 per person when entering by commercial vehicle.

An entrance pass provides seven consecutive days of access to the National Seashore and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

The park annual pass provides 12 months of access from the month of purchase. There will be no increase to

camping fees or Oversand Vehicle Permit fees as part of this change.

Additionally, free annual passes are available for active duty uniformed military and for fourth grade students under the "Every Kid Outdoors" program.

Access Passes are free lifetime passes for individuals with a permanent disability. The annual Senior Pass remains \$20.

The price of the annual America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass remain at \$80.

At Assateague Island National Seashore, at least 80 percent of entrance fee revenue stays in the park and are devoted to spending that supports the visitor. The remaining 20 percent of entrance fee income will be shared with other national parks for

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their projects.

National parks have experienced record-breaking visitation, with more than 1.5 billion visitors in the last five years.

Throughout the country, the combination of an aging infrastructure and increased visitation has put a strain on park roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, bathrooms, and other visitor services and led to a \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog nationwide.

Assateague Island National Seashore has had an entrance fee since 1971. The current rate of \$20 per vehicle or \$15 per motorcycle has been in effect since 2015. The park is one of 112 National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee, the other 307 national parks will remain free to enter.

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Star Charities' members toast Foultz legacy

Despite being disbanded after founder's death, group holds final holiday festivity

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Longtime members of Star Charities gathered last week for a holiday luncheon to honor the memory of recently departed cofounder Anna Foultz, while also agreeing to carry on one of the group's signature charity drives next year.

Sue Walter, who worked side-byside with Foultz on numerous Star Charities initiatives over the last four years, said the gathering at the Pines Public House last Wednesday was bittersweet.

Foultz, who launched Star Charities in 2007 with her husband, Carl, died in late September.

"We remembered Anna and I brought a picture from last year's luncheon," she said. "Everyone was thrilled."

Walter said every member in attendance was provided with a personal copy of the group photo from last year's event.

With Star Charities officially disbanded after Foultz died, the group members were able to reconvene and share a wealth of warm memories of their departed figurehead.

"We all ended up sharing our favorite stories," she said. "There were lots of one liners."

Walter said the remembrances were unplanned and occurred organically as people began to recall past bright spots from interacting with the ever-smiling Foultz.

"One thing we agreed there was no one like her and probably never will be," he said.

One issue that was settled during the luncheon, despite the dissolution of the Start Charities organization, the assembled members agreed to continue the annual "Holiday Gifts for Soldiers," next fall.

Looking to the future overall, after conferring with Barbara Peletier and



Long-aligned members of the now defunct Star Charities toast the memory of departed co-founder Anna Foultz during a holiday luncheon at the Pines Public House in Ocean Pines, Wednesday, Dec. 11.

several other members, Walter said there appears to be little sentiment to form another group.

"The buy-in was minimal," she said.

In addition to selecting a name for a new organization, the group would have to apply for nonprofit status through the IRS.

"No one wants to take over doing that," she said.

Walter said although uncertainty still surrounds precisely what the future might hold for the assorted group members, at this point the general sentiment is that Anna would be a hard act to follow.

"No one thinks we could do her legacy justice," she said. "No one thinks we could follow in Anna's footsteps to sufficiently fill her shoes."



STUDIO ART

Matthew Amey, an artist at the Wooden Octopus on Jefferson Street, showcases a recently finished painting, Saturday, Dec. 7, during the Berlin Holidav Studio Tour. Several artists throughout downtown Berlin opened their studios to the public during the fourth annual event. RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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Md. DNR grants gateway streamlines funding

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 19, 2019) Aiming to simplify the qualification process for environmental project funding, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources last year instituted its Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway one-stop online application portal.

Gabe Cohee, director for the Center for Restoration Finance at Chesapeake and Coastal Service said DNR officials recognized that solicitations for funding required vetting through multiple channels.

"We were working with the same local governments and the same nonprofit organizations that were seeking these funds," he said.

Cohee said the grants gateway online portal is open for the second year and would be accepting solicitations until

Feb. 14.

"We just decided it would be better if we put out one single solicitation and tried to pull in projects that way. Whether we're talking about resiliency, water quality, planning, zoning ordinances, sea level rise [or] things that the locals are dealing with," Cohee said.

Cohee said his agency, which operates under DNR, manages federal funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We have a lot of state funding ... for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, which is water qualitydriven," he said. "We have some capital funding to do resiliency projects that we're using natural infrastructure to protect critical natural features."

In large part, the involved projects

tended to focus on results rather than a specific funding approach.

"It allows us to do a more comprehensive review of all these projects," he said.

Cohee said by examining project details, his agency could provide advice on which sources of money might be appropriate.

"In the end, we get better comprehensive programs on the ground and it reduces some of that burden on the locals," he said.

Without expounding on climate change, Cohee said residents in coastal communities have seen increased storms in recent years.

"Coastal communities are realizing that high tides are a little higher," he said. "There are king tides that are even bigger than old king tides."

Flooding dangers have also increased

in waterfront communities.

"So there just seems to be more water to deal with," he said.

Cohee said to address these mounting challenges, the agency is pursuing projects that employ natural shorelines and wetlands as part of the solution.

"We want to build natural features ... to help slow that water down and keep it in place, so that residents and locals aren't dealing with that water in their basements and yards," he said.

Also considered in the process, Cohee said, is the financial impact these higher tides and stronger storms have on coastal areas.

"Not only for tourism, but for our fisheries communities and recreational economies," he said. "It's really critical that we think about how these impacts will affect those kind of economies."

While the impact of sea level rise over the next several decades is subject to conjecture, Cohee said taking action now is vital to maintaining life on the coast.

"Right now, we like the way of life that we have, and we enjoy these coastal communities," he said. "We have to do what we can to ensure that they are sustainable for whatever the future has for us."



WPS unveils new logo ahead 50th anniversary in '20

(Dec. 19, 2019) Worcester Preparatory School unveiled a new logo recently in anticipation of the upcoming 50th anniversary in 2020.

The new logo design honors Worcester Prep's traditional past while embracing an innovative future.

Founded in 1970, Worcester Prep is an independent, college prep day school for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 students.

Located in Berlin, the private school attracts an average of 500 students from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. For more information, visit www.worcesterprep.org or call 410-641-3575.



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Celebrate Assateague Island legacy, Jan. 1

(Dec. 19, 2019) The public is invited to join Assateague Coastal Trust to celebrate the legacy of Assateague Island on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 1 p.m. at Assateague State Park.

Those in attendance will meet at the State Park concession building. Participants are asked to wear clothes and shoes appropriate for the weather (rain, snow or shine).

Hot chocolate will be served on the concession deck following the walk. To save on disposables, personal mugs are encouraged.

For additional information or any questions, contact Billy Weiland at billy@actforbays.org or 443-366-4866.

This year, the walk theme will take from the philosophy of Assateague Coastal Trust's online journal, The Marsh.

The Marsh resides as the philosophical voice of Assateague Coastal Trust, which is that to care about the environment, we have to first immerse ourselves in, and experience our environment to better understand it on a scientific, and personal level.

The first Assateague Beach Walk was held on Jan. 1, 1980.

The newly formed Committee to Preserve Assateague Island hosted



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The public is invited to join Assateague Coastal Trust to celebrate the legacy of Assateague Island on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 1 p.m. at Assateague State Park.

the inaugural event to draw attention to Assateague's wild beauty.

The Committee to Preserve Assateague Island was created by Ilia Fehrer, Judy Johnson and a few friends who had organized to rally against early plans for development of Assateague Island, which included a 25-mile highway and a number of commercial enterprises, and the Ocean Beach resort, much like Ocean City.

A series of 1962 nor'easters interrupted construction, and eventually National and State Parks were established.

The Committee became Assateague Coastal Trust, who along with Assateague Island National Seashore and Assateague State Park sponsor the New Year's Day walk each year.

Dogs on a leash are welcome only as far as the boundary of the State Park (to the north of the boundary, dogs are not permitted).

For more information, visit www.ACTforBays.org/Events.

Worcester County synthetic ice rink skating schedule

(Dec. 19, 2019) Worcester County Recreation & Parks staff members announce the December hours for open skating on the new synthetic ice rink at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill.

The first open skate will take place at Elves on the Loose, a free, family See NEW Page 19



Opinion

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

Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas? Is this country going to hell in a secular handcart? No, and it's because the annual "war on Christmas" argument is humbug.

For a real war on Christmas, go to 1789, when the French Revolutionary government banned it as a religious celebration. Coincidentally, or not, our nation's founders added religious freedom to the constitution just two years later, using an earlier Virginia law written by Thomas Jefferson, at the behest of the Protestant church.

Our so-called war on Christmas, however, has little to do with the law. It's about what people say to each other as Dec. 25 approaches, and whether political correctness is stripping the country of its Christian underpinnings.

That is not the case. The real separation is between the religious observance of Christmas, which Christians practice, and the business of cultural Christmas, which Wall Street — and thousands of Christian investors — also follow.

According to numerous surveys, about 90 percent of Americans, regardless of faith, celebrate cultural Christmas, and 70-to-75 percent of them observe both the religious and cultural aspects of the holiday. Consequently, the retailers of "Happy Holidays" have asked and answered the question whether they should ignore 25 percent of the cultural Christmas market in deference to religious Christmas?

They aren't rejecting Christmas, nor is anyone restricting the public's right to say, "Merry Christmas" or anything else for that matter (see Religious Freedom above).

The issue this fabricated war ignores is whether society can accommodate both religious Christmas and cultural Christmas without desk-pounding conflict.

Of course, it can. Christians can, in the words of Jesus, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's" — we can recognize business for what it is and keep our religious observances separate.

Similarly, showing respect to people of other faiths this time of year borrows a line from a multitude of Christmas hymns: — "Peace on Earth and good will to men (and women)," which, considering our bellicose times, would be nice for a change.

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Atlantic General to host Penguin Swim

Twenty-sixth annual event scheduled for Jan. 1 on 91st Street

(Dec. 19, 2019) It's almost time for Atlantic General Hospital Foundation's 26th annual Penguin Swim, held on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1.

As always, the swim will take place in the ocean behind the Princess Royale Hotel on 91st Street in Ocean City.

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation is inviting individuals and teams to join in the fundraising.

All participants will receive an official 2020 AGH Penguin Swim short-sleeve T-shirt for their \$25 registration fee. Additional incentive prizes can be earned based on individual fundraising efforts.

Individual and team participants can register online. To view this year's shirts and prizes, or to register, visit www.aghpenguinswim.org or text PENGUIN to 51555.

Event day registration will begin at 10 a.m., ending promptly at 12:30 p.m., with the main event at 1 p.m. on the beach.

The time in between will be full of activities for the whole family, including carnival games and face painting.

The Bull on the Beach team will parade down the beach at 12:45 p.m. from 94th Street to the swim area in front of the Princess Royale. Spectators are welcome.

Participants are encouraged to pre-registration and advance check-in at the Princess Royale in the Premier Lobby from 2-4 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Avoid long lines on event day and pick up wristbands, shirts and prizes early. Participants who register and check-in early will also receive an additional incentive prize.

All participants are required to register either online or in person and check-in on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day to receive a wristband to gain access to the swim area.

Special recognition awards will be given to oldest and youngest penguins. Tro-

phies for first, second and third place will be awarded to those who raise the most money in divisions for individuals to adults and 18 and under, and teams (businesses, community groups/organizations, and youth/family.)

There will also be prizes awarded for the best costumes. Sign up for the costume contest in the atrium at the Princess Royale before the swim.

Find the event on social media using #OCPenguin-Swim, like on Facebook at www.facebook.com/penguinswim, or call the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation office at 410-641-9671 for more information.

Penguin Swim co-chairs are Michael Cylc and Phillip Cheung.

Proceeds from the event, gathered through corporate sponsorships and participant fundraising, support the strategic plans undertaken by Atlantic General Hospital to uphold its mission to improve individual and community health. Atlantic General Hospital is a 501(c)3 organization.



BERTINO INSTRUCTS

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Boat Club held its fall meeting in the community center on Oct. 16. Pictured are Dave Landis, Det. 1st Class Matthew Bertino from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, and Tom Southwell. Bertino presented a video about the CRASE program, designed to increase a person's chances of surviving an actual shooter event or other critical incident.

AGH honored for launching Safe Station by health dept.

(Dec. 19, 2019) The Worcester County Health Department presented Atlantic General Hospital with a certificate of appreciation for its collaborative efforts in launching Worcester County's first Safe Station.

The Safe Station is located at the 15th Street fire station in Ocean City, and is available 24 hours, seven days a week to any individuals seeking addiction treatment services.

The station provides resources for those struggling with addiction and is able to help connect individuals with the help they need.

"The Safe Station is a tremendous resource to those in our community that are struggling with addiction," said Colleen Waring, vice president patient care services at of Atlantic General Hospital. "We are proud to be able to provide the support needed to ensure this new resource is successful in aiding those who are looking to start their journey to recovery."

For more information, visit



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE Donna Nordstrom, AGH director of community health, center, is pictured with Mike Trader, Behavioral Health Program assistant director, Worcester County Health Department and Sandy Kerrigan, Community Based Services manager, Worcester County Health Department.

www.worcesterhealth.org or call 410-632-1100.

New synthetic ice rink now open

Continued from Page 17

event that is open to the public on Friday, Dec. 20, from 6-8 p.m. This evening of skating will be free of charge.

"We invite all in the community to come out and celebrate the holiday season and all things elfish with us at Elves on the Loose," Marketing Program Manager Brianna Dix said. "There will be skating, 'Elf' movie on the big screen, pictures with Santa, the Great Elf Hunt, elf-inspired games, crafts, and more."

After Dec. 20, the cost per person will be \$2, which includes skate rental and unlimited skating for the day. All ages are welcome. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children age 6 and under are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them.

The following dates and times are open skate:

Saturdays, Dec. 21 and 28, from 12-7 p.m.

Sundays, Dec. 22 and 29, from 1-6 p.m.

Monday, Dec., 23, from 12-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, from 12-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, from 12-7 p.m.

For more information, contact Allen Swiger, at 410-632-2144 ext. 2520 or aswiger@co.worcester.md.us.



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Snapshots



GOALIE CLINIC

Members of the Saltwater Lacrosse Team participated in a goalie clinic with University of Maryland goalie Megan Taylor on Nov. 3 at Showell Park. Pictured with Taylor are goalies Caitlin Williams, Paige Barnhart, Addison McDaniel, Chloe March, Ryleigh Cunnane and Ava Hinkle, and shooters Sadie Kauffman, Mary Kate Barnhart, Reagan Sterrs and Katie Knapp.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Showell Elementary second grader Ava Musselman creates an "X-ray" after learning about the purpose of bones.



NEW MEMBERS

The Coastal Association of Realtors welcomed 13 new members during New Member Orientation on Nov. 4. Pictured, in back, from left, are Elizabeth Silver of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury; Amanda Poole of Hall Realty in Pocomoke City; Kathleen Momme of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury; Robert Bouse of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty in **Ocean City; Anne Bouse of Berkshire** Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty in Ocean City; April Tucker of ERA Martin Associates in Salisbury; Tony Overton of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury; Amanda Tingle of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury; and Megan Chesser of Coldwell Banker Residential in Salisbury, and in front, Shelley Walter of Coldwell Banker Residential in York, Pennsylvania; Brittany **Carver of Sheppard Realty in Berlin;** Sharika Townsend of Coldwell Banker **Residential in Salisbury; and Brooks** Bowden of Whitehead Real Estate Executives in Salisbury. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PREMIER ATHLETES

Stephen Decatur High School sophomore Emma Sperry (cheerleading) and junior Kellen Catrino (soccer) were named Premier Driving School Athletes of the Month for October. While Catrino racked up seven goals in Bayside soccer play, Sperry's cheer squad earned first place and a bid to the national championship at the Kick Off Classic competition in Harford County. Also pictured are Assistant Principal Dr. Curtis Bunting and Premier Driving School representative Geri Riden.



GUEST SPEAKER

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Renee Wooding, director of Philanthropy for the Cool Kids Campaign, was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City in the Ocean Pines. Cool Kids Campaign's mission is to improving the quality of life for pediatric oncology patients and their families by focusing on academic, social and emotional needs brought on by a cancer diagnosis. There are currently four children in the area with cancer – three in Berlin and one in Ocean City. One is taking advantage of the program. Wooding is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman.

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NOWHERE SLOW Seacrets: Saturday, Dec. 21, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.



OVER TIME BJ's On The Water: Friday, Dec. 20, 9 p.m.



IDENTITY CRISIS Beach Barrels: Saturday, Dec. 21, 9 p.m.

BEACH BARRELS

13207 Coastal Highway, Ocean City 410-250-0522 / www.beachbarrels.com Dec. 20: Monkee Paw, 9 p.m. Dec. 21: Identity Crisis, 9 p.m. Dec. 25: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m. Dec. 26: Jonathan Plevyak Duo, 9 p.m.

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City 410-524-7575 / www.bjsonthewater.com Dec. 20: Over Time, 9 p.m. Dec. 21: Thin Ice, 9 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, Ocean City, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium 443-664-2896 / www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com Dec. 20: Ricky & Lennon LaRicci, 7 p.m. Dec. 21: Christmas Jam, 7 p.m. Dec. 22: Bob Hughes, 6 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 Center 410-250-1449 / www.duffysoc.com Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road, West Ocean City 410-213-1846 / www.ocharborside.com Dec. 20: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 21: Chris Button, 2 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 22: Opposite Directions, 2 p.m. Dec. 25: Closed Christmas Day Dec. 26: Opposite Directions, 6 p.m.



PHIL PERDUE Captain's Table: Friday & Saturday, Dec. 20 & 21, 5:30 p.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City 410-213-1841 / www.hootersofoc.com Dec. 20: DJ BK, 4-8 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. Dec. 20-21: First Class, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City 410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com Dec. 20: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m. Dec. 21: Andrew Robear, 10 p.m. Dec. 23: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m. Dec. 26: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City 410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com Dec. 20: DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Flowers for Taco, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 21: Jon Maurer, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Tuff, 6 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.; Nowhere Slow, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City 410-723-6762 / www.skyebaroc.com Dec. 20: Customer Appreciation Party w/Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17, Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines 410-208-3922 / www.whiskersbar.com Dec. 20: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

Realtors organization awards \$9K in grants

(Dec. 19, 2019) The Coastal Association of Realtors has awarded \$9,200 in grants to local charities through the Coastal Realtors Foundation.

The following organizations received grants in the foundation's latest round of funding:

Art League of Ocean City, Coastal Hospice, The Cricket Center, Crisfield Arts & Entertainment District, Crisfield Volunteer Fire Department, The Grace Center, Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore, Wicomico Child Advocacy Center, Wicomico Environmental Trust, Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, Wyatt's Warriors Foundation and Young Life Salisbury.

The Coastal Realtors Foundation is a charitable fund held by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

The association raises money for the fund through an annual charity golf tournament as well as other efforts throughout the year.

The fund is accessible to members of Coastal through an application process administered by the association and reviewed by a committee of members.

Grant recipients must be 501(c)3 organizations and must be located in Somerset, Wicomico, or Worcester counties.



The Coastal Association of Realtors has awarded \$9,200 in grants to local charities through the Coastal Realtors Foundation.

"We are so grateful for all the support we are receiving for the Coastal Realtors Foundation," said President Bernie Flax. "We just received a \$9,000 award from the Maryland Realtors and our annual golf tournament just raised \$11,500 for the foundation. This money will help a lot of people on the Lower Eastern Shore." Applications are accepted quarterly, and the next deadline is Nov. 15.

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For more information about the Coastal Realtors Foundation, visit www.coastalrealtors.org.



Cuisine

Top chicken breast with bearnaise sauce

I believe I have stated before that I much prefer snow over our ubiqui-



tous damp, bone-chilling, chest-imploding rain. It makes me feel like I'm in the UK, or somewhere more to crappy weather. Alas, it is just another winter on our lovely lit-

By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

have had one small snow event, not accumulating into anything but lovely to watch nonetheless. And with the Christmas tree as an impressive backdrop, it gave me some hope as to the possibility of more snow to come.

As I wind down the busiest week of the year for me, both as a teacher and a restaurateur, I sit in front of my toasty fire writing this, whiling away the morning as I get ready for a meeting at my real job: the college. It has truly been a rough week, albeit quite successful. Catering to many repeat groups and some new clients, the team did an outstanding job, and I, for one, am glad on two counts. We won the battle, and it is over.

With only a few parties this week, it is now time to get serious about decorating the house. Suffice it to say that I have not gotten too far in that department. But then, before I know it, it is going to be January. Then, it is time to clean up the holiday decorations. Will the madness ever end? Hopefully, not.

Decades ago, I lived in San Diego for three and a half years. Most of that time was when I was in the Marines, and the last eight months were as a civilian. I made the decision to move back here because there really weren't any seasons in California. As much as that may sound lovely, when there is little variation in the weather, I get a little stagnant.

It wasn't until a trip back home when my parents picked me up from BWI that it hit me. As we were just about to hit the bay bridge, a black thunderhead came ripping across the bay, perfectly countering the bright blue, cloudless sky above. It moved me and I decided then and there to move back to the right coast.

So, to make a long story short, as much as I might dislike the cold, damp rain, I do love the seasons. I love to see those beautiful sportfishing boats on the hard, waiting for



Spring so they can be launched again. I love brisk air as I walk to my car in the morning. I pretty much enjoy most of the winter season, knowing that warmer weather is just around the corner.

And as I ponder what to make on this chilly evening, I think hearty. I think rich. I think Bearnaise; a warm, eggy and buttery sauce that perfectly complements this chicken. And it is easy, another prerequisite, as I want to climb back under the covers in front of the fire.

Simple Chicken Bearnaise

serves 4

11/2 lb. Chicken breast Trimix, as needed

1 c. Wondra

- 3 Tbsp. Butter, whole & unsalted
- 3 Tbsp. EV Olive oil
- Steamed asparagus

1 c. Bearnaise sauce (recipe follows)

1. Butterfly the chicken breast.

2. Pound it with a tenderizer and set aside.

3. For the trimix, mix 2 parts kosher salt to 1 part cracked black pepper and 1part granulated garlic. Granulated is the way to go, as powder burns so readily.

4. When you are ready to cook, season the chicken and dredge (lightly coat) in the Wondra.

5. Heat the butter and olive oil until hot but not smoking.

6. Place the chicken in the pan and cook until golden.

7. Flip and repeat, ensuring that the chicken is cooked thoroughly.

8. Remove and serve with asparagus and that perfect Bearnaise.

'Cheater' Bearnaise Sauce

makes about 3 cups 1/2 c. Champagne vinegar

1.2 ea. Small shallot, diced

1 Tbsp. Tarragon

2 whole pasteurized eggs (see notes)

2 c. Melted butter, whole

Salt & Pepper as needed

Lemon juice as needed

dash of hot sauce

1. Combine the vinegar, shallot and tarragon and simmer until reduce to about 2 tablespoons. Strain and set aside.

2. Melt the butter to 135F and keep the foam on the top.

3. Place the whole eggs and reduction in the cup of your Vitamix of other high-speed blender.

4. Cover and turn on high for a few seconds.

5. Remove the lid or plunger and slowly drizzle the butter in until you get to the bottom layer of water and solids. The sauce will start to thicken quickly. If too thick, add lemon juice and continue. If it continues to be too thick, a touch of hot water will loosen it.

6. Add the hot sauce and season to taste. Keep it warm and use quickly as it will solidify if it cools down too much

* For pasteurizing whole shell eggs, jump into the sous vide game if you're not already playing. You can buy an immersion circulator at Aldi on occasion and they are only about forty bucks! Anove is another good brand, and Chef Steps has a nice one as well, albeit pricier. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for pasteurizing the eggs. This is an important step as you don't want to risk giving your brunch guests salmonella. At least, I know that I do not.

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

conducive tle peninsula. At least we

Puzzles

'LOOKIN' GOOD!' BY EMILY CARROLL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Emily Carroll, of New York City, is a 2016 medical-school graduate who just finished her residency. She is applying for fellowships and expects to get news (fingers crossed!) around the time this crossword is published. The genesis of the puzzle was 41-Across, with its unusual letter pattern. Part of that pattern led her to think of 110-Across, which became the puzzle's "revealer" entry. This is Emily's 10th crossword for The Tin es and her second Sunday. — W.S. 6 Former TV psychic

heart

ACROSS

- 1 Unpleasantly surprise 4 Music-licensing org. 9 Big brother?
- 14 Some Pac-12 athletes 18 Three or four, say
- 20 Ashton Kutcher's role on "That '70s Show'
- 21 "Cross my heart'
- 22 Ingredient in spanakopita
- 23 Carefree quality
- 25 Synopsis 26 Saudi king before
- Abdullah 27 Popular Asian
- honeymoon destination
- 29 Ready for publication
- 31 Comes into view 32 Was given no other
- option
- **35** Online publication **36** Funny Foxx
- 37 Rant
- 41 Top musical group of the 1990s, per Billboard
- 43 51 past
- 44 Patronize, in a way
- 45 Slow start?
- 46 Momentarily
- 50 Supporting, with "up"
- 52 "I messed up," in slang
- gymnastics
- uzzle and mo than 4,000 past puzzles

- 55 One shouting, "Get off 98 Amenable sort my lawn!' 99 Pet lovers' org. 56 PC port 103 Phrase on a candy 58 Clothing designer Marc 104 Impertinent sorts 62 "S.N.L." alum who co-starred in 2016's "Ghostbusters" 64 Classic soft drink 65 Response to a funny meme 66 Stopping point
- 67 Lead-in to meter 68 Manage 70 Follower of Sam or will. 72 Pince-
- _ glasses 73 Iranian currency with a 75-Across on its
- 75 See 73-Across 77 Game console introduced in 2006
- 80 It's often included with an R.S.V.P. card 81 Like most Italian
- singular nouns finishing in -a: Abbr. 82 Scatters about
- 83 United way? 84 The most recent Pope Benedict
- 86 Like some "#@&!" language

94 Braced (oneself)

96 New York social

reformer whose

name is on a

project

88 "Actually, I do"

bills

- 89 Photo 92 "Buddy Holly" band, 1994
- 54 Comaneci of
- Online subscriptions: Today's
- nytimes.com/cr (\$39.95 a year).

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- 106 Birds or wasps 108 Caviar source 110 Good-looking ... or a phonetic hint to a feature found five times in this puzzle 114 What may follow fire or stone 115 Pulmonologist's expertise 118 Give too much light 119 One way to turn a ship 120 Members of une sororité 121 National currency that, if you drop its second letter and read the result backward, spells another national currency 122 Memo header
 - 123 Knights' titles in "A Game of Thrones' 124 Heart topper, in bridge
 - 125 "Someone Like You" hitmaker, 2011 126 Jokey suffix with
 - most

DOWN 1 Prattle

- 2 Triangular construction
- 3 Was taken aback 4 Unable to move well Manhattan housing
 - **5** Submits
- 12 Rock-(jukebox brand) 13 Romantic preference 14 Where to see Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" 15 Three or four, say 16 Colorless gases 17 Turns blue? 19 "Well, that's quite a coincidence . 24 Sudden turn 28 Ewe or sow 30 One with superhuman powers 33 Spanish or Portuguese 34 " Como Va" (Santana hit) 38 Make alterations to 39 State of disbelief 40 Humdinger 42 Lusaka native 43 "Swell!" 44 NNE or SSW 46 Tattoo artists 47 Fictional land of books and film 48 "Impossible Is Nothing" sloganeer

Miss

9 Parts of hearts

receptacle?

11 Tampa Bay N.F.L.er

10 Wonderful

8 Ask

7 The "A" of W.N.B.A .: Abbr.



55 Part of a short race 57 Draws back 59 Washington's Kellyanne or George 60 Little: Ger 61 Smith and Nelson 63 Teacher 64 Emphatic denial 69 Arduous 71 Degree for a research scientist 74 Latin law

76 New York Mets epithet 78 Quaint contraction 79 West Coast brew, for short 82 France's Boulogne -Mer 85 Disney's Herbie, for

- one
- 87 Under attack 88 Visitors'
- announcement 89 "The Song of Hiawatha" tribe
- 90 Sierra Nevada, e.g. 91 Oar
 - 107 Reason for a TV-MA 93 Frozen Wasser rating, perhaps
 - 95 Counterpart of dorsal 109 "Say it ain't so!" 111 Jedi guru

105 No longer in style

112 Poet who wrote,

"Jupiter from on

lovers' perjuries"

high laughs at

- 97 Immature eggs 98 Doofus
- 99 First part in an
 - instruction manual
- 100 Hallucinogen sometimes called a
- 113 World's rarest goose "divine messenger 116 A count manager 101 Parts of waves
- 117 Vardalos of "My Big 102 Give the green light Fat Greek Wedding

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's to last puzzles

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





Calendar

Thurs., Dec. 19

COLOR ME CALM

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Monthly adult coloring session. Colored pencils, gel pens and felt tips will be available. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

COOKIE SWAP

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:00 PM. Participants will bring four dozen cookies each. One dozen to sample and three dozen to exchange. Bring a large container to carry your goodies home and a list of ingredients in each batch. Limited to adults. Registration required: 410-641-0650. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Featuring Christmas Trivia with prizes. Surprise questions of Christmas history, holiday facts and holiday cheer. http://www.dunesmanor.com

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. 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., Dec. 20

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Christmas Bingo with prizes, 4-5 p.m. (all ages welcome); Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his elf); and Zippy's Ugly Sweater Party, 7-9 p.m. (featuring drink specials). http://www.dunesmanor.com

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

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:00 PM. Featuring "The Miseducation of Cameron Post" by Emily M. Danforth. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. 410-641-0650, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

OPEN ICE SKATING

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 6:00 PM -8:00 PM. Featuring open skating on the new synthetic ice rink. The first open skate will take place at Elves on the Loose, a free, family-friendly event that is open to the public. The evening of skating will be free of charge. There will be skating, "ELF" movie on the big screen, pictures with Santa, the Great Elf Hunt, elf inspired games, crafts and more. Allen Swiger, aswiger@co.worcester.md.us, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

A HOLIDAY AFFAIR - PAINT TIME WITH CALVIN

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 10203 Germantown Road, 7:00 PM. Featuring "Christmas Joy." Donation is \$10 per person. To purchase tickets, call Geraldine Rhock at 410-251-6424 or Beverly Manuel at 410-603-5890. Sponsored by New Bethel UMC Outreach Department.

Sat., Dec. 21

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Holiday DIY Treats, 2-3 p.m. (featuring creation and design of tasty goodies); Holiday Arts & amp; Crafts, 1-2 p.m. (featuring creation of Christmas-themed ornaments and gifts); Playtime with Mrs. Clause, 4-5:30 p.m. (featuring face painting, story time, crafts and balloon animals); and Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his elf). http://www.dunesmanor.com

WALK WITH A DOC

Meet at the Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, 9 a.m. There is a short presentation by a doctor on a current health topic followed by a walk at your own pace. Genie, 410-641-9268

SANTA HOUSE OPEN

Downtown Pocomoke City, Downtown Pocomoke City, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Bring a camera to take your child's picture with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Cost is free. 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, http://downtownpocomoke.com

OPEN ICE SKATING

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 12:00 PM -7:00 PM. Featuring open skating on the new synthetic ice rink. The cost per person is \$2, which includes skate rental and unlimited skating for the day. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children age 6 and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. Allen Swiger, aswiger@co.worcester.md.us, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

published at no charge.

Please send calendar items to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be

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., Dec. 22

FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Breakfast with Santa, 9-10 a.m. (featuring an appearance by Santa at breakfast in the Victorian Room; Art Bar, 5-6 p.m. (an adult activity featuring craft cocktail lesson from the Dunes' resident mixologist). http://www.dunesmanor.com

OPEN ICE SKATING

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 1:00 PM -6:00 PM. Featuring open skating on the new synthetic ice rink. The cost per person is \$2, which includes skate rental and unlimited skating for the day. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children age 6 and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. Allen Swiger, aswiger@co.worcester.md.us, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, 103 W. Market St., 4:00 PM. A quiet, contemplative Service of Wholeness, Healing and Hope offered for those who are sad and/or struggling with pain or loss at the time of year. Light refreshments served. All invited. Arline Curtis, 410-632-1698

Mon., Dec. 23

OPEN ICE SKATING

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 12:00 PM -7:00 PM. Featuring open skating on the new synthetic ice rink. The cost per person is \$2, which includes skate rental and unlimited skating for the day. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Children age 6 and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. Allen Swiger, aswiger@co.worcester.md.us, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 PM. Writing about stressful experiences like illness, may boost health and psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 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

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., Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL SERVICE Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 5:30 PM. Holy Eucharist and Christmas carols. All are welcome.

20TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 PM. The service will last one hour and will conclude with the lighting of the candles. Refreshments will be served immediately following the service.

Wed., Dec. 25

WITTY KNITTERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts, needle artists of all skill levels are invited. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

22ND ANNUAL N.O.E.L. CHRISTMAS DINNER

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Menu includes ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and an assortment of desserts. A sit down meal will be enjoyed in a festive atmosphere which includes decorations, music and Santa's elves. Carry outs available. Meals also available for delivery in the Ocean City area. Everyone is welcome. Donations can be sent to The N.O.E.L. Community c/o St. Paul's by the Sea at 302 N. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842. 410-289-3453

ONGOING EVENTS

GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

Berlin business are creating their own unique gingerbread houses. Vote for your favorite at any participating locations, Nov. 29th through Dec. 30.

BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Through December, contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal Continued on Page 27

Calendar

Continued from Page 26

appointment for help with resumes, job applications, E-Reader or basic computer skills. www.worcesterlibrary.org

CROSSWORD CLUB: BRAIN HEALTH advantAGE

Through December, ask at the circulation desk at your closest library branch. Form a club to figure out the clues. www.worcesterlibrary.org

SCRABBLE! DELUXE EDITION: BRAIN HEALTH advantAGE

Through December, Bring a group to start up a game with other patrons in the library. www.worcesterlibrary.org

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, Nov. 21-Dec. 31. Featuring a 50foot Christmas tree and hot chocolate and pictures with Santa in the heated Winterfest Village pavilion. Board the Winterfest Express to tour the 58 acres of fairy tale themed exhibits of lights. Admission for the train costs \$5 for adults and free for children 11 years and younger. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-626-2326, 410-250-0125 or https://oceancitymd.gov.

FREE WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Free workshops dealing with hypertension, chronic pain self-management, chronic disease self-management, diabetes, fall prevention and cancer. If you would like to register for one of these workshops or you would like more information about bringing any of the workshops to your business or group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-0505, Ext. 159. A new workshop, titled "Building Better Caregivers" has been added. It's a free, 6-week workshop for caregivers of those with conditions that affect memory.

FREE FISHING ROD LOANER PROGRAM

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway. Adults can check out a rod and tackle to use in bay and river waters. An adult library card is required. For more information and regulations, call 410-524-1818.

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

For a free vessel check, by a certified United States Power Squadron vessel examiner, contact Tony Curro at tcurro@mchsi.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Atlantic General Hospital joins The Living Legacy Foundation in dedicating roses for the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade, Jan. 1 in Pasadena, California. Pictured, from left, are Scott Rose, director of critical care at AGH; Michael Franklin, AGH president and CEO; Colleen Wareing, vice president of patient care services at AGH; and Chris Wright, RN, BSN, in-house coordinator for The Living Legacy Foundation.

Atlantic General joins Living Legacy in Rose Parade float

(Dec. 19, 2019) Atlantic General Hospital joins The Living Legacy Foundation in dedicating roses for the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade to honor patients and their families who have given the gifts of life and hope by donating eyes, tissue and organs.

The rose was signed by Atlantic General Hospital President and CEO Michael Franklin, on behalf of the organization. This rose will accompany over 100 roses dedicated by The Living Legacy Foundation on the Donate Life float at the Jan. 1 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

"Atlantic General Hospital had

four tissue donors in the first half of this year. We are so appreciative of the generous patients and their families who chose to give the gift of life," said Scott Rose, director of Critical Care. "Each donor has the potential to impact 50 lives. We are proud to support The Living Legacy Foundation in their efforts to facilitate donation and educate the public on this life-saving opportunity."

The Donate Life Rose Parade float pays tribute to those who have donated organs, eyes and tissue, as well as honors their families. The float aims to inspire its viewers to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

Pine'eer Craft Club of OP recognizes Lobecker in Dec.

(Dec. 19, 2019) The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines announces the crafter of the month for December is Terry Lobecker.

Lobecker was born in Kansas, but raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and has been married to her husband, Bill, for 45 years.

They have two children, a daughter, Nicole, is a lieutenant commander on the USS Ronald Regan in Japan, and a son, Josh, who was a corpsman who served in the Navy, and a 5-year-old grandson, whom they love to spoil.

Before retiring, Lobecker worked as a gastroenterologist for 14 years.

Her husband retired first and Lobecker retired six months later. They sold their house in Pennsylvania and moved to Ocean View, Delaware.

They both love being down at the shore.

"We started a woodworking sign shop with our son and daughter-inlaw, where I made wreaths and did shows," Lobecker said. "Our son got into wholesale, so since we loved doing shows, we started our own



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines announces the crafter of the month for December is Terry Lobecker.

business and expanded the wreaths and started making candles and other items, which have been added to the Pine'eer Artisan and Gift Shop. I like selling in the shop and meeting new people."

Atlantic General Hospital performs well in evaluation

(Dec. 19, 2019) Among the statebased regulations that affect all 45 Maryland hospitals is their performance under the Quality-Based Reimbursement program administered by the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.

In this evaluation, hospitals that achieve higher quality ratings benefit in the form of higher reimbursement rates for medical services according to the Global Budget Revenue model.

In the most recent evaluation period covering quality and patient experience data from 2017 and 2018, Atlantic General Hospital was one of just seven Maryland hospitals to receive positive revenue adjustments.

In the case of Atlantic General, the calculation resulted in nearly \$200,000 of additional Global Budget Revenue rate adjustments.

Contributing to this outcome, Atlantic General was ranked No. 1 in the entire state for patient experience and tied for fifth in patient safety measures.

"The HSCRC's most recent report supports our belief that a commitment to delivering a safe and caring healthcare environment will result in an uncommonly excellent experience for our patients," said Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. "We are committed to staying in the top tier of Maryland hospitals in achieving high quality ratings that demonstrate our values and our unwavering commitment to meeting every patient's need."

Revenues received by Atlantic General Hospital, a not-for-profit organization, are reinvested in existing and new programs and services to support the healthcare needs of the community.

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

Built through the commitment and generosity of a dedicated community, Atlantic General's main facility in Berlin combines the warmth of personalized attention with the reassurance of medical expertise and advanced technology.

The not-for-profit hospital provides quality specialty care in oncology, medical and surgical weight loss, orthopedics, and women's diagnostics among other services.

Atlantic General Health System, its network of more than 40 primary care providers and specialists, cares for residents and visitors throughout the region.

For more information about Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlanticgeneral.org.



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Fri-Sun 11-5pm	9800 Mooring View Ln., #32 West Harbor V	illage 3BR/2.5BA	Duplex/Townhouse	From Low \$300,000s	Kathleen Clark/Monogram Realty
Saturday 12-2	10 Leslie Mews, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$699,900	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate



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