



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SKATE PEERS

Dylan Alcantar plunges into the concrete abyss at the Ocean Pines Skatepark on Sunday, Jan. 5 while, from left, Julian Zimmer, Cooper Rhoades and Keziah Collick prepare to follow suit.

Coastal Realtors ask Berlin to not ban Airbnb rentals

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) The Coastal Association of Realtors sent a letter to the Planning Commission on Wednesday, Jan. 8, asking the town to reconsider its ban of short-term rentals or Airbnbs in Berlin's residential neighborhoods.

The letter from association President Joe Wilson argued that a property owner "has the core right" to lease or rent their property and cited citing several court ruling purporting to uphold that right.

"Berlin may be a great place to raise a family, but it also the recipient of Budget Travel's "Coolest Small Town in America" designation and a destination for tourists," the letter reads. "The dynamic of the family vacation is changing. The modern tourist is unable to take a week-long vacation and needs affordable options. The surge in popularity of rental platforms that provide short-term options should not be disregarded by a popular tourist destination like Berlin."

During the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8, Planning Director Dave Engelhart offered his thoughts on the matter.

"Internally we've started to pull stuff together," he said. "My thoughts are that we would allow [short-term rentals] in the single-family residential districts with owner-occupied homes in R-1 and R-2 districts. In the R-3 and R-4, the multi-family districts – or apartment districts – it would be allowed where it wouldn't be owner-occupied."

"In other districts like the downtown district and the B-2 apartment or dwelling units on the second floor," he continued. "You are allowed to have one unit on the second floor by code but not on the first floor. That would not change."

Members of the audience argued against rescinding the ban, citing concerns such as noise pollution, illegal rentals and cars parking in other people's driveways.

Board member John Barrett agreed as he questioned the town's ability to police the rentals to ensure they were following code.

"Every R-1 home is supposed to have
See PLANNING Page 4

County treasurer's office to move

Wor. votes to use computer lab in OP library, but that action violates contract

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Although the Worcester County Treasurer's Office intends to move into one of the two computer labs at the Ocean Pines Library, the county's ground lease with the Ocean Pines Association suggests that can't happen.

On Tuesday Jan. 7, County Treasurer Phil Thompson presented the Worcester County Commissioners with a two-fold request – to relocate the treasurer's satellite office to the library and to approve an FY20 over-expenditure of \$7,088.33 for office furniture.

According to Thompson, the current office at the Isle of Wight facility has reached its capacity.

"Our concerns with the current Isle of

Wight facility include an aging facility with ongoing mechanical issues, parking concerns with regard to public access, sporadic telecommunications and internet service as well as security concerns," Thompson said. "The ensuing search led us to the Ocean Pines Library."

Two county departments, review and permitting and environmental programs, left the Isle of Wight facility for those reasons in July 2018. Thompson emphasized the importance of maintaining a treasurer's office in northern Worcester County since residents use the office to pay tax bills, pick up permits and renew driver's licenses, among other services.

He told commissioners he believes that the Ocean Pines Library location solves all the issues that the old facility presented.

"[It has] good internet service, good phone service, and I think simply strength in numbers as we will be a com-

ponent of the Ocean Pines Library will considerably improve the security environment that we work in," Thompson said. "The library director and her staff have absolutely welcomed us."

The computer lab specifically was determined a good match because its use has decreased with the rise of technology.

Thompson told the commissioners the office would occupy 200 square feet within the 15,000 square-foot library. New furniture would be necessary because of the different shape and size of the office. Thompson said the office will maintain one full-time staffer at that location.

The commissioners unanimously approved both the move and the over-expenditure, with Commissioner Joshua Nordstrom absent.

When asked by County Commissioner Jim Bunting, Chief Administrator
See LIBRARY Page 3



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Library services only permissible use for property

Continued from Page 1
 tive Officer Harold Higgins said he wasn't sure if the county receives revenue from departments occupying the Isle of Wight building, but he did know that the health department, soon to be the only department occupying the property, would foot the electric bill.

Bunting insisted that the county should see revenue from the health department.

"We own the building," Bunting said. "We're going to move and incur a little bit of cost of moving to another spot. Are we going to have any revenue from that building?"

The discussion, however, could be moot, because the 99-year lease between the county and Ocean Pines for the library stipulates that the property cannot be used



ELIZABETH BONIN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Commissioners voted to use one of the two computer labs in the Ocean Pines Library on Cathell Road for the county treasurer's office, though that violates the contract between Ocean Pines and the county.

for anything except library services, according to Dick Brady, who was the president of the Ocean Pines Association when the contract went into effect in the 1990s.

He said that the association held a referendum to allow the county to have the land for \$1 a year, and then it drew up a contract to ensure that the county could not use the library for any other purpose.

"The people of Ocean Pines said 'We

don't trust anybody,'" Brady said. "We want a contract that says they'll never do it, otherwise we'll have all kinds of offices there."

Brady added that if the county wanted to modify the lease, the proposal is supposed to go through a referendum.

"A lot of people forget that we even wrote that," Brady said.

The contract was not mentioned during the commissioners meeting.

Christmas tree collection available

(Jan. 16, 2020) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through Jan. 31.

Area residents can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in

Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may

take them to the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the Central Landfill. For more info, contact Recycling Manager Mike McClung at 410-632-3177.

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Planning commission, town council to consider options

Continued from Page 1
one [family or single person] dwelling in it and they're not," Barrett said. "How do you police [it]?"

Engelhart assured the board that they are trying to "preserve the integrity of R-1 and R-2 districts."

The answer is that the residents will have to be the ones who police the rentals by reporting violations and registering complaints, he said.

Board member Matthew Stoehr, saw an upside of allowing short-term rentals.

"We are honing on the really bad ones," he said. "Uber got a lot of the same discussions when they came out because, 'How dare they attack the taxi industry' and a whole discussion happened. I know personally when I'm in an Uber after a long night, I'm very respectful because it is a person's private property."

"In Airbnb's, you're in someone's private home," Stoehr continued. "There's a lot more respect for someone's private home versus when you're in a hotel room. I've been looking at some other counties have done ... basically you had to have a license in order to do and there were inspections. But there were huge fines if there was a problem."

Stoehr admitted he was not sure how to track down individuals who are violating the code but suggested it could be something that could be discussed.

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams said he believes the types and location of short-term rentals should be established in the town's code before any actions are taken.

'The thing that's possibly being overlooked here is Berlin is a destination community. We'd love to have guests here during the day and the evenings, but we're not a resort...'
Berlin Mayor Gee Williams

"I think that it's irresponsible if we don't have any regulations on the books whatsoever," Williams said. "The thing that's possibly being overlooked here is Berlin is a destination community. We'd love to have guests here during the day and the

evenings, but we're not a resort so I think that it's not the wisest course for us to adopt the same wording or meaning that is appropriate for a major coastal resort."

That does not mean he believes the ban should be set in stone, however.

"I think we can come up with something that's balanced and fair but also protects the genuine quality of life and attraction Berlin has become over decades," he said. "First thing is for the planning commission to make a recommendation to the mayor and council and then for us to consider those recommendations and to tweak them if we feel it's necessary."

Berlin discusses goals to clean Heron Park by spring

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) The effort to open at least some portions of Heron Park in time for warmer weather was on the Berlin Town Council agenda Monday, and though some possibilities were discussed, no consensus was reached on what can be done to speed up the process.

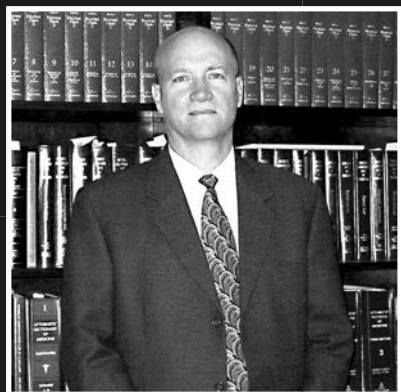
"It has been recommended that there are ways that we can reopen the park safely using caution tape ... something that has to go [around] rocks and stones and metal that still remains out there," Mayor Gee Williams said during the meeting. "The job of the mayor and council will be to determine what can be cleaned

See ADMIN Page 5

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Admin Jeff Fleetwood says no chemicals remain on site

Continued from Page 4

up in what order in the spring to get 85-95 percent of the cleanup done before the warmer weather actually occurs.”

Heron park – previously known as Berlin Falls Park and the property of the former Tyson chicken processing plant – was closed after an undisclosed amount of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda or lye) was spilled in June during demolition work by a contractor.

Sodium hydroxide is extremely alkaline with a pH level of 13, and can be used as an industrial cleaning agent because it dissolves grease, fat and oils, while it is also used in the manufacture of paper.

Chesapeake Environmental Services handled the clean-up process, the final cost of which was estimated at \$283,000.

“There are no known chemicals on site,” Fleetwood told the council

Monday. “There are five areas down there in the last year ... all those areas have been cordoned off,” he said. “They are not six-foot fences, but it’s been [blocked] off and there is signage there that says keep out.”

Williams said more work needs to be done around those areas to finish the cleanup.

“Once everything is cleaned up in the areas ... the residue will be covered over with grass,” he said. “We’re just waiting for all the final work to be done.”

Councilman Zackery Tyndall asked about any possible cleanups that could be done by the town to speed up the process, which Fleetwood answered by saying there could be small piles of lumber or driftwood that could be picked up starting next week.

The council hopes to obtain more information on the situation before voting on its next step.



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Heron Park has been closed to the public for several months, though Berlin Mayor Gee Williams and town council members discussed potentially reopening in the late spring on Monday, Jan. 13.

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Site plan, rezone request approved by Berlin Planning

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) The Berlin Planning Commission approved a site plan and zoning change Wednesday, with the latter involving a switch from an industrial to business classification.

The commission supported a request to reclassify 26.6 acres of industrially zoned property (M-1A) on the north side of Route 50 as shopping district (B-2). The zone change will allow for more commercial development near the intersection of routes 818 and 50.

The request was brought to the board by Chris Carbaugh of Atlantic Group and Associates, who said the change would allow for "consolidation of several parcels in that area" and would lead to a more cohesive project.

Carbaugh said the original zoning was a mistake and cited a 2014 rezoning example for industrial zoned land owned by Phil Houck, owner of Bull on the Beach and Crab Alley restaurants. The land was rezoned to B-2 after it was discovered the designation was made for "a development project circa 1998 that was never undertaken."

"Based on this information, the zoning request was granted ... for these same reasons, we respectfully request the board recommend the zone for



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS CARBAUGH

This rendering represents the lots of land between routes 818 and 50 requested to be rezoned from M-1 Industrial to B-2 Shopping presented to the Planning Commission in Berlin on Jan. 8.

parcels 4 and 461 to B-2 shopping district," Carbaugh said.

The request was made with the expectation that there would be commercial development in the parcels of land ranging in sizes from 3.5 acres to 6.5 acres.

"Mr. Houck was communicating with neighboring properties owned by [my client] Mr. Matyiko about relocating some easements and there was discussion for a desire to consolidate the properties to allow for a larger commercial project," Carbaugh said. "There is an interested group looking at the property to do some commercial development and this allows for a better development."

"We could end up with six commer-

cial parcels that could range from 3.5 acres to 6.5 acres and it would be a commercial center out there on route 50, which would be a great opportunity for people to stop near Berlin and, hopefully, come downtown," he continued.

When asked what type of commercial centers might be built, Carbaugh suggested there would be various retail stores and a possible hotel site.

The request was approved and will be sent to the Town Council for consideration.

The board also approved a site plan for Willows at Berlin. The Maple Avenue project will involve the renovation of the existing Wolfe Terrace apartments as well as the addition of 34 new units at the complex.

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OP budget cmt. vets fiscal 20/21

Three-day session reviews operating accounts, capital projects, reserve balances

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Although it's a work in progress, the Ocean Pines Association's budget for next fiscal year came slightly more into focus last week following a three-day presentation to the budget and finance committee.

General Manager John Viola closed the committee session last Wednesday by noting the committee had reviewed every operating profit and loss statement and reserve accounts breakdowns.

"We presented all the work plans and supported all our numbers," he said. "Capital projects were also presented and supported."

During the examination of the package, the committee's conclusions led to some slight changes in previous estimates for assessment fees.

"We will re-calculate the assessment based upon the guidance and the reallocations we have presented," he said. "The adjustment will probably add \$2 to \$3 on the proposed assessment of \$978."

After department presentations on Monday Jan. 6, the budget session reconvened the next day with Public Works Director Eddie Wells reviewing

general maintenance and other departmental financial requirements.

Besides presenting a detailed list of immediate maintenance needs, Wells also pinpointed a number of short-term cost savings.

Wells noted that the outside decking at the Ocean Pines Beach Club appears to be sound despite its age.

"We just spent \$15,000 or \$20,000 putting a sealer on it last year [but] it does need to be replaced," he said.

For the immediate time, Wells said another coating of paint should suffice for one more summer. Future structural upgrades could include installing low-maintenance vinyl siding, he said.

Wells also said public works is facing staffing challenges.

"I have four fulltime positions we're trying to fill," he said.

Ocean Pines Marina Manager Ron Fisher proposed a 4 percent increase in slip fees based on recent market research.

"Our competitors are significantly higher than we are," he said.

The new rates for property owners and residents, if approved, would raise the cost for vessels: under 26 feet from \$1,800 to \$1,872, over 26 feet and under 40 feet from \$2,450 to \$2,548 and over 40 feet from \$3,455 to \$3,594. Non-residents pay an additional 10 percent.

Recreation and Parks Program Su-

pervisor Debbie Donahue said the department's primary project proposal would be to replace outdated playground equipment at Bainbridge and Robin Hood parks.

"It probably can be done for [just] under \$100,000," she said.

Looking to the future, Donahue said recreation operations continue to need more space than the community center provides.

"Honestly, the building itself is not big enough," she said. "One gym for what we do is really not enough."

Viola said the new golf club house being built should help alleviate the situation.

When completed, the clubhouse, which has intended uses beyond golf, will include a general-purpose room.

"It will be used for multi-function purposes and will help to free up the As-sateague room," he said.

Police Chief Dave Massey said maintaining adequate staffing in his department has become more challenging than at any point during his 16-year tenure.

"I was four officers down at one point," he said.

Massey said the continual turnover has involved numerous officers departing for other law enforcement agencies on the shore and not across the bridge.

"I lost a 13-year veteran and two supervisors," he said.

See OP Page 8

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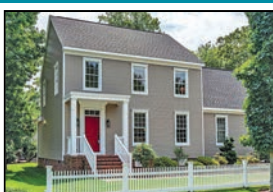
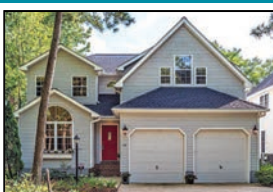










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OP budget cmte. pours over fiscal 20/21 estimates

Continued from Page 7

Massey said police presence figures are calculated nationally at a rate of two officers on duty per 1,000 population. Current census data estimates that Ocean Pines has 12,000 residents, which would mean, under that equation, 12 officers.

"We probably don't need that number because of low property and violent crimes," he said.

While able to operate efficiently with a 16-member patrol staff, Massey said any number below that mark is less than optimal.

To help with retention efforts, Massey proposed instating a 401K match of 5 percent, which had been established at 3 percent until being dropped in recent years, while also providing a portion of the cost.

"I did some changes to my budget and found \$14,000 in savings," he said. "I've cut back to the bone to do this."

Viola agreed in principal, while noting the cost was not currently included in the proposed budget.

During the final day of presentations to the budget and finance committee Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips, once again proposed building an additional room totaling 200 square feet at the Sports Core Pool, with initial rough estimates around \$200,000.



The Ocean Pines Association's Budget and Finance Committee reviewed fiscal year 2020/2021 proposed expenditures during a three-day session that concluded on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

"Private parties have taken off for facility rentals," she said.

Phillips expressed confidence in the associated business plan despite the proposal failing to gain traction for the last three years.

Viola suggested that the abundance of projects on tap for the pending fiscal year would mean delaying that Sports Core addition, but he did propose depositing \$100,000 in the recently established new capital reserve to pay for the work when it does take place.

Viola also tossed out several capital outlays related to golf operations, including a \$40,000 awning to provide shade

for a 14-foot wide wrap-around deck at the yet-to-be completed clubhouse building.

Additional golf course proposals included a video simulator for club fittings at a cost of \$20,000 and a green rebuild area for \$15,000 to provide replacement sod when needed.

"Growing this ourselves ... will save us money when something happens," Viola said. "We had something like this in the past."

Turning attention to improvements at White Horse Park, Phillips said the soon to be demolished craft building area could provide room for up to 28

more parking spaces in the administration building parking lot.

Phillips also mentioned replacing the park entrance sign with a similar, but brighter, wooden structure, as well as potentially relocating the under-utilized bocce ball court in White Horse to the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex.

Phillips also proposed a \$50 per year increase in bulkhead rates, with replacement costs rising to \$335 per linear foot.

"If we continue with the [current] \$465 rate ... it would take 61 years to pay off bulkheads which need to be replaced every 30 years," she said.

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Ocean Pines Police move to temporary trailer home base

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Taking a momentary step back to fuel pending progress, the Ocean Pines Police Department is in the midst of temporarily relocating operations to an adjacent trailer as work progresses to renovate and expand the current facility located next to White Horse Park.

Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey said the recently commenced construction project, which is slated to increase space by up to 3,400 square feet, requires relocating law enforcement activities.

“Last week we started emptying the building,” he said.

The project scope includes both building a new section and renovating the existing structure, which previously housed both the police department and administrative services.

“We’ll end with 5,400 square feet [and] when you look back, we only had less than 1,800 square feet,” he said. “It’s a nice size renovation and it’s going to bring us up to modern standards.”

Massey said the current building, which was erected in the mid-1980s, fell short of typical safety protocols followed by modern police agencies.

“It wasn’t designed as a public safety facility,” he said. “It was kind of slapped together.”

Massey said unlike the last undertak-

ing more than a quarter century ago, the current endeavor will incorporate design input from criminal justice consultants.

“Right now we’ve used criminal justice consultants,” he said. “It will all be high security and include the safety for our officers and for the public.”

The current facility fell short of security requirements in some instances.

“The safety features ... there we’re none really,” he said. “The old facility we actually had a prisoner that escaped because he was handcuffed to the wall and pulled the handcuffs out of the wall and ran out the back door.”

On tap for completion in under a half year, the updated building design looks to correct those wrongs, Massey said.

“Hopefully we’ll be in by sometime in late May or early June,” he said.

In the interim, the police department will make do with a trailer set up next to the soon to be razed existing structure.

“It’s small but adequate until we move into our new facility,” he said.

Notably absent from the short term arrangements are holding cells for arrestees.

“We’re not going to be able to hold any prisoners,” he said.

In light of the deficiency neighboring law enforcement agencies are stepping up to lend assistance.

“Officers making arrests for the next



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

(Above) The Ocean Pines Police Department has relocated base operations to a trailer adjacent to its current facility, which is in the midst of being expanded. (Below) Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey, left, and PFC Ricky Kerrigan survey operational arrangements inside the department’s short-term home in White Horse Park on Tuesday.



few months they’re going to take them to a secure facility,” he said. “We’re going to transport them to Ocean City or Berlin.”

Massey, who prior to coming on-board in Ocean Pines served an extended term with the Ocean City Police Department, said the spirit of cooperation abounds across Worcester County.

“Ocean City and Berlin have been a big help to us and they always have been,” he said. “I came from Ocean City, so I have a few roots there.”



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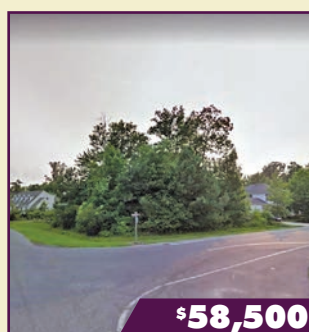
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OP drainage work to delay traffic on Watertown Road

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Residents on Watertown Road in Ocean Pines may experience slight delays through next week due to a scheduled pipe replacement that will close portions of the road for through traffic until completed.

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips said work on the drainage improvement project began on Monday.

“We’re finishing out this fiscal year plan,” she said. “At the Feb. 5 board meeting, I’m going to be doing a drainage presentation on projects completed and ... our upcoming plans.”

Murtech Marine Division of Salisbury has been retained to complete the updates at a cost of roughly \$100,000.

Phillips said the current scope of work on Watertown Road includes replacing drainage pipes dating back four decades.

The deteriorating infrastructure will be updated with lightweight ADS Polyflex pipe, which are chemically resistant and provide greater longevity, along with replacing catch basins.

Phillips emphasized the importance

of informing the community regarding neighborhood projects and, in this instance, ample lead time permitted direct contact.

“I dropped off letters on Monday to the homeowners,” she said. “I had a couple reach out by email.”

Phillips said in light of the additional drainage improvements on tap during 2020, assuring residents are informed is vital.

“We do really appreciate everybody’s patience, because it can be frustrating when you’re used to one way and you’re a little bit inconvenienced,” she said. “In the big picture, it’s working toward a better good.”

Phillips encouraged interested homeowners to attend the next board meeting on Feb. 5 where a wealth of information on upcoming drainage work will be reviewed.

“Keeping everybody in the loop with what’s going in because drainage is an ongoing effort,” she said. “It’s really important to the team that we keep it flowing, literally.”

For questions about the project, contact Phillips at cphillips@ocean-pines.org.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Residents on Watertown Road in Ocean Pines may experience minor delays as work continues through next week to replace 40-year-old deteriorating drainage pipes with higher durability ADS Polyflex pipe.

Fisher prepares OP marina for another successful year

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Although still awaiting warmer temperatures, Ocean Pines Marina manager Ron Fisher is striving to match last year’s stellar performance.

“Our revenue is driven by slip rentals and gas sales,” he said. “We were fortunate this past year to have good weather most weekends.”

Fisher, who also serves as dock master, oversees twin boat slip locations at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and the Swim and Racquet Club located on the St. Martin River.

Despite generating \$229,000 in net revenues during calendar year 2019 to beat budget estimates by more than \$40,000, additional expenses were produced with the hiring of weekend security staff at the marina.

“We found it necessary to do that

... to promote safety ... because we had children playing on docks at night and that’s not a good thing,” he said. “We have strong moving tides out there and they weren’t adhering to the signage that we have that children under 12 need to wear life preservers if they’re on the docks.”

In light of the added operational cost, Fisher has proposed raising slip rental fees by 4 percent in the new fiscal year.

“Given our increase in expense it was very appropriate to raise our slip fees,” he said. “It’s not a ridiculous amount [and] we’re keeping our slip fees at a reasonable rate.”

Fisher said based on a roughly 40 count waiting list for the 86 boat slips available to rent last year, high demand is again anticipated during 2020.

“Due to the improved economy
See PINES Page 11

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Pines considers slight increase to boat slip charges

Continued from Page 10

[and] cheaper gas prices people are using their boats more," he said. "I totally expect that we'll have a waiting list again this year ... of course I hope so."

To meet the market demand, only a sparse number of slips are withheld from use by association members, or non-residents who pay an additional 10 percent.

"We keep one for Natural Resources Police and we keep one for emergencies," he said. "The rest we do lease out."

Fisher said with marina slip rentals available beginning on May 1 through the end of October, the primary ingredient for success is Mother Nature.

"We have a lot of advantages in the fact that we have floating docks [and] a safe harbor," he said. "We have a great staff and good customer service, but we need good weather."



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

On the heels of a profitable 2019, Ocean Pines Marina Manager Ron Fisher is already anticipating warmer weather and providing safe harbor with 86 boat slips available for rent from May through October.

Pines native Roscoe Leslie begins as county attorney

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) The Worcester County Commissioners announced the name of their new attorney, Roscoe Leslie, on Jan. 2, bring onboard an Ocean Pines native.

Leslie graduated from Worcester Prep and then the University of Delaware, where he received a bachelor of arts in economic and political science.

He earned his law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 2006. Leslie then spent four years in Baltimore as an associate at Venable LLP. For the past 10 years, he has worked as a partner at Webb, Cornbrooks, Wilber, Vorhis, Douse, Leslie & Mathers, LLP in Salisbury.

During that time, he helped represent Wicomico County, Sharptown and Pocomoke City.

"When the opportunity came up to be the county attorney for Worcester County, it seemed like the natural fit for me," Leslie said.

The county attorney provides legal advice to all the various county departments. Leslie said that he's look-

ing forward to applying his previous experience with counties and municipalities.

"Having spent a lot of my youth here, I have a lot of familiarity with the county," Leslie said. "I feel like I can apply my professional experience with my personal experience and serve the county citizens well."

He is currently meeting with all the county department heads to get to know those he will be working with on a regular basis and how they serve the county.

"It's a big learning process right now, just getting familiar with the people, the personalities and the workload," Leslie said.

Having grown up in the area, he said he's spent much of his free time in Worcester County.

"My favorite part is the all the outdoor activities that you can enjoy here," Leslie said. "I go to the beach in Ocean City, I have a cycling club that I ride around back roads with. I have family that likes to go out in the boat outside of Public Landing."

Maureen Howarth's last day as the Worcester County attorney will be toward the end of the month. She accepted a new position at Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand in Ocean City.



Roscoe Leslie

Berlin house fire fatality identified, cause unknown

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) The woman who died as a result of a house fire in Berlin has been identified as Carol Handy, 81, according to Worcester County Fire Marshal Jeff McMahan.

The cause of the fire that occurred on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 is still under investigation by the Fire Marshal. Volunteer Fire Companies from Berlin, Bishopville, Newark, Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Showell responded to 10347 Trappe Road at 6:11 p.m.

Firefighters said that the heavy fire conditions were under control by 7:33 p.m. They located Handy and she was transported to Atlantic General Hospital, where she later died. The house did not have a working smoke alarm or fire sprinklers.

Anyone with information regarding the fire should contact Worcester County Fire Marshal Jeff McMahan at 410-632-5666, ext. 1 or jmcma-hon@co.worcester.md.us.

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Berlin discusses potential postal delivery loading zone

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Establishing a convenient loading zone for parcel and mail delivery trucks in downtown Berlin proved to be trickier than anyone realized Monday night, as the mayor and council found themselves traveling in different directions.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells suggested that the council place a postal and parcel service-only loading and unloading zone on Pitt Street to eliminate the traffic hazards the big box trucks often create. The problem has been that delivery vehicles from FedEx, UPS, the postal service and other services will often stop in the middle of the street to drop off a package, the blocking other traffic.

"I have been working on this for the last several years, trying to figure out a place where our UPS and FedEx trucks could park and handcart some of their goods wherever they need to go," Wells said. "I've seen UPS trucks and FedEx trucks literally stop in the middle of Main Street, and then there's a line of cars that can't get by."

Wells said this zone would not be for food service trucks that deliver early in the mornings or for drivers unloading supplies for the nearby antique stores.

Wells has been working with Berlin

Police Chief Arnold Downing and a local UPS driver known only as Ethan to discuss potential locations for the zone, having previously considered Commerce Street next to Victorian Charm, though Pitt Street was ultimately chosen.

She said she plans to meet with FedEx and USPS drivers as well to gather their thoughts on a location. She assured the council it would not directly affect the horse-and-carriage rides that load up on that street.

Councilman Dean Burrell, however, expressed some concern for people who might only need less than 15 minutes to run errands and taking away parking spots from those who need it.

"What consideration is being given to the public that just needs to come to use the ATM or run into the bank or run into Victorian Charm for five or 10 minutes?" he asked. "I do believe that there should be some consideration given to those folks that need those services just for a few minutes and provide some type of parking that is restricted by number of minutes for those folks."

Wells was amenable to the idea and agrees the location on Commerce Street would be an ideal location for 15-minute parking or less during the day and could be used by the residents at night.



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin's Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells will look to see if there is a better location than on Pitt Street to designate a loading and unloading zone in the town by the next meeting on Monday, Jan. 27.

However, Councilman Zackery Tyndall said the locations be reviewed again because it could block an intersecting alley.

"When I see this spot, I see the alleyway that people come out," Tyndall said. "You've got a tricky intersection there already that's narrow, and then if you put a box truck there, and this is a primary route for emergency vehicles to travel to the east side of town, I see a lot of complications in that intersection with this type of designated parking."

"If you put three vehicles there, like what you typically see on a busy day downtown, that intersection's already complicated and then you throw a box

truck or a FedEx truck or something in the middle and then you try to send an emergency vehicle down that road ... I think you're asking for a recipe for disaster," he continued.

Tyndall recommended the zone be located toward the end of the town to avoid traffic confusion.

Mayor Gee Williams disagreed, though he did concede that the town does have narrow streets.

"We have a problem now with folks parking there that are not supposed to park there at all," Williams said. "To me, it's a situation where we should make effective use of that property to solve a problem. I don't see this spot becoming secondary ... It's just not a major factor."

Councilman Elroy Brittingham argued the location was ideal because it was placed in the center of town.

"I like the location because it's more central, in the center of town ... because it's not going to be utilized if it's on the end of the town," Brittingham said.

In the end, the council, Wells and Downing agreed to delay the decision to the following council meeting on Monday, Jan. 27 to come up with a few more ideas where the zone should be located.

"We've been working on this for the past 10 plus years," Wells said. "It obviously takes a long time to figure something like this out so hopefully, we'll get that in place because we know it's become a safety issue."


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Commissioners consider new possibility for cell antennas

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Ocean Pines might see another solution for improved cell service along Route 90. A discussion of that possibility arose after the Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday approved a request from Public Works to open bids to repaint the north water tower in Ocean Pines.



Joseph Mitrecic

The project will cost approximately \$400,000. Public Works Director John Tustin said his department is still waiting for a construction permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment, but wanted to get started on bidding so the work can begin by early spring.

After the measure passed, County Commissioner Joseph Mitrecic asked if there were any antennas on the water tower. Tustin confirmed that there are an unknown number of privately owned antennas that are no longer active. The antennas have to be removed for the repaint.

Mitrecic then advised inquiring if

Verizon could use the water tower after the project was complete.

"I do know they have a serious problem with dropping calls on 90," Mitrecic said. "I don't know if this would help."

Tustin said the idea would be explored.

After the meeting, Mitrecic said that it was around this time last year when Verizon asked to build a cell tower at the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ocean City Today reported in December 2018 that the commissioners rejected a five-year lease agreement for a cell tower site. Calvert Crosslands would have sub-leased space on the tower to Verizon.

"It was turned down by the commissioners, the two commissioners that actually represent that area, were vehemently against it, so they were turned down to go in that area," Mitrecic said. "That's why I said maybe the water tower would be a site that could be utilized for those antennas."

He believes the county can inquire with Verizon at any time. Public Information Officer Kim Moses said that she does not believe the county will make an inquiry until the repainting project is complete around May.



PHOTO COURTESY BRIANNA DIX

Children, many of whom were first-time skaters, broke in the new synthetic ice rink during the "Elves on the Loose" event at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Dec. 20.

Synthetic ice rink successful, full schedule to be released

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Worcester County's synthetic ice rink is on the move, most likely to Berlin next. The rink had its debut at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill with on Friday, Dec. 20 with the "Elves on the Loose" event.

While there, families had the opportunity to skate, watch the movie "Elf," take pictures with Santa Claus, participate in the Great Elf Hunt and create arts and crafts.

Program Director Allen Swiger said the event's success was the sweeter because of the constraints of time and money.

"We had about 600 people come, which was a good start," Swiger said. "We did it in a time crunch and put it together very quickly with a limited budget."

The Recreation Center also held open skate days from Dec. 21 to 23 and the 26 and 27. Swiger said that a

combined 1,000 skaters came through for the open skate and Elves on the Loose.

"We had a whole lot of first-time skaters, which was very encouraging," Swiger said. "We did have some experienced people show up and they tested out the ice to see how it felt and see if it had that real feel to it and they did. They said it was great and it was very similar to skating over ice." A representative from Glice, the company that produces synthetic ice rinks, told Recreation and Parks staff that the rink would take two days to set up, but a team of 12 staff members only needed about three hours to set up and three-and-a-half hours to tear down.

"I told him at the beginning, 'I know you're here for two days, but we got a good team. We got people. We do this stuff professionally. I think we'll move pretty quick.' and we did," Swiger said. "It was actually funny

See RECREATION Page 16

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Recreation dept. hopes to provide rink in Berlin next

Continued from Page 14
how fast it took.”

Tom Perlozzo, director of Worcester County Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Economic Development, told Worcester County Commissioners during their Tuesday, Jan. 7 meeting that they were scheduling the ice rink all around the county. “Currently, we have plans to take it to the Berlin fire hall, upstairs,” Perlozzo said. “The auxiliary group will run the skating rink for us.”

Swiger confirmed that bringing the ice rink to Berlin fire hall next is the goal, but the plans are not official yet. Within the next two weeks, he hopes to have a full schedule for the ice rink for the next few months.

Swiger said that the biggest scheduling challenge is finding an indoor space large enough. The rink is 32 by 52 feet. The department is focusing on indoor spaces so skaters won't have to deal with weather challenges. That's a particular challenge for Pocomoke City.

“We need about 2,800 square feet of open space, and that's at a minimum, to be able to accommodate everything that we need to do,” Swiger said. “Pocomoke is a much smaller town. There's not a lot of buildings there that have that space. That's our challenge now, is figuring out where it can actually can go.”

Perlozzo said he's speaking with representatives from Pocomoke Middle School and the West Ocean City outlet mall to host the ice rink as well.

In November, the Worcester County Commissioners agreed to allow the Recreation and Parks Department to reallocate funds from special event savings to purchase the synthetic ice rink. The purchase cost was \$69,000, but with donations, the amount was brought down to \$49,000, according to Perlozzo. With advertisements and sponsors, that cost could be even lower.

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

Local News
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BAYSIDE GAZETTE
www.baysideoc.com

Berlin Briefs

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) During the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, several motions were passed or considered for approval.

EDUs

The council approved a request for two additional Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) for 305 Washington Street. Resident, and owner of the property, Duane Maddy first made the request two weeks ago to add two dwelling units, which will be used for both apartments and storage units.

Census count

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen requested a motion to allow the town to attach metallic census stickers to cars in preparation of the census count.

“Starting in March-April, you’re going to see a lot of ramping up in Worcester County in particular regarding the 2020 census,” Bohlen said.

Logos reminding people to call, go online or mail their responses for the census will be spread throughout the town and organizations to encourage people to finish the information before the July 1 deadline.

This is especially important for rural counties like Worcester, Bohlen said, because the misrepresentation is higher. For every person who is not registered, the county loses \$18,000.

“That’s federal dollars that we could have in Worcester County for public consumption for health care, education, police, fire, our roads ... it’s federal dollars that could come into Worcester County in the state of Maryland,” Planning Director Dave Engelhart said.

Town budget schedule

Finance Director Natalie Saleh reviewed a tentative budget adoption schedule to the council, which was approved and will now be published to the town website. Saleh will be meeting with capital heads of departments to discuss top priority items for the budget and consider items that could be held off until fiscal year 2022.

In this schedule, there will be five hearings and two casual work sessions open to the public, with the first one set for Monday, Jan. 27. The remaining meetings take place during the following dates:

- Introduction of the first reading (tax rate) – Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.
- Tax rate adoption – Monday, March 23 at 7 p.m.
- General Fund Budget Work Session – Monday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.
- Utilities Fund Budget Work Session – Monday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m.
- First reading of budget – Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m.
- Adoption of budget – Monday, May 26 at 7 p.m.

Four days remain to enjoy Restaurant Week in Berlin

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Thirteen businesses are offering discounted and special meal prices for the fourth annual Berlin Restaurant Week until Sunday.

The 13 businesses are Crush N Crabs, DiFebo’s Restaurant, Fins Ale House and Raw Bar, the Atlantic Hotel, Baked Desserts Café, Burley Inn Tavern, Burley Café, Main Street Deli, Rayne’s Reef Soda and Fountain Grill, The Blacksmith, Gilbert’s Provisions, Burn Wood Fired Pizza and On What Grounds.

Cam Bunting, Berlin Restaurant Week founder and owner of Bunting Realty, came up with the idea after experiencing a similar promotion in Bethesda, where she was visiting her daughter.

“I like to see the variety,” Bunting said. “I think this is the time to try something new. I’d like the [restaurants] to try something different ... maybe there might be a new item that was popular during restaurant week that they would like to add.”

Diners can compete for a chance to

win restaurant gift cards and \$100 donated by Bunting by dining at three different participating restaurants by using Berlin Restaurant Week passports and getting them stamped at all three locations.

“I don’t have a restaurant, but if I had one, I would participate,” Bunting said. “It’s something different during the slow time of the year and it gets people to come out and enjoy some good, hot food. Come the 13th to the 19th and enjoy restaurant week.”

Guests and diners can pick up Berlin Restaurant Week passports at either the Berlin Welcome Center on 14 S. Main Street or Bunting Realty on 24 Broad Street or at any of the participating restaurant locations. The drawing will take place on Monday, Jan. 20.

The menus from participating businesses will be posted online, on social media as well as on the welcome center’s front window at the office on South Main Street.

For more information about the event, visit the “Berlin Restaurant Week” Facebook page or berlinmainstreet.com

Police investigate fatal motor vehicle crash in Worcester

(Jan. 16, 2020) The Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision on Stockton Road in the area of Wesley Road, near the Stockton Fire Department in Worcester County.

At approximately 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 12, the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack and Worcester County Sheriff’s Department responded to the report of a serious motor vehicle collision.

Upon their arrival, responding law enforcement and fire department personnel found the operator of a bicycle was struck by a 2005 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck.

The 43-year-old victim was riding bicycles with her 9-year-old child when the collision occurred. The operator of the bicycle, Erica Lynn Wolff, of Stockton was killed. Her child was on another bicycle and was not physically injured.

The operator of the truck, 20-year-old Charlie Marie Shaw of Greenbackville, Virginia, was uninjured. The exact cause and contributing circumstances remain under investigation at this time.

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Opinion

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

Berlin walks fine edge on short-term rentals

Short-term rentals have become a long-term headache for elected officials across the country, as they weigh the interests of their constituents in residential neighborhoods and the property rights of vacation rental investors.

The absence of irrefutable arguments on either side of the debate has resulted a situation so complex that no one has produced a perfect solution.

To argue that allowing short-term rentals in single-family residential neighborhoods is a property rights issue, for instance, is an over-simplification.

Property owners do have the fundamental right to use their property as they see fit, but these rights are limited by zoning and the common law principle that a property owner can't use the premises in a way that creates a nuisance for nearby owners and occupants.

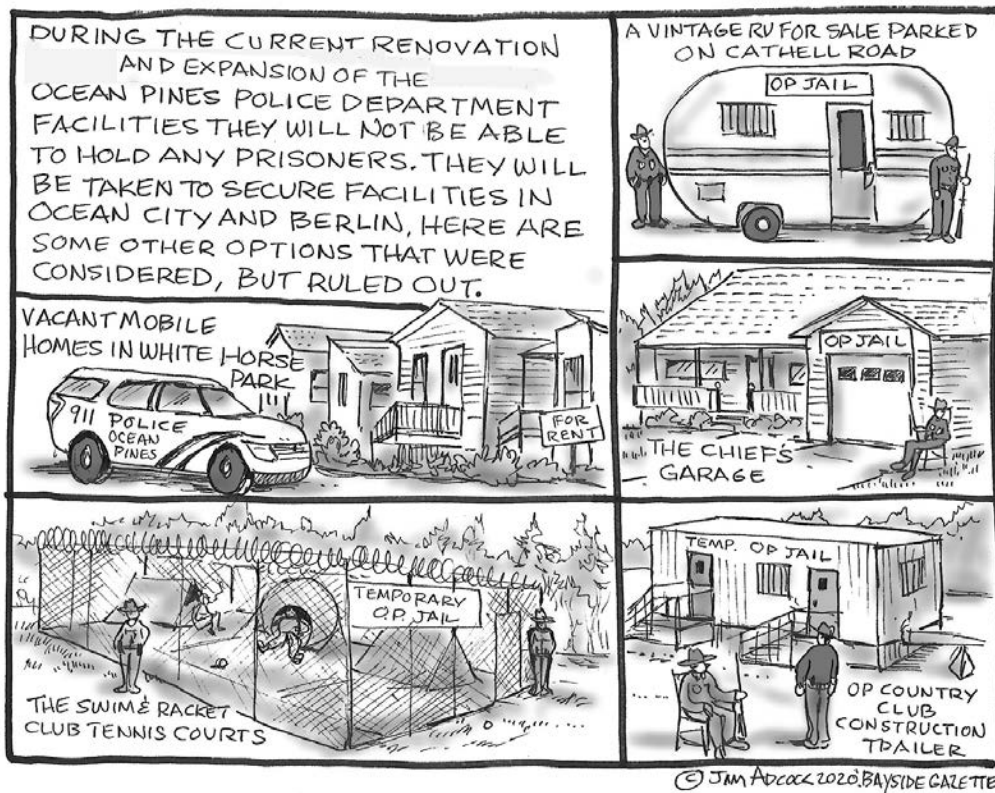
In a way, it's like the barking dog lawsuits that have come and gone before the courts. A person has the right to own a dog, but that protection doesn't extend to a dog whose incessant barking keeps the neighbors up at night.

Obviously, the owner of a home has the right to rent it, and under that principle, the rental term should make no difference. Still, that guarantee doesn't supercede the neighbors' rights to the peaceful enjoyment of their properties.

It's this fine edge that the Town of Berlin will have to navigate as it looks for a reasonable accommodation of both sides.

In November, Virginia Beach instituted a short-term rental ordinance that attempts to do that. It makes short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods a conditional use. The ordinance requires these rentals to provide one space per bedroom on-premises parking and imposes occupancy limits and other requirements. Additionally, the conditional use permits must be renewed periodically, which gives officials the opportunity to review whether these rentals have kept to the standard.

As Berlin attempts to find a middle ground in this discussion, Virginia Beach's solution might be worth examining.



Bird-watching activities through Delmarva area kick off Jan. 24

(Jan. 16, 2020) The 2020 Winter Delmarva Birding Weekend invites hundreds of nature enthusiasts to the area, Jan. 24-26, to enjoy experiences including a near-shore maritime boat cruise, waterfowl, seal and eagle-watching trips, and jaunts through some of the most diverse habitats on the East Coast in Delaware and Maryland.

Spots remain on the Chincoteague Bay wilderness trip, Bombay Hook stroll, and Assateague trip on Friday, as well as Cape Henlopen and Ocean City over the weekend. Sign up for a trip or two at www.DelmarvaBirding.com.

Last fall, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan issued an acclaimed Transactional Tourism Award for the event.

Harlequin ducks, eiders, purple sandpipers, falcons and more than 25 species of duck, goose and swan are on full display in the mid-Atlantic for about four months a year.

More than 100 species were tallied in 2019 during the winter weekend. Seals are a huge draw too for the Lewes Boat Tour, with some 65 harbor and gray seals seen during one of the winter 2019 trips.

Guided by local birders with

decades-long experience on the shore, the walking tours and boat trips accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Last year, birdwatchers from more than a dozen states flocked to the winter event.

"We enjoy such an abundance of bird species in winter and spring that it just made sense to host winter birding trips," said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger.

"Most folks have no idea how spectacular the winter birding is down here," said organizer Jim Rapp. "The sheer number of bald eagles and ducks is mind boggling. We host the event on the weekend between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl, so we hope you'll get off the couch, bundle up, and get outside. Eagles and ravens are best seen outdoors."

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country's premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and some Birding Weekend tallies have topped

200 species.

Indeed participants recount the event in terms of experiences rather than simply observing birds – thousands of snow geese lifting off a farm field, a majestic bald eagle soaring over the marsh, long-tailed ducks bobbing on the waves at the inlets, or the lazy nap of a seal on the Delaware bay breakers. An outdoor experience is the true draw.

If seeing so many bird species isn't enough, participants should feel even better knowing that they've helped Delmarva's birds by promoting birding and habitat conservation.

Birders, both novice and experienced, make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through the money they spend in local hotels, restaurants and shops.

Sponsors for the event include Worcester County Tourism, Boardwalk Hotel Group, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, the Delmarva Almanac, and Southern Delaware Tourism.

Event registration and sponsorship information can be found at www.DelmarvaBirding.com.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

P.O. Box 3500, Ocean City, Md. 21843
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

- EDITOR Stewart Dobson
- MANAGING EDITOR..... Lisa Capitelli
- STAFF WRITERS Greg Ellison, Morgan Pilz,
..... Joshua Kim, Elizabeth Bonin
- ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Elaine Brady
- ACCOUNT MANAGERS Mary Cooper, Shelby Shea
- CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS MANAGER Nancy MacCubbin
- SENIOR DESIGNER Susan Parks
- GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kelly Brown, Kyle Phillips
- PUBLISHER Christine Brown
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
at 8200 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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Worcester awarded \$250K by Rural Legacy

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 16, 2020) Land conservation efforts in Worcester County received a boost earlier this month after a quarter-million-dollar grant was approved for fiscal year 2020 through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Rural Legacy Program.

Among more than \$18 million in grants approved by the Board of Public Works on Jan. 8 to buy conservation easements in 18 Maryland counties was \$250,382 for the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area in Worcester.

Lower Shore Land Trust Executive Director Kate Patton said the state funds would be used to acquire easements to safeguard farmlands, forests and shorelines from ecologically unsound development.

"We're thrilled that there was some funding that came to the lower shore so Worcester County was able to secure some funding," she said.

Patton's group, which oversees the Rural Legacy Program in Wicomico and Somerset Counties, has worked previously with Worcester officials who administer the effort directly.

"We have worked with them in the past," she said. "We always like to work with our county partners when possible."

Patton said the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area, which was originally es-

tablished in 1998, is a prime example of a public and private partnership working together to inform state officials.

"Similar to the Ocean Pines Environmental Committee working with Coastal Bays to identify grant funding, we're able to work with DNR [and] bring local input to these projects that are funded at the state level," she said.



Kate Patton

Patton said in addition to the grant for the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area, state money was made available to add 27,000 acres to the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area that runs between Worcester and Somerset Counties in the Pocomoke State Forest.

After two decades of use on the Eastern Shore, the Rural Legacy Program continues to attract rural landowners.

"We've got a lot of local landowner interest in these conservation programs," she said. "We do a lot of outreach."

Patton said the Rural Legacy Program provides a basis for landowners to pursue land conservation while continuing to manage their own parcels.

"We find a lot of folks that have some of these really important landscapes like the voluntary programs because they can help incentivize conservation," she said. "The program

supports our rural industries by ensuring that we have enough acreage for farming and forestry practices."

The threat of ecologically sensitive areas becoming fragmented through future development is eased by undertakings such as the Rural Legacy Program.

"Agriculture, forestry and wildlife habitats need big blocks of land so that those ecosystems can function and that economy can be productive," she said.

"When you start to fragment these landscapes, then you start to diminish the values."

Although local zoning ordinances can at times curb development of environmentally sensitive lands, the Rural Legacy Program provides additional means to protect vital watersheds and wetlands.

"Zoning can't protect everywhere ... it's a guideline," she said. "These conservation programs are tools that allow us to do a better job protecting these resources."

Reducing pollutants in area watersheds is

another goal.

"These conservation programs ensure we're putting buffers along our rivers and streams," she said. "That, in turn, protects water quality."

There are also clear economic perks to not removing natural habitats birds and animals.

"There are billions of dollars that people spend when they come birding," she said. "It's a huge and growing market."



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

CASTORO JOINS KIWANIS

Michael Castoro was inducted into the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on Nov. 13. He is pictured with his sponsor, Lynne McAllorum, the club's membership chair.

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Public Comment Hearing on Offshore Wind Turbine Size Impacts

The Commission has opened a limited inquiry into impacts related to changes in turbine size as filed by offshore wind developers US Wind, Inc. and Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC.

A hearing will be held on:
Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 12 Noon
Roland E. Powell Convention Center
Bayfront Ballroom (new location), 2nd floor
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

More details can be found at www.psc.state.md.us in Case No. 9628 (US Wind) and Case No. 9629 (Skipjack).

For more information, please contact the Commission at (800) 492-0474 or (800) 735-2258 (TTY/Voice).

Snapshots



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CABLE PREP

Despite 2020 being only three days underway, workers with Federalsburg-based Accutrench Contracting keep busy on Friday, Jan. 3, doing prep work as Comcast begins to run cables for individual homes along Ocean Parkway in northern Ocean Pines.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WINTER CROPS

Ocean Pines Community Gardens plot holder Bill Ellis takes stock of cold weather plantings on Sunday, Jan. 5.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FASCINATION

Ocean Pines resident Alexis Vickers enraptures Leah Everson, 6, and Declan Boyle, 4 with soap bubbles in White Horse Park as a multitude of children take advantage of mild temperatures, last Saturday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PRESENTATION

Members from the Surfrider Foundation of Ocean City gave a presentation detailing efforts of their volunteer organization at a recent meeting of the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County. The next DWC meeting will be on Jan. 20 at the Ocean Pines Community Center, beginning with 9:30 a.m. coffee and conversation. Pictured, from left, are Leah Fuller, Harriet Batis, DWC vice president, Jane Robinson and Bonnie Preziosi.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

INDUCTED

Students from Worcester County recently inducted into the Alpha Nu Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Wor-Wic Community College, in front, from left, are Katalin Damiano, Liangliang DiFilippo and Ana Maria Hajiyev of Ocean City, and in the back, Angela Chronister of Berlin, Jamie Walsh of Bishopville, Lauren Lewis of Newark and Kylie Mohler of Pocomoke City.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MAKING BLANKETS

The General Levin Winder Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution recently gathered at the Berlin Library to make fleece blankets for Coastal Hospice "We Honor Veterans" program. Pictured, from left, are Barbara May, Darlene Stevens, Karen Smith, Vera Gervoc, Gail Weldin, Barbara Rusko, Janet Simpson, Pat Arata, Connie Duke and Susan DeGroot.

Teens to perform 'Legally Blonde' in OC, Jan. 17-18

(Jan. 16, 2019) The Broadway award-winning musical, "Legally Blonde the Musical JR," premieres at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 3 p.m.

It features 30 Worcester County teenagers representing the Ocean Pines Children's Theater, under the direction of Paulette DeRosa-Matrona.

The musical is based on the 2001 hit film, "Legally Blonde," starring Reese Witherspoon.

Both performances take place in the Ocean City Performing Arts Center, located inside the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets cost \$15 and may be purchased online through Ticketmaster or at the Ocean City convention center Box Office, weekdays from 8-4:30 p.m. or on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For additional information, contact opchildrenstheater@yahoo.com.

Funding for this event is in part provided by the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Thirty teens representing the Ocean Pines Children's Theater will perform the Broadway award-winning musical, "Legally Blonde the Musical JR," at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. Pictured, from left, are actors Moorea Phillips (Pilar), Brooke Phillips (Serena), Alana Troxell (Elle) and Trista Harner (Margot).

Women's March in OC, Saturday

(Jan. 16, 2020) The fourth annual Ocean City Women's March will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18, at noon on the Boardwalk at the Tram Station near the inlet.

The march will coincide with the national Women's March in Washington, D.C. and cities across the United States.

The purpose of the march is to focus on equal rights for women and celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

"Everyone is welcome, regardless of political affiliation. We are especially encouraging women of all ages to turn

out and support each other, and we encourage all to vote in the 2020 election," said Rosie Bean, one of the event's coordinators.

Speakers are planned. A voter registration table will be set up and there will be information about participating organizations.

Sponsors include 100SA Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee, Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County, FLIPs, and Indivisible Worcester MD.

For more information, email 100suffrage@gmail.com or send a text message to 719-588-3643.



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Snapshots



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RED RIBBON WEEK

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) members are pictured with Jackie Ball from the Worcester County Warriors. Ball visited Berlin Intermediate School during Red Ribbon Week to speak to the sixth grade about the harmful and deadly effects of opioids.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIP

Family and friends of the late Worcester County Sheriff's Office Deputy 1st Class Brian K. Heller recently presented a check for \$4,300 for the endowed scholarship in his name, which benefits Wor-Wic Community College criminal justice students from Worcester, Wicomico or Somerset County. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Ray Hoy, president of Wor-Wic Community College; Jessica Hales, director of development and executive director of the Wor-Wic Foundation; Sheriff Matt Crisafulli of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office; Heller's mother, Connie Widmann, and her husband, Dave. The scholarship fund was created in 2004 in memory of Heller, who died in the line of duty in 2000.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently donated \$500 to the Stephen Decatur High School Key Club. The donation will help sponsor two annual blood drives and defray the cost of attending the Key Club leadership conference in Washington, D.C. this coming spring. Pictured, in back, from left, are Advisor Sabra McIntosh, Jayden Johnstone, Erin Trask, Emily Stitely, and Advisor Stella Malone, and in front, Gabby Izzett, Lydia Woodley, Kiwanis Liaison Roy Foreman and Julissa Astudillo.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

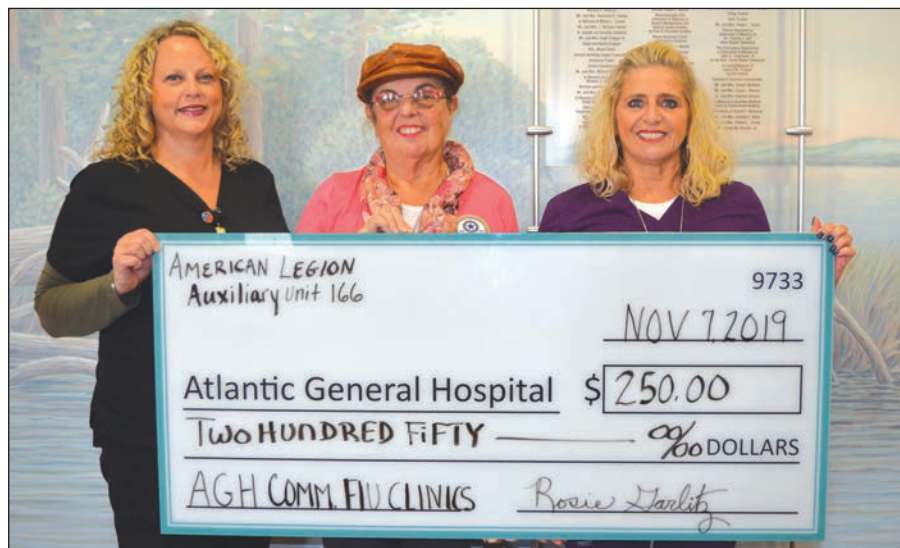
Worcester Goes Purple Event Coordinator Debbie Smullen receives a Kiwanis pen for guest speakers from Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Roy Foreman on Nov. 13.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FUNDRAISER

The Atlantic General Hospital Junior Auxiliary Group recently held a Holy Guacamole! It's a Tacos and Tiaras FUNdraiser at the Marlin Club in West Ocean City. Funds were donated to support the James G. and Nancy W. Barrett Scholarship Program. Pictured, from left, are Susan Lloyd, JAG membership coordinator; Colleen Waring, vice president of patient care services at AGH; Bridget Desaulniers, JAG vice president; Nancy Holland, AGH nursing scholarship student; Jill Ferrante; Ashley Furbay, JAG fundraising coordinator; Jessica Jersey, JAG social coordinator; Alexis Seldon, AGH nursing scholarship student; Heather Dennis, AGH nursing scholarship student; and Toni Keiser, vice president of public relations at AGH.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLINIC SUPPORT

The Synepuxent Post #166 American Legion and Unit #166 American Legion Auxiliary of Ocean City, recently donated to Atlantic General Hospital's community flu clinics. Pictured, from left, are Nicole Morris, BSN, CCRN, infection prevention and employee health manager at AGH; Rosie Garlitz, chair of community service for Unit #166 American Legion Auxiliary; and Tracey Mullineaux, BSN, RN, employee health and wellness nurse at AGH.

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BIRD DOG & THE ROAD KINGS
BJ's On The Water: Saturday, Jan. 18, 9 p.m.

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410-250-0522 / www.beachbarrels.com
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Jan. 18: Tranzfusion, 9 p.m.
Jan. 21: Open Mic, 8 p.m.

Jan. 22: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.

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410-524-7575 / www.bjsonthewater.com
Jan. 17: Identity Crisis, 9 p.m.



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Jan. 18: Bird Dog & The Road Kings, 9 p.m.
Jan. 22: 2 Guyz & A Mama, 6 p.m.

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Jan. 17 & 18: Half Moon, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City
410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com

Jan. 17: Beats By Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Jan. 18: UFC Fight McGregor vs Cowboy
Jan. 20: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Jan. 22: Beats By Styler, 9 p.m.
Jan. 24: Beats By Wax, 9 p.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com
Jan. 17: DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
Jan. 18: Full Circle Duo, 5-9 p.m.;
DJ Cruz, 6 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.;
Feel Free, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City
410-723-6762 / www.skyebaroc.com
Jan. 17: Rick & Lennon LaRicci, 4-8 p.m.
Jan. 18: Monkee Paw, 4-8 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

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

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Kids Meals \$1.00 each with a purchase of any
Sub, Sandwich or Dinner 5PM - 9PM*

Thursday 1/2 Price Dinners
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Cuisine

Suplee makes sliders from venison roasts

I love deer season. While I have hunted waterfowl and game birds plenty of times, I have never had much of an interest in hunting deer.

I respect the deer hunter's life and purpose as it culls the herd, aiding in the prevention of many diseases in periods of overpopulation. But, for



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

me it has never held an attraction.

With that being said, however, I love when my friends bring me jerky, roasts and the delicious tenderloins from their bounties. The latter happens seldom, and I never take that for granted, but I do appreciate when hunters drop off some goodies for me.

Coming from the Annapolis area, I was not raised in a hunting household. We were raised with firearms and firearm training, but not hunting.

It was not until I moved to Baltimore (fitting, I would say) after the end of my obligatory contract in the Marines, that I found myself on trips and long weekends on the shore, freezing ourselves to the core while waiting for the ubiquitous Canadas, mergansers and mallards.

I haven't hunted much at all over the last 15 years, which I find ironic because now that I live on the shore, I don't partake. I used to appreciate the long drive down in the halcyon days of youth as a Baltimorean; a Mob Town Mobster. The relief I would feel as we crossed the Bay Bridge was unparalleled.

As most of you well know, I enjoy a little fishing and if I could, I would spend the entire summer a hundred miles offshore. That is definitely my outdoors spirit-animal calling.

I am not sure what it is about fishing that I love so much, but I still remember casting lines off of Dock 2 in Ulmstead, crabbing, clamming and otherwise participating in other fisherman traditions such as drinking beer; of course, hoping that our dads did not miss aforementioned beverages from their refrigerators.

I'm waxing nostalgic and tearing up a bit as I write this. But, enough about fishing.

Last year, my girlfriend and I were invited to a game bird reserve for an afternoon hunt, and we had a great time. Not only was that the first time



that she had ever hunted, she had never shot a firearm in her life. When the guide stated "Dawn, you're up!"

I quickly added that she had never fired a weapon before. Of course, after a few pot shots into the tree tops, it didn't take too long for us to realize that she was a dead shot. Believe you me, I took note to always be on my best behavior when the woman is armed.

It was a good day, and we had a great time all around, ending at a local pub for food and grub.

To top it all off, while I could not sell the pheasant at the restaurant, I was able to teach my staff how to peel and clean them, butcher and prepare them, and give them to some friends as a special treat.

It is a nice treat if you haven't had pheasant. It is similar to a very delicate chicken and if you overcook it, it becomes dry as dust so go gentle. It's just one of those game meats like rabbit that needs to be treated with care. But that's not necessarily the case with venison.

While farm-raised venison is controlled in feed and subtle in taste, wild venison can have quite a strong

flavor, especially in the muscular parts like the leg and shoulder. Hence, these are great for braising and stewing.

Recently, a buddy of mine gave me a few venison roasts and I quickly knew that they had to go into a Dutch oven and braise and simmer until it fell apart into a glorious barbecue. And that is what I leave for you today. Succulent, rich and certainly a reward for a day in the stand.

Venison Sliders

serves a roomful

2-3# Venison roast

Salt & Pepper, as needed

¼ c. Melted, clarified butter

1 qt. Chicken or other meat stock

1 ea. Carrot, chunked

1 whole red onion, peeled & chunked

2 ribs celery, chunked

2 ea. Bay leaves

6 cloves garlic, peeled

2 ea. Jalapenos, seeded and stemmed

2 c. Your favorite BBQ sauce (I won't judge)

¼ c. Hank's hot sauce

Season roast liberally. This is not to say that you want it caked, but

don't be shy

Sear the roast on all sides in the butter in a hot Dutch oven or lidded roasting pan. Make sure to get a nice crust on it

Add the vegetables and brown and then add all remaining ingredients

Place in a 300F oven until the meat is tender and easy to shred

Remove the roast until cool enough to handle and strain the juices and sauce

Place the sauce in a separate pan and reduce until it makes a nice sauce that will coat the venison

Shred the venison, removing all cartilage, bone or other inedible parts, leaving you with the meat

Toss the meat with the sauce and season (if you even need to)

Serve on slider rolls, or really any roll or bread that you have. This stuff is amazing on anything!

Serve with chips, fries, cole slaw or whatever your little heart desires.

— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College.

Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

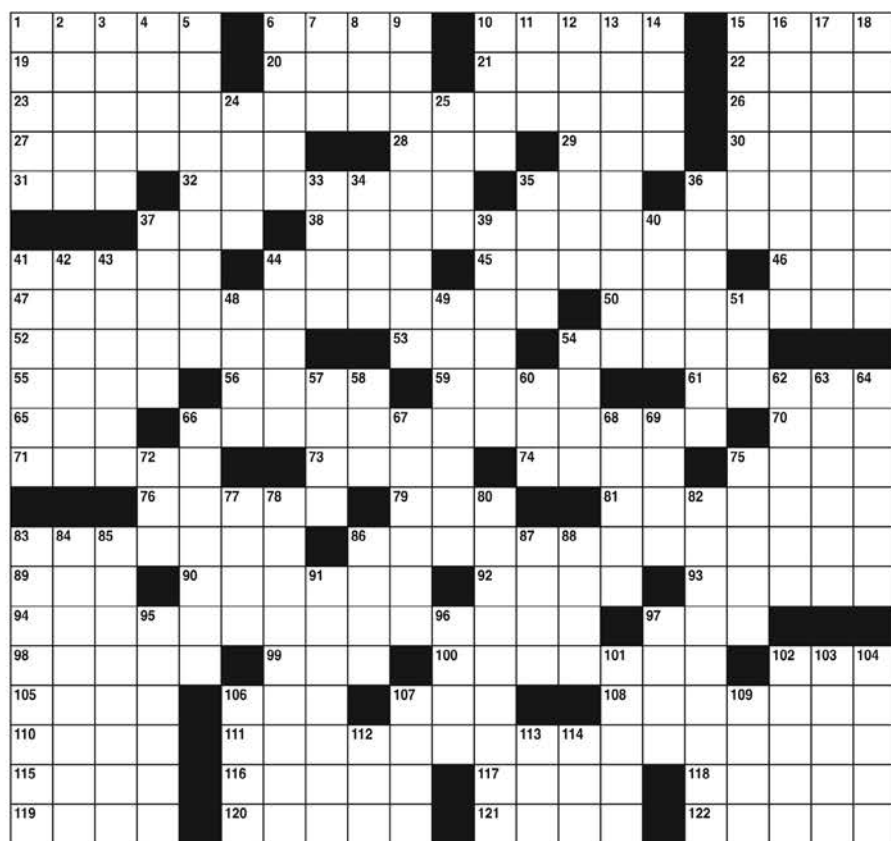
Puzzles

STRESSED OUT

BY WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Will Nediger, of London, Ontario, is a professional crossword constructor and writer of trivia questions. He's a regular contributor to National Academic Quiz Tournaments, which supplies questions for quiz-bowl tournaments at the middle-school, high-school and college levels. Since 2000, Will has had more Sunday crosswords in *The Times* (14, including today's) than any other Canadian. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stuffs with bacon, say
 - 6 Convention handouts
 - 10 Second of the 10 biblical plagues
 - 15 Mission-driven org.
 - 19 Underway
 - 20 Congress person
 - 21 Ancient neighbor of Lydia
 - 22 Intl. group founded in 1960 with five members
 - 23 "We can't hear you in the back, Johannes!"?
 - 26 Winter leaf covering
 - 27 "Oops, my bad!"
 - 28 Fixtures at most airport lounges nowadays
 - 29 Boston ____ (Sam Adams offering)
 - 30 Place to fill up in Canada
 - 31 Not just -er
 - 32 Canal trouble
 - 35 Triage sites, briefly
 - 36 Brown in a Food Network kitchen
 - 37 Not leave alone
 - 38 Put on a production of a classic Sondheim musical?
 - 41 Subjects of "birds and bees" talks
 - 44 Knowledgeable about
 - 45 Pirate's chant
 - 46 Scottish cap
 - 47 What composers do when they add the finishing touches?
 - 50 Lets out
 - 52 Put away, as a sword
 - 53 "What's the ____?"
 - 54 Place to park at the bar
 - 55 Police, informally
 - 56 Comedian Andre with a self-named Adult Swim show
 - 59 Russian assembly
 - 61 Super-duper
 - 65 Western Hemisphere grp.
 - 66 What workers at the sticker factory do?
 - 70 ____ Royal Highness
 - 71 Words before "Remember" and "Forget" in song titles
 - 73 Shooter of arrows
 - 74 Code part
 - 75 Brown in the kitchen
 - 76 Scarfs (down)
 - 79 Do some pogoing
 - 81 French France
 - 83 Jackson nicknamed the "Queen of Gospel"
 - 86 Shorten words like "forecastle" and "boatswain"?
 - 89 Equal
 - 90 Stretching muscle
 - 92 Certain yearling
 - 93 What a private detective might photograph
 - 94 Ignore what you have in reserve while taking inventory?
 - 97 Morn's counterpart
 - 98 Assignment that might have a page limit
 - 99 #MeToo ____
 - 100 Underground places with bats
 - 102 Anti-bullying spot, for short
 - 105 Toiling away
 - 106 Computing pioneer Lovelace
 - 107 Side dish with kalua pig
 - 108 Betrays a sibling, say
 - 110 Statistician's worry
 - 111 Encouragement at an N.B.A. mixer?
 - 115 Irish novelist O'Brien
 - 116 Pull
 - 117 Lake near London
 - 118 Country ruled only by kings named Tupou since 1845
 - 119 Obstacle to overcome
 - 120 Loses sleep (over)
 - 121 Hinge (on)
 - 122 Made a choice
 - 3 Take a break from flying, say
 - 4 Martial-arts center
 - 5 Audiophile's purchase
 - 6 Nymph pursuer
 - 7 Drag wear
 - 8 Soccer phenom Freddy
 - 9 Be nominated
 - 10 Some scuba gear
 - 11 Overcharge ridiculously
 - 12 In the world
 - 13 Samoa salesperson
 - 14 Worth heeding
 - 15 Utterly useless
 - 16 Nonbeliever, now
 - 17 Not always available
 - 18 NASCAR and FIFA, e.g.
 - 24 Ibex's perch
 - 25 Brinks
 - 33 Google Play buys
 - 34 Big snapper, informally
 - 35 Book of Mormon book
 - 36 Ready for romance
 - 37 Trim, in a way
 - 39 Spectacle
 - 40 "I totally forgot!"
 - 41 End result
 - 42 Take up again, as a case
 - 43 Like foods said to be good for hangovers and bad for skin complexion
 - 44 In ____ (not yet delivered)
 - 48 Singer who was in 2018's "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again"
 - 49 Has as a mount
 - 51 Right-angled joint
 - 54 "Quién ____?" (Spanish "Who knows?")
 - 57 Fateful day in 44 B.C.
 - 58 No purebred
 - 60 Cosmo, e.g.
 - 62 What's the big idea?
 - 63 Dimensions
 - 64 Something you don't want to be under
 - 66 Noodle, for example
 - 67 Colleague
 - 68 Put on the books
 - 69 Giving up time
 - 72 Carrier until 2001
 - 75 Rudder's place
 - 77 Place
 - 78 Dispersed, as a search party
 - 80 Retro Chrysler
 - 82 Corroborates
 - 83 Did some gambling
 - 84 Former Haitian leader Jean-Bertrand
 - 85 Defenders in the Battle of Trenton
 - 86 ____ Nostra
 - 87 Film director Nicolas
 - 88 Tangent introducer
 - 91 Funny
 - 95 Watched a kitty
 - 96 Target of an air freshener
 - 97 Series finale abbr.
 - 101 Baseball's Chase
 - 102 Confederate in an audience
 - 103 Ridged fabric
 - 104 Syrian strongman
 - 106 Doesn't just sit
 - 107 Writers might click them
 - 109 Sporty roof feature
 - 112 Solemn statement
 - 113 Poetic "before"
 - 114 Feel bad



- DOWN**
- 1 Mental slip-up
 - 2 Hairstyles for Pam Grier and Angela Davis

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

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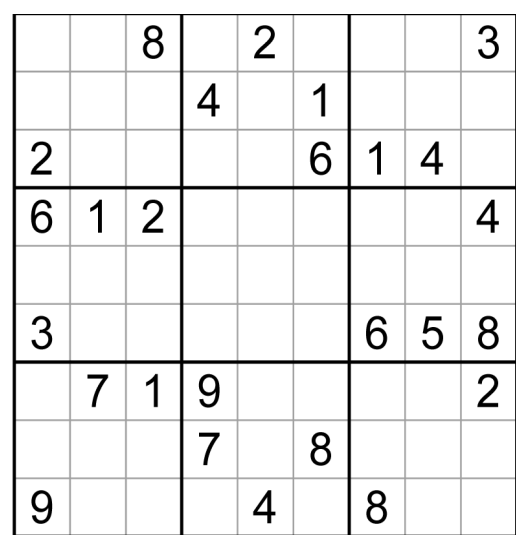
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HARD - 64

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Calendar

Submit calendar items to: editor@oceancitytoday.net. Submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, the week of publication. Local submissions have priority. Area event listings are subject to space availability.

Thurs., Jan. 16

PINE'EER CRAFT CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. Refreshments served at 9:45 a.m. All are welcomed. January's project is to be announced

STEAM STORYTIME 'PAINTING FUN'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Stories and painting activities for young children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'PLAY'

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GUEST AUTHOR

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Indie author, Karen St. James, will be visiting the library to share her debut novel Ocean Pines with residents. <http://www.karenstjames.com>

MOVIE AFTERNOON

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. This film is based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches led by James Bevel, Hosea Williams, Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lewis. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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>

COMMON SCAMS

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Consumer Affairs Supervisor Emalu Myer leads a discussion on scams aimed at older adults. Learn ways to avoid these online and telephone schemes. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

MAC Senior Center, 10129 Old Ocean City Road, 6:00 PM. Executive Board meeting is 6 p.m. with speaker at 6:45 p.m. James Jones, guest speaker, is recruiting people to help with the census reporting for Worcester and Wicomico counties. Interested applicants can earn \$18 per hour with the census. 410-213-1956

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., Jan. 17

FIBER FRIENDS

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

EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. This is the only show in the mid-Atlantic where commercial watermen and recreational fishermen can buy gear, equipment and services related to in-shore and off-shore fisheries. Also featuring many facets of the aquaculture industry. There will be many industry related events, including educational and informative seminars on Saturday. General admission costs are \$15 per day, \$25 for two days or \$30 for all three days. info@marylandwatermen.com, 410-216-6610, <http://www.marylandwatermen.com>

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:00 PM. Featuring Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TEEN BOOK CLUB 'SUPERHEROES'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. YA: Gone by Michael Grant. Middle grades: Almost Super by Marion Jensen. Ages 12 to 17. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SCOUTS BSA SPAGHETTI DINNER

American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM. A fundraiser for the 3 Ocean City, MD. Scouts BSA units, Chuck Kelly, chuck.scouts261@gmail.com, 410-259-

7140

FISH FRY

Bowen United Methodist Church, 8421 Newark Road, Newark, MD, 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Platters are \$10 and include flounder filet, macaroni and cheese, green beans, corn bread and dessert. Beverage included for those who eat in.

BINGO FOR BABIES BONANZA!

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 6:30 PM. Doors open at 5 p.m. Every Friday in January the Knights of Columbus Ocean City Council #9053 will donate all proceeds to The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Cost is \$22 to play all night. Refreshments available. <http://www.koc9053.com>

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL, JR.

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. An Ocean Pines Children's Theater production. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at the OC Convention Center Ticket Office; by calling 800-OC-OCEAN or 410-289-2800; or online at Ticketmaster: Buy Verified Tickets for Concerts, Sports, Theater and Events.

Sat., Jan. 18

WALK WITH A DOC

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM. Meet at the Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street. There is a short presentation by a doctor on a current health topic followed by a walk at your own pace while having conversation with the doc. Family and pet friendly event. Genie: 410-641-9268,

CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE 'CLOCKS AND TIME'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Crafty fun for children of all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FAMILY LIBRARY DAY 'PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS'

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. For all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. This is the only show in the mid-Atlantic where commercial watermen and recreational fishermen can buy gear, equipment and services related to in-shore and off-shore fisheries. Also featuring many facets of the aquaculture industry. There will be many industry related events, including educational and informative seminars on Saturday. General admission costs are \$15 per day or \$25 for two days. info@marylandwatermen.com, 410-216-6610,

<http://www.marylandwatermen.com>

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. A juried vendor show for all art mediums. Admission cost \$3 per day or \$5 for the weekend. Susan Childs: schild2@verizon.net, 443-235-2926, <http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com>

OWL'S OF ASSATEAGUE AND ASSATEAGUE ISLAND ALLIANCE TOWN HALL

Assateague Environmental Education Center, 7206 National Seashore Lane, 11:00 AM. Find out what these groups have been working on for the coming year, get an Assateague Island National Seashore update and enjoy a presentation on Snowy Owls and Project SNOW-storm by Steve Huy. Free and open to the public.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7338 New Hope Road, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Menu includes mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, macaroni and cheese, beets, biscuits, dessert and coffee. Cost is \$13 for adults. Carry-outs available. 410-543-8244 or 443-235-0251.

WIND FARM HEARING

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 12:00 PM. This is a one-time opportunity to have the community speak out before the MD Public Service Commission regarding the proposed offshore wind farms to be built directly off of Delaware and Maryland beaches. An Italian company (U.S. Wind) plans to construct dozens of 853-foot-tall wind turbines, located on 46,595 acres of Atlantic Ocean, as close as 13 miles from the beach. <http://www.oceancitymd.gov/wind>

4TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY WOMEN'S MARCH

Ocean City Boardwalk at the Tram Station, 801 S. Boardwalk, 12:00 PM. The purpose of the march is to demand equal rights for women and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the U.S. Exciting speakers are planned, as well as a voter registration table and information about participating organizations. If you like, dress as a 20th century suffragist to honor those women who fought so hard for the right to vote. 100suffrage@gmail.com

LEGO®/DUPLO® CHALLENGE 'READ ALL ABOUT IT'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:00 PM. Children ages 3-14, come flex your building skills. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL, JR.

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City convention center, 4001

CALENDAR

Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. An Ocean Pines Children's Theater production. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at the OC Convention Center Ticket Office; by calling 800-OC-OCEAN or 410-289-2800; or online at Ticketmaster: Buy Verified Tickets for Concerts, Sports, Theater and Events.

PORTERHOUSE STEAK DINNER

American Legion Berlin Post #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Dinner includes 14 oz. porterhouse steak, baked potato, garden salad and dinner roll. Tickets cost \$16 and are available from bartenders at the legion post. Public is welcome.

AN EVENING OF JAZZ AND BLUES

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM. The evening's entertainment provided by Everett A. Spells. Tickets cost \$25 and are available at 410-641-0638.

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., Jan. 19

EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This is the only show in the mid-Atlantic where commercial watermen and recreational fishermen can buy gear, equipment and services related to in-shore and off-shore fisheries. Also featuring many facets of the aquaculture industry. General admission costs are \$15 per day. info@marylandwatermen.com, 410-216-6610, www.marylandwatermen.com

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. A juried vendor show for all art mediums. Admission cost \$3 per day. Susan Childs: schilds2@verizon.net, 443-235-2926, http://www.delmarvaartexpo.com

Mon., Jan. 20

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR 5TH ANNUAL WHISKY WINTER GOLF OUTING AND SCOTCH DINNER

The golf outing at Bayside Resort Golf Club, Selbyville, DE, on Jan. 25, will feature a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. in a

foursome Team Scramble format Golf will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by a sit-down pairing of fine food and high-end Scotch Whisky at the Cove Bar and Grille. Proceeds will go to Semper K9. Register: delmarvashiskey.com/golf

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. Coffee served at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Adam Hoffman of the Political Science Department of Salisbury University will be the speaker. New members welcome.

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 Champion: 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., Jan. 21

OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Make your appointment today. Use sponsor code: OCCC. All presenting donors will receive a free limited edition long sleeve T-shirt. The first 150 donors to book an appointment will also received a free gift. Door prize: two 42 TVs. 1-888-8-BLOOD-8, https://delmarvablood.org

STORY TIME 'FRIENDS'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For children ages 2 to 5 years. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 10:30 AM. A play date for infant to 5 year old children. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

ACRYLIC PAINT POURING

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Artist Dell Purrell demonstrates the fun of dirty pours and flip cups. Register: 410-524-1818, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. The group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. 410-208-4014, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

FAMILY TIME 'CODING'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Learn to code using Scratch, Sphero BB8 robots and Cubetto. www.worcesterlibrary.org

READINGS FROM

'SHARED VISIONS' SHOW

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Writers from the Shared Visions show will read their work at and discuss what inspired them. Free admission and open to the public. 410-524-9433, https://artleagueofoceancity.org

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., Jan. 22

OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Make your appointment today. Use sponsor code: OCCC. All presenting donors will receive a free limited edition long sleeve T-shirt. The first 150 donors to book an appointment will also received a free gift. Door prize: two 42 TVs. 1-888-8-BLOOD-8, https://delmarvablood.org

WITTY KNITTERS

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

STORY TIME 'SNOWFLAKE PAINTING'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

LAP TIME

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Songs, stories, games and finger plays for children under 2 years old. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

REFLEXOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Learning session and demonstration with Diane Heck. Explore the health benefits of the application of pressure. Register: 410-641-0650, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Prizes awarded to the top three teams. Register your team of 4: 410-208-4014, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

WINTRY MOBILES

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 PM. Combine natural elements and sparkle in this craft. Ages 5 and older. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

FAMILY TIME 'ICE CUBE PAINTING'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Be creative as you paint with colorful ice cubes. For all ages. http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - LIFE AFTER LOSS

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. A supportive and safe place for members to share stories confidentially and spend time with others who understand. No sign-ins and no special advanced requirements to attend. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

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

ONGOING EVENTS

BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Through January, contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment for help with resumes, job applications, E-Reader or basic computer skills. www.worcesterlibrary.org

CROSSWORD CLUB

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

SCRABBLE! DELUXE EDITION

Any time, through January, at any Worcester County library branch. Participants are welcome to bring a group or start up a game with other patrons in the library. www.worcesterlibrary.org

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.

CALL
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BY MONDAY
5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE CLASSIFIED

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

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- Must work most weekends as needed – No Evenings
- Administrative skills needed

Please fax resumes letters and references to or inquiries to
Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
 Attn: Chris to fax # 410-208-9562 or email Hilemanre@aol.com



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