



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## Census data means money to jurisdictions

Failure to participate risks losing out on govt. grants

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) If resident participation in the national census were to be graded on the standard A-to-F basis, Berlin would have managed a "C" 10 years ago and Worcester County would have failed.

The town, the county and all its other jurisdictions have to do better than that, says Berlin Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, who is campaigning for a better turnout in Berlin and elsewhere in the decennial census this year.

In 2010, Worcester County had the worst participation rate in the

See CENSUS Page 2



Mary Bohlen

### MAKING ROOM

Work crews continue tearing out the interior of the Ocean Pines Police building, which is currently under renovation.

## Court date set in Trendic suit against OPA

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) The lawsuit filed by former Ocean Pines Association Board member Slobodan Trendic is moving forward after a hearing date of March 25 was announced on Tuesday.



Slobodan Trendic

This action follows the OPA legal counsel filing a motion to dismiss in Worcester County Circuit Court

See TRENDIC Page 2

## OPA has say over treasurer's office

County officials wait to hear from board on whether it will provide space in library

By Elizabeth Bonin  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) The potential move of the Worcester County Treasurer's Office to the Ocean Pines Library computer lab hinges on how the Ocean Pines Association board of directors respond to that possibility.

During the Jan. 7 Worcester County Commissioner's meeting, a motion was made to move the treasurer's satellite office to the library because the Isle of Wight facility, where it is currently located, had several challenges.

The 99-year lease between Ocean Pines and the county, however, prevents that from happening. A clause in the dollar-a-year lease between the county and the OPA, which was approved in a referendum in the 1990s, stipulates that the land must be used for one purpose only — a library — unless the landlord agrees to another use.

"In the event Tenant wishes to use the Land for any public use other than that of a public library, Tenant shall request permission from Landlord," the lease states. "Landlord

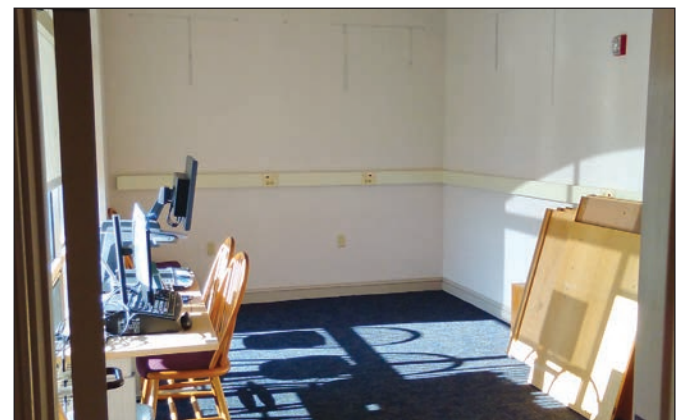


PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER RANCK

One of the two computer labs in the Ocean Pines Library, located on Cathell Road, could be used for the Worcester County Treasurer's satellite office, but only if the Ocean Pines Association approves.

agrees to follow such procedures as are in effect at that time to attempt to obtain the authority to consent to the requested

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# Census data translate into money

Continued from Page 1

state, with only 59 percent of the county’s residents filling out and returning the requisite forms, according to Maryland Census figures. The county had done marginally better at the turn of the millennia, when it was 21st out of the state’s 24 political subdivisions with a participation rate of 63 percent.

The most significant downside of these low census figures is the loss of state and federal money, which often is based on population. Bohlen said that for every person who is not registered, the county loses \$18,000 per decade (\$1,800 per year.)

“On a day-to-day living sort of aspect, it helps determine how many people are using our streets on a regular basis, which can influence the funding we get from the state or federal government to help us maintain and build roads,” Bohlen said.

“One of the [best] examples they gave at one of the [census] meetings that we attended that stuck with me is if there is an outbreak of a disease, for instance, census data is used to help the [Center for disease Control and Prevention] determine how

many vaccinations get sent to an area,” she continued. “So, if that area has been undercounted because people didn’t respond to the census, then they won’t send enough medicine.”

Under-representation is common in rural areas, where the population is difficult to reach. Even so, according to the Maryland Census website, Snow Hill had the largest participation of any Worcester County community 10 years ago, with 83 percent of the population responding.

Pocomoke City followed with 80 percent, Berlin posted 74 percent and Ocean City turned in the lowest rate of response with 41 percent.

The census has directly affected several projects in Berlin, Bohlen said.

“There’s a state funding program passed down from [Housing and Urban Development] called a Community Development Block Grant, and we have done several projects directly based on our standing with the census,” she said. “Part of the sidewalks on Flower Street were done with that money and we had to use census data to prove our need, and a lot of the stormwater work that we

have done in the last several years was done with block grant money and again, we had to prove our numbers.”

Bohlen, like other municipal and county officials, hopes to see a much better numbers this year.

“Starting in March-April, you’re going to see a lot of ramping up in Worcester County,” she said.

Logos created by the Worcester County Complete Count Committee will remind people to call, go online or mail their responses for the census, and will be spread throughout the town and organizations to encourage people to finish the information before the July 31 deadline.

As for losing that \$18,000 per decade for every uncouned person, “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,” Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart said.

The 2020 Census will be open from April 1 to July 31. For more information, visit <https://planning.maryland.gov/>.

# OPA holds cards in library issue

Continued from Page 1

substitute use (currently a referendum). Tenant agrees to reimburse Landlord for the costs incurred by Landlord in attempting to obtain the authority to consent to the substitute use.”

According to Dick Brady, who was the Ocean Pines Association president when the contract went into effect, this was written to prevent the county from moving multiple offices into the library.

County Commissioner Chip Bertino, who represents Ocean Pines, said he was not aware of the stipulation of the lease when the motion was approved two weeks ago.

“This is something that needs to be resolved and discussed,” Bertino said.

Though the issue was not on the agenda for the commissioner’s Tuesday

meeting, Bertino did inquire about the issue.

Harold Higgins, chief administrative officer, said that the county is waiting for comment from the Ocean Pines Association board. He added that the

president, Doug Parks, asked for the ability to run the issue by the board.

Kelly Shannahan, chief administrative assistant, said that Parks had drafted a letter for the rest of the board to approve.

# Trendic, OPA suit court date set

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on Jan. 10.

Trendic filed suit on Nov. 15 in response to the OPA Board of Directors’ rejection in August of a petition containing more than 800 signatures.

Trendic, who is represented by attorney Bruce Bright, is seeking up to \$75,000 in compensatory damages from the association’s board of direc-

tors for legal fees following a referendum drive campaign launched in April seeking to amend the OPA by-laws to require the board to conduct a membership vote to approve any single capital expenditure over \$1 million.

The hearing is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. in Worcester Circuit Court in Snow Hill.



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# OPA Board vets proposed budget

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) After the Ocean Pines Association fiscal 2020/2021 budget was reviewed earlier this month by the budget and finance committee, General Manager John Viola repeated the process with the board of directors last Wednesday.

During the board's fiscal session on Jan. 15, Viola reported the draft budget binders were prepared and delivered by mid-December.

"We used a bottoms up approach with input from all department heads," he said.

Viola said after considering suggestions from board members, the recommended budget would be published on Jan. 24.

Viola said although not finalized, the assessment charge for next fiscal year should be \$981, which would be slightly less than the \$986 fee this year.

Stressing financial accountability, while lowering assessment fees, Viola said the budget manages to cover capital projects in a fiscally accountable manner.

"We always tried to reallocate resources, assets or money to try and fund, or right-size our budgets," he said.

Included in the proposed budget assessment are salary adjustments based on the recently completed compensation study by the Sibson group.

In total, the salary adjustments required to bring staff on par with minimum regional pay scales would add \$30 to assessment fees.

This includes \$7 to get all employees to the base level, along with \$9 to meet mandated minimum law changes.

"We want to get all our employees at least up to the minimum," he said.

The \$30 sum also includes \$9 for cost-of-living adjustments and \$5 to establish a merit pool to push some staff to the mid-point of salary ranges.

"The point of the Sibson study was not only to get our employees to the minimum, which was needed, was also a recommendation ... that key employees should be at the mid-point," he said.



John Viola

Additional proposed assessment charges include \$13 for assets depreciation, \$9 to account for increased medical costs and \$19 for bulkhead reserves.

"Last year the board decided to give the association a holiday on the bulk heads," he said.

Based on continued profitability, the \$30 assessment charge for operating deficit recovery instituted this year could likely be offset from elsewhere in the ledgers.

"Last year the board mandated we would pay off the operating deficit over three years," he said.

"This year, I don't believe we need it in the assessment because we will take the budget favorability [and] we believe we can cover this."

Among the department heads presenting budget details were Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski, who highlighted cost-cutting measures with previous advertising efforts deemed inefficient, along with savings on printing quarterly newsletters and activity guides.

Looking ahead, the marketing department is proposing targeted website advertising to promote banquet and wedding services offered at the yacht club by the Matt Ortt Companies.

General Manager of Golf Operations and Maintenance John Malinowski, while not proposing an increase for association members, suggested a \$5 or \$10 higher charge for non-members during peak times for additional revenue.

"It's easier to raise rates when you have a line and you have people wanting your product," he said.

Malinowski said nonresident rates, which are currently 30 percent above members, could be prohibitive as few outside players have been noted.

In light of the 36-hole Bay Club Golf Course shuttering last year, Malinowski suggested revisiting the cost differential.

"We probably have a great opportunity now with Bay Club being shut

down to pick up some," he said.

Board member Tom Janasek said between the pending clubhouse project slated to open this spring and updated greens, the association would be able to market a superior product

"Once you play it ... it's a golfer's course," he said.

Janasek suggested instituting inaugural rates following the opening of the new clubhouse of \$100 more for non-members.

Malinowski said the ideal would be to have the rates closely aligned.

For fiscal 2020/2021 the proposed rates for members was \$2,300 for families and \$1,315 for individuals, while non-members would pay a \$2,990 family rate and \$1,710 for an individual.

OPA President Doug Parks said charging the same rates could be problematic for resident buy-in.

Viola said the \$100 differential could be employed this year and subsequently revisited to assure effectiveness.

OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone wondered if lower prices would lure in ideal crowds.

"My concern is we will attract the people that want to play golf for \$5 a round and get a free hotdog," he said.

Parks said the rate revision could not be approved that evening, instead

See OPA Page 4

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# OPA Board gets fiscal 20/21 budget details

Continued from Page 3  
requiring a motion and board vote to approve, which OPA Vice President Steve Tuttle proposed accomplishing via email following a formal proposal from Malinowski.

Other proposed golf operation costs include \$20,000 for a video launch simulator for club fittings, which could generate \$4,000 or more annually and pay for itself in a few years, Malinowski said.

Janasek questioned Golf Superintendent Andre Jordan about a \$15,000 price tag to launch a green rebuilding program to generate replacement sod.

Jordan said the plan would involve using a pair of putting greens located in back of the maintenance shop that were not included in the most recent green upheaval.

"They're a different variety of bank grass than we have on the golf course," he said.

Ocean Pines Marina Manager Ron Fisher, while not presenting any capital requests, did propose a 4 percent increase to boat slip fees based on area market competition.

Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor Debbie Donahue said initial quotes of \$47,000 and \$50,000 were received to replace playground equipment at Bainbridge and Robin Hood parks, with two more bids yet to be solicited.

Donahue said other projects pro-

posed for next year include a new entrance sign for White Horse Park and relocating the bocce ball court next to the platform tennis courts at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex.

Ocean Pines Fire Department president Dave VanGasbeck, whose staff handles more than 2,000 calls annually, said a renovation committee is in the midst of being formed to address building maintenance issues.

"Our south station is sorely in need of a renovation," he said.

To reward current fire department volunteers and assist with recruiting new members, Viola proposed forgoing assessment charges for them next year.

"I made an adjustment on assessments to have a holiday this year for 19 eligible members of the fire department who own homes," he said.

Viola noted the roughly \$19,000

cost was offset by savings found elsewhere in the department.

Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips reviewed ongoing road repairs, noting that of 274 asphalt pathways in the pines only 32 were deemed to be in either poor or fair shape.

"We did the absolute worst this fall," she said.

Viola told the board a primary question last year concerned the average cost of road work.

"We have now established a benchmark of \$100,000 per mile," he said.

Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey said his primary concern is staff turnover.

Highlighting national law enforcement standards that suggest two officers are required per 1,000 residents, based on a year-round populace of 12,000, Ocean Pines would need 24

police members.

"We're doing it with 16 not 24 ... but we need to hold onto those 16 officers," he said.

Massey said instead of losing staff to state, federal and county police departments, the 19 members who have left in recent years have been hired in either Worcester or Wicomico counties, due in large part to superior benefit packages.

To help remedy the situation, Massey proposed instituting a 5 percent defined benefit pension, which Viola said was included in the \$981 assessment calculations.

Parks, who said the board would next convene for budget considerations during a public hearing on Feb. 5 at 5 p.m., agreed that bolstering police benefits is worthwhile.

"It's a smart investment for a valued resource," he said.

## OPA proposed budget vs prior year

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) The new Ocean Pines Association budget proposed for the 2020/2021 fiscal year continues to pursue deficit recovery efforts while also allocating money for capital projects. It also does this while knocking a couple bucks off annual assessment fees.

The new financial package is scheduled for adoption on Feb. 18 following a public hearing on Feb. 5.

The \$986 assessment charge for non-waterfront lots levied by the OPA during fiscal 2019/2020 is tentatively set at \$981 in the pending budget.

General operations accounts for the bulk of that total and was trimmed by \$16, dropping from \$791 currently to \$775 in the proposed budget.

Nearly twice that total was cut from amenity operations, which are budgeted at \$30 less on assessment charges than the current fiscal year.

By contrast, at this juncture at

least, waterfront lots will see an increase in assessment fees of \$45, with the \$1,451 levied this year scheduled to increase to \$1,496. This stems from an increase in bulkhead differential charges from \$465 this year to a proposed \$515 in the pending budget.

In terms of revenue, the 6,716 lots charged \$986 this year generated \$6,621,976, while the same number paying the proposed rate of \$981 would raise \$6,588,396 or \$33,580 under the prior year tally.

By comparison, increased revenue is anticipated from waterfront properties, with the 1,361 lots charged \$1,451 this year for a total of \$1,974,811, slated to pay \$1,496, which would generate \$2,036,056 or \$61,245 over the prior year.

The current budget includes assessment charges on 8,452 lots for a revenue total of \$9,057,737, or \$1,071 on average. The pending budget assessment totals includes 8,433 lots raising \$9,065,143 in revenue, or

\$1,075 on average.

Looking at the overall financial picture, total revenue for the current fiscal year is forecast to wind up at \$18,454,329 and budgeted at \$14,526,703 in the pending budget.

The present year total includes roughly \$5.5 million in capital project funding, with about \$1.6 million included in the proposed budget numbers, with the differential slated to fund ongoing capital projects.

In terms of revenues from operating departments, the current fiscal year is forecast to close at \$12,859,550 with the pending budget estimated at \$12,835,539 for a \$24,011 decrease.

Total expenditures, including capital spending, are forecast to close this budget year at \$18,002,192 and estimated for next fiscal year at \$14,526,703, for a decrease of roughly \$3.4 million.

The subtotal for departmental expenses are forecast to close this fiscal year at \$12,400,913 and estimated at \$12,496,388 for an increase of \$95,475.

Looking at reserve account balances, which include replacement, bulkheads, roads and new capital, the estimated balance to close the current fiscal year is \$4,471,988.

The proposed 2020/2021 budget includes contributions of \$3,276,998, which includes earned interest and casino funds, contrasted by expenditures of \$3,096,164.

Based on these numbers the overall reserve balance to close the upcoming fiscal year on April 30, 2021 is estimated at \$4,652,822.

In terms of improvements slated during the pending fiscal year, nearly a dozen roads are scheduled for

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Additional power sources to compensate for peak usage are trucked into the Berlin Power Plant on William Street in November.

# Berlin’s generator scheduled to arrive sooner than planned

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer  
(Jan. 23, 2020) The Town of Berlin will receive its new electrical power generator much sooner than originally anticipated, Electric Unity Director Tim Lawrence told the Town Council Monday.

“The new generator was supposed to be delivered sometime in May or early June, but I received a call ... so it’s actually going to be delivered in April,” Lawrence said.

One of the town’s four electrical power generators went down on July 17 because of what was described as a major failure. A temporary generator had to be installed in November to avoid costing the town more for electricity.

The new generator was not expected to be installed until August or September, but that should change, even though nothing will happen right away, Lawrence said.

“We’re going to have the engine and put it into the building, but there’s a lot of stuff that needs to be done to it prior to it operating,” Lawrence said. “The engine will be put into the building in April when it gets delivered, but there’s all type of piping, cooling that needs to be run into it, the fuel line, electrical ... there’s still another month or two worth of work even after the engine gets there.”

Lawrence told the council in August that the failure happened when the de-

partment was running peak shaving times. The engine typically runs from about 2-6 p.m., but because of high temperatures, the engine was working overtime and ran for eight consecutive days.

The department conducts peak shaving events when the draw for electricity for the town is unusually high, which occurs about 10 to 23 times during the summer.

Peak-shaving is a way for town ratepayers to save money because by using the local generators, the electric utility has to purchase less power from providers, according to Lawrence.

“By us peak shaving, it normally saves the town ratepayers, electric rate payers about \$550,000 per year,” Lawrence said. “If we didn’t have that temporary generator taking its place, if we got called to peak shave for a time, it could cost us up to \$200,000 in savings.”

“By having the temporary generator, we can obtain those peaks,” he continued. “There are five peaks we have to hit per year, and as long as the temporary is in place, which it is now, we would be able to hit that peak. With the new engine going in, basically, that’s taking the place of the engine that failed.”

The new generator will run on natural gas instead of diesel, which according to Lawrence, will be more efficient. He also said diesel fuel costs \$2.30 a gallon as opposed to \$1.80 for natural gas.

# Fiscal 2020/2021 comparison

Continued from Page 4  
paving for an estimated cost of \$324,570.

Bulkhead repairs are estimated to run \$1,192,500, which breaks down to 3,180 linear feet at \$375 each.

Dredging work is estimated to run

\$60,000, which budgets 20 sites at an average cost of \$3,000 each.

To continue improving longstanding drainage issues, \$611,575 is included in the fiscal 2020/2021 budget, with \$68,000 of that sum for improvements at Bainbridge Pond.

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# Communications cmte in progress projects

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) In addition to discussing the status of replacing community marquees with digital message boards, the OPA Communications Committee last week reviewed efforts to develop orientation protocols for advisory board members and reimagining the new residents academy.

Committee Chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines reported discussions are continuing with Worcester County officials regarding a changeover to electronic message signs.

“We’re not in an immediate rush, because we don’t know if we’re going to be allowed to do it,” she said.

The committee began thinking about the switch in September, as it weighed the possibility of eliminating more than a dozen of the manually updated signs with a fewer number of electronic ones. One obstacle that has yet to be resolved, however, is whether the county zoning code, which restricts sign placement and content, will allow it.

Rines and committee board liaison Dr. Colette Horn met with county officials after going before the board of directors October and being advised that a code amendment could be the answer.

“Colette and I went down and talked to [Worcester County Director of Development Review and Permitting] Ed Tudor,” she said. “He was happy to work

with us on the language but it’s going to be a process.”

County officials said the only option would be to pursue a code amendment specific to Ocean Pines.

“It needs to be well thought out,” she said. “They have concerns with this new federal content-neutrality situation.”

In its June 2015 *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court said the sign code enacted in Gilbert, Arizona violated the First Amendment freedom of a local church by placing more restrictions on its messages than it did on political and other ideological signs.

“It basically renders them [so] they can’t monitor anything that’s on electronics,” she said. “They don’t have any objection to helping us but there’s no guarantee and it could take from three months to a year.”

OPA IT manager Steve Grabowski said the legal hurdles should not be a factor.

“It’s not commercial,” he said. “We’re not advertising something; we are providing information to the community.”

Rines said while OPA staff is working on the county zoning paperwork, the committee has yet to establish more precisely what the project would cost.

After meeting with an area sign vendor months ago and using a rough example of what kind of sign might be appropriate, Rines said the committee



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Last week the OPA Communications Committee drew no conclusion thus far about converting to digital messaging signs as work to clear regulatory hurdles and obtain sufficient price quotes continues.**

received a ballpark figure of between \$30,000-\$40,000.

Grabowski said besides determining the sign dimensions, the committee also needs to consider how much information it wants to display and at what intervals to get a solid price.

“It might help the vendors if we gave them more information about our requirements,” he said.

On other fronts, Horn also said a task force formed to address new committee orientation procedures is scheduled to meet on Jan. 29.

“There were three board members, in addition to myself, who wanted to be part of that,” she said. “People have a lot of opinions ... but everyone’s in favor of it.”

The communications committee had recommended creating a work group to develop content for the annual orientation of new chairs and board liaisons.

Horn also reported on committee efforts to create an online “virtual resident’s academy” that would build on a concept introduced a few years ago by former General Manager Bob Thompson.

Horn said after broaching the subject with fellow board members, there was a sentiment to retain face-to-face interactions with OPA staff for new community members.

At this juncture the matter is being handed back to the committee to take the lead, Horn said.

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# WHP joins resident, county lawsuit

**By Elizabeth Bonin**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) The White Horse Park Community Association Inc. is pushing back against the lawsuit filed by six residents, who allege that Worcester County’s zoning code unfairly makes it illegal for them to occupy their homes year-round.

James W. Almand, White Horse Park Community Association Inc.’s attorney, filed a motion to intervene in the case on the association’s behalf on Dec. 16 in Worcester County Circuit Court.

About 55 owners or renters of park units have been fighting to remain in the park full-time, though the park’s zoning stipulates that from Sept. 30 to April 1, they can only occupy the unit for 30 consecutive days or an aggregate of 60 days. Most of the residents struggle with age, disability or low-income.

In response to a warning of zoning enforcement from the Worcester County Commissioners in October, attorney Hugh Cropper, who has represented the full-time residents, filed an appeal with the Worcester County Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Department of Review and Permitting rejected the appeal on the basis that the county only said there could be fines and that it is the county who enforces the residency, not the department of review and permitting.

According to full-time resident Susan Naplachowski, no residents have received fines yet.

Cropper then filed suit in Worcester County Circuit Court in November. Two days later, he filed a request with the court for a declaratory judgment and injunction halting any action against the residents. If the circuit court overturns the decision, the case would go to the county board of zoning appeals.

In a letter from Almand to the White Horse Park Community Association, he responded to what he claimed were “misleading letters” including a Dec. 30 letter from Naplachowski. In the letter, Almand clarified that he recommended the



The White Horse Park Community Association Inc. will now be a party in the case between the full-time park residents and Worcester County.

intervention to the board of directors and that “contrary to the assertions of Ms. Naplachowski and other advocates for year-round residency in the park, the pending lawsuit is not limited to ‘the elderly, handicapped, fixed income residents living year-round in the park.’”

“In addition to the county law prohibiting year-round occupancy in the park, the recorded declaration that established the park prohibits year-round occupancy, and the board has the fiduciary obligation to enforce that declaration, even if previous boards may have failed to do so,” the letter reads. “Therefore, in my opinion, the park should be a party in the pending case so that its voice can be heard.”

He emphasized that if the plaintiffs are successful, any person could live at the park year-round. In addition, his legal services are costing each White Horse Park unit owner about \$25 to \$30, which he said is a small price to pay for the tens of millions of dollars that they could have to pay in order to upgrade the park infrastructure to a full-time capacity.

Cropper said that the motion to intervene was accepted, meaning that the association will now be a party to the lawsuit.

“They filed a declaratory judgment complaint against my clients, the year-round residents,” Cropper

said. “I will be filing, in the next day or two, an amended complaint from my original filing, asking the court to stop the community association from taking any action.”

He said he did not oppose the motion to intervene because if the case against the county were successful, then the association might attempt enforce its restrictions. This could resolve the issue all at once.

Naplachowski said the letter she sent out was a survey to all park homeowners asking if they wanted to pay for a lawyer to fight the full-time residents or to let the county fight them.

“If they wanted to get involved, they should’ve gotten involved in the very beginning,” Naplachowski said.

According to Naplachowski, Almand’s statement that anyone could live at the park full-time if they win is not what the residents asked for.

“It said that we’re asking that somehow everybody would have a chance to be full time,” Naplachowski said. “We’re just asking for the people who had been here since June 2018 to reside there full time.”

She added that the board of directors designated the full-time residents as no longer in good standing, so they can no longer attend meetings or vote. Naplachowski said she will have the results of the survey in by Feb. 12.

# Ordinance allows Public Works to enforce trash rules

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) A proposed change in the rules governing trash collection in Berlin would give the town’s Public Works Department the right to say no to certain materials put out at the curb for pickup.

Re-introduced at the Berlin Town Council meeting on Monday, after a discussion in November went nowhere, was an amendment to the town’s the solid waste ordinance that would legalize the department’s practice of deciding what is suitable for collection and what is not.

Mayor Gee Williams and the council discussed the introduction of an ordinance amending, which will formally allow the Public Works Department more authority to enforce the rules, that will be further debated at a public hearing, which will take place at the next council meeting on Monday, Jan. 27.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen discussed the ordinance changes.

“We did introduce this back in November, I believe, and it did have a 2019 number on it,” Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen told the mayor and council. “However, because more than 60 days have passed since that introduction, we have to reintroduce it as if it’s a completely new ordinance. The time frame that has expired on that.”

According to Bohlen, the measure, which will go to a public hearing next Monday, is a bit of housekeeping that will codify the department’s authority to make on-the-scene decisions about what should be collected and what refuse the resident should dispose of by other means.

The wording in the ordinance will acknowledge that Public Works Director Dave Wheaton will have the authority to enforce the rules, which is what the de-



Jeff Fleetwood

See PUBLIC Page 9





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# OPA recreation cmte reconstitutes

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) Following a brief period of inactivity, the recently reconstituted OPA Recreation and Parks Committee convened earlier this month with discussions covering both procedural matters and future projects.

Board liaison Larry Perrone said the committee membership count blossomed over the past month.

"We actually have four new people apply to be on the committee, plus we had approved two more prior to the meeting," he said.

Perrone said Steve Cohen volunteered as chairman during the group's Jan. 9 meeting, which also covered points regarding OPA resolutions and advisory committee responsibilities.

"We talked a little bit about the funding process for projects that the committee may want to get done," he said.

Incoming chairman Cohen said the mostly new membership was brought up to speed about the advisory nature of the group and board approval processes.

"This was a resurrection of the committee," he said.

Cohen said Perrone discussed the level of research advisory committees are expected to complete before forwarding projects to the board for its consideration.

"Larry mentioned that under the new board ... you have to come up with



Larry Perrone

a business plan," he said. "This is what I want to do, this is how much it's going to cost and where we'd get the money."

Perrone also presented a list of earlier goals and objectives, including pending matters.

"We gave them an update on the tentative current budget and what items would be included for parks and recs," he said.

Perrone said the list includes replacing 1980s-era playground equipment at both Robin Hood and Bainbridge parks.

Perrone also discussed a previous project concept the committee wants to advance.

"We're going to start looking at possibly establishing a park playground area for handicapped and disabled individuals," he said. "That's going to be one of the major things that we're looking at as we progress."

The concept was also on a list of initial priorities compiled by Cohen, who has been a longtime volunteer and board member for the Worcester County Developmental Center in Newark.

"My wife and I have been in the field working with intellectually challenged handicapped people for years," he said. "I was kind of surprised there was no

handicapped accessible equipment in Ocean Pines."

Cohen, who is the 2019-2020 president elect for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines/Ocean City, is hoping to form partnerships with area businesses and organizations to advance the playground development.

"I'm going to be the president of the Kiwanis of Ocean Pines and ... they have a foundation that donates money to build programs," he said.

The consensus building is not unfamiliar to Cohen, who was instrumental in forming WDCD's Aktion Club in conjunction with the Kiwanis in 2017.

Intended for adults with developmental disabilities, the Aktion Club provides members the opportunity to perform service projects to enrich and beautify the community.

While the playground discussions are yet in the formative stages, the committee appeared amiable, Perrone said.

"With the community growing as it is it's probably time to look at something like that, even though as we re do all of the playgrounds they are all ADA compliant," he said.

To prepare for February's committee meeting, Cohen asked members to bring forward project proposals for future consideration and also suggested the group tour OPA park facilities and review recreational activity offerings.

"So we all know what we have and what we need," he said.

# Public Works given more authority

Continued from Page 8  
partment was already doing, according to Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

"It's giving Public Works the authority to say, 'We don't pick up paint, cardboard, etc.," Fleetwood said.

Bohlen said the ordinance would not change how trash is handled, but would more clearly establish what the town can and cannot do.

"[Two weeks ago,] we had a Christmas tree and a recliner chair, logs, tree branches ... we just have to get in there

and take them out," Wheaton said.

Another area the ordinance will address is recycling and the tendency of some residents to dump items that aren't acceptable. Newspapers, paper, glass bottles, plastic and certain metals may be placed in the appropriate dumpsters, but materials that don't make that list have also been deposited there, thus obligating public works crews to clean up the area at an additional expense to the town.

Residents in the audience asked


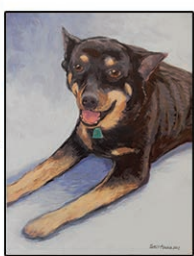


about potential cameras that could identify the people responsible for dumping unauthorized trash in these specified dumpsters, but Police Chief Arnold Downing said it is not as simple as that.


"This is not the only recycle spot we've ever had," Downing said. "They actually had it right in by the Public Works [building]. We had cameras and it's very difficult if you don't know who the people are or the vehicles ... we can't see tags. But cameras anywhere are going to be able to help. A better resolution will help."



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# Snapshots



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## CELEBRATION

Ring in the new year at Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery in Berlin, from left, are Dr. Nicholas and Ginny Borodulia, Hal and Cristy Ammann, and Gary and Joey Ganim.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## DONATION

The Aktion Club, located in the Worcester County Developmental Center in Newark, is a Kiwanis Club – the only service club for adults with disabilities – recently received a \$500 annual check from the parent sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Jack Ferry, executive director of the Worcester County Development Center; Valerie Reed, vice president of the Aktion Club; Steve Cohen Aktion Club advisor; and Donte Smith, club president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## FOOD DRIVE

The Stephen Decatur High School Student Government Association sponsored its annual food drive during American Education Week, Nov. 18-22, collecting nearly 1,400 pounds of canned goods for Diakonia in West Ocean City. Pictured are students Shiloh Ponds, Senior Class President Maxwell Ewancio, Janaesha Carson and Alyanna Braciszewski.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## GUEST SPEAKER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City was visited by Robert Hart, left, executive director of Worcester County Commission on Aging, during the Nov. 20 meeting. He talked about the new Maryland "Senior Call Check." He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman.



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; Sarge Garlitz, service officer for Post #166 and member of the Department of Maryland's Executive Committee; and Tracey Mullineaux, BSN, RN, employee health and wellness nurse at AGH.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GRADUATES

Officers from the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center who graduated in the 106th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, from left, are Norman Edwards III, Kaelan R. Patterson and Joseph H. Sinclair.



# Beach Gypsy store moves from OP to Berlin

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) Best friends Christina Mullaney and Christine Carpenter are moving their boutique and yoga studio from Ocean Pines to Williams Street in Berlin.

Beach Gypsy sells athleisure apparel, boho clothing and accessories, crystals, essential oils and yoga apparel and accessories. Throughout the week, the store also offers yoga sessions. The store first opened in Ocean Pines last March.

“We have some kind of middle ground apparel,” Mullaney said. “It’s not too over the top expensive, but it’s not cheap clothes either. We try to find that middle ground for everybody.”

Both women are locals of Worcester County, and became friends after their sons joined the Cub Scouts. Once their children grew older, they decided they wanted to have a career shift and started working together.

“We combined a business that I was in with my son called Happy Trunks, with her business, Seize the Day,” Mullaney said. “Seize the Day originally was more of a holistic type place with yoga and Reiki and things of that sort and the merchandise was geared towards that as well. Then Happy Trunk’s was a Bohemian harem pants kind of company, where it was kind of more like hippy gear and festival stuff.”

The two owners pride themselves on being an environmentally and socially conscious operation. For instance, a portion of the proceeds from sales of Westend thermal pants goes directly to an elephant rescue in Thailand.

In addition, three times a year, Carpenter and Mullaney host a party where friends, clients and guests are asked to bring new or gently used tote bags or purses filled with feminine hygiene items. These bags are then turned over to local outreach programs to be distributed to local home-

less and displaced women. The idea is to help bring dignity to those experiencing challenging circumstances. Beach Gypsy will accept donations on an on-going basis, not just at their parties.

“We definitely have a different feel and outlook and there’s just a different vibe about us,” Carpenter said. “Our lifestyles kind of meld together and we figured out what makes us happy and everything just kind of falls together when you figure out what makes yourself happy. Everybody walks in to our store and says that it just feels good.”

The two best friends are thrilled with the move, and anticipate their official opening will be by Feb. 1, though they hope to be open sooner, around Thursday or Friday.

“We knew that we wanted to be in Berlin,” Carpenter said. “We both fell in love with Berlin and it’s just perfect for us.”

“So far, everybody’s been super supportive of us coming and we just hope that we can add something to their businesses as well,” Mullaney said.

The new store will be smaller, only around 600-700 square feet, but will be more accessible for people since it will be only a few steps away from Main Street. The store will also be pet friendly.



Christina Mullaney, left, and Christine Carpenter hope Beach Gypsy will be open for business on Williams Street in Berlin by Feb. 1.

The yoga sessions will take place in the back of the store, though when sessions are not taking place the women will utilize all of the store for their merchandise.

Yoga sessions cost \$14 per session, though there are also packages of five or 10 for a discount. Typically, sessions take place before the shop officially opens and after it closes. Sessions tend to occur Tuesdays through Fridays in the morning at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thurs-

days in the evening at 5:30 p.m., though these times might change now that the store has moved.

Since the store will be moving to a new location, Mullaney and Carpenter are not sure what their new hours will be just yet. They do expect to be open on the weekends now, which is something they were not doing at their Ocean Pines location.

For more information about Beach Gypsy, call 410-973-2557 or visit <https://seasthedayoc.com/>.

## Community Briefs

### Graduate

Approximately 1,000 students graduated from James Madison University in Virginia and were recognized during a December commencement ceremony, including Meghan Howard of Ocean City.

She received a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

The top three undergraduate majors were nursing, health sciences and hospitality management. Of the students in graduate programs, 149 received master’s degrees and 16 received doctoral degrees.

The top three programs for graduate students were education, physician assistant studies and occupational therapy.

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Fill out census forms, get your money back

The importance of the decennial headcount conducted by the Census Bureau can't be overestimated, considering that each uncounted person is worth, theoretically, \$18,000 per decade (\$1,800 per year) in state and federal grants. That would mean, using rate of participation data provided by the Census Bureau to the Maryland Department of Planning, that Worcester County missed out on millions of dollars following the 2010 census.

According to state planning, the response rate for Worcester was just 59 percent, which means its reported population of 51,454 was well short of the real total.

But not really. The first thing to clear up is that this response rate refers only to the household survey forms that were not returned to the Census Bureau, not the overall response.

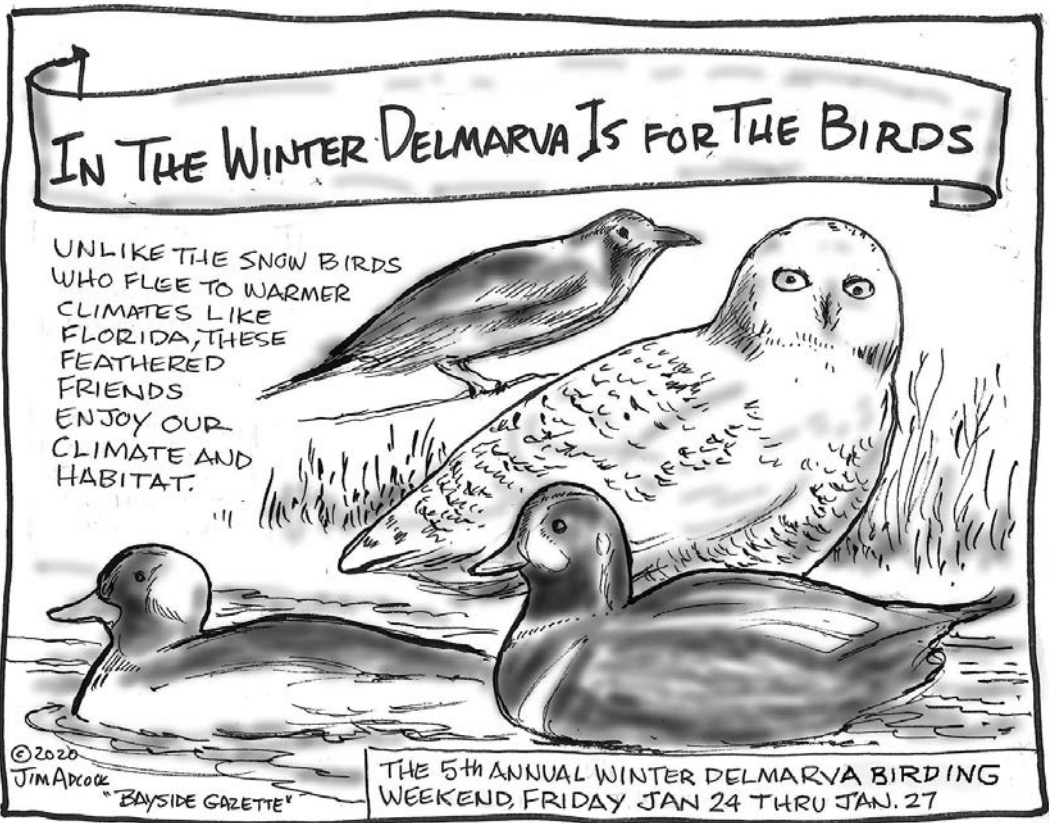
Census takers followed up with visits to households that either did not return their forms or never received them. This effort in 2010 resulted in an overall head count in the county much higher than 59 percent of the population.

It had to, otherwise that would mean Worcester's real population would be in the 81,000 range, Ocean City, which posted the county's lowest mail-in response rate, would have twice the population the Census Bureau says it does, and the county overall would have lost more than \$64 million in government grants.

The best reason to complete and return the census questionnaire is that it's less expensive than hiring people to knock on doors, and it helps make the survey more accurate.

The census is a massive undertaking that not only determines where government money flows, including state school funding, but also helps determine political boundaries and an area's representation in the legislature and Congress.

For people of an anti-government mindset who argue that participating in the census is government snooping, forget it. If you pay income taxes, the government already knows you exist, so you might as well fill out the census form and help the county get some of that tax money back.



## Letters

### Spirit of Christmas

Editor,

I am writing to thank Berlin residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Berlin and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.9 million shoebox gifts in 2019.

Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2019, the ministry is now sending 10,569,405

shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—Berlin volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world.

Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

It's not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-off locations serving Berlin are closed until Nov. 16-23, 2020, information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) or by calling 410-772-7360.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project—many who do so year after year. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Dana Williams  
Operation Christmas Child  
Boone, North Carolina

## Nominations for legacy award sought

(Jan. 23, 2020) The Lower Shore Land Trust is seeking nominations for the second annual "Stephen N. Parker Conservation Legacy Award."

This special award will be given in honor of the late, Stephen N. Parker, to recognize an individual for their enduring contributions to private land conservation on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Nominees should display a

lasting and distinct dedication to conserving the vital lands of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 24, and award winners will be recognized at a special award ceremony luncheon in late spring.

Parker served on the Board of Directors of Lower Shore Land Trust and the

Maryland Coastal Bays Program and is remembered for his work as director of the Virginia Coast Reserve with The Nature Conservancy – as well as his leadership with the Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore.

Parker's background in business and nonprofits, served to bring together economic development and conservation. See LEGACY Page 13

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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# Legacy award will be given in spring; nominate by Friday

Continued from Page 12

servation – further preserving the health and productivity of large ecosystems while meeting the needs of human communities.

In February 2019, the inaugural award was presented to Charles “Buddy” Jenkins, of Worcester County. Through deed restrictions the Jenkins Family Trust, Jenkins is known to have preserved one of the most significant tracts of land in Northern Worcester County – totaling over 2,000 acres of forest, prime agriculture and coastal wetlands – and which serves as an ecological anchor for the coastal bays.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is dedicated to preserving rural lands, promoting vibrant towns and to building a healthier and more connected Eastern Shore.

It is a nationally accredited 501(C)(3) nonprofit that has, since 1990, protected more than 21,000 acres of pristine Eastern Shore farmland, critical habitat, streams, parks and trails.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org](http://www.LowerShoreLandTrust.org) or contact Kate Patton at 443-234-5587 or [kpatton@lower-shorelandtrust.org](mailto:kpatton@lower-shorelandtrust.org).

# Valentines for Vets closes Jan. 31

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) While special occasions are not required to offer gratitude for the sacrifices made by U.S. Armed Forces members, the Jan. 31 submission deadline is quickly approaching to participate in Caring for America’s “Valentines for Veterans” program.

Caring for America Chairperson Vera Beck said the undertaking is in its 18th year in Worcester County. More than 800 cards were collected last year, which were largely made by school children.

“We’re collecting cards from local schools to be sent to the veterans that are in the veterans’ hospitals,” she said.

Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County, was established in 1999 by the National Federation of Republican Women to encourage state and local organizations to source ideas to positively impact their community.

Beck said Valentine’s Day cards will be sent to veterans at four rehabilitative medical centers, including about 220 to the Perry Point VA Medical Center and about 120 to the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

“We’re sending to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital about 400,” she

said.

Beck said a couple hundred cards are destined for the USO Delaware in Dover to warm the hearts of veterans just returning stateside.

“Altogether, it’s probably close to 1,000 cards,” she said. “The cards are handmade from local elementary schools and businesses.”

Beck said people who lack artistic vision, in most instances adults, often purchase cards and focus on inscribing heartfelt patriotic sentiments.

After taking part in the annual endeavor for the last five years, Beck has grown to appreciate the spirit of youth.

“What I really like to see is the cards that are handmade in local schools from the children,” she said. “The artistry that comes out in these cards and the cute notes they write to the veterans are really unbelievable and beautiful.”

While girls are more likely to cut and paste hearts and boys typically sketch tanks and artillery, the common resonator among the children’s creative card ventures are sentiments of gratitude.

“It’s kind of a small way of saying to the veterans that they thank you and appreciate what they have done,” she said.

Beck said with Ocean City,



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Caring for America’s “Valentines for Veterans” program is accepting greetings for military members until the end of January at drop-off locations including: the Ocean Pines library (pictured), the Ocean Pines Community Center, Shamrock Realty Group and Copy Central of Ocean Pines.

Pocomoke and Showell elementary schools, Worcester Prep and Wicomico Day School participating this year about 80 percent of the Valentine’s greetings are from youths.

“Some of them are quite beautiful,” she said.

Beck also credited school instructors with organizing the efforts at various educational institutions.

While cards produced by those groups have been collected, Beck said individual submissions are still being accepted at a number of drop-off lo-

See VALENTINES Page 15

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# Snapshots



**INDUCTED**  
The Charles R. Jenkins Chapter of the National Honor Society at Worcester Preparatory School inducted 36 new members on Nov. 14. Pictured, in front, from left, are Marika Vasilikos, Abby Taylor, Abby Reynolds, Carly Young, Hannah Perdue, Arusa Islam and Maddy Warren; second row, Lexi Willey, Sophia Ludt, Summer Walker and Ava Gerachis; third row, Ryan Brafman, Brugh Moore, C.C. Lizas, Sarah Butler, Grace Hopkins, Bryn Elliott, Graham McColgan and Vishnu Mohan; fourth row, Carson Cebula, Caroline Anderson, Millie Cammack, Waverly Choy, Meredith Cummings, Ibbi Khan and Hunter Gentry; and in back, Joseph Schwartz, Chipper Becker, Mason Brown, Kaden Mault, T.J. Bescak, John Arrington, Connor Carpenter, Will Mears and Cole Lamson-Reich. Not Pictured: Daniel Chen  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



**MORNING TREAT**  
To celebrate American Education Week, Nov. 18-22, the Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society sponsored its annual faculty breakfast, providing food for over 150 staff members. Pictured are Macy Dietrich, Maxwell Ewancio, Prutha Patel, Richard Poist, Kiley Hamby, Caroline Gardner, Gabby Izzett, Zehra Mirza, Madison Birckett, Sydney Boger and Mikayla Denault.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



**RECOGNITION**  
Worcester County NAACP President Ivory Smith received the 2019 Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Pi Fraternity Inc. He is pictured with Dawn LaRue-White, who nominated him. Smith is president of both the Worcester County NAACP and Worcester County Educational Support Personnel Association.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



**SUPPORTING VETS**  
In honor of Veterans Day, Stephen Decatur High School students donated 38 packed boxes of toiletries and other goods, a monetary donation, and handwritten thank you cards to the troops. The annual drive was coordinated by Connections Advisor Laurie Chetelat. American Legion Post #166 partnered with the school to deliver the packages. Pictured, in back, are Chetelat, Lauren Kennard, Gabby Izzett, Hunter Selzer, Mae Purnell, Isy Kristick, American Legion Post #166 member Sarge Garlitz, Sydney Boger and Mary Fogle, and in front, Elizabeth Meyer, Ellie Dutton, Malery Andrews, Danielle Consigli and Macy Dill.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



**GREETERS**  
Stephen Decatur High School seniors Lexi Orf and Lauren Kennard, members of Future Educators of America, served as greeters during the annual American Education Week, Nov. 18-22.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



# Delmarva Birding Weekend begins Friday, spots available

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) Bird watchers and enthusiasts can experience the beauty of the colder season and seasonal birds and aquatic creatures this weekend during the fifth annual Winter Delmarva Birding Weekend.

The event kicks off Friday and will run through Sunday, Jan. 27, with trips in Maryland and Delaware.

“We do a lot of winter birding ... we [watch] year-round actually ... everywhere all the time,” Co-organizer Jim Rapp said. “What we’ve tried to encounter with the winter weekend is that really wonderful phenomena of nesters from way up north.”

Waterfowl, birds of prey and seals are the typical creatures that visitors can expect to see during their adventures, Rapp said.

The types of birds in the area during the winter months are special due to their migratory pattern. While flying south for migration is common for most, south does not always immediately mean warmer weather, Rapp said.

“Migration is all about food, and a lot of these birds, there’s just not a food supply up north when the ground is covered in snow or open water is iced in,” he said. “Then, they can’t feed. So, a lot of people think migration is all about going from cold to warm.”

“These birds want to stay chilly, but they need open water and they need food and down here because of our shallow Chesapeake Bay the coastal bays and the ocean, there’s a ton of food still here,” Rapp continued. “You’re not going to see these birds in Florida. You’re not going to see them in Mexico. So, we really are the southern range for winter.”

Since many of the coastal birds arrive to the area by November, they could leave by March or April, Rapp said, which is what makes this birding weekend unique.

Last year, around 118 species of birds were observed, he added.

There are still spots available for several trips that will take place over the course of the weekend. Each trip costs \$25 per person, although three events are sold out. Visit [www.delmarvabirding.com](http://www.delmarvabirding.com) for a full description of each trip.

Bird-watching events with spots still available are:

- Chincoteague Bay Wilderness Landings Tour, 8-11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 24
- Birds of Bombay Hook, 8 a.m., Friday, Jan. 24
- Assateague, Rum Point and Bay-side Ponds day trip, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24
- Mispillion Inlet to Fowler Beach, 1:30-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24
- Ocean City inlet, Sunset Park and West Ocean City Harbor, 8-11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 25
- Cape Henlopen State Park, 8-11 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 26

There will also be social events after bird watching.

The Berlin Tally Rally will take place from 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 24 at Burley Oak Brewery in Berlin. The Lewes Tally Rally will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Jan. 25 at Irish Eyes on 213 Anglers Road in Lewes, Delaware. Food and drink will be available for purchase at each location.

Rapp said attendees signing up for the winter birding weekend would be able to catch a glimpse of some migratory birds such as snowy egret, great egret, cattle egrets, green heron, great blue heron, little blue Heron and glossy Ibis, which they might not see during the high season.

The event is geared toward novice and experienced birders and attendees will be paired with knowledgeable guides, but Rapp stressed the importance of having fun on the trips.

“Winter is a time we don’t do much,” Rapp said. “There’s no skiing or sledding. Very often we stay inside and with birders, we just have to put on the right clothes. Get your coat, your gloves and your hat. If you go outside in winter [either] with a guide we provide or just with a pair of binoculars, you really will be amazed at the diversity of birds out there,” Rapp said.

The 25th annual spring Delmarva Birding Weekend is scheduled for April 23-26.

To register for a trip, visit the event’s website at [www.delmarvabirding.com](http://www.delmarvabirding.com).

## Valentines program for veterans

Continued from Page 13

cations in Ocean Pines, including: Shamrock Realty Group, Copy Central, the Ocean Pines library and the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Typically, a few parents learn about the program and opt to take part prior to the deadline, Beck said.

“That sounds like a good plan I can

do that with my kids,” she said.

Beck said area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals are welcome to submit cards, which do not require postage and should be addressed to “A Veteran.”

For more information, call 410-208-9390 or email at [ultimateenenergy@verizon.net](mailto:ultimateenergy@verizon.net).

## NOW PLAYING



**ON THE EDGE**  
Ocean Club Nightclub: Friday & Saturday, Jan. 24-25, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.



**PHIL PERDUE**  
Captain's Table:  
Friday & Saturday Jan. 24 & 25, 5:30 p.m.

### BEACH BARRELS

13207 Coastal Highway, Ocean City  
410-250-0522 / [www.beachbarrels.com](http://www.beachbarrels.com)  
Jan. 24: Lower Case Blues, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 25: The Sound of Strange, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 28: Open Mic, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 29: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.

### BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City  
410-524-7575 / [www.bjsonthewater.com](http://www.bjsonthewater.com)  
Jan. 24-25: Tranzfusion, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 29: Lennon LaRicci & the Leftovers, 6 p.m.

### CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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

### OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City  
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel  
410-524-3535 / [www.clarionoc.com](http://www.clarionoc.com)  
Every Friday and Saturday:  
DJ Dusty, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Jan. 24-25: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

### PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City  
410-289-4891 / [www.picklesoc.com](http://www.picklesoc.com)  
Jan. 24: Beats By Jeremy, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 25: Beats By Adam Dutch  
Jan. 27: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 29: Beats By Styler, 9 p.m.  
Jan. 30: Beats By Wax, 9 p.m.

### SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City  
410-723-6762 / [www.skyebaroc.com](http://www.skyebaroc.com)  
Jan. 24: Angeline Leech Duo, 4-8 p.m.  
Jan. 25: Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.

### WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17, Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines  
410-208-3922 / [www.whiskersbar.com](http://www.whiskersbar.com)  
Jan. 24: Karaoke w/ Donnie Berkey

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PHOTO COURTESY LOREN HERSHBERGER

The Shore Elite Basketball program held at the Ocean Pines Community Center currently has two teams participating, with 10 boys on each. They practice twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays.

# Youth basketball program in Worcester Co.

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) A new basketball program is available for boys ranging from fourth to eighth grade to better their skills on the court.

Shore Elite Basketball launched in early November. Two teams, comprised of fourth and fifth graders and sixth to eighth graders, are participating. There are 10 players on each team.

Practices and other basketball-related activities take place inside the Ocean Pines Community Center located at White Horse Park.

Loren Hershberger and Jake Tyre created Shore Elite Basketball. They are also both coaches.

“We looked around the area and said, ‘Our kids should be playing basketball right now and there’s really no opportunities,’” Hershberger said. “There’s the rec programs, which are fantastic and provide maybe one or two hours a week of games for the kids, but there’s no outlet out there for kids to focus and strive to be better basketball players if they really want to.”

Hershberger moved from Ohio to Worcester County almost a decade

ago. He became friends with Tyre, who has lived in the area his whole life, and they were both avid basketball fans and players. Both men have three young children, which further inspired them to create the program.

Shore Elite Basketball currently offers practice twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, typically from 6-8 p.m. As the season progresses, there could be an additional day of practice on Sundays.

“Every program provides a game experience for kids, and that’s great,” Hershberger said. “But if you want to get better than the competition that we have in Delaware, Virginia, or the Salisbury area, we need to have some sort of instruction going on.”

The teams have currently played against various Christian and private schools in scrimmages, and will begin playing in tournaments as early as March, he said. Some of these tournaments will even take place across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

“We’d like to get across the bridge at least once this year and show our kids what it’s like in some of these other areas that are playing a lot more basketball than us,” Hershberger said. “We wanted to be known as a program that is tough and plays hard-nosed basketball. We want kids to learn that now before they get to high school, because that’s when their basketball journey and ultimately basketball career could really take off.

“We’re working out of passion,” he continued. “Jake and myself both work full time. We both have three kids. This is something that we saw a need for. We encourage people if they have any ideas [and] comments how they can help us make this better for the kids.”

Children within the fifth to eighth grade age range are welcome to join practices to test their skills, though

younger players with high enough skill levels will be welcomed into the teams as well.

While the two teams currently have enough players, official tryout dates for additional squads will be posted on the group’s Facebook page.

There are three packages offered for Shore Elite Basketball.

The base package is \$650 per child, which includes the uniforms and a full schedule of practices and games as well as a mentoring program. The second package costs \$1,200 and includes everything in the base package as well as the Nike basketball camp. The camp will take place at the William P. Hytche Athletic Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, June 18-21.

“The Nike basketball camp comes to this side of the bridge one time per year,” Hershberger said. “My son did it last year ... it’s a five-day, five-night sleep away camp.”

The final package for \$1,500 includes all of the above as well as personal training from Hershberger and Tyre.

The organization will hold fundraisers to offset the costs for parents who want their children to participate and accept sponsorships.

“The cost is always a hard ask for a lot of folks,” Hershberger said. “We’ve got a lot of stuff planned to offset costs for parents, because we know that just based on the demographics of where we live, it can be a hardship for a lot of folks. So, we have fundraisers that we’re running actually right now.”

Parents with children interested in trying out for additional teams at a later date can reach out to Shore Elite Basketball at the Shore Elite Basketball Facebook page, or email Shoreelitebasketball@gmail.com.

## DAR chapter sponsors two essay contests for schools

(Jan. 23, 2020) The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently sponsored two essay contests in area schools.

The American History essay contest was open to all fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schooled. This year’s topic was “The Voyage of the Mayflower.”

A panel of judges comprised of DAR members and nonmembers selected the following chapter winners: fifth grade, Allison Baig-Gallegos, Berlin Intermediate School; sixth grade, Sydney Todorov, Worcester Preparatory School; seventh grade, Angeline Todorov, Worcester Preparatory School; and eighth grade, Vanesska Hall, Worcester Preparatory School.

The Christopher Columbus Essay Contest was open to students in

grades nine through 12 in public, private, or parochial schools, or those who are home schooled. The topic was “A Sailor’s Experiences as Part of Christopher Columbus’ First Expedition to the Americas.”

Henna Preet Parmar of Worcester Preparatory School was selected as the General Levin Winder Chapter winner.

The students will receive their awards and be invited to read excerpts from their essays during a luncheon at Worcester Technical High School in Newark on April 15. Their essays have been forwarded for competition at the state level.

The DAR is a women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education. For more information, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or <http://GeneralLevinWinder.marylanddar.org>.



BY EVAN MAHNKEN AND DAVID STEINBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Jan. 23

**IPAD CHICKS**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Explore the world of iPads while learning from each other. Register: Norma Kessler, 410-641-7017. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**STORY TIME ‘QUIET AND LOUD’**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. For ages 2 to 5 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**PLAY TIME**  
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. A play date for infant to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN JANUARY LUNCHEON**  
Captain’s Table Restaurant, Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St., 11:00 AM. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. The guest speakers will be Pat Schrawder, representing Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino. Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Reservations: Ann Lutz, [annlutz60@gmail.com](mailto:annlutz60@gmail.com) or 410-208-9767 by Jan. 18.

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF OCEAN CITY/BERLIN MEETING**  
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12:00 PM. Casual event with a brief business meeting. Guest Speaker is former Senator Jim Mathias, Legislative Liaison for University of MD Eastern Shore. Bag lunch: DC OC/B members \$10 and non-members \$15. Email [soonerlanny@gmail.com](mailto:soonerlanny@gmail.com) for info. or to reserve your spot.

**HERBAL HEALTH AND HEALING**  
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Learn how to turn your kitchen into a space of healing for common ailments and preventive care using the ancient wisdom of medicinal herbs. All supplies provided. Registration appreciated. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**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](http://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. 24

**DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND**  
Go to [www.delmarvabirding.com](http://www.delmarvabirding.com) for

field trip descriptions and registration.

**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>

**CRAFTERNOON ‘FIBER CRAFTS’**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Learn the basics of crochet and yarn crafts. For school-aged children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**BINGO FOR BABIES BONANZA!**  
Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, 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>

## Sat., Jan. 25

**DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND**  
Go to [www.delmarvabirding.com](http://www.delmarvabirding.com) for field trip descriptions and registration.

**CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE ‘CATS & DOGS’**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Crafty fun for children of all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**INFORMATION AND TRAINING SESSION**  
Faith Lutheran Church, 1416 Old Ocean City Road, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Interested in being a visitor or a pen pal for people held in immigration detention in Snow Hill jail? After training you will be able to participate in the monthly visitation program, held on the last Friday of the month, as consistently as you choose. RSVP is necessary: Jane Only, [jconly@hotmail.com](mailto:jconly@hotmail.com).

**WILLARDS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY BINGO**  
Willards Lions Club, Main Street, 7:00 PM. Doors open at 5 p.m., early bird games at 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Regular bingo starts at 7 p.m. Pays \$125 per game. Assorted food and desserts for sale. 410-430-1135

**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. 26

**DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND**  
Go to [www.delmarvabirding.com](http://www.delmarvabirding.com) for

field trip descriptions and registration.

**MBS OPEN HOUSE**  
Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 11242 Racetrack Road, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM. For information about admissions, contact Amanda Evans, Director of Admissions and Advancement, at 410-208-1600.

## Mon., Jan. 27

**WRITING FOR WELLNESS**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 PM. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**TAI CHI FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Join Kim Reed from Radiant Motion for Health to reduce stress and practice this mind-body exercise. Takes place Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10 and 24. Register: 410-524-1818. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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

**STATUE OF LIBERTY: AN OVERVIEW**  
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 PM. National Park Ranger Jesse Coelho will host a lecture and discussion about the history of Lady Liberty. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**BURLEY OAK CHARITY NIGHT**  
Burley Oak Brewing Company, 10016 Old Ocean City Blvd., 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Featuring music by Das Buut, guest bartenders, trivia hosted by Tom Simon and silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

**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. 28

**TOT TIME: ACTIVE PAY FOR ACTIVE TODDLERS**  
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**STEAM STORYTIME ‘PAINTING FUN’**  
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. Stories and painting activities for young children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**STATUE OF LIBERTY: AN OVERVIEW**  
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. National Park Ranger Jesse Coelho will host a lecture and discussion about the history of Lady Liberty. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**FAMILY TIME ‘FOOTBALL’**  
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Wear your favorite team gear and enjoy football related crafts. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**PLAY IT SAFE ITALIAN FEAST AND SILENT AUCTION**  
Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Featured will be handmade pastas, freshly made sauces and meatballs, beverage and dessert. There will also be a silent auction. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$6 for children 4-9 years and free to those 3 and younger. Pay at the door. 410-289-7060

**ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
Ocean City Lions Club, 12534 Airport Road, 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Joe Thorpe, President of the Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing Association.

**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](mailto:jeanduck47@gmail.com)

## Wed., Jan. 29

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

**STORY TIME ‘FAVORITES’**  
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>

**HERBAL HEALTH AND HEALING**  
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Learn how to turn your kitchen into a space of healing for common ailments and preventive care using the ancient wisdom of medicinal herbs. All supplies provided. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>



Calendar

Free drainage seminars scheduled

Continued from Page 18

**CRIME VICTIMS AND INFORMATION RESOURCE**

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:00 PM. A representative from the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center will offer information and referrals for local resources to anyone who might have questions after experiencing crime. Feel free to stop in to speak with an attorney. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**SNOW HILL BOOK OF THE MONTH**

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 PM. Featuring The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov. Copies of the book are available at the library in advance. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

**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](mailto: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

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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

Ocean Pines offering three classes with focus on yard waste, flooding, rain barrels

(Jan. 23, 2019) In an effort to continue public education on drainage issues, Ocean Pines will join several outside organizations this spring to present a series of free seminars.

Each of the seminars will be open to the public and held in the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. There is no need to preregister.

The events are:

**March 2, 6-7:30 p.m.** – Watershed restoration specialist Jennifer Dindinger will discuss yard waste and lawn fertilization.

**April 20, 6-7:30 p.m.** – Watershed restoration specialist Jennifer

Dindinger will host a hands-on seminar on how to make a rain barrel and rain garden.

**May 12, 5:30-7 p.m.** – Kevin Wagner, who manages the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Assistance Program for Maryland, will host a seminar on FEMA activities and flooding issues. The event will include local agencies and vendors that specialize in flooding.

Additionally, Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips will offer a presentation on drainage during the Feb. 5 Ocean Pines Board meeting, slated to start at 5 p.m. in the community center.

Phillips will supply updates on drainage improvement efforts, including those on Watertown Road and in the Borderlinks section.

“Watertown was expected to start last week, but we will now be looking to start next week after some unexpected obstacles,” she said.

“Borderlinks will be starting soon, with work done by contractor Goody Hill of Berlin.

“They will also be installing a new culvert under the road at Harborview, which will help with some of the drainage issues there and on Clipper Court that have been reported to us.”

Phillips said the association has nearly finished compiling a drainage maintenance list of Ocean Pines-owned swales, which should help staff to “stay on top of the clearing and maintenance of our ditches.”

For questions about the seminars or concerns about Ocean Pines drainage issues, contact Phillips at [Cphillips@oceanpines.org](mailto:Cphillips@oceanpines.org).

Play It Safe fundraiser dinner, Tues.

**By Morgan Pilz**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2020) The Ocean City Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee will hold its 20th annual Italian Feast and Silent Auction at Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 on Sinepuxent Avenue and 138th Street, on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 5-8 p.m.

“We’ve done an Italian feast for years and we’ve done them in different places ... at halls, we’ve been at Nick’s House of Ribs and now we’re going to be going back to the Elks to do it,” Donna Greenwood, chairwoman of the Ocean City Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee, said.

The organization is raising money for its Play It Safe project, which encourages graduating high school students to spend their senior weeks in the resort safely.

Some Play It Safe activities include a pizza-eating contest, dance parties on the beach, yoga, T-shirt tie-dyeing, Speedworld Go-Karts at Jolly Roger

Amusements, karaoke on the beach, mini golf tournaments and other sport-related events.

“Our mission for the past 30 years has been to encourage the young high school graduates who visit Ocean City in June to make informed, healthy choices and to have responsible fun without the use of alcohol or other drugs,” Greenwood said.

The fundraiser will include hand-made pasta – both original and spinach – as well as sauces and meatballs made by Chef Nick Ruggieri. There will also be salads and desserts available as well.

In addition, there will be a silent auction with prizes such as wine and gift baskets, and gift certificates. The auction will close at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets will be sold at the door. Admission for adults is \$15, and \$6 for children ages 4-9. Children 4 and under get in free.

“The project that we do benefits not only the young graduates who

come, but we feel like it benefits the town because we try to keep these children entertained and let them have some fun where they don’t step on anybody’s toes,” Greenwood said. “It entertains them, it keeps them busy and prevents them from making poor choices, we hope.”

Despite rain blighting several events, the 30th annual Play It Safe program that concluded on June 14, attracted 5,526 high school graduates from the class of 2019. They included graduates from Maryland and 11 other states.

Play It Safe is on pace to eclipse 200,000 participants this year.

Play It Safe is a partnership between the Ocean City Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee, Worcester County Health Department and the Town of Ocean City.

For more information, call Greenwood at 410-289-7060. To learn more about Play It Safe, visit [www.playitsafeoceancity.com](http://www.playitsafeoceancity.com).

Choptank accepting applications

(Jan. 23, 2020) Choptank Electric is accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) 2020 Youth Tour program, which will take place June 21-25, in Washington, D.C.

Every year, Choptank Electric sends five high school juniors on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. to meet congressmen and senators, tour the U.S. Capitol Visitor’s Center and Capitol building, visit local memorials and museums and other historic sites.

In previous Youth Tour trips, stu-

dents have attended Nationals’ baseball games, the Kennedy Center, and the Pentagon.

In addition, selected students will meet over 1,800 other co-op member students from all across the country. With this opportunity, candidates can also gain leadership training and opportunities that build connections and skills that assist in their future career paths.

Youth Tour representatives are selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, a 90-second first-round, self-produced video, a short

essay, and, if applicable, a second-round interview.

To qualify for this opportunity, students must be juniors whose parents or guardians are Choptank Electric members. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 All expenses are paid for by Choptank Electric.

Members can find applications online at Choptank Electric’s website, [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) under Member Benefits, Commitment to Community, Youth Tour or call the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 for a mailed application.



CALL

410-723-6397

BY MONDAY

5 P.M.



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