



MARCH 12, 2020

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Board's email voting process gets reviewed

Committee looks into how it needs to comply with law

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association Bylaws and Resolutions Committee last Friday proposed amending language concerning the Board of Directors' ability to vote on matters outside of a public meeting to comply with state regulations.

Board member Dr. Colette Horn said procedural concerns surfaced following an initial 6-1 vote that was later conducted via email last month to purchase upgraded sound equipment for banquet facilities at the yacht club.

During the board meeting in February while considering the purchase of a new sound system, OPA President Colette Horn said the committee is looking into how it needs to comply with law.



Dr. Colette Horn

LLAMA LLOVE

Valentina Castanare of Ocean Pines provides an alpaca-approved snack for fellow 3-year-old, Mystery, during the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market on Saturday in White Horse Park.

Ice rink ready for skating

Berlin Fire Company hosts portable arena provided by county

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Worcester County's synthetic ice rink is now available for Berlin residents to use in the Berlin Fire Company's banquet hall starting today, March 12, until the end of the month.

The rink debuted at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill in December, with plans to move it around to various locations in the county.

The Berlin Fire Company



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The synthetic ice rink is now installed and ready for use in the Berlin Fire Company's banquet hall, with the official opening happening today, Thursday, at 6 p.m.

will charge \$5 per person to skate in the rink. There is no cost for spectators, though snacks and bottled water will be available for purchase.

According to Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald, the rink will be a great way to raise funds for the company.

See FIRE Page 16

Property taxes could go up by three cents

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Mayor Gee Williams suggested raising the Berlin property tax rates by three cents at the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

Although Williams introduced the number as a possible tax increase, no decisions will be made until the general fund budget work session on Monday, April 6.

"What I'm proposing for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, is increasing our property tax rates from 80 cents per \$100 to 83 cents



Gee Williams

per \$100," Williams said. "I'll be showing where these additional revenues and where they would be ...

are recommending where they will be, to be adopted into the proposed budget."

Last year, the town raised its tax rate from \$.68 to \$.80, an 18 percent increase. Finance Director Natalie Saleh said during a budget work session in February that the town is looking into how it needs to comply with law.

See THREE-CENT Page 24

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Personal Property Preview: Mon. April 13th, 2020 from 5-7 PM

(6) Upcoming Onsite Online Only Auctions to Include: : April 8th, 2020. On-Line Only Auction – Denton, MD! Personal Property located at: 208 Martha Jane St, Denton, MD 21629. Auction Held Online Only with Bidding ending Wednesday April 8th, 2020! April 29th, 2020: On-Line Only Auction – Salisbury, MD! A&M Auctions is honored to sell for the Living Estate of Don Castle! Personal Property located at: 28249 Riverside Drive, Salisbury, MD. Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Wed. April 29, 2020 Starting at 5 PM! 500+ Clocks, 125+ Victrolas, Primitives, Collectables & more! May 13th, 2020: On-Line Only Auction – Onancock, VA! Personal Property located at: 24412 Swan Lane, Onancock, VA. Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Wed. May 13th, 2020 Starting at 5 PM! Exquisite Selection of Furniture, Decoys, Primitives, Glass, Antique and Modern Furniture, Collectables and more! VAAR #2907003739. June 3rd, 2020 - Waterfowl & Sporting Art Online Only Auction – Delmar, MD! Bidding Ends Wednesday June 3rd, 2020 Starting @ 5PM – Selling from the Estate of Alfred F. King III of the King Gallery at Sportsman's Edge New York City. Items located @ 30503 E. Line Rd., Delmar, MD 21875 (Artwork located in the Building formerly known as the Barn) Exquisite Selection of Sporting and Wildfowl Artwork! June 10th, 2020: On-Line Only Auction – Linkwood, MD! A&M Auctions is honored to sell for the Estate of Phillip "Smitty" Ruel! Personal Property located at: 5253 Beaver Neck Rd, Linkwood, MD. Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: Wed. June 10, 2020 Starting at 5 PM! Decoys, Primitives, Glass, China, Antique and Modern Furniture, Collectables and more! Spring 2020 Online Only Auction – 616 Hunting Park Drive, Salisbury, MD. Auction Held Online Only w/Bidding ending: At a date to be scheduled in the Spring of 2020. To include a selection of Housewares, Glass, China, Collectables, Furniture & more! (3) Upcoming Auctions at 8000 Esham Rd, Parsonsburg, MD: April 22nd, 2020: Online Only Multi Estate Auction. To include a selection of Glassware, China, Collectables, Primitives, Furniture & more! April 23rd, 2020: On-Line Only Vehicle Auction Sale. Bidding Ends Thursday April 23rd, 2020 @ 5PM – Selling from the Estate of John Edward Whittington with other additions! Items located @ the A&M Auction Facility, 1988 Rolls Royce Silver Spur Convertible two door coupe, 1989 Rolls Royce Continental Four Door Sedan, 2007 Lincoln Town Car Limousine, 2006 Cadillac STS 4 Door Sedan & more! Thur. May 7th, 2020: Decoy and Waterfowl Arts Auction. LIVE AUCTION on Thursday May 7th, 2020 Starting @ 5PM – Ward Bros Goose, Hundreds of pcs of Sporting Art, Decoys, Collectables and more!

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Pines pending pool facility changes on tap for summer

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association Aquatics Committee was briefed on pool facility updates, rate increases for nonresidents, and food service changes slated for this summer in a report on Monday from Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips.

Included in the association's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget are daily rate increases at OPA pools, with resident charges remaining at \$8 for adults and \$6 for children, while nonresidents would pay \$12 and \$10 respectively this season.

"We left all of the resident rates the same and raised the nonresident rates up to a \$4 difference," she said.

Nonresident rates at the OPA Beach Club will fetch even more at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

"You go over the bridge and everything over there is much more expensive," she said. "Some people publicize that [beach club] pool in their hotel if they don't have a pool."

Phillips said differentiating nonresident charges at the beach club from other pool facilities had been under discussion previously and moved forward after General Manager John Viola agreed prior to the board voting in the affirmative.

Beach Club upgrades on tap for this summer include exchanging a rusty door on the pump room. The replacement of pool fencing with brickwork has been completed.

"Before, we had brick, but we expanded it, because that pool is very popular," she said.

After discovering last year the fenced portion allowed access for youths to dig and tunnel, county officials got involved.

"Because of the size of the fence, kids could dig under it and it became a health department concern, so we had to have it completed prior to opening," she said. "Now it's brick all the way around."

Phillips said the entirely bricked portion would be more effective at blocking blowing sand from landing inside the pool area.

Again this year, multiple lounge chairs will be improved, not replaced, with assistance from Aquatics Manager Kathleen Cook.

"They're the old frames with new strapping, which has saved us a lot of money," she said. "Kathleen worked really hard on that a couple years ago so that we'd pick out the worst ones each year and cycle through."

Phillips also said some new sun umbrellas are on order for this season.

Food service at a pair of pool facilities will offset this year, with the Swim and Racquet Club snack bar being shuttered, with new food delivery service being introduced at Mumford's Landing Pool.

Phillips said despite two earlier successful seasons, a subsequent sales decline at the Swim and Racquet Club led to the abandonment of the snack bar this year.

"Last summer, the only times that we were busy was actually when there was swim meets and a little bit on the weekends," she said.

After summer wound down last year, Phillips and Cook did a profit and loss analysis of the snack bar.

"We actually came in negative," she said.

Phillips said the concept could be revisited in the future.

"It switched hands the third year and lost a lot of that momentum," she said.

See NON-RESIDENT Page 3

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Non-resident daily use fees up \$4, further at beach club

Continued from Page 2

said. "This last year we even tried just opening on specific days."

Despite the change, Swim and Racquet patrons still would be able to buy soft drinks, snacks and ice cream, Phillips said.

On the plus side, new food service delivery is being introduced at the Mumford's Landing.

Phillips said after broaching the topic with Matt Ortt Company management members, food delivery from

the adjacent yacht club would be instituted, likely from mid-week through Sunday.

"They're going to offer a menu kind of like the yacht club, but a little more kid-friendly," she said.

Phillips said the Mumford's Landing offerings would not include adult beverages due to liquor license limitations.

"They're going to do the food and then we'll still offer the stuff that we do," she said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA Aquatics Committee member Ellen Manset Hensch, left, absorbs an update from Director of Amenities and Operational Logistics Colby Phillips on pool facilities during the group's meeting on Monday.

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Warmly,
Andrew Queen
General Manager



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Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) recently announced its board of directors elected officers for 2020. Pictured, in front, from left, are Donna Nordstrom, Shannon Wright, Bethany Didriksen, Carol Jacobs, and Terri Westcott, and in back, Nicole Selby, Caleb Miller, Amanda Kieseewetter, Chris Woodley, Barry Laws and Pam Marshall.

Worcester Co. GOLD board officers

(March 12, 2020) Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, recently announced its board of directors elected officers for 2020. Bethany Didriksen of Pedar B. Didriksen, DDS Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, was elected president. Donna Nordstrom, with Atlantic General Hospital, has been named vice president. Amanda Kieseewetter of Bergey & Company was re-elected treasurer; and Shannon Wright, American Sign Language interpreter, orientation & mobility specialist, and vision rehabilitation therapist continues in her role as secretary. GOLD's volunteer board members ensure effective fiscal management and accountability for the organization. Members share their expertise from diverse fields to ensure effective services and assist with fundraising activities. The dedication and work of this

board strengthens GOLD's ability to successfully provide services for Worcester County residents, who live in poverty circumstances, during times of critical need and crisis situations. Additional board members include Roberta Baldwin, Worcester County Department of Social Services; Barry Laws, Pocumoke River Canoe Company; Pam Marshall, community leader; Caleb Miller, Bank of Ocean City; Nicole Selby, Worcester County

Berlin Historic District approves two sign requests

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer
(March 12, 2020) The Berlin Historic District Committee approved two sign requests during its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 4. The first sign request was granted to Christina Mullaney and Christine Carpenter of Beach Gypsy on Williams Street. Mullaney and Carpenter had just relocated their boutique and yoga store from Ocean Pines to Berlin in late January. The second sign was approved for Patti Backer, who moved her art gallery and store, The Dusty Lamb Arts and Oddities, from its former location on Williams Street to 3 South Main Street on Saturday, Feb. 29. Chairwoman Carol Rose welcomed both businesses to their new locations and expressed her desire to see both flourish in the town.

Board of Education; Terri Westcott, Register of Wills for Worcester County; and Chris Woodley of Williams, Moore, Shockley & Harrison, LLP. Carol Jacobs, previous president, retired from the board after serving for more than eight years.

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Environment & Natural Assets Committee member Marty Clarke stands up to peruse the evenings agenda during the OPA Executive Council meeting on Tuesday.

Pines Executive Council vets advisory committee process

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Outlining advisory committee board liaison responsibilities, establishing formalized procedures for posting meeting agendas and documenting actions proposed for board consideration were examined during the Ocean Pines Association Executive Council meeting on Monday.

OPA President Doug Parks said the executive council is comprised of advisory committee chairs.

In terms of conduct and committee meeting formats, Parks said a standardized procedure is needed for submitting agendas before each group's gatherings.

"It would also promote more exposure of advisory committees to the community," he said.

Parks said a proposed amendment to resolution C01 involves use of a "charging document" for committee proposals sent for board consideration.

"Committees can originate issues or actions for board consideration," he said. "You could possibly reference interactions in the future if relevant."

Parks also noted committee particulars tend to vary by areas of oversight with flexibility required.

"Do we want to capture that information?" he said. "We're not trying here for a stringent approach."

Parks also highlighted work with Communications Committee Chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines and board liaison Dr. Colette Horn to develop an online "residents academy" to provide refresher courses for committees or information for larger membership.

Horn said one related resolution change under consideration would add language to specify where to submit committee meeting minutes and would also require liaisons to forward relevant points for subsequent board review.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman Jim Trummel said agenda postings vary by committee and are sporadic in some instances.

Trummel suggested instituting precise procedures for posting meeting agendas online.

Parks concurred a more formal-

See EXECUTIVE Page 6

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Executive Council talks committee agendas, minutes

Continued from Page 5
ized approach is warranted.

“Postings provide historical records of agendas and meeting minutes,” he said.

Parks said board meeting agendas are required to be posted three days in advance.

“Maybe not that stringent but probably something prior,” he said. “You can always amend agendas at the beginning of a meeting.”

Horn highlighted the potential advantage of increasing community involvement with OPA Advisory Committees.

“Posting information may help encourage involvement,” she said.

Parks said that whatever approach is decided upon should be publicized to expose committee work to the Ocean Pines community.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee board liaison Camilla Rogers raised the importance of establishing a formalized template to reduce the risk of subsequent legal challenges.

“Our position is better if we follow a standard format,” she said.

Horn said related resolution changes would be presented during the board meeting next month.

Viola highlights budget favorability

Ocean Pines current fiscal year expected to finish out roughly \$400,000 in black

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) In addition to reporting capital project figures are on course so far, Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola said Saturday that he the believes the budget year would close out more than \$400,000 in the black.

Viola updated progress on several building initiatives, and reported revenue and expense figures, during the Ocean Pines Association Board meeting on Saturday.

Golf course improvements are rolling along, with Viola noting the clubhouse project should be wrapped up no later than May 1.

“We’re hoping for a soft opening before that in April,” he said.

The clubhouse was budgeted at \$1.6 million, with just over \$1 million spent to date, which Viola said is under constant review.

“I do it daily and I have oversight by several members of the board,” he said. “At this time we’re on track [for] the spend to be below \$1.5 million.”

Viola said food operations at the golf course, formerly run as Terns Grille, have been reimaged as the

Club House Bar Grille.

“There will be a 14-foot wide deck going almost the length of the building,” he said. “There will eventually be an awning on there.”

The new golf cart barn should be completed within a week, Viola said. The cart barn was budgeted at

‘I can tell you pretty confidently that that number will probably be around \$310,000 ... or \$315,000!’
Ocean Pines General Manager, John Viola

\$430,000 with roughly \$291,000 spent to this date.

“I can tell you pretty confidently that that number will probably be around \$310,000 ... or \$315,000,” he said

Viola said further information about golf course upgrades would be provided during a town hall meeting about spray irrigation [today] March 12 at 5 p.m. in the Ocean Pines community center.

Turning to the recently begun police building expansion, Viola said about \$283,000 of the \$1.2 million budgeted total has been spent so far.

“We just started that a couple

months ago,” he said. “I’m putting down a completion date of September.”

The renovation costs for the closely associated administration building are also on target, Viola said.

“We have in the budget \$220,000 in [fiscal] 2020/21 and as of now a projection of \$175,000 for the room and siding,” he said.

Looking at monthly financials compared to budget for this January, Viola said although revenues were unfavorable by roughly \$8,000, countering that were expenses favorable by approximately \$26,000.

“For a net number for the month of \$18,000 of positive operations,” he said.

Looking at year-to-date figures, Viola said with three months remaining in fiscal year 2019/2020, both revenues and expenses are favorable to budget by approximately \$431,000 and \$211,000 respectively, for a positive net operating variance of \$661,00.

Those numbers will be slightly tempered during the last quarter of the budget year, Viola said.

“We’ll definitely cover the \$250,000 the board earmarked to pay off the operating deficit which was reflected by not being part of the assessment,” he said. “We’re estimating we should be favorable around \$450,000.”



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\$309,000



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

During the Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday, some potential rules and regulations for short-term rentals were discussed. The official public hearing will be held Monday, March 23.

Berlin discusses rules for short-term rentals

By **Morgan Pilz**
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Rules and regulations that could be put in place to govern short-term rentals were discussed by the Berlin mayor and Town Council during their Monday evening work session.

Since last November, the council and Planning Commission have been looking into ordinances created by nearby municipalities and states regarding short-term rentals, including those known as Airbnbs.

Mayor Gee Williams discussed the importance of “what regulations should be created here in Berlin re-

garding short-term rentals.”

“The council has said a number of times ... we need some feasible, responsible way of regulating this growing trend,” Williams said. “I think it’s very necessary and I think banning them or doing nothing are both irresponsible and not what we should be doing in the best interest of the town.”

The suggestions offered in the draft by Williams and members of the council included a definition of what the town would consider a short-term rental, suggesting it would be known as “all or any part of a dwelling unit providing accommodations not to ex-

ceed 28 days.”

This number was chosen as a result of studying the limits determined by other municipalities in the region.

According to Planning Director Dave Engelhart, the town would be allowed to tax the short-term rentals with a five percent lodging tax, similar to the lodging tax for hotels, for up to 120 days, in accordance to current Maryland tax codes.

The council also considered the possibility of having short-term rental licenses not only in single-family home districts, like R-1 and R-2 districts, but also multiple family districts like R-3 and R-4 as well as busi-

ness districts.

The main difference between R-1 and R-2 districts are small, with less setback space in R-2 districts and a slightly bigger parcel, Engelhart said.

Williams also discussed the matter of licensing fees. The Worcester County licensing fee, he said, was around \$200 but had originally been much higher. He recommended an inspection and cover cost of \$150 as well as \$200 for the license itself, the same as suggested by the county.

He also wants to implement a rule that would restrict short-term rental

See PUBLIC Page 8

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Public hearing Monday, March 23

licenses to resident property owners to negate the possibility of problems with out-of-area property owners.

“The reasoning behind that is that communities that didn’t do that started a wave of purchases by non-primary resident property owners, [who] bought up homes and then converted them into rentals,” Williams said. “I don’t want people being bought out of their homes and move out of town because suddenly the home has more value as a rental property than it does as a home.

“We are, and have been, a bedroom community for the rest of this century and hopefully beyond,” he continued. “It’s not a resort ... I don’t want to do anything that changes the character and nature of our town.”

Council member Troy Purnell objected to the suggestion, saying it should be the right of the property owner to be able to make that choice regardless of the home being their primary residence or not.

There were also some issues regarding how these regulations would be enforced if they were violated, though ultimately it was decided that the neighbors would be able to contact officials if any rules are violated.

Williams also wanted to make sure that all short-term rentals have their licenses displayed on the premises,

with its license number available on any social media or advertisement listings.

Any licensed property that knowingly goes into violation of any rules, like hosting an event exceeding the number of spaces it can rent out, would have their license revoked for three years. The council agreed with this suggestion.

Engelhart also said the licensing review would be provided by a middleman company who would oversee the inspections and ensure the requesting properties were up to code. He estimated the company would be able to get back with a response within the week of inspection.

Town codes for accommodations like hotels and homes require bedroom sizes to be a minimum of 70 square feet, not including space inhabited by furniture. Dwelling units are also required to have two designated parking spaces, so any property renting a bedroom would be required to have additional two off street parking spaces to avoid any congestion on the roads.

Currently, Engelhart believes there would be 9-10 requests for Berlin, with only one not being able to follow the suggestion codes and regulations.

Finally, there was discussion to have the codes and regulations acces-

sible online through the town’s webpage, so homeowners and visitors can clearly understand the rules regarding short-term rentals.

Overall, the council was willing to consider these suggestions, but wanted to hear from residents before making any decisions.

“I would like to hear some more input from the R-1 and R-2 homeowners,” Council member Thom Gulyas said. “I think they’re going to be the ones most affected.”

Council members Zach Tyndall and Dean Burrell agreed with this suggestion.

“I want to hear more from the people, [but] public hearings can be intimidating,” Tyndall said. “We should have an open format meeting before making any decisions.”

“I can see both sides,” Burrell said. “If I had a short-term rental next to me, I’d want to make sure that it’s managed properly and it does not impede my peace, quiet and wellbeing and the enjoyment of my place. But at the same time, if I’m a property owner, I’d think I have a right to utilize my property the way I see fit within limitations.”

An official public hearing for the ordinance is expected during the next mayor and Town Council meeting set for Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m.

Berlin approves two motions for electrical matters

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood received approval from the mayor and Town Council on Monday for two electric utility administrative matters.

The first approved request was a resolution for wholesale electric purchase and authorizing the execution of schedules and confirmations with a master services agreement with American Municipal Power Inc.

This agreement will allow the town to enter a supply schedule and will be effective for deliveries to the town until Dec. 31, 2023. The town has reduced wholesale purchases of electricity energy costs by approximately eight percent, Fleetwood said.

“The mayor and Town Council recognize that the energy market changes quickly and the town now needs to make the most of energy cost reduction opportunities to keep electric rates low while exercising diligence and oversight over power purchase decisions,”

See TOWN Page 9



Jeff Fleetwood

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Berlin might add resilience element to end of year plan

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) When the Town of Berlin files its updated comprehensive plan with the state at the end of the year, it could contain a new element that explains how it would respond to circumstances so severe that they could permanently alter the town's way of life.

The short term for these circumstances and the means to overcome them is "resilience" in the parlance of community planning, and that's what the town's planning commission and mayor and council have been considering as they conduct their comprehensive plan review.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart introduced the possibility of the addition to the Town Council on Monday.

Comprehensive plans, which must be reviewed and adjusted every 10 years, are used by local governments to set a course for future land use and development. They also establish goals and priorities for specific elements as-



Dave Engelhart

sociated with the growth and evolution of a community, helping to provide a coordinating platform for projects and fiscal resources.

Engelhart, in collaboration with Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, produced a draft to include a resilience element to the plan.

"The idea behind the resilience element is ... every 10 years the state of Maryland requires that municipalities have to at least review our comprehensive plans," Engelhart said. "This resilience element ... we saw an opportunity to get a grant last year in 2019, and Mary and I secured a grant that was administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, some federal funds from NOAA and the U.S. Department of Commerce provided us with some funding as well.

See COMMENTS Page 10

Town electric rates lowest in yrs.

Continued from Page 8

Fleetwood said. "The electric market, as we speak now, natural gas prices are dropping ... the contract we just signed is the lowest we've had in the prior three years.

Mayor Gee Williams approved of the strategy and how much money it has saved the town over the years.

"Since we started using the strategy, the rates have been considerably going down, contract to contract," he said. "Whenever the rates are at their lowest, that's when we seek bids, and then obviously we take the lowest bid."

The second request was for an agreement to sign an agreement with Betts & Holts LLP to represent the town in legal matters concerning electric utilities. These services include assisting the town with preparing testimonies, providing data responses and negotiating arrangements related to the Purchased Power Cost Adjustment annual review.

"Betts & Holts has been a legal firm that the town has contracted with for a number of years," Fleetwood said.

Both motions were passed unanimously.

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Towns ask for EMS and fire funding

Comments due by end of March

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Representatives of Pocomoke City, Snow Hill, Berlin and Ocean Pines banded together to request increased funding for fire and emergency medical services in their towns, as well as for Ocean City, during the Worcester County Commissioners meeting last Tuesday in Snow Hill.

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams, speaking for the mayors of the other municipalities, introduced a second request — that commissioners create a task force to address the issue in depth.

“Each of our towns is responsible for providing EMS services, vehicles and equipment, not only in our towns, but also to coverage areas beyond our borders,” Williams said. “In Worcester County, the funding and equity of EMS services is becoming a crisis, regardless the size of our communities, incorporated or not.”

He asked that commissioners invite representatives from all four municipalities and county fire companies to participate in the task force.

“In the past, when funding for EMS services for Worcester County has been discussed and determined, none of our four municipalities have been invited to the table,” Williams

said. “This can no longer be the case. We’re all in this together and we’re all making substantial contributions to this service.”

County Commissioner Joseph Mitrecic said the requests would be reviewed in a work session and that commissioners will consider creating a task force.

Each mayor also came forth with their town’s budget requests.

Williams said even after instituting Berlin’s largest property tax increase, an 18 percent boost, and an increase in water and wastewater utility rates, the town still struggles to fund fire and emergency medical services.

The town’s annual grant to the Berlin Fire Company for FY20 is \$540,500 in comparison to \$605,000 last year. Williams said this was a result of decreasing all Berlin expenses by 10 percent.

Berlin spends \$2.3 million, or 38 percent, of its \$6.1 million general fund on police, fire and emergency medical services. Williams asked the commissioners to increase their annual grant from \$465,000 to \$480,000 for the FY21 budget.

This would increase the county contribution by \$15,000 or 3.2 percent of its current contribution.

“The demands on our budget have accelerated in recent years as we

spent much money and time to work with the Berlin Fire Company to help them meet greatly increased costs in providing emergency medical services to the citizens and property owners of Berlin,” Williams said.

He added that Berlin needs to add three to four paid, year-round emergency medical services personnel.

Doug Parks, president of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, requested a public safety grant of \$525,000, explaining that the Ocean Pines Police Department has been down by as many as three officers throughout the year.

“One of the funding needs is to make sure we can not only hire, but maintain police force and staffing to meet the needs of Ocean Pines,” Parks said.

He also requested \$100,000 for roads and bridges, pointing out that some of the infrastructure is over 50-years old.

Jeremy Mason, interim city manager for Pocomoke City, requested \$465,000 for an FY21 unrestricted grant, the same the town received the past two years.

He also asked for whatever the county can contribute to help pay for repairing and replacing lift stations and the water system, as it could cost up to \$1 million.

Snow Hill Mayor Gary Weber requested \$500,000 in unrestricted grant funding, \$200,000 in lieu of taxes, \$100,000 for the Purnell Street sewer improvement project and \$110,000 for a restricted fire grant.

Both Weber and Mason requested \$42,854 in an unrestricted grant to reflect 10 percent of the table game revenue from Ocean Downs Casino in Berlin.

Ocean City’s budget request was postponed to March 17, since resort officials were in Annapolis.

Continued from Page 9

“This resilience element was drafted through them ... they helped us quite a bit,” he continued.

According to the draft presented by Bohlen and Engelhart, resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to changes and sudden disruptions in order to survive and prosper.

The resilience element in this plan focuses on climate change and how the town of Berlin can mitigate, adapt and manage potential climate impacts.

“We don’t have coastal flooding, but we do have nuisance flooding,” Engelhart said. “When we have rain events, it adversely affects everything; buildings, electric and wastewater management.”

The addition to the plan is intended to define what resiliency is, present a general description of what climate change impacts could affect the region, list particular areas of interest where existing communities’ plans overlap with resiliency, establish resilience strategies and actions and identify resources that could aid in strengthening community resiliency.

“The idea is to have a plan in place to make sure that we budget and maintain correctly moving forward and not just from year to year, but maybe 50 to 100 years from now,” Engelhart said.

The draft of the plan will be available for residents to review online on the town’s website later this week so they can submit comments. Officials will review those comments and, if they coincide with the town’s goals and programs, place them in the plan.

The town is required to have at least reviewed the plan by the end of the year, though Bohlen encourages anyone who wants to leave a comment about the plan to do so no later than Tuesday, March 31.

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Berlin displays students' work during Natl. Youth Art Month

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) The Worcester County Arts Council is celebrating National Youth Art Month by displaying artwork from Buckingham Elementary School and home-schooled students throughout Berlin throughout March.

Youth Art Month is an annual observance in March that emphasizes the value of art education for students and to encourage support for quality school art programs. Student Art Month is also a tribute to the teachers who inspire their students to explore new avenues of creative expression. The nonprofit organization has been celebrating Youth Art Month for at least 15 years.

Artwork made by children ages 5-14 are currently displayed throughout Berlin in partnership with Little Dreamer's Wellness Center, which has a mission to encourage children's imagination and creativity through the arts, music, and cultural programs and activities.

"The arts council feels that it is important for us to support that group," Anna Mullis, the council's executive director said. "We know children who are in public or private schools in Worcester have access to arts pro-

grams. The kids in the home school community — they do not always have that opportunity. So, we try to present programs with them and feature their work as much as we can."

In addition, there will be a selection of artwork by Buckingham Elementary third- and fourth-grade students, which was inspired by the Chamber Music by the Sea performance, expressing their visual connection to the music.

"The children were listening to music of Chamber Music by the Sea," Mullis said. During that time, they were expressing what they felt to create a visual connection to the music.

In addition, there will be an open exhibit reception held at the Worcester County Arts Council gallery in Berlin on Friday, March 13, from 5-8 p.m. The reception will display the art by the Buckingham Elementary School students as well as two local artists, Marina Borovok and Barbara Scheihing.

Borovok will show her acrylic and oil paintings and Scheihing will exhibit her watercolor works. Two of their paintings will be donated for a silent auction during the reception.

Refreshments will be provided by Phil Cropper, culinary instructor for



MORGAN PILZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Public school and homeschool student paintings, like this one by Zoe Leal-Galvan, will be on display throughout Berlin during National Youth Art Month.

Worcester Technical High School. The reception is free to the public.

"The receptions are always very popular," Mullis said. "This is something that the community is always looking forward to. It's not only an opportunity for patrons and visitors to the gallery to see a professional local artist's artwork on display, but it allows for social networking, meet-

ing new people and appreciating the beautiful talent that we have in our community."

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about Youth Art Month or the reception, call 410-641-0809 or visit <http://www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org/>.

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County officials have yet to make decision for funding feasibility study on effluent

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) In light of the proposal to irrigate the Ocean Pines Golf Course with treated wastewater effluent, the Ocean Pines Association and Worcester County officials will hold a town hall on March 12 to review the concept and answer questions from the community.

The town hall will begin at 5 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

Facilitating the meeting will be OPA General Manager John Viola, OPA Director of Golf Operations John Malinowski, OPA Golf Course Superintendent Andre Jordan and Assistant Superintendent Justin Hartshorne.

Representing Worcester County will be commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, along with Assistant Public Works Director John Ross.

The idea of revamping irrigation practices at the golf course came into focus after the Ocean Pines Service Area Water & Wastewater Advisory Board received county approval in January to look deeper into using highly treated effluent.

Bertino said funding for the feasibility study would have to be derived from area water service user fees.

"It would come actually from the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Service Area, which is an enterprise



Chip Bertino

fund," he said. "It wouldn't come out of the county's general fund."

Bertino explained that water and wastewater service areas in Worcester County are operated as enterprise funds that include established financial benchmarks.

"The enterprise funds are basically run as a business, so they have to at least break even," he said.

Bertino said the commissioners have yet to approve funding the feasibility study.

"That will be something that's discussed during the budget process," he said. "We don't know what the costs are going to be for doing this."

Following an April 14 budget work session, the commissioners have a budget hearing set for May 5, with two subsequent work sessions scheduled on May 12 and May 19. The Worcester County fiscal 2021 operating budget is slated for final approval in early June with an effective date of July 1.

Bertino said although discussions about converting spray irrigation practices in Ocean Pines have yet to hit stride at the county level, based on precedent at nearby golf courses associated costs to upgrade infrastructure would likely be funded by the Ocean Pines Water and Wastewater Service Area.

"As we've done with Mystic Harbour [Wastewater Treatment Plant] and Eagle's Landing [Golf Course], the service area paid for the upgrades

to the golf course to be able to do that spray irrigation," he said.

"Highly treated effluent" is defined as water meeting current Maryland Department of the Environment Bay Restoration standards.

Worcester County officials estimate that MDE tax exemptions of roughly \$5 million have been earned over the last 14 years by the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant for Ocean Pines rate payers due to exceptionally low levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in tested effluent.

In 2005, MDE started a Bay Restoration Fund, or flush fee, financed through a monthly charge of \$2.50 for users of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The fee was increased to \$5 per month in 2012.

The Ocean Pines plant has consistently earned annual Bay Restoration Fund waivers by testing below maximum effluent concentrations of 3 mg/l of total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorous.

"It saved them a lot of money in their water bills as a result of the way that treatment plant is operated," he said. "People may take it for granted, but I think it's the only one in the state that has such a high ranking that we don't have to pay to bay restoration fee."

Bertino said with firm costs yet to be ascertained at the county level, the matter is far from decided.

"I haven't seen any numbers," he said. "We'll take a look at it but at this point I have no idea whether or not we're going to move forward with the study, let alone with the project."

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During National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, Copy Central owner Linda Dearing hopes to raise awareness and financial support for current patients through Gina's Warriors Comfort Fund, which was started in honor of her daughter who passed from the disease at the age of 37 in 2014.

Gina's Warriors fund running this month at Copy Central

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Looking to educate the public and to provide financial support as younger women become increasingly affected by colorectal cancer, the proprietors of Copy Central in Ocean Pines, Linda and Michael Dearing, will be collecting donations this month for Gina's Warriors Comfort Fund.

The Ocean Pines couple launched the charitable endeavor in 2015 after their daughter, Gina Maria Barnes, 37, lost her battle with colon cancer the day before Thanksgiving in 2014. Since that time, during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, Linda Dearing said the retail shop doubles as a charitable foundation where caring souls share

See COLORECTAL Page 14

Parks reports on committee changes, funding pursuits

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) OPA President Doug Parks reported on internal committee matters, county funding requests and infrastructure updates during the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting on Saturday.

After gathering dust in recent years, the OPA Strategic Planning Committee has just been kick started and had a meeting earlier that week, Parks said.

"They're going to be an integral part of soliciting information from other committees [and] membership," he said. "It's good to see that committee back up and running."

Moe Delcher was recently named strategic planning chairperson with

Camilla Rogers assuming board liaison responsibilities.

Recent funding pursuits at the county level were also touched on by Parks.

"Last Tuesday, I attended a Worcester County Commissioners' meeting and presented our funding requests for the year," he said.

In line with prior years, Parks said county backing is being sought to help underwrite police operations, perform road repairs and help finance recreation and parks.

"We've been pretty consistent with those requests and they've been pretty consistent with meeting those requests for funding," he said.

Parks also reported the advent of
See COMCAST Page 14

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Colorectal cancer strikes younger

Continued from Page 13
whatever they can budget to help colon cancer patients.

“Usually people come in and they will have written out a check for \$25, \$50 or sometimes \$100,” she said. “In the past, we’ve hit up to \$1,000.”

Dearing estimated that since the fund started, more than \$20,000 has been collected.

After her daughter lost a multi-year health fight, Dearing joined Gina’s husband, Erik Barnes, and brother, Tony Christiani, to form the Gina Maria Barnes Warrior Foundation in conjunction with the Carroll Hospital Center’s Carroll Regional Cancer Center.

Gina and Erik Barnes lived near Westminster with their three children Alex, Sophia and Jake, the latter born a mere 18 months before the cancer diagnosis.

“The real core of this that is my daughter was only 37 years old,” she said. “My main purpose is to let everybody out there know colorectal cancer isn’t for old people ... [it] can hit anybody.”

After witnessing her daughter’s unanticipated financial burdens during the cancer battle, Dearing realized others in similar straits could use assistance.

“It’s a number of things that we cover, but it’s for the patient, not caregivers or family that may be help-

ing them,” she said. “It goes strictly to patients and there’s no kind of corporate expenses.”

Patients undergoing colon cancer treatment in need of assistance are forwarded through Carroll Hospital Center, and must live or work in Carroll County to qualify for help.

The grassroots effort helps patients undergoing chemotherapy to afford wigs, cover the cost of pain therapy or acupuncture treatments, along with expenses related to nourishment, transportation, housekeeping and childcare.

“They found that acupuncture helps with the side effect of chemotherapy,” she said.

Dearing said her daughter’s terminal illness evolved into a two-year cycle of despair.

“We went through surgeries, chemo treatments, then another surgery and more chemo treatments,” she said. “Then it came back in her liver.”

Dearing cautions everyone to be responsive to potential indicators of internal health issues, changes in the bowel system or rectal bleeding.

“Some of the symptoms she was having, like the bleeding, she thought were hemorrhoids from just having a baby,” she said. “She was always a worker, never took off or pampered herself.”

Dearing said a colonoscopy could prevent colorectal cancer, which is both highly hereditary and treatable when caught early.

“Georgetown University had done a study because all of a sudden there was this tremendous rise in young women in their early 30s getting colon cancer,” she said. “The American Cancer Society, because of that study, lowered the age for a baseline screening of a colonoscopy to be from 50 years to 45 years.”

Dearing urges anyone with family history of the disease or who notices changes in their body to schedule a screening.

“Any abdominal cramping, changes or bleeding in bowel movements can be signs,” she said. “Anybody that does have a history in their family, but they may not be having any problems, if they’re 45 they need to get that baseline screening.”

Tax-deductible donations are being collected for Gina’s Comfort Fund at Copy Central this month. Supporters donating at least \$5 receive a raffle ticket for a 16 x 20 canvas print of their favorite photograph.

Drop in the store Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or mail checks to : Copy Central, 11065 Cathell Road Berlin, Maryland 21811.

For more information, call 410-208-0641.

Comcast service slated to start in Pines during April

Continued from Page 13
Comcast digital services in Ocean Pines is coming into sight.

“Comcast will be activating sector one on their map sometime in April,” he said.

After initial conversations started nearly two years ago, the OPA reached terms on a right of way contract with Comcast in September that will allow it to offer internet and cable TV services in the community.

During a town hall meeting in December, Comcast Director of Technical Operation Tom Yates said the installation of lines and equipment in first two sections, located in the northwest area of Ocean Pines, should be completed by the middle of 2020.

“It looks like they are on target for that,” Parks said. “There will be more information as they get closer to the actual delivery of services.”

Of more importance and immediacy, Parks also praised General Manager John Viola and OPA staff for posting a warning about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

“There’s a public service announcement showing the OPA is aware and providing information to membership,” he said. “We encourage people to seek that and other information.”

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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Gina Maria Barnes
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Wor. Tech students prepare for public safety, law careers

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Students at Worcester Technical High School in Newark can jump start on a career in law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services and public safety through the criminal justice and homeland security programs.

The homeland security program, which started in 2017, is a base for all public safety disciplines, according to instructor Mike Levy, who began

teaching in 2013.

“You need instant command system knowledge and the national emergency management system knowledge to apply for most public safety jobs, whether it be the homeland security side or the criminal justice side or the fire EMS [emergency medical services] side,” Levy said.

The one-year program, which accepts all high school grades, offers certification opportunities for the federal

See PROGRAM Page 17



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE LEVY

Taylor Baylous, left, a senior at Pocomoke High School, and Devon Tucker, a senior at Stephen Decatur High School, search for finger prints on a car for the criminal justice program at Worcester Technical High School in Newark.

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Committee discusses email vote procedures

Continued from Page 1

dent Doug Parks asked for an email vote on the matter, with Board member Tom Janasek requesting additional pricing information before eventually concurring by email.

Horn said after discussing the issue with Parks, but not to this point other board members, she opted to seek guidance from the bylaws committee.

“Did you ascertain a way to bring that up for board discussion,” she said.

Horn said the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) states any action requested or permitted to be taken at a meeting maybe taken outside that context if there is unanimous consent which sets forth the action.

“That’s the consent that sets forth the action to vote on a motion,” she said. “We’re not looking for unanimity on the motion.”

Horn said in practice, despite the recent exception, prior unanimous consent to vote electronically failed to yield any discussion.

“We had a recent example with a no vote on the motion by email,” she said.

In this case the lack of concurrence was tied to Janasek lacking previous experience with email voting procedures, Horn said.

“If you’re voting no on the motion you obviously have a dissenting opinion that deserves to be aired in a public meeting,” she said.

Committee member Jeff Knepper said regardless of OPA bylaw procedures, the state code says the electronic vote on the action requires unanimous consent.

Horn suggested a potential distinction existed between agreeing to vote via email and actually reaching a decision on the related motion.

“The action that we’re taking at meetings are not the substance of the motion,” she said. “It’s the motion that directs an action.”

Knepper agreed the action to vote is a procedural decision.

“The substance of what you’re voting on is what needs to be unanimous under that statue,” he said.

Committee member Keith Kaiser said the majority of votes at issue involve matters only the board can move forward.

“That’s the action you’re taking ...

not to vote,” he said. “Everybody’s allowed to vote. We vote in here.”

Board committee liaison Camilla Rogers said the current email voting process involves two steps.

“I think our discussion was is it within our purview to say that we can take an email vote to vote our choice,” she said.

Knepper said the only portion requiring unanimous consent was the second vote to approve a motion outside of an open meeting.

Bypassing the meeting context limits a nuanced discussion with real time interactions, Knepper said.

“You lose any of the emotion ... that doesn’t come through in email,” he said.

Horn agreed vital communication could be lost if a board member ultimately voted against a motion by email.

“If everyone is voting affirmative to the motion, there’s no heated discussion at all,” she said.

Horn said her impression was board members should vote down the option to decide by email if it is unlikely they would support the motion at hand.

Knepper said the concept was reasonable but not required.

“I don’t think there’s anything in the [governing] documents that say you have to do it that way,” he said.

Committee Chairman Jim Trummel agreed the two-step process was not required by the state code.

“What code says is unanimous consent to the action period,” he said.

Trummel said Ocean Pines is a homeowner’s association incorporated as a nonstock corporation.

“The informal action provision is an action as a corporation,” he said. “If you fail to do that, then you’re into the open- and closed-meeting provisions of the homeowners association act [and] when there was that no vote you did not comply with the documentation required of a closed meeting.”

Horn said the oversight was a regrettable misstep.

“We were blindsided by the fact that we had a negative vote because our assumption was if you vote ‘yes’ to the email vote, that means you’re also going to vote ‘yes’ to the motion,” she said. “I think it comes back to orientation and training.”

Fire company’s upstairs hall gets layer of icing

Continued from Page 1

the fire company and bring “entertainment to Berlin locals.”

The rink is 32 by 52 feet, which means it must be located in a space that is 2,800 square feet of open space, or a 40-foot by 60-foot space, at a minimum. The Berlin Fire Company’s banquet hall turned out to be a perfect location.

“We appreciate any support we have from the community to come up

and enjoy that rink in March while it’s still cold out,” Fitzgerald said in an earlier interview. “Our hall is heated and uses synthetic ice. You can have a nice evening or afternoon.”

Skating operations will be open for the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 6-9 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 1-7 p.m.

The rink will also be available for

fundraising events and other activities.

In November, the Worcester County Commissioners agreed to allow the Recreation and Parks Department to reallocate funds from special event savings to buy the synthetic ice rink. The purchase cost was \$69,000, but with donations, the amount was brought down to \$49,000, according to Director of Worcester County Recreation, Parks,

Tourism and Economic Development Tom Perlozzo.

The synthetic ice rink was disassembled, transported, and rebuilt at the banquet hall on Tuesday.

“The ice rink is installed and will be up and running,” Allen Swiger, program manager, said.

According to Swiger, the synthetic rink has been received high praise during its time in Snow Hill.

“The reception has been wonderful,” Swiger said. “Our goal is to get into all the different towns and give everyone an opportunity to skate and so far, it’s been a successful venture.”

Perlozzo told Worcester County Commissioners during their Tuesday, Jan. 7 meeting that they were scheduling the ice rink all around the county. Besides Berlin, other locations of interest are Pocomoke Middle School and the West Ocean City outlet mall.

“The beauty of the ice rink is we can install pieces of it, it doesn’t have to be the entire unit,” Swiger said. “We can be a little bit flexible with the size and the space we can use. We’d love to get it everywhere.”

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Program offers students federal certification

Continued from Page 15
emergency management agency, geographical information systems, CPR and first aid.

Levy added that homeland security, which started with 21 students this year, is unique because it is so new. The federal department is only 18 years old.

“Every year, something dramatic shifts and changes because it has to adapt to all of the emerging threats, whether it’s terrorism, the traditional terrorism that we think about, to cyber terrorism, to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,” Levy said.

Jimmy Barrios-Hernandez, a senior at Stephen Decatur High School, completed the homeland security program his sophomore year and finished criminal justice last semester.

He said homeland security is more focused on how to keep a population safe.

“We had a whole table set up to figure out if something like a terrorist attack happened in this place, where we would set up and how we would do this,” Barrios-Hernandez said. “It’s basically the incident command system that we would use. We got a lot of diplomas from it – FEMA certifications. In criminal justice, you learn more about the law and then the forensic side of it.”

For criminal justice, which had 26 students this year, juniors take intro to criminal justice and administration of criminal justice and then move on to forensic science I and II to complete the year-and-a-half program their senior year.

Levy said the first half of the program is more academic – the students learn about search and seizure, case laws and the structure of policing.

The second half is learning more hands-on skills such as fingerprint collection, fingerprint analysis and DNA collection.

If they complete the course with a B or higher, those credits can be applied to the criminal justice program at Wor-Wic Community College.

Levy said that the program at Worcester Tech has easier access to learning opportunities because it collaborates with the other school departments, such as using cars from automotive.

“We can put fingerprint powder on them from one end to the other,” Levy said. “We can sort of rip them apart to show them how things can be hidden in cars.”

Students also visit the Maryland Medical Examiner’s Office in Baltimore and the anatomy gift registry surgical lab.

Levy said that student assumptions are immediately challenged in class.

“When you collect a piece of evidence, there’s a process for how it’s collected, how it’s packaged, what’s



Mike Levy

accounted for, rules of evidence and chain of custody,” Levy said. “They have to do it in a legal manner as well as a scientific manner, so that it can be court accepted and used as evidence. You don’t

see that on TV and the students learn very quickly that the level of documentation that is necessary to investigate a crime scene is very high.”

He added that this class gives students an edge for internships and jobs. One former student is interning with the Worcester County State’s Attorney’s Office, another with the public defender’s office and one with the state department of child protective services.

In addition, former students have jobs in law enforcement, emergency management, fire service, the military and other state offices.

Hayden Gable, a senior at Stephen Decatur, said that he wouldn’t be an intern as a public safety officer with the Ocean City Police Department if it weren’t for the criminal justice program.

“I have different training in terms of crime scene investigation and these different certifications that I feel like put me above the rest in terms of a pool of applicants toward a summer

job with the Ocean City Police Department,” Gable said. “The different certifications and skills that we gain in this class is unlike any other.”

He wants to go on to work as an officer and hopefully move up to state police and then a federal agency.

Barrios-Hernandez, who has the same internship with the OCPD, explained that they primarily process people as they come into the police department, including paperwork and working with the computer software system.

He added that he’s already practiced many of the skills needed.

“On the property, you have to write down everything on a piece of paper and then you fill it out – exactly what they have,” Barrios-Hernandez said. “If you miss something, it can be real bad, so that’s why I’m thankful we did it over at the tech school.”

Emma Hamilton-Blackford, who graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 2018, works as a custody officer, she said thanks to the criminal justice program and internship.

“It opened all the doors for me to be hired here – meeting people and offering me this internship – so I could meet the people I would potentially be working with and getting a summer job,” Hamilton-Blackford said. “You can’t get a job at 18 in the criminal justice field anywhere else.”

She hopes to enroll in a police academy next year and work as an officer in Ocean City.

Levy, who is a former Ocean City officer and air force cop, said he is proud of the students and their accomplishments.

“Our community here on the Eastern Shore is blessed to have these dedicated, young students who want to do this,” Levy said. “If they’re willing to put in the time, I’m going to give them every single experience I can and every bit of the knowledge that I’ve learned in my 30-plus years of doing this.”

This article is part of an ongoing series highlighting Worcester Technical High School programs. The school, located in Newark, Maryland, serves students in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in the three area high schools – Stephen Decatur, Pocomoke and Snow Hill. More than 20 programs are available for study.

The mission of Worcester Technical High School, “a progressive public secondary school which offers students the opportunity to prepare for both the world of work and post-secondary education, is to provide high quality career education and training programs through holistic teaching and learning.”

For more information, visit <https://worcestertechhs.com>.

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Opinion

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Perception matters more than legality

Legal or not, a board of directors that unanimously consents to vote via email on a particular action, and then votes unanimously to take that action risks running afoul of the Elvis provision of politics.

That would be, considering the propensity of the public to think the worst of an otherwise harmless circumstance, the “Suspicious Minds” clause, which the King of Rock ‘n Roll explained in 1969 when he sang, “We can’t go on together with suspicious minds.”

The discussion the Ocean Pines Association Bylaws and Resolutions Committee had last week regarding a board of directors’ email vote to buy a sound system failed to recognize that, focusing as it did on the need to conform to the letter of the law.

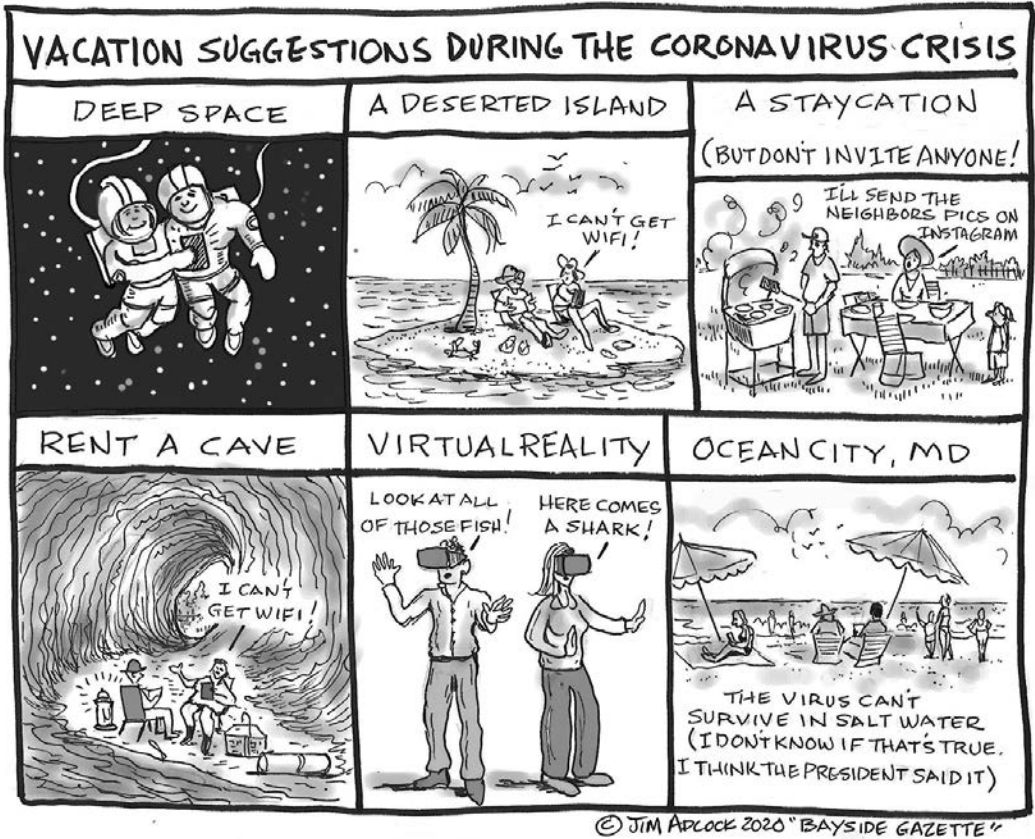
While that’s fine, concerns about the legality of that proceeding and how to conduct similar situations in the future overlooks the bigger problem of creating an opportunity for criticism and mistrust.

As one state regulatory body observed of a completely legal, but out-of-the-room vote, “when a public body decides a matter, without discussion ... the public body should not be startled when a member of the public infers that every aspect of the matter was discussed and decided in secret.”

As harmless and expedient as the sound system purchase vote might have been, the conduct of business of any kind out of public view invites criticism, unwarranted or otherwise, from a community known for challenging its governing members.

Considering all the hard work this board has done to restore the community’s confidence in the association’s system of management and government, risking its good standing just to save two or three hours via electronic voting doesn’t make sense.

While email votes on minor matters is efficient and allows the board to devote more time to concerns of greater import, nothing is more important than the public’s perception, especially when many of the public’s earlier suspicions of board motives and plans have finally been laid to rest.



NEA Big Read at Mar-Va Theater, Sat.

Pocomoke venue will screen movie three times this weekend

(March 12, 2020) Worcester County Library Foundation, Inc. will launch its NEA Big Read program in celebration of “In the Heart of the Sea” by Nathaniel Philbrick with a free movie screening on Saturday, March 14 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke.

The NEA Big Read in Worcester County is presented in partnership with the Mar-Va Theater, the Ocean City

Life-Saving Station Museum, and the Worcester County Board of Education, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Worcester County is one of 78 communities nationwide participating in the NEA Big Read.

From March 1 to May 31, the community will celebrate “In the Heart of the Sea” with a full calendar of events including book discussions, creative writing, TED Talks, museum tours, a reader’s theater of “Wreck of the Whaleship Essex”, account logs, and movie events.

Philbrick will discuss his

book on April 2 at Stephen Decatur High School at 7 p.m., which is free to attend.

For more information on this event series, contact Adult Program and Public Relations Manager Elena Coelho, at 443-783-6164. View a full calendar of events for the NEA Big Read at www.worcesterLibrary.org.

Follow on Facebook at [worcestercountymarylandlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/worcestercountymarylandlibrary) and Instagram at [worcesterlibrarymd](https://www.instagram.com/worcesterlibrarymd).

The mission of the Worcester County Library is to promote reading, thinking, learning, and the enjoyment of the arts.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Teachers needed for June Arts Camp

(March 12, 2020) The Worcester County Arts Council is once again planning the annual Summer Arts Camp program for children entering grades 3-8 to be held June 22-25, at Berlin Intermediate School.

At this time, the organization is looking for enthusiastic and creative teachers who are interested in instructing art classes during the four days of this program.

Teachers will be instructing three sessions of same workshop daily. Arts camp will culminate with performances and exhibits of artwork created during the week of the program for families and friends.

Instructor’s teaching compensation for the program is \$500.

Interested applicants should submit Arts Camp Workshop Proposal, avail-

able on the Arts Council’s website: www.worcester-countyartscouncil.org, by Friday, March 20.

Applications can be submitted via e-mail: anna@worcestercount-artscouncil.org or mail to: Worcester County Arts Council, 6 Jefferson Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

For more information, call the Arts Council’s office at 410-641-0809.

Snow Hill Blues Jam back in action after two-year hiatus

(March 12, 2020) The Snow Hill Blues Jam returns after a two-year hiatus on Saturday March 14.

The opening act will be Blue Junction and the headliner is Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun.

Delmarva’s own, Blue Junction, is a powerhouse blues trio that has shared their music throughout the Mid-Atlantic region for more than 20 years.

The group is comprised of Toby Parks on guitar, Gino Bailey on bass, and Keith Brooks on drums. Parks and Bailey grew up in Snow Hill and graduated from Snow Hill High School.

Blue Junction was recognized in 1994 as one of the nation’s best unsigned bands in North America by Musician Magazine and has won multiple songwriting recognition awards from Billboard Magazine for their original work from their album “These Are My Blues.”

Kirchen, a Grammy nominated guitarist, singer and songwriter, celebrates America’s musical traditions of rock ‘n’ roll, Western swing and California honky-tonk.

Guitar Player Magazine dubbed Kirchen the “Titan of the Telecaster.” Rolling Stone said he’s “an American treasure” and “one of our best.”

Kirchen was a co-founder and lead guitarist of Commander Cody and

His Lost Planet Airmen, one of the first and only rock-n-roll bands to infuse their honky-tonk sound with pure, blood-and-guts country roots and western swing.

It was Kirchen’s scorching guitar licks that helped define their sound and drove their hit, “Hot Rod Lincoln,” into the Top Ten in 1972, a song that eventually took on a post-Cody life of its own.

Today, Kirchen’s extended version of “Hot Rod Lincoln” is his universally loved signature masterpiece, a pumped-up joyride through the last 60 years of guitar-god history, described as “epic” by Rolling Stone.

One of the Commander Cody albums, “Live From Deep in the Heart of Texas,” made Rolling Stone’s list of the “100 Best Albums of All Time.”

This fundraiser will be held in downtown Snow Hill at the Old Firehouse at 210 W. Green St. from 7-10 p.m. There will be a cash bar, food by Tommy Mason BBQ, and dancing. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds collected will go toward the Arts and Entertainment fund to support free cultural events, exhibits and community enrichment projects in Snow Hill.

Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at www.snowhillmd.gov/events. For more information, call 410-632-2080.

Worcester humane society fundraiser set for March 28

(March 12, 2020) Worcester County Humane Society will hold its third annual “Wags and Whiskers” Thirty-One Bag, Cash and More Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, March 28.

The event will be held at the American Legion Post 166 on 24th Street in Ocean City with doors opening at noon. All proceeds benefit the homeless dogs and cats at the no-kill shelter.

Participants will have multiple chances to win official Thirty-One bags, cash and other prizes. The bingo games will run from 1-4 p.m. Event goers must be 18 or older.

Advance tickets cost \$25 for 20 regular games for Thirty-One bags full of goodies and gift cards. There will be two special bingo games for an additional small fee.

There will also be an opportunity to participate in a Chinese auction, raffle boards and a candy bar game for additional items and prizes as well as food and beverage available for purchase.

“Whether a person comes alone or

brings a group of friends, the event offers a fun atmosphere of fellowship for all,” said Diana Snyder, event chair.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the day of the event for \$30.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.worcestercountyhumesociety.org at the WCHS Thrift Store at 12703 Sunset Avenue Units 5 & 6 or by calling Snyder at 443-987-2870.

Advance tickets are also available for purchase at Worcester County Humane Society, 12330 Eagles Nest Road, Berlin. Tickets purchased prior to March 14 will be entered into a special door prize drawing.

Worcester County Humane Society is private, nonprofit, no-kill animal shelter that depends on donations and fundraisers to help care for the many cats and dogs who call the shelter home until their forever families are found. Follow the shelter on Facebook and Instagram for available pets and updates on events.



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Bright & fruity red with sliced dark cherries and lemons. Full body, lovely fruit and a clean and fresh finish.
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with purchase of a case



Chamisal Chardonnay
Toasted oak and creme brulee. Fruit driven with lemon cream, Fuji apple, ripe pineapple and baked pears. Rich and creamy with lingering acidity, broad texture and finishing clean.
~~\$19.99~~ **Sale \$15.99**
with purchase of a case



Silver Palm Cabernet Sauvignon
Aromas of blackberry and cassis with flavors of black cherry, spice and oak. Round firm tannins lead to a soft, silky, lingering finish.
~~\$15.99~~ **Sale \$12.79**
with purchase of a case



Poggio Stella Vino Nobile Di Montepulciano
Morello cherries, toasted chestnuts, dried herbs, straw and gravel. Harmonious, full-bodied and intense with a pleasing tannic finish.
~~\$19.99~~ **Sale \$15.99**
with purchase of a case



Wente, Morning Fog, Chardonnay (2017)
Bright and crisp flavors of pear, melon, citrus and green apple are balanced by subtle hints of toasty oak, and vanilla
~~\$12.99~~ **Sale \$10.39**
with purchase of a case



Cline, Farmhouse, Red Blend (2017)
Juicy red is full-bodied with flavors of dark berries and black-pepper.
~~\$11.99~~ **Sale \$9.59**
with purchase of a case



The Prisoner Red Blend
Aromas of Bing cherry, dark chocolate, clove, and roasted fig. Persistent flavors of ripe raspberry, boysenberry, pomegranate, and vanilla linger harmoniously, for a smooth and luscious finish.
~~\$34.99~~ **Sale \$27.99**
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Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse
This wine has aromas of fresh red apples, honey and white flowers with elegant and rich flavors of toasted nuts and citrus. One of the purest expressions of this typical Burgundian grape.
~~\$27.99~~ **Sale \$22.39**
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La Vieille Ferme, Rose (2018)
A beautiful freshness, with delicate red fruits, flowers and citrus aromas.
~~\$9.99~~ **Sale \$7.99**
with purchase of a case



Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc
Fresh, crisp and clean with zesty flavors of ripe tropical fruits, especially passionfruit and pineapple.
~~\$11.99~~ **Sale \$9.59**
with purchase of a case



Bogle Chardonnay (2017)
The elegant and creamy mouthfeel wraps around the fruit and leads to spicy notes of nutmeg and toasty vanilla.
~~\$9.99~~ **Sale \$7.99**
with purchase of a case



Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc
A fresh, juicy wine with vibrant acidity and plenty of weight and length on the palate. Ripe, tropical fruit flavor with passion fruit, melon, and grapefruit.
~~\$15.99~~ **Sale \$12.79**
with purchase of a case



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~~\$10.99~~ **Sale \$8.79**
with purchase of a case



Pine Ridge, Chenin Blanc/Viognier (2017)
90 Points, Wine Enthusiast. #80 in the top 100, Wine Enthusiast. The bright entry reveals lychee, key lime, white peach, grapefruit, and nectarine flavors. Lemon-lime and balanced acidity carry through the clean, gentle, lingering finish.
~~\$12.99~~ **Sale \$10.39**
with purchase of a case



Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon
Luscious aromas of cherry cola, anise, and baking spices. This wine is both fruit forward and restrained. Black cherry, blueberry guide the wine's bright midpalate, finishing with hints of cocoa and resolved tannins. 95 Points Wine Enthusiast
~~\$64.99~~ **Sale \$51.99**
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Md. State Police investigate deadly crash on Route 12

(March 12, 2020) Maryland State Police from the Berlin Barrack are investigating a fatal crash in Worcester County that claimed the life of a 34-year-old woman from Virginia, last Thursday.

The deceased victim is identified as Jessica Perlingi, 34, of Greenbackville, Virginia. She was the driver and sole occupant of a 2006 Jeep Liberty.

Emergency medical service personnel pronounced her deceased on the scene. Autopsy results are pending examination by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The driver and sole occupant of a 2008 Freightliner involved in the crash is identified as Northan Neuman Obediah, 63, of Onancock, Virginia. He was transported to Peninsula Regional Medical Center for treatment of his injuries sustained during the incident.

At 4:46 a.m. last Thursday morning, troopers responded to a crash in the area of Route 12 and Black Berry Lane in Worcester County.

The preliminary investigation indicates the 2008 Freightliner was traveling southbound on Route 12 at

See POLICE Page 24

Math team score adds up to trip to state competition

(March 12, 2020) The Worcester Prep Middle School MATHCOUNTS team traveled with coaches/math teachers, Kathy Fahey and Hunter Causey, to Baltimore on Feb. 22 to compete in the MATHCOUNTS Regional Competition.

The team placed third in its region and has advanced to the state competition at Johns Hopkins University on Saturday, March 14.

Furthermore, three Worcester Prep team members – sixth grader Ansh Batra, seventh grader Aleksey Klimins and eighth grader Carson Rayne – were among the highest scoring individuals.

Other members of the Worcester Prep team are sixth grader Jude Damouni, seventh graders Savannah



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester Prep Middle School MATHCOUNTS team placed third in its region during a competition in Baltimore on Feb. 22. Four students – sixth grader Ansh Batra, seventh grader Aleksey Klimins and eighth graders Carson Rayne and Vanesska Hall – will participate in Saturday's state competition.

Palmisano and Lydia Schwartz and eighth grader Vanesska Hall.

The Worcester MATHCOUNTS team of four that will compete at states are Batra, Klimins, Rayne and Hall.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VIRTUAL REALITY

Testing out their new virtual reality hardware are Worcester Prep students Jason Todorov, Arnav Sehgal, Amna Iqbal, Meeta Agarwal, Cayden Wallace and Cooper Ludd.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CLUB OFFICERS

The Ocean Pines Garden Club recently installed its officers for 2020 during a meeting held in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Pictured, from left, are Barbara Ferger, treasurer; Nancy Waters, corresponding secretary; Marsha Reeve, recording secretary; Gail Jankowski and Gail Philippi, co-vice presidents; and Patti Lookner, president. The club meets the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center. New members and guests are welcome.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SPEAKER

Dr. Adam Hoffman, of the Political Science Department at Salisbury University, spoke to the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County during its January meeting. He is pictured with Susan Hubbard, newly installed club president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ROTARY AWARDS

At its annual dinner, the Rotary Foundation awarded 2018-19 Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club President Margaret Mudron and her club with five awards – 100 percent Club Giving, 100 percent Every Rotarian Every Year, End Polio Now support, District Grant Award and the Rotary Citation with Silver Distinction for achieving the requirements set by the foundation. Pictured with the awards, from left, are Stan Kahn, Cliff Berg, Nancy Bradford, Sonia Baker, Frank Baker, Mudron, Arlan Kinney and Larry Michnick. The Club meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Residence Inn by Marriott, 61st Street and the bay, Ocean City. Guests welcomed.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FINALISTS

Three Stephen Decatur High School students were named finalists in the Eastern Shore Literacy Association Young Authors' Contest. Freshman Jessica Beck, sophomore Jake Gillespie, and junior Lydia Woodley were each recognized for their work in the short story category. The top three winners will be named during a special ceremony held at Salisbury University on March 4. Beck, Gillespie and Woodley are pictured with Principal Thomas Sites.

Puzzles

LETTER DICTATION

BY SAM TRABUCCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Sam Trabucco, 27, is a cryptocurrency trader who divides his time between San Francisco and Hong Kong. He got into crosswords as a child by playing competitive Scrabble. He says, "My first attempt at making one was fueled by the (very wrong) assumption that making a crossword would be essentially the same as playing Scrabble." This is Sam's 24th puzzle for The Times since his debut in 2015. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Magical healer

7 Maintain

11 Overseas landmark located in Elizabeth Tower

17 "Fa-a-ancy!"

18 Classic Mell Lazarus comic strip

19 Soaring performer

20 GAZACHO

22 Young antagonist in Super Mario games

23 Counterpart of the Roman Aurora

24 Jargon

25 John, to Lennon

26 Mythical archer

27 Suffix with Jumbo

29 SMEILL

34 Poet who wrote "For God's sake hold your tongue, and let me love"

35 Chocolaty Post cereal

36 Org. for which Pelé once played

37 Something many an A-list celebrity has

38 Area with a half-dome

42 Noted Chinese-American fashion designer

44 Mystical ball

47 ENTURIES

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

51 Payment to a freelancer for unpublished work

53 ____ fixe

54 Informal "Ugh!"

55 Little thing to pick

56 Some p.m. times

57 China flaw

59 Familiar inits. in math

60 Original ainer of "The Office"

61 Lapis lazuli shade

62 TECHNIQUEO

66 DEFINITEL

68 Romeo and Juliet, e.g.

69 Adam's ____

70 Air-traffic watchdog, for short

71 Literary protagonist named after a king of Israel

72 Violinist Leopold

73 "That's show ____!"

74 Film character introduced in 1977 who died in a 2015 sequel

76 ____ Major

80 French compliment

82 INSTBANT

84 Ability that's hard to explain

85 Hand-sewn toy

87 Derive (from)

88 Woman in Progressive ads

89 Book reviewers, for short

91 1910s flying star

94 James Garfield's middle name

96 ENVIRONMENAL

101 Yuletide

102 Part of binoculars

103 Fireside-chat prez

104 "The United States is not, and never will be, at war with ____": Obama

106 Home of the Sun Devils, familiarly

107 Subj. of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution

110 RUMYSELF

114 Digitally IDs by location

115 Rock standard?

116 Big name in skin care

117 Features of some dresses and shoes

118 Subtracting

119 Stifled

12 Computer addresses, for short

13 Fraternity and sorority members

14 Carnival or circus, so to speak

15 Delight in

16 Language from which "reindeer" comes

18 Christmas-gift bearers

19 Annoyance for Santa

21 Rowing machine, in fitness lingo

22 ____ nova

25 Sierra ____

28 Peachy-keen

30 Like some hair and embarrassed friends

31 Sweetums

32 First Nations people

33 Get perfect

34 ____ counter

39 Tiny amount

40 Something that's not easy to blow

41 ____ sauce (sushi bar condiment)

43 Alpine lodging

45 Happening again?

46 Burdened

48 Millennials

49 Veil over a Muslim woman's face

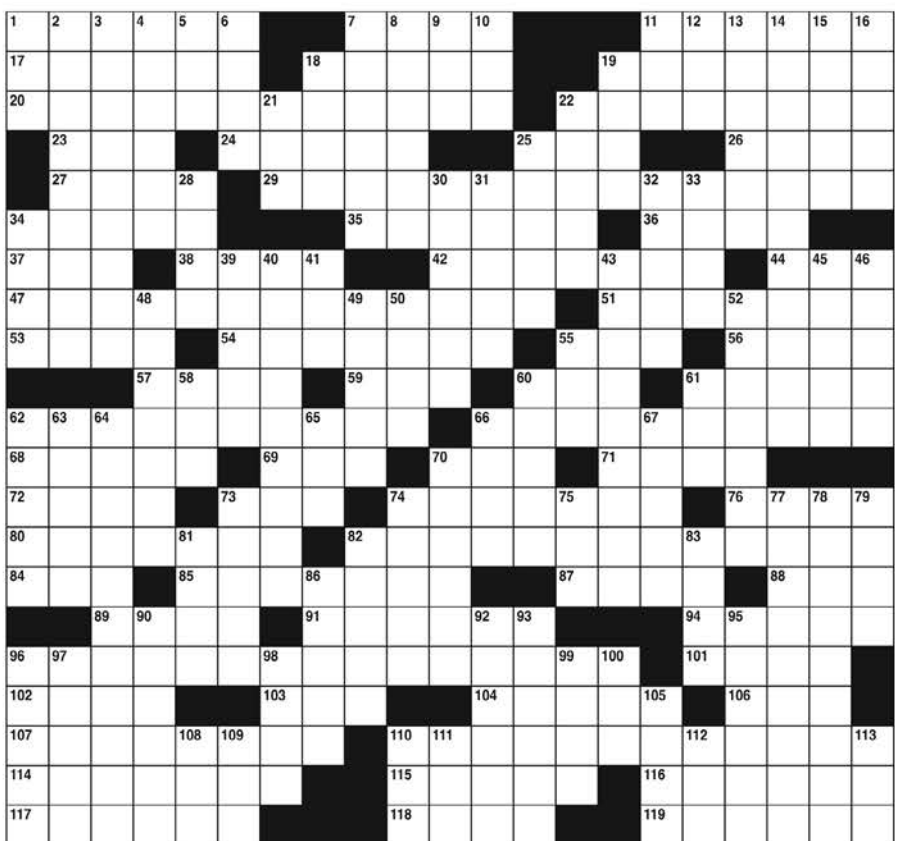
50 ____-doke

52 No go-getter

55 Org. to which Jordan once belonged

58 "____ complicated"

60 Grendel, e.g.



- 61 "I knew it was you!"

62 Take to the soapbox

63 Store-sign info

64 Curse remover

65 Diana Ross musical, with "The"

66 "Life of Pi" author Martel

67 Reply of faux innocence

70 Have no success with

73 Speak with swagger

74 Spiral

75 Words of wonder
- 77 Like some web pages and memories

78 Will Ferrell and Tina Fey

79 Chemist's study

81 Muffin choice

82 Leafy shelter

83 U.S. ally in the Gulf War

86 Nickname of the Miami Heat's all-time leader in points, games, assists and steals
- 90 Old Spanish bread

92 "Hear ye! Hear ye!" announcers

93 Obstacle-free courses

95 Waterside lodging with a portmanteau name

96 Drinking sounds

97 Put back to Level 1, say

98 Young salamanders

99 Congeal
- 100 Cross shape

105 *big kiss*

108 Quick time out

109 Chief legal officers: Abbr.

110 Target of an athlete's M.R.I.

111 Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"

112 "____ changed"

113 Stretch of history

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HARD - 56

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Record Md. Middle School Principal of the Yr.

WCPS staff, community and commissioners to celebrate with ceremony on March 20

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 12, 2020) Principal Matthew Record of Pocomoke Middle School has been named the Maryland Middle School Principal of the Year by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals.

Record was surprised by the Worcester County Board of Education, Superintendent Lou Taylor, Pocomoke Middle students and teachers, county commissioners and other members of the community on Monday.

“Any time there’s a celebration in education, it’s an exciting event,” Record said. “Certainly, [Monday] gave our school and our teachers and our community a reason to celebrate, and I’m excited about that.”

Record grew up in Salisbury and studied at Wheeling University in West Virginia, where he went on to spend two years teaching at a high poverty school before returning to Salisbury in 2004.

He became a second and third grade teacher for Snow Hill Elementary School, which is a blue-ribbon and national blue-ribbon school. Then he was appointed to Pocomoke High School for four years as a vice principal before becoming the principal for Pocomoke Middle School four years ago.

Record hopes to make Pocomoke Middle School a blue-ribbon school and continue to succeed with his students.

“The goal of our school and the goal of our teachers and working with mid-

dle school students is to always celebrate success and to always set your goals to the next the next target,” Record said.

“I’ve never applied for recognition before,” he continued. “Part of it was for me to step outside of my comfort box and to try something new. But I also knew that if I was the recipient of this award, it would be all about what our teachers do every day in the classroom. It wouldn’t be about who I am. It’s definitely a reflection of what our kids and what our teachers and what our community makes our school.”

Three focal points for his teachers and students, he said are building positive relationships, having strong mastery in the curriculum and the content knowledge and having innovative and rigorous instruction.

Addie Kaufman, executive director for the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, said Record was selected for his leadership.

“In reading Mr. Record’s application and his references, it is very clear that he is a well-respected, exceptional school leader,” Kaufman said. “I believe it’s important to recognize exceptional leadership [because] without exceptional leadership in a school, it is challenging to have an exceptional school.

“Leaders are certainly the role models for the staff with whom they work,” she continued. “Leaders set vision work with the staff on goals. They inspire, they motivate, they educate and they provide professional development.”

Record will receive a plaque, a crystal trophy, a check for \$200 and a complimentary hotel room and registration for the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals Spring



PHOTO COURTESY JORDYN KUCZAK
Matthew Record of Pocomoke Middle School is surprised with the award of Principal of the Year on Monday, March 9. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Annette Wallace, Record, Superintendent Lou Taylor and Principal of Pocomoke Elementary School Dr. Michael Browne.

Administrators Conference, which will be held in Ocean City at the Princess Royale on 91st Street on Friday, March 20.

Afterwards, Record will be invited to the National Secondary School Principals conference at National Harbor in July.

With this achievement, Record has many goals set for his school.

“Our goal is to be a blue-ribbon school,” he said. “Our goal is to earn a five-star rating from the state ... It’s a really special place for kids and for teachers.”

However, he would not be where he is today, he said, without the support

of his staff.

“I have two amazing assistant principals, Melissa Freistat and Bob Boyce,” he said. They work hard and we make a really great team. And I’d like to thank everyone that was part of this process.

“Every year we use the slogan ‘One School, One Beat, One Kid at a Time,’” Record continued. “And that’s very much the truth. We are one school ... we’re the Warriors, we are one beat and we are one kid at a time. And I think that when you have that motto ... that’s what all of our staff members and all of our kids respond to. I think the sky’s the limit.”

Congressional Art contest unveiled by Sen. Andy Harris

(March 12, 2020) Congressman Andy Harris (MD-01) announces that the 2020 Congressional Art Competition is now open for submissions.

The competition recognizes talented high school artists from around the country, and is supported by the entirety of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Winners from each congressional district will be eligible to attend the National Reception in Washington, D.C., and their artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for one year.

All high school students in Maryland’s First Congressional District are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submissions is April 16 at 5 p.m.

“I am pleased to announce that the House of Representatives is once again sponsoring a nation-wide high school

art competition this spring, and I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the talented young artists of Maryland’s First District,” Congressman Harris said. “Each year I am thoroughly impressed by the submissions we receive and am honored to display the First District runners-up in my offices. I am excited to see the winning piece from the First Congressional District hanging in the U.S. Capitol.”

Since the first Congressional Art Competition in 1982, over 650,000 high school students have submitted their art work to the competition judges.

For full competition guidelines and the student release forms, visit Congressman Harris’ website at harris.house.gov. Go to the “Services” tab at the top of the screen and click on “Art Competition.”

Three-cent tax increase on table

Continued from Page 1
town’s current rate would produce property tax revenue of about \$3.5 million in the coming fiscal year. She said that if the rate were to be increased to \$.83, a 3.75 percent jump, an additional \$130,879 would be generated for the town.

A public hearing will be held in two weeks regarding the potential tax increase.

Some members of the audience remain unhappy with the tax increase from last year.

“I will submit for the records the

state average [for property taxes] is 43 cents,” resident Jason Walter said. “If you keep the rate the same, you’ll see about \$75,000 in new revenue. That doesn’t account for any additional developments or improvements.”

This comment was first made to the council during the last meeting in February, when Walter had previously mentioned the town’s property tax rates were nearly twice the state average, and repeated it again during Monday’s meeting in order to be added to the public comments section.

Police investigating fatal crash

Continued from Page 21
Black Berry Lane. For reasons unknown at this time, investigators believe the Freightliner overturned and came to rest on top of the Jeep Liberty. Police believe the Jeep was traveling northbound on Route 12 at the time of the incident.

State police from the Berlin Barrack, Crash Team and the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

responded to the scene. Deputies from the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and personnel from the Girdle-tree Fire Department also responded to assist.

Investigators are consulting with the Worcester County State’s Attorney as the investigation continues. Anyone with information regarding this crash should contact the Berlin Barrack at 410-641-3101.

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-7575 / www.bjsonthewater.com
March 13: Full Circle, 9 p.m.
March 14: After Parade Party w/Bagpipers, 2 p.m.;
Dust N' Bones, 8:30 p.m.
March 18: 2 Guys & A Mama, 6 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, Ocean City, behind Fountain Head
Towers Condominium
443-664-2896 /
www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com
March 13: Dave Sherman, 7 p.m.
March 14: OHO, 3 p.m.;
Rick & Lennon LaRicci, 7 p.m.
March 15: Jack Worthington, 6 p.m.
March 18: Reform School, 6 p.m.;
Open Mic, 8 p.m.
March 19: Chris Button, 6 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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

COINS

28th Street and Coastal Highway, Ocean City
410-289-3100 / www.coinspub.com
March 14: After Parade Party w/Dave Pedrick
(Craythur Brothers), 1-6 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street, Ocean City,
Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449 / www.duffysoc.com
Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 8 p.m.
March 14: St. Pat's Day into the Night Party
w/DJ McD, 3-10 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road, West Ocean City
410-213-1846 / www.ocharborside.com
March 13: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m.
March 14: St. Patty's Party w/DJ Billy T, all day
March 15: Opposite Directions, 2 p.m.;
Team Trivia w/Chuck D, 7 p.m.
March 18: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.
March 19: Opposite Directions, 6 p.m.

HOOTERS

12513 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City
410-213-1841 / www.hootersofoc.com
March 13: DJ BK + OC Pipes and Drums, 4-8 p.m.
March 14: Parade Day Party w/Classic Vibe, 4-8 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion
Fontainebleau Hotel
410-524-3535 / www.clarionoc.com
Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty,
9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
March 13-14: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City
410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com
Every Friday: Beats By Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Every Monday: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Every Wednesday: Beats By Styler, 9 p.m.
Every Thursday: Beats By Wax, 9 p.m.
March 13: Beats by Styler, 6-10 p.m.;
Beats by Jeremy, 10 - 2 p.m.
March 14: St. Pat's All Day/All Night Party
City Painted Green, 1-5 p.m.;
Beats by Casper, 5:30-9:30 p.m.;
Beats by Adam Dutch, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.



ON THE EDGE

Ocean Club Nightclub: Friday & Saturday, March 13-14 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com
March 13: Triple Rail Turn, 5-9 p.m.;
DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.;
Kevin Miller's Smashed, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
March 14: Irie-ish Music Fest: St. Patrick's Day
Party, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.;
DJ Magellan w/Stevie Jay, noon to 5 p.m.;
DJ Bobby-O, 1 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.;
John McNutt's Keltic Rock Warriors, 1-4 p.m.;
Flip-N-Mickeys, 1:30-5:30 p.m.;
DJ Davie, 4 pm. to 1:50 a.m.;
Jon Maurer, 5-9 p.m.;
Jim Long Band, 5-9 p.m.;
Triple Rail Turn, 6-10 p.m.;
DJ Tuff, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.;
Lima Bean Riot, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.;

The Benderz, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.
March 17: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.
March 19: Opposite Directions: 5-9 p.m.

SHENANIGAN'S IRISH PUB AND GRILLE

309 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City
410-289-7181 / www.ocshenanigans.com
March 13: St. Patrick's Day Pre Game Party
w/Tig Tignor and James Gallagher &
Off the Boat, 7-11 p.m.
March 14: St. Patrick's Day 5K Boardwalk Run &
Party w/Tig Tignor & Patrick McAllorum, 10 a.m.;
James Gallagher & Off the Boat, 2 p.m.;
Appearances throughout the day by Chesapeake
Caledonia, Trenton and Ocean City Pipe and Drum
Bands, 9 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.
March 17: St. Patrick's Day Party w/Tig Tignor
and James Gallagher & Off the Boat,

11 a.m. to 12 a.m.;
Appearances by the Ocean City Pipe and Drum
Band, 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City
410-723-6762 / www.skyebaroc.com
March 13: Marky Shaw, 4-8 p.m.
March 14: St. Pat's Party
w/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
March 13: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey
March 14: John Heinz, Fiddle, Fire & Friends,
3-8 p.m.



Friday
DAVE HAWKINS
4-8PM
THE BEACH BUMZ
8PM

Saturday
DAVE SHERMAN
3-8PM
\$9.99 Corned Beef,
Cabbage, & Potatoes
*Available in the bar on Saturday only

Sunday
OCMD THEME TRIVA
1-3PM
DALE TEAT
3-7PM

THIS WEEK'S LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

thursday kevin poole 5pm
friday dave hawkins 4pm
beach bumz 8pm
saturday dave sherman 3pm
sunday **OCEAN CITY** trivia 1pm
dale teat 3pm

LAST CALL!!
MARCH IS THE FINAL MONTH FOR...

CRABCAKE MANIA
TUESDAYS
CRAB CAKE
DINNER
STARTING AT \$10

1/2 PRICE PRIME RIB
SPECIAL WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
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Calendar

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

Thurs., March 12

AARP MEETING
Ocean City Senior Center, 104 41st St., 10:00 AM. Refreshments served at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker will discuss Wallops Island. An optional luncheon will follow the meeting at a local restaurant. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

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

OCEAN PINES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. Allison Schweizer will discuss “Native, Non-Natives, and Invasives: What’s in Your Garden?” New members and guests welcome.

STEAM STORY TIME ‘THE OCEAN’
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Ocean themed stories and activities for young children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME ‘BIRDS’
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Books, songs and crafts by preschoolers. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

VOLUNTEER MEET & GREET
Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., 11:00 AM. Join the staff and volunteers of a cup of coffee and see what the museum is all about and see if you can fit into this wonderful team. <http://www.DelmarvaDiscoveryMuseum.org>

OC WRITERS’ GROUP
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Participants share their poetry/prose and receive encouraging feedback. Bring something you’ve written or participate in a writing prompt/creative exercise. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

CREATIVE WRITING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. These multi-course workshops, held March 12, 19 and 26, will focus on fear, survival and the human spirit. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ALUMINUM BOATS
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:00 PM. Make a boat out of aluminum foil and see how many pennies it can hold. For grades 4 through 8. Call 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SPRAY IRRIGATION PROPOSAL TOWN HALL
Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 5:00 PM. Ocean Pines and Worcester County will jointly host a town hall on the proposed spray irrigation project for the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

BOOK AND A BEVERAGE
Burley Café, 17 Jefferson St., 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Come out to the Burley Café and discuss “The Rosie Project,” by Graeme Simsion. Beer, coffee and other refreshments available for purchase. Sign up: rstein@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

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., March 13

ST. PATRICK’S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St. Men’s (18+) and women’s (18+). tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, 410-250-0125, <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/st-patricks-soccer-tournament/>

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

DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. A vendor show to promote fiber and to educate about the natural fiber industry. Along with shopping, there will be classes and demonstrations taught by true artists. Admission cost is \$3 per day or \$5 for the weekend. Susan Childs, schilds2@verizon.net, 443-235-2926, <http://www.woolandfiber.com>

SOCIAL SECURITY DAY
Berlin Town Hall, second floor Council Chambers, 10 William St., 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Programs such as retirement, disability, survivors, family and Medicare will be discussed with a question and answer session at the end. All members of the public are encouraged to attend. The afternoon will have relevant information regardless of whether individuals are just starting their career, approaching retirement or are somewhere in between or disabled. Registration is required: 410-641-2770.

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12 for a single-crab-cake platter and \$20 for a two-crab-cake platter. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Cost for a crab cake sandwich is \$8. Carry-outs and bake sale available.

HOMESCHOOL STEM TECHNOLOGY: 3D PRINTING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Explore 3D printing and take home your own 3D printed object. For ages 6 years and older. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

HEALTHY EATING
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. An informative session on nutrition with registered dietician Amy Gehrig. Learn how to read labels, find out if you are a super-taster and more. Call 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Featuring “In the Heart of the Sea,” by Nathaniel Philbrick. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

Sat., March 14

ST. PATRICK’S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St. Men’s (18+) and women’s (18+). tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, 410-250-0125, <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/st-patricks-soccer-tournament/>

REACH THE BEACH NATIONALS: OC - DANCE
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM. Admission fees are \$23 for adults and \$16 for children and seniors. Info: www.acdaspirt.com, www.theepicbrands.com or 410-579-8668. 877-322-2310

DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. A vendor show to promote fiber and to educate about the natural fiber industry. Along with shopping, there will be classes and demonstrations taught by true artists. Admission cost is \$3 per day or \$5 for the weekend. Susan Childs, schilds2@verizon.net, 443-235-2926, <http://www.woolandfiber.com>

MARYLAND AAU GRAND PRIX
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. We Build You Play hosts its annual Maryland AAU Grand Prix Youth Girls Volleyball tournament. Admission is \$10 per day or \$15 for the weekend. Kelsey Stave, 410-202-8987, <http://webuildyouplay.com>

CRAFTY SATURDAY: CIRCLE CRAFTS
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Crafty fun for the whole family. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ST. PATRICK’S DAY 5K
The 5-kilometer race will start on the Ocean City boardwalk at 4th Street at 9 a.m. The course will start running south toward the Inlet, around pier, then down under the white tram station, it continues north on the Boardwalk to 16th Street, then south back to

finish line at 4th Street. Race fee includes an event runners style tech shirt, one Guinness drink ticket redeemable at Shenanigans Irish Pub, post race awards ceremony and refreshments at Shenanigans. On-site registration will be held at Shenanigans on March 13 from 5:30-8 p.m. There will be no registration on race day. <https://octrirunning.com/ocean-city-md-running-event/st-patricks/>

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 AM. The speakers will be Frank and Ben Daringer from Mid Shore Electronics. They will discuss the latest security and electronic systems for boats. Updates to new fishing regulation will also be reviewed. All are welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

ST. PATRICK’S IRISH SCRAMBLE
Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, 9:30 AM. Format is four-player scramble. Playing 6 holes from each gold, white and blue tees. Teams choose the holes they play from each of the tees. Find the clover. Cost is \$60 per player. Lunch will follow play with Irish American favorites. Call the Golf Shop to sign up at 410-213-7277. <http://www.eagleslandgolf.com/golf-extras>

PI DAY
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Enjoy geometry games, math puzzles and a slice of pie. Fun for the whole family. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

INTRODUCTION TO PHYTON
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Children, 10 years and older, can learn the basics of programming with Python. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ST. PATRICK’S PARADE AND FESTIVAL
The parade begins at noon at 57th Street and marches south on Coastal Highway to the 45th Street Shopping Center, where the viewing and judging stands will be located. The festival, held in the 45th Street Shopping Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will include live entertainment, Irish apparel and plenty of food and drinks. Admission of the festival is free. Viewers are urged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. to avoid traffic delays. The parade will be Broadcast live beginning at 11:30 a.m. on various social media channels. Buck Mann, 410-289-6156

NEA BIG READ MOVIE KICKOFF EVENT
Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., 11:00 AM. Free movie marathon based upon Nathaniel Philbrick’s award winning book about the Whaleship Essex. There will be three showings at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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

Calendar

from fresh local produce to unique hand-made artisan goods. Open to the public.

HANDWRITING-PENMANSHIP WORKSHOP - SESSION 2 - CURSIVE
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM. Beginning cursive for children, 8 years and older. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SNOW HILL BLUES JAM
Featuring Delmarva's own Blue Junction to open the evening and headlining will be Grammy nominated guitarist, singer and songwriter Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun. Held in Downtown Snow Hill at the Old Firehouse at 210 W. Green St, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be a cash bar, food by Tommy Mason BBQ and dancing. Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at www.snowhillmd.gov/events. Proceeds go towards the Arts and Entertainment fund to support free cultural events, exhibits and community enrichment projects in Snow Hill. 410-632-2080

Sun., March 15

ST. PATRICK'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St. Men's (18+) and women's (18+). tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, 410-250-0125, <http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/st-patricks-soccer-tournament/>

FOUR-WAY TEST AWARD DINNER DEADLINE
Members of the Pocomoke Rotary Club will be honoring nine students from Pocomoke High School on March 30. Also the Raymond Dryden award will be given to one outstanding student. The speaker will be Dr. Charles Wight, president of Salisbury University. The Pocomoke Fire Company Auxiliary will be serving a chicken and dumplings dinner. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased from any member of the Pocomoke Rotary Club. Deadline for tickets is March 15.

EPIC TOUR: OCEAN CITY
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. Admission fees are \$23 for adults and \$16 for children and seniors. Info: www.acdaspirit.com, www.theepicbrands.com or 410-579-8668. 877-322-2310,

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Mon., March 16

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 Rohlfling, 410-641-9726.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM. Coffee is served at 9:30 a.m. Featuring a program on Women's History.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. A 30-minute nursery rhyme program for children up to age 3 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAI CHI FOR OLDER ADULTS
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 1:00 PM. Tai Chi puts the balance in healthy aging. Join Kim Reed to reduce stress and practice this mind-body exercise. Call 410-632-3495. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SUN-EARTH-MOON CONNECTIONS
Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Using NASA STEM facilitation kits, participants will model lunar and solar eclipses and participate in activities demonstrating the vast expanse of the solar system. For ages 8-12 years. Register: 410-957-0878. <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>

IN 3D!
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:30 PM. See a classic 50's Sci-Fi movie in 3D. Reservations: 410-524-1818 or www.worcesterlibrary.org.

FAMILY TIME: CODING WITH BOTS
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM. Featuring family coding fun. <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 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., March 17

MEDITATION PRACTICE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road,

10:00 AM. Weekly opportunity to practice mediation — no lectures, only practice. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'ST. PATRICK'S DAY'
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. Stories, finger plays and songs for children ages 2-5 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

INTELLIGENCE: BATTLE OF THE ANCIENTS
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Come listen to a debate about Greece vs. Rome and decide who you think created the better civilization. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FAMILY TIME ST. PATRICK'S DAY SCAVENGER HUNT
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Find all the pots of gold and get a special prize. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PLEIN AIR PAINTING DEMONSTRATION
Berlin library, loft, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 PM. Featuring local artist Martha Pileggi from Milford, Del. During the painting session she will answer any questions onlookers have about plein air and the oil painting process. Anna Mullis, 410-641-0809 or Pileggi, 302-422-0192. Event held weather permitting.

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. SLCGS@comcast.net

Wed., March 18

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

MARYLAND VA REPRESENTATIVE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Representative Michelle Licata is available to offer outreach services to veterans and their families on the third Wednesday of each month. No appointment necessary. 410-713-3482, <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>

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. This workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a Q&A session. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PLAY TIME
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. A play date for infant to 5 year old

children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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

CLASSICS REVISITED
Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Ed Stivender, the Robin Williams of storytelling, tells stories that everyone knows ... or thinks they know. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

MOVIE SCREENING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Come enjoy the movie based on Nathaniel Philbrick's award winning account of the Whaleship Essex. Info: 410-208-4014 or www.worcesterlibrary.org.

ALL AGES EMBROIDERY
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:00 PM. Join other adults, teens and children to learn the basics. Register: 410-632-3495. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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 a crime. Stop in to speak with an attorney. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

POTLUCK & PICTURES
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 6:00 PM. Bring a covered dish to share while watching a presentation from a local photographer. Register: 410-208-4014. <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>

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

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>

WEDNESDAY BINGO
Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., other bingo supplies at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$14 for basic package of 25 games. 410-250-2645

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