



As schools convene, safety guiding principle

Public, private institutions adopt different strategies to keep students, staff safe

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Public and private schools in Worcester County are adapting to new safety protocols to allow for in-person instruction, as the covid-19 pandemic continues to spread, although at a slower pace.

Nearly 18 percent of public school students will return for in-person instruction on Monday after three weeks of virtual learning.

"Each of our schools have been tasked with setting up three to four groups of kids, starting with our Tier 2 and Tier 3," Superintendent Lou Taylor said. "Tier 2 and Tier 3 means not only kids that have certain educational needs but also kids who may have some [internet connectivity] is-

sues where they live."

There will be some variation in the number of students returning to the 14 schools in the county system.

With concern for the health and safety of students and employees, classroom sizes will be decreased.

"We have to keep in mind the recommendations by the CDC, and we have an educational plan in place to return that our state department (of education) has approved," Taylor said. "We want to make sure we keep the social distancing of six feet in mind. All kids and all staff will be wearing masks. Also, we will take many hygiene breaks of handwashing."

All the local public schools have identified traffic patterns in the hallways to enforce social distancing.

Also, a local business has donated face shields for many employees and students.

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PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Nora Rafinski, a first grader from Berlin, uses a desk shield along with a face mask to stay safe while returning to Worcester Preparatory School on South Main Street in Berlin.

Veterans Mem. event goes virtual

Social distancing standard makes having live audience difficult to accommodate

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Unable to proceed in traditional fashion, but not wanting to skip its annual Veterans Day tribute, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation's program will proceed virtually this year.

In lieu of the typical gathering held on Nov. 11 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines, foundation members will present an online ceremony for remote viewing.

Board Member Emeritus Sharyn O'Hare said the patriotic program held in Ocean Pines each November is generally well attended, but that would be impossible this year because of the state's covid-19 health-safety requirements.



American Legion Synepuxent Post 166 Color Guard Bugler Eric Nilsson sounds off the start of the "Posting of Colors" during the Veterans Day Tribute at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines last year.

"We usually have 600-1,000 people and we couldn't due that to the governor's mandate," she said.

Last November, the Veterans Day

tribute in Ocean Pines featured WWII Navy veteran Carroll Wagner, who elicited both laughs and tears while re-

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Deadline nears to join Berlin race as write-in

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Berlin residents who are interested in filing as write-in candidates for the Oct. 6 municipal election have until next Tuesday at 5 p.m. to do so.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said residents may obtain a filing packet from her at Town Hall, 10 William Street.

The filing process is the same as regular filing, she added.

"The only difference really is that their name does not appear on the ballot, just that there is a space for a write-in candidate for a given office," Bohlen said.

All write-in candidates must meet the same minimum re-

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Community input sought for Arden Center

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) John Salm returned to the Berlin Planning Commission on Sept. 9 to discuss revised concept plans for an apartment complex on North Main Street, which led to a debate about future growth in town.

Salm initially proposed the 80-unit luxury apartment community called Victorian Oaks at the planning commission meeting on Aug. 12. Salm presented the adjustments he made based on the commission members' comments last month.

Although Salm owns 19 acres of land known as Arden Center on North Main Street, he said the project would utilize only seven acres north of the power lines.

He added that the subject property is located in Berlin's Growth Area No. 3.

"Currently, we're C-2 in the county. So, we're actually not in the town of Berlin yet," Salm said. "If you all think that we have something you want, I'll start the formal process of annexation."

He said the main takeaway from last month's meeting was the concerns about the "massiveness" of the four-story buildings.

"The revised site plan honors both the town's height limit of 50 feet and then our project limit of 45 feet with three-story structures," Salm said.

The revised first option includes one

larger building with an elevator and two smaller buildings that house 68 units.

With less density on the structures, Salm added that some of the interior finishes won't be as luxurious because of cost.

He said he still wants to construct the four-story buildings with the 45-foot height limit that would encompass 80 flat-style units. If the planning commission had any interest, Salm said the structures would have a Victorian look to match the town's aesthetic.

"It's been a month since you were before us," said Chairman Chris Denny. "I haven't had one person make a positive comment in doing what you want to do down there. Some people have mentioned that it probably should be a commercial project of some kind."

Commission member Pete Cosby, who was absent at last month's meeting, said he was initially opposed to the project, but he admired the development of the Victorian look.

"The architecture can sell me, maybe," Cosby said. "I think it's very creative and very inventive, and I appreciate your effort in trying to make a beautiful building."

He also expressed concern that if it wasn't annexed into town for residential use, the land would likely be developed for medical offices or more mini storage.

"What else are we going to see on this property?" he said. "A bunch of storage



RENDERING COURTESY JOHN SALM

John Salm and his wife have decided to halt their proposed luxury apartment complex featuring four-story buildings after receiving feedback from the Berlin Planning Commission on Sept. 9.

buildings on one of the prime entrances to Berlin. Is that what we want?"

Salm said they have in-ground septic systems to allow him to develop the land commercially.

Commission member Matthew Stoehr, who previously showed support for the project, reiterated the need for affordable, luxury apartments near downtown Berlin.

"There is a need for more apartments, I think, or more places for people to live in Berlin. There is just not

that option right now, and a lot of places that people are renting are old, run-down houses."

Commission member Ron Cascio said the discussion about design was getting ahead of itself.

"We need to talk about land use. We're talking annexing another property into the town of Berlin for residential use. That's really what we need to be talking about," Cascio said. "All I hear from people in town, who I'm here to represent, is they've had enough of it."

Cosby agreed, saying the project needed to be sold to the public first.

"And I won't be voting for any annexations for residential properties into this town until we have proper discussion and a plan that the people will support," Cascio added.

He also said the town has some power because it possesses the water and sewer infrastructure that developments need.

"If we don't annex it, and Mr. Salm should find a way to handle water and sewer, it's in the county and the county decides what's going to be built there."

With the current sewer capacity, Salm said he could develop more storage, contractor shops or small retail businesses on the land.

Cosby then asked Cascio what he en-

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Berlin Main St. apartment project on hold

visioned for the development of North Main Street.

“I don’t know, but this is what my mind says is 10 pounds in a five-pound bag,” Cascio said. “And what people are telling me unsolicited is we’ve got enough, and we need to consider these annexations. It’s really something that people are talking about.

“Now, we can’t stay static, obviously,” he continued. “But we need to do things, as far as I’m concerned, in a different way than we have been doing them from without rather than from within.”

Cosby said the land is in a natural growth area in the town.

“If we don’t annex, the county’s going to control development on that road,” he said.

Cascio maintained his objections to the annexation, saying that the growth will never stop.

“It’s just like cancer,” Cascio said. “It just continues to grow until it eats the host.”

Cosby responded that public education about the town’s development and this project is vital.

“They need to understand that if we

don’t control it, the county controls it,” Cosby said. “We’re in this catch 22, but I don’t want to see more commercial development up and down this road. I don’t, and if we get a great monumental Victorian building that has a beautiful façade, that’s, to me, a damn sight better than a bunch of little square commercial buildings lining the road.”

Cascio suggested the town consider state and federal agricultural preservation programs to stop the spread of development.

Salm offered to hold another meeting with the commission and the public,

who have not been allowed to attend the meetings in-person because of covid-19 concerns, to discuss the project further.

Although the commission members agreed that public input is essential, the limited attendance policy of 16 people at Berlin meetings, which began on Sept.14, won’t permit many people to be present.

“I just don’t think we’ll be able to do it anytime soon,” Cascio said.

On Sept. 11, Salm said he and his wife have decided to hold the project based on the discussions at the planning commission meeting.



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Daly lines up new Golf Committee

Board liaison sources fresh candidate to take reins as advisory group chairperson

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Following the recent resignation of two Ocean Pines Golf Committee members, the board of directors' liaison to the committee, Frank Daly, is on the verge of nominating a new chairperson and said he is encouraged by recent efforts to improve course conditions.

Daly has taken the lead to find a replacement for former Golf Committee Chairman Larry Davies, who joined member Olga Novy in leaving the group, with OPA bylaws entrusting appointment oversight to board President Larry Perrone.

"I've been checking around and getting recommendations on who would be a good chair for the committee," Daly said. "I have a certain criteria in my own mind to recommend to Larry."

Daly highlighted a trio of measures applied to the chairperson selection process, starting with the capability to oversee a committee comprised of individuals with diverse interests.

"The second thing I wanted is somebody who had a basic understanding of the sport itself," he said.

Lastly, Daly said he wanted a can-

didate who comprehended the variety of courses in terms of accessibility and amenities.

"You have public courses, semi-private courses and private courses," he said. "We would ... fit into the semi-private [variety] in that we have members, which a lot of public courses don't have."

Formulating the proper approach to appeal to members and attract visitors is crucial, Daly said.

"I wanted somebody that understood the different levels of service [and] ... cost that are involved in membership," he said. "The different levels of cost for maintaining the facility and the course."

A solid understanding of concerns and interests of the Ocean Pines community also would be crucial, Daly said.

Daly has already located an ideal nominee, he believes.

"I, in fact, have an individual I am going to be recommending to the [golf] committee and the board," he said.

Daly said after discussing with Perrone the merits of an email vote or convening a special meeting to approve the newest golf committee member, they decided to let the process wait until the next regularly scheduled board meeting on Oct. 17.

"Larry suggested we just wait until

October because, with the pandemic, the committee hasn't met," he said.

While all advisory board members require board approval, chair appointments are the purview of the OPA president.

"The person that has agreed to join the committee and lead it has already reviewed the past couple years meeting agendas and minutes," he said.

Daly said the potential committee head is also fully versed on current course conditions and continuing challenges.

"They are familiar with all those issues," he said. "The burning issue right now will be the course condition."

Daly said because of subpar turf conditions in recent months, General Manager John Viola and General Manager of Golf Operations John Malinowski have been charting corrective actions.

"As a board member, I am completely satisfied that we have found the root cause of the issue and there were multiple issues," he said.

While long-term fixes are just underway, Daly said dramatic improvements are already evident.

"I can tell you from being on the course ... the condition is markedly improved, week to week over the last three weeks," he said. "We're correcting the issues [and] I really believe this problem will not exist again."

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Town Council approves Berlin 2021 events

Homecoming Harvest will take place downtown on museum lawn next October

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) The Berlin Mayor and Council approved the 2021 calendar of events, including a new event, during its meeting on Sept. 14.

“The new event this year sponsored by the Heritage Foundation and the Calvin B. Taylor Museum is something called the Berlin Homecoming Harvest, which is an event that’s going to take place on the lawn of the museum for the entire community,” said Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director.

“They are going to have local crafts. They’re also going to do an antiques-type road show. It’s basically a hometown event, so people could have family reunions. A lot of the nonprofits will offer food for sale that day.”

The Berlin Homecoming Harvest will take place on Oct. 10, 2021 from 2-5 p.m.

Wells presented the full schedule and who will sponsor each event.

“We’re trying to incorporate and piggyback some events along with 2nd Friday,” she said.

Wells also spoke about adapting to the times and canceling the Berlin Christmas Parade and New Year’s Eve celebrations this year.

“I want you all to know that we are always continually planning and working on alternative plans,” she said.

She assured the mayor and council that there will be fun things for residents and visitors to do in town during the holidays.

District 2 Councilmember Zackery

Tyndall inquired about the fireworks that were postponed from July 3.

“With the fireworks, we’ve already paid \$5,000 for a deposit,” Wells said. “If we have the fireworks on New Year’s Eve, we do have to pay another \$5,000 for that event. So, you’ve got several choices. You could cancel the fireworks for this year and \$2,500 of that will get bumped to 2021 to be used as a deposit for next year. So, next year’s fireworks would only be \$7,500. If we have the fire-

works this year, I’ve already confirmed with the company. They can shoot them off on New Year’s Eve, but we would have to pay an additional \$5,000 for that.”

Wells added that the total cost for the fireworks every year is \$10,000 and \$5,000 of that is due when the town signs the contract.

Tyndall asked Wells if it would be possible to downsize the fireworks show, so the town does not have to
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Pines Yacht Club transitions to fall

Continued from Page 5

“What we’re going to do our last day of business with this menu, which is Sunday, we’re going to do 30 percent off your check,” he said.

The customer appreciation event is inclusive of food and drinks for dine-in service only.

“The 30 percent off for the food is a strategic move to help us run out our inventory,” he said. “The 30 percent off whatever booze you want to drink is a thank you for everybody sticking with us all summer.”

The Yacht Club will then be open Thursday through Sunday until May.

“It was without a doubt the single

most challenging year, not only we had, but everybody had,” he said, “I’m not crying here because everybody else is in the same boat.”

Reflecting on the summer of 2020, DeAngelus said Ocean Pines residents likely provided stronger support for restaurant facilities than other communities.

“I don’t have facts to back that up, but my feeling is we were a little less negatively affected than any other suburban areas outside of a city,” he said.

The seasonal transition also coincides with Gov. Larry Hogan revising capacity limits for indoor dining from half to 75 percent beginning this past Monday.

DeAngelus said the amended health-safety rules returns the restaurant to full capacity when factoring additional outdoor tables.

“The only difference is ... it’s not full capacity indoors, it’s an extra 25 percent capacity outside and a lesser 25 percent inside,” he said.

Outdoor service is largely weather dependent, DeAngelus said.

“I’d like to see a slight temperature

uptick for the remainder of September and October,” he said.

The offseason menu selections include the return of the highly successful “Family Meal” selections.

“That was a big thing for Ocean Pines they really liked,” he said. “That was a big request.”

DeAngelus said earlier this year when state directives limited restaurants to carry out or delivery service only, the Yacht Club introduced family-sized portions.

“Ocean Pines residents didn’t want to leave their house but they wanted to eat our food,” he said. “That’s where the amenity part of what we do comes into play, because instead of being a business we became an amenity.”

DeAngelus said although the schedule remains to be set, the Yacht Club will likely reintroduce delivery options as cold weather engulfs the region.

“We didn’t mind doing it, but it was challenging,” he said. “When the dead of winter sets back in, we will probably go back to some form of delivery.”

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Council discusses earlier fireworks on New Year's Eve

Continued from Page 6
pay additional costs. Wells said she would ask the vendor about a discount.

Wells added that the town is considering having the fireworks show earlier in the evening on New Year's Eve so families with children can enjoy it.

Wells also expressed gratitude for the sponsors who have funded the town's events for 2019 and 2020.

"[The Berlin Chamber of Commerce donates] a substantial amount of money for us to be able to have our events," she said. "In fiscal year '19, we brought in \$34,286.86, and last year obviously wasn't ... the donations weren't as large because of some of the events being canceled, but last year \$21,931."

In a 4 to 1 vote, the mayor and council approved six exemptions to the town's alcohol ordinance to permit alcohol consumption in non-glass containers within the designated areas of Main Street and Stevenson Lane to 14 S. Main Street, 104 Pitts Street to the intersection of Broad Street and Gay Street and 4 Bay Street to the back of the parking lot at The Atlantic Hotel for the following events in 2021:

- Berlin Jazz and Blues on May 8, 2021, from 12-6 p.m.
- Reggae Play Day on May 14, 2021, from 5-9 p.m.
- Small Town Throw Down on Sept. 11, 2021, from 1-6 p.m.
- Fiddlers Convention on Sept. 24, 2021 from 7-10 p.m. and Sept. 25, 2021, from 12-6 p.m.
- Oktoberfest and Fall Sidewalk Sale on Oct. 16, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- New Year's Eve Ball Drop on Dec. 31, 2021, from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

At-large Councilmember Thom Gulyas opposed the exceptions.



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Pines will add tennis courts, boat slips to pending budget

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Although not slated for completion until sometime during 2021, additional docks are being installed at the Yacht Club and extra court space at the Racquet Center.

General Manager John Viola said both projects would be included in the upcoming operating budget approval for the pending fiscal year.

“It will be part of the budget process,” he said.

“I have spoken to the board in general about it and we are going to run it by the Budget and Finance [committee].”

Viola said expanded T-shaped dock facilities are in the works at the Yacht Club.

“It will be for six slips that won’t be leased,” he said. “We are estimating the project will probably be in the neighborhood of \$60,000.”

Ocean Pines Marina manager Ron Fisher said the plans call for four additional boat slips on “A” dock and two more on “D” dock.

Fisher said the four slips on “A” dock would accommodate vessels up to 26 feet in length, while the additional pair could fit boats as long as 56 feet.

Viola said the dock expansion is sorely needed.

“There is a big demand for this,” he said.

In fact, Viola said Matt Ortt Companies co-founder Ralph DeAngelus also expressed interest in the proposal to help boost the Yacht Club’s bottom line.

Viola said Public Works Operations Manager Nobie Violante is already contacting marina contractors in the area to provide cost estimates.

“On the docks we want to try and get the marine companies in there so we’ll have them ready for May,” he said.

Viola said in addition to Fisher and Violante, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue and Director of Public Works Eddie Wells are helping to plan for new boat slips, which are intended as non-rentals for visitors.

“Ultimately, we’ll definitely generate revenue and that was part of the process,” he said.

Tim McMullen, who serves as facilities manager for the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex, is overseeing the tennis and pickleball court expansion under consideration.

“We are in desperate need of more

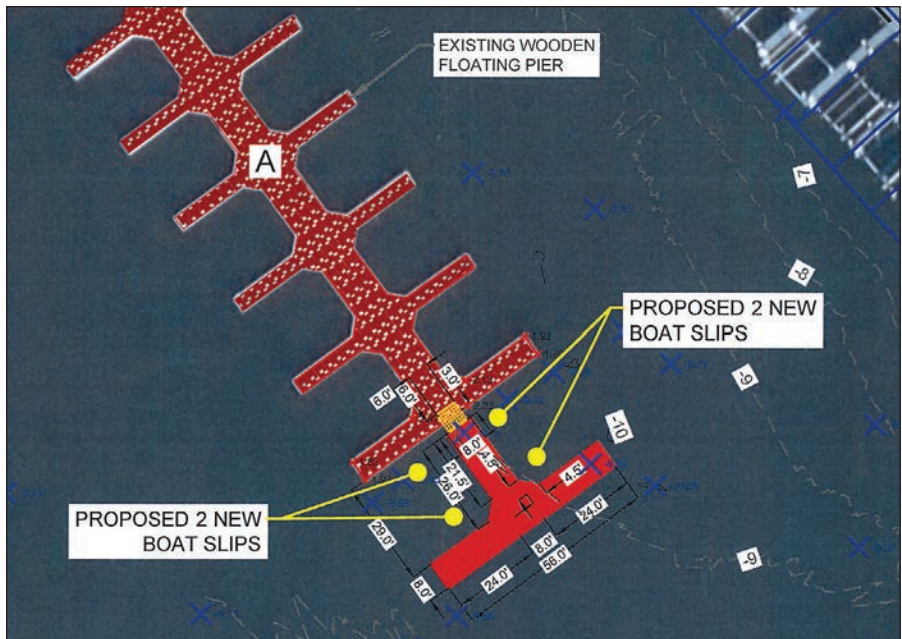


PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION
Project plans for proposed additional boat slips at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club intended as non-rentals for visitors, which if approved could be completed by next May.

pickleball courts,” he said. “We average 80 pickleball players a day.”

At this point, Worcester County officials have given tentative approval for both projects to begin the permitting process.

“The county told us we can start the procedure of building four additional pickleball courts next to our existing court number 10, which is a hard surface,” he said.

McMullen said the project will include a “Net Generation” court that could be repurposed for pickleball.

“The new tennis court which would be adjacent to our softball field is called a Net Generation court,” he said. “This is for our USTA instructor Terry Underkoffler to give tennis lessons and we would also hope it would give us flexible space if pickleball is having a tournament and needed temporary space.”

Estimates place the court costs at roughly \$125,000, which could be partially offset by grant funding, if it can be found.

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Deadline nearing for write-ins

Continued from Page 1

quirements to qualify for the election as the 10 candidates who filed to run by the Sept. 4 deadline: they must reside in Berlin, be registered voters in the town and, if running for a district council seat, live within that district.

As of Monday, Bohlen said no one has filed.

"I think that since we implemented the more formal process, no one has ever filed," she added.

The Board of Supervisors of Elections will certify any write-in candidates at its meeting next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Berlin voters will select a mayor, Districts 2 and 3 council members

and an at-large council member to complete Thom Gulyas' term.

Polling places will be open on election day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Residents of Districts 1 and 2 will vote at Buckingham Presbyterian Church at 20 S. Main Street, while residents of Districts 3 and 4 will vote at the Berlin Police Department at 129 Decatur Street.

"We're keeping with face coverings and social distancing," Bohlen added.

Registered voters in Berlin are also strongly encouraged to vote by absentee ballot because of ongoing coronavirus concerns.

For more information, contact Bohlen at 410-641-4314 or via email at mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

Memorial ceremony goes virtual

Continued from Page 1

counting a host of wartime memories.

Instead of the in-person gathering this year, the tribute will feature pre-recorded comments by guest speakers and a performance of patriotic selections by the Delmarva Chorus. The program will be available for on-line viewing beginning Nov. 11.

"At our last board meeting, we talked about it and said, 'we just can't do it' because we're afraid we'll have more than the governor allows," O'Hare said.

She also said members are striving to provide a semblance of normalcy with a program featuring segments

recorded remotely and onsite at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

"It will be streamed," she said. "There will be a ceremony, virtually, because we can't stand not doing this and it is important."

The prerecorded Veteran's Day program will be available for online viewing on both the Ocean Pines Association and Worcester County Veterans Memorial websites and social media pages: oceanpines.org, opvets.org, facebook.com/OceanPinesAssociation, facebook.com/WorcesterCountyVeteransMemorial

Pines adds slips, tennis courts

Continued from Page 8

"It's five total courts but the one can be used for two pickleball courts," he said.

Site expansions would be ADA complaint.

"Both courts are 60 x 120 feet, which gives you one official USDA tennis courts, and 60 x 120 can give you four pickleball courts," he said.

McMullen said the additional

courts should be completed by next summer.

"We average 120 racquet players per day and hopefully next summer where we have a little bit of normalcy, we can easily have over 150 players with this expansion," he said.

An informational meeting about the new Yacht Club docks is being held on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

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Schools: reading, writing and health-safety

Continued from Page 1

Taylor added that the schools will not be conducting daily temperature screenings. However, as most of the employees have already returned to campus, they complete daily questionnaires as part of check-ins.

“If all goes well, every two weeks, we’ll reevaluate where we are,” Taylor said. “I’m sure we’ll have to make some adjustments on the fly.”

Taylor said a date has yet to be set for the beginning of Stage Three of the Responsible Return model, which will bring students back for hybrid learning in an alternating week schedule.

“That will all be determined by how well we’re handling this pandemic nationally and in our county,” Taylor said. “Our health department is our key partner right now in making sure that our kids and teachers stay safe. I met with the health department leadership team last Thursday with part of my leadership team. We all feel very good about where we are today.”

Roughly 6,800 students are currently enrolled in the county’s public schools, some of which have opted to continue distance learning for the fall.

“We want everybody to feel safe. We want everybody to have an environment for learning that’s conducive to how they want to live,” Taylor said.

Although there are no designated areas for outdoor classrooms, Taylor said teachers are permitted to take students outside where it is safe and conducive for learning.

The school system also is adjusting to social distancing requirements on buses.

“We’re allowed one kid per seat, so our bus drivers are going to be moving around a little more than normal. They may have to make more than

one run,” Taylor said.

As a result of staggering buses on the north end of Worcester County, Taylor said school hours have been slightly modified, but there has not been a significant increase in time at any school.

A petition has been made to the Worcester County Board of Education to retract the extension of school hours. Some parents say the later dismissals could prevent children from participating in extracurricular activities.

Worcester Preparatory School is in its fourth week of school with about 95 percent of its student population engaged in in-person instruction.

Dr. John McDonald Jr., the head of school, said the number of students participating in virtual learning for the first term is decreasing.

More than 440 students are enrolled in Worcester Preparatory between prekindergarten and 12th grade.

Since students have returned to the South Main Street campus in Berlin, Worcester Preparatory has implemented safety measures to protect students and employees. These health-safety steps include installing desk dividers and plexiglass dividers for the teachers to stand behind during instruction as well as using air scrubbers to aid and filter the ventilation inside.

Teachers are also using 11 different outdoor classroom spaces for fresh air.

Every morning, students’ temperatures are taken as they exit their vehicles or the buses. After temperature screenings, students head directly to their classrooms.

All students and employees are required to wear masks.

McDonald said he is proud of students for not complaining about the



PHOTO COURTESY MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Ed and Stephanie Rohe donated outdoor recess equipment and storage containers for each class at Most Blessed Sacrament on Racetrack Road in Berlin to make disinfecting between uses much easier. Pictured, from left, are Librarian Christa Gunther and her mother, Stephanie Rohe.

enforcement of face coverings throughout the school day.

In addition, classroom sizes have been decreased to permit social distancing of six feet in every direction, McDonald said.

With the limitations on classroom sizes, the school library has been transformed into three different classrooms.

McDonald expressed his gratitude for teachers who are teaching additional sections because of the decreased classroom sizes and doing more lesson planning for students who are still engaged in virtual learning.

He added that there is a waitlist for most grades at this time.

As of Tuesday morning, there had been no instances of the coronavirus or positive tests at the private school,

McDonald said.

Kathleen Manns, the principal of Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, also said no positive coronavirus tests have been reported at this time.

She added that students have adjusted well to the safety protocols since they returned to campus on Sept. 8.

“Basically, we spent the first four days working with the kids, teaching them proper handwashing techniques [and] teaching them what six feet looks like,” Manns said. “We have signage on the floor like footprints that are six feet apart for them to line up on.”

Parent Rick Deale worked with Creative Assemblies in Bridgeville, Delaware, and Arena Signs in Lewes, Delaware, to supply the school with

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In-person classes mean new safety protocols

touchless hand-sanitizing stations, Manns added.

All students must wear masks inside the parochial school on Race-track Road in Berlin and outside if social distancing cannot be main-tained.

“This new way of life has given us the opportunity to think ‘outside’ of the box,” Manns said. “Children need time outdoors to recharge and move. It has been proven to help in their ac-ademic and physical development. We are now offering a lot more free-dom for teachers to instruct outside in the fresh air. These are changes that will stay with our school commu-nity long after covid-19 is memory.”

She added that an area in the rear of the building has been designated as an outdoor classroom for small groups of students.

Amanda Evans, the director of ad-missions and advancement at Most Blessed Sacrament, said the campus sits on 22 acres and offers many op-portunities for outdoor learning.

Students were also provided Most Blessed Sacrament cinch bags to fill with supplies for outdoor learning, such as a beach towel, a hat, sun-glasses, pens, pencils and a clip-board.

As the weather changes, Manns added that she will instruct parents to

pack items like gloves and winter hats.

Manns also expressed gratitude for Ed and Stephanie Rohe, who do-nated new and easily sanitized play-ground equipment for all classes, and Duane and Josie Cover for leading a team of volunteers to create a sun-shade over the outdoor classroom.

“Generosity and service to others runs deep in our [Most Blessed Sacrament] community,” Manns said. “Throughout the months lead-ing up to our opening, our families, teachers and staff really came to-gether with ideas, donations and sup-port. We truly couldn’t do any of this without them. Our diocesan school year theme is ‘Called to Serve’ and it is already taking action with the shared time, talent and treasure of our school body.”

Under the direction of the Catholic school’s office in Wilmington, Delaware, Most Blessed Sacrament was able to engage in in-person in-struction five days a week with ac-commodations.

Most Blessed Sacrament has a stu-dent population under 250 students from prekindergarten through eighth grade, with all students participating in in-person instruction.

Manns added that distance learn-ing was not an option for students,



PHOTO COURTESY CARRIE STERRS
Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor observes Joe Miller’s environmental science lesson being conducted via Zoom at Worcester Technical High School on Sept. 8.

but accommodations have been made for one family because of medical rea-sons.

Furthermore, it is the responsibil-ity of the families to evaluate stu-dents’ health before entering the school each day. Most Blessed Sacra-ment is not conducting daily tempera-ture screenings.

“We are depending on our parents

to do the right thing and to be hon-est,” Manns said. “We’re asking our parents to do a wellness check at home, including temperature checks. If in doubt, stay home.”

Most Blessed Sacrament is not awarding perfect attendance for the 2020-21 school year, so students do not feel pressured to attend school when they are ill.



Vote

October 6, 2020

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Jennifer Allen

Mayor

Fellow Berliners,

I was asked why I am sending postcards and not walking around. As a registered nurse, I am concerned about the pandemic and getting into your space. Many people are uncomfortable with unannounced visits and talking to people they do not know. Thus, it is not appropriate to knock and talk. The idea behind the postcards is to have a conversation without anyone feeling uneasy. Postcard 1 was an introduction and 2 to 4 each have questions that you can think about and if you want to discuss, email me.

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 - ◊ Are you pinching pennies to pay your taxes?
- WHO WAS WATCHING THE BUDGET WHEN THE SEWER FUND NEEDED ADDITIONAL MONEY TO MEET EXPENSES?
 - ◊ Why weren't the sewer fees adjusted when this was happening, rather than draining our general fund?
 - ◊ Do you think interim budget reports and action by the Mayor/Council were indicated in this situation?
- We need **Extensive Reviews and Transparency** regarding the budget and taxes!
 - ◊ I will do an FY 2021 and 12-year review of how all the \$\$ are/were spent!
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If you would like to talk to me, please email jenniferforberlinmayor@gmail.com. I will email, phone, or visit if invited.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Allen

Board of Education reviews comprehensive master plan

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer
(Sept. 24, 2020) Worcester County school officials presented an overview of the “Local Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan,” or the new “Master Plan,” to the county Board of Education at its meeting on Sept. 15.

According to school officials, the Every Student Succeeds Act is the country’s primary education law for public schools. The purpose of the act is to increase student achievement and to eliminate achievement gaps among students for all 24 school districts in Maryland. The law aims to ensure equity for students who get special education or other special services. “To give you a little background, in 2002, the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act was passed by the Maryland General Assembly,” said Amy Gallagher, the coordinator of accountability, assessment and school counselors for the county school system. The “Bridge to Excellence” legislation increased state aid to public education and required each local school system to establish a comprehensive

master plan to be updated yearly. When the Every Student Succeeds Act was reauthorized in 2015, the 24 school districts were provided more flexibility to be innovative while remaining accountable for student success, Gallagher said. “Last year in 2019 ... the requirements of the structure of this plan that is submitted by Worcester County annually was consolidated significantly,” Gallagher said. Worcester County Public Schools submits a Local Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan for review annually by Oct. 15. This year, school districts are expected to present information about two components of the law— the gifted and talented plan and new teacher induction and mentoring. “However, all grants (Titles I, II, III, IV and the Fine Arts grant) are still required to have these reports done, so that’s in addition to the components of the [Local Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan],” said Coordinator of Instruction Tamara Mills. Mills said the school system is updating its identification process for gifted students.

See WCPS Page 15

Concussion safety regulations

Continued from Page 12
must include training coaches in concussion risk and management with refresher training every two years. It also requires concussion education training for physical education teachers and written and signed acknowledgment of notification of student-athletes and their parents or legal guardians of the risk of concussion or head injury, removal from and return to play standards, the process of reporting of the injury and the academic accommodations for concussion victims. The policy states that if a concussion injury occurs during a school or school-sponsored event the following will occur: any student-athlete who is suspected of having a concussion will be immediately removed from practice or play, an emergency contact will be notified in person or by phone and in writing immediately, appropriate academic accommodations and restrictions will be made to the student-athlete during the recovery phase, the athletic director and school nurse will be notified before the start of the following school day of a student-athlete who has a concussion injury and a student-athlete may return to play after the student receives written clearance from a professional medical assessment. Youth sports programs that want to use Worcester County Public Schools’ athletic facilities must distribute concussion information in writing to par-

ents and legal guardians and receive verifiable acknowledgement of the risk of concussion or head injury. In addition, youth sports programs must annually affirm to the county school system that they are compliant with concussion information procedures. For more information, visit worcesterk12.org.

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Worcester County Board of Education has included a projected construction schedule for the Stephen Decatur Middle School addition in its capital improvement program for the 2022 fiscal year.

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WCPS requests funding for school addition

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) The Worcester County Board of Education unanimously approved the 2022 fiscal year capital improvement program and authorization to forward the program to the state Interagency Commission on School Construction during its meeting on Sept. 15.

Each year, Worcester County Public Schools is required to submit a capital improvement program to the State of Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction.

The capital improvement program is a six-year plan that allows the State of Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction to identify public school construction needs and establish a reasonable schedule for funding and implementation, ac-

cording to school officials.

For the 2022 fiscal year, the school board will include a funding request for a 24,820-square-foot addition on the south side of Stephen Decatur Middle School on Seahawk Road in Berlin.

The project will add 12 general education classrooms, four science labs, four science preparation areas, two meeting rooms, one conference room as well as storage space.

Worcester County Public Schools Facilities Planner Joe Price and Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert said the state will make decisions regarding funding approval later in the 2021 fiscal year.

They anticipate seeking bids for the project next August depending on state funding approval and local funding approval by the Worcester County Commissioners.

Then, Price and Tolbert will seek the board's and county commissioners' approval of the bids.

If all goes well, construction will begin in November 2021.

Other future project requests included in the capital improvement program are roof replacement projects at

Snow Hill Middle/Cedar Chapel Special, Stephen Decatur Middle and Pocomoke Elementary Schools and a Buckingham Elementary replacement school project or addition project.

A summary of previously approved projects and enrollment data are also incorporated into the plan.

WCPS submits ESSA plan yearly

Continued from Page 13

"Right now, in our county, only sixth to 12th graders are identified," Mills said. "We should be identifying in third grade."

She added that fourth and fifth graders will be identified in November and December through the Cognitive Abilities Test, which is widely used across the state, and other factors.

"In the state ... we are required to identify essentially 10 percent, or a minimum of 10 percent, of each grade level, which is interesting," Mills said. "Nationally, the research shows really only three to five percent is truly gifted. However, we have a lot of high-achieving students."

Mills said only two schools in the county system are struggling to meet that 10 percent.

"We're also going to do a book study with the elementary and middle school teachers, a group of them from each school," she said.

described as intensive training and instructional technology.

Gallagher and central office coordinators provided professional learning and the human resources coordinators provided employee orientation information.

Worcester County Public Schools will also offer afterschool professional learning opportunities twice a month with a Book Talk and a Microsoft Team for new teachers.

The book they will discuss is "I Wish My Teacher Knew" by Kyle Schwartz.

The draft submission for the Local Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Strategic Plan is due Oct. 15 and the technical review by the Maryland State Department of Education on Nov. 6. Then, the final submission is due on Nov. 16.



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★ OCT 6TH RE-ELECT ★
**gee
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Board of Education adopts new Title IX policy

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) A change in the Title IX federal rule prohibiting schools and colleges from discriminating on the basis of sex has added a new means of providing due process for students accused of sexual assault.

The rule changes went into effect on Aug. 14 after two years of debate.

“Today marks a new era in the storied history of Title IX in which the right to equal access to education required by law is truly protected for all students,” wrote Betsy DeVos, former U.S. Secretary of Education, in a press release on Aug. 14. “Every student should know that their school will be held accountable for responding to incidents of sexual misconduct and that it must treat all students fairly. This rule, as courts have recently noted, restores balance to the scales of justice in our schools, ending one of the most infamous and damaging overreaches of the previous administration.”

The new rule narrows the definition of sexual harassment and provides that a person accused of sexual misconduct is entitled to a hearing before a panel, and the right to cross-examine accusers.

But the Department of Education’s rule, which replaces an Obama Administration rule that afforded more protection for alleged victims, also offers survivors supportive measures, to select

one of two standards of evidence and to provide “rape shield” protections and ensure survivors are not required to reveal any medical, psychological or similar privileged records.

In addition, the regulation defines sexual harassment to include sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking as unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex.

The Worcester County Board of Education adopted the policy called “Title IX Sexual Harassment” to the Equity and Opportunity section of the Organization of the Worcester County School System.

Dr. Dwayne Abt, the chief of safety & human relations officer at Worcester County Public Schools, said lawyers at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education helped lead the local school system through the new provisions.

Prior to the most recent Title IX rule, Abt said the county school system had regulations in effect to protect its employees and students.

“Specifically dealing with Title IX, we had a policy already in place for Title IX grievance procedures,” Abt said. “We have a policy in place for harassment of employees, which includes sexual ha-

arrassment and other types of harassment. And then, we also have a policy in place for students, for student bullying, harassment and intimidation. That policy encompasses sexual harassment, dealing at the student level.”

As part of the new rule, the board designated Abt as the school system’s Title IX coordinator during its meeting on Sept. 15.

“As the Title IX coordinator, the primary responsibility that I have there is to coordinate the school district’s compliance with Title IX, and that includes the district’s grievance procedures and resolution in complaint.”

In the case of a school system, Abt added that he must report incidents of child abuse or neglect. For alleged reports of adults, he is not required to report incidents that do not necessarily meet the threshold of a criminal act.

“That’s what this new policy and administrative procedure guides school officials on —how to receive formal complaints, how to investigate those complaints, timelines associated with those complaints, resolutions, processes, appeals and record keeping,” Abt said.

Worcester County Public Schools’ new policy states that the district “does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates, including admission and

employment.”

The local school system is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations enforced by the U.S. Department of Education not to discriminate in such a manner.

Questions about the application of the Title IX rule to Worcester County Public Schools can be addressed to Abt, Catherine E. Lhamon, the assistant secretary for civil rights of the Department of Education, or both.

According to the county school system’s policy, any person can report incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment in person, by mail, by telephone or by e-mail at any time using the following contact information:

Office address: 6270 Worcester Highway Newark, Maryland 21841; Email: TitleIX@worcesterk12.org; Phone number: 410-632-5000.

If the alleged harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex does not meet the definition of sexual harassment, Abt will direct the person through the appropriate sex discrimination process for investigation.

“I would actually receive the complaint as the Title IX coordinator, and I would facilitate all paperwork and any resolution process. In addition to me just receiving the complaint, someone

See RULE Page 17



Dr. Dwayne Abt

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Fun-filled weekend on tap in Ocean Pines

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Twin events will be held this weekend at White Horse Park and the adjacent Ocean Pines Community Center, with one for Halloween-oriented kids on Sunday, and the other for bargain hunters and shoppers on Saturday.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said Ocean Pines' Fall Outdoor Flea Market will take place Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon in White Horse Park.

"Saturday's flea market is our annual fall flea market," she said.

Unlike in past years, when vendors were inside the Community Center, and a few were set up in the parking lot, that approach has been changed because of the covid-19 pandemic.

"We were not able to do it indoors, obviously, but we were given permission to do it outside," she said.

Donahue said despite the change, more than 40 vendors are on board for the flea market.

"We were excited by the fact that most of our indoor vendors were willing to stay and to do the flea market outside," she said.

Rule prohibits discrimination

Continued from Page 16
that we designate at the school system would have to investigate those allegations," Abt said.

"Now, I cannot receive the complaint and do the investigation," Abt said, noting one change in the new rule, which had allowed one person to handle and investigate an accusation.

"It has to be a separate person, so we try to take the bias out of it. And then, there's a third person that we call the decision-maker that would look at the investigation and make a final decision of was it sexual harassment, was it not sexual harassment, what consequences might be levied against the employee."

"Of course, we would work with authorities if it met a criminal threshold," Abt said. "But if it's, say, if it's a report within our school system that doesn't meet those thresholds, we have guidance on how to conduct those investigations. The new investigation and process is basically like a court hearing."

Abt, who is entering his third year at Worcester County Public Schools, added that he has received no complaints.

The policy also states that Worcester County Public Schools prohibits any form of retaliation against a person because he or she "made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation proceeding or hearing, if applicable."

Merchants will be offering keepsakes and bargains for a variety of goods, including toys and clothing for kids, DVDs for film buffs, paperbacks and hardcovers for bookworms and all kinds of furniture.

By contrast, the Halloween Craft Time on Sunday is strictly for youngsters.

"They're doing a woodworking Halloween craft for kids," she said.

With October about to begin, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks is providing an opportunity for kids to get in the spirit by painting a wooden Halloween sign.

The children's workshop will take place from 10-11 a.m. inside the Community Center and cost \$5 per participant. The fee will cover of the cost of materials.

"For the Halloween Craft Time, they do have to wear masks if they are over the age of 5 and adults will have to wear masks as well, because it will be inside," she said.

The same safety precautions will be in place for the Fall Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday.

"Even for the flea market, we're asking that all the vendors and patrons wear a mask just like they would anyplace else," she said.

Donahue said the rules are in line with similar measures in place at the Farmers and Artisans Market held every



Bargain hunters peruse vendor selections during the Ocean Pines annual fall flea market last September, which is being held exclusively outdoors this year due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic.

Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park

"We have always had them do six-foot distancing," she said.

Maryland remains under an executive order issued by Gov. Larry Hogan on April 15 that requires the use of face-masks inside retail establishments, which includes farmers markets.

"The vendors wear masks and the people that attend wear masks," she said. "I had a discussion with [Market Manager] David [Bean]... and there were signs put up."

Donahue said White Horse Park

would likely be abuzz with activity on Saturday since the Fall Flea Market coincides with the regularly scheduled Farmers and Artisans Market.

"You could literally come in one side of the park and walk right through the flea market and keep right on walking over to the farmers market," she said. "It just sort of all flows together."

For more information or questions, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052, email rec@oceanpines.org, or visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks.

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Opinion

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

Berlin candidates will be asked about plans

Heading into the days before Berlin’s Oct. 6 election, the question everyone should want to know is not just what the candidates believe should happen during their terms, but how they intend to get it done.

What is the plan for achieving the goals that these candidates have embraced? What changes in procedures might be in order, and how do the candidates intend to make them happen?

It’s not terribly difficult to stand for something, but it’s a much more demanding business to establish and explain a workable way of acting on that belief.

Further the routes to these objectives, as expressed by the candidates, must show an understanding of the ramifications of each move, as in who or what will be affected by the chosen course.

Normally, municipal elections don’t require candidates to have an established platform to follow during their terms. But Berlin has some big issues facing it, at least according to the people seeking office, who are campaigning on their opinions of what’s right and wrong with the way the town conducts its business.

That’s fine, the public should be saying, but give us the details. At this stage, people know what candidates are for and against, but they don’t necessarily know what they plan to do about it.

Further, some issues shouldn’t be issues at all, like the financial transparency debate. Why this is being discussed is a mystery, as all government finances are public records in this state and are available — to everyone — for the asking. In many instances, we suspect, no one asked, but relied on the word of others, who may not have been completely forthright.

In any event, we will be asking the candidates about their visions and plans for articles in next week’s Bayside Gazette. This should give candidates the weekend to think about how to articulate not just what they want to do, but how they’re going to do it.



Elections committee report details

(Sept. 24, 2020) This year’s election in Ocean Pines saw a slight increase in voter participation, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee reported last week, noting that the uptick occurred at a time when a new balloting system was being introduced.

The committee met nine times from Nov. 2019 to Aug. 2020, when the election concluded.

Election results, announced on Aug. 7 and validated during a special board meeting on Aug. 12, saw the re-election of incumbent directors Doug Parks (2,206 votes) and Colette Horn (1,801 votes). Lakernick finished third, with 1,149 votes, and was not elected.

Additionally, voters responded to a ballot question on the possible use of future electronic voting, with 65.8 percent of the respondents (1,581 votes), said they would support such a move, while 34.2 percent (822 votes) were not in favor.

“Consistent with the results of the survey question on possible future electronic voting, the EC will investigate options for future balloting systems,” the report said.

A total of 6,975 ballots were mailed to homeowners in good standing, and 2,769 ballots were counted by an elections committee contractor, using the new hardware and software system. The committee manually invalidated 20 ballots, including 18 returned “marked improperly or [with] comments on [the] ballot” and two because of improper envelopes.

Including 162 ballots received after the voting deadline, the total return rate was 42.2 percent. That compares favorably to a year ago, when the ballot return rate was 39.3%.

The committee this year adopted a new balloting system, according to the report, because of the “obsolescence of the Scantron system” and the move by Ocean Pines to new Northstar software systems.

The cost for the 2020 election was \$18,174, or \$6,826 below the \$25,000 amount budgeted.

On the election, the committee’s report said, “This was an unusual year, as residents were given until Aug. 1 to pay assessments; however, OPA By-Laws require

that if the assessments were not paid as of July 1, residents are ineligible to vote in the election. This situation caused confusion among residents and generated a number of calls to the election committee line.”

Also unusual, the report said, was the number of late ballots.

“There were 162 total ballots received after the deadline. In comparison, for 2019, 46 ballots were received after the deadline,” the report said.

The report also recommended that the directors communicate what constitutes voter eligibility and how to ensure an account is in good standing.

The board also found that because there were three candidates for two board openings this year, when the by-laws state there should be four for two openings, the filing deadline was extended. That made it difficult for the committee to do its work, the report said.

To view the report, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/72816/2020-09-12+Election+Committee+Report++FINAL.pdf>,

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Doellgast family donates artwork to Pines Library

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2020) Looking to leave a lasting impression on an institution that left an indelible mark on her heart, the family of Mary Doellgast donated several paintings from the prolific artist to the Ocean Pines Library last week.

Nancy Doellgast said her mother, who passed away on June 12, 2019 at 86, was art exhibit coordinator for Friends of Ocean Pines Library from 2004 to 2016.

“She was a very creative person,” she said.

Nancy Doellgast said her mother, who was known as “Oma” to family and friends, worked in a variety of mediums, including landscape watercolors, collage, pastels and graphic design.

“She did a variety of things,” she said. “Most of her work, she was inspired by nature.”

Mary Doellgast, who was immersed in the Eastern Shore art scene and a member of the Ocean City Art League, was employed as a decorator at the Vanderbilt Mansion in Centerport, Long Island before relocating to Maryland.

“Later in life she got a degree in



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Nancy Doellgast, right, is assisted by Ocean Pines Branch Manager Harry Burkett and Art Exhibit Coordinator Paulette Mari to display artwork by her mother, Mary Doellgast, who died last June, which the family donated to the facility last week.

fine arts and interior design,” she said.

After her five daughters, Elena, Nancy, Jeannette, Mary and Alicia, left the nest, Doellgast, then in her 60s, graduated from Suffolk County Community College in South Hampton, New York.

Nancy Doellgast said her father, Alfred, who died in 2002 at 75, shared a passion for nature and art with his wife of 49 years.

“My dad was an artist as well,” she said.

Alfred Doellgast, who wed Mary Waldron in June 1953 at the Incarna-


tion Church in New York City, also served in WWII as a military police soldier with the Blue Devils Occupational Force in Italy.

After spending two decades operating a mechanical engineering business in Brooklyn, Alfred Doellgast

See MARY Page 21



OPEN HOUSES SEPT. 25 - OCT. 1



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Friday 11-3, Sat-Sun 10-4	1200 St. Louis Ave., Island Time – OC	3BR/3.5BA	Townhomes	\$399,900	Dan Clayland/Coldwell Banker Res. Brokerage
Saturday 11-1	19 Powellton Ave., Berlin	2BR/1BA	Single Family	\$242,500	Power of 2/Hileman Realty





Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

INTERNS

Assateague Island Alliance, the Friends Group of Assateague Island National Seashore, raised \$7,013.05 in an online fundraiser in May to hire two Wild Horse Management interns. These positions provide crucial support to park staff to manage visitor interactions with wildlife.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FUNDRAISER

Charity Dudley of Mobile Hair Services trims up her grandson, Jayce Gurskey, 4, during a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City in August, with the next haircut fundraiser now scheduled for Oct. 17.

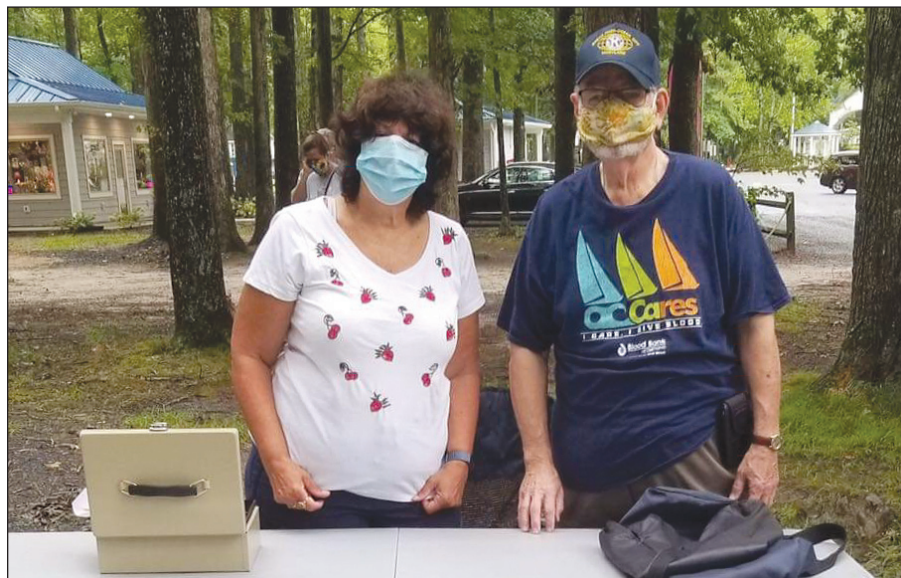


PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

RAFFLE

The local Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. selling tickets for its "Lottery Raffle" fundraiser. Pictured are Kiwanians Jackie Dubin and Tom Southwell. Tickets for the 365-day 2021 raffle cost \$20 and are based on the Maryland "Pick 3" daily evening number. All proceed benefit local youth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Bill Hickey, president of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, right, presents a check for \$25,000 to Lou Taylor, superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools. The donation will be used to set up a professional development center at the Worcester County Board of Education central office in Newark.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BINGO

Worcester County Humane Society volunteers bark out letters and numbers during the third annual Wags and Whiskers Bingo on Aug. 30 at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EXPO

Jacque Parker with Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County, which operates the ReStore donation center located in Berlin at 9026 Worcester Hwy., informs visitors about the nonprofits mission during the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Community Expo on Sept. 12 at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

Mary Doellgast's daughters honor artist's legacy in Pines

transitioned to the educational realm and spent the next 20 years teaching industrial and fine arts in the NYC school system before retiring in 1990. His remaining years were occupied with producing flower and rock sculpture gardens at his residence in Paterson, New Jersey.

"Arts is in the family," she said. "My younger sister is still a painter."

Alicia Doellgast, who paints under the name Isha, shared an artistic connection with her mother and continues to echo her nature-centric representations

"She loved to share her passion for the arts through encouraging and inspiring future generations of artists," she said.

"Growing, we were probably some of the few kids that would go into New York City to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and spend a few hours there all seven of us," she said. "We were always doing things art-related on Sunday."

The weekend cultural enrichment also involved the literary arts.

"As a kid, my mother took us to the library every Saturday morning," she said. "Family was the most important thing to my mom."

Mary Doellgast continued her library connection in later years as a resident of Ocean Pines.

"The Ocean Pines Library was very important to her," she said.

In 2016, with declining health slowing her down, Mary Doellgast opted to train Paulette Mari to take the reins as the library's art exhibit coordinator.

"She wanted to hand this off and Paulette volunteered," she said. "Paulette is her protégé."

The pair bonded as native New Yorkers with an affinity for the arts.

"They had a lot of shared background," she said.

Mari and Ocean Pines Branch Manager Harry Burkett were present last Thursday when Jeannette and her sister Mary re-delivered three works, Dolphins, Blue Dolphins and Blue Seas, which were originally slated for a rotational display earlier this year.

"The work was hung back at the end of February but then covid happened," she said. "It was only supposed to be up for two months."

After recently being alerted that the Library was again open, albeit in limited capacity, the Doellgast sisters returned and decided to turn the art loan into a gift.

"My sister and I talked and said, 'Let's give it to the library because mom would want us to do that,'" she said. "It's permanent."



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Monday, October 12th Starting at 5:30 pm

- ★ Your chance to win is as real as ever while supporting the critically ill children and families we serve!
- ★ Every \$100 raffle ticket gives you a 1 in 225 chance at winning \$10,000 and other cash prizes during the reverse draw raffle!
- ★ With the purchase of a ticket, you will receive a program booklet with valuable coupons to local restaurants.

Watch the drawing on Facebook live at Facebook.com/BelieveInTmww

To purchase your tickets, visit:
BelieveInTomorrow.org/BeachBash



NOW PLAYING



OVER TIME
Ocean Pines Yacht Club: Friday, Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE
15th St. & Baltimore Ave., Ocean City
410-289-7192 / www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday:
Phil Perdue on piano, 5-9 p.m.

COCONUTS BEACH BAR & GRILL
In the Castle in the Sand Hotel
37th Street Oceanfront, Ocean City
410-289-6846 / www.castleinthesand.com
Sept. 25: Whisky Train, noon to 4 p.m.;
Monkee Paw, 5-9 p.m.

Sept. 26: Kevin Poole & Joe Mama, noon to 4 p.m.;
Human Connection, 5-9 p.m.
Sept. 27: Aaron Howell Duo, noon to 3 p.m.;
Colossal Fossil Sauce, 4-8 p.m.
Oct. 1: Aaron Howell Solo, noon to 3 p.m.;
Kevin Poole & Joe Mama, 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
Sept. 25-26: On The Edge, 7 p.m. to midnight



FIRST CLASS
Lenny's Beach Bar and Grille: Friday & Saturday, Sept. 25-26, 4-9 p.m.

Lenny's Beach Bar and Grille
Sept. 25-26: First Class, 4-9 p.m.

OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB
1 Mumfords Landing Road, Ocean Pines
410-641-7501 / www.opyachtclub.org
Sept. 25: Over Time, 6-9 p.m.
Sept. 26: Tranzfusion, 6-10 p.m.

SEACRETS
49th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900 / www.seacrets.com
Sept. 25: John McNutt Duo, 4-8 p.m.;
Benderz Duo, 8-11:30 p.m.
Sept. 26: Kono Nation Duo, 4-8 p.m.;
Stealing Savannah Duo, 8-11:30 p.m.
Sept. 27: Opposite Directions, 4-8 p.m.

Calendar

Thurs., Sept. 24

NEA BIG READ: CREATIVE WRITING WITH NANCY MITCHELL
Offered via Zoom, 2:00 PM, these multi-course workshops focus on fear, survival and the human spirit. Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6934342>.

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY WITH ANTI-BULLYING MESSAGE
Beginning at 3:00 PM. The purpose of the assembly is to speak out against bullying as well as to motivate and inspire kids to succeed. It also serves as a pathway to reach kids who need a mentor through Worcester Connects, a mentor program through Worcester Youth and Family Counseling in Berlin. The event will feature Bubba Almony, celebrity bodyguard and Ambassador for Bodyguards Against Bullying. The event is for middle school students. Registration is required. Info: Debbie Smullen, dsmullen@gowoyo.org or 410-641-4598.

FREE CONCERT IN THE PARK
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., 7:00 PM. Music provided by Bayside Worship Team & Friends, featuring gospel music. Pack a picnic, bring lawn chairs and practice safe social distancing. The CDC requires a list of attendees. Email your name and phone number to karah@pocomokemd.gov if you plan to attend. 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, <http://DowntownPocomoke.com>

Fri., Sept. 25

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 8:00 PM. Movie is to be announced. Bring snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, lawn chairs/blankets. Sit in your own family pod. Movies are free, but donations welcomed. Check for updates at Facebook.com/ccao.

GREEN MARKET
Fridays through Nov. 27 - Trimper Rides under the Ferris Wheel, 600 S. Atlantic Ave., 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Local Farmers Market featuring fresh everything and more from our local farmers. The market is agriculture based only. There will be live music and weekly drawings. Sally Kneavel, Sally@TrimperRides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

Sat., Sept. 26

OUT OF THE DARKNESS EXPERIENCE
Participants are encouraged to walk to fight suicide on Sept. 26 and 27 with friends and family in their neighborhood, in parks, or on their treadmills.

Wear AFSP or Out of the Darkness T-shirts and make signs in honor of a loved one or to spread hope in your community. If walking is not your thing, do whatever you enjoy, it is YOUR experience. There will be a virtual Opening Ceremony that everyone will be able to join on their own time on the weekend of Sept. 26. Register and like the Facebook event page at https://www.facebook.com/events/640416380053740/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D.

FALL OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET
White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Featuring more than 40 vendors offering keepsakes and bargains for a variety of goods, including toys and clothing for kids, DVDs, paperbacks and hardcovers and all kinds of furniture. All those over the age of 5 years, are required to wear a mask. This event coincides with the regularly scheduled Farmers and Artisans Market.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Sept. 27

OUT OF THE DARKNESS EXPERIENCE
Participants are encouraged to walk to fight suicide on September 26 and 27 with friends and family in their neighborhood, in parks, or on their treadmills. Wear AFSP or Out of the Darkness T-shirts and make signs in honor of a loved one or to spread hope in your community. If walking is not your thing, do whatever you enjoy, it is YOUR experience. There will be a virtual Opening Ceremony that everyone will be able to join on their own time on the weekend of Sept. 26. Register and like the Facebook event page at https://www.facebook.com/events/640416380053740/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D.

ROCK AND RIDE ORIGINAL LIVE MUSIC
Trimper Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM every Sunday. Jessica Bauer, Jessica@TrimperRides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

HALLOWEEN CRAFT TIME
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. This event is an opportunity for kids to get in the spirit by painting a wooden Halloween sign. The cost is \$5 per participant. All those over the age of 5 years,

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



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SEA ARTWORK
Beth Mills of Chincoteague sells her Sea Art original paintings at the Motherhood Walk in Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin on Sept. 12.

are required to wear a mask.

THE BERLIN FARMERS MARKET
Sundays through Aug. 30 - Located on Pitts Street and Main Street, 9:00 AM - 1:00 pm. Special senior shopping time from 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM. www.berlin-mainstreet.com

Mon., Sept. 28

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
The meeting will be held via conference call, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

Wed., Sept. 30

THE WITTY FIBER FRIENDS
Join via Zoom, 10:00 AM, for a combined group and yards of fun while knitting, crocheting and embroidering. All levels are welcome Register: <https://worcesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6940299>

ONGOING EVENTS

LOWER SHORE WALKING TOUR
Residents are invited to join the free walking tour and walk from Oct. 1-31 at any of the 43 identified public walking routes and trails or choose their own paths. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/LS-Walking-Tour> registration. The first 100 to submit a phot of themselves walking will receive a T-shirt. All walkers are asked to take a selfie photo along their walks and submit for a chance at a prize. Info: Just-



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AUTHOR SIGNING
Anna Dolle Bushnell signs copies of her book, "Dolle's Candyland, Inc." outside of Dolle's Candyland on South Main Street in Berlin on Sept. 11.

WalkWorcester.org, Somersettrailmix.com or Walk-Wicomico.com.

ALL-VIRTUAL SAND CASTLE HOME TOUR
The tour kicks off on Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. and runs through Oct. 15. Tickets cost \$30 and include unlimited access for two weeks to the tour site, plus opportunities to win daily door prizes. Tickets and tour preview: www.SandCastleHome-Tour.com. Proceeds benefit The Art League of Ocean City.

WIGGLE BOT STEM KITS
Pick a Wiggle Bot Kit up at any Worcester County library branch beginning Oct. 1. Watch the instructions video on the Worcester County Maryland Library FaceBook page from Oct. 1-31. See Zoom Meet Up Oct. 22 for an interactive STEM kit program. For ages 8-12 years.

Puzzles

FINAL OFFER

BY MARYELLEN UTHLAUT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

MaryEllen Uthlaut is a writer and homemaker in Charleston, S.C. Some years ago she was at her local library doing research for an article when she stumbled across a book about crosswords that had been misshelved. She checked it out, read it and started constructing. Her first-ever puzzle appeared in The Times in 2010. This is her third crossword for the paper and her first Sunday. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Curse
5 Unit of current
8 Developer of 1982's E.T., a video game so bad that hundreds of thousands of unsold cartridges were secretly buried in a New Mexico landfill
13 Stealing attempts on the diamond?
19 Look extremely stylish, slangily
20 ____ People's Democratic Republic
21 Classic actress Sophia
22 Lacking freshness
23 Always glad to be seated in the back of the boat?
26 Printed cotton fabric
27 Think of together
28 Perfectly placed "Batman" punch?
30 Behind the line of scrimmage
32 Pried, with "in"
33 Look ahead
36 Unfilled spaces
40 Part of New York City's Museum Mile, with "the"
43 Charlatans
46 "Catch you later!"
47 Buddhist temple structure
50 Penny going through the wash once again?

DOWN
1 Labor-regulating org.
2 "Such a pity!"
3 Bugs
4 Doc's needle
5 Without reserve
6 Yucatán natives
7 Fancifully worded
8 Drink rarely drunk with a straw
9 ____ Bora, area of Afghanistan
10 ____ American Heritage Month (April)
11 Foul rulers
12 Says without feeling
13 Start of a magician's phrase
14 Send over the moon
15 Waited at a red light, say
16 FedEx, maybe
17 Order by the border

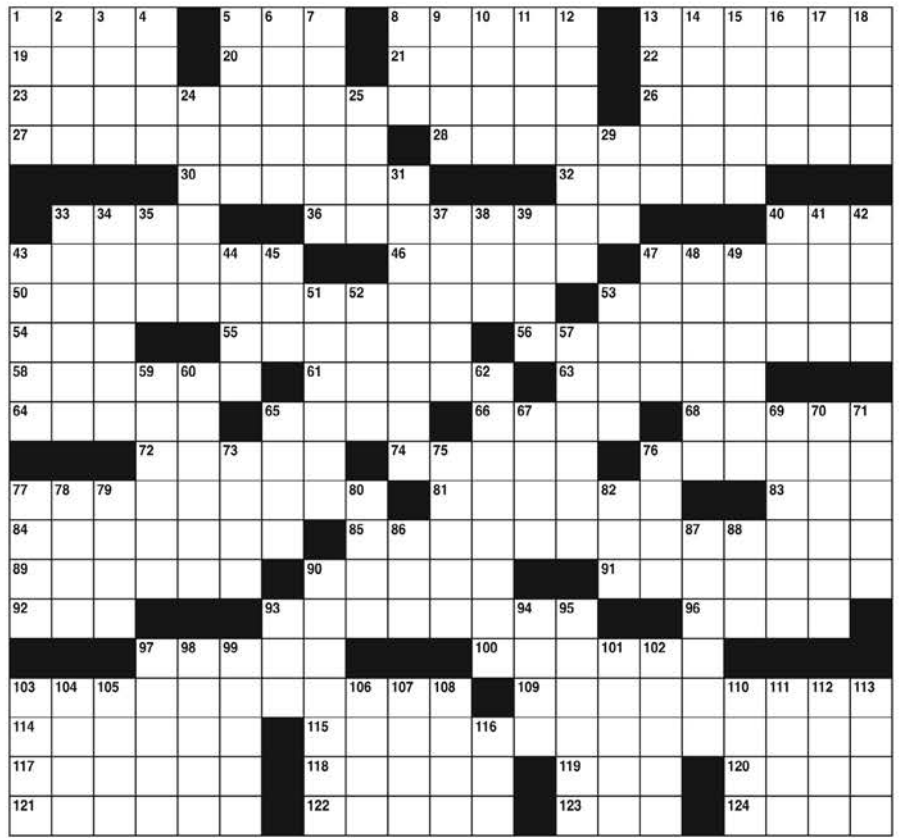
ACROSS
53 Subject of Walter Lord's "A Night to Remember"
54 Epson product
55 Facebook profile feature
56 Soup served at the church social?
58 Persuade by force
61 Sheep's kin
63 Commencement
64 Church officer
65 Grape-Nuts maker
66 Ark groupings
68 Feudal workers
72 In a lively manner
74 What a pointless meeting probably should have been handled by
76 California in San Francisco, e.g.
77 Afternoon gatherings of Mensa?
81 Force at sea
83 Monk's title
84 Withdrew
85 Having no feeling in one's texting hand?
89 Assumed name
90 One of the so-called "Three Crowns of Florence," along with Petrarch and Boccaccio
91 Source of the idioms "fat of the land" and "fire and brimstone"
92 As we speak
93 Small anatomical opening, as in a bone
96 These can go for a lot of bucks
97 Check for mistakes

DOWN
100 Party tray meat
103 Ad for heartburn medication?
109 Puts forward
114 State you'll never get to
115 "Quit your snickering, Damon!"
117 Hitting the floppy disk icon, say
118 Islamic rulers
119 Hill resident
120 Soup pod
121 Dangerous fly
122 Dividing membranes
123 ____ flour
124 "No man hath ____ God ..."

ACROSS
18 "Please ____ your tray tables" (plane request)
24 World-renowned
25 Sanskrit scripture
29 Part of many California place names
31 Get out of Dodge, so to speak
33 Caustic compound
34 Needing a passcode, maybe
35 Even one
37 Latin clarifier
38 Easy-to-bend metal
39 Greek vowel
40 Lead-in to rail
41 Computer menu with Undo and Redo
42 Dash gauge
43 Word with freeze or fixing
44 Choice word
45 "Don't just ____ there!"
47 Digital passcodes
48 Viewed optimistically
49 ____ snake
51 Japanese city where Lexus is headquartered
52 Classic muscle cars
53 Cards with the most pips
57 Bread
59 Map section
60 Irascible
62 Some Hollywood up-and-comers
65 Responded in court
67 Cowardly sort
69 Turn down

DOWN
70 Units of distance in physics
71 Sticks a fork in
73 Piece of news
75 Drinks usually drunk with straws
76 Compos mentis
77 Stark who was crowned king in the "Game of Thrones" finale
78 Eight-year member of Clinton's cabinet
79 State
80 Glance at, as headlines
82 Animal for which the Canary Islands are named
86 Opposite of WSW
87 -s or -ed
88 Modern prefix
90 Practices lexicography
93 One vain about his looks
94 "You ____?"
95 Greetings to some mainlanders
97 Ground-dwelling songbird
98 Bit attachments
99 Old enough
101 Kind of acid
102 Like most mouthwashes
103 Brownish shade
104 Greek vowels
105 Classic pop-art sculpture with a slanted "O"
106 "Personally ..."
107 Cut out
108 Male deer
110 Singer/songwriter Lee
111 Appropriate
112 "Suis" is part of its conjugation
113 Comic book publisher Lee
116 Where to find MA and PA

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



- 70 Units of distance in physics

71 Sticks a fork in

73 Piece of news

75 Drinks usually drunk with straws

76 Compos mentis

77 Stark who was crowned king in the "Game of Thrones" finale

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112 "Suis" is part of its conjugation

113 Comic book publisher Lee

116 Where to find MA and PA

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HARD - 28

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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Halloween-themed parade scheduled in Ocean Pines

(Sept. 24, 2020) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host a Halloween-themed parade through Ocean Pines on Oct. 31. Beginning at noon from the grass lot on Cathell Road, classic cars, Jeep clubs, fire engines, and other local spooky vehicles will head north to White Horse Park. Owners are encouraged to decorate their vehicles for Halloween. The entry fee is \$15 per vehicle.

For more information and to register, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email info@oceanpineschamber.org. The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit corporation comprised of area businesses organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

Community Briefs

New officers



Karin Benton



Joyce Piatti

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines' new officers for the term of 2020-2022 are Karin Benton, president; Joyce Piatti, first vice president; Susann Palamara, second vice president; Irene Daly, treasurer; and Donna Potenza, secretary.

The purpose of the Women's Club is to promote civic and social activities as well as educational and community outreach opportunities for its members.

In 2020, the Women's Club awarded \$2,700 in scholarships and donated \$1,100 to community organizations. To become a member, call Piatti at 410-302-0559. Annual dues are \$10.



Susann Palamara



Irene Daly



Donna Potenza

New students

James Madison University welcomes the class of 2024 to campus this month. The incoming freshman class represents a diverse group of individuals who hail from 36 states, the District of Columbia and 10 countries around the world.

Joining the group is Alexa Upperman of Berlin and Bridget Buxbaum of Ocean City. Both plan to major in biology.

Graduates

Over 650 students graduated from York College of Pennsylvania on May 31, including Thomas Albert of Berlin, cum laude with a Bachelor of Science

in Electrical Engineering; and Mitchell Forrest of Bishopville, with a Bachelor of Arts in Intelligence Analysis.

Graduate

Zachary James Dale of Ocean Pines, graduated from United States Coast Guard basic training program in Cape May, New Jersey, on Sept. 4.

More than 600 people watched the graduation via live stream.

He is now stationed in Montauk, New York.

Dale is a 2019 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin. He is the son of Nancie Corbett, owner of Blue Bird Farm in Ocean Pines, and David Dale of Berlin.



Zachary Dale

Scholarships

The Ocean City Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge recently awarded college scholarships of \$1,750 each to three local students of Italian heritage.

Recipients are Isabelle Marie Kristick and Madison Alyse Birkett, both of Berlin and 2020 graduates of Stephen Decatur High School, and Danielle Elisabeth Morelli of Delmar, a Delmar Senior High School graduate.

Kristick will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park, Birkett the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and Morelli the University of North Alabama.

The Ocean City Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge has awarded 35 students the scholarships since 2010 for a total of \$43,000 during that 10-year period.



Isabelle Kristick



Madison Birkett



Danielle Morelli

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