



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Candidates under review for OPA seat

Talks will take place during closed meeting of board

UPDATE BROWN APPOINTED

Following a brief closed session discussion on Wednesday, the OPA Board voted unanimously to appoint Frank Brown to serve out the remainder of departing Director Steve Tuttle's term. Tuttle, who stepped down from his elected position at the conclusion of the board meeting on Saturday, is planning to relocate from the area next month. Brown will fill the role through August 2021 when Tuttle's term winds down. More information at www.baysideoc.com.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Following the recent departure of Board of Directors member Steve Tuttle, the OPA board scheduled a closed session meeting on Wednesday to vet potential replacement candidates.

See BOARD Page 2

OKTOBERFEST

Crowds descended in Berlin on Saturday for Oktoberfest and the annual Fall Sidewalk Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., causing the police to close Main Street during the event.

Casino tells OP growth plan

Downs makes pitch regarding rezoning and its expansion

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) As Worcester County officials continue weighing the merits of a proposed text amendment for a Casino Entertainment District at Ocean Downs on Route 589, the potential facility expansion was also vetted by the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors during its meeting on Saturday.

Ocean Downs General Manager Bobbi Sample reviewed details for a text amendment request that

would create an overlay for the A-2 district facility, which was presented in April by attorney Joe Moore.

Sample conceded that the request to Worcester County for zoning modifications has raised concerns and generated confusion.

"This overlay sits on top of our A-2 zoning," she said.

Although the zoning overlay would allow for a host of possible additions, such as restaurants or outdoor concert venues, the initial goal would be building an adjacent hotel.

Under Maryland law, licensed gaming establishment are not permitted to operate an associated hotel but could lease

See CASINO Page 8



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Downs General Manager Bobbi Sample spoke to the OPA Board about the proposed Casino Entertainment District zoning overlay during the group's meeting on Saturday.

Commission resists resilience guidelines

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) A heated discussion about the proposed addition of a resilience element marked the Berlin Planning Commission's review of the town's comprehensive plan last Wednesday.

"What we thought we'd do is, in the comprehensive plan, is have whatever summary like what we're working on now, the shorter version, and refer back to that resilience element document 2020 for more detail," said Planning Director

Dave Engelhart.

The commission previously reviewed an extensive resilience document, which was drafted by the town with the assistance of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center through a \$20,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

This time, the commission reviewed a nine-page executive summary of the extensive resilience element.

The Maryland Department of Planning only requires the town to review

See COMMISSION Page 3

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Spooky Pines parade seeks more vehicular participants

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Classic rides, Jeeps and fire engines will be frighteningly decorated for the first "Spook The Pines" community parade from noon to 2 p.m. on Halloween.

Sponsored by the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, the parade will begin at Cathell Road before ending in White Horse Park.

Chamber Executive Director Kerrie Bunting said to this point only a limited number of participants had registered for the parade.

"So far only a dozen cars have registered but we know some Jeep clubs will join in and the OPVFD engine will lead," she said.

Bunting said participants would convene at 11 a.m. by the grass lot near the Sports Core Pool on Cathell Road. The fee to join in the festivities is \$15.

"I thought of it because we weren't

able to do the annual car show and the rest of events cancelled for year," she said.

Bunting said prizes would be awarded for the best decorated rides.

Covid-19 safety mandates prevent participants from tossing candy or other items out to bystanders.

Bunting said among the highlights during the inaugural parade would be an appearance by the Eastern Shore Ghostbusters car.

Bunting also cautioned parade vehicle owners to be aware of the 10-foot clearance at the Route 90 underpass, which would restrict passage for oversized rides or decorations.

While registration is available on parade day, with the \$15 fee required in cash, organizers encourage sign-up before then.

For more information, visit oceanpineschamber.org/ or call 410-641-5306.

Board seat selection will be made during closed session

Continued from Page 1

Board member Frank Daly said two former board candidates have tossed their respective hats in the ring.

"Both Stuart [Lakernick] and Paula Gray approached the board and sent an email to all members saying they were interested in filling the position," he said.

Daly said there is no official means to weigh the selections.

"There's no formal way for a candidate to be nominated and seconded," he said. "Paula and Stuart approached the board directly but others may have approached board members or the GM [John Viola] and said, 'I'm interested.'"

Conversely, board members may have approached potential candidates to solicit their interest, Daly said.

Daly said he has yet to communicate with two other candidates under consideration, Tom Piatti and Frank Brown.

"When Esther Diller resigned from the board, I nominated Tom Piatti to replace her," he said.

Although Piatti only filled the interim role for less than half a year, Daly expressed confidence in his ability to contribute and collaborate with other members.

Daly has also worked closely with Brown on past capital initiatives.

"I put the motions forward to build the new police station, the new golf clubhouse and new cart barn," he said. "I worked with him extensively before putting those motions forward

on the design ... and costing of those facilities."

Daly said Brown was also involved during the initial construction phase for the various projects.

"I have a very good feel for his ability to do things," he said.

Daly also noted both Piatti and Brown are currently serving on the Budget and Finance Committee.

"They've served the community, they have an excellent grasp of the numbers and I've worked with both of them extensively," he said.

Daly also said due to a lack of former experience working with Gray and Lakernick he posed two core questions to both parties, concerning their knowledge base and ability work on current initiatives.

"I don't have that same information on Stuart or Paula so that's why I asked them those questions," he said.

Daly also expressed a willingness to hold the meeting to vet selections scheduled on Wednesday in open session.

"I would not have a problem in conducting this discussion in an open session," he said.

Daly said based on prior legal guidance, Maryland HOA law permits the matter to be debated without public scrutiny.

"If the homeowners law says we have to do it in open sessions, I'd do it in open session," he said. "Right now the ... law says you can do it in closed session, that's my understanding."

Commission chafes at ‘resilience element’

Continued from Page 1

the comprehensive plan from 2010 this year, Engelhart said.

“We can amend the comprehensive plan any time we want,” he added.

Commission member Pete Cosby began the meeting by proposing text changes, but commission member Newt Chandler suggested discarding the entire resilience document.

“It looks like it’s more regulation and more taxation upon the citizens of this town for things that we can’t afford and don’t need,” Chandler said. “This whole thing about climate change—you can’t

deny there’s climate change—but it’s still up in the air about what effect it has. I see no big thing around here.”

Chairman Chris Denny agreed with Chandler.

“It’s duplication,” he said. “All kinds of stuff we’re doing anyway.”

Chandler called the document garbage and said it would cost too much to implement in town.

Cosby said that while thinking about resilience isn’t a bad idea, he agreed with Chandler and Denny that the resilience element isn’t necessary.

“What we’re trying to do is make peo-

ple aware that resiliency is becoming something we should think about in our planning,” Cosby said. “We should be thinking about climate change and what impact it’s going to have. I think we could do without it. I agree with you. I don’t think we need it. I think it’s common sense. I think we’ll react to whatever conditions we’re faced with. I agree with you. I’d just as soon not have all these words everywhere and too much law,” said Cosby, who is an attorney.

Chandler offered to make a motion to discard the resilience element.

Engelhart said the University of

Maryland Environmental Finance Center helped other municipalities with studies about resiliency, and he discussed the concept of the resiliency.

“It should be part of your thinking going forward to have money set aside in your budgets to prepare ...,” he said. “Resiliency is adapting to whatever comes along.”

Chandler argued that the town could be more prepared financially for emergencies if funds were spent wisely.

“We don’t need a multi-page document to accomplish that,” he said. “Our

See WORCESTER Page 12



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Berlin offers alternative holiday celebrations

Town officials, local leaders get creative with activities for Halloween, Christmas

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) As the coronavirus pandemic persists, Berlin and nearby areas are discovering alternative ways to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

Halloween

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St. in Berlin, is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Friday from 5:30-7 p.m. to help children celebrate Halloween.

Hot dogs, popcorn and drinks will be provided at the end of the trail.

On Saturday, the Healing Arts Center of the Eastern Shore is holding a socially distanced wreath making event from 7-9 p.m. at 617 Franklin Avenue.

Tickets cost \$48 to create a wreath inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Lemonade Bookstand's mission of providing bibliotherapeutic bundles and literacy supplies to local children with disabilities.

For more information, visit fb.me/e/1CXfxkvMa.

The Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library is offering an online program about the process of creating its "Dr. Maddockter's Mad Laboratory" on Monday from 2-2:30 p.m.

For more information about the event, visit www.facebook.com/worcestercountymarylandlibrary/.

The county library is also hosting an hour-long online program next

Thursday with Dustin Pari about paranormal activity across the country.

As a part of SyFy television's Ghost Hunters, Ghost Hunters International, and appearances on Destination Truth and Ghost Nation, Pari has traveled the world looking for answers and expanding his understanding of the unseen realm, said Jennifer Ranck, the Worcester County Library director.

To sign up, visit worcesterlibrary.libcal.com.

Registration closes 24 hours before the program begins.

"While supplies last, branch libraries are putting together Halloween-themed bags for children to go along with any book or programming orders starting Oct. 26," Ranck said.

Ranck added that patrons can request books, audio books, and movies for pick-up at all five branches.

"We have plenty of material for all ages to celebrate Halloween, everything from pumpkin carving books to scary films," she said. "Place an order online through the library catalog or call your local branch for assistance."

Throughout the rest of October, Dolle's Candyland, 1 S. Main St. Unit B, is having a 30 percent off sale on gifts, excluding the Pomchies masks.

The candy shop has a variety of seasonal treats available, including homemade pumpkin fudge, homemade pumpkin spice caramels, chocolate fall leaves and Halloween gummies.

On What Grounds?, 103 N. Main St. also has festive treats, from marshmallow Frankensteins to chocolate ghost pops.

In addition, the Worcester County Recreation Center off Route 113 in Snow Hill invites children ages 12 and up to participate in a "Track or

Treat" on Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m.

Face coverings are required throughout the event.

Chesapeake Ghosts Tours is hosting Berlin Ghost Walks on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 31 at 7:15 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$20 for children and \$25 for adults.

Participants will meet at The Atlantic Hotel on North Main Street.

"Halloween is not canceled this year by any means," said Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director.

The town is not endorsing Halloween in the community, but residents can participate if they wish.

Berlin officials strongly urge anyone who decides to participate in trick or treating to practice social distancing and wear masks.

Residents have made a Facebook group called "I want CANDY....." where those who plan to pass out candy on Halloween can post their address, street name or neighborhood in Berlin, Ocean Pines, Ocean City and Bishopville.

The Town of Berlin asks residents who do not wish to be approached for Halloween candy and treats to turn off their porch lights or front door lights on Halloween.

Christmas

Town officials announced that three-foot-tall carved ice art sculptures by Erik Cantine will be lit and displayed throughout downtown Berlin on Nov. 27 during the holiday shop night.

Sculptures will be located in front of and sponsored by the following businesses: Dolle's Candyland, Heart of Gold Kids, Life's Simple Pleasures, Fathom, Rayne's Reef, Baked Dessert Café, Mike Poole Construction, East

& Main Shore Supply, Worcester Goes Purple, Health Freedom, Treasure Chest, Beach Gypsy, Una Bella Salute, Bruder Hill, Bruder Home, Atlantic Retreat, Bird of Paradise, Madison Avenue Boutique and Pop's Kitchen.

Shops will be open until 9 p.m.

Although the town's Christmas tree lighting countdown ceremony has been canceled, the Christmas tree will be lit during the event.

Residents and visitors can sip hot chocolate while listening to holiday music with DJ Big Al Reno from Ocean98 radio.

For more information, visit fb.me/e/2TCKAOpUr.

Wells added that the town is hosting a holiday house decorating contest in lieu of the annual Christmas parade.

Berlin residents may register to participate in person at the Berlin Welcome Center or Town Hall as well as online at www.berlinmainstreet.com by the end of November.

Houses must be decorated by Dec. 11 and judging will take place the following week, Wells said.

There will be four major prizes: the Clark Griswold Award for the brightest house, the Kevin McCallister Award for most creative house, the George Bailey Award for the most traditional house and the Charles Dickens Award for the best house.

The judges, who will consist of a variety of local celebrities, will also give out honorable mentions.

Throughout December, free carriages rides will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekends in downtown Berlin.

Wells said to prevent exposure to the coronavirus, it will be limited to a family per ride.

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Budget guidance reviewed for next fiscal yr.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) With the covid pandemic making revenue and expense projections especially challenging, Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Dick Keiling reviewed the group's guidance for the next fiscal year operating budget during the board meeting on Saturday.

Keiling said the budget committee has requested an updated accounting of Payroll Protection Program funding, as well as a contingency plan if the loan ends up being deemed payable by the Small Business Administration.

"The general manager [John Viola] is thinking to develop a line item if it is an issue to address any potential payback of PPP money," he said. "It's the belief of the GM and the team that we're doing all that we're suppose to be doing and that the payback, in all likelihood, will not be necessary."

Keiling said significant financial deficits have been paid over multiple years in the past, and that the approach is still an option.

Keiling proposed analyzing variances between last year's budget and prior years. He also said each department and amenity would need to show three years of historical actuals.

"We do recommend adding a column to compare variances between previous budget years and the new budget year,"



Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Dick Keiling presented the OPA directors with a checklist of points for the next fiscal year operating budget during the board meeting on Saturday.

he said. "It would be helpful in understanding are we getting back on track with what we budgeted the previous year given the covid situation."

Viola questioned the effectiveness of the proposed column addition.

"I have a forecast and I have years of data," he said. "Doing budget to budget, honestly, I don't see the benefit [because] we have so many variances."

Keiling said the covid situation and

related financial impacts would affect traditional forecasting information.

"Any department increase or decrease of 5 percent or \$5,000, whichever is less, requires justification," he said.

Also any proposed changes in fee structures for membership would require detailed analysis.

"Revenue projections should be reflected for each category of membership

showing increases or decreases," he said.

Keiling said any department staffing changes would require complete substantiation.

"Managers for each fee-based amenity should provide comprehensive details on new revenue-generating proposals," he said.

The budget guidance also dictates

See OPA Page 6

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Viola updates board on financials

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola updated current year financials and improvements to golf operations during the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday.

Viola said through this September golf remained favorable to budget for the current fiscal year, despite starting behind projections.

“We lost an estimated \$150,000 in revenue in May and the beginning of June,” he said. Course conditions are also undergoing a recent transformation. Viola said the cause of problematic greens has been identified, a plan has been pursued, and the results are becoming evident. He added that the plan is already yielding results.

Board member Tom Janasek asked if the recent grounds work would eliminate black mold that has been visible on the edges of certain greens for a number of years.

Viola said the variety of grass used for putting greens on the course is notorious for developing a thatch layer about three inches below the surface.

“That thatch has developed over time,” he said.

Viola said the grounds maintenance crew is employing Ninja Tines

to aerate the greens, which have the added advantage of pulling up excessive thatch.



John Viola

“Once we break this layer of thatch ... that will stop the black mold that you see on top,” he said.

Viola said the subterranean thatch layer also encourages mold development by preventing excessive water from heavy storm systems to drain adequately.

Viola said recent personal changes in golf operations are also likely to positively impact ground conditions.

“We did promote from within a superintendent effective on October 11,” he said.

In addition to promoting Justin Hartshorne to golf superintendent, the next day former staff member Kurt Joseph was hired back to fill the assistant superintendent position previously held by Hartshorne.

“Our golf operations has turned the corner,” he said.

While not available in full until this week, Viola did present an overview of monthly financials for this September.

Viola said net revenues, which were budgeted at \$500,000 for Sep-

tember, closed at \$575,000 for a positive variance of \$75,000.

Expenses, which were budgeted at roughly \$1.09 million, closed September at \$1.07 million, for a positive variance of about \$25,000.

“We were still favorable for September by about \$100,000,” he said.

Viola said about \$30,000 of that number was drawn from the golf course and the new Clubhouse Bar and Grille, which began providing patio service in early June.

“Public Works, the police department and recreation and parks were favorable,” he said.

Viola said over the second half of the current budget year, although numerous expenses would be reduced, revenue forecasts would be challenging because of the coronavirus.

OPA Treasurer Doug Parks reported that annual assessment collections sat at roughly \$8.59 million to end this September.

“This reflects a shortfall of about \$508,000 based on what we had budgeted for assessment collection for all 8,452 homes,” he said.

Parks said while the current total is on par with the approximately 95 percent average collection rate in prior years, the remaining half million plus deficit is significant in light of other revenue reductions.

OPA Board gets budget guidance

Continued from Page 5
amenity management should back up other budgeted revenues.

“I think we’ve done a good job in the past year or so of conservatively looking at our revenue base,” he said.

Turning to food and beverage operations, Keiling said the related budget should be based on the contract with the Matt Ortt Companies and its outlook for the next budget year.

“Budget and Finance would like to see Matt Ortt’s outlook on banquets in the 2021-22 period following this very unusual year,” he said.

Keiling said a separate capital budget should be presented apart from the operating budget.

“Any new capital expenditures must be financially justified,” he said.

Keiling said any prior year losses must be addressed with a plan, along with recommendations for any budget surpluses.

“We’ve been talking about a reserve study update and the GM has put forth a recommendation that we do that reserve study in the spring,” he said. “It’s a good time to revisit the assumptions we previously made and see if they still hold water.”

The Budget and Finance Committee has already met with Viola and anticipates dates for budget process will be published in the near future.

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Tuttle bids farewell, preaches involvement

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Director Steve Tuttle, before resigning his elected position at the close of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, stressed the importance of civic engagement and shed more light on his imminent departure from the area.

“I decided in the summer that I would not seek a second term on the board,” he said.

Tuttle, who was elected in 2018 and served as vice-president last year, would have been eligible for reelection in 2021.

Prior to the post-election OPA Board organizational meeting in late August, Tuttle had anticipated relocating from the Eastern Shore next summer.

After being nominated for board president by Director Tom Janasek, but subsequently losing to Larry Perrone by a 4-3 vote, Tuttle subsequently declined a potential nomination to return as vice president.

“One of the ways I’ve approached life ... is to serve in places and ways that are life-giving and that bring me joy and satisfaction,” he said. “In September, I lost that sense of joy and the life giving aspect of serving on the board.”

Following the selection of board officer positions at the end of August, Tuttle said he was troubled by subsequent commentary from undisclosed board members.

“As a result, we adjusted our plans, placed our house on the market and in four days it was under contract,” he said. “We will be relocating to the western shore, St. Mary’s County, at the end of November.”

Tuttle deemed it an honor to have served on the board for the past two years and previously on the Elections Committee.

“The board for the last two years under the leadership of Doug Parks has accomplished a lot,” he said.

Tuttle said in addition to completing a number of capital projects, including building the new golf clubhouse, the police and administration building renovation and new craft building construction, the board was able to recruit a skillful candidate, John Viola, for general manager.

“The board has exhibited considerably unity, but not uniformity, which has resulted in decisions in the best interest of the community of Ocean Pines,” he said. “My board colleagues, I urge you to strive for the unity that we knew under the leadership of Doug.”

Tuttle said it was vital for board members to develop a rapport with OPA staff and have open lines of communication.

“It is very important not to engage in operations but it is equally important that the staff know they are supported by the board,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Prior to resigning his seat at the conclusion of last Saturday’s board meeting, Ocean Pines Association Director Steve Tuttle expresses disappointment over recent contention among members, while also encouraging community volunteerism.

Tuttle also weighed in on succession planning for the general manager position.

“In completing an evaluation of the GM, it is critical that as a director you hear from the GM’s direct reports,” he said.

With Tuttle stepping down the, board is now tasked with finding a replacement to complete the balance of his term.

“Two people that have [previously] run for the board, Stuart Lakernick and Paula Gray, have expressed interest,” he said.

Tuttle said both former candidates received considerable support during their respective election bids and de-

serve serious consideration for the interim role.

Prior to Tuttle’s remarks on Saturday, Perrone announced the board had scheduled a special meeting for this Wednesday to discuss replacement candidates.

Characterizing it as a privilege to serve on the board, Tuttle highlighted the importance for “resident experts” in the community to share their talents by joining advisory committees.

“Seek to understand and question decisions of your board,” he said. “It’s easy to sit on the edges and complain but far more is accomplished when the community engages.”

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Casino lays out expansion case to directors

Continued from Page 1

or sell property for an outside developer.

"Everything that we will do at the property is going to be geared towards increasing our core businesses, the casino and racetrack," she said. "We are still a casino but are owned by Churchill Downs, so racing is obviously something that's important to us."

In January 2017, Churchill Downs and Saratoga Casino Holdings assumed ownership of Ocean Downs, with Churchill subsequently assuming full control in September 2018.

Sample said the text amendment would largely serve as a "cleanup bill" to clarify allowable uses, which are currently tied to special exceptions granted in 1997 and 2010.

"We're really just trying to clean up the fact that all of our uses outside of the racetrack, which includes the casino, have all been by special exception," she said. "Just to make it clear and transparent to everybody what is allowed on that property."

In 2008, Maryland voters supported a referendum to permit electronic gaming machines at a handful of locations across the state, including one license in Worcester County. Ocean Downs was the sole applicant in the area and began casino operations in January 2011.

The last casino expansion, which got

underway in 2013, was completed in December 2017 and added 50,000 square feet that included 10 table games and a restaurant. Maryland casinos were permitted to add table games following passage of a referendum in 2012.

Sample said the overlay district designation would assist with long-term planning in terms of allowable uses, while also noting any future additions would require approval by Worcester County Planning and Zoning Commission.

"We are now surrounded by commercial zoning," she said. "If it was commercial zoning there would be more than 40 uses."

Sample said, by comparison, the overlay district would be more limited in scope.

"It was recommended by the staff at the Worcester County [Technical] Review," she said.

Worcester Planning and Zoning gave the proposal a favorable recommendation on Aug. 6 before sending the matter to the Worcester County Commissioners for potential final approval.

The proposed Casino Entertainment District would require a minimum lot area of 90 acres. Permitted uses and structures would include parking garages, entertainment venues, non-retail recreation areas, outdoor arenas,

theaters, restaurants, health clubs or assembly areas.

Sample said despite the extensive list of possibilities, market factors would limit future growth.

"We can't support a Las Vegas-style property year round here," she said. "We're a drive-in destination and there's just not enough population to bring here for something like that."

Sample also said higher tax rates, currently set at 47 percent, would provide a disincentive for excessive gaming expansions.

"When we originally opened the tax rate was 67 percent," she said.

Ocean Downs was granted a tax break after Maryland expanded gaming facilities from a handful to a half dozen after granting MGM Resorts International a license in 2013.

"They reworked everyone's tax rate," she said. "Our tax breaks were tied to the fact that we would have less than 1,000 [slot] machines on our property."

Sample said the potential revenue stream at Ocean Downs is minimal and would not justify losing the 10 percent tax break tied to machine counts.

"There's not a casino as small as this one," she said.

For now, development plans are focused on having an outside operator construct a hotel on site.

"We can't have a financial interest in it," she said.

Sample said lodging facilities would serve marketing purposes for Ocean Downs to attract regular players to visit more frequently.

"We are not currently getting all of gaming wallet for target gamblers," she said.

The intent is to compete with current gaming facilities in neighboring states, as well as possible future entities. Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia, both just a few hours' drive away, are proposing referendums for commercial casino

nos this November.

"Discounts or comp rooms would be limited to members of our player reward club," she said.

Sample said the casino entertainment district overlay would be an economic driver for Worcester by helping to spread dollars to area businesses.

Approaching its 10-year anniversary in January, Ocean Downs has produced \$29 million in impact grants in Worcester County, with Ocean Pines netting more than \$2.7 million. Ocean City and Berlin are also both beneficiaries.

"Each of these areas gets a piece of our revenue through taxes that comes directly to this county," she said.

The funds are restricted to use for primarily infrastructure or public safety needs.

"Those type of things that are directly impacted by the fact that the casino exists here," she said.

Board member Dr. Colette Horn asked who would foot the bill if a required traffic study identifies road expansions are needed.

Sample said Ocean Downs would be responsible for any associated cost for roadwork.

"It would have to part of our project for us to move forward," she said. "That becomes a cost of doing business for us if we want to expand."

The Worcester County Commissioners, who have yet to approve the text amendment request, delayed a previously scheduled public hearing on the matter until Oct. 20.

Sample said concerns also abounded a dozen years ago when the casino was first discussed.

"There were a lot of concerns that the town would go downhill ... and that we would steal a lot of business for other local businesses," she said. "In fact that has not happened and we have been a very good community partner over the last 10 years since we opened."



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Wor. Board of Edu. District 5 incumbent seeks re-election

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Elena McComas, the District 5 member of the Worcester County Board of Education, is seeking re-election on Nov. 3.

McComas, 73, has been on the board for the past four years. "Education is my passion," she said. "I love working with kids and teachers to help improve and maintain our classroom excellence."

McComas has spent 25 years as a public school science teacher in Maryland and California, with five years at the university level as a science education instructor and student teacher supervisor.

Her campaign focuses on the safety of students, educators and staff.

"My number one issue is getting our students back into the classroom safely in a timely manner following the covid pandemic," she said. "Our school dis-



E. McComas

trict is doing an excellent job of following health department and CDC guidelines. Kudos to our administration, teachers and staff for their heroic efforts to continue to make this happen!"

McComas also aims to retain outstanding teachers in the county school system.

"I will absolutely continue to help give them the tools they need to teach, look to maintain smaller class sizes and continue providing steps and raises within our financial confines," she said.

McComas has lived in Worcester County for seven years. She grew up in Salisbury and spent childhood summers in Ocean City.

For more information, contact McComas via email at elena.mccomas@worcesterk12.org.

Berlin Mayor and Council Briefs

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) The following took place during the Berlin Mayor and Council meeting on Oct. 13:

Christmas Eve

District 2 Councilmember Jack Orris moved to give town employees a full day off on Christmas Eve.

"This is in line with what was suggested this prior holiday season. The council did move to afford the employees a full day on Christmas Eve," said Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

The mayor and council agreed.

Voter turnout

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the Berlin 2020 municipal election brought one of the highest voter turnouts in history.

"Total voter turnout was over 35 percent, which is as I said, I can't swear that that's a record. I haven't been here that long, but it's definitely one of the highest ones that I've ever seen."

According to the Worcester County Board of Elections, 3,477 Berlin residents are registered voters.

The total number of regular and absentee ballots counted on Oct. 6 was 1,236.

"I just want to give a quick thank you to the election board for polling such a good election," Bohlen said. "It went very, very smoothly, especially considering we were all working under kind of new rules with all of the covid [prevention measures]. And I also want to thank the voters. They made

it go very smoothly as well. Social distancing wasn't an issue. Face masks weren't an issue at all."

Cookout

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing thanked Senior Officer Claude Holland, Berlin Police Department staff with the assistance from the Bank of Ocean City, the Berlin Ice Company, Berlin's Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells and Rick and Tena Clements with Myrium Passwaters for hosting a cookout for the Cottages at Berlin Senior Living Community on Oct. 9 for over 50 people.

"We have to go ahead and again talk about [Holland] and the dedication he has to the community," Downing said.

According to the police department's Facebook page, the menu included hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips, brownies and beverages.

Name plates

Mayor Zackery Tyndall said the new nameplates for the mayor and council should could arrive by the Oct. 26 meeting.

"The new name plates will be a motif of white with black lettering," Fleetwood said. "Each name plate will have your individual district and/or at-large or mayor on that placard as well. We now know who the vice president is going to be. That will be on there."

Bohlen added that if the official name plates don't arrive by Oct. 26, a substitution will be made for the next meeting.



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Contested race for Wor. Co.
Board of Edu. District 3 seat

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Worcester County voters will elect a new Board of Education member to replace Sara Thompson, who is retiring in December, during the general election on Nov. 3.

Dr. Jon Andes and Anjali “Angie” Phukan-Chatelle are competing for the District 3 seat.

Andes, 66, began his teaching career in Harford County Public Schools, where he taught social studies for eight years. He went on to serve as the assistant principal, then principal of Havre De Grace High School. After leading the school to be named a “National Blue-Ribbon School,” Andes was appointed as the assistant superintendent for personnel and staff relations in Harford County Public Schools.

Andes and his family moved to Worcester County in 1996 when he was named the superintendent of the county school system. After 16 years, he retired, but not for long.

Andes became a professor of practice in the Department of Educational Leadership and Graduate Studies at Salisbury University five weeks later.

He also serves as the executive director of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium.

Andes decided to run for office to pay it forward in his community.

“This community has been so good to me and my family over the years,” he said. “I wanted to give back to the community by using my experience and my expertise to help the school system move forward in some very challenging times. We have a great school system with phenomenal people working in the school system.”

One of Andes’ objectives is to hire and retain outstanding leaders, teachers and staff.

“The best way to do that is to, first of all, listen to them,” he said. “Secondly, create a work environment in which people are valued and treasured. Give them the authority to make decisions, but at the same time hold people accountable.”

Another priority for Andes is direct funding to the classroom.

“The question constantly is ‘How are we using our money to benefit students and teachers in the classroom on a daily basis?’” he said. “As a school system, we want most of our money going into [instructional support] and not into places like administration.”

Andes said money should be directed toward retaining great teachers in the classroom.

“The success of every student depends upon a phenomenal teacher working in that classroom,” he said. “Two, we need to make sure we have small class sizes. Small class sizes

benefit our students. And three, we need to make sure that we have programs available, so if we have a student who needs enrichment, we have programs available for that student, either during or after the school day. And if we have students that need some form of intervention, then we have programs available during the



Dr. Jon Andes

school day and after the school day to provide enrichment and remediation for any students who need it.”

In addition, Andes believes the 14 county schools should adapt STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) curriculums.

“It’s been my experience that to get students excited about learning and to engage students, the visual and



A. Phukan-Chatelle

performing arts are one of the best pathways to accomplish getting students excited,” he said. “Whether it’s through drama or playing a musical instrument or singing or dance ... using the visual and

performing arts is a great way to engage students in academic learning.”

Andes added that because of the state testing program, most of the schools are focused entirely on STEM.

“Maryland has a state testing program, which is in reading and math and science, so those are the STEM categories,” he said. “As a result, when schools and school systems are being judged and students are being judged based on those areas, the focus has to be on STEM. My point is, in order to engage students and have them excited about learning, we also have to tap into their visual and performing arts modes.”

In opposition to standardized testing, Andes proposes implementing a student assessment growth model, in which students are constantly evaluated against themselves.

“So, what it would look like as an example, in September, we would give an assessment to identify the current academic level of our students, and then every four to six weeks, we would give another assessment,” he said. “It would be teacher-graded and teacher-scored, so that we would have instant results in order to identify gaps and needs of our students or for those students that need enrichment opportunities to provide those.”

Andes also hopes to prepare students for college and careers by developing and expanding programs at Worcester Technical High School.

See OPPONENTS Page 11

Candidates compete for District 2

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Registered voters in District 2 will elect Rodney Bailey or Donald Smack Sr. to fill Barry Brittingham Sr.'s seat on the Worcester County Board of Education on Nov. 3 at the four voting centers in Worcester County.

Smack, 70, decided to file for the District 2 seat because of his love for students.

Smack served the Worcester County Public Schools system for 30 years. He retired from the position of head custodian at Ocean City Elementary School in 2017.

"I developed leadership and discipline and experience to help the district in the future," Smack said.

Over the years, he said, he has served as a mentor for children at Ocean City Elementary and Buckingham Elementary.

"The one thing I want to see done really is to focus on more education for Black history," Smack said. "I know they celebrate Black History Month, but I'd like to see more emphasis on Black history for the students of Worcester County."

Smack also hopes to see continual support from the board and the Worcester County Commissioners for the needs of teachers and students in the classroom.



D. Smack Sr.

"[By] communicating with the parents in different areas of this county maybe all these can be accomplished," he said.

Smack is a member of the of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association as well as the Worcester County Education Support Personnel

Association.

He is also involved in the American Legion Duncan-Showell Post #231, King David's #284 Consistory, Abu Lahab Temple #206 Shriners of North and South America.

Since 1976, he has been a member of the Evergreen Lodge #153 in Berlin.

Smack is active in St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St.

He is the past president of United Methodist men at his church. Currently, Smack serves as the chaplain of men's ministry in addition to being a men's choir member and the treasurer of the trustee board at the church.

District 2 candidate Rodney Bailey did not respond for comment from multiple emails, calls and text messages.

No write-in candidates for District 2 filed by the deadline on Monday.

Christina McQuaid recognized in MPT special broadcast

Educator from Baltimore named Teacher of the Year

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Worcester County Teacher of the Year Christina McQuaid was honored alongside all the 2020 Maryland Teacher of the Year nominees on Oct. 8 during a 30-minute program on Maryland Public Television.

"I love to build relationships with students by starting with the families through constant communication, home visits and letting them know that I am there for them with more than just academic support," McQuaid said during the broadcast. "This is a critical part of building re-

See TEACHERS Page 16

Opponents share objectives for Wor. schools

Continued from Page 10

"When I was superintendent of schools, we built Worcester Technical High School," he said. "An HVAC person can graduate from high school, make very good money, stay in our community, giving back to our community in a job that provides a living wage with benefits."

Andes added that Worcester's public schools must continue to help students develop academically for a two-year or a four-year college.

"Worcester County Public Schools is one of the best performing school systems in the state. It doesn't matter what measuring stick you use," Andes said. "And I want to use my talents, time and energy to help move this school system to the next level."

In addition to his background in education, Andes is a member of the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees, Snow Hill Rotary Club, the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum Board of Directors and Delmarva Council Boy Scouts of America Advisory Committee.

For more information about his campaign, visit www.jonandes.com.

Phukan-Chatelle, who is in her 40s, teaches business law at Wor-Wic Community College, including its program at Eastern Correctional Institute.

Phukan-Chatelle started tutoring students in college, and from there became a research assistant in graduate school at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She has taught various classes at the University of Delaware's Lifelong Learning Center as well.

Phukan-Chatelle moved to Worcester County in 2016 and decided to run for office now because

she believes Worcester County Public Schools needs to have fiscal accountability.

"I think that Worcester County for instance, they don't get a lot of federal or state funding in my opinion that's needed for these rural areas, especially in this covid time where people don't have internet at home," said Phukan-Chatelle, who is a certified public accountant.

"Then, we don't have a community college in Worcester County. Everybody has to go to Salisbury, which isn't too far, except the public transportation is horrible, and so there needs to be more resources for getting the education that's needed for our students."

One of the key issues Phukan-Chatelle focuses on in her campaign is racism.

"There's only one race. There's the human race," she said. "It's really about prejudices, and a lot of these prejudices stem from fears. We all have these self-centered fears, and then we can identify with people that look similar to us. And then for people that maybe don't look similar that then we feel a threat from, then we target those people and that's not right. So, for me, what I would like to see more of is interaction and engaging with people across different cultures within the county."

Phukan-Chatelle hopes to see the county unify.

As a trained yoga instructor, she is also concerned about the mental health and wellness of students, teachers and staff during the pandemic.

"I think that there needs to be scientifically based resources and scientifically based teaching," Phukan-Chatelle said.

Other topics important to Phukan-Chatelle include providing fresh, healthy food to students as well as offering universal pre-kindergarten and the choice program for schools.

For more information about her campaign, visit chatelle4children.weebly.com.

No write-in candidates filed by the Oct. 19 deadline.

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Worcester, Berlin will discuss growth areas

Continued from Page 3
city council should be doing that anyway.”

Chandler continued, stating that the resilience element was a typical document from “people across the bridge that want more regulation, more control, more codes.”

Although the resilience element is not law, Chandler is concerned that if the resilience element is added to the comprehensive plan, it, like the rest of the plan, could be used by lawyers to support projects in town.

“They’ll be pointing to this,” he said. Commission member Ron Cascio argued that the resilience element does not require the town to do anything. Rather, it serves as a guideline for the future.

Commission member Matt Stoehr said he is in favor of the executive summary, but the commission must remember it is connected to the extensive resilience element.

“We shouldn’t factor in this big document. If it’s not included in these 10 pages or an exact reference point, it shouldn’t be there because we could open ourselves to so many different options,” he said. “I think we’re putting ourselves in a risky situation by saying this thing that these people wrote is now what we’re putting in the town five-year plan.”

Denny agreed with Chandler and Stoehr that the document was too far reaching. He mentioned that it addressed topics like increasing tree canopy.

“Look at California,” he said. “It’s on fire because of their increased urban tree canopy, and now they’re bringing that crap here.”

Commission member D.J. Lockwood said he supported smaller resiliency projects in town, like golf carts, but he said the resilience element is too extensive.

“Really resiliency is about protecting what you have,” he said. “It’s looking forward and trying to see what could possibly happen and then being ready for it.”

He added that the town could also plant more in areas to help save the environment.

“You don’t have to really make mandates. You just make suggestions to save yourself,” he said. “It’s small things to kind of look out for yourself. That’s the resiliency that I see, not doing a bunch of crazy stuff.”

Chandler agreed, but he said the commission and mayor and council tackle those problems every time they meet.

“We don’t need a multi-page document of people across the bridge telling us how to run our deal here,” he added. “We do a pretty good job I think.”

Cascio asked Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood what happens if the planning commission agrees to discard the element. Fleetwood said he wasn’t sure. The council will review it as well and make a decision because the planning commission is only an advisory committee.

“I think you’ve got some good points, and I think we need to regroup and think this through again,” he said.

Engelhart said a public hearing must be held because the resilience element would be an amendment to the comprehensive plan. The commission could then make a motion to not recommend it to the mayor and council.

“After that, I have to advertise a public hearing of the mayor and council to amend the comprehensive plan,” Engelhart said.

“It’s a public hearing to consider the amendment by the addition of this,” he continued. “Your recommendation for or against has to be the subject of a public hearing.”

Stoehr encouraged the public to review the executive summary and the extensive resilience element on the town’s website prior to the public hearing. He said Berlin residents need to understand that adding the summary means they are also adopting the extensive resilience element.

“That was the way we thought it would be. It doesn’t have to be that way,” Engelhart replied. “The amendment to the comprehensive plan could be just that shorter version.”

Engelhart reminded the commission that the resilience document is a guideline, not code.

He acknowledged that the commission is already concerned about most of what is in the resilience element, such as stormwater, density and trees.

“It’s aspirational,” he added.

Chandler maintained that the resilience element was unnecessary.

“If you give a government official a document that says you should be spending money on this, guess what, they’re going to spend money on it,” he said. “That’s just their nature. We don’t need any more regulation [and] we don’t need any more taxes encumbered by things we shouldn’t have bought to start with. We’re out of money now, and we don’t need people across the bridge telling us what we have to do and what we shouldn’t do.”

Denny agreed, saying, “This is a solution in search of a problem.”

Cascio said he didn’t understand his peers’ fear about the resilience element and reiterated that the document is not law.

Cosby, as a lawyer, said he references comprehensive plans in his work all the time.

Although comprehensive plans aren’t law, he said they provide a directive to make a case for something you want to accomplish. He argued that the town should set a new precedent.

“We don’t need more law, we need more precise law stated more concisely,” he said.

The commission then turned to review the town’s comprehensive plan in the following areas: current designated growth areas, future growth areas, highway and transportation corridors, downtown parking, pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, possible greenbelt surrounding the community, commercial development and sustainability of town services and the draft resilience element.

Cascio wants the town to communicate with Worcester County to ensure agreement on growth areas. He added that the public should have input as well.

“Since we represent those people, we should hear from them,” he said.

Denny said the public has been notified that the meetings are open with a limited capacity, yet no residents were in

attendance. He compared the situation to the multiple objections filed to the ethics commission a couple weeks ago regarding the appointment of Austin Purnell to the planning commission.

“I don’t want to hear how they don’t have access to the information,” he said. “They had plenty of information about Mr. Purnell down here.”

Cascio added that residents may not be aware that they can attend meetings now to offer their opinions.

“They can sit there and fire off snotty little things about him online all the time, but they can’t bring their ass in here?” Denny said, adding that he’s served on the commission for 20 years. “The participation level out here is pretty much nil.”

Chandler, who has been on the commission even longer, disagreed and said the public participates when it’s a big issue.

“Certainly, when you walk around town and people know you’re on the planning commission, they certainly voice their opinion,” he said. “I’m hearing a lot of people don’t want any more residential annexations, especially these high-density projects.”

The conversation turned back to the comprehensive plan, when Cosby said he approves of the current comprehensive plan.

The commission members agreed that protecting the integrity of Berlin and the quality of life in the community is vital.

“I hear today, and I heard it then: ‘We want Berlin to stay as much as we can like it is,’” Cosby said.

He stressed again that the county and town have to work together to come to an agreement on growth areas.

Cosby and Cascio also discussed the possibility of buying and transferring development rights to protect green space in town.

At this time, a public hearing about the resilience element has not been scheduled.

According to the town calendar, the planning commission is scheduled to meet on Nov. 11, but Engelhart said that will be postponed because it is a state holiday.

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#511, 512Catch of the Day Designs

#322Color Street - Nails by Stephanie

#907Contessa D' Designs

#507Crafty Creations

#320Decorative Pilings Plus

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#902-904, 514Doggie Style in OC

#506Dragonfly Spirit

#411, 412Drawn Metal Studios

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Teachers throughout Md. honored for efforts

Continued from Page 11
lationships, especially in a time when those connections are needed now more than ever.”

McQuaid, who teaches fifth grade English-language arts and social studies at Pocomoke Middle School, said being the 2020 Worcester County Teacher of the Year has been a unique experience for her.

“A lot of the activities that normally we would do have been done very differently through Zoom, through meetings, through emails [and] through Facebook,” she said. “It’s been exciting, and I’m looking forward to everything that’s coming.”

Although the traditional dinner banquet could not be held because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, McQuaid said the Maryland Teacher of the Year Special program was special indeed.

“I really wasn’t expecting them to be able to do anything of that nature,” she said. “They went out of their way to make sure that all teachers were recognized and that they got an experience they could remember.”

McQuaid defines a teacher of the year as an educator who takes extra time to be supportive, effective and interactive in the community and their students’ lives.

“I try to attend as many of the community events as I can,” she said. “We’ve done a couple home visits. I’ve even gone to the [YMCA] and set up help with kids that needed it ... of course taking all the precautions that we need to take. It’s a matter of really reaching out and communicating with the families. It’s making sure that the parents know that I am here with their questions and that they can write me about anything, whether that be technology or academics or just social issues.

We have families going through things. I want them to know that our school and our community [are] there for them.”

McQuaid added that she strives to make a personal connection with each student, whether he or she is engaged in virtual learning or in-person instruction.

“[That] has been my goal this year, so that they know I’m there for them,” she said.

Since more county public school students were brought back to campuses on Monday, McQuaid said she is almost at half capacity in each class.



C. McQuaid

“Today I had 100 percent attendance,” McQuaid said on Monday. “It made my day.”

She said students have been active in their education online and in-person.

“They really want to learn. They want to be there, and they’re going to do what it takes to do it,” McQuaid added.

McQuaid is in her ninth year at Pocomoke Middle School. She has been teaching for 18 years in various areas, including Accomack County, Virginia, Somerset County, Wicomico County and Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

“I don’t plan on ever leaving Worcester,” McQuaid added. “It’s definitely my home.”

As an educator and a parent of two children in the county school system, McQuaid is impressed by her colleagues.

“I have had the privilege of working lots of other places, and I had no doubt that Worcester was going to step up,” she said. “I had no doubt in my mind about that but watching everyone step up has been a true privilege. The innovation that they have come up with, the outstanding rigor that they’re keeping, while keeping such compassion in their teaching even virtually and with kids

in the classroom and keeping up on it, it has been just an amazing experience.”

Finalists for the 2020-21 Maryland Teacher of the Year award were Wyatt Oroke, an English-language arts teacher for seventh and eighth grades at City Springs Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City; Caitlin Fregelette, a physical education and health educator for grades ninth through 12th at Calvert High School in Calvert County; Jena Ehmann, a reading specialist for grades pre-k through fifth at Winfield Elementary School in Carroll County; Chelsea Jones, a seventh grade science teacher at Elkton Middle School in Cecil County; James E. Ball, a science, technology and industry and art instructor for grades ninth through 12th at North Point High School in Charles County; Christine Hurley, a library media instructor for grades sixth through eighth at Boonsboro Middle School in Washington County and Hemalatha Bhaskaran, a science teacher for grades ninth through 12th at James M. Bennett High School in Wicomico County.

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced Oroke as the 2020-21 Maryland Teacher of the Year.

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Coastal Bays bat box workshop size limited

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program will sponsor a Bat Box Bash next Tuesday in Ocean Pines’ White Horse Park from 4-6 p.m., even though the number of participants will be limited.

Environmental educator Chandler Joiner said up to eight families, individuals or couples could register for the bat roost building workshop on Oct. 27.

“Individuals or families can pay \$80 to register and they can come out and we will assist them in building a four-chamber nursery bat house,” she said.

Joiner said the goal is to have bat houses installed around the watershed since bats are incredibly important as both pollinators and insect consumers.

Little brown bats, or *Myotis lucifugus*, are the most common species found in the U.S. and typically measure about 4-6 inches, with wingspans around nine inches.

“They help control insect populations,” she said.

On average, the diminutive winged creatures consume upwards of a thousand insects per hour and help reduce mosquito counts.

The limit on participation in this year’s program is to keep everyone as safe as possible, she said.

Joiner said the event would take place under the White Horse Park Pavilion.

“The entire event will be outside and masks will be required for the entirety of the event,” she said.

To this point, three groups have registered for the workshop, Joiner said.

The \$80 fee covers material costs and instruction.

“We won’t be sharing supplies,” she said.

In addition to mounting materials, a special heat-absorbing paint primer will be provided.

“It’s really important for the roost to stay warm so the bats don’t freeze,” she said.

Finished bat roosts will head home that day with their architects.

“They leave with the actual bat house itself which is a four-chamber,” she said. “They’re pretty large.”

Joiner said the intent is to have participants install bat roosts on their property.

“You can either install it on the side of the home or on a post, which need to be about 12-16 feet out of the ground,” she said.

In some instances, bat boxes could also be hung from trees if conditions are ideal.

“Installing them on a tree is actually discouraged unless the branches are



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Jake Olsen, 8, receives drill guidance from his mom, Leah, while completing structural work during the Maryland Coastal Bays Program’s “Bat Box Bash,” held last October at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

very tall,” she said. “Installing them near a source of water is beneficial.”

Joiner highlighted the importance of mounting bat boxes before winter to provide a safe space for bats during their cold weather hibernation cycle.

“Bat roosts make great migratory stopovers [and] they also make great maternity wards for the bats during breeding season,” she said.

Joiner said a bat box was recently installed in White Horse Park, which

could serve as an example for new builds.

“We ordered and built one for White Horse Park,” she said. “They were having bats living in the pavilion so they’d like the bats to move to the roost.”

To register for the Oct. 27 Bat Box Bash, visit <https://fb.me/e/1Fu44d1V4> or email cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org to learn more.

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Seafloor Carpet expands footprint, offerings

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood & More, while still located in the Manklin Station Shopping Center, recently moved into a newly constructed building with roughly double the square footage of its prior spot. It also has expanded services.

Owner Don Robertson opened the Ocean Pines business nearly five years ago after spending decades in the flooring industry.

“I’ve been in the business well over 30 years,” he said.

Robertson launched his career in the early 1980s with Color Tile in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Robertson said the gig provided a “hands-on” training experience for home installations, despite being in sales and management.

When Color Tile dissolved, Robertson ventured into the wholesale realm with General Flooring, which sold exclusively to retailers, before relocating to Ocean City and joining Mohawk Industries as the sales representative for the Delmarva region.

“I worked for a wholesaler, I worked for a manufacturer and now I’m back in retail,” he said.

Prior to starting Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood & More, Robertson managed a few retail stores in the area, but

discovered his sales philosophy differed from ownership’s.

“Even though I have respect for them, their outlook and my own was totally different on how a business should be run,” he said. “They put the dollar signs first [but] I try to put the quality and customer satisfaction first.”

In January, groundbreaking for the new Seafloor retail building took place after Robertson was offered a “no-brainer” proposal from his landlord at the Manklin Station Shopping Center.

“I was in two units and the third unit right beside me opened up,” he said.

After proposing an expansion to include the vacant spot, Robertson was pleasantly surprised by the counteroffer.

“The landlord said, ‘Listen, I’ve got a better idea, how about if I build you a great big building,’ he said. “You’ll have a showroom and warehouse in one.”

What eventually materialized was a 6,000-square-foot structure situated just across the parking lot on the south side of Manklin Creek Road. The building’s completion had been slated for this summer.

“It got delayed a bit, but we’re open now,” he said. “We’ve got a 4,000-square-foot showroom and a 2,000-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood & More owner Don Robertson stands inside the newly constructed showroom with team members Sonya Frable, left, and Jennifer Wolf.

square-foot warehouse.”

The ample space also provided the opportunity for a new partnership to blossom.

“We also partnered up with Pipeline Contracting,” he said.

Both Seafloor and Pipeline have offices located in the new building.

“You can have a complete remodel done by the specialists,” he said. “He handles the remodel and I handle the floors.”

Both home remodeling businesses are exclusive Bertch Cabinet dealers and provide a wide array of home remodeling and renovation services.

“We can do cabinets and we can do


countertops,” he said. “We can do complete bathroom renovations and we can do complete kitchen renovations.”

Robertson said regardless of customer’s design concepts, the team at Seafloor and Pipeline are focused more on informing consumers than simply making a sale.

“We don’t want to sell you anything,” he said. “We want to educate you so you can make an informed, intelligent and happy buying decision.”


After spending decades in the flooring industry filling a variety of roles, Robertson has developed an apprecia-

See ROBERTSON Page 19




OPEN HOUSES

OCT. 22 - OCT. 29



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Saturday, 11-1	774 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$339,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate





MDOT leaves out highway expansions again

By **Ally Lanasa**
Staff Writer

(Oct. 22, 2020) Once again, the Maryland Department of Transportation’s consolidated transportation program leaves out improvements to Route 90 and Route 589. Maryland Deputy Transportation Secretary Sean Powell met with Worcester County Commissioners on Oct. 14 to discuss the draft FY 2021-26 consolidated transportation program, which details the Maryland Department of Transportation’s six-year capital budget.

The Hogan administration will invest \$13.4 billion in Maryland’s transportation network over the next six years, but none of that will involve these two local highways.

Officials also discussed the Maryland Transportation Authority’s \$2.8 billion in additional investments in Maryland’s toll roads and bridges.

With revenue down because of the covid-19 pandemic, and cash flow changes resulting from the completion

of projects, this draft consolidated transportation program required \$1.9 billion in cuts to the capital program.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is also reducing its FY 2021 operating budget by \$98 million to respond to the continuing revenue decline.

“What you’re going to feel here on the Eastern Shore is less road maintenance, longer grass with less mowing and impacts to our System Preservation Program in all departments,” Powell said.

Administrator Christine Nizer from the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration, who serves as Gov. Larry Hogan’s Highway Safety Representative, discussed the Hogan administration’s recent announcement of more than \$48,000 for Worcester County agencies to address highway safety. The recipients are the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Health Department, as well as police departments in Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Berlin.

The Berlin Police Department received three grants for a total of \$5,000 to address aggressive driving, impaired driving and distracted/occupant protection.

According to the Berlin Police Department, the highway safety grants can be applied anywhere in the town limits of Berlin. They are not restricted to

Route 113 or Route 50.

Furthermore, 50 percent or more of the total hours worked must be between the hours of 9 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Worcester County Commissioner Anthony “Chip” W. Bertino Jr. called in to ask if construction along Route 589 could be limited with additional lights.

“I just ask that if we have construction projects that are going forward, that if there is a way to have singular access off [Route] 589 for multiple projects, it would be tremendously helpful for the flow of traffic and hopefully reduce the number of stoplights that are needed along the corridor,” Bertino said.

Tim Smith agreed to review it and suggested working with the county about the planning.

With the delay of capital projects because of covid-19, Bertino assumed the expansion of Route 589 and Route 90 or the Route 50 bridge would be further delayed.

If local officials got their way, the roads would come first.

“The Route 90 project not only facilitates traffic in Ocean City under normal circumstances, but under emergency circumstances it’s a vital roadway and it does need to be dualized,” said Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan. “In case of emergency evacuation, we are really at risk without the dualization of Route 90.”



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Police Department received a total of \$5,000 in grants to address highway safety within the town limits in factors of aggressive driving, impaired driving and distracted/occupant protection.

Joseph Mitrecic, president of the Worcester County Commissioners, reiterated the mayor’s statements.

“I would like to say that the Worcester County Commissioners [and] the town of Ocean City still remain steadfast that Route 90 dualization must be completed before we talk about putting a new bridge on Route 50,” Mitrecic said. “And [Route] 589, of course, needs to be done at the same time as Route 90.”

Robertson aims for quality sales

Continued from Page 18
tion for quality materials.

“When people come in they might ... want carpet or waterproof flooring but they don’t know what makes the difference between ... one line and others,” he said. “What do you get for \$2, \$4 or \$6?”

Robertson said national home material retailers typically miss the mark when marketing to consumers.

“You go into a big box store and they don’t have people, they have signs,” he said. “The only way they can sell you is they say this product is life proof or ... guaranteed [but] there’s no such thing.”

Robertson said Seafloor Carpet staff attempts to inform customers what elements tie into price variations among selections.

“For something to be a different price, there’s a reason,” he said. “There’s only three things that make up a price: the cost of the material, the cost of the labor to make it and the profit.”

Robertson said Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood & More embraces a pride in craftsmanship and materials approach, something he believes other retailers tend to overlook when closing a sale with clients.

“What happens is they get sold a bill of goods a lot of times and they end up unhappy,” he said. “We want happy customers and that’s why I don’t try to sell them, I’ll educate them.”

Seafloor Carpet, Hardwood & More is located at 11312 Manklin Creek Rd. For more information stop by the store, call 410-220-6578 or visit seafloorcarpets.com.

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Opinion

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

Closed session option leaves intent in doubt

Funny thing about closed meetings laws, whether they apply to governments or homeowners’ associations. The law establishes when executive sessions can be held by listing the exceptions to the rule that meeting in public is better than making decisions behind closed doors. What the law doesn’t do is say these institutions have no choice in most instances. Of course, they have a choice. Just because an executive session is permitted, or maybe even desirable, it doesn’t mean that the governing body is obligated to do it.

More often than not, the decision to exclude the public from discussions of a sensitive nature is to shield the meeting’s participants from criticism or misunderstandings.

It is a fact, however, that personnel matters should be discussed in private to protect the reputations of the individuals involved, and to prevent the possibility of being sued by a party who believes he or she has been harmed by one revelation too many.

It remains, however, that members of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors are not “personnel.” That’s for employees, while directors are publicly elected, publicly vetted and publicly discussed officials. Their expectation of privacy goes out the window in many regards the moment they declare their candidacies.

The board’s decision this week to convene in closed session to select a replacement for departing Director Steve Tuttle arises out of the directors’ desire to talk about personalities without embarrassing themselves or the prospects. They also wanted to discern who’s likely to be a friend or a foe of the goals that the board, or a board majority, hopes to achieve.

That’s understandable, but it’s not how it should be, since the public doesn’t know what those goals might be, or what points of view a director majority is trying to solidify.

This replacement process, or absence of one, is also a messy business, because it invites public speculation about motives and politics, whether it’s warranted or not.

Regardless who the board selected, one order of business the directors should pursue this year is to establish a firm, interpretation-free replacement process in the election bylaws. Otherwise, members of the voting public are bound to wonder the next time this happens whether such appointments are made to benefit them or the directors themselves.



“Paul is practicing his ”Socially Distant Covid Halloween Trick or Treat Toss”

Health insurance open enrollment

(Oct. 22, 2020) Individual Health Insurance Open Enrollment is the one time during which people can make health insurance plan selections or changes to their plans for the following plan year.

During this period, there are no restrictions on enrollments. Once a selection is made, changes are generally not allowed until the next Open Enrollment.

Anyone who purchases health insurance, not through an employer, will have the opportunity to buy or change their policy from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, for an effective date of Jan. 1, 2021.

Approved insurance carrier rates will soon be released, and brokers will be ready to assist the public with their plan selections.

While individuals can purchase policies on their own, it is suggested to acquire assistance from a licensed broker. There is no extra charge when a broker helps, even if an individual is eligible for a government subsidy.

All Medicare beneficiaries can buy or change their Prescription Drug Plan only once each year, from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, for an effective date of Jan. 1, 2021.

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each beneficiary to explain any changes in prescription coverage and price. If no change is desired, the current plan will automatically renew.

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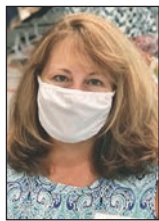
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Lipsky chosen as crafter of the month

(Oct. 22, 2020) Barbara Lipsky was recently named the Ocean Pines Pine’er Craft Club Crafter of the Month for October.

Lipsky enjoys working with stones and pebbles, and painting. When she discovered this art form of creating people and objects from the medium she was hooked. To be able to paint scenes was even better.

She has been working in this medium for two and a



Barbara Lipsky

half years, but she has always created art.

Lipsky is a wife, mother and dog lover and has been a teacher/librarian for over 30 years.

When she and her husband bought a house in Ocean Pines in September 2019, she immediately joined the Craft Club.

She truly loves making unique items. Anything is possible with pebbles and stones, she said.

View Lipsky’s creations and the work of other artisans at the Artisan Gift Shop, which is open every Saturday from 8 to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in White Horse Park, next to the Farmer’s Market and across from the Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway.

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., Oct. 22

WIGGLE BOT STEM MEET UP
Meeting via Zoom, 4:30 PM. Pick a kit up at the library, watch the Wiggle Bot video on Facebook and meet up on Zoom to put the bots together, decorate them and see what they can do. For ages 8-12 years. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

Fri., Oct. 23

WITTY FIBER FRIENDS
Meeting via Zoom, 10:00 AM. Bring your lap work and join the group as they knit, crochet and embroider. All are welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

AUTUMN HOME & CONDO SHOW AND ART & CRAFT FAIR
Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The Home & Condo Show features interior and outdoor displays, showcasing new products and ideas on remodeling, decorating, accessorizing, renovating and building. Meet the pros and receive expert advice. The Art & Craft Fair features artist and crafter from near and far.

There will be free drawings and door prizes. Admission cost is \$5 for adults and free to those 15 and younger. Complimentary admission with valid ID for police, fire fighters, first responders and nurses. Face coverings required and temperature check at the door. Ocean Promotions, events@oceanpromotions.info, 410-213-8090, <http://www.oceanpromotions.info>

O.C.TOBERFEST BEACH FIREWORKS
On the beach at N. Division Street, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Kick-off O.C.toberfest with beach fireworks. Masks and social distancing are required. 410-250-0125, <https://specialeventpro.com.oc-toberfest>

TRIMPER'S THRILLS AND CHILLS OCTOBER WEEKENDS
Trimper Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 4:00 PM - 8:45 PM, October 23-25: A Night mare on Freak Street. October 30-Nov. 1: Zombie Dance Party. Sally Kneavel, Sally@TrimperRides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

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., Oct. 24

'COVID' CHRISTMAS YARDSALE
Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Held in the Shepherd's Nook parking lot. Featuring table top decorations, linens & things, new and gently used clothing, gift/boutique table, potpourri, ornaments/wreaths/trees and a children's table with books and toys. Masks are required.

O.C.TOBERFEST BEACH MAZE
Ocean City beach at N. Division Street, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Children of all ages can enjoy a pleasant scream as they meander the sands of the giant Halloween Beach Maze. Wicked witches, pirates of the sand, scary scarecrows, ghouls in the graveyard, zombies and more. Free event. <https://specialeventpro.com>

pro.com/oc-toberfest
AUTUMN HOME & CONDO SHOW AND ART & CRAFT FAIR
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O.C.TOBERFEST HOWL-O-WEEN PET PARADE
Boardwalk at N. Division Street, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Registration begins at noon. Dress up your pets and parade the boards. Lots of prizes and surprises will
Continued on Page 24

Celebrate the

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Deadline is November 11

Cuisine

Suplee features New Orleans muffuletta

Oh, to wake up on Frenchmen Street, a lingering hangover evidence of another successful night in the Big Easy.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

It has been two-and-a-half years since I have visited New Orleans, and it saddens me thinking about that much time between my short retreats to the town that makes no sense to most, but which makes all the sense in the world to me.

I have traveled more than my fair share to the mighty town on the Mississippi, but I can't get enough of the food, music, culture, the thrill of

voodoo shops, the back-alley music halls known mostly to the locals and not advertised (yet they're still packed to the walls).

There is an air of magic, mystery and tragedy that surrounds so much of the city, and that speaks to me.

A few trips ago, I was with old Marine brothers at a reunion. As we are obviously aging, we (as a group) weren't doing anything too wild. Around 9 p.m., we sat on the curb across the street from the Balcony Music Club and watched the inimitable Ed Wills play a few sets.

The man rivals any blues guitarist out there, and we were mesmerized. However, and again noting that we are getting old, the rally cry was yelled by others in our party; "it's 10:00! It's time to go back to the hotel and take our meds!"

It was a matter of seconds before the wagons circled and everyone went back to the hotel to get a good night's sleep; everyone but me and my good friend Chad. Continuing to watch Mr. Wells wail on the guitar for a few more songs, we then fled east to Frenchmen Street and found some other bars.

We saw band after band play, never missing a note, and stayed up cavorting until 7:30 in the morning.

Then, with great confidence, I went to the front desk and told the attendant that I was Richard Smith in 504 and I lost my wallet and my room key.

She promptly gave me a replacement (it helps to look innocent) and Chad and I went to our buddy Smitty's room and scared him out of a deep sleep.

That's about the kindest way that I can put that. We thought it was the funniest thing we had ever done, but Mr. Smith was not too pleased with our behavior. He sent us to our rooms.

Upon waking up three hours later, we hit Bourbon Street and I stopped dead in my tracks as we came upon the Central Grocery. Home to the famed muffuletta sandwich, we waited in line and got our monstrosity of a meal and went on our way.

But it wasn't before an old man came up to me, as I was wearing my Loyola College T-shirt (my alma mater).

"Did you go to Loyola?"

"Yes sir, I did" I responded with a half-cocked and hungover smile.

"Well, Ignatius of Loyola was an a##hole!" he yelled loudly enough that every person in the shop stopped and stared. You could hear a pin drop.



And that, folks, is New Orleans, and exactly why I can't wait to go back.

Muffuletta

serves 2-4

1 large bread boule
4 oz. Prosciutto
4 oz. Mortadella
4 oz. Genoa salami
4 oz. Capicola
4 slices provolone
4 slices mozzarella
1 c. Olive relish (recipe follows)

- Slice the bread in half to make a top and bottom

- Carefully tear out some of the crumb (the white part) to make room

- Line the top and bottom with the olive relish
- Shingle the provolone on the bottom and the mozzarella on the top

- Pull the meats apart and fold them individually on the sandwich. If you just plop them down, stuck together, it's reminiscent of a midnight fridge raid, just shoveling deli meats down your pie hole.

- Carefully rejoin the top and bottom to create your glorious masterpiece.

- Slice in half and serve with pepperoncini.

Olive Relish

makes about a quart

2 c. Green olives, stuffed with pimientos
2 c. Pickled Italian veggies OR
Quick pickled vegetables (recipe follows)
Red vinegar, as needed
3 Tbsp. Coarse stone mustard
Black pepper

- Place the first three ingredients in a food processor and pulse until it is a coarse relish, akin to a tapenade.

- Adjust flavors with the last three.

Quick Pickled Vegetables (cheater method)

makes about a quart

1 c. Cauliflower
1 c. Cut green beans
2 ribs celery, cut into 3" pieces
1 Onion, cut into eighths
1 carrot, cut into sticks
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon
1/4 tsp. Ground cloves
1 tsp. Salt
1 c. Red wine vinegar
1 tsp. Dill

- This is a cheater method, so if you don't have a vacuum chamber (not a food saver), simply boil the vinegar with spices, cover the vegetables and let sit overnight in the refrigerator.

- Assuming that you are cool enough to have a vacuum chamber, place all ingredients in a vacuum bag and mix well.

- Vacuum for 25 seconds and seal

- Let the vegetables sit for at least one hour, and then they are ready to go. They will not have the fully developed flavor of a pickle that has sat for months at room temperature with cheesecloth on top in your grandma's basement, but they will work just fine in a pinch.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

Puzzles

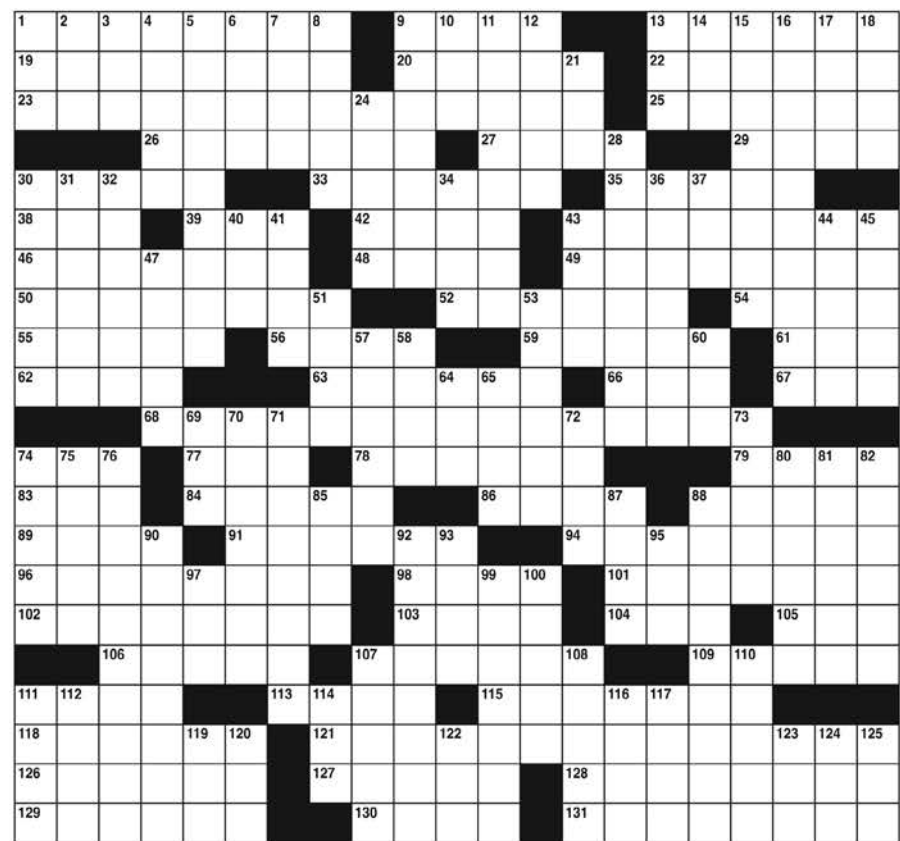
PIR SQUARED

BY GARY LARSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Gary Larson, of Edmonds, Wash., is a retired comedian. He spent the last 15 years of his career entertaining on cruise ships, where crosswords were a way to pass the time between shows. One day a clue-and-answer combination in a New York Times crossword cracked him up, and he thought, Why don't I try making one of these? I love writing jokes. How hard can it be to fit them into a puzzle? He found out. This is his 592nd puzzle. It's his fourth in The Times. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
1 Examples of attention to detail
9 Yearbook-award word
13 Lift weights
19 Gingerbread man, often
20 British pop singer Lily
22 In the Caribbean it's known as "the chicken of the trees"
23 "The government has discovered aliens but isn't telling us," e.g.
25 Port on the Loire
26 Missouri site of the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival
27 Applications
29 Actress Ward
30 Acronym for a North American quintet
33 Intertwine
35 Pains in the neck
38 Spanish article
39 Power of a square
42 Mrs. Addams, to Gomez
43 Nocturnal bloodsucker
46 Steal
48 Stuff
49 It requires no oxygen for growth
50 Pants with baggy legs
- ACROSS**
52 Task
54 Noodles often eaten cold in the summer
55 Square things
56 Cause of joint pain
59 Relatively new relative, maybe
61 Small songbird
62 Cornmeal bread
63 Wood for violin-making
66 Brian who co-founded Roxy Music
67 "You rang?"
68 Means of breathing
74 Calming retreat
77 Subject of 199 silk-screen paintings by Warhol
78 Present from birth
79 Activist _____
83 Hesitating sound
84 Unremarkable
86 Goes out for a bit?
88 Valorous
89 Specialty
91 The continents, e.g.
94 His resignation triggered the first invocation of the 25th Amendment
96 Start up again
98 Wacky
101 Like some flights
102 Triangular flags
103 Aerial maneuver
104 Kiddy litter?
105 Mature
106 Power issue
- DOWN**
1 Grumpy co-worker
2 Spanish gold
3 Old country-music channel
4 French for "cup"
5 Locale of Kings County and Queens County, fittingly
6 Like some batteries and parties
7 Sapa _____ (title for Atahualpa)
8 Not merely cut
9 Gospel singer Jackson
10 Fútbol cheer
107 Computer image format
109 More up to it
111 South American mammals with trunks
113 Introductory course?
115 Brand of allergy spray
118 Lime and rust
121 It was known by the Algonquin as the "Father of Waters"
126 Extends
127 Similar
128 Castle in "Hamlet"
129 More out there
130 "May God bless and keep the _____ far away from us!" (line from "Fiddler on the Roof")
131 Return to the fray
- DOWN**
11 Doesn't sit right?
12 Snippy, in a way
13 Spare part?
14 Sch. for Bulldogs
15 '60s sitcom family
16 What "X" marks on a treasure map
17 First-year law student
18 Mission-driven org.
21 "Science Guy" Bill
24 Shades
28 Glittery glue-ons
30 Wheel cover
31 Acting mindlessly
32 "____ Brando: Larger Than Life" (1994 biography)
34 Dog in classic films
36 Flowing forth
37 Steeple feature
40 Cleverness
41 Universal donor's blood type, for short
43 Peacockish
44 Activist Hoffman
45 Milk dispensers
47 Lost cause
51 Only player with three 60+ home run seasons
53 Rest of the afternoon?
57 Slant skyward
58 2010 sci-fi film subtitled "Legacy"
60 Trouble
64 Catering container
65 Color for the right eye of a pair of 3-D glasses

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



- DOWN**
69 Only bird with calf muscles
70 Talking back
71 Graceful spins
72 Informal assents
73 Country singer Price
74 #
75 When doubled, 1934 Cole Porter comedy short
76 Absolutely dazzling
80 Book that's rarely read cover-to-cover
81 Right, as a wrong
82 More N.S.F.W., maybe
85 Mimics
87 Vodka or gin
88 Low-dose pain reliever
90 Mass recitation
92 Symbol meaning "still typing"
93 Tugboat sound
95 Dedicatee of the 1980 song "Woman"
- DOWN**
97 Opposite of wide: Abbr.
99 Like slippers versus dress shoes
100 Milky gems
107 Muscly
108 Stumper question
110 Life form
111 Went like the dickens
112 Got rid of
114 German granny
116 Where the infant Moses was found
117 Cathedral recess
119 Maa, in 1995's "Babe"
120 Ukr., e.g., once
122 Genre pioneered in 1950s-'60s Jamaica
123 U.S. overseas broadcaster
124 Unit of work
125 Food writer/TV personality _____ Drummond

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HARD - 24

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 21
be awarded. While the event is free to participate, donations of pet supplies and monetary donations will be collected for the Worcester County Humane Society. Jacklyn@specialeventpro.com, 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/oc-toberfest>

DRIVE IN DISGUISE & TRUNK OR TREAT

The Halloween Drive in Disguise parade will start at 3:00 PM from 26th Street and head south to the amusement pier. Residents and visitors are invited to dress their vehicle in costume and ride down the Boardwalk. Sign up at https://ococean.com/application/files/5816/0208/4186/DiD20_Application.pdf. Prizes will be awarded for the most unique parade entries. After the parade, participating cars will line up on the concrete part of the boardwalk north of the pier for the Trunk or Treat, which is expected to begin at approximately 3:30 p.m. 410-250-0125

O.C.TOBERFEST DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S Atlantic Ave., 7:00 PM. Featuring Disney's "Hocus Pocus." Inlet parking lot fees still apply. 410-798-6304, <https://specialeventpro.com/oc-toberfest>

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.

TRIMPER'S THRILLS AND CHILLS OCTOBER WEEKENDS

Trimper Rides, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12:00 PM - 8:30 PM, October 23-25: A Night mare on Freak Street. October 30-Nov. 1: Zombie Dance Party. Sally Kneavel, Sally@Trimperrides.com, 410-289-8617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

Sun., Oct. 25

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O.C.TOBERFEST THE GREAT PUMPKIN RACE

Ocean City Boardwalk at N. Division Street, 1:00 PM. Registration begins at noon. Build your own pumpkin race car to bring and compete in this side-by-side down hill race. Prizes will be awarded in each division as well as for creativity. Contact 410-798-6304 or Jacklyn@specialeventpro.com. <https://specialeventpro.com/oc-toberfest>

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Mon., Oct. 26

DR. MADDOCKTER'S MAD, MAD LIBRATORY

Meeting via Facebook, 2:00 PM. The process of creating Dr. Maddockter's Mad Libratory for the Berlin Branch in 2019. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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

Tues., Oct. 27

YOGA STORY TIME

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. A fun interactive story combined with Yoga stretches and movement. For children ages 2-5 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

NEA BIG READ: TED TALK: WHALES

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. The group will look at the lost culture of whales and why they sing. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BAT BOX BASH

White Horse Park Pavilion, 239 Ocean Parkway, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Join Maryland Coastal Bays to help support local bat populations. Build and take home your very own four-chamber nursery bat house, which can accommodate a thousand or more bats. Learn about the importance of bat houses. There is an



NEW COURSE

Worcester Preparatory School added a new Personal Finance course to the middle school curriculum this year. Because of Landmark Insurance & Financial Group's donation of the Dave Ramsey "Foundations in Personal Finance" industry-leading financial curriculum, students are learning basic banking and life skills. The class is taught by WPS Director of Human Resources Heather Parsons. Pictured, from left, are Parsons; Head of School Dr. John McDonald; and President of Landmark Insurance & Financial Group, Jill Hall. (Left) Parsons is joined by seventh grader Sydney Todorov. SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

\$80 registration fee. Register: cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org. <https://fb.me/e/1Fu44d1V4>

Wed., Oct. 28

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR BUILD-YOUR-OWN SCARECROW CONTEST

The contest will take place on Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon at White Horse Park. Ocean Pines will supply the straw, but participants will need to bring their own outfits and accessories. The contest winner will be announced at the end of the workshop and will receive a bag of festive fall goodies. The cost is \$8 per family and preregistration is required by Oct. 28. To register, call 410-641-7052 or visit the Ocean Pines Community Center.

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Join the group for songs, rhymes and stories. For children under 2 years old. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

KEEPING ANNA'S DREAM ALIVE

Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Volunteers from AARP and Kiwanis will be collecting donations for our military. Items needed include baby wipes, body wash/shampoo, dental hygiene products, razors, deodorant (non-aerosol), gum, granola bars, small bags of peanuts, packs of hot chocolate, instant oatmeal, 5 oz. cans Chef Boyardee pasta, powdered drinks, trail mix, beef jerky, Ramen noodle bricks, sunflower

seeds, lip balm, Kleenex, pens, cards and puzzle books. To donate just drive up, stay in your car, pop the trunk and someone will pick up your donations.

ONGOING EVENTS

'HANDS ACROSS WORCESTER' VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING

Sponsored by the Cricket Center, the event will run until Oct. 30. There will be a daily drawing prizes such as: candy for a year from Wockenfuss Candy, \$100 from Park Place Jewelers, 2 night stay at The Grand Hotel, 4 rounds of golf at Lighthouse Sound and more. Go to www.thecricketcenter.com and click the link to find the "GoFundMe" page or click the "Donate Now" button. Every donation of \$25 or more will be entered in the daily raffle for prizes. All proceeds benefit abused children in Worcester County. Wendy Myers, 410-641-0097.

OCEAN PINES HALLOWEEN CONTESTS

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks are have a Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest and a Virtual Costume Contest. Simple snap a photo and email it to bjarman@oceanpines.org by Oct. 25. Photos must include name, age and contact information. Submitted photos will be posted on the Recreation and Parks Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OPRecandParks) where voting will occur from Oct. 26 through noon on Oct. 30. Winners will be announced Oct. 30 and may pick up a goodie bag during the Trunk or Treat event scheduled that evening.

CALL

410-723-6397

BY MONDAY


5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE

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

HELP WANTED



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- Cook
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- Reservations Clerk
- Front Desk Supervisor
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- Maintenance
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Local Home Improvement Contractor seeks full & part-time workers of all skill levels. Call or text **410-430-5027**.

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Efficiency.....\$245/wk
2BR Apartment.....\$350/wk
3BR Suite.....\$400/wk
Burgundy Inn
1210 Philadelphia Ave.
410-289-8581

ROOMMATES

North OC Near 118th St.
Furnished bedroom w/shared bath & laundry overlooking canal w/deck. \$675/mo., utilities included. Clean background. Call for details **410-603-5110**.

YARD SALE

Saturday Oct. 24th. 7am-1pm.
Antique furniture, lamps, tools, new household items, Beach & Farm Décor and much more.
10016 Carey Rd., Berlin.

COMMERCIAL

1 Office/Retail Space & 1 Warehouse Unit available in West Ocean City.
Call **443-497-4200**

VEHICLES

1994 Porsche Model 968 Convertible. 79k miles. **410-409-1947**

FOR SALE

After **35 years** we are going to retire and we would like to sell our inventory. You can look at our website **pmirentals.com** for information as to what we have. We will be available daily from 9:00 to 4:00. If you have questions you can call us at **410-250-1251**

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