



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Scoutmaster Ken Nichols oversees members of Boy Scouts Troop #261 and Cub Scouts Pack #261 removing the blue field and white stars during a flag retirement ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines last Saturday. See story on page 6.

Teaching from distance back 'til December

As cases increase, schools return to remote learning

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) All public schools in Worcester County returned to distance learning Monday, as the number of positive tests for covid-19 locally mirrored an overall rise in cases in the state. The reimposition of the remote learning program will remain in effect until Dec. 1.

"As outlined in the guidance provided by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Education, our leadership team has been closely following the community statistics for covid-19," Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor



Lou Taylor

See IN-PERSON Page 10

Ponds tests look for geese's impact

Goal is keeping birds safe, people happy by limiting contact between them

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

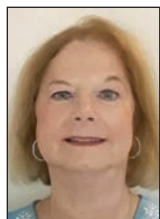
(Nov. 19, 2020) Assessing the impacts resident geese are having on the water quality in Ocean Pines' ponds is something the Ocean Pines Environmental and Natural Assets Committee hopes to see done.

Committee member Sharon Santacroce said Chairman Ken Wolf suggested bacterial levels should be investigated at several ponds where geese and other waterfowl regularly spend most of their time.

"Ken came up with the idea to test the water in the two ponds in the

north and South Gate," she said, adding she'd like to see the venture go farther.

"I wanted them to do DNA testing on it to drill down to the point source of any bacteria or pollutants in the pond," she said.



S. Santacroce

Besides domestic and Canada geese, frequent winged visitors to the Pines ponds include mallards and herons, not to mention foxes and community canines.

"Everything has droppings," she said.

Environmental Committee board liaison Tom Janasek is coordinating the effort with assistance from the

Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

"It's an independent lab the Maryland Coastal Bays has arranged for and they are going to trace the DNA source," she said.

Santacroce said water samples from each pond would be sent to Jonah Ventures laboratories for quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Next Generation Sequencing to identify environmental DNA.

"They didn't have a firm date at our last meeting," she said.

Santacroce said two sets of tests are scheduled over the winter.

"This is what I was pushing for, because my goal is to keep the geese safe and keep people happy," she said.

See CDC Page 10

Golf committee wants to involve larger community

New clubhouse could be attractive to non-golfers

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Following prolonged inaction because of covid-19 restrictions and with several resignations, a slightly reconstituted Ocean Pines Golf Committee reconvened last month with hopes to market the course to a larger audience.

Golf Committee Chairman Fritz Lahner said the group met on Oct. 27 to develop suggestions for next year to accompany its annual report for the OPA Executive Council.

See GOLF Page 2

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Continued from Page 1

“We made a lot of recommendations on how to get more participation, especially with ... residents,” he said. “A lot of our suggestions are dependent on what’s going to happen with covid.”

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The event would ideally take place in early spring and help expose a larger percentage of the community to the amenity and potentially increase participation.

Among the larger pool of play package recommendations were a ladies weekday nine-hole early special rate and a nine-hole twilight rate for

"Let's take the biggest amenity in Ocean Pines and get the most people to use it," he said. "How can we do that? That's really what our goal is."

The logo for Adcock Art Studio features a stylized flower icon on the left, composed of twelve petals in a rainbow gradient (purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, red). To the right of the flower, the word 'ADCOCK' is written in a large, black, cursive script. Below 'ADCOCK', the words 'ART STUDIO' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath 'ART STUDIO', the text 'Jim Adcock - Artist' is written in a red, serif font.

Worcester Board of Edu. election official vote tally

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Donald Smack Sr. and Dr. Jon Andes are officially members of the Worcester County Board of Education, following the verification of the vote count from the Nov. 3 elections.

The final results were posted on the Maryland State Board of Elections website last Friday after all mail-in and provisional ballots were counted. Re-elected to the board in that contest was Elena McComas.



D. Smack Sr.



Dr. Jon Andes



Elena McComas

Smack, who was elected to the District 2 seat, received 1,863 votes, for 62 percent of the votes. He received 639 votes from in-person early voting, 664 votes on Election Day and 483 votes by mail-in ballots and 77 votes by provisional ballots.

Smack's opponent Rodney Bailey received 1,112 votes, and another 28 votes went to write-ins.

Former Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools Dr. Jon Andes won the District 3 seat with 3,039 votes, for 73.3 percent of the votes. He received 1,586 votes from in-person early voting, 601 votes on Election Day and 768 votes by mail-in ballots and 84 votes by provisional ballots.

His opponent Anjali "Angie" Phukan-Chatelle received a total of 1,093 votes, and another 16 votes were counted for write-ins.

McComas received 98.8 percent of the votes for District 5 with 1,974 votes from in-person early voting, 529 votes on Election Day, 1,474 votes by mail-in ballots and 143 votes by provisional ballots.

About 1 percent, or 50 votes, went to write-ins.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education is hosting a new board member orientation on Dec. 10-11. Registration is \$150.

According to the association's website, the orientation will introduce new board members to the work of school boards and teach them about the basics of school law, policy, finance and advocacy.

For more information, visit www.mabe.org/training/#orientation.

The elected Worcester County board members will be sworn in at the regular board meeting on Jan. 19, 2021.

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Berlin seeks grant for rooftop solar system

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) The town of Berlin is hoping for a grant through the Maryland Energy Administration that will allow them to obtain a 23kW rooftop solar system at the electric facility on Schoolfield Street.

“We were the first to submit,” Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said of the program, the deadline for which was last Friday.

The cost of the system is \$55,000, and the grant would cover \$47,000.

“The [\$8,000] left is born by the town,” Fleetwood said.

The \$8,000 is in the town budget, he said, but added, “We are going to be into conversations with the installer to see what we might be able to do in-house as far as in-kind service to reduce that.”

Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said the purpose of the solar system is twofold.

“One is green energy, which is renewable energy sources. We’re man-

dated by the state of Maryland by year 2030 that 50 percent of our purchased power sold has to come from renewable energy sources: wind, biofuel, solar,” Lawrence said. “The highest percentage of that requirement is from solar, so we’re trying to be good stewards of the environment and then also to satisfy our REC [renewable energy credits] requirement.”

Lawrence said the town is required to buy a certain amount of renewable energy credits (RECs) annually based on load or power sold.

“By putting in a solar system, we’re actually reducing our REC requirement by about 27 solar RECs, because we would have had to pay for them on our purchased power contract,” he said.

Fleetwood added that Maryland Senate Bill 0677 and House Bill 1392 are critical for small municipal electric utilities because they call for a cap on Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards, resulting in a potential \$2 million cost-savings for Berlin.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

If the \$47,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration is approved, Berlin will install a rooftop 23kW solar system on the electric utility facility at 113 Schoolfield St. to provide renewable energy.

The solar contractor went to the electric facility on Schoolfield Street on Monday to measure the roof and evaluate the structure.

“We’re just getting everything ... lined up and ready to go prior to the approval of the grant,” Lawrence said.

The solar system is manufactured by Solar Energy Services in partnership with Carter Machinery.

PFC Anthony Rhode joins Berlin Police Dept.

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Patrolman First Class Anthony Rhode began his first shift in Berlin last Monday after meeting the Berlin Mayor and Council.

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing introduced Rhode to the council during its semimonthly meeting.

Rhode is a Marine Corps veteran and has been a certified police officer for 13 years. He came to the Berlin Police Department from the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

“I like the town, and from past experience working with members of the Berlin Police Department, everyone has



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Patrolman First Class Anthony Rhode met the Berlin Mayor and Council last Monday before his first night shift as a full-time employee of the Berlin Police Department. Pictured, from left, are Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing, Mayor Zackery Tyndall and Rhode.

nothing but good things to say about the leadership,” Rhode said last Tuesday.

Rhode is from Worcester County and lives in the Berlin area. He is also an alumnus from Stephen Decatur High School.

“We’re proud to go ahead and have him as part of the Berlin Police Department,” Downing said last Monday. “He just completed his acclimation period.”

Responding to Mayor Zack Tyndall last Monday, Rhode said he completed 80 hours of field training lateral with a certified field training officer.

Lt. Robert Fisher described the program as “the training and evaluation of a Maryland certified officer transitioning to the agency.”

The training consisted of the review of the Berlin Police Department policies, Berlin’s Town Code, the boundaries of the town, the equipment used by the agency and review of items in the standard Field

See FIELD Page 5

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Ocean Pines Aquatics cmte. looks to spring

Advisory group discusses pending and future needs for various pool facilities

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Reconvening for the first time since the onset of coronavirus, the Ocean Pines Aquatics Committee last Tuesday finalized its annual report and charted plans for next year.

Chairwoman Kathy Grimes said the meeting — marked by social distancing and a face-mask requirement — was the committee’s first since March.

“We picked back up,” she said.

The meeting concentrated on finalizing the groups’ annual report, which was later submitted to the OPA Executive Council.

“We have a lot of catch-up to do,” she said.

Committee members also found time to rank the tasks ahead in order of importance.

“We’re looking at different pools in Ocean Pines and what their needs are

... what we thought were the most important so we could zero in where we want to start,” Grimes said.

Plans are to begin the inspection process with the Sports Core Pool, which remains in operation, while inspections of facilities shuttered for the offseason would probably take place during 2021.

“We don’t know what summer is going to bring,” she said. “As the pools open, we’ll go around and visit ... see the lifeguards and talk to the staff and just see what they need and how things look.”

Grimes said with the exception of the Sports Core Pool, obtaining an

‘We’re looking at different pools in Ocean Pines and what their needs are ... what we thought were the most important so we could zero in where we want to start.’
Chairwoman Kathy Grimes

operational view of the closed outdoor pools would be challenging because they have covers on them.

Next spring as outdoor pools are preparing to reopen, Aquatics Committee members will inspect the sites to see what repairs might be needed.

“Sometimes you have a tile fall off,” she said. “You never know what the winter brings with freezing and thawing.”



The Ocean Pines Yacht Club Pool, pictured here in 2019, is among the facilities slated for inspection next season by the Aquatics Committee which met last week for the first time since the onset of coronavirus.

Field training required by dept.

Continued from Page 4
Training Officer Task Handbook.

The requirements for entry level applicants and certified officers transitioning to the Berlin Police Department vary.

However, Rhode had to meet criteria for all applicants, including an extensive background check, psychological exam, physical exam, drug test, criminal history, voice stress analysis and driving record.

Field Training Officer applicants are also evaluated on appearance, attitude, knowledge, performance and relation-

ships with citizens, minority groups, supervisors and peers.

In addition, applicants are trained in scenarios or perform 33 categories of tasks, including traffic stops, arrests, responding to crimes in progress and handling evidence. Downing said Rhode completed most of the tasks to become a certified police officer before joining the Berlin Police Department.

Rhode and his peers will soon take a weaponry class. Downing said officers receive annual weaponry training.

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Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department members Joe Sturgill, left, and Steve Ready, tend the fire pit during a flag retirement ceremony conducted Saturday by Boy Scouts Troop #261 and Cub Scouts Pack #261 at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines.

Local scouts conduct proper U.S. flag retirement in Pines

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Although fewer members took part this year than last because of pandemic concerns, a sizable contingent of Boy Scouts from Troop #261 and Cub Scouts from Pack #261 performed a flag retirement ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines last Saturday.

Scoutmaster Ken Nichols said the annual ceremony typically involves up to 50 scouts but that count was cut in half last week.

“The girl troop was on a camping trip that weekend, so we were minus that troop,” he said. “There are still some parents with covid that are leery to have their kids out, so the numbers were down.”

Nichols said everyone taking part in the event followed covid-19 health safety advisories.

“All the participants, if they were in scouting, they were wearing a mask,” he said.

In accordance with U.S. Flag Code, the ceremony involves scouts placing worn and torn Stars and Stripes in a fire for a respectful burning.

In an effort to be environmentally friendly, this year the ceremony eliminated burning non-cotton materials, such as nylon or synthetic polyester.

“For years, we were burning all the American flags that were donated,” he said. “Of course, trying to be environmentally friendly since we are scouts we were basically burning all cotton.”

The annual retirement ceremony generally involves thousands of flags.

“We probably average around 3,000 flags and we still have quite a few,” he said.

Of that number, a percentage were held back from the fire pit for further use.

“In order to dispose of them effectively, what we do is cut the blue field, the stars, off of the stripes,” he said. “As far as flag etiquette, once you do that it’s no longer considered an American flag so at that point you can just throw it away if you are so inclined.”

In prior years, Scouts removed white stars from cloth flags to produce commemorative keepsakes.

The stars were attached to a notecard that said in part, “the sun and wind have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are remembered.”

Tattered and torn U.S. flags were collected at American Legion Posts #166 in Ocean City, #123 and #231 in Berlin, as well as the Ocean Pines Community Center. Assisting with the ceremony were Ocean Pines Public Works and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Company.

“It’s usually just a once-a-year thing because we do it in conjunction with the American Legion and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial,” he said.

The American Legion Post in Ocean City, which helped found Boy Scout Troop #261 in 1952, has continued to sponsor the local chapter.

The flag retirement ceremony, which has been held at the veterans’ memorial since it opened in 2005, has been held locally for decades, Nichols said.

“There’s a few different entities involved with getting this together,” he said. “The Ocean Pines Fire Company is usually there and Ocean Pines Public Works digs the pit and covers it back up.”

The ceremony customarily takes place after Veterans Day.

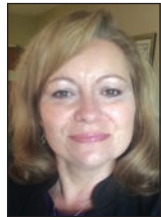
“It’s usually mid-November, give or take,” he said. “That’s what works well with us.”

Safety precautions also involve the seasons.

“As far as Ocean Pines is concerned, we’re over the hot, dry season of summer,” he said. “With that open fire, we wouldn’t want to do that in the summer.”

Worcester Co. Arts Council hosts online auction this yr.

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer
(Nov. 19, 2020) Worcester County Arts Council is conducting an online auction until Dec. 12 to raise funds for its arts scholarship program.



“We are hoping to raise about \$2,000 from the auction,” said Anna Mullis, the executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council.

Students graduating from Worcester County high schools who plan to further their education in art fields can apply for the scholarship in January. The application deadline is April 15.

“Only Worcester County students who reside in Worcester County are eligible to apply,” Mullis added.

To apply, visit www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org/artsscholarship.

For three years, the arts council has held a silent auction open to the public in an exhibit format to raise funds for the scholarship program.

Last year, the arts council awarded \$10,000 to local students, Mullis said.

“This year, of course with the pandemic, we had to be a little bit more creative, and that’s why we are offering online bidding for people, so they can view the artwork and bid from the comfort of their homes,” Mullis said.

There are about 25 pieces of artwork for sale, including paintings, scarves, blown glass, ceramics and jewelry. The items were donated by local artists, who are members of the Worcester County Arts Council gallery co-op.

“They are available for bidding, however all the pieces can be purchased at ‘buy now’ price at our gallery,” Mullis said.

Worcester County Arts Council gallery at 6 Jefferson St. in Berlin is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“This is such a great opportunity to support local nonprofits and for the great cause to support local arts students,” Mullis said.

She encourages people to view the original artwork for unique holiday gifts.

To view and bid on items, visit www.32auctions.com/wcac2020?fbclid=IwARoR_9QClMTwvp6MvtsV-FYZooGhqb9laiP2QKzgW3Qe6RkIGIOgSoWv7o0.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE LANDIS

COAT/TOY DRIVE

Every Wednesday in November the Kiwanis Club is accepting donations of new and used coats and unwrapped new toys from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Pictured are Co-chair of the Coat Drive, Sue Winekek, and Dave Landis, chair of the Toy Drive. Last collection of toys and coats will be Nov. 25.

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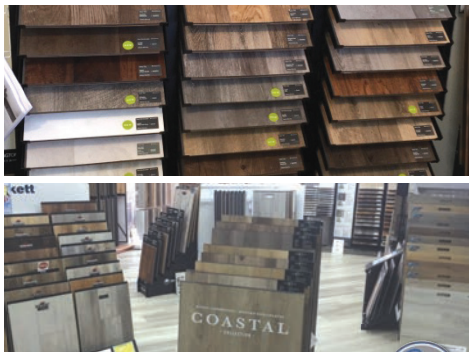
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Kiwanis lanterns support Worcester G.O.L.D.

Club member exploits woodworking skills to produce handmade lights

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Looking to illuminate the holidays, while also providing funding for infants in need, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is selling handmade lanterns at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market.

Available in two sizes, the woodcrafts will be on sale through the end of December at the Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon in White Horse Park

The lantern fundraiser is the brainchild of Kiwanis member Jim Spicknall.

“I just started it up during the pandemic,” he said. “Originally, it was for gifts for friends and family.”

Large lanterns, which are battery-operated with a remote power control and alternating light patterns, are available for \$40, while a slightly smaller solar model cost \$30.

“The larger ones I designed to either have a battery candle in them or ... what they call sprinkle lights or fairy lights,” he said. “They go in the big lanterns and give different light patterns.”

The design, in addition to remote on-and-off capabilities, also includes four-sided lenses that can display decorative patterns.

“We also did some holiday cutouts to put on and spice them up a little bit,” he said.

Spicknall said inserts could be swapped out to mark seasonal moments or holidays.

“Usually, I have about six or eight cutouts for

one to two dollars,” he said. “You can buy some cutouts along with the lantern.”

Spicknall has two designs for the battery-powered lanterns: “Peace on Earth,” with a red bow and fir tree, and “Fall,” with a brown bow and leaves.

Searching for a way to spur community support for the club’s charitable endeavors, Spicknall thought the DIY craft item might prove popular as a holiday gift.

“I looked into doing retail sales to donate back to our fundraisers for Kiwanis,” he said. “We’ve really been cut out off from fundraising by the pandemic.”

Lantern sale proceeds are being dedicated for the Kiwanis “Priority One” program, which supports Worcester G.O.L.D. [Giving Other Lives Dignity] in distributing items for parents of infants and young children.

“It’s for infant children that are in need in Snow Hill,” he said. “It’s something that Kiwanis has been doing with Worcester G.O.L.D. and we donate directly to the county.”

Spicknall said whipping out the custom made lanterns was relatively easy after obtaining project schematics online.

“I would call myself a handyman,” he said. “I’ve been making some small woodworking projects for my grandkids over the years.”

The creative undertaking also provided an excuse for Spicknall to buy additional woodworking tools.

“I have a chop saw, which you can cut cross-cuts with, and then I bought a little table saw, which I can cut angles with and all kinds of different cuts,”



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City member Jim Spicknall will be selling handmade lanterns to raise funds for Worcester G.O.L.D. every Saturday through December at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market in White Horse Park.

he said.

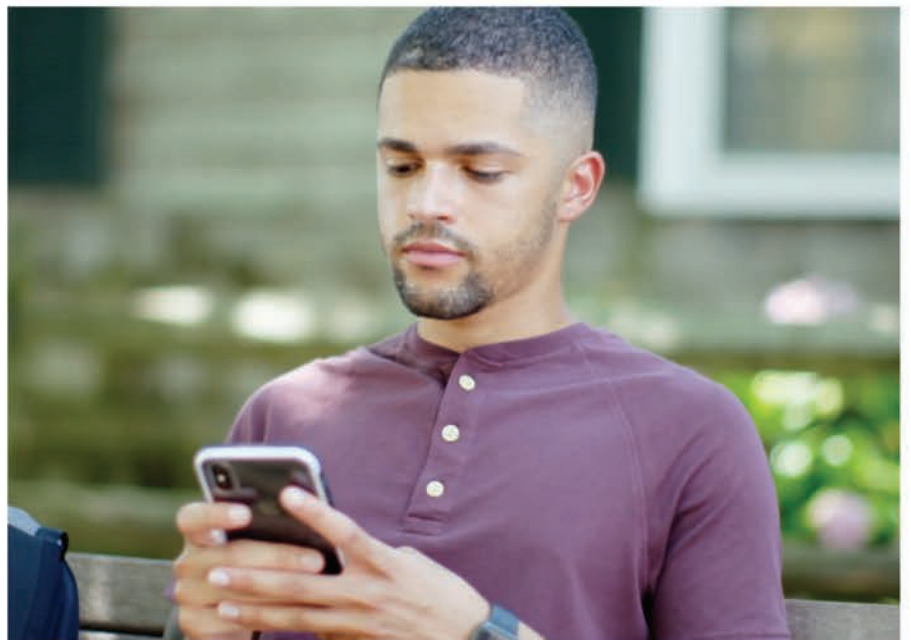
Spicknall said the expanded tool shed roster might inspire distinctive handicrafts in the future.

“I may be doing more now since I have bought some equipment,” he said. “It’s trial and error, but you have to be a little bit of a handyman so that you don’t cut your fingers off.”

Lanterns can be purchased at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon or by calling Spicknall at 301-580-0377.

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'Just Walk' fall scavenger hunt this weekend

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) The Worcester County Health Department is inviting people to participate in the free "Just Walk" fall scavenger hunt this weekend from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The scavenger hunt was originally scheduled for last weekend, but it was postponed because of rain.

"[Walking is] a great way to get the physical activity needed to reach your health goals," said Crystal Bell, the chronic disease and tobacco supervisor at the health department. "It doesn't require special equipment or skills and no gym membership is required. It's also great for our mental



Crystal Bell

health. Walking can improve sleep, memory, and the ability to think and learn, and it also reduces stress and anxiety."

Walkers can choose between Byrd Park in Snow Hill, Cypress Park in Pocomoke and Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin.

Participants will walk through a park, searching for 20 "Just Walk" wellness rocks.

"A total of 60 rocks were created with messages that relate to physical activity, healthy eating, stress management and covid-19 safety tips,"

Bell said.

The scavenger hunt is a self-directed event and social distancing and CDC safety guidelines should be followed.

"The Berlin Fall Walk was canceled this year due to covid-19," Bell said. "This walk is something that was added to encourage residents to be physically active during these unprecedented times."

Participants are encouraged to report to Bell how many wellness rocks they found with photos of them walking to be included in a raffle drawing.

The prize is a wellness basket with

a cookbook, water bottle, T-shirt and hat.

The scavenger hunt was organized through the Worcester County Health Department.

"We collaborated with the town of Berlin, Pocomoke City and town of Snow Hill to make this event possible," Bell said. "We appreciate their continued support and partnership."

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-just-walk-scavenger-hunt-tickets-127743882391 or worcesterhealth.org.

For more information, call 410-632-1100, Ext. 1108.

Lower Shore CASA reflects on National Adoption Month

(Nov. 19, 2020) With November being National Adoption Month, communities are encouraged to support the thousands of children across the country in need of permanent families.

As a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer, you will be empowered by the court to help make this dream a reality.

This is especially important when approximately 20,000 youth exit or "age out" of foster care each year.

The outcomes for these youths are often discouraging: More than 23,000 children will age out of the foster care system every year.

After reaching the age of 18, 20 percent of the children who were in foster care will become instantly homeless. Only half of foster kids who age out of the system will have gainful employment by the age of 24 (<https://nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/>).

CASA volunteers serve these youths as their advocates.

According to Volunteer Coordinator Bonnie Northeimer, "Through

specific training, CASA volunteer advocates are equipped to work alongside older youth to help them realize better outcomes."

Older youth served by Lower Shore CASA are more likely to set goals for their future and have clear ideas about how to achieve them.

They develop knowledge and skills to transition successfully to adulthood and are less likely to be homeless or in jail.

Foster youth who age out of care are some of the most vulnerable youth in the state. Anyone with an interest in youth and their futures can learn more about helping them by visiting www.gowoyo.org or contacting Jerrona Smith at 410-641-4598.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen (21 years of age or older) who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interest of a child in court.

The children that CASA volunteers advocate for have been placed into the foster care system. CASA volunteers work to help ensure a safe and permanent home for the child as quickly as possible.

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In-person classes suspended until Dec. 1

Continued from Page 1
wrote to families on Sunday.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, the daily positivity rate of Worcester County on Sunday was 6.43 percent and 21.86 cases per 100,000.

"These numbers are above the metrics these agencies have recommended for a reexamination of our 'Responsible Return,'" Taylor continued.

All after-school activities and athletics will be virtual until Dec. 1 as well.

"We will be monitoring our community statistics closely throughout this two-week period, and we will communicate to you any changes to our return as soon as decisions are made," Taylor wrote.

Parents were advised to contact schools to pick up electronic devices or other materials for virtual instruction.

Last Monday, 62 percent or roughly 4,000 students were engaged in in-person instruction among the 14 public schools in Worcester County.

Stephen Decatur High School switched to virtual instruction last Wednesday because of three positive covid-19 cases. Worcester Technical followed with its closure last Thurs-

day.
"We were having an increase in some of our cases," Taylor said on Monday. "They were all unrelated to in-school types of exposures."

He added that there was a slight increase in cases between the first and second weeks of November at the county schools.

"We're going back to Phase One, which is everyone is in virtual learning, and so we will be doing that right now until Dec. 1," Taylor said. "In the meantime, I will be taking a look every single day at how things are, what the county and state metrics are."

As of Tuesday, Worcester had recorded 1,377 cases since last spring, with last week marking the beginning of an upward trend in infections.

"Although kids aren't the highest number of ones who contracted covid-19, we still have kids in our school system that were positive with covid-19," Taylor said.

Taylor said the Dec. 1 return date "gives us some time to come back from the holidays to re-examine where we are and what's taking place."

Taylor said the decision to return to virtual instruction was difficult because schools are more than an institution of learning.

"Don't get me wrong," he said, pointing out that education remains the schools' most important job, "but they're also a place where we love kids, we take care of a handful of needs, from social, emotional, feeding, all those types of things that have to take place. And when we close, I also make sure our staff is focused on those areas as well."

Taylor said he ensures that students have access to nutritional food either from feeding sites or deliveries.

"I worry about that as much as I worry about the instruction of young people," he added.

With the sudden shift of instruction, Taylor reminded Worcester County families that preventing the spread of the coronavirus is a community effort.

"If we're going to defeat this and we're going to get back where we have our kids in school, it is more than important that our community teams with us and does three basic things," he said. "1) Wear the mask. Wear the mask. 2) Hand washing and hygiene as well as social distancing and 3) Please do not associate or plan or get

involved in large gatherings."
As Worcester County Public Schools celebrates American Education Week this week, Taylor encouraged families to post on social media, send a note, send an email or call educators to thank them for their diligence to meet the needs of all students during these challenging times.

"This has been the hardest time on our educators, and my heart goes out to them," Taylor said. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate them more than ever before. They have had a difficult task, first and foremost to make sure their environment is safe and healthy, and the second thing is to change their instruction in ways that they never dreamed, or I dreamed or my team dreamed possible."

"I hope our community joins me in thanking teachers for what they're doing," he continued. "Even though this has been very challenging for me as a superintendent, I've never been more proud to be an educator and watch the educators who are working every single day to help our young people."

CDC says goose droppings not dangerous to humans

Continued from Page 1

Based on earlier research, Santacroce said regardless of the test results, there is no threat to humans, while potential harm to wildlife is well-documented.

"You can check the CDC and there's absolutely no record ever of anyone getting ill from goose droppings," she said.

By contrast, the impacts from human interactions, specifically related to feeding, has been proven detrimental to wildlife.

"The feeding of the fowl is actually more dangerous to them," she said.

Santacroce noted an incident from 2005 in Havre de Grace where a large

number of waterfowl died from E. coli, which resulted in a local feeding restriction.

"Hundreds of ducks died and it was just horrible for the people," she said. "They were all feeding them bread."

Despite humans' good intentions, bread is not nutritious for birds and, in this instance, caused water conditions to become deadly for them.

Santacroce said although many people like feeding the geese, they might curtail that practice when they understand the harm it can cause.

"Education is key," she said. "We have to educate the public to the damage that it does."



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'Light Up the Pines' holiday tradition continues

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) While social distancing restrictions have put the lid on numerous holiday celebrations, a festive Ocean Pines tradition will soldier forward this year with registration now open for the annual "Light Up the Pines," outdoor display event.

For the past four years, Choptank Electric Cooperative has sponsored the illuminating event and once again is providing gift baskets for the first 20 households to sign. The signup period began Monday.

Although Dec. 4 is the initial signup deadline, residents who want to participate in the home decorating extravaganza can register throughout the holiday season and will be added to the online map.

OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis said initial registrations have been light.

"Only a handful have signed up as of early this week," he said.

As in past years, residents wishing to show off their Christmas light displays can register for the program and

be included with an online Google map that includes participating locations.

Davis said the self-guided home lighting tour is one tradition that Ocean Pines could continue regardless of covid-19 restrictions.

"While the pandemic has changed many of our holiday plans this year, this program is something we're happy to be able to continue," he said.

Davis said the lighting arrays might spread some cheer to the community

during trying times.

Choptank Marketing and Communications Manager Beth Hallett at the Denton headquarters said in a release the goal is to foster goodwill over the Christmas season.

"Choptank Electric Cooperative is pleased to be part of the holiday spirit in Ocean Pines with the 'Light Up the Pines' event," she said. "We hope our members enjoy bringing holiday fun to the neighborhood."



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

The initial sign-up deadline for the annual "Light Up the Pines" outdoor display event is Friday, Dec. 4.

Households interested in participating should submit a name, address and phone number via email to info@ocean-pines.org or by calling 410-641-7717.

For more information, contact Davis at 443-366-1844 or jdavis@ocean-pines.org.

The map of participating homes may be viewed at https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1WwK5e47ZJk11paT5jZ69HqobWwf_3nA&usp=sharing.

Town of Berlin Public Notice



TOWN OF BERLIN PUBLIC NOTICE CASE NO. 9508 (o)

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION OF THE ELECTRIC FUEL RATE AND PURCHASED POWER COST ADJUSTMENT CHARGES OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BERLIN

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW JUDGE'S NOTICE OF HEARING

A Public Hearing in the above entitled matter will be conducted by the Maryland Public Service Commission virtually, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The hearing can be accessed via the Public Utility Law Judge's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYK5mu0UMA0QsSQowRq2TIQ>
OCD-11/19/3t



PUBLIC NOTICE Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals

Pursuant to Sections 108-165 and 108-191 of the Code of the Town of Berlin, MD, the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the Mayor and Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD to hear a Request for a Variance received from Donald and Helen Ferguson for the property known as Worcester County Tax Map No. 300, Parcel 1231, Lot No. 3, Broad Street to place a covered rear porch approximately 9 feet beyond the platted Building Restrictive Line.

OCD-11/19/1t

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New Showell Elementary building showcased

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Although the ribbon cutting for the Showell Elementary replacement school was postponed because of covid-19, Worcester County Public Schools invited local media outlets to tour the 102,409-square-foot facility last Friday.

Bill Moschler, project manager for Oak Contracting, led the tour with Brad Hastings of Becker Morgan Group architects, and the county school system's Facilities Planner Joe Price, Assistant Construction Manager Rick Martens, Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert and Showell Elementary School Principal Diane Shorts.

The project began on Sept. 29, 2018 and was substantially completed in August 2020.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the project finished on time.

"We didn't miss one day of construction," Price said.

He added that the construction team followed all safety measures from frequent hand washing to social distancing.

The total construction cost for the new building was slightly more than \$40 million.

The original building was constructed in 1976, then additions were

incorporated in 1990 for a total of 52,610 square feet.

The total construction cost for the former building was \$3.2 million.

Showell Elementary School now contains 47 classrooms, including six pre-kindergarten classrooms, six kindergarten classrooms, six first-grade classrooms, six second-grade classrooms, seven third-grade classrooms and seven fourth-grade classrooms.

The new school eliminates the need for the nine portable classrooms that were used over the years.

The replacement building is state-rated to enroll 910 students, which it is locally rated to hold 692 students. That is significantly higher than the original building's capacity.

Currently, 653 students are enrolled at Showell Elementary.

Shorts and Moschler added that each classroom has a sink and its own HVAC system.

Shorts also highlighted the school's energy efficiency, which includes automatic shut-off lights in classrooms.

Only 15 students are allowed in each classroom at this time for physical distancing requirements. Extra furniture has been taken out of classrooms to accommodate students.

Currently, common areas house the excess furniture, but Shorts said they



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The media center, like classrooms and the cafeteria, in the new Showell Elementary School off Route 589 features large windows to let in natural light.

are great spaces for assembly speakers or inside recess when it rains.

Teacher resource rooms are located off the common areas.

In addition, the building contains one and half art classrooms, two and half music classrooms and one sensory room, which the original building did not have, as well as two special education rooms and two technology labs.

The sensory room is primarily for special education students, but all students are welcome to visit and use the equipment, like therapy putty or the sensory swing.

"Kids can come in here when they need a break," Shorts said.

The Showell Elementary replacement project focused on a modern design and natural light.

From the media center to the cafeteria to classrooms, large windows let in light.

See MODERN Page 13



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Continued from Page 12

Throughout the building, the corridors lead to an expansive courtyard, which features a cistern. Moschler said the cistern collects rainwater that will be used to water plants on the property.

Shorts said students recently have been frequenting the courtyard for mask breaks, but a vegetable garden will be located there come spring.

The playground for ages 5 to 12 on the right side of the building contains a compressible safety material under the equipment as well as a larger asphalt area than the original playground.

Another playground for ages 2 to 5 has been added to the rear of the building.

Shorts said the buddy benches on the playgrounds encourage students to play with others who are sitting alone.

At the end of the tour, Hastings said the school has been constructed to LEED Silver certification standards.

“LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and it just recognizes that the facility has been designed with energy efficiency, environmental thoughts, across the board,” he said.

For more information, visit www.showellelementary.org/.



Chesapeake Environmental Services has removed the contaminated soil on West Street in Berlin after a heating oil tank spilled on Oct. 30. After digging up the driveway of 105 West St., Chesapeake Environmental Services has replaced the stones.

ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Oil spill cleanup nearly complete

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Nov. 19, 2020) Chesapeake Environmental Services completed the main excavation of a heating oil spill on West Street in Berlin last Monday after the contents of the tank were released when someone apparently tried to remove it from 107 West St. on Oct. 30.

As of Tuesday, the people who attempted to take the oil tank and caused the spill have not been identified.

Beau Williams, operations manager at Chesapeake Environmental Services, added that the contaminated soil has been removed and replaced.

Brad Conlan, the homeowner of 105 West St., said a portion of his garden had to be dug out because the soil was polluted.

In addition, his driveway had to be repaired following the spill.

Conlan said Chesapeake Environmental Services put the topsoil back

down and spread grass seed in the area as well as placed stone in the driveway.

However, his shrubs have not been replanted.

Oil has been extracted from the storm drain on the street and residue in the ditch that runs from West Street to Main Street is being soaked up with absorbent socks.

Williams added that Chesapeake Environmental Services will continue to monitor the site and the stormwater drainage after a few rainfalls.

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Ocean Pines leaf collection for fall schedule unveiled

Association intends to start task on Nov. 23 to Dec.18

(Nov. 19, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association has announced leaf collection procedures for its residents this fall.

Public Works will collect leaves and other yard debris from Nov. 23 through Dec. 18, on opposite days from Republic Services collection days.

The department will only pick up leaves placed in paper bags that residents place curbside. Thirty-gallon paper bags are available at Public Works in bundles of five for \$10.

Republic Services will pick up paper and plastic bags on scheduled pick-up days, limit four bags of leaves per scheduled pick up. Republic Services will also accept branches tied in bundles no longer than four feet.

Additionally, Ocean Pines residents may bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the Public Works yard at 1 Firehouse Lane, near the south Fire Department. The yard will be open Nov. 28 through Dec. 31, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no collection or drop off on Thursday, Nov. 26 or Friday, Nov. 27 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The yard also will be closed for drop off on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25 and Saturday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday.

Public Works will also vacuum leaves. Residents should refrain from blowing leaves directly into the ditches, as this can lead to clogging of pipes as well as difficulty in water flow.

For more information, contact Public Works at 410-641-7425.

OP Thanksgiving market, Saturday

(Nov. 19, 2020) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will hold its annual Thanksgiving Market this Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park, featuring fresh produce, meats, baked goods and other items.

Market Manager David Bean said many community groups and non-profits will also attend the celebration.

"Shoppers should expect to find almost everything for their holiday meal," Bean said. "The green market merchants will offer a bountiful selection of sustainably-grown fruits and vegetables, humanely-raised beef, pork and chicken, and handcrafted pies, pastries and breads. In addition, pantry items like spices, seasoning, olive oils, jams, jellies, marinated olives and a variety of pickles are offered by our many gourmet merchants."

Bean said the market would feature locally produced spirits from Lyon Rum and Buzz Meadery, along with roasted coffee from Revell Roasters and Ethne Coffee Roasters.

For those looking for snacking options, Cropper's Farm will have a selection of toffees and brittles, and popcorn will be available from Eastern Shore Kettle Korn.

The marketplace will also display its fresh, just-cut Christmas tree, Bean

said.

"The 12-foot tree grown by Stag Run Farm will be decorated with hundreds of colorful lights for the holiday season," he said.

For the last-minute shoppers preparing a holiday meal, a special mini pop-up farmers market is scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, when select merchants will be on hand for customers to pick up special orders.

"Our Tuesday pop-up market was founded several years ago, when primarily our bakers wished to deliver their special-ordered items to their customers, at the peak of freshness for the holiday," Bean said. "Several other merchants participate with last-minute items, as a convenience to shoppers."

Participating in the pop-up this year are D. J. David & Company, Gourmet Soutionz, Toute de Suite, Pies Etcetera, Cropper's Farm, Brightman Farm, Lyon Rum, and Rainbow's End Tack Shop.

Throughout the holiday season, Bean said the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market would highlight gift items, along with the usual variety of fresh produce and baked goods.

For example, he said Synder's Firewood will sell fresh holiday greens, wreaths and pine roping, and bundles of firewood, while Longridge Gardens

will have dried florals, magnolia wreaths, and forced holiday bulbs.

"The market's artisans will have lots of holiday decor and local handmade gifts to put under the Christmas tree," Bean said. "Shoppers will find handmade jewelry, accessories, fashions, candles, country signs, pottery, paintings, photography and more."

Starting on Nov. 28, Jackie Blue Crabs will join the market lineup and offer a variety of seafood, including live crabs.

Bean said the farmers market has endured during the covid-19 pandemic, and its vendors continue to follow safety protocols. The State of Maryland included farmers markets in the list of essential services and allowed them to remain open.

"While the pandemic has placed many of the market's extra social activities on hold, it has also introduced a lot of new people to the marketplace, and many are finding the open-air shopping format a safer environment," Bean said.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is held each Saturday in White Horse Park, near the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. Winter hours, through March, are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Free tennis lessons for responders

(Nov. 19, 2020) Ocean Pines Racquet Sports will give back to local veterans and first responders with a pair of free clinics this weekend.

Greg Gunther, the junior development specialist for Ocean Pines tennis, will lead a free "Doubles Centric"


clinic for Worcester County first responders, this Saturday, Nov. 21 beginning at 1 p.m. There is no need to register, but the clinic is open to first responders only.

Additionally, Ocean Pines Tennis Pro Terry Underkoffler will offer a

free tennis instruction program for local veterans, starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday. To take part, RSVP by Friday morning by emailing Underkoffler at optennistraining@gmail.com.


First responders, of course, have
See OP Page 17

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OBITUARIES

JOHN J. GILMORE
Berlin

John J. “Jack “ Gilmore, a retired broadcasting executive, who had worked at WBAL-TV, Maryland Public Television and National Public Radio, died Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020, from cancer at his Berlin, Maryland home.



Jack Gilmore

The former Lutherville resident was 81.

John Joseph “Jack” Gilmore, son of George Dewey Gilmore, a Baltimore-based district manager for the Automatic Sprinkler Corporation of America, and his wife, Margaret Travers Gilmore, a homemaker, was born in Cranford, New Jersey.

He was 7 years old when he moved with his family to Rodgers Forge in Baltimore.

He is a graduate of the old Towson Catholic High School and attended the University of Maryland, College Park. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1962 from the University of Baltimore.

Mr. Gilmore spent 35 years as a media executive working in sales at WBAL-TV from 1971 to 1991, spending his last decade there as vice president of sales.

He was vice president of local and regional marketing at Maryland Public Television from 1994 to 1998.

Jack retired in 2003 from National Public Radio where he had been director of Sponsorship and Marketing for five years.

After leaving NPR, Jack retired to Ocean Pines in Berlin, Maryland.

An avid waterman, in his youth he spent his summers working as a first mate on fishing boats from the Talbot Street docks in Ocean City, Maryland, and eventually got his captain’s license. He continued to enjoy boating and fishing in his retirement.

Mr. Gilmore passed away peacefully, at home, surrounded by his family on Nov. 8, 2020.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife of 59 years, Margie Gilmore (nee Smith); beloved children, Kathy Miller (Mark), Kelley Gilmore (Angela), Margaret Gilmore (Stacey) and

John Gilmore (Natalie); cherished grandkids, John and Abbey Harriss, Madison, Anna, Haley and Jack Miller, Anabelle, Mason and Georgia Koff-Gilmore, and Lili Gilmore.

He was treasured by a bounty of dearly loved family and friends.

A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church in Towson, Maryland.

Donations may be made in memory of Jack Gilmore to the LGS Foundation at lgsfoundation.org; or to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Maryland 21802.

PATRICIA P. CAMPBELL

Ocean Pines

Patricia P. Campbell, of Ocean Pines, Maryland, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 13, 2020.

She was born on March 8, 1938 to Sarah (Ruff) and Herman Schreiber in Baltimore.

Patricia was united in marriage to William (Bill) Campbell on June, 22, 1957 in Baltimore. They moved to

Ocean Pines in 1998 to enjoy their retirement.

Patricia was the loving wife of William for 63 years, and the most wonderful mother to Deborah Camp-



P. Campbell

bell (David Tahami) of Pasadena, Maryland, and Kimberly Sumrell (Charles) of New Bern North Carolina; and grandmother to Scott and Jaimee Townsend, and Erik Hagan.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Bruce and Clover; her sister, Sarah (Sis) Mooney; several nieces and nephews, and her ‘adopted’ daughter, Stephanie Holderfield (Robert).

In addition to her parents, Patricia is preceded in death by her sister, Lav-erne Malkiewicz.

Patricia retired in 1998 after 30 years at Locke Insulators in Baltimore.

She enjoyed her family, especially her great-grandchildren, luncheons with friends, and her daily phone calls with her sister.

Patricia was a devoted member of St. John Neumann Parish in Ocean Pines, serving as a Eucharistic Minister for many years.

A private Mass will be held for immediate family. Due to covid-19, a celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made in her name to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation, 504 Franklin Avenue, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit www.easternshorecremation.com.

NORMA JEAN KIRSCH

Berlin

Norma Jean Kirsch, age 70, passed away on Nov. 13, 2020, at her home in Berlin.

She was born June 20, 1950 to Samuel Carpenter and Hazel Shupp Carpenter.

She married in 1990 to Kevin Kirsch and worked as the co-owner of The Key Lock Smith Company.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Kevin; son, Mark Gonzalez; daughter, Michelle Gonzalez; brother, Timmy Carpenter, and the late Samuel Carpenter II; and sisters, Rita and Bobby Robinson, Marie and Glen Leonard, Linda and Gary Yost; grandchildren, Zachary and Joshua Gonzalez; and her five Coton de Tuléars, Abbey, Hannah, Simon, Sadie and Wiggles.

Norma was a smart businesswoman, great homemaker and a fantastic cook.

Celebration of Life services will be announced by the family at a later date. Check Burbage Funeral home web site for updates.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Worcester County Humane Society (<https://worcestercountyhumanesociety.org>).

Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home. Condolences may be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

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Opinion

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

Pond tests good idea but then what's next?

The only real danger goose droppings pose to humans is if they are inhaled or ingested, with the former unlikely, and the latter, well, that just isn't going to happen under any circumstance.

Even so, that does not mean that the two to three pounds of waste a goose produces every day under normal conditions is good for the environment, especially if that environment happens to be contained in a relatively small area.

That's the concern of the Ocean Pines Environmental and Natural Assets Committee, which will see to the collection of water samples from the ponds at the north and south gates through an association with the Coastal Bays Program.

The intention is to determine how well these ponds are faring under the pressure imposed on them by the significant year-round goose population that more or less live there.

How extreme that pressure is continues to be debated, with some jurisdictions contending that goose poop runoff has turned their lakes and ponds toxic because this waste contains E. coli bacteria and plenty of phosphorous.

Other studies, such as a recent one conducted in Missouri produced a "maybe" with regard to a phosphorous overload because of the way the compound it's part of settles to the bottom and then breaks down. E. coli, on the other hand is toxic — but only if people, pets or other wildlife ingest it.

Although the obvious problem is that all these geese have rendered the ponds and areas around them close to useless by the public by making them so messy, the testing carries with it the possibly of a greater dilemma.

While sampling and evaluating the pond water is a good idea, it remains that if this testing delivers a verdict of unhealthy at some point, the big question to be answered will be what to do about it.



"You are on next, but not yet! I'm booked through November 26. You don't officially open until the next day. And with Covid shutting me down. Come on man, can't you chill in the North Pole for another week?"

Visitors not allowed at Atlantic Gen.

(Nov. 19, 2020) Due to an increase in community spread of covid-19, Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will no longer allow visitors, effective as of 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

These restrictions will be in place until further notice.

Individuals receiving care at the hospital, outpatient facilities or physician offices are asked to come alone. Exceptions will be made in special circumstances in accordance with the organization's CARE values, allowing for:

Personal caregivers in accordance with ADA guidelines for all patients with physical, intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities; one accompanying family mem-

ber/significant other for patients in the emergency room around the clock (no visitation for those patients known to have covid-19 or those under investigation for the virus); parents of a minor child; and special arrangements for visitation of dying patients.

"The support of loved ones is very important to the healing process, so the decision to suspend visitation once again was not an easy one," said Matt Morris, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Atlantic General Hospital. "Keeping our patients and staff safe is the primary concern."

According to Atlantic General Hospital and Health Sys-

tem's covid-19 visitation policy, a seven-day rolling average community positivity rate of 5 percent or greater requires closure to visitors.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the seven-day rolling average positivity rate for Worcester County was 5.7 percent. For Sussex County, Delaware, the 14-day average was 7.4 percent.

Loved ones are encouraged to stay in touch with hospitalized patients by phone or video chat. Staff are available to support communication with friends and family.

For more information about Atlantic General's visitation guidelines and covid-19 response, visit www.agh.care/COVID19.

AGH launches text-message system

(Nov. 19, 2020) Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will roll out a new text-messaging system on Nov. 24, that will improve patient-provider communication and put important healthcare information right at a patient's fingertips.

The secure, HIPAA-compliant mobile patient experience platform (MPE) includes features for inpatients as well as

patients of Atlantic General Health System that will be rolled out in three phases over the next eight months.

During the first phase, inpatients who furnish their cell phone number at the time of registration will receive a text when they are discharged that includes links to pertinent patient education and the details of their care while in the hospital.

They will be texted again 24 hours after discharge to make sure they're staying on the path to recovery in the critical period between their hospitalization and the follow-up appointment with their physician.

In subsequent phases, patients will be able to check in electronically through the MPE See MOBILE Page 17

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Delmarva Birding waterfowl event

(Nov. 19, 2020) With covid protocols in place, Delmarva Birding Weekends has announced the first-of-their-kind Waterfowl Weekends, slated for Nov. 21-22 and Dec. 12.

Late fall offers high numbers of species for nature lovers to enjoy. Registration for the event is available at <http://delmarvabirding.com/welcome-waterfowl-weekends/>.

Nature lovers can register for just one field trip, or multiple field trips each day of the three days of events.

In the morning on Nov. 21, participants can search for sea ducks, loons, eiders and purple sandpipers at select locations in southern Delaware, before embarking on an afternoon trip to the nearby 2,200-acre private Newport Farms to find white pelicans, eagles, and a cornucopia of dabbling ducks.

On Nov. 22, local birders will guide a secret sojourn to four of the best winter birding spots along South Point. The trip takes a unique turn as participants stroll down the private Por Fin Drive, known for its iconic locust trees that grace the gateway to the National Seashore near the Assateague Market.

On Dec. 12, in addition to a second trip to Newport Farms, bird lovers will visit Cape Henlopen State Park, where pitch pine forest, tidal marsh, dunes and beaches may produce Brown-headed Nuthatches, Snow Bunting, loons, scoters and other bay and sea ducks.

Guided by local fun-loving birders

with decades-long experience, the walking tours accommodate visitors from the curious nature lover to fowl fanatics. Every year, birdwatchers from surrounding states flock to Delmarva in the fall.

“These are great nature-oriented weekends,” said Melanie Pursel, tourism director for Worcester County. “People will be amazed by the number of eagles and ducks, but they will see a lot more than that walking with guides in the wilds around South Point, Berlin and Ocean City.”

Social events for the waterfowl weekends have been canceled due to the pandemic. Typically these “Tally Rallies” would be held at local breweries, bars and restaurants, and allow participants to add to the species checklist and swap nature stories with new friends.

The Delmarva Peninsula is one of the country’s premier birding areas, thanks to an extensive variety of habitat protected by our coastal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region and previous Weekend tallies have topped 200 species.

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

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

“It’s our vast shallow bays and large tracts of protected marshes and bald cypress forests that make the Delmarva Peninsula one of the finest birding regions in the nation,” said guide and organizer Jim Rapp. “During the weekend, our guests will hike on private farmland and woodland that are normally off-limits to the public.”

Co-organizer Dave Wilson added that most trips are not physically taxing and that the event provides a rare opportunity to tally 100 species in a day in places that are normally inaccessible.

For the weekends, mask wearing and social distancing will be the rule. There will be no carpooling and numbers of seats will be reduced.

Sponsors for the events include Worcester County Tourism, Southern Delaware Tourism, the Boardwalk Hotel Group, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, the Delmarva Almanac, My Backyard, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. Special thanks also go to the private property owners who allow us access to their properties for this weekend.

Additional sponsor and registration information, field trip descriptions and other resources for Delmarva Birding are available at www.delmarvabirding.com.

For additional information, contact Rapp at 443-614-0261 or Dave Wilson at 443-523-2201, at Conservation Community Consulting or email conservationcc@gmail.com.

OP tennis lessons free for veterans, first responders

Continued from Page 14
been on the front lines of the covid-19 pandemic for the better part of a year now. Underkoffler said racquet sports staff have been discussing ways to show their gratitude.

“This is really our way of saying thanks for everything that’s been going on,” he said.

Along with the programs on Saturday, Underkoffler said both individual and group lessons are available throughout the season, for children and adults, weather permitting. Additionally, video analysis is available to help local players improve their game.

Underkoffler and Gunther each lead instructional programs for tennis players, and Linda Horst offers pickleball instruction. Platform tennis members host free introductory lessons every Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

The racquet center also offers a “stroke of the day” clinic every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m., free for racquet sports members.

Underkoffler said the renewed focus on instructional classes for all ages and skill levels has helped to increase play at the racquet center, for all three sports.

“We’ve been doing about six-to-eight lessons a week, so we’ve been maintaining our schedule, which is nice,” Underkoffler said. “As long as the weather is good, we’re going to continue to do it.”

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center, on 11443 Manklin Creek Road, is the only facility on the Eastern Shore to offer tennis, platform tennis and pickleball in one location. The complex includes eight HAR-TRU (clay) tennis courts, eight permanent pickleball courts, six platform tennis courts, and two hard-surface tennis courts.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.

For more information on classes, call Underkoffler at 215-808-6457 or email optennistraining@gmail.com.

Mobile patient exchange platform

Continued from Page 16
platform, and discharged patients will receive texts with secure links to their care plans.

In addition to appointment confirmations and reminders and the ability to cancel appointments via text, patients of Atlantic General Health System will receive texts with secure links to their care summaries and patient education materials during Phase 1.

In future phases, health system patients will be able to schedule appointments online, fill out pre-appointment forms, and check in for appointments through text messaging.

Many of these features mirror tools available in the FollowMyHealth (FMH) patient portal, but will be readily accessible to more patients who have provided a cell phone number but have not yet registered for a patient portal account.

The platform offers patients an easier way to provide feedback regarding their hospitalization or appointment, with a simple survey texted 24 hours after discharge.

Patients will also be able to receive text notifications of closures due to inclement weather and other urgent announcements.

“We’re excited to be moving forward with the MPE program,” said Jonathan Bauer, AGH vice president of information services. “Text messaging is something that a large majority of our patients engage in ... so this is a great way to reach them quickly and provide information to make the best decisions for their health.”

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Snapshots



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRAFTS

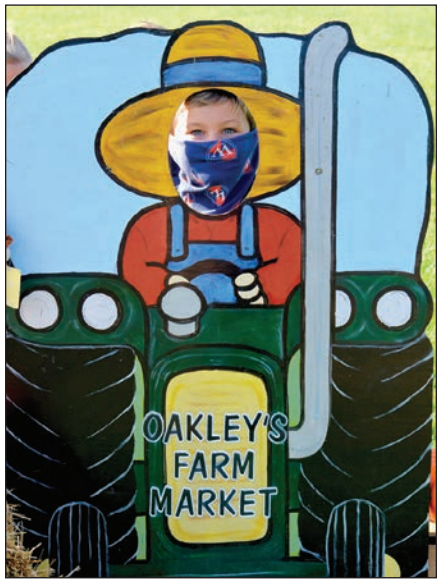
Ocean Pines resident Tripp Enste, 3, accompanied by his parents, Melissa and Joe, ducks behind a Thanksgiving art creation during a holiday craft activity held in the Community Center's Assateague Room on Sunday, Nov. 8.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROCLAMATION

Debbie Smullen from Worcester Goes Purple, receives a proclamation in honor of "Red Ribbon Week," which is celebrated nationally from Oct. 23-31. The National Red Ribbon Campaign offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PUMPKIN PATCH

In lieu of their annual fall field trip to a local farm, Pre-Kindergarten through second grade students were treated to an in-house activity when Oakley's Farm Market brought its outdoor Mobile Pumpkin Patch to Worcester Prep. Kindergartener Landon Moreland enjoys playing at the corn station. (Right) Wesley DeVito poses for a photo in the tractor booth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BOOK BUS

Berlin Intermediate School's Media Specialist Stacy Lloyd brings the library to the students. Tyiah Collins from Ashley Miller's fifth grade class, checks out the Book Bus mobile library.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Nelson Kelly, president of Ocean City Chapter 1091 of Vietnam Veterans of America, presents a Vietnam Veteran's State Council Grant check for \$2,000 to Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore. The grant will be used to support its education program.



RAFFLE

Ocean City Lionesses Club members, from left, Patti Murrell, Kathy Hayman and Donna Greenwood, sell tickets for the organization's \$2,000 Holiday Gift Card Raffle, which will be drawn on Dec. 1. To purchase tickets, which cost \$5 each or get five for \$20, call or text 410-726-6877. All proceeds donated back to the community and local charities.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Puzzles

WAIT, WHAT?

BY EVAN KALISH AND CAITLIN REID / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Evan Kalish, 33, of Bayside, N.Y., is a writer and crossword constructor. His hobby is visiting and photographing Post Offices around the country — more than 10,000 to date. Many photos and accounts of his travels appear on his blog, Postlandia. Caitlin Reid is a homemaker, crossword constructor and church pianist in Santa Ana, Calif. The two connected online and collaborated by email and video chat. This is Caitlin's second Sunday Times crossword and Evan's first. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Aid for a small business
10 Dev of "Slumdog Millionaire"
15 Part of a prairie skyline
19 Strict commitment
20 Sidestep
21 "Way ahead of you"
22 Compliment to a runway model?
24 Low card in Texas hold'em
25 Some donations
26 Stable supply
27 Starting piece on a1 or h8, say
28 ____ Slam (tennis feat)
30 Drain
31 Easily offended by foul language?
34 Kind of high ground
37 Trial
38 Breaks down
39 Spanish "sun"
40 Axel ____, protagonist of "Beverly Hills Cop"
41 X
42 Japanese roadster since 1989
44 Residence that might be named for a donor
45 Question to a tantrum thrower?
49 Costly cuts

DOWN
1 ____ Rudolph, portrayer of Kamala Harris on "S.N.L."
2 Role model
3 Amigo
4 Rules' partner, for short
5 El Dorado treasure
6 Like apple seeds, if eaten in huge quantities
7 Fresh from a keg
8 Sore
9 Org. that sponsored the design competition for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

ACROSS
51 First two words of "Green Eggs and Ham"
52 ____ fixe
53 Malbec and syrah, e.g.
54 Role model
55 Wet-Nap, for one
57 Friend with a rhyming description
59 Sighting aptly found in "Are you for real?"
61 "Anything you'd like to ____?"
63 Relics proving how Noah steered his boat?
68 Something to do for recovery?
69 Pacific island ring
70 Neil with the hit "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do"
71 Carries out
73 Actor Elwes of "The Princess Bride"
75 Trade blows
77 Mild
79 Driver's org., no matter how you slice it?
80 Relent
83 Prepared for a field trip?
86 Interjections akin to "Yeah, su-u-ure!"
87 Bygone forensic spinoff
89 Android alternative
90 Quits at the last minute
91 Org. that awards the Safer Choice label
92 World capital established in 1535

DOWN
93 Jackanapes
94 Rap producers' favorite vegetables?
95 Masters of slapstick?
100 Retinal receptor
101 Drink after drink?
102 "To live without ____ is to cease to live": Dostoyevsky
103 Sign of summer
104 Stow cargo
108 Get into gear
109 Title for an oral surgeon's handbook?
113 Certain sexual preferences
114 Italian automotive hub
115 Subject of many an off-season rumor
116 "Young Frankenstein" character played by Teri Garr
117 Tee type
118 4th order?

ACROSS
10 MXN, on a currency chart
11 Adele and Cher, e.g.
12 ____ and Caicos
13 Part of a dean's address
14 "I'd rather pass"
15 Shooting sport
16 All together now
17 Farm-to-table consumer
18 Word that sounds like its first letter
21 Elba who played Macavity in 2019's "Cats"
23 One end of the PolitiFact meter
29 Willing subject
30 "Don't be rude ... greet our guests!"
31 Loonie or toonie
32 Some are named for kings and queens
33 Stately street liners
34 Coat from a goat
35 High point of Greek civilization?
36 Emeritus: Abbr.
37 "It's me ... duh!"
40 "Just sayin'" in shorthand
41 Needless to say
42 Mississippi ____ pie
43 Released
44 Thingamabob
46 Brink
47 World No. 1 tennis player between Navratilova and Seles
48 Lived in a blue state?

DOWN
50 One might be hard to sit for
54 Pipes at some bars
56 Brings out
58 Downfall in many an Agatha Christie novel
60 Buzzed hairstyle
62 Stops harping on something
64 Like a sparsely attended party
65 See 66-Down
66 With 65-Down, "Ditto"
67 Pelvic exercises
72 Give attitude
74 Instruction for a course?
76 Earnings
78 Drew back
80 "Sorry to intrude ..."
81 Certain monkey ... or monk
82 "Jackpot!"
83 One needing new, unburned pants?
84 De-lights?
85 Oil-rich state, for short
88 Appliance with apps
92 Yearns (for)
93 Fashionable pair
94 Cover for "little piggies"
96 "Josephine the Singer, or the Mouse Folk" is the last short story he wrote
97 "Take that!"
98 Kind of chemical bond in salts
99 Vivacious quality
100 What a meta clue might do to itself
103 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
104 Brick made of acrylonitrile butadiene styrene
105 New ____
106 Showy basket
107 Lifesavers, for short
108 Piece of equipment for gold medalist Lindsey Vonn
110 Marauder of old
111 Lifelong bud, slangily
112 Partner of hem

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19									20					21			
22								23						24			
25					26			27				28	29				
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113														115			
116																	

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HARD - 20

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

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

Thurs., Nov. 19

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

OREO COOKIE TURKEYS

Recorded, 2:00 PM. Use a box of Oreo cookies, candy corn and Reese's cups to create your own Turkey decorations for your table. This program is for children 8 years and older with adult supervision. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

Fri., Nov. 20

NEA BIG READ: BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'IN THE HEART OF THE SEA' BY NATHANIEL PHILBRICK

Meeting via Zoom, 1:00 PM. The book is available on Libby or contact Elena Coelho, 443-783-6164, for a copy. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BINGO WITH THE KNIGHTS

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway. Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Cash payouts for each game as well as the Big Jackpot coverall. 410-524-7994

Sat., Nov. 21

WATERFOWL WEEKENDS

Participants can register for just one field trip or multiple field trips each day of the event, held Nov. 21, 22 and Dec. 12. Register: <http://delmarvabirding.com/welcome-waterfowl-weekends/>. For field trip descriptions and other resources go to www.delmarvabirding.com. For additional information, call Jim Rapp, 443-614-0261 or Dave Wilson, 443-523-2201 or go to conservationCC@gmail.com.

FREE TENNIS LESSONS FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road. Greg Gunther will lead a free Doubles Centric clinic for Worcester County first responders beginning at 1 p.m. There is no need to register. Additionally, Terry Underkoffler will host a free tennis instruction program for local veterans, starting at 10 a.m. RSVP to optennistraining@gmail.com by Friday morning. Terry Underkoffler, 215-808-6457, <http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports>

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

Join the group at 9:00 AM for a virtual Walk with a Doc on the Atlantic General Hospital Facebook page, where there is a short pres-

entation by a doctor on a current health topic. Participants can then walk wherever they like and share a selfie on social media with the hashtag #walkedwithagh.

THANKSGIVING MARKET

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Those planning to cook up a Thanksgiving feast will find fresh produce, meats, baked goods and more. There will also be community groups and nonprofits attending. The green market merchants will offer a selection of sustainably grown fruits and vegetables, humanely raised beef, pork and chicken, and handcrafted pies, pastries and breads. In addition, pantry items like spices, seasoning, olive oils, jams, jellies, marinated olives and a variety of pickles are offered by the gourmet merchants. Also featuring locally produced spirits and locally roasted coffee. Snacking options include toffees, brittles and popcorn. The 12' Christmas tree will be decorated with hundreds of colorful lights. <http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers/artisans-market>

TURKEY TROT OPEN

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, 9:30 AM. This is a 4-person modified scramble golf tournament featuring more than \$1,000 in prizes and a turkey feast following play. Cost is \$60 per person. Sign up: 410-213-7277 or RCroll@oceancitymd.gov. <https://www.eagleslandinggolf.com>

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7338 New Hope Road, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Menu includes mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, biscuit and dessert. Cost is \$13 for adults. Drive thru pick-up only. 410-543-8244 or 443-235-0251

Sun., Nov. 22

WATERFOWL WEEKENDS

Participants can register for just one field trip or multiple field trips each day of the event, held Nov. 21, 22 and Dec. 12. Register: <http://delmarvabirding.com/welcome-waterfowl-weekends/>. For field trip descriptions and other resources go to www.delmarvabirding.com. For additional information, call Jim Rapp, 443-614-0261 or Dave Wilson, 443-523-2201 or go to conservationCC@gmail.com.

Mon., Nov. 23

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Children, ages 2-5 years, dance and sing to the music of silly songs. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

CLINT EASTWOOD AT 90 - PART 2

Meeting via Facebook, 2:00 PM. Join



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

'TIS THE SEASON

Ivy Wells, Berlin's economic and community development director, helps decorate the town's Christmas tree Tuesday morning in front of The Atlantic Hotel on North Main Street.

Frank LeLucco and Harry Burkett for their final installment, which covers Eastwood's past 40 years in Hollywood. The group will examine his impact as an actor, director, producer and storyteller. <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., Nov. 24

MINI POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Select merchants will be on hand for customers to pick up special orders. Participating merchants include D.J. David & Company, Gourmet Soutionz, Toute de Suite, Pies Etcetera, Cropper's Farm, Brightman Farm, Lyon Rum and Rainbow's End Tack Shop. <http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers/artisans-market>

STORY TIME - TEDDY BEARS

Recorded, 10:00 AM. Teddy bear stories, poems, finger plays, movement and a craft for 2- to 5-year-old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

Wed., Nov. 25

TURKEY FINGER PUPPET CRAFT STORYTIME

Online, 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM. Join the group as they use the Turkey Finger Puppet craft to tell a story. Request a Turkey Finger Puppet Craft Kit at <https://worces-terlibrary.libwizard.com/f/ProgramToGo>.

ONGOING EVENTS

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

This walking event will take you through thousands of sparkling holiday lights and many animated light displays located along the half-mile paved path in Northside Park, through Jan. 2. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa and visit the gift shop located in the Northside Park Community Room. Cost is \$5 for adults and free to those 11 and younger. On Nov. 19 the opening ceremony and tree lighting will be virtual, airing live on Facebook. Masks are required inside and outside. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326, www.ococean.com/events

LETTERS TO SANTA

Shore United Bank encourages children to drop off their letters to Santa in the mailbox located inside the lobby of the bank's Ocean City location, 12905 Ocean Gateway, during business hours. Letters will be accepted through Dec. 18. Santa's helpers will take care of the rest. Info: 443-856-2180.

KIWANIS FOOD DRIVE FOR DIAKONIA

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be collecting donations of non-perishable foods every Wednesday morning until Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Look for the cars with the Kiwanis signs.

BAKED SWEET POTATO BISCUIT SALE

Willards Ladies Auxiliary is selling baked sweet potato biscuits for \$5 per 1/2 dozen pack. Pre-order by Nov. 20 and pickup on Nov. 25 from 2-6 p.m. at the Willards Volunteer Fire House. Pre-orders: 410-213-2022 or 443-235-4523.

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BY MONDAY


5 P.M.



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10016 Carey Rd., Berlin.

AUCTIONS

The contents of mini storage units will be sold at Lockerfox.com. Units to be auctioned; B28, L1, O118, O129, O155, O29, O115, O164, S24, S35, S44, S45, S185, S223, S501. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

Date: Friday, Nov. 20th

Time: 10:00AM

This will be an online auction. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions regarding the online auction.

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