



Visitor creates his own local holiday charity

Scout's good deeds result in surprise for food pantry

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Despite being geographically separated from his allies in Rockville this holiday season, Boy Scout Troop #763 member Christian Martin, 14, opted to launch an Ocean Pines-based food drive last month to echo comparable efforts by his cohorts to help people in need have a brighter Christmas.

Several months ago Martin temporarily relocated to the Wood Duck II neighborhood with his mother, Lybbi, to help his grandmother during the covid-19 pandemic.

"We came down to take care of grandma," he said.

Much to Christian's dismay, the time away from home coincided with an annual Boy Scout charity endeavor.

"In November, we have a 'Scouting for Food' event," he said. "We put out See CHARITY Page 10



PHOTO COURTESY LYBBI MARTIN

Boy Scout Troop #763 member Christian Martin, 14, and his mother/assistant scoutmaster, Lybbi Martin, while on an extended visit from the D.C. area, surprised volunteers at Ocean Pines Community Church's Sarah's Pantry with a stockpile of food donations last month.

Covid can't keep a good drive down

'Meal for the Hungry' finds gift cards will work when virus makes donating tough

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Berlin's Arts and Entertainment committee has held a "Meal for the Hungry" drive on Giving Tuesday for hundreds of people the past four years at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Flower Street. This year, Berlin families received food gift cards instead because of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Robin Tomaselli, vice president of the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee and owner of Baked Dessert



Robin Tomaselli

Café, said the committee thought it would be inappropriate to ask struggling restaurants to donate food to the drive this year. The current gathering restrictions also prohibited the event from taking place.

"Instead, Arts & Entertainment bought more than \$3,000 in food gift cards that are being distributed to local families who have been identified as 'in need' by community partners," she said.

In November, the committee posted on its Facebook page that it was accepting nominations of families in need to

receive gift cards from local restaurants.

"People in the community could email us or message us families in need, and, in addition to that, we worked with community partners at pretty much all of the area schools and ... with Police Chief Arnold [Downing]," Tomaselli said.

As a result of the covid-19 crisis, many activities usually held by the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee were canceled, which provided more than \$3,000 to "Meal for the Hungry." The committee purchased gift cards for \$50 each.

"This was our way of being able to take care of people in the community while also supporting local restaurants See GIFT Page 10

Berlin boards, commissions sessions halted

Light agendas give town time to make Zoom switch

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, after consulting with the Town Council, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood, Town Attorney David Gaskill, and Police Chief Arnold Downing, has canceled all boards and commission meetings for the foreseeable future.

He made the decision on Nov. 23 until preparations can be made to See BERLIN Page 11

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Berlin museum gets grant for oral histories

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, 208 N. Main St. in Berlin, received a \$2,500 grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area to create a new collection of oral histories about the lives of people in Berlin.

“Basically, it’s what people’s ... experiences in Berlin are, whether you’ve lived here your whole life [or] whether you have just moved here,” said Melissa Reid, president of the museum. “For example, if we interview someone who’s lived here their whole life, we’ll probably ask them to describe what the Main Street of Berlin was like when they were growing up, because it has really changed over the years.”

Reid added that the museum board will ask interview subjects to describe their everyday lives in the town.

“If someone has just moved here, we will probably ask them what drew them to Berlin,” she said.

Reid also hopes to focus on the African American experience in Berlin as part of the oral histories.

At the annual board meeting in January, Reid said the house committee will present information about the museum’s archives and collecting oral histories.

“What we’re really hoping is that our board members will take a role in identifying people they feel should be interviewed, and then going ahead and doing those interviews,” she said.

Covid restrictions have created some complications for interviews, but Reid plans to interview at least five people to start the collection at the museum by spring, then add more oral histories throughout summer and fall 2021.

“Between now and the opening of the museum in May is to look through oral histories we do have,” Reid said.

The museum previously collected oral histories from the 1980s to the early 2000s.

“We have both the recordings of those original oral histories and transcripts, so our goal is to be looking through those and anywhere we can match an oral history with a current exhibit, we would like to do that,” Reid said. “We interviewed my grandmother. Her name is Bessie Moore, and she grew up on the Esham Dairy Farm, which is currently where the hospital is.

“We have an exhibit in the museum that is about Esham Dairy because it was on the edge of town, and they delivered milk locally and into Ocean City. So, what we’re hoping is

See PERSONAL Page 5



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, 208 N. Main St. in Berlin, received a \$2,500 grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area to create a new collection of oral histories about the lives of people in Berlin.

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Authors release children's books

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Two local authors have recently released children's books that could make great presents or stocking stuffers this holiday season for young readers.

Ocean Pines resident Ellen Krawczak has released her second children's book, "Zo Zo Loses Her Stripes," which is about a zebra who wakes up one morning and discovers she has lost all her stripes.

"The story is about how she has misplaced her stripes and how she gets them back," Krawczak said. "Essentially, she has loaned out her stripes to help people who need a stripe, such as the barber, whose barber pole's stripe is ripped."

"Zo Zo Loses Her Stripes" targets children between the ages of 4 and 6.

"I hope children like it," she said.

The title of the book, which was published by Time Flies, was inspired by Krawczak's second granddaughter, Zoey, whom she affectionately calls "Zo Zo."

Krawczak's first children's book, "Ollie Gives a Hoot," which was published in September 2019 by Salt Water Media, features a monkey named after her first granddaughter, Maggie.

"So, when the second granddaughter, Zoey, came along, I felt I needed to write something for her," Krawczak said. "It just came to me. I kind of ruminate on what I want to write and eventually an idea pops into my head, and then I write about it."

Prior to her literary adventure, Krawczak had a varied career as a paralegal, a substitute teacher, and then she worked on real estate settlements.

She retired in 2009 and moved to Ocean Pines.

Krawczak has been on the editorial board for the Bay to Ocean Anthology, which contains fiction, poetry and non-fiction by members of the Eastern Shore Writers Association, for the last two years. She has two short stories being published in 2020 Bay to Ocean Anthology as well.

"Zo Zo Loses Her Stripes" and "Ollie Gives a Hoot" are available in paperback at The Greyhound Independent Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery and on Amazon for \$10.

For more information about any upcoming book signings or her books, contact Krawczak at egkraw@outlook.com.

Meaghan Axel, a librarian at Snow Hill Elementary School, published her second book, "The Power in Words: An Empowering Guide to Speaking With Purpose" on Nov. 24.

"I was inspired to write it because I read this book years back – I read it a few times – called 'The Four Agreements' by Don Miguel Ruiz, and the first agreement is to be impeccable with your word, which means that you don't speak out against other people or yourself," Axel said. "I loved the book, and I loved that concept, but reading it as an adult you can go back and say, 'Wow, I wish I had



PHOTO COURTESY MEAGHAN AXEL

Snow Hill Elementary School Librarian Meaghan Axel's second book, "The Power in Words: An Empowering Guide to Speaking With Purpose," is now available.

applied this earlier in my life.' So, I wanted to take that concept and make it kid-friendly."

Axel's narrative encourages children to choose their words and actions kindly. Through rhyme and thought-provoking illustrations, young readers will learn how broken promises, gossip and inconsiderate words affect others and themselves.

She hopes children read the book and realize what they say matters.

"I hope they think about what they say to others," Axel said. "I hope they think about gossip and the way it makes others feel. I see that a lot in elementary school around the end of second grade and third grade. You start to see the way that young people start to feel negatively when they feel that others are speaking about them behind their backs or they know that others are speaking behind their backs. And I hope they feel that they deserve to be spoken about positively."

Axel has incorporated "Your Powerful Words in Action," which is a list of compliments for others, in "The Power in Words."

"When I read out loud to students, I say, 'You can say these kind things to others, but you have to mean them.' People will know if you say something and you don't mean it," she said. "So, your compliments have to be genuine."

To teach young readers about positive self-talk, Axel has included affirmations in the back of the book that are "I am" statements.

"You want to start speaking confidently early, so that you don't kind of get used to talking negatively about yourself and putting yourself down," Axel said.

She practices affirmations with her 3-year-old daughter, Sloan, at home.

"Sometimes we practice saying 'I am brave' when she's nervous to do something, so that she can kind of channel that inner braveness," Axel said.

"The Power in Words," which targets children between second and fourth grades, was self-published through Axel's imprint Joyful Breath Press.

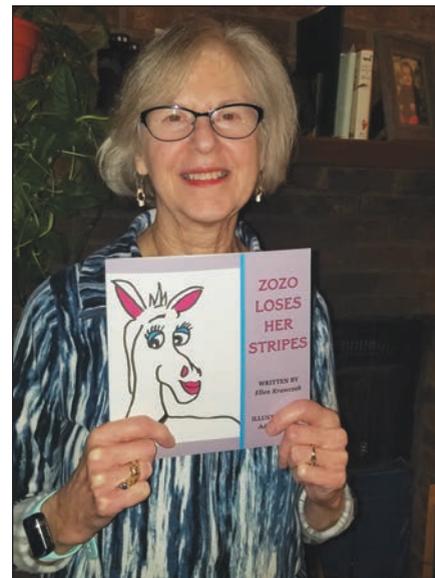
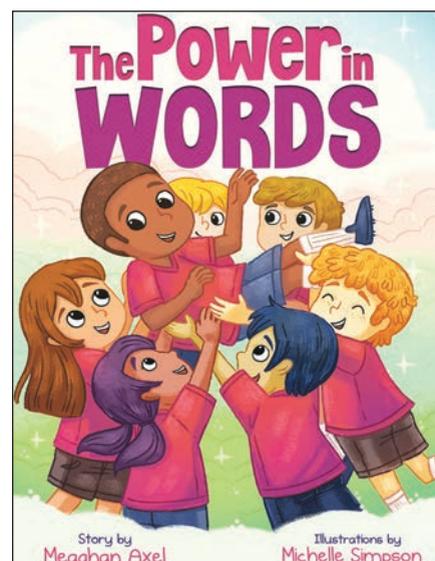


PHOTO COURTESY ELLEN KRAWCZAK

Ocean Pines resident Ellen Krawczak's second children's book, "Zo Zo Loses Her Stripes," debuted last month.



"But adults are also learning from it," Axel said. "That's the funny thing with picture books is that adults get reminded of concepts by reading them."

The book is available at Barnes & Noble as well as on Amazon and Bookshop for \$17.99 in hardcover and \$11.99 in paperback. "The Power in Words" is also available on Kindle.

Parents and educators can find free downloadable resources to accompany the book at the author's website.

"Because I am a school librarian, I always like to say how children can lose themselves and find themselves in books," Axel said. "Reading is a healthy way to escape pressures of reality, but then when children connect with characters in books, they can learn life lessons through witnessing the characters' experiences. So, I think a lot of social emotional learning happens when children read books and discuss them."

Axel grew up in rural Connecticut and moved to Salisbury in 2014 with her husband, Justin Axel, the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the men's lacrosse team at Salisbury University.

For more information about any upcoming book signings or her books, contact Axel through her website, <https://www.meaghanaxel.com/>.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin's Route 346 water tower went back online on Nov. 23 after all routine maintenance, painting, water sampling and testing was completed.

Berlin's Route 346 water tower paint, testing completed

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Berlin's Route 346 water tower went back online on Nov. 23 after all maintenance, painting, water sampling and testing was completed, said Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood.

Painting was completed on the interior and exterior of the water tower on Nov. 9 but had to cure. Fleetwood added that the "Berlin" lettering was blue and has been restored to its original black paint.

He said the other necessary maintenance included a full inspection of all supports and seams.

There were no complications during the process of conducting maintenance and putting the water tower back on line.

The Water Division of Berlin's Water Resources Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure, treatment and the water towers throughout the town.

To report any issues, contact Water Superintendent Marvin Smith at msmith@berlinmd.gov.

Pines officials get complete training during Fire 101

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Lugging the gear while feeling the heat left an indelible impression on a group of state and local officials during the Fire Ops 101 orientation held Friday at the Worcester County Fire Training Center in Newark.

The Worcester County International Association of Fire Fighters' Fire Ops 101 is an all-day civilian crash course in first responder ground operations that provides a glimpse of the daily perils firefighters and paramedics encounter.

The Ocean City Fire Department and Volunteer Fire Company conducted the multi-part hands-on demonstration of live fire scenarios and EMS rescues in conjunction with IAFF Local 4269. The IAFF previously sponsored the event in 2015.

Among the loudest segments of the generally noisy affair was a bomb squad presentation by Ocean City Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Josh Bunting and Battalion Chief Joe Sexauer.

Bunting, who helped establish the bomb squad in 2001, said the unit responds for suspicious package or hazardous materials calls throughout Worcester County.

The duo has both completed extensive FBI hazardous device training and



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean City Volunteer Fire Assistant Chief Jeff Aperance prepares the uninitiated to run hose into a blazing building during Fire Ops 101, held on Friday at the Worcester County Fire Training Center in Newark.

provided a behind-the-scenes view of related equipment, including a roughly 90-pound bomb suit, X-ray gear and a remote-operated robot.

"The vast majority of our funding comes from tax dollars and homeland security dollars," Bunting said.

Sexauer said the array of specialized devices helps minimize potential life or death situations.

"Most of our primary response deals

with suspicious packages," he said. "We try to stay as far away from a bomb as possible."

Following a ground-level CPR review that included performing defibrillation on an animatronic cardiac arrest victim, Ocean City Assistant Fire Chief Eric Peterson prepared participants to enter a simulated interior structure blaze to feel the intense heat inside a flashover room.

"When we open the front door we

give it oxygen and it grows exponentially," he said. "We've got 90-180 seconds to get in the door, find the seat of the fire and put it out before it hits flashover."

Despite being suited up in fire protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus, the potential for danger is amplified when temperatures shoot upwards of 2,000-degrees.

See EMERGENCY Page 5

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Emergency response challenges

Continued from Page 4

“When you get that perfect combination of temperature, fuel and oxygen, everything ignites,” he said. “When that happens, you can’t get away from it because it happens almost instantaneously.”

Ocean City Fire Training Officer Lt. Mike Wood reviewed truck company operations.

“Fire trucks have ladders and fire engines have hose lines on back,” he said.

While engine responders are tasked with connecting hoses to hydrants, fire trucks deliver equipment to gain entry to structures.

“The sole responsibility initially of the fire truck is to save peoples’ lives,” he said.

Wood said the first duty of emergency responders is to gain fast entry into buildings to remove victims.

“Fires double in size every minute,” he said.

Wood said Ocean City fire engines typically reach the scene within three minutes, while fire trucks generally arrive about 10 minutes after 911 calls are received.

“Each seat on the rig has individual responsibilities,” he said. “The driver of the fire truck is responsible for getting that big ladder that rides on top ... to the roof.”

After accessing rooflines, the truck driver immediately sets about cutting a hole to create an escape valve for trapped smoke and heat.

“Putting a hole in the roof creates a chimney of sorts,” he said.

The procedure helps improve interior conditions for both victims and firefighters.

“The officer riding ... in front of the fire truck [has] to ... make sure all doors are open so the engine company can bring hose in and start to extinguish the fire,” he said.

Wood said two firefighters seated in back of the truck are charged with tossing out ground ladders to gain access by breaking in windows so victims can be removed.

“When it’s done together, it works beautifully and we’re saving people’s lives,” he said.

Among the local elected officials participating in Fire Ops 101 were OPA General Manager John Viola, President Larry Perrone and Vice President Dr. Colette Horn.

Perrone said the presentations were detailed and the entire day was a tiring, albeit eye-opening, experience.

“It was an exhausting experience,” he said. “I don’t think I’ve had as hard of a workout since [U.S. Army] Airborne School.”



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Performing CPR training during Fire Ops 101 in Newark on Friday, from left, are Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38 C) and Ocean City Special Projects and Grant Coordinator Wayne Pryor.

Perrone said the training course provided an appreciation for the challenges that emergency responders face.

“They have to be prepared with all this different equipment depending on what they run into,” he said. “It really crystalizes the fact that the equipment is expensive and has a useful life date on it.”

Viola, who professed that reliable fire and EMS service was a crucial selling point when purchasing property in Ocean Pines a decade ago, came away from the experience even further impressed.

“After Friday, to see the expertise and dedication of the EMS and fire departments, I have an even deeper appreciation,” he said. “It just re-enforced it working with them and seeing it up close.”

Horn said the course was informative and gave participants a chance to suit up and walk in the boots of fire fighters and EMS professionals for a few hours.

“We got a real taste of how physically and mentally taxing the work is,” she said. “We learned how and why the tools of their mission are so vital to their success and ... are also so expensive.”

Personal accounts of small town

Continued from Page 2

when we look at the transcripts from my grandmother, she will talk about life on the farm, and we will be able then to have her actual voice then be connected to that exhibit.”

In the future, Reid and the museum board will aim to create exhibits that are based on themes from the oral histories collected. As an example, Reid said there could be an exhibit of the “metamorphous of Main Street” with photographs and oral histories about the transformation of shop facades downtown.

In addition, the museum is planning a Berlin Homecoming Harvest on Oct. 10, 2021 from 2-5 p.m. with a

few oral history sound booths set up to interview people during the event.

The oral histories collection will likely function similarly to the oral history element in the Isaiah Fassett exhibit at the museum with a scannable QR code connected to the audio.

“We’re really looking forward, as always, to engaging our community and telling the story of Berlin,” Reid said. “It is a small town that is sort of beating the odds, I think, of most small towns in rural areas, and people flock here because they see a vibrant community. We want to make sure that we are recording the stories of the people that are part of that community.”

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OP community sign count settled

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) The long and winding road to digital signs in Ocean Pines, which would update and condense a multitude of existing community marquees, inched closer to conclusion last week following a favorable recommendation from the Worcester County Planning Commission.

Final tweaks for an amendment to county zoning laws were ironed out during the commission meeting on Dec. 3, which, among other points, would limit the number of community signs in Ocean Pines to six.

The proposed amendment heads next to the Worcester County Commissioners for final approval.

In September 2019, the OPA Communications Committee began looking into replacing the community's 13 manually updated community signs with electronic message boards.

Helping with the effort is committee board liaison Dr. Colette Horn, who informed her fellow OPA Directors in Oct. 2019 that county officials had advised a zoning code amendment specific to the Pines would be required.

Horn helped Communications Chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines and OPA staff who were working with Worcester County Development Review and Permitting to develop code language specific to internal community signs.

After consulting last winter with Worcester County Director of Development Review and Permitting Ed Tudor, who had advised the process could take upwards of a year, progress was stalled after the covid-19 outbreak in March.

Speaking during the Planning Commission meeting last Thursday, Horn said the proposed text change would permit non-commercial internal community signs but also limit the allowable number to four.

"We would require 6-8 if possible," she said.

Also on hand last week, Communication Committee member Cheryl Jacobs suggested the higher total was not significant since it was internal messaging for a residential community. Offering further insight was Rines, who told the planning commission the goal is to reduce an even higher number of long-employed, and labor intensive, manually



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association Vice President Dr. Colette Horn provides context for a proposed text amendment to regulate internal community signs during the Worcester County Planning Commission meeting last Thursday.

operated marquee signs.

"Obviously, we don't need all of those," she said.

Rines said the intent would be to retain only a small number of the 13 existing signs while adding a few digital messaging boards.

"There were three that were useful and the electronic ones would take care of the rest," she said.

Seeking locations lacking light pollution concerns, Rines said a trio spots identified for electronic signs are the entrances at the North and South Gates and nearby the Sports Core Pool.

"We would remove 10, leave three and then add electronic signs," she said. Marquee signs at White Horse Park and the Ocean Pines Yacht Club are among those proposed for retention.

Rines noted any new signs would likely be added over multiple years.

Rines said all proposed locations meet mandated 450-foot setbacks and would not be close to Route 589.

Jacobs raised issue with the amendment's provision limiting signs to 40 square feet in area or 10 feet in height.

"We're not talking about anything giant," she said. "I'm just concerned we're limited if it turns out to be 12 feet."

Zoning Administrator Kristen Tremblay noted the size dimensions were amended previously.

"In our original discussions, we were talking about 20 square feet in size and six-feet in height and you guys increased it to 40 and 10," she said.

Planning Commission member Marlene Ott noted the requested 6-8 sign count would need to be a specific number, with OPA representatives agreeing to a sum of six.

Newly appointed Planning Commission member Mary Knight asked about county officials' concerns that the proposed amendment could be applied to far smaller communities in Worcester.

"Is there anyway to incorporate the relative size of the community?" she said.

Tudor said neighborhood boundaries are challenging to define in some instances.

"That's why we included the 450-foot setback because it gets it internal," he said.

Tudor said the most serious concerns for county officials were related to size, roadway setbacks and restricting commercial advertising.

"This was a compromise that we had worked out," he said.



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Employee of OPA recreation dept. positive for covid

Safety protocols followed, contacts told of exposure

(Dec. 10, 2020) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola on Tuesday issued a statement about a worker who tested positive for covid-19.

“A member of our rec department recently tested positive for covid-19. The employee was last at work on Dec. 4, and also passed through the Administration Building for a brief period on Dec. 3, Viola said.

“The employee has not returned to work and will not until it is safe to do so consistent with CDC protocols. We notified the local health department of the situation and will cooperate fully with public health officials. In addition to reporting the positive test to the Health Department, we were able to determine who had close contact with the employee in question and communicated directly with those individuals.

“We continue to stress the need to practice sound hygiene by frequently washing hands thoroughly, maintaining 6 feet of separation between others, and wearing masks when indoors or social distancing is not possible.”

WCPS gives free meals to students

USDA extended Summer Food Service Program for 2020-21 academic year

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Worcester County Public Schools will follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Services extension for the Summer Food Service Program and waivers through the 2020-21 academic year, according to Odtis Collins, the coordinator of food services for the county school system.

“Worcester County Public Schools is totally committed to ensuring all students across the district have access to nutritious meals, as the pandemic continues to be an issue for so many folks,” Collins said.

The local school system provides curbside meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at four locations throughout the week: Snow Hill Elementary School, Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Snow Hill, Pocomoke Middle School and Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin.

“At our sites, a hot meal is offered daily,” Collins said.

Collins said an average of 445 students are served every week through the extended USDA’s Food and Nu-



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Robin Dailey, a cafeteria worker for Worcester County Public Schools, distributes free meals to students in need at Buckingham Elementary School on Tuesday.

trition Service Summer Food Service Program.

Since Worcester County Public Schools originally closed in March because of the novel coronavirus, 257,646 meals have been distributed, including 7,904 meals since Superintendent Lou Taylor announced on Nov. 19 that schools would remain in distance learning until Jan. 4.

As of Tuesday, Collins said the county school system makes food deliveries to 358 students.

Families in need of meal delivery can contact their schools to make those arrangements, said Carrie N. Sterrs, the coordinator of public relations and special programs at Worcester County Public Schools.

The extended Summer Food Service
See CURBSIDE Page 8

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Curbside pick-up, delivery offered to students in need

Continued from Page 7
ice Program is only available for children under the age of 18. Children do not need to be present at the time of pick up.

A staff member will request the name(s) of the child(ren) and guardian.

In addition, the public is not permitted inside participating locations in Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Berlin. A staff member will be prepared to bring bagged lunches outside.

For more information, visit worcesterk12.org.



Barry Mariner, who co-owns Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery in Berlin with his wife, Jeannie, is hosting "Unstuff The Fluff Holiday Fitness Walk Challenge" until Feb. 1 on the half-mile track at the property to encourage local residents to get in shape after all the winter festivities.

ALLY LANASA/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Windmill Creek promotes walking

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery, 11206 Worcester Highway in Berlin, is hosting "Unstuff The Fluff Holiday Fitness Walk Challenge" until Feb. 1 to encourage residents to lose unwanted pounds after the winter festivities.

"I usually get out of shape every year around this time," said Barry Mariner, who co-owns Windmill Creek with his wife, Jeannie. "I was looking for any type of thing that I could do to really kind of get in shape ... Really it's kind of for myself, and I just thought that maybe other people might like to do it too."

Mariner started the half-mile track at

Windmill Creek last year, but this summer he made the track smoother and planted grass on it.

"I'm planning some more upgrades," he said. "I want to put a better entry to the trail, and I have signs posted around the whole trail, but I'd like to add some more signs."

Participants are allowed to walk the trail Thursday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to dark.

"I think the sooner they start, the better off they're going to be as far as winning the competition," Mariner said.

The trail is pet-friendly, but pets should remain on leashes.

"We have free range ducks and chickens, and I'd be afraid if some of the animals got loose," Mariner said.

Contestants will log their laps for two months on the Windmill Creek Walking/Running Club group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/477794783014847/?ref=share>.

"They just need to go on there and log their [laps]. They can do it daily or weekly as long as they total them and let people know what they're doing," Mariner said. "It's mainly to provide a little bit of competition, so people might get motivated."

The person who walks the most laps will win a free igloo dinner for up to four people in February.

The winner will be announced on Feb. 1.

For more information, contact Mariner at 410-251-4234.



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Wor. Co. Planning Commission Briefs

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) The Worcester County Planning Commission approved site plans for a hotel in West Ocean City, mini storage facilities on Route 50, re-approved a subdivision plat off Racetrack Road and rezoned land near Route 707 during its meeting on Dec. 3.

West OC hotel

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to re-approve site plans for a 45-unit hotel in West Ocean City on Golf Course Road just north of Sunset Avenue.

Attorney Hugh Cropper, representing property owners GCR Development, said the commission had approved the site plan in September 2018, but those permissions recently expired after a two-year window of eligibility.

Cropper said the parcel, which totals just over 2 acres, has remained undeveloped for numerous years.

During the 2018 approval process, the site plan was initially rejected, but then approved upon after changes proposed by a traffic engineering consultant were instituted.

"We made substantial changes to that plan, particularly the parking configuration," he said. "We moved the inter-parcel connector and the Planning Commission approved the plan unanimously."

Cropper said approving an extension for the site plan would permit

GCR Development to complete the permitting process. He added that all zoning-related issues have been addressed.

"We would like to continue moving forward with the plan they have been working on," he said. "Your staff recommendation said it finds the project consistent with the original plan approved."

Cropper said the only change of note was that the total number of hotel rooms was reduced by one unit from the previous site plan.

Subdivision plat

The commission re-approved plans for developer Triple Crown Estates to build a subdivision to include 30 single-family lots on Gum Point Road east of Racetrack Road.

Property owners Steen Associates have retained Vista Design to launch the residential planned community.

The project was originally green lighted in July 2018 after county officials granted final plat approval, with those permissions expiring after a period of two years.

Initially slated for more than five-dozen duplex units, site plans were subsequently revised to include single-family homes.

Mini Storage

The commission approved a site plan for Buas Mini Storage, which would include three commercial build-

Continued on Page 11

County rec. helps Toys for Tots

(Dec. 10, 2020) Worcester County Recreation and Parks staff have again joined with Toys for Tots to serve as a public donation drop-off location.

Local community members are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys now through Friday, Dec. 18, which can be dropped off in the lobby of the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill.

Worcester County Recreation and Parks hours of operation are as fol-

lows: Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and closed on Sunday.

The region's 2019 campaign distributed 16,903 toys to 9,814 children. To learn more, visit www.toysfortots.org or contact Recreation Superintendent Lisa Gebhardt at 410-632-2144, ext. 2500 or emai@MarylandsCoast.org.



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Charity reflects food drive at home

Continued from Page 1
flyers a few days ahead and on specific days a few weeks later go out and pick up cans and other goods."

The collected food items are then donated to the Maryland Food Bank.

"We calculate the pounds of food we've collected," he said.

After contemplating the situation, Martin decided the location was less important than the intent and opted to launch a satellite effort in the Pines.

"We went out and spread flyers in grandmom's neighborhood," he said. "Numerous neighbors were generous in lending support."

Lybbi Martin, who serves as Troop #763 assistant scoutmaster, said her son has steadily risen through the scouting ranks over the past eight years.

"Christian is getting to Eagle," she said.

At this point Christian Martin has been in scouts more than half his lifespan.

"I've been in scouts since kindergarten," he said.

Mirroring Troop #763's food drive procedures, Christian and his mother first went about publicizing the endeavor.

"We put a specific date and time on a flyer," he said. "Parents drive scouts around to retrieve donations and that food goes to families in need."

Lybbi Martin said the annual collection drive never fails to solicit a smile as youngsters race about gathering food donations door to door.

"It's pretty cool to see 12-18 young boys running around the neighborhood," she said. "There's a lot of sweat equity involved."

At first uncertain where to direct food donations, the mom and son team quickly found an ideal partner after learning about Sarah's Pantry, an outreach ministry of the Commu-

nity Church at Ocean Pines, which also operates the Shepherd's Nook Thrift Shop and Flea Market.

"When we contacted Sarah's Pantry, the manager [Marian Bickerstaff] said OK to accepting food," she said. "We didn't know what we would have."

The Community Church's Sarah's Pantry and Shepherd's Nook assists families facing financial challenges, as well as supporting military veterans.

Linda Baker, a volunteer at Sarah's Pantry, was suitably shocked when the unanticipated load of food was delivered on Nov. 14.

"It was a wonderful surprise," she said.

Lybbi said when Baker opened the door to accept some bags of food from Christian, she didn't realize it was only the tip of the iceberg.

"We show up and Christian knocks on the door with a few bags and ... the lady said, 'thank you that's very sweet,'" she said.

Then Christian asked where he could leave the remaining mounds of canned goods and non-perishable items.

"We backed the car up and the whole back was filled, along with the floorboard and back seat," she said. "It took three carts to get it in."

Baker said the Martin's unloaded hundreds and hundreds pounds of food.

"I don't think I knew what was coming," she said. "They just kept bringing more and more bags in."

Christian Martin said it took multiple shopping cart loads to move the monster haul.

"They were filled top to bottom with stuff falling off," he said.

The experience helped spur Christian Martin to start lending a helping hand twice a week at Shepherd's Nook Thrift Shop.

"I also volunteer in the thrift store," he said.

Baker was impressed with the teenager's willingness to jump on board after the food drive wrapped up last month.

"Just the fact that he's not from this area but wanted to participate," she said. "I'd say they're both very versatile and flexible about what they volunteer for."

Christian and Lybbi Martin's spirit of selfless service has sparked another Pines-based holiday effort during December.

In much the same spirit as the Scouting for Food endeavor last month, during December, Troop #763 sponsors a Christmas toy drive to support "A Wider Circle" which works with the DC Housing Authority to provide yuletide gifts for more than 10,000 youths living in public housing.

"We volunteer to wrap gifts and help families pick out furniture," he said.

Lybbi Martin said coronavirus restrictions forced Troop #763 members to place the Wider Circle visit on hold this season, so it launched its "Good Karma" project as a substitute.

"With covid, our troop wasn't able to work at a Wider Circle so one of our assistant leaders decided to come up with the Good Karma project," she said.

"We would take toys over to Wider Circle so their clients could still have Christmas and depend on getting gifts."

Once again, despite their relative distance, the Martin's are charting the same course with the Community Church at Ocean Pines.

To learn more about donating Christmas gift items for boys and girls in need this holiday, email Lybbi Martin at lybbim@yahoo.com

Gift cards replace food donations because of covid

Continued from Page 1
that have certainly supported us and our mission in the past," Tomaselli said.

She added that the restaurants were grateful for the gift card purchases.

The restaurant gift cards were paired with Food Lion gift cards, so families had the opportunity to dine out or carry-in a meal as well as afford groceries.

Business leaders such as Patti Backer, owner of The Dusty Lamb on South Main Street, and Lower Shore Land Trust Executive Director Kate Patton and her husband also contributed funds for the gift cards.

"Some of the donations that we received from the community came in in different denominations as far as food gift cards, some were \$20, some were \$25," Tomaselli said.

More than \$4,000 worth of restaurant and grocery gift cards were distributed.

"We distributed them to the community partners, one at each of the schools and also to Chief Arnold [Downing] for them to distribute per their discretion," Tomaselli said. "Teachers really know the families that are struggling that really need help, and due to privacy concerns, that's not information that we needed to know who they were. We just trusted that delivering those items to those community partners, they in turn would distribute them appropriately."

Tomaselli added that she believes it takes a village to care for those less fortunate.

"We all need to be aware of that, and we all need to – even if socially distanced – be engaged in making sure that the community is a healthy one for all of us, particularly people that are in need," she said.

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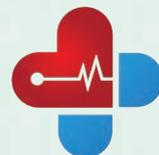
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Wor. Co. Planning Commission Briefs

Continued from Page 9

ings totaling more than 100,000 square feet, on the south side of Route 50 below Route 707.

Attorney Regan Smith, representing property owners Papa and Nana Buas LLC, said the plans include a trio of structures providing roughly 106,000 square feet of storage, with a single maintenance building, for a total of 111,000 square feet.

The proposal was initially submitted to the Worcester County Technical Review Committee in June, with revised plans submitted on Nov. 17

Smith said an early challenge were county mandates limiting self-storage facilities to 40,000 square feet per parcel.

"We started with two lots and in order to meet the square feet we did a subdivision plat so we could have three lots," he said.

Land planning consultant Bob Parker said the three-lot subdivision currently consists of two residential lots containing three existing homes

and several outbuildings all of which would be cleared for new construction.

Parker said building façades are designed to differ from typical storage facilities, which traditionally feature an abundance of visible exterior doors.

"This isn't a bunch of little buildings with a bunch of roll up doors," he said.

In addition to interior elevator service for second floor access, the majority of storage units would be entered from inside the building.

"It's a much more embellished version of a mini-storage project," he said.

Smith said site plans include one state mandated entrance with the interior site accessed by asphalt service roads.

When completed Buas Mini Storage will feature three commercial buildings with more than 650 storage units.

Map amendment

The commission also approved a rezoning request for an acre of prop-

erty on the north side of Route 50 just east of Route 707.

Attorney Hugh Cropper, representing property owners COF Investment Group, said the parcel in question totals 1.2 acres out of an overall five-plus acre tract.

"This is rezoning but in a critical area where we had refinements," he said. "I'd rather call this a refinement as opposed to a big rezoning."

At present 1.2-acres of the property is zoned under two categories — one acre in R-2 suburban residential and 0.2 acres in the resource protection district.

Cropper said the request would standardize the entire section as commercial zoning.

"It's almost a few feet from being entirely a commercial center," he said. "We think its unworkable to have a have a single property that's zoned one thing and then other."

Cropper attributed the small area

designated as a resource protection district to its proximity to a Herring Creek tributary and an earlier mapping miscue.

"In November 2009 the resource protection zoning line was digitalized off of maps and sine then we have had an actual delineation," he said.

Cropper said the parcel is along Route 50 and located almost entirely in a commercial land use category within the comprehensive plan.

"First this is based solely on a mistake [that] I like to call a refinement because I think the intent was clearly to follow the tidal wetlands line," he said.

Cropper noted the difficulty involved with establishing precise map boundaries based on aerial photography, while a recently completed land survey provided far more accuracy.

"We want to move the line back up to coincide with the actual tidal wetlands line," he said.

Berlin meetings closed for now

Continued from Page 1
meet entirely online.

As a result, the Board of Zoning of Appeals and the Historic District Commission meetings scheduled for Dec. 2 were canceled as well as the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday.



Zack Tyndall

Fleetwood said the boards and commission meetings were canceled because there were no pressing matters of business.



Jeff Fleetwood

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen has been working with boards, commissions and council members to provide Zoom training so these groups can conduct their January meetings virtually.

The town has also taken additional steps to protect the health and safety of employees, residents, visitors and the business community by prohibiting the public at all Berlin Mayor and Council meetings. The meetings are streamed live on Facebook until preparations can be made for the mayor and council to meet over Zoom.

In addition, town government buildings, including Town Hall, the Planning and Zoning Office and the Berlin Welcome Center, are closed to the public and town employees are working modified schedules to protect their safety while continuing the local government's work.

Asked if any staff members or elected officials had contracted the virus, Fleetwood said, "I am able to confirm that to the best of our knowledge no employee or council member has been in the workplace with COVID symptoms or as a result of a positive test."

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First Black commissioner in Wor.

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) James “Jim” Lee Purnell Jr. celebrated the 25th anniversary of becoming the first Black Worcester County Commissioner last Thursday.

“I didn’t do it for money because we got no money,” Purnell said. “I wanted to see a change, and those changes we were able to get.”

Born in 1937 to Hulda and James L. Purnell Sr., Purnell grew up on the family’s dairy farm in Briddletown.

“I knew what we went through as a people,” Purnell said.

From a young age, he witnessed racism in Berlin and Worcester County that motivated him to become involved in social activism.

“I looked at my mother to go up town to get a bus ticket to go to Philadelphia, but she couldn’t stay inside and receive the ticket,” Purnell said. “She had to go outside, then the person would bring the ticket out to her.”

He shared another account of being restricted entry to certain places in Berlin because of the color of his skin.

“My sister was hit in the stomach with a blackjack [weapon] at 7 years old for just standing on the corner of the street while my mother was inside paying for her shoes to wear,” Purnell said. “My father eventually got that police officer fired off the job.”

He also experienced discrimination in public schools, which were segregated throughout the state at the time.

“Worcester County had two education systems – one for Blacks and one for Whites,” said Gregory Purnell, his nephew, Briddletown resident and local historian.

Purnell walked miles from his home to Flower Street Elementary School, which is now a multipurpose building, every day on the dirt road in all kinds of weather.

When he attended Worcester High in Snow Hill, he would ride a bus with his peers.

Gregory added that the Worcester

County Public Schools were segregated, including teachers, until 1965 when the first Black student attended Stephen Decatur High School.

“It wasn’t until 1970 that full integration took place,” Gregory said.

According to a 1995 article by The Daily Times, Purnell began working at 16 at Sunshine Laundry in 1953 when Berlin and most of the country were segregated. He was the first Black person the laundry store ever hired. Forty-two years later, he broke another racial barrier by joining the Worcester County Commissioners.



Jim Purnell Jr.

Long before he became an elected official, Purnell married his wife of over 60 years, Clementh, and worked as a long-distance truck driver, hauling chickens for local poultry producers, until 1970.

He attended drapery trade school in Pennsylvania and opened a drapery business in Worcester County in 1971.

Purnell went on to become a school bus contractor for almost 45 years in addition to driving a charter bus.

Purnell began his social justice work on Maryland’s lower Eastern Shore in the 1980s when he became involved with the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

“He started to challenge all types of things in Worcester County, in Berlin and in Ocean City,” Gregory said. “It started back in like ’82-’83 back in that time when they were challenging the attempts to stop students from observing Martin Luther King’s birthday. That had been called a school day.”

During the 1980s, Briddletown’s landfill problems created concerns about contamination in the lower aquifer that supplied wells and drinking water, according to an article from The Baltimore Sun on Feb. 12, 1986.

Without a landfill or solid-waste

disposal in Ocean City, the prosperity of the resort brought a health threat to the Black community.

“It caused a horrible odor and was contaminating the water for Briddletown,” said Alec Staley, a local historian librarian for the Worcester County Library. “It was originally supposed to have been closed in 1986 but did not actually close until 1989-1990 when a new landfill was opened in Newark. It did not close on time, most likely because it was in a minority community and the county felt it would be too much money to move.”

Purnell had a personal mission to move the landfill because his mother’s house was directly behind it, Staley added.

“In 1986, he became the president of the Worcester County NAACP,” Staley said.

Purnell said he served as president of the NAACP for about 10 years.

He participated in a march on the Ocean City Boardwalk for better jobs for minority groups on the resort.

“He also led the fight in the ’90s to establish a minority district and won that fight,” Staley said. “He started the fight around 1992 and won it.”

Purnell and other African Americans claimed the at-large system in Worcester County excluded them from office.

“During that time, me and a group of people saw fit to challenge the election system here in this county, whereby we wanted to make it district voting so we could elect the person of our choice,” Purnell said.

Purnell was involved in a lawsuit against Worcester County that the county fought up to the Supreme Court.

“Supreme Court did not hear the case, so that meant we won the case because they agreed with what we were saying,” he said.

From there, the minority district was created to give Blacks and other minorities a chance at elected office.

“We were paying taxes, but we weren’t being represented,” Purnell said. “We had to go change the elec-

See PURNELL Page 13



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WHP case hearing added for Tuesday after Wor. opposes

By Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) The trial for the White Horse Park lawsuit has been postponed, and a separate hearing has been added for Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Attorney Hugh Cropper, representing the full-time residents fighting to stay in the park, filed a motion to postpone the trial, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15 and Wednesday Dec. 16.

"Several of my clients are in their 80s and their testimony is necessary to prove my case," Cropper said. "With covid concerns, I did not want to take them to court while they're in their 80s."

Cropper also filed a motion to dismiss Worcester County from the case, citing that the county has not been aggressive in enforcement, but the White Horse Park Association has. The county opposed, leading to a hearing on Tuesday to decide the county's fate.

Cropper said he believes the county wants the case dismissed with prejudice, rather than without prejudice.

"They want the whole case dismissed with prejudice, which means they win, we give up all rights and the whole case is dismissed," Cropper said. "We're not prepared to do that."

If the case is dismissed without prejudice, Cropper and his clients reserve the right to make their arguments and file again.

The conflict began in June 2018, See TRIAL Page 15

Donate, sponsor those in need in holiday program

(Dec. 10, 2020) Worcester County GOLD, Inc. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance for Worcester County residents is accepting donations and sponsors for its annual Helping Hands for the Holidays Program.

Since 1998, GOLD has run its Helping Hands for the Holidays Program, which provides gifts for children and vulnerable adults in Worcester County living at or below the poverty line.

Visit WorcesterGOLD.org to donate, view a list of gift ideas, or sign up to sponsor those in need. Last year, GOLD provided holiday gifts for 658 children and 80 vulnerable adults.

Call 410-677-6830 or email WorcesterCountyGOLD@gmail.com for more information. Donation deadline is Dec. 11.

Purnell celebrates 25th anniversary

Continued from Page 12
tion system."

The election for Worcester County Commissioners was delayed a full year because of the prolonged court battle about voting rights, according to a Washington Post article from Nov. 4, 1995.

"I lived in a minority district," Purnell said. "I was asked to run in that minority district." Purnell added that at the time he had no intention of being a politician because he was already chairman of the Worcester County branch of NAACP and vice president of the NAACP in the state of Maryland.

On Nov. 7, 1995, Purnell was elected the first Black Worcester County Commissioner in the history of the county. He officially took office on Dec. 3, 1995.

"The biggest challenge that I had was being able to sit down to the table and lay out our differences with both Blacks and Whites working together," Purnell said. "We made a lot of progress in doing that. It wasn't easy, but at least they saw that we were sincere about what we were doing [and] what we wanted to do."

Purnell also became the first Black president of the Worcester County Commissioners.

He served on the board until 2014,

when he did not seek re-election.

"In those 20 years, a lot of things changed, not only for Blacks, but for this whole county," Purnell said.

Purnell is proud of his collaboration with his fellow commissioners, especially those that fought him in the lawsuit.

"Once I was elected, we were able to work together on different issues," he said. "They supported me."



Diana Purnell

Since Purnell's retirement, Diana Purnell is the only other African American elected to the Worcester County Commissioners. She represents the minority district today.

Diana was then elected to serve as the president of the Worcester County Commissioners in 2017 and in 2018.

She is also active in the Worcester County Branch of the NAACP.

Diana has known James Purnell for at least 40 years, adding that he, she, her husband, Gabe Purnell, and others worked as community organizers in their district and in the county.

"Once we got that court settlement, where they had to draw a dis-

trict, it was the opinion of the group that filed that case that Jim would be the person that would be most suitable to go in as the commissioner, and he did," she said. "He always made sure that he would appoint someone that would represent the community, and Jim appointed me to a lot of different commissions."

In addition to his political career, former Commissioner Purnell is a past state grand master of Odd Fellows of Maryland, a former worshipful master of the Prince Hall Freemasons and a member of Blue Lodge. He is also heavily involved in St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Berlin.

In 2017, he published an autobiography about his race-related experiences in the county, "James Lee Purnell Jr.: Memories of Struggles and Progress in a Segregated Worcester County, Maryland," with Kimberly A. Chase.

"I just want to be remembered as James Purnell, born, raised [and] grew up in this community, and a person that gave of himself to make a difference in this community along with support that I got from the community and from the county as well as from the state," Purnell said.

He also hopes the county remembers his support for local children.

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Opinion

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

Best people step up during tough times

If there's one thing people can count on in this area, it's the generosity of residents when challenges arise, whether those challenges might be an individual's, a family's or a community's.

This is especially notable now, with covid-19 ramping up again, after already taking a toll on many of the traditional contributors to the dozens of good causes that arise this time of the year.

But — and it's not all that surprising — a pandemic that would otherwise obstruct the annual food, toy and clothing drives here have been met head-on by the even more rapid spread of generosity and creative thinking.

The redesigned Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee's "Meal for the Hungry" campaign is one example, deciding as its organizers did to go easy on asking struggling restaurants to donate food and opting instead to buy gift cards from the restaurants. Helping those who normally help you, the restaurants, while also helping others is a coin that has two winning sides.

Meanwhile, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City gambled when it launched a drive for toys and another for coats, both of which went on to set records for donations.

And then there's temporary Ocean Pines resident Christian Martin, 14, who decided to create a local version of the food drive that he normally participates in back home in Rockville. He and his mom, Lybbi, then went about collecting hundreds of pounds of food for the Community Church's Sarah's Pantry. He also signed up as a volunteer for the church's other charity, the Shepherd's Nook.

Commentary such as this one have appeared here before, but it's an endless source of amazement. Maybe it's something in the water. But whatever it is, even in the worst of times, that burden is lifted by the best of people.



Thompson retires from school board

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) After more than 26 years of service, Sara Thompson is retiring from the District 3 seat on the Worcester County Board of Education.

Thompson, who is a life-long resident of Worcester County and an alumna of Stephen Decatur High School, served as a substitute teacher at the high school on Seahawk Road in Berlin for 30 years.

"I've always loved education," she said.

Of all of the board of education's accomplishments over the last two decades, Thompson is most proud of the construction of new schools in the county, the progress of technology in education and the public school system being named No. 1 in the state in multiple categories.

"We have small class sizes," she added. "I could just go on and on because I just love everything about

our school board [and] our Worcester County education."



Sarah Thompson

Throughout her terms, Thompson advocated for small class sizes, competitive salaries for teachers and quality education for all students in the county.

This year, Thompson served as the vice president of the school board for the second time. She is the board's longest-serving member and has been recognized as the longest-serving board of education member in Maryland.

The 82-year-old Berlin resident is confident that her successor, Dr. Jon Andes, will serve for the betterment of education in his district and the entire county, saying he will be "an asset for the board."

"We hired him as super-

intendent [of Worcester County Public Schools] when I was on the board," Thompson said. "He was a wonderful superintendent and now he'll be a wonderful board member."

Despite her retirement, Thompson plans to be as involved in the local school system as possible.

"I'm going to miss it so bad," she said.

Thompson wishes her fellow board members and educators all the best as they work through the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"It's very difficult now for the teachers, and I just want everybody to just keep plowing along and doing the best they can," she said. "We have a wonderful bunch of teachers and they're doing the best they can and we have a wonderful superintendent. I'm just proud of all of them."

Thompson and Barry Brittingham Sr., who represents District 2, will be recognized during their last meeting on Dec. 15.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc. at 8200 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842. The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos. Visit us on the Web at www.baysideoc.com. Copyright 2020

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Student collects holiday cards for military overseas

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(Dec. 10, 2020) MaryAnn Catherine Rutzler, the current Pure International Young Miss Eastern Shore, is spreading holiday cheer near and far this year.

The 13-year-old from Newark serves as the recording secretary and “Diamond Girl” for Project Sparkle On, an outreach program that inspires youth to get involved through kindness and community service.

Project Sparkle On was founded by Layla Gainer, of Laurel Delaware, in early 2018. Gainer is the current Pre-Teen Miss Delaware.

“The mission of Project Sparkle On being an outreach for youth run by youth through community service spoke to my heart and what I want for everyone – to make someone smile no matter what they may be going through,” Rutzler said.

Rutzler, Gainer and other teens have hosted bake sales and yard sales to raise money for two initiatives, Kapes 4 Kids and #TeamKelsey, for patients in the hospital.

Kapes 4 Kids initiative will distribute over 500 superhero capes to children staying at children’s hospitals in the state, including Johns Hopkins.



PHOTO COURTESY TRUDY ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY
MaryAnn Catherine Rutzler, the current Pure International Young Miss Eastern Shore, is working with Project Sparkle On to encourage youth to create homemade holiday cards and thank you cards for active military.

Project Sparkle On also raised money for Kelsey Durst, 29, an international pageant assistant producer, who recently was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Rutzler, Gainer and others involved in Project Sparkle On are currently encouraging youth groups and local organizations to make cards for soldiers serving in the Middle East and elsewhere, who won’t be home for the holidays.

“The ‘Dear Soldier’ crusade drive is a great way for us to give back and thank those that are defending our freedoms,” said Rutzler’s mother, Colleen. “The cards will be collected and then we will

See RUTZLER Page 17

Trial delayed for clients’ health

Continued from Page 13

when seasonal residents notified the county that other residents were living in the seasonal park year round.

The zoning code states that from Sept. 30 to April first, residents can only occupy their unit for 30 consecutive days or an aggregate of 60 days. Many residents are older and struggle with disability or low incomes.

After a rejected zoning code amendment to remain in the park and a rejected appeal, the conflict will head to trial at Worcester County Circuit Court at a date that will be determined at the hearing next week.

The residents have claimed that they were either not properly informed of the zoning code or encouraged to live at the park full time, while the county and association claim that the zoning code has been available to view and that the park’s infrastructure was not built for full-time residents.

Cropper defended the full-time residents, pointing out that there were originally 108 in the park and now only 38, and those remaining are the residents who cannot afford to leave.

“Those 38 have all been advised by me that they’re going to have to leave, so we’re transitioning out,” Cropper said. “Why the county wants to keep pushing forward, because they want a ‘resolution,’ I think is a waste of tax-

payer money.”

He said that if he wins, all 108 residents could be allowed to live in the park full-time.

Cropper added that it doesn’t make sense as to why the county is cracking down on this specific zoning violation.

“There are hundreds and hundreds of zoning violations in the county,” Cropper said. “The county only chooses to enforce those that are complained about, so I don’t know why they’re worried about 38 old people in White Horse Park out of 465.”

Even if the county and association do win, Cropper said he is skeptical that they would enforce the zoning code.

“They’re not going to throw them out anyway,” Cropper said. “I really don’t see Sheriff Crisafulli going in there and pulling my 88-year-old client out of his house and throwing him out on the street saying, ‘You can’t be here.’”

Although the county has warned full-time residents of hundreds of dollars in fines, Cropper said none of his clients have received any.

The county’s attorney filed a motion for the hearing to be held over Zoom. Cropper said he has not yet taken a stance on that.

Worcester County did not respond to request for comment in time for publication.



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Snapshots



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VENDOR MARKET

Vendors set up tables to display their products in igloos at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery in Berlin last Sunday.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SANTA

World of Toys, 115 N. Main St. in Berlin, welcomes Santa Claus last Sunday to hear what children want for Christmas.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ORIGAMI

Dr. David Gell, assistant principal at Berlin Intermediate School, gives an Origami lesson in Heather Riser's 3D Art class. Fifth grader Delanyie Kerrigan and Gell show off the finished product.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMENDATION

The Worcester County Commissioners present a commendation to Fay and Roger Richardson, who were inducted into the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame in February 2020 for their high standards and commitment to the agricultural industry. The Richardsons have implemented conservative practices while preserving, protecting and furthering family farming.

Rutzler involved in local Project Sparkle On

Continued from Page 15
 ship them overseas.”

Rutzler and her mother met with Worcester County Sheriff Crisafulli last week to drop off a box at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, 1 W. Market St., for local residents or organizations to contribute homemade holiday cards and thank you cards for active military.

Another drop-off box is located at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway.

“Get out the markers, crayons and construction paper and make as many

cards of hope and joy to make our military smile,” Colleen said.

Colleen added that the goal is to collect 1,000 cards for the campaign.

Letters for soldiers can also be mailed to 6705 Five Mile Branch Road, Newark, Maryland 21841 by Dec. 12.

For more information, contact Colleen at cdrutzler@gmail.com.

Rutzler is in the eighth grade at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School on Racetrack Road in Berlin. She was recently elected her school's student council president.

Currently, she is leading the campaign for classes to make holiday cards for 'Dear Soldier.'

Rutzler added that last month Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School collected new and gently used blankets for the homeless in conjunction with its diocesan theme for the school year.

This month, classes will compete in a door decorating contest.

Students will decorate their classroom doors based on classic Christmas songs for a contest.

“Once the doors are all decorated,

each class will film a short explanation of what song their door is about and what each student contributed to the design,” she said.

Going forward into 2021, Rutzler said her school is considering some virtual activities for students.

Currently, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School is engaged in in-person instruction with some families choosing to participate in distance learning.

Rutzler is also involved with Worcester County 4-H Voyagers, One Year to Empowerment and Girl Scouts.

She has been a Conference, Regional and National All-American Scholar for Pop Warner Berlin Seahawks for three years.

In late October, Rutzler competed in a “Hocus Pocus”-themed online photo pageant by Mystic Productions, but Jamie Lynn Schaffers, from Hurlock, Maryland, won that pageant.

In addition, Rutzler is a Mystic National Angel, representing her passion for the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life of North Worcester County.

Rutzler's passion was fostered by serving as a caregiver for her mother, who is an acute myeloid leukemia survivor, and her godmother who died from metastatic breast cancer after a 14-year battle.

Her local Relay for Life team is called Royalty for Relay.

Worcester libraries lend hotspots

(Dec. 10, 2020) Worcester County Library announced the launch of its mobile WiFi hotspot lending initiative, expanding free internet access to patrons beyond its five public service locations.

Hotspots will be available to borrow at all five branches; if all hotspots are checked out, adult patrons (18 and older) may place a hold via the online catalog.

The hotspots will check out for 30 days at a time.

Each WiFi hotspot kit contains a hotspot device, Micro USB cable, adapter and instructions. They will use

the Verizon cellular network.

Libraries serve purposes “beyond the book” as crucial community anchors for internet access.

Wireless hotspot lending programs in libraries around the country have helped library users bridge gaps in access to health care, education and employment.

During the covid-19 pandemic, a time when many residents are doing their schoolwork, research, and job searches from home, this program extends the benefits of the library and broad information access beyond the library walls.

“These hotspots will assist Worcester County residents in many ways. Wireless hotspots allow people otherwise ‘unconnected’ to complete GED programs, to help their kids do homework, and to search for jobs,” said library director Jennifer Ranck.

Kajeet is the provider of the hotspots, and will provide technical support for the devices, and library staff will be available to assist patrons who need help placing a hold. Additional information for patrons is available on the WiFi FAQ page at <https://worcesterlibrary.org>.

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Cuisine

Garlic roasted oysters inspired by Nola

When the oyster farmer tells you that you just fed him the best cooked oyster that he has ever eaten, you know you are on to something.

I'm proud of this dish, and it is so simple that I can do nothing but bask in its modesty, even if it does bring me a modicum of praise in the process.

I was so happy with how these came out, that I texted my buddy, Joel, to tell him what the oyster farmer had said. He insisted on being the first paying customer to order these in the new restaurant, and how am I to turn that down?

Like me, he has an affinity for New Orleans, a town of which you know I am quite fond.

A couple of years ago, my girlfriend accompanied me on a business trip, and it was her first time experiencing the most fascinating city in our great nation.

Our first stop after checking into the hotel was the Acme Oyster House, and we ate more than our fair share of their wonderfully garlic-laden mollusks and drank a few delicious ice-cold brews, which of course set us back quite a bit. But, it was worth every lost cent.

Truth be told, I would not go so far as to say that we lost anything, except mayhap our good sense. You see, it was early in the day and we ran into friends and colleagues from up north, and as such were merely setting the stage for what would happen next.

We meandered from our lunch and headed down to Bourbon Street.

I pointed out buildings, bars and things of note that I had learned over my numerous trips (but I would be remiss if I did not mention that I have never been on a cemetery tour. Shame on me), and we were naturally inclined to jump into the first tourist-trap bar that we happened upon offering the monster Hurricane for a mere \$6 since it was still lunchtime.

Why not? We're in New Orleans.

I slowly shake my head guiltily as I recall that it was later in the evening that I would introduce my sweet, innocent Dawn to Buzz Balls, the ubiquitous high-octane MD 20/20 of the next generation. I am so sorry.

We would stop every few blocks to watch many of the spectator sports, whether it be the buskers, the already-



drunks stumbling down the street with thick Jersey accents or the homemade marching bands ranging in age from middle school to senior citizens.

It's a place where you can feel strangely alive and one that you spend your life up north just pretending that you can recreate. It's not happening.

But throughout it all, and for all the amazing meals that I have eaten in New Orleans, I always go back to the garlic oyster. It is the perfect way to cook this wonderful shellfish, and if you love The Big Easy as much as I do, you know that this will transport you back there, if only for the briefest of moments. And at this point of our lives, we could all use a little bit of that.

Nola-inspired Garlic Roasted Oysters

Serves 4

24 Johnson Bay deep-cup oysters
2 c. garlic butter (recipe follows)

1/2 c. good parmesan

Parsley and lemon wedges for garnish

• In The Big Easy, the oysters are shucked and placed directly on the grill. For this recipe, though, we are

going to shuck and place them in the oven.

• Shuck the oysters over a strainer on a pan so that you can reserve as much of the oyster liquor as you can.

• Place the oysters on a pan and pour the liquor evenly back into the shells.

• If you are going to roast these in the oven, preheat to 500F.

• Top each oyster with a fair amount of garlic butter, dividing it evenly.

• Place the oysters in the oven and bake for about 4 minutes. You should start to see some shrinking and contracting as this happens.

• Pull the oysters out, and switch the oven to broil.

• Top the oysters with the parmesan and place under the broiler.

• Heat until the oysters are cooked, the liquor and butter are bubbling and the parmesan is a lovely golden brown.

• Remove and divide among 4 plates.

• Squeeze a little lemon on them and then garnish with lemon wedges and parsley.

• Serve and close your eyes, imagining the sounds of Frenchmen

Street and the Hot 8 Brass Band while sipping on an Abita or Sazerac. Ah, to be back.

Garlic Butter

Makes about 2 cups

1 1/2 c. whole butter, salted

1/2 c. garlic, fresh and minced

1 tbsp. ground black pepper

2 tbsp. chopped parsley

**More salt if you like

• Bring the butter to room temperature, but do not let it melt all the way.

• Mix all of the ingredients together until well incorporated. If you want it to be a bit more spreadable at refrigerated temperature, whip it in a stand mixer. This will aerate it (similar to making ice cream or whipped cream) and make it 'fluffier' and not so rock hard as it cools.

• Keep refrigerated until needed. If it ends up being hard, just pull it out of the icebox 30 minutes before preparation.

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

Visit him at www.boxcar40.com

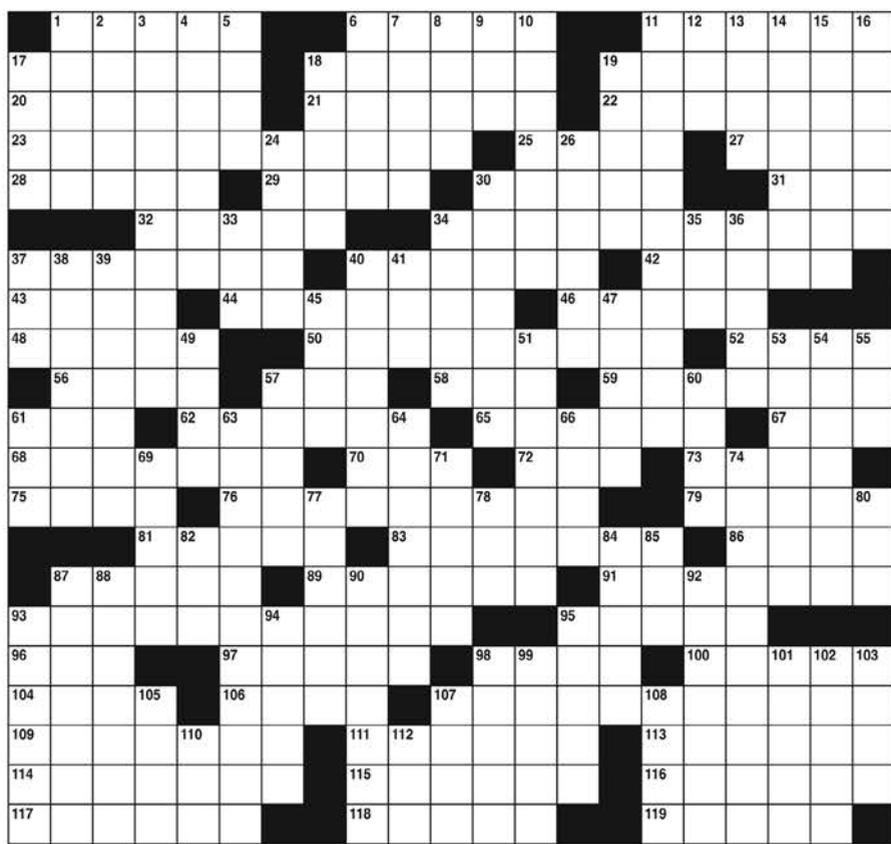
Puzzles

SIX-PACK

BY ERIC BERLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Eric Berlin, of Milford, Conn., is the assistant publisher of Penny Publications, a puzzle-magazine company, and the creator of the website Puzzlesnacks. He is the author of "The Puzzling World of Winston Breen" (Penguin) and two sequels. When he started constructing, Eric says, "my goal was to sell exactly one puzzle to The New York Times, just to say I did it." That was almost 20 years and more than 40 Times crosswords ago. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Its logo has a blue, red, orange, yellow and green "M"
 - 6 Win every game
 - 11 Blitzed
 - 17 Beethoven's Third
 - 18 Snoopy sort?
 - 19 You can scratch with it
 - 20 Materials from mollusk shells
 - 21 Tried to respond, as a "Jeopardy!" contestant
 - 22 Gave the latest news
 - 23 Very short-lived gemstones
 - 25 Nicolas ____, standout player in soccer's Premier League
 - 27 Drake's output
 - 28 Thinly veiled criticism, in modern slang
 - 29 Blow off steam, say
 - 30 Possible fallout of a controversy, informally
 - 31 RR stop
 - 32 Name shouted in "The Chipmunk Song"
 - 34 TV quiz program about an epic poem
 - 37 Handed a hand
 - 40 Bully's threat
 - 42 World view you might open up to?
- DOWN**
- 43 Suffix with towel
 - 44 NoDoz, for one
 - 46 Help with the dishes
 - 48 Fragment
 - 50 Look back fondly
 - 52 Disney-owned cable channel
 - 56 Ask to be handed a hand?
 - 57 Vereen who won a 1973 Tony for "Pippin"
 - 58 Prefix akin to mal-
 - 59 Haphazardly organized
 - 61 Having four sharps, musically
 - 62 ____, Regal, big name in Scotch
 - 65 "And so on and so forth"
 - 67 Expected
 - 68 General Motors division until 2010
 - 70 Resident: Suffix
 - 72 One-named singer with the 2019 Song of the Year nominee "Hard Place"
 - 73 Some "Babe" characters
 - 75 Designer Gucci
 - 76 Beat box?
 - 79 A brother of 32-Across
 - 81 Zing
 - 83 "Concentration" puzzles
 - 86 Reasonable
 - 87 "The Divine Comedy" poet
 - 89 Brand of cologne with a literary name
 - 91 Jazzed (up)
 - 93 Magnificent plan of action
 - 95 Bone in the leg
 - 96 Key to get out
 - 97 Maya Angelou's "And Still ____"
 - 98 Nev. neighbor
 - 100 Cloth used in theater backdrops
 - 104 ____ Defense (classic chess opening)
 - 106 Cozy home
 - 107 Dance celebrating 2010 legislation
 - 109 Glad ____ (good news)
 - 111 Turn up
 - 113 One of 17 in Monopoly
 - 114 Manages, barely
 - 115 Bibliophile
 - 116 Tightfisted sorts
 - 117 Back up again
 - 118 Hip-hop's ____, the Creator
 - 119 First name in cosmetics
 - 9 Actor Wallach
 - 10 Friends you may never have met
 - 11 Salon job named after a comic book hero
 - 12 Danson of "The Good Place"
 - 13 Building girder
 - 14 Actress Lyonne
 - 15 Compulsive thieves, informally
 - 16 "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," for one
 - 17 Hydrocarbon suffixes
 - 18 The thought is there
 - 19 Serving of tea, to Brits
 - 24 River near Rotterdam
 - 26 Some lawn maintenance tools
 - 30 Who wrote "Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation"?
 - 33 Recipient of special treatment, in brief
 - 34 Very cold
 - 35 Klingons, e.g., for short
 - 36 What Hypnos is the Greek god of
 - 37 ____ Plains, Ill.
 - 38 Liquor component
 - 39 Over
 - 40 Outdoor
 - 41 Part of a glass ... or glasses
 - 45 Before: Abbr.
 - 47 More dangerous to drive on, in a way
 - 49 Metric prefix
 - 51 Natural bridge



- 53 Supporting musician in a jazz band
- 54 Guest's guest
- 55 Family tree word
- 57 Chin-up target, informally
- 60 Leaders of the pack?
- 61 Bitter brew, for short
- 63 Pounding on a pie topping
- 64 Cloud ____
- 66 Followers of bees
- 69 SpongeBob SquarePants and others
- 71 Opposition
- 74 Entertainment host Ryan, that smart aleck!
- 77 To wit
- 78 Belt in judo
- 80 Mustachioed Springfield resident
- 82 Baseball's Mel
- 84 One of the Schuyler sisters in "Hamilton"
- 85 One sharing a bunk bed, briefly
- 87 Animosity
- 88 Places to play Skee-Ball
- 90 Turn off and on again, say
- 92 With regard to
- 93 Get worse through neglect
- 94 "Give it ____!"
- 95 Need in Boggle
- 98 Withstand
- 99 Dancer with glow sticks, often
- 101 Actress Zellweger
- 102 Get accustomed (to)
- 103 Fannie ____ (some securities)
- 105 Charging option
- 107 Said aloud
- 108 Showed up
- 110 Cyber Monday mo., usually
- 112 Daisy Ridley's "Star Wars" role

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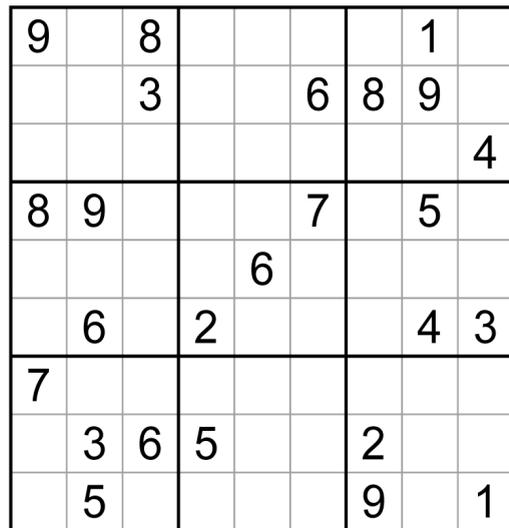
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HARD - 17

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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., Dec. 10

TEEN DISCORD HANGOUT

The library's Discord server is a moderated, virtual hangout space for teens, ages 13-17, to connect and chat with other teens, 7:00 PM. Register: <https://worcestertlibrary.libguides.com/discord>.

Fri., Dec. 11

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Featuring "The Night Circus" by Erin Mogenstern. Copies of the books are available at the Ocean Pines branch. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

A MIRACLE ON MARKET STREET

Market Street, Pocomoke City, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Featuring live holiday music by Coastal Sound; candlelight Christmas carols at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and a special performance by All About Dance Academy. Also featuring sidewalk sales, craft vendors, free giveaways for kids and adults, a bonfire, horse and carriage rides and a special appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Support the Samaritan Shelter Food and Coat Drive with donations of canned goods, nonperishable food items, paper products and gently used coats. The City of Pocomoke will strongly enforce CDC Guidelines. Masks must be worn in high traffic areas. No food or beverages will be served at this event.

karah@pocomokemd.gov, 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, <http://www.cityofpocomoke.com>

Sat., Dec. 12

BRUNCH WITH SANTA AND FESTIVAL OF TREES

Princess Royal Oceanfront Resort, 9100 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The event will feature Christmas trees decorated by Atlantic General Hospital sponsors, breakfast and photos with Santa, children's crafts and complimentary hot chocolate. Reservations: 410-524-2544, Ext. 2023.

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.

BELIEVE IN SANTA BREAKFAST

Residence Inn by Marriott, 300 Seabay Lane. Seating times are 9-9:30 a.m., 10-10:30 a.m., 11-11:30 a.m. and 12-12:30 p.m. Featuring hot breakfast, children's crafts and activities, baked goods, raffles and photos with Santa. Drive up and carry-out available from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (advance tickets required). Advance ticket sales only by calling Wayne Littleton, 410-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY DISPLAY

Multi-colored holiday cheer adds a twinkle to White Horse Park with the Ocean Pines Association's Christmas light display on Sunday. The assortment of trees and other displays will be open to view until Jan. 6.

723-2842. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$10 for children 3-10 years and free to those 2 and younger (includes a free new stuffed animal). Proceeds support Believe In Tomorrow Children's Foundation. Masks are required.

WATERFOWL WEEKENDS

Participants can register for just one field trip or multiple field trips each day of the event, held 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., Dec. 14

STORY TIME - DON'T WORRY

Meeting via Facebook, 10:30 AM. Learn how to stop the worry butterflies and just have fun. For 2-6 year old children. No registration required.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Meeting 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 Campeon, 410-641-0157

Tues., Dec. 15

JOURNAL + SCRAPBOOK = MEMORY BOOK

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Start a memory book during this program. Examples and all supplies will be provided. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

JOHN LENNON: AFTER THE BEATLES - PART 2

In Part 2 of this program, Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett examine John Lennon's solo career in the 1970s, Yoko Ono's role in his life, how the 1980s seemed full of promise, and whether a Beatles reunion was likely. Held 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM. Event URL: <https://www.facebook.com/worcestercountymarylandlibrary>. Info: <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ANCIENT EGYPT WITH PROGRAM-TO-GO KIT

Meeting via Zoom, 2:30 PM. Learn about the highlights of Ancient Egyptian civilization, including life on the Nile River, pyramids and mummies, food and hieroglyphics. Pick up a Program-To-Go kit and participate in the pyramid building challenge and cartouche (name in hieroglyphics) craft. For ages 8-12 years. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

WINE MAKING 101

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. Explore the ease of making your own personalized wine in the comfort of your home. The complete process of making, fermenting and bottling will be conducted live for hands-on questions. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

Wed., Dec. 16

FOOD DRIVE

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be collecting non-perishable goods for Diakonia in the parking lot.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Meeting via Zoom, 11:00 AM. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey

followed by a question and answer session. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via video call, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Call 410-548-7880 or email Mentor@womensupporting-women.org for Zoom meeting ID and passcode.

'IT'S A WONDERFUL LECTURE' WITH DUSTIN PARI

Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM. Taking a look at the beloved classic "It's a Wonderful Life," Pari uses quotes, scenes and characters from the movie as he weaves a tale of commonality and humanity. We all walk through this human experience together, feeling the ripple of the lives of those around us. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ONGOING EVENTS

BERLIN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Downtown Berlin shop windows will be decorated for the holiday featuring works from local artists.

- The town is hosting a Light Up Berlin: Holiday House Decorating Contest and Tour beginning Dec. 11. Tour map link will be on facebook and berlinmainstreet.com. Info: iwells@berlinmd.gov.
- Residents and visitors are invited to drop off their letters to Santa in the vestibule at the Berlin Welcome Center until Dec. 18. Children will receive a letter back from Santa and a coupon for a treat downtown. Info: iwells@berlinmd.gov.
- Free carriage rides are offered on weekends in December at Pitts Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sheep Trail - Participants can find trail cards in the vestibule at the Berlin Welcome Center and participating shops. Write down the name of the sheep next to the store on the trail card. Completed trail cards can be returned to the welcome center or Buckingham Presbyterian Church mailbox. Trail cards that are returned by each Friday at 3 p.m. will be entered into a prize drawing. Cards will be collected until Dec. 24 and the grand prize winner will be drawn on Christmas morning. Info: <https://fb.me/e/35LZDNeXL>.

LIGHT UP SNOW HILL

Consider registering to be included in the 2020 Light Up Snow Hill House Tour. Simply make sure your lights are on every evening from December 14-28 from 5-8 p.m. and enjoy seeing all of the holiday cheer as visitors drive by on their way through the tour route. Also consider sending in a picture of your decorated house after registering to be included in the competition portion of this event. Register your home: <http://www.snowhillchamber.com>.

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BY MONDAY
5 P.M.



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