

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



JUNE 24, 2021

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA directors proceed with rental rules

Board votes 6-1 to take new regs to neighborhoods

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors wants to exercise oversight of short-term rentals, and voted 6-1 last week to bring the association's declaration of restrictions in line with Worcester County licensing regulations.

Director Frank Daly offered the motion to amend declaration of restrictions in neighborhood sections to incorporate county code governing short-term rentals, litter and noise.

"This approach will be no more restrictive on owner rights than existing law but will give Ocean Pines the power to enforce and fine property owners in violation of these codes," he said.

Daly said repeat violations would result in the suspension of lot owners' See RENTAL Page 10

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Crowds mill about Pitts Street perusing selections at the Berlin Farmers Market on Sunday.

Loan relief boosts bottom line

PPP forgiveness puts OPA \$1.275 million ahead of budget as year closes

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Ocean Pines got good news last week, when the association was informed that the \$1.14 million it received last year in federal Payroll Protection Program money would not have to be repaid.

With the elimination of the Small Business Administration loan from the debt side of the ledger, the association's unaudited fiscal year 2-20/21 figures are closing ahead of budget by \$1.275 million.

General Manager John Viola told the board of directors last Wednesday

that the SBA sent a letter of forgiveness days earlier.

"The PPP has been forgiven," he said.

Word had been awaited since the association filed its loan-forgiveness paperwork in mid-March, with the SBA given a 90-day response window.

Viola said Bank of Ocean City officials confirmed the PPP status by phone last week, with Director of Finance Steve Phillips receiving official correspondence just days before the board meeting.

Director Doug Parks, noting the association had been working under the assumption PPP funds would not be repaid, asked how confirming that fact might impact auditing FY20/21 numbers.

"It would be revenue [but] it would be a loan that's forgiven," he said.

Viola said the operating income would be offset by salary costs.

"If it hadn't been forgiven, we would have had to change the statements," he said.

Association President Larry Perrone asked if the budget surplus would be carried over to current fiscal year ledgers.

"If we do nothing, from an accounting standpoint, that money, those earnings, rolls over into retained earnings," he said.

Surplus from the past fiscal year would, among other points, serve to zero out \$165,000 remaining from prior operating deficits.

"It goes into the same account and See PPP Page 2

Questions sought for second forum

(June 24, 2021) The Ocean Pines Elections Committee is seeking questions for a planned second candidate forum for the 2021 Board of Directors election.

The date of the forum is yet to be announced, but committee Chairman Steve Habeger said it would likely be a virtual forum held before the end of June.

To submit questions for the forum, email elections@oceanpines.org.

The first forum was held on June 9 and is now viewable on the Ocean Pines YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/x71qs-DXIBYI>.

Candidates this year are, in ballot order, Frank Daly, Stuart Lakernick, David C. Hardy and Richard Farr.

Two seats on the Board will be up for election this year: those currently held by Daly and Frank Brown. The seven-member volunteer board is the governing body of Ocean Pines.



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PPP forgiveness gets Pines big budget boost

Continued from Page 1

would turn that positive," he said. Perrone said despite some financial unknowns, one bright spot is guaranteed.

"The good news is the deficit we've been operating under the last few years is now done," he said.

Viola said regardless of positive budget variances recorded for FY20/21, all PPP funds were used for payroll.

"We adhered to that 100 percent," he said. "We do have a surplus, but the surplus was also because we cut costs."

Cutbacks in amenity offerings also contributed to the budget excess.

"We couldn't do certain things because of covid," he said.

Viola attributed the strong financial footing to operational issues, while noting PPP funds were deployed exactly as outlined by the SBA.

"If we didn't it wouldn't have been forgiven," he said.

The positive financial trend was tempered a bit during April with ending monthly figures reflecting revenues ahead of budget by \$148,000, but expenses coming in at \$202,000 over projections, to close \$54,000 under estimates.

Losses for April included golf operations at roughly \$48,000.

Viola said \$40,000 for chemicals and turf maintenance originally budgeted for May was pushed forward on the advice of course Superintendent Justin Hartshorne.

Hartshorne said soil temperatures affected application timing.

"We had it budgeted in May but ended up seeing the weather favorable in April," he said. "That's not a window that you want to miss."

Viola also highlighted general maintenance ending April about \$35,000 under projections.

"We did a lot of deferred maintenance that hadn't been done in a while at the Racquet Sports Center," he said.

Looking at year-to-date numbers through April, which closes FY20/21, unaudited figures reflect revenues over budget by \$370,000 and expenses under by \$905,000 for a positive variance of \$1.275 million.

In addition to PPP funding, the association also was awarded \$125,000 from the CARES Act, with food contractor the Matt Ortt Companies receiving about \$275,000 in covid-19 relief, which Viola said rounds out to about \$1.5 million.

"If we didn't receive any of the \$1.5 million ... we would have lost \$250,000," he said.

Providing a sneak peek on the cur-

rent fiscal year, Viola said monthly budget numbers for this May should be favorable.

"We had record-breaking applications, or payments, for memberships across the board," he said. "We're trending higher than two years ago, but some of it's timing that they're just coming in early."

In addition to the uptick in participation at the golf course, racquet sports center and pool facilities, the Matt Ortt Companies reported about \$500,000 in recent banquet bookings.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola reported last week that the Small Business Administration recently notified the association that \$1.14 million Awarded in Payroll Protection Program funding would be forgiven.



County school board names coordinator of technology

(June 24, 2021) The Worcester County Board of Education has named Dr. Stephen Agyei-Mensah as the school system's new coordinator of technology, during its June 15 meeting.

Over the past year, leadership of Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) has dedicated significant time and resources to update its technology infrastructure as well as instructional practices to engage and immerse students in high-quality, cutting-edge instruction.

"From developing a forward-thinking, sustainable partnership with Apple for devices and professional development to realigning instructional technology (IT) staff to better support our iPad deployment, we sought a leader in the IT field that would build upon this momentum and keep WCPS ahead of the instructional technology curve. I be-

lieve we found that leader in Dr. Mensah," Superintendent Lou Taylor said.

A native of western Africa, Mensah holds a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, a doctoral degree in education, and several certifications in technology. He brings over 30 years of experience in both the education and technology fields.

Mensah began his teaching career in Nigeria and Cameroon, Africa before relocating to the Eastern Shore. A lifelong learner himself, Mensah continues to teach computer science at the college level as well as IT certification courses alongside his full-time work, which most recently was serving the chief information officer for Baltimore-based Kumi Construction Management Corporation.

Mensah currently resides in Ocean City with his wife and two children, both of whom attend Worcester County schools. He will begin his tenure as coordinator of technology on July 1.



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Pines Golf Course conditions making strides during 2021

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Turf conditions at the Ocean Pines Golf Course have improved this season because of the remedial care it has received, but now that care is being adapted for the hotter weather July and August.



Justin Harshorne

Course superintendent Justin Harshorne provided an overview of current efforts during the board of directors last Wednesday.

Hartshorne said aerification has been performed to increase water and air movement.

"It's one of the most important things we can do throughout the year to help course conditions," he said.

Aerification tools employ coring tines to remove soil.

"An aerifer pulls plugs out of turf," he said.

Resulting holes are filled with sand to aid quicker recovery.

"The goal is to fill the holes up when we're completely done," he said.

Hartshorne said aerification relieves soil compaction by removing organic matter and affects up to 10 percent of surface areas.

"It really helps to get oxygen to the soil profile," he said.

Hartshorne said aerification treatments are required annually to address thatch layer build up.

"You want to disrupt around 20 percent of your surface," he said.

By performing aerification twice annually, about 15 percent of surface area is disrupted with additional practices used to achieve the 20 percent target.

Other methods used include top dressing land surfaces.

"It's just a light dusting of sand," he said. "We've been doing it weekly since spring."

Topdressing treatments help dilute organic matter, while improving putting greens firmness and aiding plant growth.

"It helps dilute thatch," he said.

Ninja Tines have also been deployed to address ground conditions this year.

"It's like aerification but has a much smaller tine and is less disruptive," he said.

Ninja Tines are used for shallow aerification, removing materials up to two-inches deep to improve aeration and water flow.

"A lot of guys probably play behind it and hardly know we've done it," he said. "Once we get it cleaned up and rolled behind, it's not nearly as disruptive to play as aerification but is still helping us to remove some

of that material."

General Manager John Viola said a persistent layer of black thatch had developed over the past few years, but the Ninja Tines are helping to break through it.

At this point, Hartshorne estimated about one third of the recurring thatch has been disrupted from growing.

"We're making progress and it's going to take time because we're disrupting a lot of the surface," he said.

These combined efforts should significantly reduce thatch growth over the next three to four years, Hartshorne said.

"It is going to be a distant process," he said.

Verticutting is another method used this spring, which involves cutting channels across course surfaces.

"It does the top half inch," he said. "It cuts thatch at the surface and removes it."

Verticutting, which affects relatively large surface areas, will be reduced during the height of summer and resumed in the fall.

"I haven't heard too many complaints about playing behind this," he said.

Adapting watering techniques and improving drainage have also been priorities this season.

Viola said too much water is counterproductive.

The bulk of watering to maintain playing surfaces is being done by hand in lieu of sprinklers.

"That changes on a daily basis," he said. "Weather conditions drastically impacts how the golf course dries out and moves water around."

Locating and clearing existing drainage pipes is also underway.

"We've been doing a lot of work with the drainage system," he said. "We're trying to clean sand and debris accumulated over the years."

In other instances, new drainage lines have been installed to rapidly remove excess water from doused areas.

"The goal is to just get the water off of the playing surface as quick as we possibly can," he said.

Soil testing has also been increased this season.

"You might not see it because it's growing good right now, but I just want to make sure that all the nutrients that we have or need in the profile are there," he said.

Hartshorne said the goals are to improve plant health and to address summer stress conditions so putting greens can be smooth and firm.

Viola said the revamped treatment schedule has left the course in top-notch condition.

"We're doing the best we can," he said. "The place looks fabulous and better than usual at this time."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BOUNTY

The Ocean City - Berlin Rotary Club, with the help of Hocker's grocery store in Ocean View, Delaware, was able to present a food donation to Sonrise Church Storehouse and Sarah's Pantry - both Berlin area food pantries. The donation was two of nine made possible through a Rotary District 7630 grant secured by the club, jointly with Southern Sussex Rotary Club. Pictured, from left, are club member Gina Shaffer, Sarah's Pantry coordinator Marion Bickerstaff and Club Treasurer Margaret Mudro. The club normally meets every Wednesday at the Residence Inn in Ocean City. However, due to the pandemic, the club is meeting by Zoom. For more information or to join a meeting, email ocerberlinrotary@gmail.com.

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Board vote divided to document referendum

Director Parks' motion gets defeated 4-3 with cohorts deeming move aimless

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Proposed procedural measures related to the recent Ocean Pines referendum on reducing board of directors spending limits were defeated in a 4-3 vote last week, bringing into view a rift between members of the board.

In May, the association announced the results of a referendum question to limit unauthorized board expenditures to \$1 million that passed by 2,531 to 1,358 votes.

Director Doug Parks introduced a motion to memorialize the restated bylaws language, which lowers board-spending limits from the current mark of 20 percent of annual assessment fees.

Parks said the motion is not intended to raise issue with the referendum results.

"It serves, what I consider a fairly important purpose, to document the fact," he said.

Parks became concerned after researching the last round of bylaws revisions in 2008.

"There was no documentation either in the meeting minutes, or anywhere else, where they could say that they actually made that change," he said.

Parks said there was mention of pursuing bylaws changes in 2008 meeting minutes but the actual language included was glossed over.

"We would not be violating any due process ... by not doing this, but I felt that it would be important as an administratively correct procedure," he said. "We recognize the fact that the information we got from counsel



Director Doug Parks introduces a motion to document bylaw revisions stemming from the recent spending-limit referendum vote, while OPA President Larry Perrone listens prior to voting against the measure that was defeated 4-3 during the board meeting on June 16.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

was in line with what the referendum demanded."

After attending a recent meeting of the Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, Parks learned of a prior instance where language changes were lacking details.

"Jim Trummel [Bylaws committee chair], who has a very long history with Ocean Pines, said the same thing occurred in 1991," he said.

"They just don't have a general record of the information being updated as required by referendum back then," Parks added.

Director Camilla Rogers, who also serves as board liaison for the bylaws committee, broached the same subject during the meeting Parks attended.

"By voting for this motion, we are voting for the language put forth by our attorney to memorialize what we're going to do to appear in the historical record in Snow Hill," she said.

Parks said the association's legal counsel presented two options for in-

corporating the referendum-approved language changes.

"One would be to have an addendum, just the language change, [and] the second would be to have the bylaws restated," he said.

Parks said counsel expressed a preference for restating bylaw language for inclusion in required paperwork filed with Worcester County.

"That's the document that has to be filed in the depository with the county for the HOA," he said.

Director Frank Daly, who agreed that scant data exists for the 2008 bylaws revisions, suggested documenting the entire referendum process.

"We were presented with a petition, we fought a court case [and] we lost," he said.

The legal defeat resulted in the court ordering the association to conduct a referendum vote on language specified in the initial petition.

"I realize there's a document that has to go to Snow Hill but this doesn't

memorialize the path that got us to that bylaw change," he said.

Daly said the circumstances leading to the bylaws change for spending limits should be clearly documented.

Taking a different bent was Director Dr. Colette Horn.

"It was announced in the president's remarks, so it's in [meeting] minutes," she said.

Association President Larry Perrone furthered that assertion, while noting the referendum process was also mentioned in meeting minutes of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

"This information has been recorded," he said. "This, in my mind, is process gone amuck."

Perrone said the referendum was conducted and clear community sentiment was noted.

"Those results have been announced," he said. "The reason you don't see any motion in 2008 or 1991 is because it's not required."

See PINES Page 5

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STEM and golf team up for Worcester kids

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Golf and the world of science, technology, engineering and math are making for an unlikely duo on Saturday at the Ocean City Golf and Country Club.

After officials from NASA approached Dennis Naughton and Shawn Johnson, cofounders of the Snow Hill-based nonprofit Youth Care Center, the idea was formed to pair the two, with the objective being to introduce local youth to the world of STEM by pairing it with a fun activity.

“Giving these kids (this kind of) exposure, it gives them confidence about themselves,” Naughton said. “It makes them aware of what’s going on out here in the real world, beyond their street.”

“Ocean City Golf Course has been beyond generous. We get two pros, we get two tents, we get three tables. I did not expect that much generosity, but it’s a tribute to Buddy Sass and that he’s just that kind of person.”

While organizing the free program, Naughton said that the country club was the clear best choice to help. The club’s senior golf professional Buddy Sass offered his services, along with two other professionals that work for the club, and the club provided space at the opposite end of the driving range along with tents, tables and golf equipment. Chick-fil-A has sponsored the event and

provides lunches.

Participants are divided into two groups and each group alternates between STEM and golf activities, with Sass helping provide golf instruction. The program can handle around 30 children at once.

June 19 was the first time the program occurred, with this Saturday being the second. The YCC will look to provide the program as many weekends during the summer as it can, but as with any other program, availability is dependent on funding.

“(Next year) we want to offer three sessions,” Johnson said. “They con-

sist of four weeks, part virtual and part coming to the golf course on Saturday mornings — a hybrid camp. We’re looking for donors to assist us with funding. We need to raise about \$75,000 to offer after-school math and literacy help from elementary to high school students.”

Naughton said that the program has benefits even outside of STEM.

“It’s like, look, you’re not going grow up to be professional golfers but this is an opportunity to see what goes on here and see how much fun it can be,” he said. “There’s probably 50 people working at this course. You get older, there’s

a job opportunity.”

The Youth Care Center has been in operation for more than 20 years with nearly 400 kids being reached in that time, Johnson said. The organization has long endeavored to offer activities that promote exercise, education and social inclusion to underprivileged children from Pocomoke City to Berlin.

Other sports-based programs have included pitting local teens against members of Worcester County fire and police departments — an objective that Naughton said goes a long way into improving relations between authorities and the people they serve.

Pines spending limit memorialized

Continued from Page 4

Perrone said Park’s motion was a redundant measure.

“Quite honestly, as a homeowner I’m offended that this motion would be presented that we are now looking to accept the wording or results of the referendum,” he said.

Perrone also questioned Parks’ take on guidance from legal counsel.

“I spoke to counsel today [who] also believes that this is redundant and unnecessary,” he said.

Perrone said in addition to an as-

sociation press release, referendum results were widely reported in the media.

“The process we went through is well documented in our minutes from the time,” he said. “This is a mechanical operation at this point that does not need approval of this board.”

Deeming it unwarranted, Perrone refused to vote in support of the motion.

“We should have gotten his filed with the HOA repository before now,” he said.

Parks agreed there was a degree of redundancy, but attributed any offense taken by Perrone to misconstruing the goal.

“The intent of the motion is not to accept, ratify or authorize the results of the referendum but to document the language and format counsel presented us,” he said. “We can have it in meeting minutes and corporate vital records for future reference.”

The motion was voted down 4-3 with Parks, Janasek and Rogers in support.

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Viola provides departmental projects, events

Ocean Pines amenities get back to full swing as covid restrictions fade from view

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola reviewed current infrastructure projects and provided amenity updates during the Board of Directors meeting last Wednesday.

Bulkhead maintenance budgeted for the 2020/21 fiscal year is on track to wrap up by the end of next week. Viola said all bulkhead installations are completed and back filled. The final work entails adding topsoil and sod at seven lots and an adjacent park area.

The bulkhead replacement program, which was budgeted at \$1.4 million, has cost roughly \$1.13 million to date with just over \$200,000 additional expenses anticipated.

“We’re pretty much within the budget,” he said.

Turning to the Bainbridge Pond drainage project, Viola said Vista Engineering and contractor EQR are nearly finished work to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

In addition a Department of Natural Resources grant of more than



Full Circle serenaded music fans with rock harmonics at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Saturday.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

\$480,000, the association chipped in \$235,000 for an overall cost of \$717,000.

“I don’t anticipate anything being over budget,” he said.

Underwater benches for plantings have been completed in the main pond area, and the purchase and installation of greenery is next on the agenda.

Work on the forebay, an inlet area filtering water prior to flowing to the main pond, was completed on May 12.

“Plants will be placed throughout the pond on the forebay, which is all for filtration,” he said.

Road repairs are on track to kick off this month, Viola said.

In April, Chesapeake Paving was awarded a contract for \$208,000 to install an inch-and-a half of overlay on half a dozen roads, including Admiral Avenue, Carriage Lane, Drawbridge Road, Harbormist Circle, Raft Road and Tail of the Fox Drive.

The cost is \$93,000 per mile for

the 2.24 miles of repairs.

Turning to amenities, Viola said the aquatics department’s pool facilities were inspected and are licensed to operate.

“There are no capacity limits or covid restrictions,” he said. “We have turned the corner.”

Viola said only a few spots remain to be filled to hit aquatics staffing goal of 33 positions.

Swim instructors are also being hired to jump-start lesson offerings.

While outdoor pools were a “wash out” for both Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, Viola said the Sports Core Pool hosted roughly 350 guests each day to counter the downswing.

Despite early season chills, outdoor pools are now warming up as summer hits full stride, Viola said.

Recreation and Parks programs
See YACHT Page 7



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Marine Committee highlights safety checks

Group begins delving into issues with dangers tied to stray electricity along water

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Safety issues dominated discussions during the Ocean Pines Marine Activities Committee last Tuesday.

Committee Chair Gerald Horn said members are looking to investigate the potential of electricity dangers surrounding marinas.

Horn said a committee member discovered a news article exploring the frequency of stray electricity in waters near marinas.

“Evidently it’s a common problem that gets ignored,” he said. “Electricity and water don’t mix.”

While not implying the issue has occurred at the Ocean Pines Marina or the Swim & Racquet Marina, Horn said the problem has been witnessed worldwide.

Horn said next steps involve consulting with board liaison Doug Parks and coordinating to bring an electrician to explore the topic in detail at an upcoming committee meeting.

“It’s a safety thing that evidently marinas across the world face because boaters want their electricity,” he said.

With summer season in full swing and Independence Day celebrations looming on the horizon, Horn also highlighted the importance for recreational boaters to assure their pleasure crafts are seaworthy.

“The local [Ocean City] Power Squadron offers to do safety checks,” he said.

The Ocean City Power Squadron offers its Vessel Safety Check Program to assure compliance with federal, state and local laws, with a

special focus regarding onboard safety equipment.

“It’s an all volunteer organization but they’re all really experienced people,” he said.

The local group is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, whose stated mission is preventing loss of life or injuries, as well as avoiding boating-related property damage.

“It rarely costs for most services,” he said.

No-cost safety checks are con-

ducted by volunteer examiners certified by both the U.S. Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard, and serve to raise overall awareness through on-on-one interactions with vessel operators.

Penalties are not issued for deficient equipment on personal watercraft, small powerboats, yachts, sailing vessels, canoes or kayaks, but corrective measures are explained.

For more information visit ocusps.org.

Yacht Club hits high mark June 12

Continued from Page 6

are also getting back in swing, with summer camp kicking off June 21.

Family Fun Nights began on Wed. June 23, while the first summer concert in White Horse Park taking place on June 24 when the Uptown Band performs.

Recreation and Parks staff is finalizing details for Independence Day celebrations and festivities.

July 4th fireworks at the South Gate Pond in Ocean Pines are scheduled to begin at 9:15 p.m.

Cathell Road will be blocked once the fireworks truck arrives with an exact time yet to be announced.

Viola said the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club’s 2021 Summer Classic tournament held June 12-13 at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex attracted an overflow crowd.

In total, 240 players from across the region competed, for an entry fee of \$45, with an estimated 150 spectators attending.

Portions of the proceeds of the roughly \$10,000 collected from player fees, plus an additional \$4,000 generated from eight event sponsors, were donated by the Pines Pickleball Club to the American Cancer Society.

“It was well organized,” he said.

Viola also reported the Yacht Club had a record sales day on Saturday June 12.

“The Matt Ortt Companies reported the highest gross volume of sales ever on that date,” he said.

Between poolside service, indoor-restaurant sales, banquet business and outdoor band entertainment the final tally was about \$56,000 for the day.

Viola said veteran rockers Tranzfusion drew a sizeable crowd.

“The place was packed,” he said. “It was a really good night.”

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Small percentage slated to learn virtually in 2021-22

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Worcester County Public Schools officials believe the best place for students to learn is in-person, in the classrooms.

But in some circumstances — as the covid-19 pandemic spotlighted — a virtual learning environment works better. That is why officials recently rolled out a digital program option for the 2021-22 school year and gave students the ability to opt in if they want to continue learning from home.

“We really believe that kids learn best face-to-face other than in some very, very unique circumstances,” said Denise Shorts, the chief academic officer for pre-K through eighth grade at Worcester County Schools.

Those circumstances, she added, include reasons ranging from family members’ inability to get vaccinated for covid, to concerns over young students not getting the shot.

“People in the community still have health scares,” she said. “There are a lot of legitimate reasons why people want to keep virtual with their kids.”

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the deadline to

opt in to the new virtual program was June 17. Shorts and Annette Wallace, the chief operating and academic officer for grades nine through 12, said 19 students in those grades will participate.

The deadline for sixth through 12th grade students to opt in is June 30 and Wallace said 49 students had signed up so far.

The groups will use different methodologies, with elementary students engaged in a locally designed program, and secondary students in the Blended Virtual Program offered by the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium through Apex Learning.

Overall, the number of students who opted in so far are a small percentage of the district’s total 7,000 students. Wallace said that may be a testament to the differences from the one offered during the pandemic.

She explained that the new program requires much more screen time. Before, students had a flexible schedule that allowed them to complete their lessons outside of the regular school day if necessary, and they were not required to be on screen all day.

“We really wanted to take a very equitable stance as far as access to the

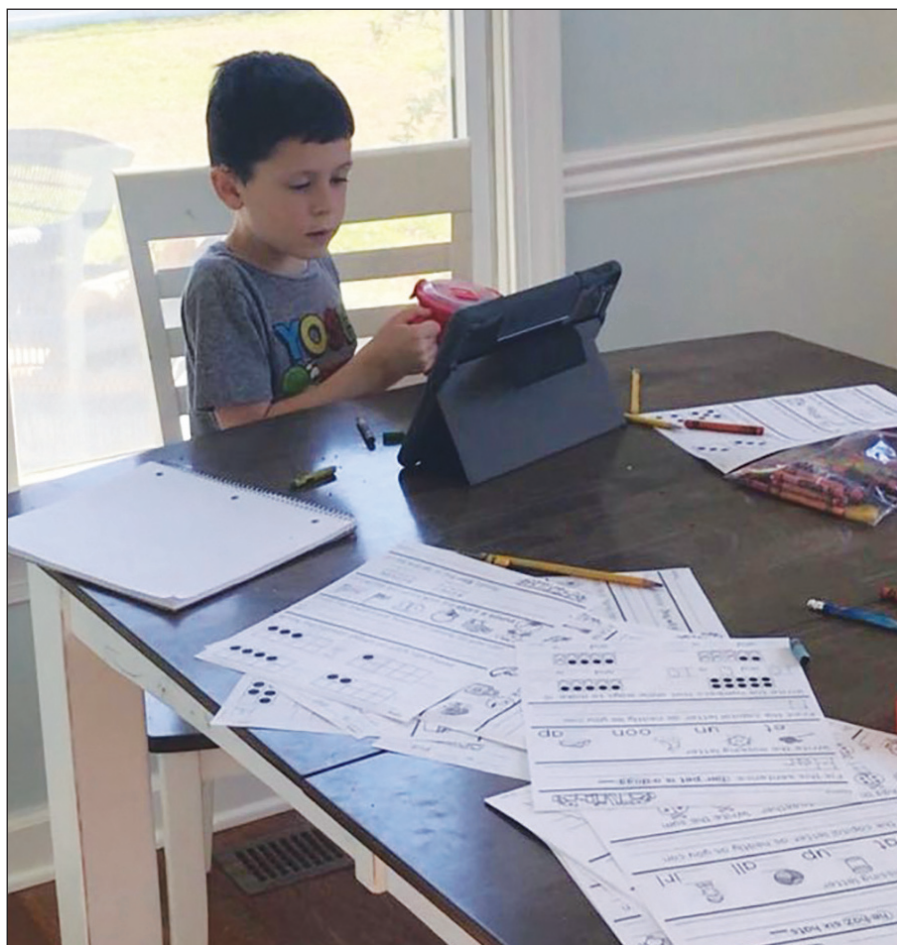


PHOTO COURTESY HOLLI WARD

Showell Elementary School first-grader Colt Ward participates in a virtual class during the 2020-21 school year before students were called back to in-person learning full time. A new virtual plan for the 2021-22 school year includes a lot more required screen time and separates online students from those learning in person.

internet and support of parents at a time when we felt like parents shouldn’t have to choose between staying safe and returning to school,” Wallace said. “There was a very flexible attendance policy.”

For next year, the virtual classrooms will mirror real ones, with students required to be on screen learning during all school hours.

“With more people vaccinated, and the metrics low, the virtual program needs to be something parents select because they want a virtual program, not because they want to stay away from covid,” Wallace explained.

Several informational sessions were held to inform students and parents of the new program and Wallace said officials followed up with phone calls to those who expressed interest.

The students who opt to learn virtually next year will also be separated from their in-person classmates instead of on Zoom screens in the rooms.

Shorts said the lower grades will have two classrooms — one for students in kindergarten, first and second grades and one for students in third, fourth and fifth grades — and the district will hire two new teachers to lead them.

“We will advertise those positions,” she said. “It takes a creative skill set to be a virtual teacher. Some teachers really acquired a skill set for that and have done very well.”

New teachers will also be hired to instruct the older students, which Apex will take the reigns on.

To learn more about the 2021-22 virtual programs, visit WCPS’ website at worcesterk12.org.



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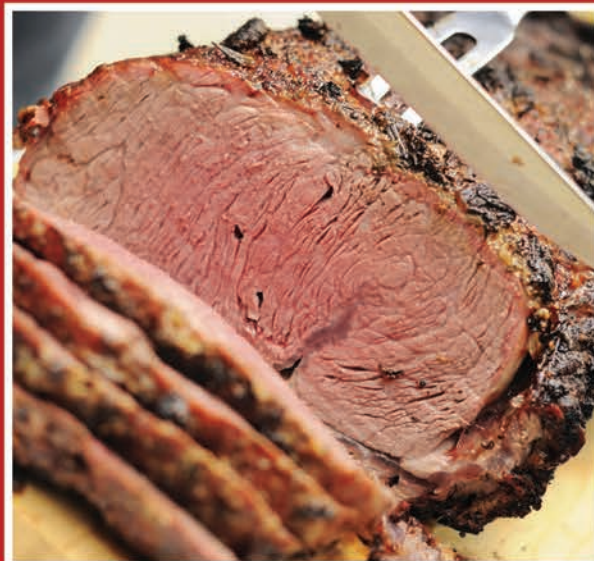
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Rental regs will need neighborhood approval

Continued from Page 1
ability to rent short-term.

The guidelines would establish formal methods to notify county government of unlicensed rentals, and ensure that that occupancy limits, noise, trash and parking regulations are followed.

"We want to implement additional objective restrictions for the mutual comfort of all neighbors," he said.

Daly said rental regulations would need to be posted in a conspicuous area within rental properties.

Casting the sole opposition vote was Director Tom Janasek, who proposed forming a work group to develop and publicize rule proposals.

"There are no rules in this [and] what is it going to cost?" he said. "It's just too wide open for me."

Janasek also questioned who would foot the bill for enforcement.

"How many CPI inspectors are we going to have to hire to do weekend work ... and answer all these phone calls?" he said.

Janasek said the proposed guidelines are identical to current county rental regulations, which were instituted a few years ago with little promise of follow-up.

"You've talked to all the good old boys who put this thing together and they say that they're not willing to enforce," he said. "They've never been questioned ... and now they are."

Pre-empting county responsibilities is not the responsibility of the association, Janasek said.

"They're going to have to start enforcing it and I don't think that we need to start getting involved in enforcing," he said. "I don't think we're going to be able to afford it in employment and all the fees we're going to have to pay attorneys."

Director Doug Parks, who lauded the years-long campaign undertaken by Daly, concurred in principal.

"This isn't some fly-by-night cocktail-napkin approach to things," he said.

Still, Parks said the guidelines to address issues with noise, litter and parking should be applied throughout



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA Director Tom Janasek questions the approach of proposed short-term rental guidelines, while Director Frank Daly, who spearheaded the effort, digests his argument, during the board meeting on June 16.

the community and not specifically for short-term rentals.

"We need to address all of those," he said.

Parks said a multi-part process is warranted.

"I want to see something more concrete with regard to the exact process that will be followed," he said. "How is the enforcement going to work, how is reporting and follow-up going to work and what's it going to cost us."

Daly said establishing a fine structure could prove challenging, noting the objections from the community when the concept was last proposed.

"They simply don't trust us," he said. "We can't eliminate 50 years of mistrust."

Daly said residents need to be convinced the current board and general manager, along with subsequent administrations, would not abuse their authority to impose fines.

"Trust is earned not given," he said.

Fine systems instituted by homeowners' associations typically include an initial warning for infractions, followed by incrementally increasing fines for subsequent violations, Daly said.

In terms of enforcement, Daly doubted the undertaking would be costly.

"There's no intent here to hire 500 people, nor do I think there's any reason to do so," he said.

Based on conversations with numerous association members, Daly said maintaining the current complaint-driven system seems preferable.

"They don't want a proactive, aggressive HOA walking around house by house looking for violations and fining for them," he said. "People have also made it clear when we bring a complaint to you we don't want you to walk away from it."

Daly also cast doubt that county officials would take charge of tracking down rental violations.

"They don't have the budget to get the resources and they don't have the resources to allocate for enforcement," he said.

Admitting extensive work remains, Daly said this initial board approval would be step one.

"We want the community to tell us what they want us to do," he said, adding that information on the regulations would be sent to property owners in the next budget mailing.

"We put out information that this question is coming out to you ... if it passes here's what it means," he said.

Director Dr. Colette Horn, who credited Daly for navigating the "long road" in pursuit of the new rules, proposed to widen to approach.

"The problems that we see with the short-term rentals have certainly been highlighted but we have also heard from a number of homeowners who have inflicted these kind of difficulties on their neighbors," she said.

Horn then announced plans to expand the motion at next month's board meeting to include long-term rentals and residential properties.

Parks agreed to back the motion after assuring residents a multi-stage process would be required to institute rental regulations.

Daly said guidelines would ultimately be approved or disapproved by neighborhood section for individual declaration of restrictions.

"This is a vote that will pass or fail in each community," he said.

Perrone acknowledged specifics have yet to be nailed down.

"The first step is to authorize doing the change in the DRs then we would have to form a group to develop the process," he said.

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Committee looks at kayak storage, playgrounds in OP

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) Kayak storage and the possibility of creating a special kind of playground was the focus of the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Committee last Monday.

Committee Chairman Steve Cohen said a new kayak storage rack has been ordered.

"We're going to hang them temporarily by the Swim and Racquet Club," he said.

The location is where outside business Ayers Creek Adventures once stored kayaks.

Cohen said the storage rack was ordered over a month ago with delivery anticipated in short order.

"It's going to be for multiple kayaks," he said.

The initial hanging rack would accommodate 18 kayaks with plans to build another unit after completing the environmental studies required by the state for wetland areas.

"Once we get the permits we're going to move them to the land," he said.

Based on public response, Cohen said the storage option is sorely needed in the community.

"There's tons of people that are in kayaks, everywhere from kids to

adults," he said. "We haven't even put them up yet and we have a waiting list."

Cohen said residents could rent storage space annually, based on availability, and would be required to provide their own locks.

"If it works out here, we're going to go to other places to put other racks up," he said.

The committee also discussed potential development plans at Bainbridge Park.

"It's all in the preliminary stage but we're talking about putting an inclusion park there," he said.

Inclusive playgrounds cater to youths of all abilities, including the intellectually challenged or physically handicapped, to provide accessible physical, sensory, and social experiences.

Progress is unlikely until at least this fall, when the Bainbridge Pond drainage project wraps up and summer camps operated by Ocean Pines wind down.

Cohen said discussions with the Board of Directors and the Worcester County Commissioners have been encouraging.

"They're all in favor of doing it," he said.

See BAINBRIDGE Page 12



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIP

Sandy Buchanan represented the Worcester County Garden Club in presenting the organization's 2021 scholarship to Emma Merritt at Pocomoke High School. Each year, a \$1,000 scholarship is presented to a Worcester County public school senior who plans to major in horticulture, botany, or agricultural, ecological, or environmental studies. Merritt chose an environmental resources management major. She is an active participant and leader in her school and community and plans to continue that involvement into college and beyond.

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Bainbridge Park being considered for inclusion site

Continued from Page 11

Bainbridge is one potential site but the end location has yet to be determined, Cohen said.

“That’s one of the places they’re looking at to build this inclusion park because there’s nothing in the whole county for the intellectually challenged ... or physically handicapped,” he said.

Besides plotting location, other planning includes selecting adaptable playground equipment options.

“We need to figure out what we can put there,” he said.

Funding questions also remain unanswered, with Cohen estimating costs could reach up to half-a-million dollars.

“It’s going to have to be a private and public enterprise raising money in the community and talking to people,” he said.

Regardless of price, inclusion parks have become a common sight elsewhere in the state.

“You go across the bridge and it seems like every county has one,” he said.

In other instances, municipalities have donated parcels of land for inclusion playground projects.

Typically, civic organizations sponsor the efforts and go about fundraising endeavors.

“There’s one in Roanoke sponsored by Kiwanis,” he said. “It took them five or six years.”

Cohen said inclusion parks also include attractions for both hearing and sight-impaired individuals.

“First of all you need a ground surface that wheelchairs can go on,” he said.

Based on comparable playgrounds in Maryland and other states, Cohen said options abound.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOP GRADES

Twenty-one Stephen Decatur seniors placed an exclamation point on their academic performances by earning straight As for 15 consecutive high school terms and over 1,000 As collectively. Normally, they would have been honored at the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist WeXL ceremony held at the Ocean City convention center, but for the second year in a row, the event was canceled due to covid.



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OP Fourth of July fireworks display to be held this yr.

(July 24, 2021) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will once again host a Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Veterans Memorial Park on Route 589 and Cathell Road.

The event this year is scheduled from 5-8:45 p.m., with carnival games, dry slides and bounce houses for children, plus live music and food and drink vendors.

Children's wristbands are \$7 and are good for all slides and bounce houses. Wristbands will be required for those attractions only.

General admission is free and open to the public.

Fireworks are scheduled to start at 9:15 p.m. and go until roughly 9:45 p.m.

The fireworks will launch from the north side of the pond, by Cathell Road. A new viewing zone will be fenced off from Manklin Creek Road to the Veterans Memorial. There will be no viewing along Ocean Parkway, from Cathell Road to Manklin Creek Road.

There will also be a "safe zone" marked by an orange fence, from the pond to the firehouse. No one may enter the marked area.

Guests may bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Parking will be available in the area near the Ocean Pines Library and Taylor Bank. Parking will not be allowed along Ocean Parkway. Limited handicapped parking will be available in a marked area just south of the Sports Core Pool.

Police will close Ocean Parkway from Manklin Creek Road to Off-shore Lane about 20 minutes before the fireworks begin. That area will remain closed until the fire marshal deems it safe.

Additionally, police will close Cathell Road from Ocean Parkway to the entrance of the Sports Core Pool at around noon, when the fireworks company is scheduled to arrive. The area will remain closed until the fireworks equipment is loaded back up.

Police and fire department personnel will help direct traffic throughout the day, and it is strongly encouraged that motorists follow their directions. Pedestrian traffic, if at all possible, is highly encouraged.

At the conclusion of the fireworks, pedestrians will be given preference over motorists. Residents and guests should expect delays throughout the day.

In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will move to Monday, July 5.

Your Online Community:
www.baysideoc.com

OP comm. cmte. election outreach

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(June 24, 2021) New means to publicize the upcoming Board of Directors election and increase attendance at the annual Homeowners' Meeting were discussed about during the Ocean Pines Communication Committee meeting last Thursday.

Committee Chairwoman Cheryl Jacobs asked how the group could help promote both the election ballot due date on Aug. 11 and the annual meeting on Aug. 14.

"How can we play a role in the community, making them understand the importance of voting for board director candidates?" she asked.

Committee member Marlene Ott inquired about mailing postcards to highlight the need for residents to cast votes for two of four board candidates running this year.

Board liaison Dr. Colette Horn asked what wording Ott envisioned for a voting mailer.

"Vote, vote, vote," Ott said.

Horn countered that lot owners in good standing already receive an election packet, which in addition to a ballot, also includes candidate profiles.

"People just throw it in the trash," Ott said.

Ott said the committee bolstering its efforts to raise awareness could lead to increased involvement in the

election process.

Ott suggested the association could produce road signs reminding the community about the board election or even plug the contest on local television news programs.



Cheryl Jacobs

"It's all a matter of getting out there and talking," she said.

Committee member Elaine Brady suggested that incorporating community message boards, which could be done in time for the Aug. 11 ballot due date, would also help reach part-time residents converging on the shore for the summer.

"At this juncture it may be the best way to reach them," she said. (Brady is the publisher of Bayside Gazette).

Ott said election promotional efforts would only require a small section of marquee signs and would not prohibit advertising upcoming events simultaneously.

"Just put down there, 'your vote matters,'" she said.

Jacobs asked Horn to confer with General Manager John Viola about placing less than a dozen yard signs in high traffic areas.

Horn proposed placing advertisements at various association amenities.

"Somewhere where people are going to be stopping and actually reading what you put on your poster," she said.

Regardless of venue, Ott said the outreach has a clear goal.

"The message that we want to get out is we care and we want you to care," she said.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said social media could also be deployed.

"Once ballots go out, we could add a banner to our weekly E-blast ... which is sent to 7,000 people on Mondays," he said. "Just saturate it."

Committee member Josette Wheatley endorsed the use of marquee signs.

"I always feel compelled to read them as I go," she said. "I don't drive that fast but I catch half coming in and half going out."

Wheatley said the other signs located throughout the community would remind homeowners to vote.

"They should be heard," she said. "It's their tax dollars at work so make it work."

Jacobs also stressed the need to drum up attendance at the annual homeowners meeting.

Davis said 2018 was the last time that a required forum of 100 lot owners attended the annual meeting in August.

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CLASS OF 2021

The 43 Worcester Preparatory School graduates received over \$6.6 million in merit scholarship offers and will attend 36 different colleges and universities in 19 states and D.C. this fall. As covid-19 restrictions lifted, this year's graduates were honored with the first-ever, outdoor WPS commencement ceremony on campus, May 28. During the socially-distanced ceremony, Head of School Dr. John McDonald announced the Top Senior Award recipients including: Valedictorian Hannah Perdue, Salutatorian Joseph Schwartz, and Best All-Round Student Summer Walker.

Mid-Atlantic Symphony forms new youth-oriented orchestra

(June 24, 2021) The Mid-Atlantic Symphony is forming a youth orchestra to give talented young musicians on Maryland's Eastern Shore and in southern Delaware the opportunity to learn, perform and create memories.

Weekly rehearsals will take place at the centrally located Performing Arts Center in Ocean City, on Tuesday evenings from Sept. 21, 2021, through May 31, 2022, culminating in a public performance at the 40th Street venue.

The Youth Orchestra is open to students in grades 6 through 12. Auditions for strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and harp will be conducted virtually and will commence this month.

"The Mid-Atlantic Symphony Youth Orchestra will provide a stimulating environment that will empower and encourage students to develop a passion for experiencing and performing classical music," said Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Music Director Julien Benichou. "Participation in a youth orchestra

not only provides challenging and rewarding development opportunities for young performers, but also cultivates the next generation of musicians, teachers, and supporters of fine music."

"Formation of the Youth Orchestra demonstrates the Mid-Atlantic Symphony's commitment to engage students in classical music through a variety of outreach programs," said Board Chair Jeffrey Parker. "We are pleased to be able to provide this exciting new opportunity to young people in southern Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

Consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony's goal to serve a diverse audience of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds, scholarships will be available to students who otherwise would be unable to participate in the youth orchestra.

Audition requirements and applications are available at midatlanticsymphony.org under the Youth Orchestra tab. Tuition for the full season is \$650; payments can be arranged upon acceptance into the



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HONOREES

The annual Worcester Preparatory School Academic Convocation ceremony was held on May 26, where awards were given for academic achievement in all subject areas and service to the school. The evening's most prestigious award honors were bestowed to the following four students. Best All-Round student awards are selected by a written vote of faculty and staff, from left, juniors Ayush Batra (Head of School Academic Award, Grades 9-11) and Sumira Sehgal (Best All-Round student, Grades 9-11); eighth grader Lydia Schwartz (Head of School Academic Award, Grades 6-8) and seventh grader Caitlin Shimko (Best All-Round student, Grades 6-8).

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For additional information, contact Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra General Manager Dane Krich at 410-917-7587, or by email at dane@midatlanticsymphony.org.

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Lower Shore Land Trust Garden Tour

(June 24, 2021) The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) will hold its first-ever Garden Tour, Friday and Saturday, June 25-26.

The tour will be self-guided and cover nine pollinator-friendly gardens across Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

Guests can visit gardens located throughout the Lower Shore and gain inspiration and resources to incorporate native plants in their gardening projects.

LSLT strives to promote good health and habitat for a variety of pollinators in urban and suburban settings on the Lower Shore by encouraging conservation landscaping.

LSLT manages a certification program to provide resources for people who wish to implement practices that support pollinator habitat. Residential, suburban and rural properties are all important across the landscape in providing critical habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

This inaugural event will support efforts to increase pollinator habitat, promote the use of native landscaping, raise awareness for the benefits of pollinators and promote the LSLT Pollinator Certification Program. Featured gardens reflect a variety of styles beneficial to butterflies, pollinating insects and birds.

A highlight of the Pollinator Garden Tour will be the raffle of "Beehives and Butterflies," an original oil painting by artist Laura Jenkins valued at \$750. The painting conveys the artist's eye for color and love for nature.

Raffle tickets cost \$20 each or get three for \$50. See the painting online or visit the Lower Shore



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OUTREACH

The Republican Women of Worcester County held a meet and greet for Republican women living in the central part of Worcester on May 15, at The River House Inn in Snow Hill. More than 40 women attended. Pictured, from left, are hosts and owners of The River House Inn, Rick Lesser and Dwayne Mease, with President of RWWC, Beth Rodier, accepting a donation. To learn more about Republican Women of Worcester County, visit www.gopwomenofworchester.org.

Land Trust Conservation Center in Snow Hill during the Garden Tour.

Tickets for the tour cost \$25 in advance or \$30 day-of. They can be purchased online at www.lowershorelandtrust.org.

Sponsors are: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Laura Jenkins, Baked Dessert Café, Eastern Shore Forest Products, Goody Hill Sand and Gravel, Rural Maryland Council, John and Jenny Bauer, Church

Mouse Thrift Shop, Assateague Island Surf Shop, Ayers Creek Adventures, Bruder Hill and Bruder Home, Nancy Howard, Inland Bays Garden Center, and Mother Flowers.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is a nationally accredited 501(C)(3) nonprofit that is dedicated to preserving rural lands, promoting vibrant towns, and to building a healthier and more connected Eastern Shore.

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Town of Berlin Public Notice



NOTICE

Pursuant to The Code of the Town of Berlin Section 108-163, "Conditional Uses, Variances, and Special Exceptions", and Section 108-166, "Limitations, Guides, and Standards" the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals will hear an appeal received from Maple Avenue of Berlin, LLC and contract purchaser UTR Ventures, LLC for a Conditional Use to construct 33 multi-family townhouse dwelling units on the parcels located on Maple Avenue, Berlin, MD known as Worcester County Tax Map No. 301, Parcels 0801, 0802, and 0803 in accordance with Code Section 108-375, "Conditional Uses".

In addition, the appellants seek a Variance from Section 108-715 (1) b., to reduce the required width of each dwelling from 18 feet wide to the designed 16 feet in width.

Both appeals will be heard during the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to be held Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM, in the second floor Mayor and Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

OCD-6/24/2t



BERLIN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Pursuant to the Code of the Town of Berlin Section 108-163, "Conditional Uses, Variances, and Special exceptions", and Section 108-165, "Variances", the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals will hear an appeal for a variance to Code Section 108-246 (b) (1) and (2), "Other Exceptions to Yard Requirements" received from Mr. Loren Hershberger to erect a 6 foot tall fence encroaching into the front yard where 4 feet high is the maximum permitted, at 7 Cape Circle, Berlin, MD during its meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Mayor and Council Chambers, on the second floor of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William street, Berlin, MD.

OCD-6/24/1t

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LOCAL NEWS

Ferrante lauded by AGH Foundation

(June 24, 2021) The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and general membership expressed their appreciation on June 9 to Todd Ferrante, outgoing foundation chair, for his many years of service.

Ferrante joined the Foundation Board in 2011 and served two years before being nominated to join the Executive Committee as vice chair. In 2015, he became board chair.

Over the last seven years, the AGH Foundation has seen his leadership take on different forms, from his innovative ideas and strategic and forward thinking to his tireless efforts to increase the credibility and visibility of Atlantic General Hospital in the community and surrounding areas.

His fundraising efforts helped secure the largest single major gift to date, a \$4 million donation from the Gudelsky Family Foundation to the hospital's Campaign for the Future.

"Board service is the toughest volunteer role, and he took on his duties with dedication, grace and compassion," said Steve Green, incoming AGH Foundation chair. "We thank him for his amazing ability to connect community members to AGH, his willingness to support every fundraiser, his advocacy efforts to ad-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and general membership expressed their appreciation on June 9 to Todd Ferrante, outgoing foundation chair, for his many years of service. Pictured, from left, are Steve Green, incoming chair, Atlantic General Hospital Foundation; Ferrante; and Caroline Phillips, development officer for Atlantic General Hospital.

vance hospital goals with town, city and county representatives, his leadership, his service as a judicious steward of our organization and, most of all, his compassion for his community."

Ferrante will remain an active member of the AGH Foundation

Board and AGH Board of Trustees.

"With great gratitude, we thank Todd Ferrante for his contributions to the success of our organization and outstanding service to the Worcester County community," said Michael Franklin, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital.

Business Briefs

New CIO

Blue Water Development, a premier real estate investment and outdoor hospitality management company, recently named Carl Kruelle as chief investment officer.



Carl Kruelle

As the first CIO in Blue Water's 19-year history, Kruelle will be based out of Blue Water's corporate office in Ocean City.

A graduate of the University of Delaware, Kruelle possesses over 20 years of experience in real estate investing, financing, asset management and capital raising.

Prior to joining Blue Water, Kruelle was president of PEG Capital Partners, chief investment officer of Roch Capital, chief lending officer/chief credit officer of Applied Bank, and president and founder of Broad Creek Capital.

In his new role at the company, Kruelle will manage all aspects of Blue Water's investments. This will not only involve continuously assessing and analyzing the performance of the 21 properties that the company currently owns or manages (plus seven RV resorts and four hotels under development), but also supporting its strategic growth in the outdoor hospitality sector as a whole – with a particular focus on its rapid geographic expansion.

Blue Water, founded by Jack and

Todd Burbage in 2002, specializes in transforming properties to upscale/luxury assets by primarily focusing its portfolio on already-developed properties, with growth potential, in desirable locations near a body of water and/or public park lands.

Blue Water also has extensive experience in the entitlement and ground-up construction of resort hotels and RV resorts. Learn more, visit <https://bwdc.com/portfolio/>. To contact Kruelle, email ckruelle@bwdc.com.

New location

Katherine's Keepers, a locally-owned home care agency, committed to providing high quality, patient-centered care in the comfort of the home setting, recently opened an office in Ocean Pines, at 11021 Nicholas Lane, Unit 10 Berlin, Maryland 21811.

The agency believes that everyone deserves to be cared for in a dignified manner, while nurturing the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

Under the direction of an experienced nurse, Katherine's Keepers' caregivers gain a thorough understanding of the individual needs of clients, ranging from personal care, including bathing, toileting, and ambulating, to companion care, including transportation, light housekeeping, and medication reminders.

It offers flexible scheduling, covering needs ranging from a few hours

per day to around-the-clock care.

Katherine's Keepers was founded in 2013 in Bel Air, Maryland by three women: Patti Dresher, Trish Getz and Carole Matejevich. In 2018, Dresher's daughter, Megan, joined the team after Getz's retirement.

Their dedication to providing high quality care has endured for the past eight years, earning Katherine's Keepers the 2020 Best of Harford award for Senior Care.

In May 2021, the business continued to grow, as Dresher's son, John, opened the Worcester County office of Katherine's Keepers in Ocean Pines. To learn more, call 410-497-8997.

Reither awarded

Nancy Reither of Coldwell Banker Realty was named one of America's most productive sales associates as a part of RealTrends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professionals, a ranking report produced by RealTrends and Tom Ferry International.

Reither is now a repeat member of the "America's Best Real Estate Agents," and ranked number 9 for transaction volume with 50 million in closed sales and ninth for transactions with 90 sides for the state of Maryland. The America's Best are

Continued on Page 17



Nancy Reither

AGH undertakes behavioral health

(June 24, 2021) Atlantic General Hospital has launched an integrated behavioral health program designed to reduce barriers to needed counseling and treatment for its health system's primary care patients.

The medical community has come to recognize the strong link between mental wellbeing and physical health and has begun to correct a decades-old inclination to treat behavioral health – or the emotions, biology and behaviors that affect one's wellbeing – as an afterthought.

Yet, significant gaps in care remain. According to the American Hospital Association, more than 40 percent of

the roughly 44.7 million Americans living with mental illness receive behavioral health care each year.



Diane Skolka

Through the use of telehealth technology, the integrated behavioral health program at Atlantic General allows patients to receive the care they need right in their primary care provider's office.

Embedding this service in the primary care office allows providers to refer patients with an acute behavioral health concern for care same-day. It

also makes it easier for individuals who live in southern Worcester County or in Sussex County, Delaware, to get the care they need without additional travel to Berlin, where the behavioral health center is located.

Any patient of an Atlantic General Health System primary care provider is eligible to receive behavioral health services via video visit.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for patients to receive the behavioral health care they need," said Diane Skolka, who is a board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner with Atlantic General and the dedicated provider for this service. "Patients can speak to their primary care provider for a referral, or simply call Atlantic General Behavioral Health Center to set up their first appointment."

Counseling services and medication management are available. Patients can call 410-641-3340 to schedule an initial consultation by video. The service is covered by most insurance, just like in-person visits with a behavioral health provider. For more information, visit www.agh.care.

Open Air Job Fair to be held at Elks in Pocomoke July 14

(June 24, 2021) Meet prospective employers from across Worcester County and choose from hundreds of seasonal and year-round jobs at the Open Air Job Fair Wednesday, July 14, at Elks Lodge #1624 in Pocomoke, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. Employers offering competitive wages and signing bonuses will be accepting applications and hiring onsite.

No registration is required. Come prepared to apply and interview. Training and transportation resources will be available onsite.

This event is being hosted by the Town of Pocomoke, Worcester County Chambers of Commerce, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, and Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED).

Space is also available at no cost for employers who would like to participate.

This event will take place rain or shine. For more information, contact WCTED Workforce Engagement Specialist Jackie Trieu at jtrieu@co.worcester.md.us or at 410-632-3110.

Business Briefs

Continued from Page 16 ranked in 10 categories.

RealTrends America's Best Real Estate Professionals ranks over 18,500 residential real estate professionals solely based on their excellence in real estate sales during calendar year 2020. All production numbers are independently verified by a third party to ensure accuracy and report integrity.

This group of highly successful real estate sales agents represents the top 1 percent of all real estate practitioners in the United States.

To qualify for inclusion, an individual

agent must have closed at least 50 transaction sides or \$20 million in sales volume in 2020. For real estate agent teams, the minimum is 75 transaction sides or \$30 million in closed sales volume.

"I'm pleased and honored to be ranked on this ranking of the country's top residential real estate agents," Reither said. "It represents the time and effort that we put into each client that we serve and how much work it takes to build a successful real estate career. The level of sales it takes to qualify makes it a special recognition."



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Snapshots



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AWARDED

Sponsored by the Worcester County Garden Club, Stephen Decatur Middle School student Renata Lovitt was recently presented with an award for placing first in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019-2020 Youth Poetry Contest. Lovitt wrote the poem, "My Grandmother's Garden," when she was in sixth grade, but restrictions imposed during the covid pandemic delayed the award. Pictured, from left, are Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools Louis H. Taylor; Lovitt; and Worcester County Garden Club Youth Contests chairs Joanne Kirby and Brigid Slavin.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW MEMBER

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently welcomed a new member during a luncheon meeting at the Memorial Pavilion in White Horse Park. Regent Gail Weldin, center, and past Chaplain Ann Fowler administered the oath of membership to Jena Chambers, left. The granddaughter of a deceased chapter member, Chambers was admitted into the DAR on July 5, 2020. Her Revolutionary War ancestor is Capt. Matthew Purnell of Maryland.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DRAWING

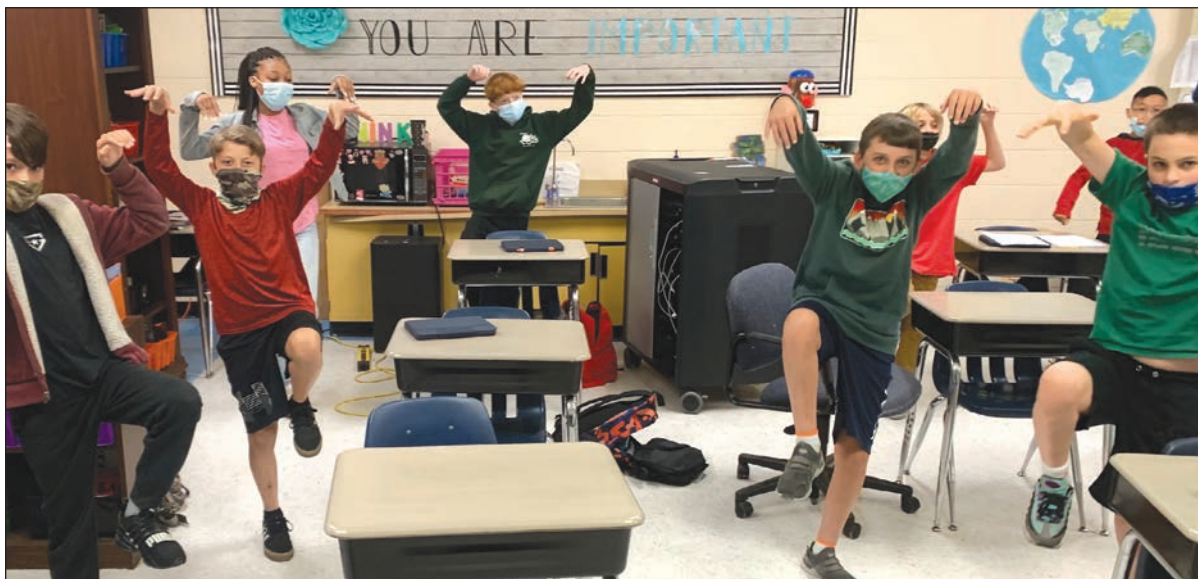
Members of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently drew the winning tickets for its annual Boat Show raffle. The club was unable to have the boat show this year due to covid, but boat dealers stepped up and donated \$57,000 worth of prizes. First place was a pontoon boat with a 50hp motor donated by North Bay Marine, which was won by Maxine Brisbane, right. Club members, from left, are Bill Brown, Bill Hickey, Charlie Dorman, Melva Middleton, Christina Dolomount Brown, Lew Frey with Brisbane.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECOGNIZED

Betty Johnson Whitehead was recently presented with a certificate marking her 25 years of dedicated service to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Whitehead, a member of General Levin Winder Chapter, was accepted into the DAR on Dec. 2, 1995. Her patriot is James Stevenson of Maryland. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education. For more information, visit www.dar.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MAKING LEARNING FUN

Students in Ashley Miller's class at Berlin Intermediate School were reviewing dialogue and editing sentences for correct punctuation by "karate chopping" and inserting punctuation where needed. Pictured is Logan Shelly, Foster Wakefield, Ariyanna Johnson, Aiden Buchheit, Jack Ritchie, Chandler Muller, Ben Marino and Jayden Ye.



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

SCHOLARSHIP

Alexis Graybill recently received a \$6,000 Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Youth Foundation scholarship. She graduated from Stephen Decatur High School on June 2, and will attend the University of Maryland at College Park in the fall.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

READY FOR COLLEGE

Worcester Prep graduates wear T-shirts representing the colleges they will be attending this fall. All 43 members of the graduating class will be going to a four-year college, and half of them have attended Worcester Prep since Pre-K or Kindergarten.

Ocean Pines named 'Safest City' in Maryland

Safewise website selects Eastern Shore community based on crime statistics

(June 24, 2021) The Ocean Pines Association General Manager's Office announced last week that Ocean Pines, while technically a homeowner's association, was recently named the "safest city" in Maryland by website Safewise.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings.

According to the site, the violent crime rate in Ocean Pines has dropped in each of the last three years, from 1.7 per 1,000 people in 2019, to 1.1 per 1,000 in 2020, and 0.7 per 1,000 in 2021.

Ocean Pines moved up one spot in the Safewise ranking from last year, when Taneytown was named the safest community in Maryland.

The only other local city on the top-10 list was Berlin, at number six. Other Eastern Shore communities ranked included Easton (#17), Fruitland (#26), Salisbury (#34) and

Ocean City (#38).

"I am glad to have Ocean Pines back in the number-one slot," Police Chief Leo Ehrisman said. "We would like to thank the homeowners for being so involved in reporting suspicious activity early and assisting with activity information recorded on their home surveillance systems. The community can only remain at this level of safety with the help of the public.

"We thank the public for the involvement and the support they bring to the police, which again keeps the officers connected to the public, and

the public connected to the police," he added.

General Manager John Viola credited the challenging and tireless work by Ehrisman and his entire department.

"Our Police Department continues to make our community one of the safest in the region, and their new state-of-the-art facility, opened last year, should serve Ocean Pines for many years to come," he said.

To view the full report, visit <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safe-st-cities-maryland>.

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UNITY

The Worcester County Commission for Women (WCCW) gathered for its first in-person meeting since covid in May at the John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill. The Friends of WCCW joined them for a spring meet and greet.

Worcester GOLD's Annual Appeal underway

(June 24, 2021) Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) is currently seeking donors to support the 2021 Annual Appeal.

Proceeds provide emergency assistance for urgent needs like housing, utilities, and basic needs for children and vulnerable adults.

“Even before the pandemic, 40 percent of Worcester County residents were unable to afford their basic needs,” said Executive Director

Nicholas Cranford. “While our community continues to recover, we must remain committed to serving those living with low-income. With your help, we can continue our mission to prevent tragic outcomes for our neighbors in need.”

To donate, send a check to 299 Commerce St, Snow Hill, Maryland; or visit WorcesterGOLD.org.

Worcester County G.O.L.D., Inc. (Giving Other Lives Dignity) a

501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides financial aid and basic needs items for Worcester County residents living in poverty and low-income circumstances.

It believes no member of the community should suffer without access to basic needs like housing, utilities, food, clothing, and items for children and vulnerable adults. In addition to emergency services, GOLD offers special programs like summer activi-

ties for at-risk youth, school supplies for students, Thanksgiving turkey meals, and Helping Hands for the Holidays.

For more information, contact Nicholas Cranford at Nicholas.Cranford@maryland.gov or 443-235-6525, visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org, or email WorcesterCountyGOLD@gmail.com. Check out Worcester GOLD on Facebook and Instagram.

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Bathtub Races in Berlin slated for July 9 on Main St.

(June 24, 2021) Many people love taking time out in the bathtub, but few have experienced the thrill of racing one. Those who have dreamed of taking the tub for a spin, however, will have the opportunity when the Berlin Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Bathtub Races on July 9.

Aside from the novelty of it all, racing a tub allows businesses to advertise themselves to a crowd bent on having fun.

The Welcome Center at 14 S. Main Street Berlin, will allow access to their parking lot all day for parking bathtubs. Teams will meet at 5:30 p.m. for check-in, inspection and rules. The parade will begin at 6 p.m., with races starting at 6:15 p.m.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services will set up a Kid Zone with arts and crafts projects that will allow children to create clothespin puppets and spin art snails. There will also be craft bags available for them to take home, plus downtown shopping and dining will be available.

For more information on the Bathtub Races visit the Berlin Chamber Office website at <https://berlinchamber.org/events/bathtub-races/> or call 410-641-4775.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HONOR WREATH

In observance of Memorial Day, the Worcester County Garden Club placed a wreath at the Veterans Monument in downtown Berlin. The wreath was designed and created by member Sue Ann Hudson. Pictured, from left, are Hudson, Deb Young, Martha Bennett, Suzy Young and Pat Arata. Individuals interested in learning more about Worcester County Garden Club can contact the membership chair at WorCtyGardenClub@gmail.com.

OP Women's Club awards \$1,600 to community groups

(June 24, 2021) The Women's Club of Ocean Pines has awarded \$1,600 in community donations to several local organizations for 2021.

Organizations receiving funds are: Coastal Hospice, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Outreach, Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Stories Love Music, Town Cats, Women Supporting Women, Worcester County Humane Society Thrift Store, Worcester County Veterans Memorial, and

Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Service.

Its sponsorship of scholarships and community donations are achievable only through a successful fundraising year. The donations are limited to organizations that promote the welfare and interests of the residents of Ocean Pines.

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Opinion

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Rental regs vs reality

The question about to be posed to specific neighborhoods in Ocean Pines is whether their property owners are willing to include OPA short-term rental regulations in their declarations of restrictions.

This follows the vote last week by the board of directors to give the association the authority to act on complaints about noise, litter and parking problems that sometimes occur at housing units used as weekly vacation rentals.

How neighborhoods react to this proposition ought to be interesting, since the board's plan to reduce unruly behavior at these locations still lacks a detailed explanation of how it intends to get the job done.

So far, all the board has agreed to do is to add the county government's short-term rental rules to the association's governing documents, so it can enforce these restrictions if the county does not.

In other words, the unknowns far outweigh the facts that neighborhoods will be asked to consider. Chief among these uncertainties is the matter of enforcement. That continues to be problem in the county and Ocean City, both of which have yet to come up with a truly effective and constitutionally acceptable way to deal with disruptive, but not illegal, behavior by disrespectful vacationers.

The rapid increase in the number of property owners working through online brokers such as VRBO and Airbnb has outstripped the ability of communities to monitor the situation.

Further, any action by the authorities depends on complaints filed by neighboring property owners, whose reports of violations often come in after the fact.

Neither the county nor Ocean City want to end up in court by penalizing a property owner on the basis of a citizen complaint that's not been verified by someone in authority. Instead, these entities do the best they can with what they have.

Although short-term rental regulations attempt to address a real problem, they can't, for constitutional reasons, exercise substantial control. There's nothing wrong with what the directors are trying to do, but it remains to be seen if their approach will accomplish what the county and Ocean City have not been able to do so far.



Patriotic Freedom 5K race in Pines

(June 24, 2021) Local and regional runners are invited to join the fun this Fourth of July during the 10th annual Freedom 5K, sponsored by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

This patriotic trot is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines.

Runners will dash through scenic areas of the

Pines and may show off their best USA-inspired outfits. Timing for the event will be provided courtesy of Overland Timing.

Awards will be given to male and female first-through third-place finishers in nine different age groups, from 10 and under to 70 and over. An award will also be given to the best dressed runner.

Preregistration, \$25, is open through July 2. Visit www.raceentry.com/races/ocean-pines-association-freedom-5k/2021/register for more information.

Day-of registration is \$35 and starts at 7:15 a.m.

For more information or questions, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052 or visit www.oceanpines.org.

Pines informational email address

(June 24, 2021) The Ocean Pines General Manager's Office continues to promote the use of one central email, info@oceanpines.org, for all general information questions and concerns.

Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin and Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski handle questions sent to that email address and redirect them to the proper person or department, if needed.

Additionally, the Ocean Pines Association is asking that general phone questions go to 410-641-7717 during business hours, or 410-641-7747 to reach Ocean Pines Police after business hours and on weekends.

The Ocean Pines website, www.oceanpines.org, also now has an "Questions, Concerns & General Info" banner with contact

information.

General Manager John Viola implemented the new policy in February, and he said the results so far have been promising.

"We feel this has improved our overall customer service and helped people to get their questions answered in a timely and professional manner," Viola said. "Please continue to use info@oceanpines.org for all general inquiries."

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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We invite you to share your opinion, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FRESH FACES

Initiation of new members into the Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645 on May 15 was held in the Flaig-Wagner Hall at the lodge. Exalted Ruler Ritchie Herron conducted the initiation.

**OPEN HOUSES
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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., June 24

'TAILS AND TALES' SUMMER READING WALK UP REGISTRATION

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m.-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. Register today and get a Summer Reading Swag Bag (free book, T-shirt and more). Register for a library card too. 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Meeting via Zoom, 4-5 p.m. These classes uplift and improve mood. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice without being seen. Register: [worcesterialibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under events.

MEN'S HEALTH ZOOM PRESENTATION

Held 6-7 p.m. Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85384784460?pwd=aEZPenV5R2VFalMzMIVpSERtTE9oZz09> Meeting ID: 853 8478 4460, Password: 181364. Sponsored by Worcester County NAACP. 508-304-1929

FAMILY BEACH GAMES

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free interactive fun for the whole family. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Parents must stay with their children. Weather permitting. <http://www.ococean.com>.

Fri., June 25

5TH ANNUAL TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, Berlin. Hosted by three spectacular courses in Ocean City. <https://esg-magazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-sponsored-by-under-armour/>, 443-528-7945

COVER THE CRUISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Boardwalk at North Division Street, Ocean City, noon to 10 p.m. Purchase a torch-run T-shirt or hat, or make a monetary donation to receive a pledge card. The goal is to cover the vehicle with as many pledge cards as possible.

4TH FRIDAY STREET FESTIVAL

Downtown Pocomoke City, Market Street between Front and Second streets, 5-8 p.m. Theme is Captain America. Kids dress like super heroes and meet Captain America. Featuring artists, vendors, activities, live music by Neal Hooks and food and drinks. downtownpocomoke.com, 410-957-1333

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8:30-11:59 p.m. Featuring "Christopher Robin." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

Fridays - Columbus Hall, behind St. Luke's Church, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required while moving around inside. 410-524-7994

DEADLINE TO RSVP FOR OPERATION SAVE-A-LIFE KICK OFF EVENT

The event takes place on June 29 at Jolly Roger Amusement Pier, 2:30 p.m. Buddy Jenkins will open his businesses to have Narcan available for patrons in need. Executives from the Opioid Operational Command Center will be on hand. RSVP: Debbie Smullen by June 25 at wgpwarriors2021@gmail.com or 410-870-5161. Operation Save-A-Life makes Narcan available to any restaurant, bar, hotel or retail establishment that requests it.

Sat., June 26

5TH ANNUAL TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, Berlin. Hosted by three spectacular courses in Ocean City. <https://esg-magazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-sponsored-by-under-armour/>, 443-528-7945

THE PARKE GARAGE SALE

The Parke at Ocean Pines, 2 Arcadia Court, Berlin, 7 a.m. to noon. The Parke residents are selling their treasures in their driveways. Maps will be available at the main entrance at Central Parke West. Raindate is June 27. 410-208-4994

2021 'TAILS AND TALES' SUMMER READING WALK UP REGISTRATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register today and get a Summer Reading Swag Bag (free book, T-shirt and more). Register for a library card too. 410-632-2600

COVER THE CRUISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Boardwalk at North Division Street, Ocean City, noon to 10 p.m. Purchase a torch-run T-shirt or hat, or make a monetary donation to receive a pledge card. The goal is to cover the vehicle with as many pledge cards as possible.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., June 27

5TH ANNUAL TOUR UA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles

Nest Road, Berlin. Hosted by three spectacular courses in Ocean City. <https://esg-magazine.com/ocmd-golf-magazine-tour-info/the-tour-sponsored-by-under-armour/>, 443-528-7945

SUNDAES IN THE PARK

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy free music and each week children are offered various free activities and entertainment. Ice Cream and beverages available for purchase. Followed by the new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com>.

OC DRONE SHOW

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 9-9:30 p.m. Come experience Ocean City's new drone show. <https://www.ococean.com/events/oc-drone-shows2021>

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through September - Downtown Berlin, 9:00 AM - 1:00 pm. More than 30 farmers, bakers, distillers and more. Live music, live bunnies, real bee hive and free kids art projects. <https://www.berlinmainstreet.com/farmersmarket/>

Mon., June 28

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME 'BATHTIME & BUBBLES'

Held via Zoom, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Children ages 2-5 years join in for interactive stories, songs and rhymes. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

ENGLISH PAPER PIECING MEET UP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, 3:30-5 p.m. Pick up a kit from any branch and join the group in the Snow Hill branch garden to learn the art of English Paper Piecing. For ages 10 years and older. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Meeting in-person and via conference call. Reservations for in-person: Rose Champion, 443-880-8884. For call-in option, dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874.

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8:30-11:59 p.m. Featuring "The Croods: A New Age." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

Tues., June 29

REPTILE WORLD OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to

noon. Held in the garden, weather permitting. Meet an interesting selection of live, large, gentle reptiles from all over the world. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

REPTILE WORLD OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin. 2-3 p.m. Held in the front yard, weather permitting. Meet an interesting selection of live, large, gentle reptiles from all over the world. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

PRIDE FILM SERIES: 'TO BE TAKEI'

Held via Zoom, 6-7 p.m. Actor/activist George Takei and his husband, Brad, look at the life of this pop culture icon. Discussion to follow. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

FAMILY BEACH GAMES

27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free interactive fun for the whole family. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Parents must stay with their children. Weather permitting. <http://www.ococean.com>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities. Members and guests welcome. dance@delmarvahand-dancing.com, 443-783-4872, <https://delmarvahanddancing.com>

Wed., June 30

REPTILE WORLD INDOOR PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Meet an interesting selection of live, large, gentle reptiles from all over the world. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Kids ages 8-11 years join to discuss the book, "The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane" (available on Hoopla). Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under events.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: 'THE BOOK OF PRIDE: LGBTQ HEROES THAT SAVED THE WORLD'

Meeting via Zoom, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This book contains interviews and biographies of a diverse array of heroes of the LGBTQ movement, both well-known and unsung. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org.

MOVIE ON THE BEACH

Carousel Hotel, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30-11:59 p.m. Featuring "Dolittle." Weather permitting. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

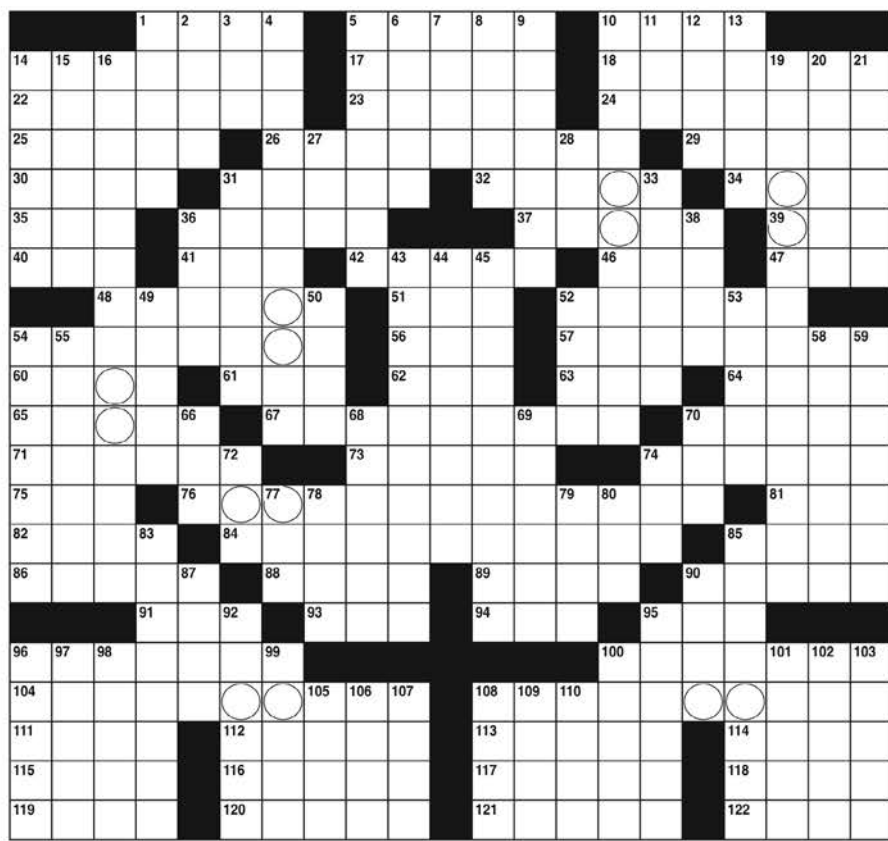
Puzzles

MAPLE LEAF

BY STEPHEN MCCARTHY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Stephen McCarthy, originally from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, is a Ph.D. student studying transportation modeling in Stockholm. He made this puzzle last September, about a month after moving. "I was homesick, and this was a way of connecting to my home," he said. In his spare time, McCarthy plays Ultimate Frisbee, sings in the Stockholm Gay Choir and makes and solves crosswords. This is his first published puzzle. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Writer who created Oz
 - 5 "Obviously," in slang
 - 10 First word of "A Visit From St. Nicholas"
 - 14 "... with possibly dire consequences"
 - 17 _____ Berliner, pioneer in phonograph records
 - 18 Lex Luther, to Superman
 - 22 Raised
 - 23 Bit of asparagus
 - 24 Alternately
 - 25 Lines up
 - 26 Agitated
 - 29 Pricey
 - 30 M.L.B. team with a big "W" in its logo
 - 31 Rx order
 - 32 "Revolution," to "Hey Jude"
 - 34 Space-scanning org.
 - 35 It may be bitter
 - 36 Like bees
 - 37 Not _____ (mediocre)
 - 39 Clear weeds, in a way
 - 40 Part "missing" from p.s.i.
 - 41 Mystery writer Deighton
 - 42 Words cried after "Go"
 - 46 Abbr. after a price in a Craigslist ad
 - 47 Lt.'s inferior
 - 48 Decidedly
- DOWN**
- 1 Québec's _____ St-Jean
 - 52 Soft drink since 1905
 - 54 Young hombre
 - 56 Biblical verb ending
 - 57 Instruments for Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
 - 60 German auto since 1899
 - 61 "That'll teach you!"
 - 62 Pigeon English?
 - 63 Basketball champions' "trophy"
 - 64 Gillette brand
 - 65 Leader of the house?
 - 67 "Love is love," e.g.
 - 70 Pallid
 - 71 Outlets, e.g.
 - 73 Something that might lengthen a sentence?
 - 74 Moneybags
 - 75 High school hurdle whose first two letters, phonetically, sound like one of its former components
 - 76 Like all the answers with pairs of circled letters, punnily
 - 81 Programming pioneer Lovelace
 - 82 Seasons in Québec
 - 84 15th birthday celebration
 - 85 Tomtit is another name for it
 - 86 Talks up
 - 88 Classical Icelandic literary work
 - 89 Title letters chanted in a 2011 Katy Perry hit
 - 90 Oldsmobile Cutlass model
 - 91 Financial org. once deemed "too big to fail"
 - 93 Newfoundland, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 94 Serpentine swimmer
 - 95 Root-beer brand
 - 96 Veterans
 - 100 Range within which you can answer the question "Can you hear me now?"
 - 104 Six-time winner of the N.H.L.'s Art Ross Trophy, born in Saskatchewan
 - 108 "24" and "Suits" actress, born in Halifax
 - 111 Princess who says "Why, you stuck-up, half-witted, scruffy-looking nerf herder!"
 - 112 Dish served on a skewer
 - 113 Congresswoman Omar
 - 114 Actress Lena
 - 115 Suppliers of the milk for Roquefort cheese
 - 116 Singer Mary J. _____
 - 117 Moves quickly and lightly
 - 118 Not only that
 - 119 Rehearsal, e.g., in slang
 - 120 Approvals
 - 121 You can believe it
 - 122 "Likewise"
 - 4 Alberta city named for an eagle-feather headdress
 - 5 Like some birds or dolls
 - 6 Excite
 - 7 Rank
 - 8 Stops talking, with "up"
 - 9 Mettle that may merit a medal
 - 10 Two-player game invented in Toronto
 - 11 Sardonic
 - 12 _____ of Parliament
 - 13 Stops talking, with "up"
 - 14 "Nice burn!"
 - 15 Battle _____
 - 16 Seasonal destination near Quebec City
 - 19 Program introduced by the Trudeau government in 1984, colloquially
 - 20 Approximate weight of the Liberty Bell
 - 21 Spots
 - 27 Advocacy grp. that filed for bankruptcy in 2021
 - 28 Words at an unveiling?
 - 31 Cry after an award is announced
 - 33 Woman's short hairstyle
 - 36 Portrayer of Senator Vinick on "The West Wing"
 - 38 Level or bevel
 - 43 Like some outlets
 - 44 Desert planet of "Star Wars"
 - 45 Be batty, in a way?
 - 49 Canuck, e.g., for short
 - 50 Capital of Qatar
 - 52 Like bells in carillons
 - 53 Part of L.C.D.
 - 54 Some salon supplies
 - 55 Like Rochester and Syracuse, but not New York City
 - 58 Novel convenience?
 - 59 Band whose 1999 hit "Smooth" spent 12 weeks at No. 1
 - 66 Sleep stage
 - 68 Overturns
 - 69 "Very high," on a fire-danger scale
 - 70 Iowa Cubs baseball classification
 - 72 Et _____ (footnote abbr.)
 - 74 Federal regulatory org.
 - 77 Rose or lilac
 - 78 "Where _____ go wrong?"
 - 79 Novelist Gaiman
 - 80 Pound sound
 - 83 Thrown together
 - 85 They might help with changing your locks
 - 87 One with a phony personality?
 - 90 Snake oil, purportedly
 - 92 Passes
 - 95 Central route thru town
 - 96 Leers at
 - 97 Frederick who composed "Camelot"
 - 98 Helps a dishwasher, say
 - 99 One source of oil
 - 100 Cheer
 - 101 Shout, informally
 - 102 _____ Wars, conflicts of 1839-42 and 1856-60
 - 103 It may be perfect or simple, but not both
 - 105 Big elevator maker
 - 106 \$15/hour, e.g.
 - 107 What most spiders have eight of
 - 108 Hitchhiker's need
 - 109 International fashion magazine
 - 110 Climb, as a rope
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 49 Canuck, e.g., for short
- 50 Capital of Qatar
- 52 Like bells in carillons
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HARD - 89

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Cuisine

Lo-carb wrap with eggs, veggies and meat

I am becoming one of 'them.' I changed my eating habits way back in February, giving up soda and sugary foods, and if you know me, you understand that this is a huge undertaking.

I am a sugar junkie, or at least I was until this year. I was known for making a bowl of my mother's famous chocolate-mocha icing and

just eating it with a spoon.

Now, I can look at candy and ice cream at the store and it doesn't even faze me. I mean, I have had one soda in the last four months, and while it was delicious, that's all I wanted. I stopped right there.

As Father's Day approached, my daughter Gabbie decided to make me breakfast. It was a strange day, as we had to cater a wedding that evening (who gets married on Father's Day?), so Gubs (my nickname for my youngest girl) decided to let me relax in the morning and get my head straight.

As she approached me on Saturday, she was very serious and wanted to know what I could eat. I told her that it was super easy: no grains of any kind or carbs and sugars.

"So, meat, seafood, eggs (whole of course), bacon, and vegetables and fruits with good fats and low net carbs. As such, avocados, tomatoes and lettuce were high on the list. She roasted some Brussels sprouts and asparagus, both on the nice list, and made an amazing morning wrap for me. Fairly simple and straightforward, this went a long way to give me the boost that I needed for the full day of work coming up.

Probably the biggest paradigm shift for me has been in the endurance sports: running, swimming, paddling and cycling. At almost 53 years of age, I have spent decades carb-loading before a big race. Plate after plate of pasta with lean meat adorned my table prior to big rides or paddles, and we were all told that carbs are necessary for energy.

Enter a new mindset and it appears that we have been led astray. We don't need carbs for energy, instead being able to utilize healthy fats that can be found in grass-fed beef, wild salmon, nuts, avocados, coconut, et al. For the first few weeks, I thought it was rubbish, and then something special hap-



pened. My joints started to hurt less.

My mobility improved and I started losing weight, all while eating the foods that I was raised to avoid. One day, I decided to test out this "you don't need to carb-load" nonsense. I went on a two-mile jog and then an 11-mile bike ride. I pushed myself enough to be able to feel it, and much to my surprise, my sustained energy never waned.

What is it with this madness? I won't get into the politics of food, although there are a great many movies out there addressing some of the issues that we have in our food chain. And unless you decide to shop on the outer ring of your local grocery store, you are going to be filling your body with all sorts of interesting concoctions.

Now, I am not lecturing anyone here. Please do not think that I am. When I get a hankering for pizza, I like to go and get a piece of pizza. Aforementioned Coke? Guilty as charged. If for some reason a little pint of ice cream screams to me, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. But, I have learned that my body and mind are

definitely in a better place when these things are not a regular part of my meal plan.

Now that Father's Day has come and gone, it is time to push through the rest of the summer and feed the masses. I think we are done with weddings for a bit, which is great. Some of those cakes are tasty, and it's hard to walk by the table so many times without stealing a cupcake.

But with a little self-restraint, I can go months without any sweets. Or can I? Honestly, mom's famous chocolate-mocha icing would hit the spot right about now. But, no I can't do it. I know how it will make me feel afterwards. I'll just stick with my good foods for now.

Egg & Veggie lo-carb Wrap

serves 4

4 large romaine leaves
1 c. halved brussels sprouts
1/2# Asparagus spears
Olive oil, as needed
Seasoning of your choice
12 whole eggs
8 slices bacon, cooked

2 c. Cooked chicken breast
1 avocado, sliced
1 c. Cheddar cheese
hot sauce (optional)

1. Wash and dry the whole romaine leaves and set aside.

2. Toss the vegetables with the oil and season.

3. Roast the vegetables in a 400F oven until cooked al dente. Set aside until ready to cook and assemble.

4. At go time, heat a frypan and coat with oil, butter or pan spray.

5. Scramble the eggs, adding a little water or milk if that's your thing.

6. Add the roasted vegetables and chicken, season and top with the cheese to melt.

7. Spread this mixture onto the romaine leaves and top with the bacon and avocado.

8. Add hot sauce if you like. My go-to is Hank Sauce which is the best out there.

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

Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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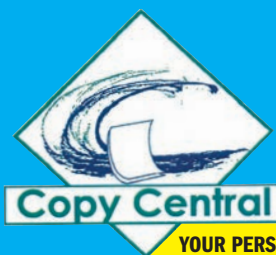


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