



Fiddlers will bow in Berlin this weekend

Banjo, guitar players will share stage during town's 29th annual convention

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) After taking a pause in 2020, the annual Fiddler's Convention returns to downtown Berlin this Friday through Sunday. Berlin Chamber of Commerce

Deputy Director Steve Frene said the 29th year of the musical extravaganza will see a few tweaks to the kids and adults' competition on Saturday.

"It's one of Berlin's biggest festivals [and] the only one that goes for three days," he said. "In past years, we've actually had the competition live on Saturday."

Frene said the approach was altered this year with youth and adult competition winners performing and

receiving awards on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"What we did is we had musicians submit videos," he said. "We looked at about 15 entries."

After shutting down the event in 2020 because of the pandemic, Frene said the layoff helped spur many pickers to upload content online.

"It's really the Saturday part that's going to be just a little bit different," he said.

In past years, youth and adult performers would convene for an extended competition on Saturday with winners selected that afternoon.

"They'd have to come up on stage and play live and be judged," he said.

With upwards of 30 players in peak years, the number has dropped as low as 10 more recently.

"We've noticed a dwindling of competitors over the years," he said.

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LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BIG TRUCK DAY

Hundreds attend "Big Truck Day," held in Worcester County Veterans Memorial park in Ocean Pines last Saturday, to explore an assortment of equipment and vehicles including a Coast Guard boat, fire trucks, dump trucks, tow trucks and tractors.

OP to release property owner survey Monday

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) After gaining sign-off from the Board of Directors last week, a property owners' survey created by the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee is being released

on Sept. 27.

Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairman Bernie McGorry presented survey specifics and related costs during the board meeting on Sept. 15.

"We feel pretty good about where we're at," he said. "We've had ... good

input from a lot of good homeowners."

McGorry said the Communications Committee assisted in developing plans for distributing and collecting survey data.

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Directors OK county plan for irrigation

Project will use treated effluent on OP Golf Course

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners got what they wanted from the Ocean Pines Board of Directors last Wednesday — unanimous support for a county plan to convert the Ocean Pines Golf Course irrigation system to one that sprays treated wastewater instead.

The commissioners are prepared to spend more \$3 million to make the switch from a system that draws and disperses groundwater to keep the greens green to one that is fed by harmless treated effluent from the county wastewater treatment operation in Ocean Pines.

The board's decision last Wednesday to write a letter of support follows a town hall meeting held jointly by both entities on Sept. 9.

Worcester County Public Works Director Dallas Baker and Deputy Director John Ross teamed with General Manager John Viola and Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne to host the town hall meeting last week.

Director Frank Daly, who opened the discussion during the board

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OP board endorses spray irrigation project

Continued from Page 1
meeting on Sept. 15, said county officials thoroughly vetted the subject the week prior.

“They also have asked us ... to issue ... a letter of support for the proposal, so it can move forward,” he said.

In January 2020, the Ocean Pines Service Area Water & Wastewater Advisory Board was authorized by the county to explore using highly treated effluent to irrigate greens and fairways.

“Highly treated effluent” is defined as water meeting current Maryland Department of the Environment Bay Restoration standards.

Daly said Viola compiled a list of questions following the recent town hall meeting, which was included in meeting minutes that evening.

“A lot of those questions came from the public,” he said.

Daly said other inquiries were received about the present system’s state of repair and costs for annual maintenance.

Viola said underground piping feeding the current system dates back half a century.

“Obviously, it functions and waters every day,” he said.

While still operational, maintenance costs for the irrigation system have become exorbitant.

“We have done repairs there, but

it’s ready to be replaced,” he said.

Ballpark estimates for annual upkeep run between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for parts, with labor further boosting costs.

Hartshorne said the sprinkler system has been run at reduced rates this year due to capacity limits. “We’ve been making a lot of adjustments [and] trying to use less water as much as possible,” he said.

Hartshorne attributed the proactive measures to the advanced age of infrastructure.

“We’re trying not to force the issue and make it fail,” he said.

Viola said the current irrigation system would likely be insufficient for use with treated effluent.

“If we took the effluent water ... we don’t believe the pipes we have right now would be capable of handling the pressure,” he said. “It was recommended to replace the entire system.”

In terms of project costs, during the town hall meeting Ross said building the irrigation infrastructure is estimated at roughly \$2.8 million, with another \$400,000 needed for piping to transport treated effluent to the golf course.

Additionally, Worcester has budgeted \$3.5 million to replace a belt filter press at the Ocean Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Director Frank Daly opens discussions about a proposal from Worcester County to use treated effluent water at the Ocean Pines Golf Course last Wednesday.

“We’re looking at a total of \$6.8-\$7 million,” he said.

In terms of impacts on water bills, Ross said the \$6.8 million expenditure would add \$16 per quarter for Ocean Pines ratepayers, which would be largely offset by upcoming savings.

“In 2002, we constructed a plant addition down there,” he said. “In 2022, that plant debt service will be paid off ... saving approximately \$12 a quarter.”

The tradeoff would mean quarterly

bills increase about \$5 to pay back the nearly \$7 million project costs.

Viola said installation work would take about five months to be completed, with tentative time frames between November and March. “That’s the time of the year where there is not a lot of play,” he said. “We’re talking about one or two holes for [perhaps] a day ... it doesn’t concern me if it’s done between November and March.”

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Fiddlers rosin up their bows for weekend

Continued from Page 1

Frene said submitted video performances were judged last month.

“The winners had to be able to come to Berlin to perform,” he said. “Everybody said ‘yes.’”

Besides catching video competition winners, fans on Saturday will also be treated to some amazing child performers

“The things that they love is to see the kids play music,” he said. “We have a couple of children performers that have been selected to be honorable mentions who have agreed to come and perform.”

Headlining acts run all three days of the Fiddler’s Convention, starting with the Gina Furtado Project on Friday from 7-10 p.m.

“She is actually a former competitor at the Fiddler’s Convention from many years ago,” he said.

Furtado has been nominated three times as banjo player of the year by the International Bluegrass Music Association.

“She’s an excellent award-winning banjo player,” he said. “She’s an emerging star.”

Saturday’s line-up opens with a live set by the U.S. Navy Band Country Current at 2 p.m.

“They’re world renowned,” he said.

Country Current, the Navy’s premier country-bluegrass ensemble, performs both modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass.

“They have a Bluegrass unit,” he said.

In addition to hitting the stage at numerous bluegrass festivals throughout the U.S. since its inception in 1973, in 2011 Country Current was the first military band to appear at the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas.

In the same vein as Friday’s headliner, Country Current member Patrick McAvinue also competed in

the Berlin Fiddler’s Convention as a youth.

“It’s a nice story that two former child competitors actually came back to be paid performers,” he said. “It brings it full circle.”

Frene said witnessing young players grow into seasoned national performers captures the essence of the Fiddler’s Convention.

“We’re trying to reinforce children and they’re playing of this music,” he said.

Saturday’s bill also includes the West King String Band at 3:30 p.m.

On Sunday, bluegrass and gospel cross paths.

“Sunday is what we call the ‘Bluegrass and Gospel Jamboree,’ that is hosted by my band, Stevenson’s Crossroads,” he said.

Stevenson’s Crossroads play with Blue Crab Crossing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Gospel music always has played a big part in bluegrass,” he said. “That’s kind of a way of paying homage to the great giver of

talent.”

Unlike past events when Sunday’s acts played on the Taylor House Museum lawn, the gospel-themed set will take place on the Main Street stage.

Frene said the main stage would be set on the north end of Main Street by the Sterling Tavern on Friday and Sunday, while on Saturday acts will perform on the south end by the Atlantic Hotel.

Frene said ample parking options are available including a free shuttle on Saturday.

“We’re going to have a shuttle on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Berlin Intermediate School,” he said.

In addition to town parking lots, both the Berlin Fire Company and Buckingham Presbyterian Church will have parking available for a donation.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The Dixie Bell Daisies compete in their home town as a group during the 2019 Berlin Fiddler’s Convention. The 2021 event will take place this weekend.

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Ocean Pines community survey goes live

Continued from Page 1

Ocean Pines property owners' survey, which was last conducted in 2018 with 1,800 respondents, seeks comments from residents on the development of long-range planning and association priorities.

McGorry said the goal for survey responses is 1,000 evenly divided between full and part-time residents.

"Any larger than 1,000 the margin of error is small," he said.

Returns from families with and without children are of high priority.

"The last survey was unrepresented by younger families," he said.

McGorry said Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis has been instrumental in survey design and development.

While primarily an online survey,

additional options are being deployed to provide residents access through alternative means.

"It's a hybrid approach," he said.

McGorry said 2,500 "reminder business cards" containing a phone-scan QR code would be placed at select locations, including the Sports Core Pool, Yacht Club, Golf Course, Ocean Pines Library, the Administration Building and Community Center.

"Go right to your phone and take the survey," he said.

Also, McGorry said 300 hard copies and collection boxes would be available, split between the Administration Building, the CPI office and the Parke.

Lastly, surveys can be requested by phone or email. Other marketing efforts for the survey include press releases and a hy-

perlinked banner planned on the association website.

McGorry said the survey would be conducted for minimal costs.

"The bottom line is \$650 to print some things," he said.

Additionally, a \$1,260 premium was paid for Survey Monkey, which is active through next year.

"Hopefully, we will do other surveys," he said.

The survey total expense is far below end totals incurred to send out hard copies in 2018.

"I'm not sure of total costs last time, but it was at least \$8,000 for mailing," he said.

Director Dr. Colette Horn, who serves as Strategic Planning liaison, introduced a motion to approve distribution plans and related costs that

received unanimous support.

To access the survey, visit survey-monkey.com/r/OPPPropertyOwnerSurvey.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee co-chair Bernie McGorry details the development of a property owners survey during the Board of Directors meeting last Wednesday.

Suspicious packages found to be harmless bags of dirt

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) Suspicious containers spotted by Berlin Public Works crews in Stephen Decatur Park last Thursday were declared harmless by emergency responders who were called to the scene to investigate.

According to a release issued by the Berlin Police Department, the incident began just prior to 1 p.m. on Sept. 16 when public works staff noticed two steel military ammunition cans while trimming grass in the park on Tripoli Street.

Public works personnel and town staff said the weight of the steel containers implied they contained something.

After being alerted about the dis-

covery, Berlin Police contacted the Worcester County Fire Marshal office to respond to the scene, but also decided to have the containers x-rayed.

In short order the Ocean City Bomb Squad arrived and deployed a robot to scan the containers using portable x-ray equipment.

After reviewing the scan data, bomb squad members moved in for a closer inspection after donning protective gear.

Investigators eventually determined the ammunition cans concealed plastic bags filled with a clay-like soil.

Police suspect someone was using the weighed-down cans for exercise purposes and inadvertently left the items behind.



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Communications cmte. talks videos, surveys

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept 23, 2021) In addition to tossing out ideas for future video projects last week, the Ocean Pines Communications Committee discussed the residents survey and a “History Panel,” event slated for next month.

Committee members reviewed details for a “History Panel” live discussion being held at the Ocean Pines Community Center on Sunday, Oct. 10 from 2-4 p.m.

Speakers will include long-time residents Sue Adkins, Jack Barnes, Sharyn O’Hare, Gloria Richards, Alta Weiss, and Ed Moran.

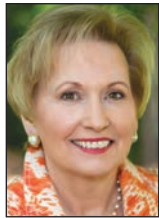
Communications Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines will moderate the panel discussion, which is part of the larger Worcester County History Week celebration between Oct. 10-16.

The panel event looks to build upon the recently released video, “Early History of Ocean Pines, with Marlene Ott and John Talbott.”

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski said the online piece by Ott and Talbott provides a look back from two Pines veterans.

“Doing that video was a good segue to this event,” she said.

Ott and Talbott have roots in the local real estate market tracing back to the late 1960s when Ocean Pines was established.



Cheryl Jacobs

Ott, who also serves on the Communications Committee, said numerous neighbors expressed enthusiasm after watching the on-line video.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said the “Early History,” segment has been the most popular installment on the Ocean Pines Academy at 173 views, which was far exceeded by 800 Facebook views.

“It got a lot of traction on Facebook,” he said.

Committee Chairwoman Cheryl Jacobs asked about promotional efforts for the online Ocean Pines Academy.

“It’s a wonderful resource for people wanting to know how we operate in Ocean Pines,” she said.

In April, the Ocean Pines Academy went online featuring 20 video segments about community operations, amenities and other topics.

The virtual academy serves as an educational tool about the Ocean Pines Association and includes links to community-related websites and governing documents.

Malinowski said the assorted video content was featured in weekly e-blasts sent to members starting in the spring.

“We kind of cycled through those,” she said.

Jacobs recommended the online academy should be highlighted during the panel discussion in October.

Ott suggested including a flyer highlighting the Ocean Pines Academy in the welcome packets given to new residents.

In terms of developing further content for the online academy, in addition to filming the history panel in October, Ott proposed a Halloween segment about two relatively obscure graveyards in Ocean Pines.

Although previously unaware of their existence, Jacobs concurred with the concept.

“I had no idea there were graveyards,” she said.

Ott said a largely unknown graveyard exists on Admiral Avenue in south Ocean Pines.

“The one on Admiral Ave where the mailboxes are there’s seven or eight gravestones,” she said.

The second site is located on Easton Avenue in the Parke.

“They are very quiet neighbors,” Ott said.

Jacobs concurred with the assessment.

“They’re the best kind aren’t they?” she said.

Committee members also reviewed the upcoming release date for a property owners’ survey that was developed by the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning

Committee.

Davis said the Board of Directors approved the survey during its meeting one day earlier.

“The go-live date is Sept. 27,” he said.

Last conducted in 2018, the property owners’ survey seeks comments from residents on the development of long-range planning and association priorities.

In addition to a press release, marketing efforts for the survey include reminder cards and a hyperlinked banner planned on the association website.

Also, business cards containing a phone-scan QR code will be distributed.

“It will be mostly electronic but people can also request it by mail, phone or email,” he said.

Dais said a limited supply of surveys would be available at the association administration office the CPI office and the Parke.

“Sounds like were hitting it on all cylinders,” Jacobs said.

The next virtual Communications Committee meeting is Oct. 21 at 10 a.m.

To learn more about Ocean Pines Academy, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/ocean-pines-academy.

For details about the slate of events for Worcester County History Week, visit facebook.com/WorcesterCountyHistoryWeek.

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OP Bylaws reviews updates, annual report

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee last Friday updated information compiled for an associated work group and prepped for its annual report to the board of directors.

Committee Chairman Jim Trummel said status and summary reports are nearly complete and ready to be forwarded to the bylaws review work group.

“The work group met yesterday,” he said.

In addition to Trummel, work group associates include Communications Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines and Directors Doug Parks and Camilla Rogers.

“I told them the committee had effectively finished our review,” he said.

Prior to receiving feedback from the work group, the Bylaws Committee has virtually zero tasks left, Trummel said.

After mulling the matter, work group members opted to wait for the bylaws committee to submit its report package.

Trummel said the workgroup would begin to study contents of the status and summary reports once submitted.

“Probably about two weeks after we send, it they will review,” he said.

Committee member Lora Pangratz asked if the workgroup agreed that the



Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members, clockwise from left, Lora Pangratz, Jim Trummel, Bob Hillegass and member-in-waiting Steve Jacobs convened virtually last Friday.

committee reports should be submitted together.

“Is it easier for the workgroup to get all our information at once?” she asked.

Trummel said the consensus of the workgroup was after all data is received discussions could commence regarding next steps toward the end goal of issuing recommendations for bylaw lan-

guage revisions for Board consideration.

Committee member Bob Hillegass supported submitting a combined report package to the bylaws work group.

“To the best of our knowledge, we didn’t miss anything,” he said.

Trummel said additional guidance from the bylaws work group would be required on several items.

“We’ve covered everything that was sent to us,” he said.

Turning to new business, committee members discussed an annual report due by Oct. 31.

Bylaws section CO1 mandates advisory committees submit annual activity reports by the end of October.

“We want to discuss what could or should go into our report,” he said.

Trummel said after cancelling bylaws meetings following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in Spring 2020

the group began virtual gatherings this February.

“Our primary activity has been working on the bylaws,” he said.

Besides working with the bylaws review work group the committee has also drafted language amendments for resolution CO4 and worked on reviewing governing documents.

“That’s basically our activities this year,” he said.

The committee’s annual report also includes requests for items in the next association fiscal year budget that commences on May 1.

Trummel suggested the cost for staging a referendum vote should be among budget considerations for the next, or potentially current, fiscal budget.

“Any amendment of the bylaws will require a referendum,” he said.

Even though the language revisions

See PINES Page 7



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MCBP rings in 25th year with outdoor movie

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) It’s generally not good news these days when environment-related stories make headlines. But there will be plenty to be proud of when the Maryland Coastal Bays Program hosts its 25th Anniversary Celebration at Berlin’s Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery on Thursday.

The event features an outdoor screening of the 2018 documentary, “The Biggest Little Farm,” which chronicles how former Ocean City resident John Chester and his family developed a sustainable farm in southern California. Chester, a Stephen Decatur High School graduate, directed the multiple award-winning film, and Erica Messer, also formerly of Ocean City and a Stephen Decatur High School alumna was executive producer.

There will also be live music, a silent auction, demos, children’s activities and food and refreshments.

Pines committee weighs revisions

Continued from Page 6

being developed by the bylaws work group probably will not be presented to the community for consideration before May 1, other issues could boil to the surface sooner.

For example, Trummel noted the current litigation concerning the board election and disqualification of candidate Rick Farr.

“I think we need to identify potential costs resulting from efforts that we are deeply involved in,” he said.

Trummel recommended alerting the board about the referendum costs and attorney review fees.

Before the group’s next gathering in October, Trummel proposed compiling committee members’ input on the annual report

“By Oct. 15 we will have something ready to be adopted and sent to the board of directors,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY SANDI SMITH

Maryland Coastal Bays Program staff pose for a drone picture in 2018 at the site of the Bishopville dam restoration project, one of many projects the organization has undertaken over the last 25 years to improve the ecosystem in the coastal bays region.

“We’re excited to have folks celebrate our silver anniversary,” said Sandi Smith, MCBP outreach and marketing coordinator. It’s a casual outside event that caters to our community ... We know we will be seeing a lot of our supporters and are hoping that people that are not familiar with our program will come out and check us out. Thank you to many generous donors.”

The coastal bays program began in 1996 but can trace its roots back to 1990. The Committee to Preserve Assateague Island — now called Assateague Coastal Trust — and the Worcester Environmental Trust and other local agencies and community members organized a conference to “draw attention to the growing threats to the coastal bays and to the need for a coordinated strategy to protect them,” Smith said.

The conference eventually led to

the program’s creation, cementing it as one of the EPA’s National Estuary Programs.

“(MCBP) exists to protect and enhance the watershed, which includes Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Berlin, and Assateague,” Smith said. “The watershed is more than just the five bays, it includes more than 189,000 acres of land, 71,000 acres of water, 248 miles of shoreline, and nearly 35,000 acres of wetlands.”

Smith said the nonprofit focuses on restoration, monitoring, education and outreach programs. The “consensus group” works with the public and partners that include the Towns of Ocean City and Berlin, Worcester County, the National Parks Service and numerous state departments. These partnerships produce and lead to the implementation of management plans for the coastal bays watershed.

Those partnerships are vital to the program’s success, Smith said.

“We started featuring MCBP heroes — folks that provided the foundation to get MCBP to this level — in our monthly newsletters this year. Now that we are eight months into it, we realize there are truly so many amazing individuals that had built the foundation. We will have to continue featuring individuals for many years to come.”

When asked why MCBP is important to the local community, Smith said it was the other way around.

“It’s the community who is most important to MCBP,” Smith said. “We are a tool to help preserve our watershed by working through partnerships engaging the community on solutions for cleaner waterways.”

In 1999, the coastal bays program published its first Comprehensive

See MCBP Page 8



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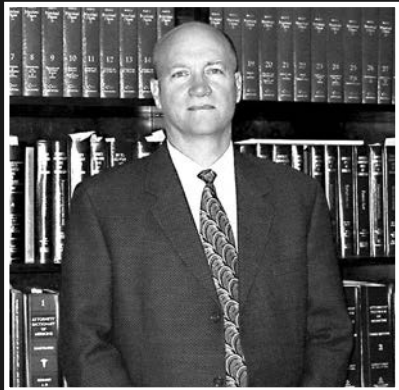
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PHOTO COURTESY SANDI SMITH

Staff members of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program gather for a photo. The nonprofit is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an outdoor movie on Thursday.

MCBP anniversary set for Thurs.

Continued from Page 7
Conservation and Management Plan, which Smith called a blueprint for public agencies responsible for protecting natural resources.

“The report is a good tool for citizens interested in the programmatic steps necessary to accomplish this board goal and is updated every 10 years,” Smith said. “It keeps partners and the program in check with defined goals.”

In 2009, Department of Natural Resources ecologist Dave Brinker joined Coastal Bays environmental scientist Dr. Roman Jesien to preserve nesting areas for bird colonies by working with others to replenish nesting areas with dredge spoils. The spoils of dredging local bay channels, originally shipped off for disposal, were used to replenish Skimmer Island in Assawoman Bay, Smith said.

“Replenishing nesting islands is still a work in progress as to how to establish a successful formula,” she added. “However, this year they piloted a different approach, with partners and the community creating nesting platforms and currently monitoring the results in hopes we can create solutions (local) threatened shorebirds.”

In 2000, the idea of restoring the Bishopville Pond and its feeder streams was introduced, including the creation of a fish passageway into the pond by removing an old dam.

The project was completed in 2014, Smith said, and has been a clear success over its seven years.

Other programs and projects completed or continuing include a water quality monitoring program, restorations at Lizard Hill sand mine in Berlin, Ilia Fehrer Nature Preserve in Berlin, Greys Creek Nature Park in Bishopville and the recent Assateague State Park shoreline project.

“Most of these projects are still a work in progress and are successful due to our partnerships,” Smith said. “MCBP will be launching a program called ‘Trail to Restore the Shore’ at the end of (September) where you can personally experience each property.”

Looking to the future, Smith said the program wants to connect with the agriculture community and wants to improve its connection to students, teachers and residents “to understand the complexities and the benefits this community brings to the table.”

“MCBP is also evolving its environmental education program (and) addressing more current issues and needs, and hopefully within the next several years (we can) house an education facility,” Smith said.

The 25th-anniversary celebration is \$20 for adults and free for children. Visit <https://mdcoastalbays.org> for more information or to purchase tickets in advance.



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Viola updates OP financials with budget up \$1.1 million

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) Ocean Pines good financial performance in July and August has put the association roughly \$1.1 million ahead of budget for the first four months of its fiscal year, OPA General Manager John Viola reported last Wednesday

During July, the association took in \$254,000 more than budgeted in revenue, while spending just \$23,000 more than budgeted, for a net improvement of \$231,000.

Viola told the board of directors during its Wednesday session that “organic growth in revenues” from golf, aquatics, racquet sports and banquet operations in food and beverage were responsible for the gains.

On the departmental level, the Ocean Pines Yacht Club closed the month \$79,200 ahead of budget, followed by golf operations at \$77,400, aquatics at \$29,500 and the beach club at \$20,300.

Viola also reported strong revenue figures from banquets catered by food contractor Matt Ortt Companies.

“They’re knocking it out of the park,” he said.

Ending July in the red was the Recreation and Parks Department at \$25,300 short of budget estimates.

Viola attributed the dip in Recreation and Parks receipts to timing.

“They will be on budget later this year,” he said.

Although full details on August’s performance aren’t available yet, Viola reviewed a “flash” report for the month that showed a positive variance against budget of \$158,600.

Leading the pack for positive net operating figures last month was food and beverage at roughly \$50,000, followed by aquatics at \$41,400, public works/general maintenance at



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola details year-to-date financials through August during the Board of Directors meeting last week.

\$36,400, police at \$18,500 and golf at \$12,100.

Viola also told the board that golf operations are about \$220,000 favorable to budget through August, with significant revenue anticipated next April to close the fiscal year.

Other departments singled out by Viola for stellar financial performance were aquatics and food and beverage.

Through July, year-to-date figures for aquatics hovered \$148,800 above estimates, while positive budget variances for food operations included the Yacht Club at \$208,000, Beach Club at \$70,000 and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille at \$45,800.

“Revenue is heavy the first four to five months,” he said, and than expenses usually run higher later in the budget year, Viola said.

Worcester issues last call for Volunteer Spirit Awards

(Sept. 23, 2021) There’s still time to nominate county residents, organizations and businesses whose volunteer efforts make the community great, for the 2021 Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards.

The nomination deadline has been extended through Sept. 30.

Nominations will be accepted in each of the following nine categories: paramedic response champion, emerging leader, faith-based, lifetime achievement, veteran, local business, group/team, individual, and nonprofit volunteer program.

Nomination forms may be filled out and submitted online at www.worcestervolunteer.org. Once there, click on “News.”

Hard copies will also be available at all five branch libraries, the County Administration Office in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Human Resources Director Stacey Norton at 410-632-0090 or snorton@co.worcester.md.us.

Spirit Award nominees will be recognized for their contributions by the Worcester County commissioners in October.



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Horn requests alternatives to turf grass pitch

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) Although a comparison of geese control methods was requested, the Ocean Pines Board last Wednesday considered a proposal to test a patented form of turf grass to deter wildlife around ponds by the North and South Gates.

Director Tom Janasek, who serves as liaison for the Environmental & Natural Assets Committee, said various means of controlling geese populations have been investigated since euthanizing fowl was pursued in 2018.

After looking at numerous approaches, Janasek said Environmental Committee member Sharon Santacroce suggested researching FlightTurf.

“Basically ... it’s patented grass that geese don’t like the flavor of,” he said.

FlightTurf was invented by Christina Kobland nearly a decade ago and has proven effective at discouraging fowl from congregating near airport runway fields.

FlightTurf is used at numerous airports across the country, including Baltimore-Washington International and San Francisco International.

“It’s turf grass that was developed for airports, specifically to prevent geese flying into planes,” he said. “It’s not inexpensive.”

FlightTurf runs about \$2,600 per

acre without installation costs.

Janasek said further details would be needed to estimate costs for Public Works to install the turf grass.

“The committee is asking for permission to do a test area at the North Gate pond [to] see how it works over a year,” he said.

Janasek said low maintenance is another perk to planting FlightTurf.

“Instead of being cut every two weeks ... it’s cut twice or three times a year,” he said. “It doesn’t take as much water to keep it live and growing.”

Janasek said the slow-growing grass would also deter deer that help spread ticks from feeding in the vicinity.

“Obviously, it’s an expense but if it works there it could be planted around the Veterans Memorial in order to keep the geese from congregating,” he said.

Janasek asked board members to review the proposal and return to the topic at their October meeting.

“When we had the issue with the geese a few years ago, there was a lot



Ocean Pines is considering testing turf grass formulated to deter wildlife at the North Gate Pond.

GREG ELLISON/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

of dissension in Ocean Pines and we don’t need to create any more of that,” he said. “It’s just another option for geese control.”

Association President Larry Perrone said he recently saw decoy foxes used to deter fowl at an area golf course.

“In the whole round, I saw one goose around the water,” he said. “I’m not sure if that’s a feasible option.”

Janasek said decoy predators will lose effectiveness if they are not rotated regularly.

“We’ve looked at every single thing you can imagine for geese deterrent,”

he said.

Director Colette Horn asked for a list of less expensive options.

“In light of all the work ... done looking at other alternatives the committee seems to be ruling out ... it would be instructive for the board to be educated to what those other options are,” she said.

Janasek said the data is readily available and would be provided for the next board meeting in October.

“We have all that in files from the last few years after the last issue happened,” he said.

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OP GM updates projects, amenity revenues

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) With autumn about to just arrive last Wednesday, Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola provided updates on amenity performance and projects during the Board of Directors meetings.

Starting with the Manklin Meadows Racquet Center, Viola said work to paint new lines on pickleball courts has been authorized.

The project, which was recommended by the Racquet Sports Committee, costs \$800 to line two pickleball courts and make the locations multi-purpose.

Bouncing over to the Ocean Pines Golf Course, turf maintenance during the height of summer heat and humidity was reviewed.

Viola said Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne has spearheaded grounds crew efforts to aerate the site.

“Greens are better than they’ve been in last three to four years,” he said. “The course is in the best overall shape I’ve seen it in 12 years.”

Beautification of common areas is underway with enhanced landscaping already completed at the North Gate, White Horse Park campus and the Wood Duck I and II neighborhoods.

The next spots on tap for attention are Salt Grass, Teal Bay and Bay Colony.

Work to spruce up over a hundred fire hydrants is being completed through



Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola, left, is joined by Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne to update course conditions at the conclusion of summer during the Board of Directors meeting last week.

a partnership with Worcester County and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Of the 176 hydrants requiring maintenance, 96 have already been addressed, Viola said.

In addition to clearing out overgrowth surrounding hydrants, repainting the red sections is also taking place.

Bulkhead repairs, which were slated to start next month, are already underway and on track for early completion. In late July, the board of directors approved an emergency expenditure to replace 500-plus feet of bulkhead at the golf course by the bridge on the third

green.

Viola said the work was fast-tracked in hopes of capturing cost savings based on a quote from Fisher Marine for \$355 per linear foot of vinyl bulkhead, which comes out to just over \$190,000 for the 537 feet required.

The overall project costs are just over \$198,000, which includes \$8,000 for topsoil and sod.

In July, Viola presented a request to spend roughly \$198,000 from bulkhead reserves for the work.

Viola said the repairs, which began on Aug. 20 and are on pace to wrap by Sept. 24, are part of a larger four-year maintenance plan

Although still on hold, the association is expecting the Army Corps of Engineers to issue dredging permits in the near future.

Viola said permits have not been released for the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“They are now issuing permits requested two years ago,” he said.

Director Tom Janasek asked if owners of waterfront lots in line for dredging could anticipate being informed of pending approvals.

“We can notify those people prior to

See VIOLA Page 13

A large offshore wind turbine is shown against a blue sky. Two workers in safety gear are visible: one in the foreground on the left, looking up, and another on the right, working on a platform. The text "offshore wind = good jobs" is overlaid in a large, blue, sans-serif font.

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Pines moves forward with T-docks purchase

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors authorized spending roughly \$85,000 to build and install two T-docks at Mumford's Marina during its meeting last Wednesday.

General Manager John Viola said permits had been issued for a proposed pair of aluminum T-docks that would be in place by next May.

The two-phase project includes a \$63,623 cost for Ravens Marine in Kissimmee, Florida to construct custom docks, both measuring eight feet wide, with varying lengths of 26 x 56 feet and 29.5 x 22 feet.

"Ravens Marine will build the T-docks for us down in Florida," he said.

Once dock structures are built, the finished products would be shipped north and installed by Fisher Marine at a cost of \$12,000.

Viola said contractor pricing was obtained on materials and construction.

"We were able to go directly to the supplier," he said. "Fisher Marine stayed out it, so we did save money there."

Director Tom Janasek inquired about



Director Tom Janasek, left, inquires about material options for T-Docks proposed for the Mumford's Marina while Director Doug Parks observes the proceedings during the board meeting last Wednesday.

the merits of opting for aluminum versus traditional wooden materials currently found at marinas in Ocean Pines.

"Most of the ones I've seen are pine," he said. "Which have a much heavier weight and stability when you're walking on them or tying boats."

Material costs made aluminum the best choice, Viola said.

"We got a good price on this one," he said.

Janasek asked if research was conducted regarding stability or safety considerations for using aluminum T-docks.

"I know the durability ... obviously, they'll last longer and won't have to be painted," he said.

Viola said both staff and contractors agreed that aluminum was an ideal option.

"This was recommended by Fisher Marine, who has done all our work," he

said. "I believe this is the way to go."

Still, Viola said Janasek's point held merit.

"I understand what you're saying but none of that ever came up," he said.

Viola said further inquiries would be made with contractors.

"If anything, they said this was better," he said. "I'll definitely find out and forward something to you and the rest of the board."

OP Board candidate Farr court hearing Mon.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) Property ownership questions concerning Ocean Pines Board of Directors candidate Rick Farr could be decided next week when Farr and Ocean Pines representatives appear at a Worcester County Circuit Court hearing next Monday.

On Aug. 30, Judge Sidney Campen, retired from the Talbot County Circuit Court bench, opted against extending an injunction that stayed the directors election on Aug. 11 after Farr alleged he was



Rick Farr

improperly declared ineligible to run.

At the same time, Campen acted on requests from Farr and the OPA for a speedy resolution of the argument and scheduled a hearing on Sept. 27 at 9 a.m. when he is expected to issue his decision.

Farr was declared ineligible to run on July 27, even though Ocean Pines Board member and Secretary Camilla Rogers

certified Farr's candidacy on May 11. An "anonymous tip" however, suggested that Farr was not a property owner at the qualification deadline of Jan. 1.

Since 2000, Farr has been a designated beneficiary of the Farr Living Trust, the legal owner of the property originally purchased by his parents in 1999.

Farr's attorney, Bruce Bright, said during the Aug. 30 hearing the decision to disqualify Farr was based on Bylaws section 5.02A, which states board candidates must be "owners of record," on Jan. 1 of the election year.

Bright said the sole focus on 5.02A ignores conflicting details on association membership status included in the association charter and Bylaws section 2.02.

Speaking this week, Bright said the case was originally filed on behalf of plaintiff Farr and as a class-action lawsuit for his supporters.

"The other side filed a motion to dismiss as to the class-action aspect of the case," he said. "Rather than litigate whether or not the case could properly go forward as a class-action we took out the class-action allegations and essentially voluntarily removed that aspect of the case."

The revised approach dropped the class action on behalf of a class of plaintiffs, instead substituting specific plaintiffs who supported Farr's candidacy.

"They filed a motion to dismiss as to

See BRIGHT Page 13



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Bright removes class action suit

Continued from Page 12

the entire complaint, but the only argument that they advanced was this is not an appropriate case for class-action status, and they didn't attack the complaint," he said.

Bright said removing the class-action allegations and inserting new plaintiffs undercut the defendant's motion to dismiss.

"It's just been rendered moot and, so far, they haven't filed anything that disagrees with our position in that respect," he said.

Viola reviews OP projects, profits

Continued from Page 11

getting permits," Viola said.

Viola also updated a nearly completed reserve study being conducted by Richmond-based Design Management Associates.

Initially created in 2015, the current efforts to track account balance percentages were described as "DMA Lite," by Viola.

The present work is slated to cost about half of the initial investment in 2015.

After the association recently reviewed changes stemming from the study, the data was sent back to DMA for final sign off.

"The final draft of the reserve study was returned the week of Sept. 13," he said.

The Budget and Finance Committee are slated to review the completed study in early October before potential board approval later next month.

Viola said a town hall meeting with DMA partner Doug Greene is also being planned.



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pickled Goose will replace the currently shuttered Whiskers Bar and Grill off Cathell Road in Ocean Pines. The owners have had an uphill battle since purchasing the property, from complications with the liquor license to a work stoppage order this summer, but their plans are back on track.

Pickled Goose revisions approved

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 23, 2021) The owners of the Pickled Goose in Berlin caught a break on Sept. 15 when the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners approved changes to the much-maligned plans for the restaurant that will sit in the space formerly occupied by Whisker's Bar and Grill.

"Our concern was that it not become a full-fledged, retail liquor store," board Chairman William Esham said before the 3-0 vote. "From what I see ... I'm perfectly satisfied with these plans meeting what we thought we were asking them to do (last winter) and the entire situation is an improvement to the area."

Current owners Shereen Ramadan and Dina Sbih — the latter of whom was at the meeting — bought the

property from Whiskers owner Tanya Knott in January, when the commissioners approved a request to transfer a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor seven-day license for the establishment. They are envisioning a restaurant with a liquor store attached.

The approval came with the contingency that the restaurant's layout remain the same. The commissioners stipulated sales consist of 51 percent food at all times, give monthly reports on the sale of food and alcoholic beverages, give monthly reports on the purchase of food and alcoholic beverages, keep the layout the same and provide tax returns at the end of each year.

In July, the owners received a stop-work order after county officials learned that demolition work was going on inside the building.

On Sept. 15, architect Rick Schoellkopf of Atlantic Planning & Development, Inc., testified regarding the actual plans for the space, which he stressed would be less retail space than the original proposal.

The retail space approved by the commissioners is 810 square feet.

See PICKLED Page 14

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Pines Pickleball tournament held Oct. 22-24

(Sept. 23, 2021) Oktoberfest at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center will be marked by a three-day pickleball tournament that will, for the first time, include a money bracket with a \$1,250 prize purse.

Scheduled Oct. 22-24, the event is likely the first pickleball tournament with cash prizes to place on the Delmarva Peninsula, tournament Co-Director Darryl Noble said.

Noble is the former chairman and treasurer of the Board of USA Pickleball, the sport's national governing body of the sport of pickleball.

"Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, and possibly the world," Noble said. "We encourage everyone to come out and participate in this exciting new tournament, or just come and watch. Don't miss your chance to participate or spectate on some incredible matches."

Noble said the Ocean Pines Racquet Center is open to the public. Anyone can sign up to play a game, or just come out and watch to get a feel for the sport.

"Anyone is welcome to play at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center pickleball courts, and we encourage everyone to try it for themselves. It's fun to get out and get some exercise, and the facility is top notch," he said.

For the tournament, singles and

age 60-plus mixed doubles matches are scheduled Oct. 22, men's and women's doubles are scheduled Oct. 23, and mixed doubles are scheduled Oct. 24.

The money bracket for players under 50 is scheduled Oct. 23, and the money bracket for players 50 and older is set for Oct. 24.

The prize purse is \$375 for gold (first place), \$160 for silver (second place) and \$90 for bronze (third place). The money bracket is open to any combination of genders and skill levels.

For general play, each grouping category – men's, women's and mixed – will include four skill-level brackets: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5/5.0. The minimum skill level for the tournament is 3.0, and tournament directors will set age and skill-level brackets about three weeks prior to the tournament.

The registration fee, due by Oct. 1, is \$35, plus \$10 per event. Money brackets are \$30 per event.

Tournament organizers will post the full tournament schedule, including match start times, two weeks prior to the tournament.

Food, beer and cold beverages, ice cream and snowballs, and other vendors will be onsite during the tournament.

The tournament is outdoors only,

and no rain date is scheduled. No refunds or credits will be given in case of a cancellation.

To register online, visit <https://app.pickleballden.com/external-tournament/8732201>.

Organizers are also seeking sponsors for the event. Gold level sponsors, \$500, will receive large banner advertising for one year at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, an on-site advertising location during the event, public appreciation announcements during the tournament weekend, press exposure in news releases and social media

posts, and five complimentary giveaways.

Silver level sponsors, \$250, will receive banner advertising at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, public appreciation announcements during the tournament weekend, press exposure in news releases and social media posts, and two complimentary giveaways.

For more information, contact Noble at 717-873-4743 or DANoble54@gmail.com, or Tournament Co-Director Cathy Noble at 410-302-9320 or CMZNoble@gmail.com.

Pickled Goose moving forward

Continued from Page 13

"What we've done ... is just a couple of changes that make the separation (between the liquor store and restaurant) more dramatic," Schoellkopf said. "Like the reach-in cooler that's moved over to be more related to the retail space, so you don't go into the bar area to reach in and get your six-pack of beer. We've also chosen to build two fully ADA-compatible bathrooms. They're brand new and larger than what was there."

Schoellkopf said they're also going to take a wall down to open the space up some.

"We're taking it down to like five feet aboveground, just to open the place up to be a little light and airy," he said. "Anyone that's been in there when it was operational a year or two ago know it was pretty dingy. It needed to be refreshed and that was

one of our things, to open it up. There's going to be no display, more like a wood cap on top of that five-foot wall. We don't want kids grabbing things off of it. All display and all sales will be carried out in the area upfront."

At one point, Esham made clear to Schoellkopf and Sbih what it was the commissioners wanted to see to avoid any confusion.

"I don't think you're quoting (our previous ruling) the way we intended it," Esham said. "We said we were not going to let the retail space grow. From what I'm seeing, if it helps your client, they have not. What happened today or yesterday, I don't care."

Another major change is consolidating the spacing of the reach-in and walk-in coolers.

There is no firm date for a grand opening.

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OP golf members honor Stiles, raise charity donations

(Sept. 23, 2021) Ocean Pines golfers raised \$1,200 during the 15th annual Ernie Stiles Bavarian Hops Scramble on Aug. 27 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

The event is held each year in honor of the late Ernie Stiles and is hosted by the Ocean Pines Golf Members Council. Don McMullen and Bob Long coordinated this year's event.

To date, the scramble has raised more than \$30,000 for local charities.

"Ernie's idea was simply to bring together some good people and go out for nine holes, have some good fun, and support some good causes," McMullen said.

Long said the event always has a lighthearted atmosphere. Longtime traditions include a toast, "Nostrovvia," to good health before teeing off. Players then "head to the course and let their hair down a bit," he said.

"Ernie ran the Hops Scramble on his own for many years as a fun event," Long said. "He charged \$5 to play and all the money would get paid out to the skin winners. Often, no skins were cleared and the money would go to the charities."

Stiles created a stick figure, called



Ocean Pines golfers pose with the "Hops Guy" during the 15th annual Ernie Stiles Bavarian Hops Scramble, held Aug. 27 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club. The Hops Guy, as part of a long tournament tradition, holds a donation box at the seventh tee. The event this year raised \$1,200 for Diakonia and the Worcester County Humane Society. Pictured, from left, are Mike Mason, Bill Cordwell, Colby Stiles, Mike Daley, Don McMullen, and Mark Watts.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

"the Hops Guy," who holds a donation box and is placed at the seventh tee. Players donate a few dollars, or maybe more, as they pass by to tee up their shots.

Tournament proceeds often went to Stiles' favorite charities, Diakonia and the Humane Society, and money collected this year will again benefit those two organizations.

"In other years, the Hops Scramble helped local people who were having a tough time," Long said. "In 2017, the members took responsibility for the Hops Scramble and that year

made significant donations to Cancer and ALS research. After Ernie's passing in 2018, we have again focused on local charities."

Along with the skins (the rewards for winning a hole outright), golfers vie for the coveted "Hops Hat" by getting closest to the pin on the seventh hole. Nongolfers, meanwhile, join in on the fun by being part of a grandstand where they cheer and jeer for players as they attempt their shots.

"Again, our members and friends had a great time at this annual event," McMullen said. "Congratula-

tions to Kevin Brooks and Jeff Smith, who collected the only skins of the events and went home with all the prize money. And congratulations to John Malinowski IV, who won the rights to wear the Hops Hat with his closest-to-the-pin shot at the seventh hole."

"Thanks to all for supporting the Humane Society and Diakonia, and thanks to Darin Stuiher and his group for adding to the celebration that took place at the seventh hole," Long added. "We hope to see everyone again next year!"

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Coastal Bays Marine Debris Plunder Sunday

(Sept. 23, 2021) Help Capt. Jack Sparrow and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program plunder the bays in search of marine debris, Sunday, Sept. 26, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. for the second annual Marine Debris Plunder.

Boaters and land lubbers alike are encouraged to join the plunder to pick up debris that has been carelessly discarded in the bays, beach and streets, and bring their loot to the West Ocean City Harbor for a weigh-in.

Capt. Sparrow along with his pirate crew will be on hand to assist with the weigh-in and properly dispose the debris.

There will be awards for several categories.

Participants must preregister for this event either online at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program website, www.mdcoastalbays.org, or call Sandi Smith at 443-783-5293 ext. 106. Registration will close on Friday, Sept. 24. There will be no registration at the event.

Thanks to a grant from Keep Maryland Beautiful and sponsorships by Pure Lure and Bluewater Properties, supplies will be provided for those who preregister (while they last). Supply packets can be picked up at Pure Lure at a pre-arranged date.

When participants bring their loot to the West Ocean City harbor, the pi-

rate crew will grab their trash and present them with an event T-shirt (while supplies last).

Boat traffic was at an all-time high this summer as well as, sadly, trash on the streets. The intent of this event is to engage the community in picking up debris in waterways and streets and bringing it to one location where it will be weighed and disposed of properly.

All participants will be asked to fill out data sheets on the debris. This data will be used for an outreach campaign next year reminding Ocean City visitors the importance of keeping waterways clean.

Boaters pursuing debris in the water, will receive specific instructions as to what is marine debris and what is a live trap as crabbing season is still in effect and it is illegal to tamper with any live traps. Low tide is earlier than 8 a.m. so participants can go whenever they want. The weigh-ins will open at 10 a.m.

The Natural Resource Police will attend the event in case participants have any questions as to what marine debris is, and what is not.

Boaters will be encouraged to pursue abandoned crab pots, derelict crab pots that have been clearly abandoned and are sitting in shallow water and

marshes.

Every year, crabbers lose their pots to careless boaters who do not pay attention and run over crab pot floats, floats identifying pot location.

Once these floats are cut, the pot becomes untraceable until it washes into shallow water or on top of a marsh. Unfortunately, ghost pots continually re-bait as crabs crawl inside, eventually die, and new crabs arrive to eat those. These ghost pots also trap and kill pretty much anything that fits, including terrapin, otter and fish.

For event specifics, visit www.mdcoastalbays.org or contact mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org.

Golf tournament planned for Oct. 1

(Sept. 23, 2021) Join Worcester County Recreation & Parks for the ninth annual Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament and Fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 1, at the Ocean City Golf Club.

Check-in and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m. A shotgun start will follow at 1 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$80 per golfer, and all proceeds generated by this event will benefit underprivileged youth who participate in Worcester

County Recreation & Parks' youth programs, leagues, after school activities, and summer camps.

Over one-third of the children participating in Worcester County Recreation & Parks' programs are considered underprivileged, and tournament proceeds provide scholarships to assure all children can participate in recreation programs year-round.

Registration forms for the four-man scramble are available at [\[marylandscoast.org\]\(http://marylandscoast.org\) and in-person at the Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, Maryland. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 24.

Sponsors, auction baskets, volunteers and donations are needed to run this year's tournament. Options include a dinner, lunch, beverage cart, tee sign\(s\) sponsorship.

For more information, contact Allen Swiger at 410-632-2144, ext. 2520.](http://www.play-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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SWINGING GOOD TIME
Exuberant youths enjoy swing-set action in the midst of summer heat at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

Pines Pickleball Round Robin tourney Oct. 1

(Sept. 23, 2021) Players and sponsors, are being sought for the annual Pickleball Round Robin tournament, scheduled Friday, Oct. 1 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

Hosted by the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club, the tournament is part of a quartet of local “Pink Ribbon Classic” events raising money for cancer research.

“For the fourth consecutive year, the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club Round Robin will join several other events taking place for the Pink Ribbon Classic at the Beach to benefit the American Cancer Society and help fight breast cancer,” organizer Chris Shook said.

Shook said the Pink Ribbon Classic series was started by a local group

of volunteers. Since its inception, the series has raised roughly \$3.6 million for breast cancer research, awareness programs, and services.

“One of the most important services available in this area is the Road to Recovery Program, which connects caregivers with patients to transport them to and from treatment,” she said. “There is also the Hope Lodge that provides lodging during treatment, the Cancer Survivors Network available at www.cancer.org, and a 24-hour-a-day information center at 1-800-227-2345 for patients to access ACS services.”

The American Cancer Society is funding 168 grants totaling more than \$68.9 million related to breast

cancer research. Since 1989, breast cancer deaths in the U.S. are down 40 percent, meaning 375,900 lives have been saved.

For players, the tournament entry fee is \$35 per person and the registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 27.

Download an entry form online at <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/1522417/Pickleball+Round+Robin+entry+and+sponsor+form.pdf>, or contact Shook at 443-614-1504 or cshook09@yahoo.com for more information.

The following sponsorships are also available:

Platinum (\$1,000) — includes a 5-foot Pink Ribbon sign, listing on the sponsor board, and recognition during event announcements

ing event announcements

Gold (\$500) — includes two 18-inch by 24-inch signs, listing on the sponsor board, and recognition during event announcements

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R.I.S.E. Program to offer free help crafting resumes

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health’s Raising Independent Skilled Employees (R.I.S.E.) workforce development program will offer free assistance with resume development as part of its “Family Fun Day” community resource event on Saturday, Sept. 25, at Stephen Decatur Park, in Berlin, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The R.I.S.E. program’s career advancement coordinators will assist interested attendees with resume templates, resume development and career brainstorming.

Members of the public between the ages of 16 and 24 who are currently not in school and who are looking to get back in school or find work, will be invited to follow-up meetings with staff where they can learn about the R.I.S.E. workforce development program and available resources.

Wor-Wic Community college will also be in attendance to offer enrollment assistance and talk to the public about support and services offered.

The R.I.S.E. program is run in conjunction with the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance in the tri-county area – Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

The R.I.S.E. team is committed to assisting young adults, ages 16- 24, who may find themselves out of work or underemployed, and who may face multiple barriers to their individual success. Participants who enroll in the program are assigned a career advancement coordinator, or “career coach,” who works with them to design a plan tailored to match their individual skill level and career goals.

The R.I.S.E. program also works with local employers to provide valuable, skill-developing internships that can be initially funded by grant stipends for qualified participants.

Employers interested should contact, R.I.S.E. Program Manager Leikia Hallett, at lhallett@gracematerialhealth.org.

In addition to featuring the R.I.S.E. program, the Grace Center’s Family Fun Day event will include vendors, kid’s crafts, games and activities, community resources and entertainment. Admission to the event is free and all are welcome. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is a sponsor of this community event.

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Youth and adult programs available

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Worcester County Recreation and Parks Department is offering an assortment of programs for children and adults this fall.

Active Start Lacrosse will be an introduction to the sport. Players will learn how to shoot, pass and play the game.

The program will meet at Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin on Thursdays, Sept. 23 through Nov. 11, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Derek Jarmon at 410-632-2144 x2509 or email djarmon@marylandscoast.org.

The cost per child is \$35, and \$30 for each additional child. Financial aid is available to those who show a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required.

To register, visit www.playmarylandscoast.org.

Registration is open for adult drop-in sports programs with Worcester County Recreation and Parks this fall.

Drop-In Soccer, open to those ages 14 years and older, is currently being played Monday and Thursday nights at the fields at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

In the colder months, the program

will be moved indoors to the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill,

Drop-In Pickleball will kick off at the recreation center beginning Sept. 27, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Court shoes and protective eyewear are recommended for this program, and registration is open on a first-come, first-served basis to participants 14 years and older.

Drop-In Volleyball is available at the recreation center on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. Participants ages 14 and older are invited to come set, bump and spike.

Drop-In Basketball will take place at the center on Thursdays, starting Oct. 7 from 7-9 p.m. Participants must be 30 years and older.

The cost for each drop-in program is \$3 per session. All skill levels are welcome. No games will be played during holidays or inclement weather for outdoor programs.

For more information on these programs, contact the recreation center at 410-632-2144 or email recreationandparks@co.worcester.md.us.

Visit www.PlayMarylandsCoast.org for a complete list of programs.

Worcester County Recreation and Parks is also offering adult fitness

classes this fall.

Early Bird Morning Fitness, open to those ages 45 and older, includes a variety of activities of cardio, strength balance and floor workouts. Classes will take place on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, Oct. 4 to Dec. 17, from 9-9:40 a.m.

Yoga, with instructor Carol Jenkins-Pike, RYT 500, is open to those ages 18 and older. This program is built on three main structures: exercise, breathing, and meditation.

Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 12 to Nov. 23, from 6-7 p.m. All equipment will be provided.

Fearless Action – Dance Fit, with instructor Whitney Brewington, is open to those ages 18 and older. This program includes a full body-sculpting experience and is designed to get participants sweating by matching dance moves and exercise with their favorite songs.

The class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 18 to Dec. 1, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information on these upcoming fitness programs, contact Program Manager Myro Small at 410-632-2144, ext. 2512 or email msmall@marylandscoast.org. The cost for each program is \$45 and will cover all weeks of classes.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

King Wallop talks with Erin McGreal, occupational therapist at Cedar Chapel Special School, on the first day of school, Sept. 7.



Berlin Intermediate School students walk through the halls on the first day of school. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WINNER

The Sons of the American Legion Squad 166 held its drawing on Sept. 6, for the raffle of an all-day fishing trip and \$400 gift card. The trip was for six on the Wrecker Sportfishing vessel with Capt. Jeremy Blunt, left. SAL Commander Joe Verdura pulled the ticket out of the wheel and announced Mike Soliday of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was the winner.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SUMMER FUN

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club was bustling with activity, as music played and guests danced over Labor Day Weekend.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WELCOME

Worcester Preparatory School Parents' Association hosted a New Parent Coffee event on Sept. 8 to welcome families who are new to the school. Pictured, from left, are moms Zhana Kartela, Ieva Sekace, Noor Khalaileh, and her sister, Munther Salem.



CRAFTER

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines has chosen Alison Schweiger as the September Crafter of the Month. Schweiger and her husband, Joe, moved from Baltimore to Ocean Pines four years ago. Before moving, she worked as a florist. Later, she experimented and found her own style. In 1985, Schweiger was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers. After moving to Ocean Pines, Schweiger became involved in the Inland Bays Garden Center in Frankford, Delaware, a woman-owned native plant gardening center. Today, she designs floral projects at the center, hosts workshops and helps clients find the right plants for their needs. Schweiger also recently learned how to make baskets out of the pine needles in her backyard. View Schweiger's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Assateague Island Coastal Cleanup this Sat.

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is held at hundreds of beaches and coastal regions across the world as a means to bring together community members near and far to help remove litter and debris from our marine environments and coastal landscape.

Assateague Coastal Trust, along with the National Park Service at Assateague Island National Seashore and Assateague OSV Count will host the annual International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 25 from 7-11 a.m.

Check-ins will be stationed under the ACT and NPS tents in the North Ocean Beach parking lot in the National Park. All visitors and volunteers will be welcomed into the park admission free in honor of National Public Lands Day. Assateague Island State

Park will also be participating in the cleanup.

In 2019, over 350 volunteers participated in the cleanup on Assateague Island. Residing as one of the more popular beach cleanups of the year, university departments, schools, organizations, businesses and individuals are encouraged to attend the annual cleanup. Those who come out will have the opportunity to get to know the ACT staff and some of the NPS rangers.

Trash collection bags will be provided. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and should bring sunscreen, gloves, appropriate footwear.

To better understand the kinds of trash and plastics that accumulate on beaches, volunteers are encouraged to download the Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app on their smart phones.

Assateague Island cleanup volunteers contribute to the world's largest database on marine debris by logging the trash they collect in Ocean Conservancy's award-nominated Clean Swell app (available for free download from the App Store and Google Play). Be sure to download the app prior to visiting the island.

Paper data sheets will also be available, in English and Spanish, at the check-in table. Participants should return the completed data sheets to the ACT tent when finished for the morning. Scientists, researchers, industry leaders and policymakers rely on Ocean Conservancy's Ocean Trash Index to inform policy and determine solutions to the growing marine debris crisis.

Questions concerning the cleanup at Assateague Island National Seashore should be directed to Kathy Phillips at coastkeeper@actforbays.org. For more info visit the ACT Facebook Event page: <https://fb.me/e/R6Qwq73V>.

Assateague Coastal Trust, a member of the global Waterkeeper Alliance movement, hosts the Assateague COASTKEEPER, working to assure local communities have access to swimmable, fishable and drinkable water.

For over 50 years, ACT has been working arm in arm with diverse community partners to protect and defend the health of Delmarva's coastal waters through advocacy, education, science and the enforcement of just and equitable clean water laws.

Worcester Education Foundation rebrands

(Sept. 23, 2021) Worcester County Education Foundation (WCEF), a local nonprofit supporting Worcester County Public School students, announced that it has completed a major rebranding.

Founded in 2013, Worcester County Education Foundation is a motivated group of community members committed to preparing students for success, whose primary focus was equal access to technology.

After reaching the million-dollar mark and with all Worcester County Public School students having their own Apple devices, the time has come to rebrand and expand the focus of the foundation.

When the foundation was formed, it was clear that the future was digital, so the emphasis was on preparing Worcester County Public Schools students to succeed in a digital world.

"Now, the possibilities are limitless, and we understand the value of ensuring that all students have equitable access to and benefit from high-quality education," said Olivia Momme, manager of Operations & Community Relations. "We believe that the Worcester County Education Foundation is well positioned to utilize innovation, partnerships, and resources to bring programs to Worcester County Public School that build the necessary skills to produce self-sustaining graduates who are committed to both life-long learning and our community."

Worcester County Education Foundation put a significant amount of time and research into this process. It developed a strategic plan with direct involvement from the Worcester County Education Foundation stakeholders, including parents, Worcester County Public School employees, donors, educators, community members, and the Board of Directors.

Through this process the foundation has updated its branding, mission, focus

and values.

The new logo showcases the growth that comes from education and creativity, while reflecting the colors of the Worcester County Public School branding.

While the logo is the most eye-catching update, the expansion of the focus

area to include science, engineering, art, and mathematics to the existing technology focus will be the most impactful.

"The foundation has so much to celebrate by surpassing our first million dollars raised. We want to keep the excitement going while best supporting

our students," Momme said. "The impact to-date is impressive, but the new changes will certainly help to nurture future growth."

To date, Worcester County Education Foundation has given over \$210,000 to Worcester County Public

See EDU Page 22

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Sand Castle Home Tour held virtually in Oct.

(Sept. 23 2021) For the past 16 years, the Sand Castle Home Tour has helped sustain the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City and provided important seed money toward building the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th Street.

In 2021, the home tour will also raise money for 11 other area nonprofit organizations.

The nonprofit community partners who are participating in this year's ticket sales are: the Ocean Pines Association Recreation & Parks Department, River Soccer Club, Delmarva Discovery Museum, Habitat for Humanity Worcester County, Food Bank of the Eastern Shore, Stevenson United Methodist Church, Samaritan Ministries, Worcester County Humane Society, LPGA Amateurs Eastern

Shore MD/DE Chapter, Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, and Worcester Preparatory School.

"Five dollars of every ticket sold by these community organizations will be donated back to their nonprofit," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "Over the past year, it has been challenging for nonprofits to raise funds, as many in-person fundraisers have been cancelled due to covid. In an effort to help other organizations continue to provide vital services that support the community, the Art League engaged other area nonprofits and asked them to partner on this endeavor."

The Sand Castle Home tour has become a signature event for the Art League of Ocean City. In 2020, 1,800 people took the virtual tour, and

Thaler expects that number to increase this year.

"It is a win-win situation," she said. "Ticket purchasers can support a cause important to them while they enjoy a fabulous tour of Delmarva's finest homes, without leaving their own home."

Additional nonprofit organizations that would like to participate in the Sand Castle Home Tour as a community partner should contact Aubrey Sizemore at aubrey@artleagueofoceancity.org.

The Art League previously issued a special code to each participating nonprofit, and anyone interested in supporting that organization should contact them for their unique code. Ticket purchasers who use the code will receive a \$5 discount off the regu-

lar price of the ticket, and the nonprofit they choose to support will also receive \$5. Tickets are now available for purchase at www.SandCastleHomeTour.com.

In 2021, due to covid, the tour will remain a virtual event, but has been expanded in length to the entire month of October. The tour will feature 10 of the greater Ocean City area's most captivating residences.

Tourgoers will enjoy cinematic videos of homes and an opportunity to hear the vision and inspiration behind the homes directly from the homeowners, builders, architects and designers through featured videos and design tips.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org or www.sandcastlehometour.com.

Business Briefs

Joins AGH



Margo Gill, MD, joins Atlantic General Health System to provide women's health, including general gynecology and primary care, for the Berlin and Ocean City areas. Gill provides care for pediatrics, adolescents and women and has a special interest in sexual health.

Gill takes a holistic and inclusive approach to patient care, with a focus on eliminating the health inequities of the more marginalized populations in our community. Her diverse experience allows her to care for a wide range of patients.

She earned her medical degree at University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2005 and completed her residency in family medicine at the Barre

Family Health Center, part of the University of Massachusetts Memorial Health System.


Prior to Atlantic General, Gill practiced medicine at Forest Lakes Family Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia, and served as a faculty physician for the Family Health Center of Worcester, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

She is currently accepting new patients for family medicine and women's health at Atlantic General Women's Health in West Ocean City. Appointments can be made by calling 410-728-1050.

Promotion

Reid Tingle, president and CEO of Bank of Ocean City along with the board of directors, announces the promotion of Assistant Vice President Christina Rogers, to senior branch manager.

With 17 years of service, Rogers has



earned certifications from The American Bankers Association (ABA) in Deposit Compliance and Small Business Banking.

She is a 2020 honors graduate of Maryland Banking School.

Rogers is very active within the local community and serves as a board member for Worcester County Developmental Center and Junior Achievement. In addition, she is the vice president of the Stephen Decatur High School Band Boosters and the treasurer of the Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Bank of Ocean City is a locally-owned, independent community bank. Established in 1916 and headquartered in West Ocean City, the bank has six offices; three in Ocean City, one in Ocean Pines, one in Berlin and our newest addition, in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

The Art League of Ocean City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in the community.

Edu. foundation rebrands image

Continued from Page 21

School to support needs within the school system.

These requests included computer cases, carts of Chromebooks, iPads, mobile hotspots with service, and a robot for home/hospital distance learning.

Through the Worcester County Education Foundation Teacher Grant program, over \$22,000 has been awarded to teachers to bring innovative new programs to Worcester County Public School classrooms. This has directly impacted over 7,600 students.

Additionally, over \$500,000 has been placed in an endowment to help fund future endeavors and continue the foundation's work toward its vision while maintaining sustainability.

Visit wced.foundation to explore the new website, brand, and see how to get involved.

Worcester County Education Foundation is committed to supporting Worcester County Public School students.

While Worcester County Public Schools has over 46 percent of students coming from homes of poverty, with an additional 30 percent on the verge, according to the 2020 ALICE Report, Worcester County Public School receives the second lowest funding per student from the state.

Worcester County Education Foundation strives to enhance achievement, both inside and outside of the classroom, and prepare each Worcester County Public School student, for current and future success through the effective utilization of innovation, relationships, and resources.

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Ocean View, DE
302.537.2441

Opinion

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

Election case ruling will define ownership

There’s no way to know how Circuit Court Judge Sidney Campen will rule Monday after he weighs arguments over whether the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors rightfully declared would-be candidate Richard Farr ineligible to run after the election was underway.

At issue is whether a trust’s ownership of real property extends to trust beneficiaries as equitable owners for OPA membership purposes. At the time of his filing to run, Farr did not hold the title to his home — his father’s family trust did — but he was an equitable owner as a trust beneficiary.

The court also will decide which of three authorities — the association’s bylaws, the OPA charter or the declarations of covenants, all of which reference property ownership and association membership — holds the upper legal hand.

Although the judge’s decision on the first question will decide the fate of Farr’s candidacy and, possibly, the composition of the board, his ruling on the second matter could be even more important.

The bylaws represent how OPA members want the association to operate, while the charter and the covenants represent what kind of community Ocean Pines’ original planners wanted it to be.

When the bylaws and the charter or the declarations diverge on specific issues, either purposely or because of oversights and omissions, at least one must have precedence over the other. That’s what the judge is expected to decide.

Should he conclude that the charter, and the covenants based on it, come first in the order of importance, the board and the association’s bylaws committee would have some serious work to do to bring the bylaws in line with the founding documents.

Conversely, if he declares that the bylaws supersede everything else, that would be even more messy, since the founding documents automatically bestow membership on equitable owners, while the current interpretation of the bylaws would deprive them of the right to run for office — and consequently — the right to vote.



“ Why doesn’t this guy Snopes run for an office, he seems to have all the answers”

Letters

Farr’s lawyer on class action

Editor,

The purpose of this letter is to address recent developments in the [Richard D. Farr, et al. v. Ocean Pines Association, Inc., et al. Circuit Court for Worcester County, Maryland Case No. C-23-CV-21-000127] case.

The case was originally filed by Mr. Farr, on his own behalf and on behalf of a “class” of plaintiffs, specifically, Ocean Pines voters who cast votes for Mr. Farr before the purported disqualification decision.

The Maryland Rules allow for a case to be filed in that fashion (on behalf of a class of unnamed plaintiffs) when there are many individuals who have been harmed in the same way, certain other conditions are met, and the Court approves such an approach.

In this case, by way of a recently filed amended complaint, we eliminated the “class action” aspect of the case and, instead, added certain specifically named voters as co-plaintiffs in the case.

These voters all voted for

Mr. Farr before his candidacy was disqualified (in closed session of the Board) and the Board decided (in closed session) to proceed with the election and counting of all votes except those cast for Mr. Farr.

The effect of that (closed session) decision by the Board, in my view, partly disenfranchised those voters who had already submitted a vote for Mr. Farr.

This is the reason why the individually named co-plaintiffs have joined the case — they are conscientious Ocean Pines citizens who, out of civic concern, do not want to be disenfranchised by closed-door decision-making at the end of an election.

Mr. Farr’s co-plaintiffs are not seeking money in this case and they are not a source for payment of my firm’s fees (which are being paid by Mr. Farr and, to some degree, voluntary donors to a fund for such fees).

They see the board’s actions as wrong, as Mr. Farr does, and they wish to correct those (alleged) wrongs. It is their right to take an active position in this regard, just as it the right of any

other OPA member to support the Board’s side of this case.

Unfortunately, on certain “blogs” and perhaps elsewhere in the public domain (for example, the blog known as “Ocean Pines Forum”), there has been what in my opinion is incorrect and irresponsible commentary about the adding of the co-plaintiffs to the case, which either criticizes them or baits/invites criticism and judgment of them.

The co-plaintiffs seek nothing in this matter other than vindication of their right to cast two votes in the election and have both of those votes counted; they also support Mr. Farr’s position vis-a-vis his eligibility to run.

My sincere hope is that none of the co-plaintiffs will be criticized, castigated, singled out, unfairly judged, or impugned for taking an active stance in what is an important matter of public interest in Ocean Pines; and that commentary in the public domain — about them and toward them — will be fair, reasonable, accurate, and responsible.

Bruce F. Bright
Attorney for Rick Farr

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health in Berlin recently received a “Special Delivery” courtesy of the ladies of the “Knifty Knitters” from the Ateaze Senior Center in Baltimore. Pictured are Ronnie Schuman, representing the Knifty Knitters, Jackie Failla, nurse manager at the Grace Center, and Jasmine Dennis, its executive director.

Crocheted blankets, dolls, hats presented to Berlin ctr.

(Sept. 23, 2021) The Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health in Berlin recently received a “Special Delivery” courtesy of the ladies of the “Knifty Knitters” from the Ateaze Senior Center in Baltimore.

Ronnie Schuman delivered several bags loaded with handmade crocheted blankets, hats, dolls, octopi and jelly fish to restock the shelves of the baby boutique at the Grace Center.

Mothers can select from items in the boutique by using the points they have earned by attending individual and class sessions, keeping appointments or to meet special needs.

The Knifty Knitters met in “safe locations” throughout the pandemic in order to be able to continue supporting the Grace Center by providing handmade items as they have on a regular basis for a number of years.

Calendar

Thurs., Sept. 23

28TH ANNUAL ROBERT E. WARFIELD MEMORIAL FALL GOLF CLASSIC

Ocean City Golf Club, 11401 Country Club Drive, Berlin. In honor of the late Robert E. Warfield Sr. and his loyal service to the Eastern Shore community. 410-641-9671, foundation@atlanticgeneral.org.

STORY TIME ‘ANIMALS IN FALL’

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, 10:30-11 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for 2-5 year old children. Take home activity included. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SNOW HILL FARMER’S MARKET

Thursdays through October - Sturgis Park Pavilion on the Pocomoke River, noon to 5 p.m.

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME - ‘A LITTLE BOOK ABOUT COLORS’

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Come hear a story about the wonderful world of colors. Find your favorite colors with the color scavenger

hunt. Take home activities included. For children ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

FAMILY HEALTH NIGHT AT THE POCOMOKE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Pocomoke Community Garden, 327 Clarke Ave., Pocomoke City, 5-6 p.m. The library will present information on the health benefits of herbs and a garden story time for children. Pedal a smoothie bike to make your own smoothie. All ages. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BERTINO TO HOST TOWN MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 6-7 p.m. Guest speakers are Rebecca Jones, Worcester County Health Officer and Lou

Continued on Page 25



OPEN HOUSES

SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER 30



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Saturday, 11am-1pm	2 Pinehurst Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$254,900	Power of Two/Hileman Real Estate



Calendar

Continued from Page 24
Taylor, Superintendent of Worcester County Schools. Jim Bunting also attending. 443-783-3248, 443-783-3248

Fri., Sept. 24

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR 9TH ANNUAL TEE OFF FOR YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT AND FUNDRAISER
Ocean City Golf Club, 11401 Country Club Drive, Berlin. Held Oct. 1, check-in and lunch at 11:30 p.m. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. \$80 per golfer. Registration forms: www.playmarylandscoast.org and Worcester County Recreation Center by Sept. 24. 410-632-2144, Ext. 2520

DEADLINE TO SPEAK DURING VIRTUAL OFFSHORE WIND GENERATION PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING
Members of the public who wish to comment should send an email by Sept. 24 to susan.howard@maryland.gov. The hearings, Sept. 28 and 30, will be livestreamed on www.youtube.com/c/MarylandPSC.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SECOND ANNUAL MARINE DEBRIS PLUNDER
Takes place Sept. 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pick up debris in bays, beaches and streets and bring to the West Ocean City Harbor for weigh-in. Pre-register: www.mdcoastalbays.org by Sept. 24.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO
Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-11 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required while moving around inside. 410-524-7994

'WET PAINT' SALE AND EXHIBIT
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 1:30-4 p.m. Showcasing artwork created during the Paint Worcester County - Plein Air event held Sept. 20-23. 410-641-0809, curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES
Ocean City Marlin Club Inc, 9659 Golf Course Road, Ocean City, 2:30-4:30 p.m. An agenda will be provided closer to the meeting date. <https://ocmarlinclub.com>, 410-213-1613

4TH FRIDAY STREET FESTIVAL
Downtown Pocomoke, Market Street between Front and Second streets, Pocomoke City, 5-8 p.m. Theme is "All That Jazz." Featuring artists, vendors, activities, live music by Dark Gold Jazz and food and drinks. downtownpocomoke.com, 410-957-1333

BERLIN FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Main St. Berlin, 2 S. Main St., Berlin, 7-10 p.m. Friday features Gina Furtado Project. Bluegrass musicians from across the county vie for thousands in cash

prizes. Open to all. Register: www.BerlinFiddlers.com. info@berlinchamber.org, 410-973-2051

Sat., Sept. 25

2021 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP AT ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
Assateague Island National Seashore - North Ocean Beach Parking Lot, Bayside Drive, Berlin, 7-11 a.m. Free admission to park. Check-ins stationed under ACT and NPS tents. Trash collection bags provided. <https://fb.me/e/R6Qwq73V>, Kathy Phillips, coastkeeper@actforbays.org

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET
Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, Whaleysville, 7-10 a.m. Includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages, \$8/adult, \$4/child. <https://www.facebook.com/whaleylvilchurch/>, 410-641-4758

GRACE CENTER TO HOST FAMILY FUN DAY
Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli Street, Berlin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Includes vendors, kid's crafts, games and activities, community resources and entertainment. Jasmine Dennis, jdennis@gracematernalhealth.org, <https://gracematernalhealth.org>, 443-513-4124

FREE RESUME ASSISTANCE
Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli Street, Berlin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The R.I.S.E. program will offer help with resume templates, resume development and career brainstorming. Held during the Grace Center's Family Fun Day. Wor-Wic Community College will also be in attendance to offer enrollment assistance and talk to the public about support and services offered. lhallett@gracematernalhealth.org

JOB FAIR
Outlets Ocean City, 12741 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Hiring retailers will be set up in front of their stores. Apply on the spot. Plus, get a \$50 gift card when you start your new job. <https://bit.ly/33sElrf>, 410-213-7898

BERLIN FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Main St. Berlin, 2 S. Main St., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday features "West King String Band." Bluegrass musicians from across the county vie for thousands in cash prizes. Open to all. Register: www.BerlinFiddlers.com. info@berlinchamber.org

STEAK DINNER
American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 4-7 p.m. Butcher Shop 16oz. Porterhouse steak, baked potato, salad and roll. Cost is \$20. Public welcomed. 410-641-3760, <https://www.facebook.com/Berlin-American-Legion-Post123-Boggs-Disharoon-118596634897241/>

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

Sun., Sept. 26

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET
Downtown Berlin, Pitts Street, Berlin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through September - Located in Downtown Berlin. This week the market will feature more than 30 farmers, bakers, distillers, food cultivator and more. 410-973-2051

BERLIN FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Main St. Berlin, 2 S. Main St., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday features "Sunday's Gospel and Bluegrass Jam." Bluegrass musicians from across the county vie for thousands in cash prizes. Open to all. Register: www.BerlinFiddlers.com. info@berlinchamber.org, 410-973-2051

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY: A GEROIC RETURN
Performing Arts Ceneter - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 3 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 at <https://www.ticketmaster.com/mid-atlantic-symphony-ocean-city-maryland-09-26-2021/event/15005BoACC363361>. Proof of Covid-19 vaccine required. 888-846-8600

10TH ANNUAL SUMMER SHAKESPEARE TOUR
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7:30 p.m. Free, outdoor performance of the comedy "Much Ado About Nothing." No tickets required. Social distancing through lawn seating, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome. <http://www.brownboxtheatre.org>, 443-808-1215

Mon., Sept. 27

WRITING FOR WELLNESS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. Andrea Schlottman facilitates this program. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (T.O.P.S.) MEETING
Promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Held via conference call, 6-6:30 p.m.. Dial 605-472-5789 wait for voice command, then press 944874. Rose Campion, 443-880-8884

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

Tues., Sept. 28

STORY TIME 'TIME FOR SCHOOL'
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Take-home activity included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'FIVE SENSES'
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. Take-home activity included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MEDITATION DELIGHTS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-3 p.m. A guided meditation technique that will offer a song/mantra of thanks in life's seemingly small delights. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

DELMARVA HAND DANCE
Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9:00 p.m. Show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. A picture on your phone of your vaccination card is acceptable. delmarvahanddance@gmail.com, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

Wed., Sept. 29

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT
Takes place Oct. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. Form teams of 4-6 players. Cash prizes. \$15 per person. Registration and payment: dwcmd.org by Sept. 29.

STORY TIME 'FOCUS ON FROGGY STORIES'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories and songs about frogs. An activity is also included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: 'THE WIFE UPSTAIRS'
Join the group in discussing "The Wife Upstairs" by Rachael Hawkins, 5:30-6:30 p.m.. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." Books are available on hoopladigital.com. 410-632-2600

ONGOING EVENTS

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKETS
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be selling their "Lottery Raffle" tickets on Saturdays at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., through the end of the year. Tickets cost \$20 and entitle the purchaser to 365 chances to win throughout 2022, based on the Maryland "Pick 3" daily evening drawing. Proceeds benefit local youth. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

Cuisine

Recipe for Black ‘n Bleu Picanha Salad

I hate socks. And I mean I loathe wearing the damn things.

It will not be long before I reside somewhere I can walk barefoot into the supermarket year-round; say Hawai'i or Costa Rica. And if I am forced to wear my Olukais, then so be it. But I was raised around Annapolis, where, by tradition, there were sock burning parties every year as we approached the summer equinox. Barefoot or bust.

And well, in the spirit of the sock-months approaching, I have to say those miserable words. Summer is over, followed by the ubiquitously lovely phrase "local's summer has begun." This would normally be a time of revelry.

Unfortunately, because of staffing issues and sheer exhaustion, I am already hearing that some of our favorite local places are closing early for the season. 2021 was the busiest summer for many of my friends and colleagues, and they were crushed due to surviving with a surprisingly small work force.

I run into friends now, and they are mere shadows of their former selves. Hopefully, they can rejuvenate over the fall and winter while gearing up for next year. My fingers are crossed, and I will remain cautiously optimistic, though honestly, I will not be holding my breath.

It has been a hellish two years for those of us in the industry, and for owners it has been a single-shot nineteen-month scene out of Mad Max. Survival skills have rarely been more apparent in some business owners. I am proud that I made it, and I lament those who were not able to. It literally breaks my heart.

As I moved my daughters to Boston last year, I was truly saddened by the countless permanent closures that line the streets in some parts of that beautiful town.

Some decisions were made by the city that wiped out many of the standing restaurants, and most people in the general public aren't aware of that. Simply tragic, especially when you calculate what these owners lost; not simply money or jobs, but homes, cars, property et al.

At least we can read drivel like this and lament times past and present



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3



and celebrate the simple things in life that make it all the worthwhile. Chef Josh at boxcar40 ran this salad recently and it is now on the menu out there.

There is a heartiness to this otherwise delicate salad that lends itself to cool mornings and chilly evenings. Yes, I said it: Chilly. My apologies.

We will get through it. We shall survive the winter, socks be damned.

Black ‘n Bleu Picanha Salad

serves 4

20 oz. Picanha (a Brazilian-cut steak) trimmed and about 2-inches thick

Blackening seasoning

Trimix, as needed

Spring mix or other greens, as needed

Candied nuts (recipe follows)

1 c. Bleu cheese crumbles

Fried onion crisps (recipe follows)

20 ea. Blistered grape tomatoes

Vinaigrette or dressing of your choice

1. Season the picanha with the blackening spice and trimix. The reason that I do this is because blackening spices tend to not have much salt. If you find that it is flavorful enough, then stick to just the blackening.

2. Place on a hot grill and cook to

the temperature of your liking, or a little under as it is going to sit for a few minutes.

3. Assemble the rest of the salad except for the onion crisps, including the dressing of your choice. Chef Josh at boxcar40 uses a blue cheese vinaigrette, which I absolutely love, but I can't give away all his secrets. This salad works well with many dressings.

4. When the steak is ready, pull it off and let it rest for about 10 minutes. There is no need to put a smoking hot steak on delicate greens, as they will immediately wilt.

5. Slice the steak and top the salad.

6. Top this with the onion crisps and enjoy the finest of filling salads.

Candied Nuts

Makes about 2 cups

2 c. Pecans or pecan pieces

1 Tbsp. Vegetable oil

2 Tbsp. Granulated Sugar

1/4 c. Brown sugar

1. Soak the pecans in water for 15 minutes, and then drain

2. Combine all ingredients in a bowl and then place on a sprayed sheet pan.

3. Place in a 400F oven and bake for about 10-15 minutes. *Make sure that you are tossing them every few minutes to avoid any burn edges or burnt nuts from hot spots in the oven.

4. Remove and cool. They will still be a bit soft but will harden as the sugar shell cools down. If they do not, put them back in the oven, as that simply means that the sugar did not get to the crack stage.

Fried Onion Crisps

Makes about 1 cup

1 c. Thinly shaved red onion

1 c. Buttermilk

1 c. Breader (you can make your own or just buy it)

1. Have a fryer heated to 350F, or oil in a pan. If doing the latter, ensure that it does not get too hot. I always recommend an actual fryer at home for safety reasons.

2. Soak the onions in the buttermilk for two minutes.

3. Pull them out, shake off excess buttermilk, and place in the breadier, tossing them to coat evenly and thinly.

4. Immediately place them in the fryer and fry until crispy and golden brown.

5. Remove to a paper towel and allow to cool until use.

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

Puzzles

WHAT A CHARACTER!

BY ALEX ROSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Rosen is a software engineer, formerly of New Jersey, North Carolina and Boston but now living in London. His job is to help computer users avoid email-related security mistakes, like clicking on a bad link or accidentally sending an email to the wrong person. This is Alex's third puzzle for The Times. He describes it as "luck at several different levels" that he got the symmetrical black squares and asymmetrical circles to work out right. — W.S.

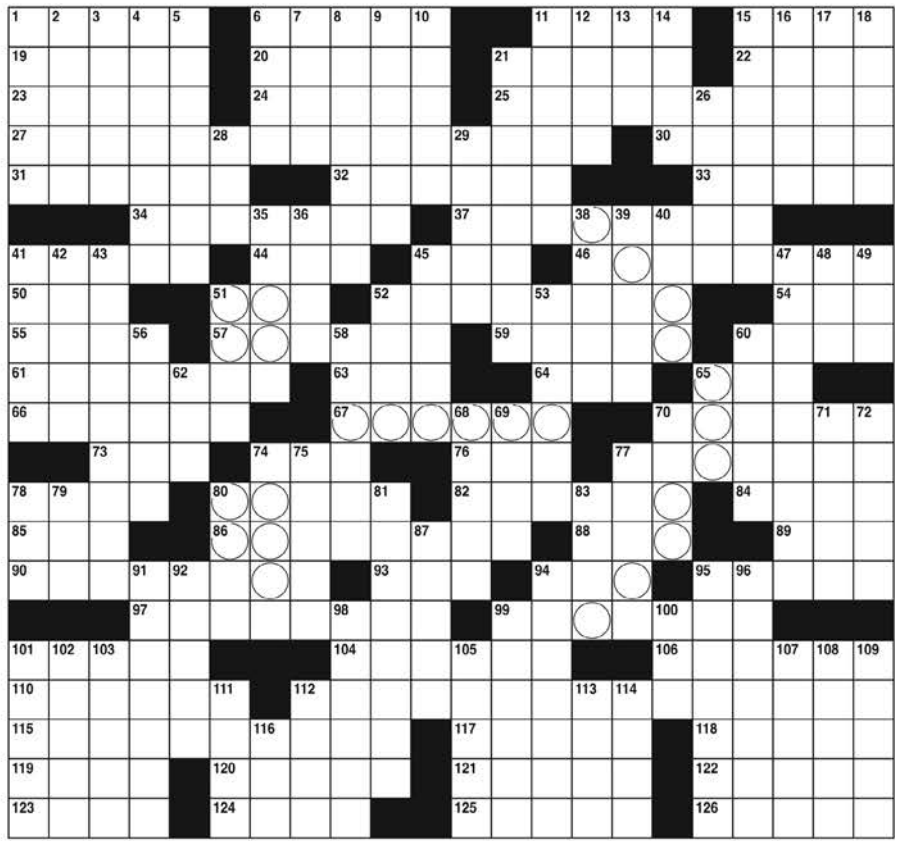
ACROSS
1 They come with bouquets
6 Away
11 "___ put our heads together ..."
15 Singer/drummer Collins
19 Cell component
20 Pal, in Peru
21 Put one's nose where it doesn't belong
22 Tilt-a-Whirl, e.g.
23 One arm held up with bent elbow and wrist, in a children's song
24 Move obliquely
25 Phenomenon such as the tendency to see human forms in inanimate objects
27 Any of the groupings of circled letters in this puzzle
30 Gin product
31 Incredible bargains
32 "Sorry, Charlie!"
33 Fits together
34 Savory Chinese snacks
37 Jump over
41 Smoking and swearing, e.g.
44 They await your return, in brief
45 Have a good cry
46 Syracuse Mets and Worcester Red Sox, for two
50 "Music's most maligned genre," per the critic Tom Connick

DOWN
1 Eastern cicada killers, e.g.
2 Suggestions
3 "... said ___ ever"
4 School
5 Resolves out of court
6 Org. that flew a helicopter on Mars in 2021

ACROSS
51 Word with level or lion
52 "Everything happened so fast!"
54 Farm female
55 "___ Gone Wrong" (2021 film)
57 Brunch beverage
59 One of the brothers on "Malcolm in the Middle"
60 Room in Clue
61 Cause of undue anxiety
63 It may be smoked
64 Hogwash
65 Munch, in modern slang
66 "___ 17" (W.W. II film)
67 One of two in a jack-o'-lantern?
70 Where charity begins, in a phrase
73 Table part
74 Title for Tussaud: Abbr.
76 "Midsummer" director Aster
77 Digs up
78 Carpenter's wedge
80 Does gentle stretching post-exercise, with "down"
82 Amp knob
84 Die like the Wicked Witch of the West
85 Give zero stars
86 Ne'er-do-wells
88 E.R. inserts
89 By birth
90 Plant said to repel bugs
93 ___ Ryerson, insurance salesman in "Groundhog Day"
94 French pronoun

DOWN
95 Quarter ___ (when the big hand is at three)
97 No-longer-current source for current events
99 Hot, mulled punch traditionally drunk around Christmas
101 Bacteria destroyer
104 French port on the English Channel
106 Like the Minotaur legend
110 University of Oregon site
112 How to see the image formed by this puzzle's circled letters
115 What's formed by the circled letters in this puzzle
117 "We're live!" studio sign
118 Ancient land in Asia Minor
119 Domino, e.g.
120 Martinez with a statue outside the Seattle Mariners' stadium
121 Makes less powerful, in video-game slang
122 Domino, e.g.
123 "To ..." things
124 Dino's tail?
125 Muse of love poetry
126 Arises (from)

ACROSS
7 Fail to mention
8 Information, old-style
9 Rounded quarters
10 Without stopping
11 How Alaska ranks first among the states
12 It's often left on the table
13 What "vey" of "Oy, vey!" translates to
14 ___ Games, company behind Fortnite
15 Rey, to Luke Skywalker
16 Sword handles
17 "Einstein," sarcastically
18 Puts pressure (on)
21 What can make men swear from men's wear?
26 "___ pass Go ..."
28 Leading medal winner at the Tokyo Olympics
29 Forman who directed "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
35 Farm refrain
36 Weight of a paper clip, roughly
38 Ancient: Prefix
39 Soul-seller of legend
40 Half-baked?
41 Duck and goose, at times
42 "See ya"
43 Group dance popularized in the U.S. by Desi Arnaz
45 77-Down is on the most collected one in U.S. history
47 Epiphany
48 Voice actor Blanc
49 Show with over 1,000 handwritten cue cards each week, for short



- 51 City hazard

52 "My word!"

53 Pol in the "I am once again asking ..."

56 City whose police cars are adorned with a witch logo

58 Card game with a PG-rated name

60 Boring

62 Purse

65 High degree

68 Not at all popular

69 Messes up

70 x, y and z

71 Chaotic skirmish
- 72 Fragrant compound

74 Saturn has more than 80 of them

75 Golf-course machine

77 He performed 636 consecutive sold-out shows in Vegas from 1969 to '76

78 Burn-prevention meas.

79 The future Henry V, to Falstaff

80 Fight tooth and nail

81 One who consumes a ritual meal to absolve the souls of the dead
- 83 Bits on book jackets

87 Roc-A-___ Records

91 Part of U.C.L.A.

92 Fashion designer Geoffrey

94 It may run from an emotional situation

95 [Mwah!]

96 Departed by plane

98 Green vehicle

99 Frank

100 Duke's org.

101 Pasta topper
- 102 Like the dog days of summer

103 Acrobatic

105 Make restitution

107 Faint color

108 "Take me ___"

109 Approaches

111 Where the lacrimal glands can be found

112 Pasta topper

113 Pump some weights

114 Not exactly

116 Vaccine-approving agcy.

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HARD - 76

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

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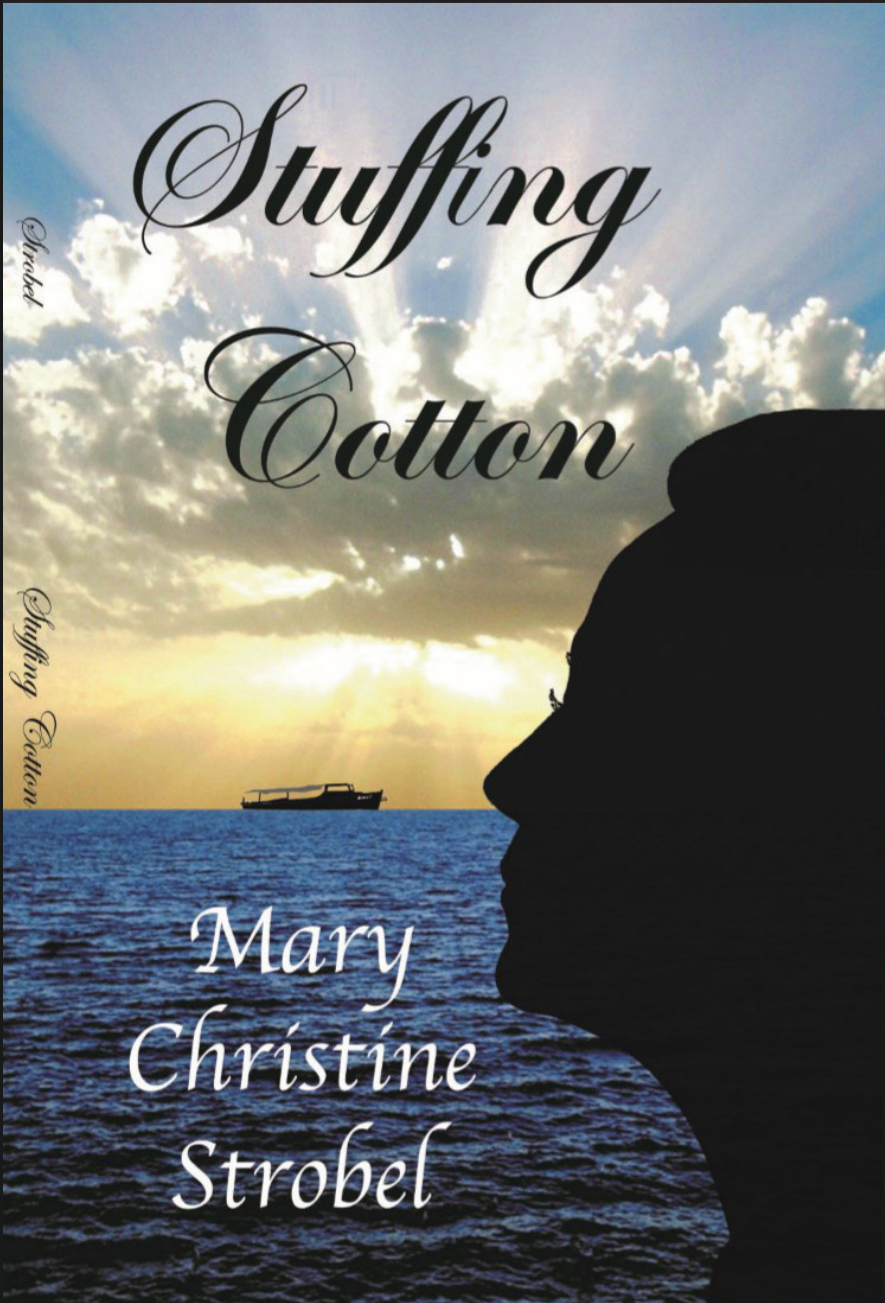
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