

OP board to discuss holding new election

Court still has to decide whether Farr was legally denied right to seek office

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) Following a delayed motion hearing on Monday in Worcester Circuit Court for board candidate Rick Farr's lawsuit against

Ocean Pines, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors scheduled a special meeting today (Thursday) at 3 p.m. to consider whether to hold a new election.

On Tuesday, the directors announced a meeting would be held on Sept. 30 at the Golf Clubhouse to vote on rescinding an earlier motion to count election results and to conduct a new election ... without Farr on the

ballot.

The motion to authorize an election redo would limit the field to three candidates already deemed eligible — Frank Daly, Stuart Lakernick and David Hardy.

The new motion under consideration today seeks to remedy concerns raised after Farr, who was initially approved to run by Ocean Pines Board member and Secretary Camilla

Rogers on May 11, was deemed ineligible on July 27 after ballots had been distributed.

"The Ocean Pines community has made it clear to several board members that they want their two votes to count," the proposed motion states. "Holding a new election of the three eligible candidates will give the ... community a chance to vote again

See JUDGE Page 4



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BLUEGRASS MAGIC

Adult and youth competition winners took the stage on Saturday during the annual Berlin Fiddler's Convention that filled Main Street with music fans drawn for an afternoon of grin-inducing picking.

Council debates rental license law details

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) Proposed licensing for short-term rentals in Berlin raised concerns during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday, as Planning Director Dave Engelhart reviewed a draft of a short-term rental ordinance developed in June at a council work session.

Engelhart's summary of points established then by the council touched on enforcement of violations, occupancy limits and license suspension procedures.

Among the topics raised at that meeting were parking, noise violations, room size, the need to post rental licenses on site and clearer definitions of occupancy limits.

See SHORT-TERM Page 3

Pines survey sees plenty of responses

Just-released questionnaire garners 200 quick replies

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) The newly released Ocean Pines property owners' survey is already producing a solid response, with more than 200 completed questionnaires returned by last week.

The Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee, which developed the 15-question survey, met last Thursday to review the early results and to discuss its next moves.

Committee Co-Chairman Bernie McGorry said the groups' work with the survey would continue even though its distribution has been accomplished.

"I don't want to rest on our laurels while the survey is out there," he said.

Preparing the list of questions took under 60 days from the first draft to finished product. The survey was authorized by the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Sept. 15.

"We got everything done on time or before the time," he said.

By comparison, McGorry said producing and publishing the last community survey, conducted in 2018, took organizers closer to a year.

See PINES Page 5



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PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY

Worcester Budget Officer Kathy Whited is retiring today after 23 years working for the county. Throughout her career, Whited played a vital role in helping the County Commissioners determine annual budgets and navigate the county through annual audits.

County Budget Officer Kathy Whited retires after 23 years

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) After 23 years in Worcester County government, Budget Officer Kathy Whited is calling it a career.

Whited officially retired from her position with the county today, ending an association that began in 2000 after she moved to the county from Houston.

"It's exciting," Whited said. "I'm a little nervous, just because of ending my career but I'm looking forward to spending time with my husband and family."

Whited, a native of upstate New York and current Stockton resident, came to the county as an accounting clerk in the Treasurer's Office. Two

years later, she was promoted into her current role.

She is a member of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Government Finance Officers Association and the MACo Budget and Finance Affiliate.

Whited played a vital role each year in preparing and overseeing the county budget.

"I've had the opportunity to work with department heads and agencies," she said. "I implemented a multi-year revenue and expense worksheet to assist the county commissioners and the (Chief Financial Officer), which helped us when we worked on budgets. I assisted the management team and the county commissioners through the national economic decline and covid."

Whited said she was fortunate to have the opportunity to work under three chief administrative officers — Gerald Mason, Harold Higgins and Weston Young.

Whited left an impression on those she worked closely with as well.

“I am incredibly grateful to have worked alongside this consummate professional,” Young, the current CAO, said in a press release. “We are indebted to Kathy’s commitment and invaluable contributions to the county.”

The press release went on to say that Whited's contributions have "resulted in the county obtaining clean opinions from the accounting firm, TGM Group, for each annual audit since 2000, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 13 consecutive years, and credit ratings of AA for Fitch, AA+ for Standard and Poor's, and Aa2 for Moody's Investor Services."

Whited and her husband, Ken, plan to spend retirement with their children and first grandchild, who was born earlier this year. They're looking forward to traveling the country to take in all of its sights, she said.

Though she's stepping away from her work for her life's next chapter, Whited said she sees a lot of good to come.

"Everyone has an integral part in county government," she said. "Wherever they come from, it's great for the county. I think the commissioners are working toward positive changes for bringing in business and keeping the rural aspects of the county."

"I'm going to miss working with my Worcester family. As someone who didn't grow up here, I've been blessed to be a part of it all."

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Short-term rental rules discussed

Continued from Page 1

In addition to incorporating the current town code requirement of a minimum 70 square feet of floor space for one occupant, Engelhart suggested that the requirement be set at 40 square feet per occupant be if multiple parties are involved.

Proposed parking requirements included, “one additional off-street parking space shall be provided for each bedroom rented totaling three or more bedrooms.”

“This allows for the requirement in town code that that each dwelling unit have a minimum of two off-street parking spaces without putting undue burden on the property owner,” he said.

Engelhart said earlier council discussions indicated additional language should be added to enable appeals of violations or suspensions of licenses before the Berlin Board of Housing Review. This procedure would mirror existing town code.

“Some of these we already have on the books for enforcement of noise or parking,” he said. “This would just be another application of those same ordinances that we have in place today.”

Councilmember Jack Orris asked about requiring an emergency contact to live within a half-hour drive from rentals, which are largely marketed through online platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO.

Engelhart said the commute time limit could be added, but that the draft ordinance already requires the property owner or his or her agent to live nearby and that the owner or responsible agent be on call 24 hours.

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols asked which zoning districts would be covered by the proposed rental rules.

In addition to residential districts R1-4, the ordinance would also regulate short-term rentals in business districts B-1-3 where dwelling units are permitted.

To provide protection for districts comprised of single-family homes, the ordinance includes a requirement that short-term rentals in R-1 or R-2 neighborhoods are the owners’ permanent dwelling listed with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Engelhart said the restriction was added based on extensive research of other jurisdictions licensing rules.

“You couldn’t go in and buy six houses on the street and operate them all as short-term rentals,” he said.

As proposed, the rental ordinance would permit homeowners the option to rent extra bedrooms or the entire property for limited terms.

Councilmember Jay Knerr questioned the procedures for addressing violations and license suspensions or revocations.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood, right, discusses licensing issues for short-term rentals with Councilmembers Shaneka Nichols and Troy Purnell on Monday.

“Should it be strengthened for noise violations?” he said.

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downington said noise violations are issued to the perpetrator.

Knerr asked what circumstances could result in rental licenses being revoked.

Engelhart said ordinance language could be altered to include violations of rental rules or any town code sections.

Knerr asked if a “three strikes” rule would be appropriate before yanking licenses after issuance.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood opposed limiting the count.

“I would not want to pigeonhole myself and say three strikes using that analogy for a second,” he said. “You could have one violation that’s off the Richter scales ... and that decision may be made at that point.”

Knerr said the town should ensure that procedures exist to prevent continuing problems from short-term rentals.

“You also want owners to be accountable for these issues,” he said.

Community opinion was the main concern raised by Councilmember Troy Purnell.

“I still want to hear from the public,” he said.

Although not yet at the public hearing stage, the council received comments from multiple community members, including correspondence from Atlantic Hotel General Manager Laura Sterns.

Fleetwood read a letter sent by Sterns that day opposing rental regulations.

Sterns, who relocated to Berlin from Ocean City 15 years ago, currently serves on Berlin’s Historic District and Parks commissions.

“I have a vested interest in this town,” she said.

Until recently, Sterns did not envision short-term rentals causing issues in Berlin.

“Truthfully, I wasn’t expecting Airbnb to be much of a problem until it was,” she said.

That view was altered after Sterns witnessed a bad example of short-term rentals being used for party purposes.

“I saw a party where a liquor tent was left overnight fully stocked for anyone passing by,” she said. “What if underage kids had seen this?”

Sterns said short-term rentals are operated as for-profit businesses that should not be permitted in residential areas.

Berlin Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Ron Cascio recommended that residential rental rules require owners be onsite.

“That’s a self-policing mechanism,” he said.

Cascio concurred with Sterns that short-term rentals represent business ventures in residential sections, with inevitable problems associated.

“I truly think we have to nip this in the bud before it becomes a proliferation,” he said. “I know people are buying up houses with that intent.”

Cascio suggested amending the town zoning code to be in line with current demographics and housing needs.

“Currently, it is not allowed under town code to rent rooms in secondary structures,” he said.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said it was evident ordinance language revisions were in order.

Tyndall suggested ordinance violations from short-term rentals be tied to that property and not an individual guest.

“Also trying to vet out what that violation schedule would look like,” he said.

Councilmember Dean Burrell acknowledged short-term rentals currently operate in Berlin.

“This is our attempt to standardize and bring that under some type of control and compliance,” he said.

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Kiwanis will honor Chinn with new scholarship

Late member embodied club's spirit, goals and purpose for 25 years

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) To honor the legacy of Ralph Chinn, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is establishing a memorial scholarship for the 25-year member and two-time president who died in late August.



Ralph Chinn

Public Relations/Press Chairman Dave Landis said there was no indication that his longtime friend was suffering from severe health issues before his on Aug. 24.

"I didn't have any inclination that he was sick," he said.

Days before departing, Chinn was honored by the Kiwanis Club with a quarter-century award.

"He did receive his 25-year service award in his home before his passing [that was] fittingly presented by member Marcus Page, whom Ralph sponsored to join the club," he said. "Normally, it would have been a publicized picture of the presentation of

the award, but circumstances didn't allow for that."

Last February, just before the coronavirus pandemic closed the door on large gatherings, Kiwanis held its traditional pancake breakfast fundraiser.

"When we used to have the pancake breakfast, Ralph was the man that did the kitchen," he said.

In 2020, Chinn turned the breakfast's back-of-the-house operations over to Landis.

"He just said, 'I'm older now, I want to pull back a little bit,' and then I took over the pancake breakfast," he said. "I was the one in charge of the kitchen, not Ralph."

While Landis was able to fill Chinn's void at the pancake breakfast, his larger footprint remains empty.

"Ralph was so integral to the club," he said. "He was very knowledgeable about Kiwanis rules and the things we had to abide by in meetings."

Due to Chinn's long service and procedural expertise, he also served as special counsel to incoming club presidents.

"Ralph could almost quote everything," he said. "He kept us straight."

Landis also credited Chinn for establishing an Italian dinner fundraiser in conjunction with Den-

ovo's Trattoria in Ocean Pines.

"Denovo's helped us the first couple of years when we could still use the [old Ocean Pines] country club, but that kitchen was really worn down," he said.

In time, Denovo's owners Bob and Kelli Beck moved the Sunday dinner to their establishment.

"Ralph made sure Bob and Kelli became honorary members of Kiwanis," he said.

Club members hold fond memo-

ries of Chinn and his wife, Wilma, operating the check-in table at weekly Kiwanis meetings.

"Ralph would make the coffee every week because he got there before everybody else," he said. "Ralph was really a hard worker."

Although plans have yet to be finalized, Kiwanis officials are hoping to hold a memorial for Chinn soon.

"We're thinking of having a memorial open to the public," he said. "We See SCHOLARSHIP Page 5

Judge orders preservation of all ballots cast, just in case

Continued from Page 1
with two valid votes."

Although a temporary restraining order requested by Farr's attorney Bruce Bright was initially approved on Aug. 11, Judge Sidney Campen allowed it to expire during an injunction hearing on Aug. 30.

At that time, Campen based the decision on the premise of holding a motion hearing in short order.

After opting to hold off ballot counts until the motion hearing on Sept. 27, seeing that no action was taken this week, the directors decided to proceed.

The new motion introduced by Association President Larry Perrone states, "The board is free to continue the business of running OPA and conducting a new election where all members can vote on the 3 eligible candidates."

During court proceedings on Monday, association lawyer Anthony Dwyer said that a revised motion to dismiss had recently been filed by his client.

Campen noted the issues at play had not changed.

Bright said the associations' second motion to dismiss was filed

within the last week.

"We haven't filed our response to the second motion to dismiss," he said.

Dwyer said the case was not sufficiently developed for the court to issue a summary judgment.

Campen suggested counsels should have conferred last week prior to the hearing.

"We're clearly not ready to go forward with the motion to dismiss and you haven't had an opportunity to respond," he said.

Bright agreed that both sides should expedite the matter and build in a future hearing date.

"Counsel and I should confer on an overall schedule," he said.

Campen said after both lawyers confer, a motion hearing could be scheduled at the conclusion of the discovery phase.

Following the hearing on Monday, Campen issued an order stating that a preliminary injunction request from Farr had previously been denied and that all ballots should be maintained and preserved by the Ocean Pines Elections Committee.

"It is also ordered that the entire ballot count shall be preserved insofar as ballots in favor of the plaintiff may be relevant in final determination of the matter," Campen wrote.



Rick Farr



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Pines survey gets quick responses

Continued from Page 1

“It does seem like it was six months but it was less than two,” he said. “There’s probably a mistake or two ... but it’s 98 percent correct.”

McGorry said since the board signed off on the survey roughly a week earlier nearly 150 replies were turned in.

McGorry said the committee’s work on survey questions was conducted without any participation by the board.

“It was very easy to sit back and let you run with it,” said board liaison Colette Horn.

Pending publication efforts include the Ocean Pines Newsletter in October.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said the survey would be featured on the newsletter front cover with a phone-scan QR code.

“You can’t miss it,” he said.

McGorry said the first question covers property owner status.

“We want a mix of fulltime and part-time residents,” he said. “We will be able to separate answers from non-property owners,” he said.

In a similar vein, the second question delineates between waterfront lots and other properties.

Question three and 11 address sat-

isfaction levels, with the first concerning overall resident happiness.

Based on early returns, McGorry said feedback has been largely positive.

“The numbers are pretty high in terms of satisfaction,” he said.

Question 11 is intended to determine the likelihood that residents will recommend Ocean Pines to friends or colleagues.

“This will be a benchmark,” he said.

The fifth question ranks overall satisfaction, which McGorry said would be used to establish where the community stands now versus its where it wants to be. An analysis of that data will allow to the committee and board to concentrate on areas that need more attention.

Question eight focuses on residents’ perceptions of overall value for association members based on annual fees.

“Pricing is always a tough question to ask when you’re doing market research because nobody is ever going to say, ‘No, I think you should charge more.’”

Ranking amenity use over the past six months and satisfaction levels is the topic of question nine.

“It will be interesting to see the

level of satisfaction across the board,” he said.

Committee members Jenny Cropper-Rines and Rob Keesling said the amenity data would prove useful.

“We’ll get a feel for which ones are used more,” Keesling said.

Other questions involve what improvements might be needed in the future, residents’ age, gender and who currently resides at owners’ property.

McGorry said younger families have been well represented in early returns.

Although the survey has been released online, the committee is working on printing business cards with QR scan codes, with distribution of the cards expected the following week.

During the committee meeting on Sept. 23, a survey link was sent out via e-blast, which Davis reported boosted replies over the 200 mark by the conclusion of the groups’ discussion.

McGorry said a summary of the data would be presented during the next board meeting. The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

“We’re off to a good start but we have a long way to go,” he said.

Scholarship honors late member

Continued from Page 4

just wanted to give people a chance to get together outside of the club.”

Since Chinn’s passing, current Kiwanis President Steve Cohen has been deluged with inquiries from old friends and acquaintances.

“He said, ‘It’s amazing how many

people have contacted him and said that they were friends with Ralph,’” Landis said.

Anyone wishing to support the Ralph E. Chinn Memorial Scholarship should mail checks payable to the “Ocean Pines Kiwanis Foundation,” to Kiwanis Club of Greater OP-OC, 239

Ocean Parkway, Berlin, MD 21811.

“Every year we have scholarships we give out and we’re going to name one in his honor,” he said.

If sufficient support is garnered, the scholarship would be perpetual.

“He was a really good man and he’s sorely missed,” Landis said.

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Sunfest back in Ocean City after year off, with new look

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) Ocean City’s Sunfest is back and with a new look.

After covid-19 forced event planners to cancel Sunfest in 2020, the annual festival kicks off its 46th year today, Thursday, with an opening ceremony at 10:15 a.m.

“It’s a different layout this year, with a lot of things we learned at Springfest (in May),” said City Special Events Director Frank Miller. “[We] have guidance from the health department for the changes we’ve made.”

In years’ past, the set-up for the festival, which attracted 317,419 people in 2019, included a large tent that backs up to the ocean housing live music, with arts and crafts and food vendors in tents on either side and on the opposite end. Another outdoor stage was also included in the inlet parking lot.

This year, taking a cue from Springfest, the arts and crafts vendors

See SUNFEST Page 8

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Pines committee talks wildlife, water quality

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) The Ocean Pines Environmental and Natural Assets Committee discussed wildlife control measures and possible projects last Wednesday, including how to drum up support for an upcoming native planting event to be held by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program at Bainbridge Pond.

Environmental and Natural Assets Committee Chairperson Ken Wolf said community help is being sought to plant the local flora.

“We’re looking for volunteers to come on Oct. 4 to help Maryland Coastal Bays and us plant,” he said.

Coastal Bays representatives and the Ocean Pines Association are working on the project funded by Chesapeake Bay Trust grant with matching association funds.

The planting element is the final phase of the larger Bainbridge Pond project intended to enhance stormwater management, reduce flooding and improve water quality prior to entering coastal bays.

Native plants improve filtration of stormwater entering Bainbridge Pond by soaking up nutrients before flowing into the Isle of Wight Bay.

Volunteers should contact Steve Farr, Coastal Bays Program watershed coordinator, by calling 301-580-0848 or emailing sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org.

Planting is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 4 and should wrap up around lunch time. Although shovels and gloves will be available, participants should consider bringing tools. Organizers said workers should dress accordingly and that wearing boots is advisable.

The committee also reviewed the final version of new signs to be placed around the ponds that remind the public not to feed geese or other wildlife.

The signs warning against feeding

the wild geese will be placed around the two North Gate ponds and at the South Gate Pond by Veterans Memorial Park.

“We’re going to get them produced and work with [Ocean Pines] Public Works on where they should be placed around the pond,” he said. “Ultimately, that’s their decision.”

Committee members talked further about a recent recommendation to test turf grass formulated for wildlife deterrence at the North Gate Pond.

Wolf said board liaison Tom Janasek opened discussions about installing FlightTurf during the directors’ meeting on Sept. 15.

FlightTurf, which was developed roughly a decade back, is distasteful to fowl and costs about \$2,600 per acre without installation.

“The fellow who runs the golf course was very interested in this concept,” he said.

Golf Superintendent Justin Hartshorne offered to help research the viability of planting FlightTurf.

During the board meeting discussion, Director Collette Horn recommended that Janasek provide information on less costly alternatives.

Wolf said past attempts to discourage geese populations from feeding and nesting have run the gamut from dogs to chemically treated grasses.

“We tried to grow the grass, then we came in and applied chemicals to the lawn,” he said. “We also brought in Border Collies. There was no magic bullet that was going to do anything.”

Also discussed during the session was the water quality testing at various Pines ponds, including water retention areas at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

“We did talk about the water quality testing, which had started at our behest in the ponds where there are geese,” he said.

Preliminary tests for bacteria had yielded subpar results, but a follow-up sampling found no areas of concern.

“There was an error in the testing that caused concern but there was a

retest and it was found that there weren’t any problems,” he said.

Janasek is continuing to seek experts to help improve the committee’s understanding of tests for bacteria levels.

“We want to get a better understanding of how to interpret all the testing information that we’re getting back,” he said.

Additional progress was made on efforts to enhance a scarcely used pond and nature trail in the woods behind the Ocean Pines Library.

Located just south of Route 90, Off Shore Lake encompasses roughly half the footprint of South Gate Pond.

Wolf said committee members reviewed a recently completed land plat of the site commissioned by the association and completed by Vista Design.

Before taking any steps to develop the area for a nature preserve, the lake area’s boundaries must be clearly established.

“We’re working in concert with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program on this,” he said. “How we can make it more of a nature preserve.”

Committee members also voted to recommend that board of directors consider renovating a small number of neglected mailbox clusters.

“At least one mailbox site and potentially two,” he said.

Last November, the Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee decided a proposal to rehabilitate three mailbox sites for between \$60,000-\$70,000 was too expensive, but agreed that repairs were needed.

“It was the last thing last year that didn’t make the budget,” he said.

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Sunfest 2021 musical entertainment schedule:

Thursday, Sept. 30
Outdoor Stage

- 10:15 a.m. opening ceremony
- 11:30 a.m. Poole & the Gang
- 1:30 p.m. Monkee Paw
- 3:30 p.m. Rick K. Road Trip
- 5:30 p.m. Front Page News
- 6:30 p.m. DJ Magellan of 98.1

Indoor Stage

- 10:45 a.m. Rick K. Road Trip
- 12:30 p.m. Recreation Dancers
- 2:30 p.m. Randy Lee Ashcraft & the Saltwater Cowboys
- 4:30 p.m. Teenage Rust
- 8 p.m. The Fabulous Hubcaps

Friday, Oct. 1
Outdoor Stage

- 10:15 a.m. Rick K. Road Trip
- 12:30 p.m. Lennon La Ricci & the Leftovers
- 2:30 p.m. Jesse Garron's Tribute to Elvis
- 4:30 p.m. The Stickers
- 6 p.m. DJ Kutt

Indoor Stage

- 11:30 a.m. Among the Stars
- 1:30 p.m. The British Invasion Experience

Saturday, Oct. 2
Outdoor Stage

- 10:15 a.m. Sapphire
- 12:30 p.m. Rick K. Road Trip
- 2:30 p.m. Blind Wind
- 4:30 p.m. Guys In Thin Ties
- 6 p.m. BK & Chrissy of Radio Ocean City

Indoor Stage

- 11:30 a.m. The Stickers
- 1:30 p.m. Hitch a Ride
- 3:30 p.m. Grand Illusion

Sunday, Oct. 3
Outdoor Stage

- 10:15 a.m. Slap & Bop Calypso
- 12 p.m. The Resistors Band
- 2 p.m. Mike Hines & the Look
- 4:30 p.m. Controversy - A Tribute to Prince

Indoor Stage

- 11 a.m. Bob Loughheed & the Memphis Mafia
- 1 p.m. Glass Onion Band
- 3 p.m. Mzz B & Company

Sunfest gets rid of arts and crafts tent for open-air look

Continued from Page 6

will be lined up in aisles outdoors to the stage's right. The live music tent and outdoor stage will still be there, but everything will look a little different.

"We learned that a lot of the patrons really liked it that way, liked how certain aspects were set up differently," Miller said. "Instead of walk-through craft tents to see all the vendors, we will set up with the vendors outside, instead of aisles. The public liked being able to walk through outside, instead of inside. It's even better if the sun is shining."

The food and beverages vendors will still be under a tent, Miller said.

Having arts and crafts outdoors, next to another live music stage, creates more of a "concert-like" feel, Miller said.

"The entire layout is vastly different and they'll see that as soon as they get there," he said.

Some aspects are still the same, such as the total craft and commercial vendors, numbering around 300. Free live music will alternate between the tented and open-air stages all four days.

There are paid concerts Thursday and Friday evenings featuring The Fabulous Hubcaps and the Eli Young Band, respectively, at 8 p.m. Tickets were still available as of Wednesday morning and can be purchased on Sunfest grounds or at ticketmaster.com.

Blues Traveler, who was slated to perform Saturday night, canceled last week, due to injuries frontman John Popper sustained in a recent tour bus accident.

The rest of the event is free, as usual.

"You can come and enjoy Sunfest just as we've had it the last 45 years," Miller said. "It'll be a little bit of a treasure hunt (for returning patrons), but your favorite things will all be here."

Sunfest will include child-friendly activities, a bounce house and a beach hayride.

Sunfest's reach extends beyond the southern end of the resort. The Kite Loft's annual Sunfest Kite Festival also returns for all four days, taking place on the beach between Fourth and Sixth streets — which the sponsor markets as "a kite-flying extravaganza & funfest for kite fliers and spectators."

For more information, visit www.kiteloft.com.

A treasure hunt, organized by Todd Ferrante of Park Place Jewelry and Wayne Littleton of the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation, will occur on the beach between Second and Third streets from 4-5 p.m. on Saturday and 1-2 p.m. on Sunday.

Participants will search for buried treasure within a 60x120-foot sectioned-off portion of the beach.

Each hunt can have up to 100 participants, who will each donate \$15 to the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation.

For more information, call 410-213-9220 or 410-289-6500.

After a year off and all the retooling that has gone into the new-look staple of the end of the tourist season, Miller said it's good to have the town's "anchoring event" back.

"This is the event everyone knows for Ocean City, Maryland," he said. "It draws families from all over the area and all over the state. It's a great family event to come to and that has not changed ... "It's been a challenging year all around. We're happy to get the event up and off the ground again and give our residents and tourists something friendly to do. It's a relaxing, leisure activity — you can enjoy the beach, the Boardwalk, the amusement pier and of course the ocean. It's still such a beautiful time to be here and that's something people should come down to see for themselves."

Sunfest runs from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit <https://www.ococean.com/events/sunfest>.

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PHOTO COURTESY ACT
Gabrielle Ross was unveiled as the new Assateague Coastkeeper by the Assateague Coastal Trust Board of Directors on Sept. 28.

Coastkeeper Phillips hands over reins to Ross on Oct. 4

(Sept. 30, 2021) The Board of Directors of Assateague Coastal Trust, the Waterkeeper Alliance program for the lower Eastern Shore, announced on Sept. 28, that Kathy Phillips, its current Assateague Coastkeeper, will be passing the patrol boat keys to Gabrielle Ross on Oct. 4. Phillips will step into the role of executive director.

“After 15 years at the helm of the Assateague Coastkeeper patrol boat, ACT’s advocacy programs, and administration of this powerful and effective 50-year-old organization, I am pleased to see the ACT Board move the organization forward by splitting the formerly combined Coastkeeper/executive director staff position in to two separate staff positions,” Phillips said. “This will allow the Assateague Coastkeeper more time to pursue policy, legislative and compliance clean water initiatives within the coastal watershed.”

“I am thrilled to be joining Assateague Coastal Trust as the new Assateague Coastkeeper,” Ross said. “As a young girl I enjoyed exploring Delmarva with my family – learning how to fish, clam and crab. I found an escape in the coastal waters of Delmarva, where the rich fertile soils, bountiful waters and seemingly endless landscapes fueled my passion in conservation and environmental stewardship.”

In 2020, Ross received the Waterkeepers Chesapeake Water Warrior Award for her efforts protecting Wicomico County’s Paleo Channel underground aquifer, introducing new zoning laws to protect citizens from expanding poultry operations, and working with citizens and environmental partners to introduce the Community Healthy Act in the Maryland legislature.

“We know Kathy Phillips is transitioning to a welcomed full retirement in 2022, and ACT will miss her presence on the water and on the front lines of environmental protection, but, we have full confidence in our new Coastkeeper, Gabby Ross,” Jim Rapp, ACT board president, said. “Gabby’s commitment to protecting and defending local waterways has been reflected through her career field work with the Maryland Park Service, Delaware Natural Resources, and her citizen advocacy in forming a grassroots citizen activist group named Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs (CCAIC). We are excited to welcome Gabby to the ACT team knowing her education, her experiences in the field and in community organizing will make the transition from our current Coastkeeper, Kathy Phillips, to the newest, and third Assateague Coastkeeper, a smooth one.”

When Ross is not working, she enjoys birding the coastal byways, gardening, painting coastal landscapes and paddling with her dogs, Maverick and Goose.

“I am looking forward to growing with ACT, protecting the coastal waterways so that they may flourish for future generations and inspiring others to get involved in their local communities to motivate change,” Ross said.

Assateague Coastal Trust, a member of the global Waterkeeper Alliance movement, hosts the Assateague Coastkeeper, working to assure our 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.

Berlin council mulls water pipe replacement

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) Along with approving funding to replace failing storm-water piping on Washington Street, Berlin’s mayor and Town Council also reviewed new tree lighting slated for downtown.

Councilmembers voted to authorize spending up to \$110,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to replace a town-owned storm-water pipe running from 105 Washington Street.

Water Resources Manager Jamey Latchum said the 18-inch terracotta pipe section has failed and needs replacing.

“There’s quite a few sinkholes,” he said, adding that neighboring properties are suffering as well.

“It has been affecting the homeowners there in their driveway,” he said.

Latchum asked the council to authorize a downstream modeling study before issuing a request for proposal for repairs.

Latchum said initial plans included installing larger 24-inch pipe.

“We’ve now been informed by EA Engineering that an 18-inch pipe dimension would suffice,” he said.

The replacement plans also call for substituting plastic pipes for the current clay ones.

“We have to get approval from Maryland Department of the Environment

because this outlets into Bottle Branch,” he said. “It’s an old pipe and it’s not uncommon to see failures.”

Latchum said state review would take up to 60 days total.

“When they come back, we find out what they want to see,” he said. “They will tell us at a minimum what we have to do.”

Councilmember Dean Burrell suggested the 24-inch pipe option should still be examined.

“It could impact downstream,” he said.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said cost differences for the varying pipe sizes would be minimal.

Project cost estimates include \$99,000 for engineering and up to \$8,000 for modeling studies.

Latchum said regardless of dollar totals, starting the project would be delayed 6-9 months due to supply-chain challenges.

“They’re waiting for ships to come in with supplies to make materials,” he said.

Councilmembers also got a sneak peak at new accent lighting for trees in the downtown district.

Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said upward accent lighting has been ordered for a cost of \$1,200.

“These are just like the ones we had before in the trees,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Berlin Water Resources Manager Jamey Latchum discusses failing stormwater piping on Washington Street during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

Councilmember Jack Orris asked if the replacements would match street-lights downtown.

Lawrence confirmed the lighting is identical to the earlier lamps.

“It’s called cool lighting and it does match the downtown lights,” he said.

Lawrence said work crews are in the midst of trimming trees in anticipation of installing lighting.

“We won’t have to do that again for 3-4 years,” he said.

The new light installation is intended to feed power lines from underground.

“We’re going to try and go around the base of the trees,” he said.

Last week, Lawrence consulted with EA Engineering representatives to flesh out details for underground work.

“Some of it is going to require a little bit of directional boring,” he said.

Armstrong said the estimated price of roughly \$4,800 would include underground boring.

Orris asked if the price estimate includes lights for trees along West Street.

Fleetwood said the West Street inclusion would add \$2,500 to the bottom line.

“We budgeted \$110,000 for this at beginning of the fiscal year and it is projected to fall below this,” he said.

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The 27th Relay for Life will return to an in-person format after last year's drive-thru event. The event will take place on Saturday from 3-8 p.m. on Berlin's Main Street, where participants will be encouraged to walk and interact with the various businesses partnering with the American Cancer Society to put on the event.

Relay for Life returns to in-person in Berlin

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is returning to something closer to its traditional format when it kicks off Saturday on Main Street in Berlin.

Starting at 3 p.m. in front of Stevenson Church and the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling office, participants and donors will be encouraged to stroll down the town's business district, interacting with the variety of businesses along the way.

"This year we'll be promoting for people to walk through town. In the past we had a literal track," said Relay volunteer chair Dawn Hodge. "This year is more of a loose-flow, we just want you to walk around town to the different shops."

The event will also include children's games and free ice cream from Island Creamery for survivors. Sisters Wine, Gourmet and Gift Store will donate 20 percent of its proceeds to Relay for Life.

Last year, Relay for Life was limited to a drive-thru format due to covid-19 concerns. In years past the event had been held at Frontier Town off Route 611 and would last from 6 p.m. until the following morning.

Hodge estimated that 50 people showed up for the limited event last year but hopes she will see a couple hundred for the event's 27th year.

"We used to crowd around a campfire at Frontier Town, but it's completely different from what it's been in the past because of covid and rearranging around that," Hodge said. "This year, we're going to welcome everyone and have our survivors

and caregivers welcome everyone."

The event will include gifts for cancer survivors such as pins and gift cards from every volunteer team, reading aloud the names of survivors, a raffle and luminaria — small, paper lanterns that can be purchased in the name of a loved one.

Hodge said they hope to raise \$100,000, but that it is a "stretch goal" because of how different the event must be to accommodate covid concerns.

"We've raised well over a million dollars (in the event's history)," she said. "We've been a nationally recognized relay in the past until covid pretty much."

The funds raised by Relay for Life are redirected to services that will help cancer research and awareness on the Eastern Shore.

"The money stays locally because we don't have a research program in the area. Research is No. 1 — money that goes to research benefits everyone in the community," Hodge said. "People have not been getting their screenings because of covid. The sooner you can get it diagnosed — or if you can get it diagnosed beforehand — it's less expensive to treat it preliminarily than down the road. It literally saves lives getting screened."

Partnering organizations and businesses for the Relay for Life include Stevenson Church, Sterling Tavern, World of Toys, On What Grounds, Victorian Charm, Bruder Hill and Bruder Home, Boxcar on Main, Una Bella Salute, the Dusty Lamb and Island Creamery.

For more information, visit <https://relayfor-life.org/northworcestermd>.



Relay for Life participants will have the opportunity to purchase luminarias — small, paper lanterns — in the name of a loved one who has lost, beaten or is fighting a battle with cancer. Proceeds from the event will be redirected to services that help cancer research and awareness on the Eastern Shore.

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Worcester begins fire hydrants flush in OP during Oct.

(Sept. 30, 2021) Worcester County Public Works will begin section-by-section fire hydrant flushing activities in Ocean Pines this October.

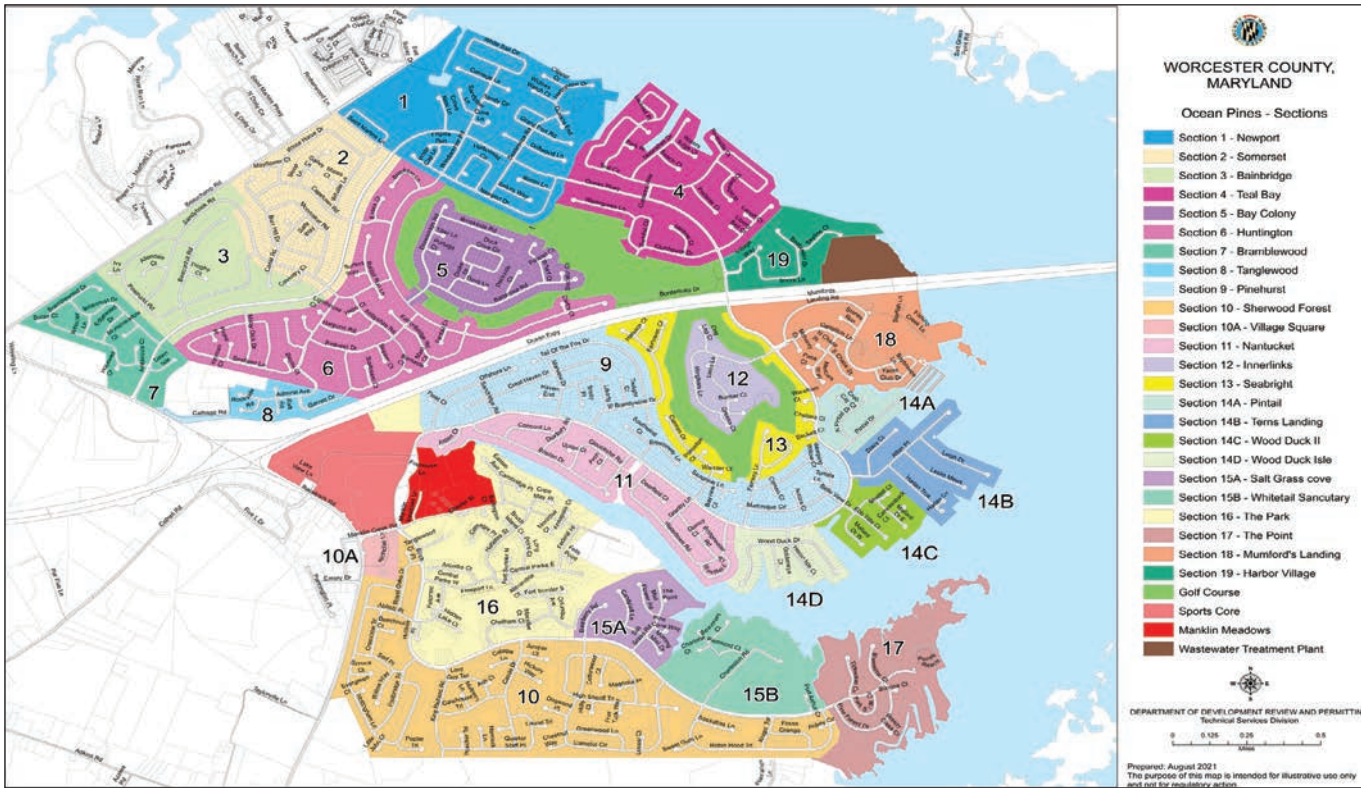
“Routine flushing of the water system helps to reduce the frequency of discolored water,” Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. “Public Works crews open and close the hydrants, flushing out the built-up iron deposits. Sometimes, this can lead to temporary increases in suspended iron, which should settle out within a few hours of the flushing.”

Public Works typically flushes the Ocean Pines system twice a year to remove any accumulated sediment from the lines and to ensure the hydrants are operational. Proposed dates for the flushing of waterlines in Ocean Pines are:

- Oct. 4– Sections 3 and 7
- Oct. 5 – Sections 6 and 8
- Oct. 6 – Sections 2, 5, and 1
- Oct. 7 – Sections 4 and 19
- Oct. 8 – Sections 18 and 12
- Oct. 12 – Sections 13 and 14A
- Oct. 13 – Sections 14B and 14C
- Oct. 14 – Section 14D
- Oct. 15 – Sections 9 and 11
- Oct. 18 – Sections 16 and 10A
- Oct. 19 – Section 10
- Oct. 21 – Section 15A and 15B
- Oct. 22 – Section 17

Concurrently, the proposed dates for the flushing of waterlines are Oct. 5-7 for River Run and Oct. 18-19 for Pennington Commons. All flushing dates are subject to change.

The discoloration of the water in Ocean Pines is from mineral particulates, primarily iron, suspended in the water. The Clean Water Act established a standard of 0.3 mg/L of iron in drinking water as an aesthetic standard. It is not a health related



problem.

The wells serving Ocean Pines normally contain an average iron concentration below 0.1 mg/l and historically average 0.06 mg/l. of iron. Ocean Pines wells over the summer months produce approximately 2 million gallons per Day of water, over time the small amount of iron in the water builds up. In areas of low water usage, like cul-de-sacs, the small amount of iron can settle out and collect.

Deposits will occasionally break up and cause the brown water effect most commonly seen. Occurrences of high water use (fighting fires, opening fire hydrants, etc.) can cause resuspension of those minerals and water discoloration. Flushing during the summer months is minimized because of the seasonally high water use.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Worcester County Public Works – Water & Waste Water Division at 410-641-5251 (answers 24 hours).



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PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS
Pictures of smiling youths delighted after discovering a “Letters From Santa” in their mailbox that is featured in this year’s mailing.

Phillips seeks financial help for ‘Letters From Santa’ book

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) One decade after launching “Letters From Santa,” former Ocean Pines Director Of Aquatics Colby Phillips’ Christmas-greeting campaign soldiers on, with community support sought to expand the mailer to include a storybook this season.

“Last year over 1,000 letters were mailed,” said Phillips, who now serves as senior general manager of the Captains Cove recreational community in Greenbackville, Virginia.

After earlier coordinating with Santa to send letters to her own children, Philips later decided to offer the option to the larger community.

“Ten years ago, I started sending

letters to children locally from Santa to try to spread Christmas joy,” she said. “Each year as the distribution list grew, several community members contributed stamps, paper and other needs to help fund this.”

To help fuel the tradition, original characters were developed, including Santa’s latest reindeer Peppermint.

“I heard several times how much the children enjoyed following Peppermint’s journey,” she said.

In 2019, Christmas letters from Santa was broadened to include correspondence for adults. This year, Phillips is looking to add another wrinkle with a 12-page booklet including a Yuletide tale that doubles as a coloring book.

“My hope is to not have to charge

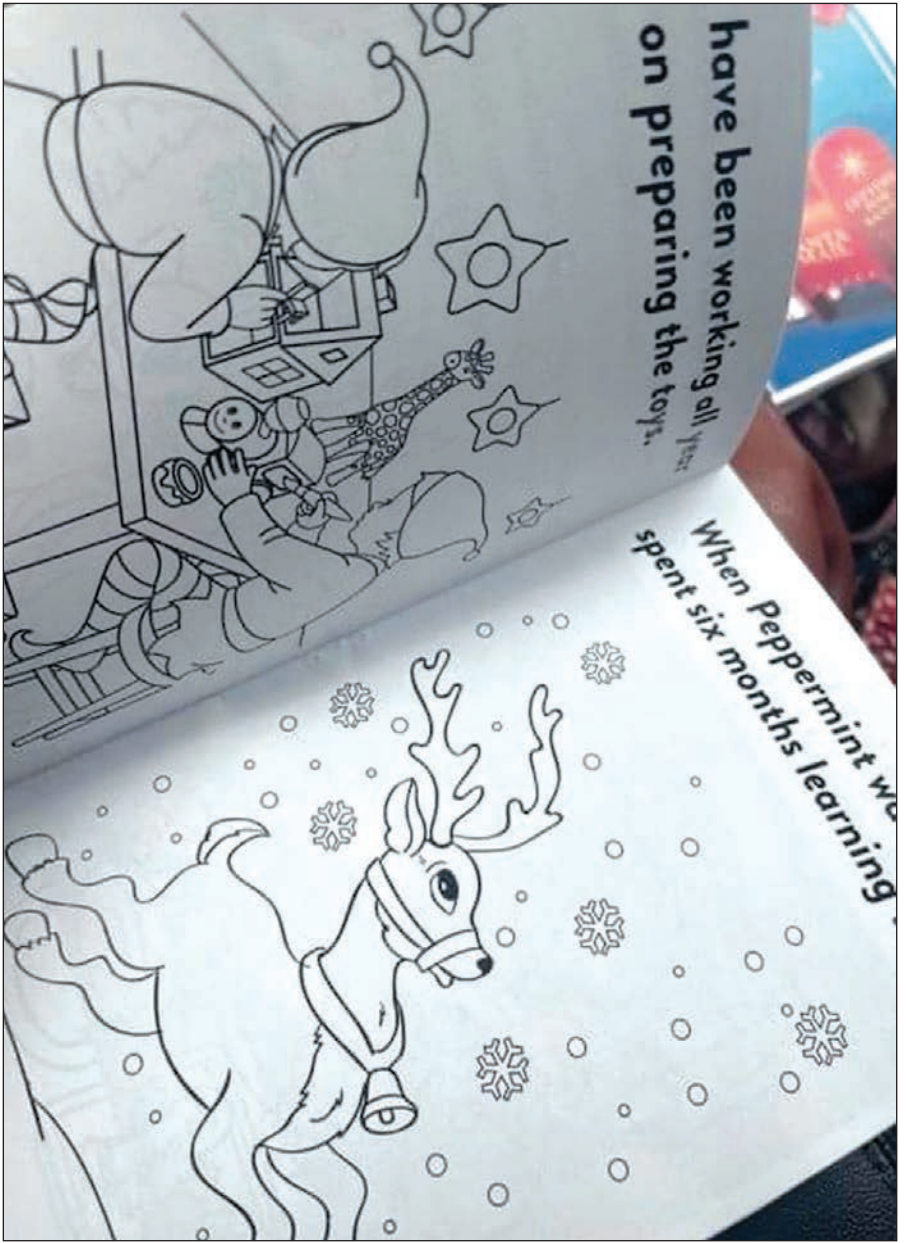


PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS
The annual “Letters From Santa” mailer orchestrated by Colby Phillips is being expanded this year to include a story/coloring book.

anyone for the coloring book being mailed, as the letters have always been free,” she said.

To that end, Phillips is requesting financial support to cover production.

“I am reaching out because there will be a larger cost this year associated with sending the coloring book,” she said.

Phillips worked with Thom Gulyas and Emily Davis at ACE Printing & Mailing on the seasonal book project.

“The coloring book shares the story of Peppermint, along with a personalized message to each child,


as well as a few messages received to Santa from local children,” she said.

Phillips said any excess funds would be directed to Worcester County Youth & Family Services.

“Your name or ... business will be included in several social media posts unless otherwise specified,” she said.




For more information email Santaphillips@yahoo.com



Donate through Venmo: @santaphillips 410-251-3500 or mail Santa Phillips C/O ACE Printing, 10026 Old Ocean City Blvd. Suite 3 Berlin, Maryland 21811.



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Rabbi installed at Temple Bat Yam in Berlin

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Sept. 30, 2021) Berlin's Temple Bat Yam officially introduced Rabbi Arthur S. Rutberg during an installation ceremony on Friday.

Rutberg has led the congregation since July, but the community came together to celebrate his appointment with a night that featured the Delmarva Chorus and several speakers, including state Sen. Mary Beth Carozza.

"Friday's installation was an excellent evening ... went very well," Rutberg said. "I'm enjoying life on the Eastern Shore. It's a great congregation and I'm looking forward to many good years here."

Temple President Candy Gusst

called the installation for the rabbi "magical" and a "love-fest."

"The word I use is 'magical,'" Gusst said. "It was beautiful. We had a lot of fun. There were very many kind words. Afterward, we had an (informal celebration known as an) oneg. It was out of sight ... terrific."

Rutberg replaces Rabbi Estelle Mills, who had led the temple for three years.

Gusst said that the temple selected Rutberg following a traditional process through which temples and rabbis are paired by the United Jewish Reform Group.

"Rabbis who want a new position post with them," Gusst said. "Search committees go to them and negotiate. We try to match up with somebody



Rabbi Arthur S. Rutberg was officially installed at Temple Bat Yam on Friday, though he has been with the community since July. Rutberg said he's "looking forward to many good years" in the area.

PHOTO COURTESY CANDY GUSTT

who's interested in coming to this area."

Gusst said Rutberg brings a depth of knowledge to the temple.

"He presents (his expertise) in an almost memorizing manner," Gusst said. "He's got a great sense of humor. He's a team with his wife, Sara."

Rutberg has 38 years of experience as a rabbi and his vocation has taken him all over the country, most recently having been in Tennessee. He also spent 10 years as an active and reserve chaplain in the army.

"I wanted to get back to the northeast, sort of, kind of," Rutberg said of his desire for this position. "Our daughter lives close by in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. I grew up on the shore by the ocean in New York — that was an attraction as well."

Boating course in OP held Oct. 5-7

(Sept. 30, 2021) The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering another Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, Oct. 5-7, at the Ocean Pines Library from 6-9 p.m.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Cer-

tificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland.

Those attending the class, and passing the test, will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states

Cost is \$20 for all three evenings. The library is located at 11107 Cathell

Rd. in Ocean Pines.

Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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Inside Ocean Pines South Gate Entrance

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ANNIVERSARY

The Friends of Assateague State Park (FOASP) celebrated the organization's 21st anniversary on July 20. A new bulletin board information space was presented to the current board members by Assateague State Park Manager Angela Baldwin and Assistant Manager Meghan Rhode. Current board members are President Cathy Cox, Vice President Trish Smoczynski, Treasurer Roddy Rodriguez, Secretary Christine Nestlerode, and Pat Foley and Alan Smith.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EXPERIMENT

Second grade students at Worcester Preparatory School recently conducted a science experiment, creating their own ice cream in a bag and exploring the best way to chill the ingredients to have them become a creamy treat. Madelyn Tull participates in the activity.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Friends of Assateague State Park (FOASP) celebrated the organization's 21st anniversary on July 20. To commemorate the event a new sign for the Assateague State Park Nature Ceter was presented. Pictured are charter members of Friends of Assateague State Park, from left, Ted and Lila Williams, Jim and Cathy Siegman, Roddy and Cherie Rodriguez, Pat Heath, and Emily and Bob Shade.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FUNDRAISER

The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County recently held the 17th annual Kennedy King fundraiser dinner at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Joshua Nordstrom, Worcester County commissioner; Jake Day, mayor of Salisbury and keynote speaker; Dr. Roxie Dennis Acholonu, DCCWC chair; and Jim Mathias, master of ceremonies.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW MEMBERS

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently installed new member Jennifer Bodnar. Pictured, from left, are Immediate Past President Cliff Berg, Past District Gov. Bill Ferguson, Bodnar, and Club President Brian Shockley. The club meets every other Wednesday at the Residence Inn, in the Marriott Hotel, 300 Seabay Lane, Ocean City. For more information, email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Donald Robertson, owner/operator of SeaFloor Carpet Hardwood and More, recently presented a checked to the Worcester County Humane Society in the amount of \$6,375. During the months of March through July, Robertson donated a percentage of sales to the no-kill shelter in Berlin. He is pictured with humane society volunteer Carol Martin.

Safe living goal of ‘Healthy Home’

(Sept. 30, 2021) The Chesapeake Housing Mission, Atlantic General Hospital and the Worcester County Health Department are partnering to form the “Healthy Homes Initiative,” a three-pronged approach to reducing the growing number of unsafe and unhealthy living conditions found in homes in Worcester County.

This partnership is the first of its kind in the region and is focused on people living below the poverty level. The main goal of this initiative is prevention of falls and other illness caused by living in an unhealthy environment.

A news conference and signing of a Memorandum of Understand for this partnership will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. at Atlantic Gen-

eral Hospital in Berlin. The media and community are invited to this event to learn more about the Healthy Homes Initiative.

Chesapeake Housing Mission will provide critical home repair services to Worcester County residents living below the poverty level. CHM will design, obtain permits and provide all materials for the projects.

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will provide employee work teams to complete projects and reimburse CHM for materials for each project.

The Worcester County Health Department will collaborate with CHM to screen vulnerable adults who may be in need of critical home repairs and work on a training program on home

safety and health.

A collaboration between these three groups will facilitate improved living conditions for poverty level residents helping them to remain safely in their homes, reduce the risk of falls and other health problems, increase access to services and offer an improved quality of life in Worcester County.

A recent outcomes study found that clients reduced falls by more than 90 percent after completion of their CHM projects.

For more information, contact Sarah Yonker at Atlantic General Hospital at syonker@atlanticgeneral.org or Don Taylor at Chesapeake Housing Mission chmed@chesapeakehousing-mission.org.

Community Briefs

Accepted

More than 280 students have been accepted into the College of Charleston Honors College for the fall 2021 school year, including Bridget Kemp of Berlin and Katharine McCormick of Bishopville.

McCormick plans to major in psychology at the South Carolina university, while Kemp is currently undecided.

President’s list

Cristina Jones of Berlin, was named to Southern New Hampshire University’s President’s List for the summer

session.

Eligibility for the president’s list requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the term.

Raffle

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is selling its “Kiwanis Lottery Raffle” tickets every week at

the Saturday Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

The “Lottery Raffle” is 1,000 tickets numbered #000 through #999 sold for \$20 each entitling the purchaser 365 chances to win all year 2022, based on the Maryland “Pick 3” daily evening drawing.

Funds raised benefit local youth. Visit www.kiwanisofopoc.org for more information.

Rally to support women’s reproductive rights this Sat.

(Sept. 30, 2021) A coalition of local Lower Shore organizations, including Indivisible Worcester MD, the Democratic Women’s Club of Worcester County, the Democratic Club of Worcester County, the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus, FLIPS (Feminists, Liberals, Independents, Progressives), and the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee, will rally in support of women’s reproductive rights in response to a na-

tional call to action by Women’s March, Planned Parenthood, and other groups.

The rally will take place on the plaza in front of the Wicomico County Government Building on 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m.

Speakers will include representatives of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and the Maryland Democratic Party.

OP aquatics staff member reports contracting covid

(Sept. 30, 2021) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola this week announced that an

employee of the Aquatics Department recently tested positive for covid-19.

The employee has not returned to work and will not until it is safe to do so consistent with CDC protocols, he said.

“We notified the local health department of the situation and will cooperate fully with public health officials, he said.

“In addition to reporting the positive test to the health department, we were able to determine who had close contact with the employee in question and communicated directly with those individuals. We understand the employee had no close contact with residents.

We continue to provide best practices to our employees regarding covid-19.”

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Wor. Youth, Family Services launches in-house projects

(Sept. 30, 2021) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. is launching an initiative for two of its in-house programs – Worcester Connects and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Worcester County schools have been vigilant in promoting college and career readiness among its students.

The organization believes the youth it serves would benefit in connecting with members of the local skilled labor force, so it has started the “Blue Collar Campaign.”

The Worcester Connects mentor program focuses on improving the lives and outcomes for children in grades 1 through 12 who are living in poverty, truant or at risk of becoming truant, bullied or living with special circumstances.

The CASA program provides advocacy services for child victims of abuse and neglect who are trying to understand and navigate their way through the court system.

It is important that mentor and CASA youth recognize the importance of hands-on employment, work life balance, and job security, which are things that contribute to long term self-sufficiency.

The agency is in search of plumbers, HVAC technicians, mechanics, landscapers, electricians, truck drivers and other laborers to help launch the “Blue Collar Campaign.”

It is looking for all genders, races, ethnicities and age groups.

Additional information and program applications can be found at www.gowoyo.org, or contact Debbie Smullen dsmullen@gowoyo.org for Worcester Connects, or Jerrona Smith jsmith@gowoyo.org for Court Appointed Special Advocates; or call 410-641-4598.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOP PLAYER
Adult banjo winner, Mike Hansen, picks tunes during the annual Berlin Fiddler's Convention on Saturday.

Snow Hill hires marketing leader

(Sept. 30, 2021) The Town of Snow Hill announces the hiring of Lorissa McAllister, its new media, marketing and promotions coordinator.

She started her position on Sept. 27. The position will be in an interim status for a transition period, after which the town will begin advertising requests for applications.

The media, marketing and promotions coordinator position recently became vacant after the prior coordi-



M. McAllister

nator left the position in early September.

Since then, the town's intern, Salisbury University student Jerry Jeffra, took over some of the duties, such as attending meetings and posting on the town's Facebook page and drafting press releases, to help with the transition.

The Town of Snow Hill expects a seamless transition for McAllister, as she has worked closely with the town and its previous coordinator on several events, projects and training.

She also has experience in leadership as vice president of Main Street and as a Snow Hill business owner, crucial components of the town/business relationship.

As a longtime resident, McAllister opened The Daily Brew Coffeehouse in downtown Snow Hill in 2016 soon after graduating from Salisbury University with a BA in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution.

Enthusiastic to participate in the revitalization of the town, she began volunteering for Downtown Snow Hill, Inc, eventually becoming chairperson for the Main Street Economic Vitality Committee and vice president of the board of directors.

She has contributed to and spearheaded many projects and initiatives in her various roles within the community.

McAllister has participated in the Maryland Economic Development Association Chesapeake Economic Development Course and is eager to utilize her multifaceted skill set to continue promoting and fortifying Snow Hill.

"I am ecstatic to come onboard with the Town of Snow Hill as the media, marketing and promotions coordinator," said McAllister. "Snow Hill is my heart and all things related to the economic development of the town is my passion. I look forward to working with the various community stakeholders in supporting the vision and goals of the Town of Snow Hill."

The town's first activity in which McAllister will be stepping into the new role is the upcoming Snow Hill First Friday event on Oct. 1, an event to which she has dedicated countless volunteer hours and energy in other capacities.

For information, email Margot Resto at mresto@snowhillmd.com or call 410-632-2080, ext. 102.

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Assateague Island Seashore drops speed limit to 15 mph

(Sept. 30, 2021)The National Park Service has lowered vehicular speed limits on several portions of Bayberry Drive within Assateague Island National Seashore.

The speed limit is now 15 mph for the portion of Bayberry Drive beginning shortly north of the park entrance sign, through the bicycle/pedestrian crossing at Oceanside Drive.

This section includes the entrance station booths, the entrance/exits to the North Beach Campground and Ranger Station and the intersections between Bayberry Drive, Bayside Drive and Oceanside Drive.

The 15 MPH speed limit area at the end of Bayberry Drive has also been expanded, and now includes the approaches to the traffic circle, the circle itself and the approaches to the Oversand Vehicle Zone entrance.

These changes have been made to increase safety in the most congested areas of the park. Within these areas traffic interacts with large numbers of bicycles and pedestrians. Also possibly present are wildlife (horses or deer etc.), Golf Carts, ATVs, UTVs, park maintenance vehicles and vehicles making U-turns.

The congestion and complex traffic flow of these areas makes them potentially very dangerous.

Visitors are reminded that the speed limit on Oceanside Drive is still 15 mph and the limit inside the campground loops is 10 mph. The maximum speed limit anywhere within



PHOTO COURTESY NPS
Assateague Island National Seashore lowered traffic speed limits to 15 mph.

Assateague Island National Seashore is 25 MPH. Always be on the look out for pedestrians (especially children), bicycles and wildlife.

Visitors are also cautioned to stay within all posted speed limits, and to exercise extreme caution at night and in periods of low visibility due to fog or rain.

Beach to Bay Heritage Area Mini-Grant program opens

(Sept. 30, 2021) Beach to Bay Heritage Area announces guidelines and criteria for the FY22 Mini-Grant program. Made possible through financial support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, BBHA mini-grants assist local heritage-related nonprofit organizations in developing new heritage and preservation-related programs, activities, products and events.

Maximum mini-grant awards capped at \$2,500. Visit the Mini Grants page at www.beachesbaywaterways.org for the application, guidelines and more information.

If an applicant is new to the mini-grant program, a workshop will be offered, which will be a requirement to the grant.

BBHA matching mini-grants program is designed to assist heritage-related sites and organizations, as well as municipalities, within the certified heritage area to develop new and innovative programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, events, and

other initiatives that are consistent with the regional themes and activities suggested in the Heritage Area Management Plan.

Mini-grant proposals that include collaborative partnerships and enhance preservation, the stewardship of historical, cultural, and/or natural resources and economic development through heritage tourism are encouraged.

Examples of eligible projects include new heritage tours, maps, interpretive brochures, podcasts, and other heritage-related publications; educational public programs, exhibits, and/or events; and heritage tourism-related website development. Oral history projects are also eligible.

Heritage tourism-related programs for K-12 students, home-schooled students, and/or after-school educational programs, and educational seminars, workshops, and conferences that encourage or enhance preservation,

See MINI-GRANT Page 20



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The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association held a tournament honoring the memory of former club president Jim Freeman last Saturday that raised extensive funding intended for charitable ends.

Platform Tennis tourney nets \$6K

Ocean Pines racquet sports members convene for large event to remember cohort

(Sept. 30, 2021) The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Association raised more than \$6,000 for charity during a Sept. 25 tournament honoring Jim Freeman.

Freeman was an active platform tennis member and former club pres-

ident who passed away on March 15. Funds raised during the tournament will go to Semper Fi and America's Fund, a nonprofit that serves veterans from all branches of the military, in honor of Freeman's service in the U.S. Marines.

Tournament co-chairs Michael Petito and Karen Kaplan said the event featured mostly Ocean Pines players. But in the final match, out-of-town-ers Ginger Patron and Theresa

Christofferson took on platform tennis members June Freeman and Tracy Jones.

"The large crowd was mesmerized by their long rallies and was dazzled by finesse shots from both teams," Petito said. "Ginger and Theresa emerged victorious, and June and Tracy, who played valiantly, were runners-up."

Petito thanked event sponsors Po- See JUNE Page 21

Obituaries

CAROL JEAN CALDWELL
Ocean Pines

Carol Jean Caldwell, 82, of Ocean Pines, passed away on Sept. 18, 2021, after a short illness.



Carol Caldwell

She was born Feb. 9, 1939 to Oscar and Evelyn Klaburner in Baltimore, Maryland.

Carol graduated from Eastern High School in 1956 and met the love of her life, Jack Edward Caldwell, later the same year. They were married on Dec. 26, 1958.

From that day until her passing, madly in love they shared the type of bond that you read about in poetry.

They created a beautiful full life together, and had four children, who she loved dearly. They are the late Pamela Mafera, Suzanne Gentile of St. John's, Florida (husband, Rick Gentile), Robin Caldwell of Ocean Pines, Maryland, and Gregory Caldwell of Willards, Maryland (wife, JoLana Caldwell).

In addition to her husband and children, she is survived by nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who all lovingly knew her as their "Grammie."

Carol enjoyed her career as a corporate secretary for more than 20 years, but her passion was traveling.

Carol and Jack were global explorers, seeing Asia, Fiji, North Africa and Bora Bora (where they renewed their vows) and her favorite spot in St. Maarten, where they vacationed for many years.

She loved design and thoughtfully filled her home with beautiful keepsakes from her travels. When she wasn't traveling the world, she enjoyed the beautiful beaches and waterways surrounding her home.

If you were lucky enough to spend a night out with the Caldwell's at the yacht club, you would remember feeling an immediate urge to start dancing upon seeing a certain lively blonde lighting up the dance floor.

Continued on Page 21

Mini-Grant program open for FY22

Continued from Page 19
revitalization, and interpretation of the area's natural, cultural and historic resources are also eligible.

BBHA encourages proposals that are consistent with any regional thematic heritage-tourism related initiatives and those that include new technology, foster environmentally-

friendly and sustainable practices at heritage sites, foster accessibility for visitors with disabilities, and/or create new heritage-related programming in the arts. Generally, grants will be made as one-time awards, not for ongoing projects or annual activities.

Other types of projects not specifically stated here may be eligible and

should be discussed with heritage area director.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the heritage area at info@beachsbayswaterways.org to discuss potential grant projects before they begin the application. Applications are due (submitted via e-mail) no later than Friday, Oct. 29.

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 20

She also had a wonderfully strong spirit, and you'd know this if you ever challenged her and the ladies of Ocean Pines to a game of tennis.

Carol was courageous and kind, with a bright smile and an infectious laugh. With a strong sense of community and faith, she and her husband believed in being of service to their community and always helping those in need. She brought joy to everyone fortunate enough to meet her, and will be missed by so many people.

Her funeral will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, at the Community Church at Ocean Pines, with the Reverend Dale Brown presiding. Visitation will start one hour before. Interment will follow at the Garden of the Pines Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Maryland 21802. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com.

WILLIAM PACE HUNTER

Berlin

William Pace Hunter, Aug. 28, 1942 - Sept. 22, 2021

Bill Hunter, beloved father, friend and member of the "shore family," died suddenly of natural causes on Sept. 22, 2021, in Berlin, Maryland.

To his friends and family, he was larger than life with a brilliant sense of humor and wit.

He spent his career at IBM and retired at the age of 51 to Berlin, Maryland, where he and his beloved wife, Karen, built a home on the water and spent much time on their boat.

June Freeman at charitable event honoring husband

Continued from Page 20

hanka, Pittsville Motors, Chik-Fil-A, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, SBL Signs, Food Lion, The Big Liquor, Walmart, and A Bagel And... He said the tournament also received support from the Ocean Pines Marketing and Public Relations Department, Racquet Sports Manager and Tennis Pro Terry Underkoffler, and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our members, as well as that of local sponsors," he said. "It was an outstanding event for a wonderful cause."

"Our members went above and beyond with their generous monetary donations and contributions towards the tournament and the after-celebration. We could not have done it without their support, both on and off the courts. They are an amazing group of people," Kaplan added.

He was passionate about "his" town of Berlin and thrived in being a small-town guy. He loved attending every festival and concert possible and was always ready with a funny story from



William Hunter

his debut as an extra in "Runaway Bride," which was filmed in Berlin.

First and foremost, Bill was a loving father who provided many extraordinary times throughout the years and was always there for his daughters.

He was never judgmental and relished in hearing of their adventures. He would send random, odd gifts in the mail and always had them smiling and laughing their whole lives.

Bill created a myriad of his own "signature" words and if you were extra special, he would adorn you with a ridiculous nickname, like his daughters, "Noodle" and "Herman."

A tribute to his generous and caring nature, dozens considered Bill their "best friend." But even his closest friends had trouble keeping up with Bill.

He regularly rode 40-60 miles on his bike, walked the "boards," played golf and went to the gym.

If anyone knew Bill, they have tons of "stories" of various escapades that go back decades.

Besides being the main character of his friends' stories, Bill was also an amazing storyteller himself. He captured your attention from start to finish.

Bill had an unmistakable laugh that will never be forgotten by those who loved him. He brought his larger-than-life energy into whatever room he entered in a positive uplifting way.

Bill was an incredibly giving person to his friends and community. If you were a friend in need, he would find a way to make it seem like you were doing him a favor by accepting what he was offering.

He was always there to give you a ride, do some internet research or simply listen.

He spent countless hours assisting the Noel Community that provides meals to the less fortunate in the community.

A fellow Noel volunteer said of him, "Bill was the Noel Community" and that "Bill did everything."

He was the first to volunteer for any need, regularly made the lunches, was "chief chef" for weekend breakfasts, and, through his vast network of friends, secured generous donations that help fund the program year-round.

Bill was one in a million and when someone is larger than life, it's all the more difficult for those left behind.

He is survived by his daughters, Michele (Herman) Slade and Jenny (Noodle) Quinn.

Other survivors include his grandchildren, Hunter Slade, Amanda Slade, Bailey Lynch and Graham Lynch; his step-grandchildren, Lauren Reece, Alexa Gutschenritter, Jackson Quinn and Sam Quinn; his great-grandson, Kai Slade; and his cousins who were like siblings, James Somes, Barbara Doane and Suzanne Raeside.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Karen Doster-Hunter, and his parents, Frank Hunter and Barbara Pace Hunter.

A celebration of life will be held on Oct. 16, 2021, at 4 p.m. at Pines Point Marina.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests donation be made in Bill's memory to The Noel Community.

Checks should be written to The Noel Community and mailed to: The Noel Community, c/o St. Paul's by-the-Sea, 302 North Baltimore Avenue Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

The Noel Community is 100-percent volunteer run and all donations are tax deductible. The Noel Community provides a holiday dinner every year, lunch every Saturday and several days during the week to the less fortunate in the area. Letters of condolence may be sent via: www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

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Opinion

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

OPA board majority just plain wrong

The decision by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors to resume its pursuit of a three-candidate field in this year’s election is not just wrong, it’s self-servingly wrong.

By refusing to establish which of the homeowner association’s governing documents — the deed restrictions, the charter or the bylaws — holds precedence over the others, it has given itself and future boards the ability to cherry-pick rules from any of the three to justify whatever it wants to do.

In its special meeting today, the directors will discuss whether to resume the ballot count from the current election or to hold a new election, as it pursues its goal of giving Director Frank Daley a second term. In either case, Richard Farr will not be a candidate, because he has been declared ineligible per the bylaws, despite conflicting definitions of membership in the charter and DRs.

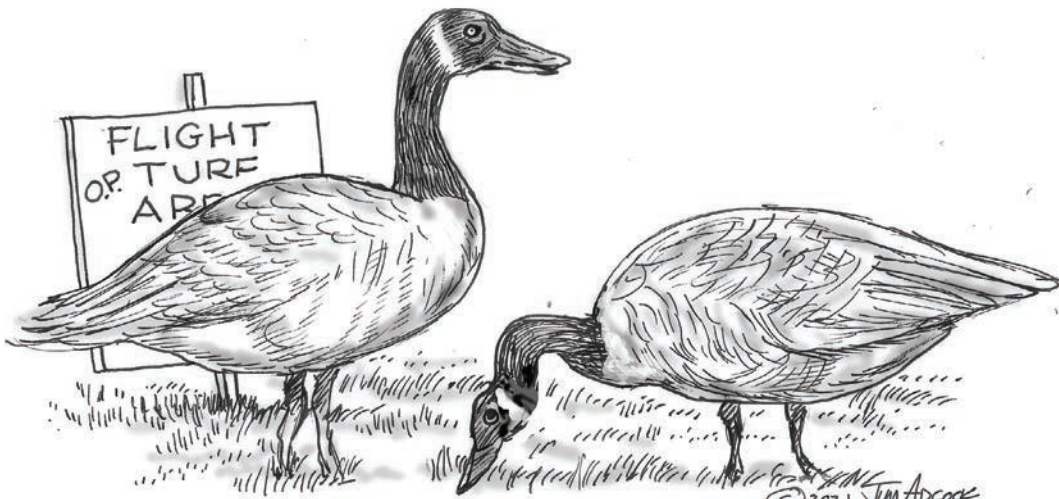
What the board is saying to members is that the bylaws hold precedence ... except when they don’t, which would depend, obviously, on its political inclinations.

This unspoken ruling by the board also creates two classes of association membership: super members who can run for office, and sub-members who can’t.

The ramifications of determination of convenience are considerable. Spouses, for instance, who do not hold joint title to property are now relegated to sub-membership as equitable owners, as are partnership participants who aren’t managing members, and, of course, beneficiaries of property-owning trusts.

The board’s worst offense, however, is proceeding as if the case of Farr’s eligibility to run has been settled. It has not, as all Judge Sidney Campen did Monday was deny Farr’s petition for an injunction, and he continues to wait for the parties to argue which of these governing documents is the most important in determining eligibility to seek office.

This board, or at least a board majority, has made a mess of things. It owes it to association membership to declare once and for all which set of rules the community must live by, and then amend the others to reflect its decision.



“I don’t care for it. I am getting a hint of Dupont and a Monsanto aftertaste.”

Letters

Trendic weighs in on Farr case

Editor,

After reading the opinion titled “Election case ruling will define ownership” and Mr. Bright’s letter I wanted to bring this to your attention.

As a former member of the OPA Board and the Association’s Secretary I understood how important it was to become familiar with our governing documents.

A note on page (iii) of the OPA Bylaws provides the an-

swer to your important commentary.

The note states the following:

“Note: The By-laws are subject to laws of the State of Maryland, the Declarations of Restrictions, and the Articles of Incorporation (Charter). Maryland laws governing corporations and Homeowners Associations take precedence over the Declarations of Restrictions, the Charter, and the By-laws.

The Declarations of Restrictions take precedence

over the Charter and the By-laws. The Charter takes precedence over the By-laws. In case of conflict, the document having the higher precedence controls.”

Hopefully honorable Judge Campen will be made aware of this information.

This link will take you to the OPA Bylaws: <https://oceanpines.org/documents/10184/90460/By-Laws+2021%25281%2529.pdf>

Slobodan Trendic
Ocean Pines

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.

The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.

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Sand Castle Home Tour goes virtual

(Sept. 30, 2021) For the past 17 years, the Art League of Ocean City has sponsored the Sand Castle Home Tour as a fundraiser for its non-profit organization, but this year there’s a twist with other nonprofits added to the list.

According to Art League of Ocean City Executive Director Rina Thaler, due to the pandemic in 2020, the traditional Sand Castle Home Tour was revamped

into a virtual event, with more than 1,800 visitors viewing nearly 25,000 pages online.

As a result, the Art League has decided to host the tour virtually again this year with added features, including a home fully decorated for the holidays.

Not only will the tour run the entire month of October, giving ticket holders the opportunity to re-watch as many times as they like, but

the Art League will be sharing generated income with a list a local nonprofits, including Worcester Preparatory School.

“I believe this is a win-win situation,” Thaler said. “Ticket purchasers can support a cause important to them while they enjoy a fabulous tour of Delmarva’s finest homes, without leaving the comfort of their own home.”

See OC Page 23

Pines pickleball tournament held Oct. 22-24

Three-day Oktoberfest at racquet center features cash prizes for winners

(Sept. 30, 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 an-

nouncements 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.

OC Art League 2021 fundraiser

Continued from Page 22

The 2021 Sand Castle Home Tour is a fun, convenient way to tour 10 Delmarva homes – and support the Art League of Ocean City and Worcester Prep at the same time. By entering the unique code WPSHT21, each supporter will receive \$5 off their purchase and the Art League will donate \$5 to Worcester Prep.

Purchase tickets at www.sandcastlehometour.com using code

WPSHT21 and \$5 of each ticket will benefit Worcester Prep.

"Worcester Prep is proud to partner with the OC Art League on the Sand Castle Home Tour," Worcester Prep Director of Development Amy Tingle said. "We believe art is an important part of a well-rounded education and we are grateful to be selected as one of the nonprofits that will benefit from this worthy endeavor."



OPEN HOUSES

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 7



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 11-2	31954 Dogwood Way, Selbyville DE	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$684,900	Karen Russo/Long & Foster OC



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BIT organization solicits area boat captains to aid ill

(Sept. 30, 2021) Boat captains and mates from Ocean Pines and Ocean City provided hours of fun and relaxation this summer for families of Believe in Tomorrow who have children with life-threatening illnesses.

Believe in Tomorrow and the Children's House by the Sea and its director, Wayne Littleton, and many community volunteers, provide respite housing for the families throughout the summer season along with daily activities.

The Ocean Pines Anglers and the Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing Association sponsors one of these activities which includes, boating, fishing and sightseeing excursions in the coastal bays.

Program Director Budd Heim notes that these trips provide hope



Boat captains and mates from Ocean Pines and Ocean City provided hours of fun and relaxation this summer for families of Believe in Tomorrow who have children with life-threatening illnesses. Pictured, from left, are Steve Fingles, Carl Brown, John Dilworth, John and Joan O'Dell, Chuck Elder, Paul Fohner, Ken Thompson, Scott Carstairs, Jimmy and Mary Ann Atchison. Captains not pictured: Ricky Kerrigan, John Nowak, Jack Tellman, Fred Stiehl and Claude Lewis.

and inspiration for the current and future health of these children and their families.

This program has been in existence for approximately 18 years with

hundreds of trips made possible by the captains.

This year, of the 42 families scheduled, 32 trips were completed while weather, illness and schedule con-

flicts were a cause of the cancellations.

Anyone interested in participating in this program should call 410-726-1968 and ask for Elliot.

Calendar

Submit calendar items to: editor@baysidegazette.net. Submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, the week of publication. Local submissions have priority. Area event listings are subject to space availability.

Thurs., Sept. 30

SUNFEST
Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, South Boardwalk, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Four days of arts and crafts, food, hayrides, kids' activities and musical entertainment. Rain or shine. Schedule: <https://www.ococean.com/events/sunfest>. 410-250-0125

43RD ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos, quad flyers and Boardwalk Dancing. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free clinic for those having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

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

STORY TIME 'BEAR IN A SQUARE'
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Join the group for a book all about shapes and animals. Take-home activity included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery, 11206 Worcester Highway, Berlin, 4:30 p.m. A big screen showing of "The Biggest Little Farm," 7 p.m., with the creators, live music, a silent auction, demo booths, kid's activities and food and drink. \$20/adult. Tickets: mdcoastalbays.org. 410-213-2297

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 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

BOUTIQUELY BERLIN FASHION SHOW
The Inn Berlin, 15 Harrison Ave., Berlin, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The fashion show will contain the downtown boutiques with hair by Oh My Hair. Tickets cost \$25 at

<https://berlinfashionshow.ticketleap.com/fashionshow/>. Also streaming live on Facebook.

ANDY AND JUDY: MUSICAL DUO
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6:30-7:30 p.m. They play guitars, mandolin, banjo, ukulele and other instruments. They perform original songs in many different styles. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

SNOW HILL FARMER'S MARKET
Thursdays through October - Sturgis Park Pavilion on the Pocomoke River, noon to 5 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 1

SUNFEST
Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, South Boardwalk, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Four days of arts and crafts, food, hayrides, kids' activities and musical entertainment. Rain or shine. Schedule: <https://www.ococean.com/events/sunfest>. 410-250-0125

43RD ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos, quad flyers and Boardwalk Dancing. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Held Oct. 22-24 at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center. The registration fee, due by Oct. 1, is \$35, plus \$10 per event. Regis-

ter: <https://app.pickleballden.com/external-tournament/8732201>, 717-873-4743.

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION FOR OCTOBER EXHIBITS
OC Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, see the new exhibits and enjoy hors d'oeuvre and refreshments. Also taking place at the Princess Royale Oceanfront and Coffee Beanery. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

Sat., Oct. 2

SUNFEST
Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, South Boardwalk, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Four days of arts and crafts, food, hayrides, kids' activities and musical entertainment. Rain or shine. Schedule: <https://www.ococean.com/events/sunfest>. 410-250-0125

43RD ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL
The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos, quad flyers and Boardwalk Dancing. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

TREASURE HUNT ON THE BEACH
Ocean City Beach between Second and Third streets, 4-5 p.m. Events will consist of a 60 x 120 foot sectioned-off portion of beach with buried treasure from Park Place Jewelry. Participants give a \$15 donation to the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation. 410-213-9220

20TH ANNUAL WALK FOR AWARENESS
See CALENDAR Page 25

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 24
Pemberton Historical Park, 5561 Plantation Lane, Salisbury, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets \$25. 20th Annual Walk for Awareness for Breast Cancer. 410-548-7880

WBOC'S SHORE LIVING EXPO

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrating health, wealth and home, including live taping of Delmarva Live Show. Free admission. Stephanie McVey, smcvey@wboc.com, 410-289-2800, <https://wbocevents.com>

FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10-11 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction and creative writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation and market leads. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

CRAFTY SATURDAY: FALL CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10-11 a.m. Come make and take home some fun fall crafts. For ages 4 and older. (While supplies last). www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

RALLY IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Salisbury Wicomico Government Office Building, 125 N. Division St., Salisbury, 11 a.m. Speakers will include representatives of the National Abortion Rights Action League and the Maryland Democratic Party. <https://act.womensmarch.com/event/join-oct-2-march/2092/>

DRIVE THRU FRIED CHICKEN MEAL

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36536 Mt. Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Menu includes 4 pc. fried chicken (breast, drumstick, thigh & wing), mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, apple sauce, Coleslaw, roll and cupcake. Cost is \$14. Please stay in car. 410-835-8340.

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., Oct. 3

SUNFEST

Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, South Boardwalk, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Four days of arts and crafts, food, hayrides, kids' activities and musical entertainment. Rain or shine. Schedule: <https://www.ocean.com/events/sunfest>. 410-250-0125

43RD ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL

The Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops,

sport kite demos, quad flyers and Boardwalk Dancing. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

TREASURE HUNT ON THE BEACH

Ocean City Beach between Second and Third streets, 1-2 p.m. Events will consist of a 60 x 120 foot sectioned-off portion of beach with buried treasure from Park Place Jewelry. Participants give a \$15 donation to the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation. 410-213-9220

CRAB FEAST FUNDRAISER

Church of the Holy Spirit, 10001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-5 p.m. Menu includes crabs, fried chicken, corn on the cob, hush puppies, lemonade, iced tea, soda and desserts. Carryout available. Tickets: 410-723-1973 or Monica, 443-235-8942. Bring your own mallet.

Mon., Oct. 4

MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Watch a movie based on an acclaimed book each month. Light refreshments provided. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-3:30 p.m. The group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (T.O.P.S.) - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital - Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. A weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

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., Oct. 5

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP

John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 10-11 a.m. A cooperative effort between local worship centers and AGH to increase health education and incentives. Meets on Tuesdays. Also held via Zoom. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

STORY TIME 'COLORFUL LEAVES'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn about colors as the group studies leaves, reads stories, sings songs and completes a craft about the fall season. For 2-5 year old children.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STEM STORY TIME 'TEETH'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. Take-home activity include. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MASTER GARDENER - PLANT CLINIC WITH GINNY ROSENKRANZ

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Each month is a different topic. Bring questions you may have. Feel free to show your plants as well. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. Held Oct. 5-7. Cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807 or CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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, <https://delmarvahanddancing.com>

Wed., Oct. 6

FREE FLU CLINIC

Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company, 1410 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. This free clinic is for those ages 13 and older. No appointment is required. 410-641-9FLU, <http://www.agh.care/flu>

STORY TIME 'AUTHOR FOCUS, MO WILLEMS!'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories written by the beloved author, Mo Willems. A fun activity is also included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BOOK LOVERS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12-1 p.m. Discuss the book, "Orphan Train Girl" by Christina Baker Kline. Book can be found on Hoopla. For ages 12-15 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

CREATIVE WRITING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2-3 p.m. Learn a few ideas that will inspire your own writing and re-examine some of your own life experiences. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Dial 978-990-5451, wait for common, then press access code 3753651. Providing discussion, education and a speaker on the topic of diabetes, 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES

Bus will leave Stevenson United Methodist Church, Berlin at 8 a.m. on Nov. 6 and arriving at Sight & Sound at 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. show of "Queen Esther." Stopping for lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The bus will return to the church at approximately 11 p.m. Cost is \$100 and includes bus, lunch and show. Pat Oltman, 443-614-2518. Checks to be made out to Stevenson Women and can be mailed to: Stevenson Women, 123 N. Main Street, Berlin, MD 21811. Reservations due Oct. 10.

17TH ANNUAL SAND CASTLE HOME TOUR

The tour will be held virtual from Oct. 1-31 and will feature 10 of the area's most captivating residences. Ticket purchasers who use the code for a participating non-profit will receive a \$5 discount off their ticket, and the nonprofit they choose will receive \$5 per ticket. Contact your non-profit for their code. Tickets: www.SandCastleHomeTour.com. Info: 410-524-9433, www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

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

WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORY WEEK

In conjunction with Worcester County History Week, Oct. 10-16, the Sturgis One Room Schoolhouse Museum in Pocomoke City will offer discounted annual memberships and tours (www.sturgisschoolmuseum.com). The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum will offer free admission to all Eastern Shore locals (www.taylorhousemuseum.org). The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum will offer several events including "History of our Surfmen," Oct. 11-15, 1 p.m.; "Annual Spirit Award"; and "Lou Parsons III Memorial Photo Contest"; as well as offering free admission to all Eastern Shore locals (www.ocmuseum.org).

LIBRARY TO GO & PRINTING TO GO

Safe contactless pick-up of library materials at all Worcester County branches. Call to schedule a pick-up time. Mobile printing services also available at all Worcester County branches. (Only black and white copies are available.) <https://worcesterlibrary.org/article/printing-go>

Cuisine

Chef Suplee serves up fried alligator bites

I was a nerd as a child. Hell, I am a nerd now, so I guess not much has changed. I adore history.



By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

When I step off the plane and make my way to the French Quarter, or St. George Street in St. Augustine, or a castle in Heidelberg, or Captain Cook's Cove, I immediately wax nostalgic on my child-

hood. You see, I was in a documentary on television about the surrender at Guilford Courthouse, the turning point of the Revolutionary War. I was also in a Nissan commercial when I was 10, wearing a tall bearskin hat while playing the drum. Oh, I was in my glory, believing that the girls would flock after a TV star like me, but much to my chagrin, that did not happen.

I was a nerd. My parents, also nerds (God rest their souls), signed some of us up (they had a gaggle of children) to participate in a revolutionary reenactment group, and I believe the unit was Ferguson's Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Artillery if memory serves me correctly. What did this mean for my brothers and me? Well, it certainly meant that the bullies had open season on us as we "stood guard" at the State House during Christmas ceremonies (with fully functional muskets, mind you). And, when Christmas break was over, you can bet that they did not let it rest upon returning to school. But, what it offered us as a consolation was unfettered access to black powder, 3-pound cannons, aforementioned muskets and flintlock pistols. Perhaps more shockingly, it gave us the opportunity to melt lead and make our own musket balls. Yes, we were licking the lead paint on the walls and our parents were not a bit concerned about it. My father was a huge history buff and my mother followed suit. While all of us eight children enjoyed history in varying degrees, my brother Danny was the one who clinged to my dad when it came to reading book after book on American wars, and Danny and I "served" the longest in Ferguson's. Fast forward 38 years and I still remember wearing the heavy wool coats and tricorn hats in the middle of the



summer, ready to pass out at a moment's notice. That bearskin hat was a monster as well, and as skinny as I was (think railroad track), it was amazing that I did not fall over from being so top heavy. I reminisce the days and nights "in camp," eating stews made with a thousand spices, a tribute to the era when many spices were used to mask the taste of the rotten meat. I fondly remember my first cup of coffee out of a tin pot and tin cups. It was horrible, but I drank it nonetheless, and as I write today, I enjoy a cup o' joe out of the French press; a tad fancier than the tin pot of days of yore, and much more delicious. Growing up "nerd" evoked a lifetime of curiosity in terms of history. As I mentioned before, when I travel, I prefer to find the more-historical than not. I am fine staying at a lavish resort in the Bahamas or Hawaii or Costa Rica, but I also want to spend my days checking out the reefs and ancient villages. I want to see the volcanoes after whom gods and goddesses are named. And I want to eat the food. There is nothing worse than traveling overseas and watching fellow Americans head straight to an American fast-food chain. Bro, you just got off the plane. Are you already that

homesick? When I travel, I eat local; poi in Hawai'i (I have yet to have one that I enjoy), scorched conch in Nassau, schnitzel in Germany and gallo pinto in Costa. And it is no different in New Orleans. Keeping with the 200-year-old tradition, I always eat the gator. I even just had it recently in Florida (gator is a southern thing). Get some gator, cook it up and eat it. Revel in the history, knowing that to study food without studying history is a monumental waste of time for us nerds. **Fried Alligator Bites** Serves 4 1# Alligator meat (whole or chunks) 2 c. Buttermilk 2 Tbsp. Paul Prudhomme Redfish Magic seasoning 1 Tbsp. Trimix (Kosher salt, granulated garlic and black pepper) 2 c. All-purpose flour 2 Tbsp. Additional Prudhomme seasoning Oil for frying 1 c. Duke's Mayonnaise Juice of 1 lemon 2 Tbsp. Adobo sauce from Chipotles Trimix to taste

- Clean the gator and cut into chunks.
- Place in buttermilk, and add redfish seasoning and trimix.
- Allow to sit for at least an hour, preferably a couple hours. The acid and enzymes in the buttermilk will help to tenderize the meat.
- Combine flour and additional redfish seasoning in a bowl, and heat the oil to 350F.
- When you are ready to go, remove some gator from the marinade and shake it off, adding the chunks to the flour.
- Coat and carefully place in the frying oil, ensuring that the oil does not get too hot.
- Fry until golden brown and cooked through.
- Remove to a paper towel and prepare the sauce by combining the mayonnaise, lemon juice, adobo sauce and trimix.
- Serve with the sauce and a couple lemon wedges and bask in the old traditions of the South.

—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

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