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OCTOBER 28, 2021

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## One year later, Showell Elem. marks opening

Pandemic, virtual classes delayed facility's big day

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) It took more than a year after construction finished, but state and local representatives finally celebrated the opening of the new Showell Elementary School with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday.

"We know this day is long overdue, but we appreciate your patience and understanding along this journey," Showell Elementary School Principal Diane Shorts said in her remarks from a podium in the school's outdoor amphitheater, which is built right into the school's exterior. "I'm very excited to hold our celebration here ... because (I'm standing) in one of the most exciting and forward-thinking projects of this new school ... We are able to open up this beautiful wall of windows to transform our indoor stage to this outdoor amphitheater, where we can showcase our

See NEW Page 3

## FRIGHTFUL

Ghouls and ghosts spreading thrills and chills in Ocean Pines signal the return of Halloween this weekend with ample family fun on tap throughout Worcester County.

## OP, Berlin plan their treats

No tricks, it's all fun at local Halloween festivals, contests

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Youthful candy seekers will inundate both Ocean Pines and Berlin this weekend for trick-or-treating festivities leading up to Halloween on Sunday.

The fun kicks off on Friday in Ocean Pines during the "Trunk or Treat," event in White Horse Park from 6-8 p.m.

Ghosts and goblins will

linger overnight in White Horse Park and return on Saturday for a Halloween Fall Festival.

In addition to competing in a costume contest, attendees on Saturday can sink their teeth into hot dogs and burgers cooked on the grill by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Also hot pretzels will be available for purchase.

Recreation Supervisor Katie Goetzinger said the event gives community members of all ages the opportunity to show off their Halloween outfits.

"We look forward to seeing everybody's costumes," she said.

Other family-friendly activities on tap during the festival include a haunted hayride, carnival games, bounce house, pony rides and a petting zoo.

"Come take a hayride with Norbert Violante and Carol Ludwig," she said.

The Halloween festival costume contest will be bracketed, with children ages 2 and under competing at 11:30 a.m., followed by ages 3-4 at noon, ages 5-7 at 12:30

See TRICK Page 2

## Farr vindicated after leading OP balloting

Suit will establish if he's legit candidate

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Ocean Pines Board candidate Rick Farr, although still awaiting resolution of the lawsuit he filed after being disqualified late in the game, was vindicated last week after the long-delayed ballot count revealed he led the pack.

"I was very confident and believed that I would be one of the top two," he said.

Farr received 1,629 votes to top the list among four contestants vying for two open seats, followed by incumbent Frank Daly with 1,571, who was trailed by Stuart Lakernick with 1,511 and David Hardy with 941.

"I thought that it would be a very tight race," he said.

Despite the apparent victory, Farr's election fate remains in limbo until a decision is rendered in Worcester Circuit Court

See FARR Page 4



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# Trick-or-treating in Berlin set for 5-7 p.m. Sunday

Continued from Page 1  
p.m. and ages 8-10 at 1 p.m.  
“There will be three winners from each age group,” she said. “Winners get a prize bag.”  
On Halloween Sunday, the Town of Berlin will welcome costumed children seeking sweets from 5-7 p.m.  
During the 5-7 p.m. period, Berlin will close Washington Street, between Main and West Streets, to through traffic.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said although Washington Street has been the epicenter of Berlin’s Halloween action in recent years, the revelry has widened in scope.  
“It’s been spreading and all of Berlin is pretty popular.”  
Berlin Police officials are asking drivers to exercise caution during the Halloween evening event, which usually attracts a large number of pedestrians, principally children prone to distraction due to an abundance of stimuli.  
Additionally, police ask parents to be conscious of vehicular traffic and also select costumes less likely to interfere with peripheral vision or cause children to trip.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Costumed youths and festooned adults descend upon Berlin in 2019 with another round of Halloween candy hunting on tap this Sunday.**

Wells said Berlin generally lures in thousands of costumed kids and parents for Halloween festivities.  
“We’re expecting our usual crowd this year,” she said. “Halloween is always super fun in Berlin.”  
In addition to advising parents to refrain from accepting homemade or unwrapped treats, the Berlin Police Department will also be conducting candy checks from 6:30-8 p.m. at Town Hall located at 10 William Street.  
Berlin residents choosing not to hand out candy are asked to turn off porch lights.  
“Berlin really gets into the holiday

spirit,” she said. “People like to decorate and dress up.”  
Preceding the trick-or-treat event in Berlin on Sunday, the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Halloween-themed parade staring at noon on Sunday.  
The lineup of spookily outfitted classic cars, Jeeps and fire engines lurch northward out of the grass lot by Cathell Road at 12 p.m. and close out at White Horse Park.  
The cost to register a vehicle is \$15. For more information call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email [info@oceanpineschamber.org](mailto:info@oceanpineschamber.org).

# Passwaters fills vacancy on county board of education

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Nathaniel “Nate” Passwaters to the Board of Education to fill the remainder of a four-year term through November 2022. This vacancy was created by the sudden passing of former BOE President Eric W. Cropper, Sr.  
“This has been a difficult process because I lost a dear friend, Eric Cropper,” Commissioner Jim Bunting said. “While several excellent candidates expressed interest in filling the vacancy, we agree that Nate is the right fit for this position.”  
Passwaters, a captain with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and 28-year-law enforcement veteran, was appointed to represent district 6, the northern district.  
“We are very excited to welcome Nate into the Worcester County Public Schools family,” said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. “With his background and unique role in our community, he will bring a new perspective to the board when he joins them later this  
See PASSWATERS Page 3



Nate Passwaters

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# New Showell school finally gets its ceremony

Continued from Page 1  
fantastic student performers.”

The 9,600-square-foot school — nearly twice as big as the former school — officially opened in September 2020, but with covid-19 shuttering schools across the country in favor of distance learning, it wasn’t until the current school year that the Ocean Pines-area community truly got to see the \$47 million facility firing on all cylinders.

Several Worcester County Commissioners and State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza were among the public figures in attendance.

Speakers included Shorts, Worcester County Superintendent Lou Taylor, Board of Education President Elena McComas and Worcester County Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic.

“Those gathered here on this special day know all too well that the old Showell Elementary School facility’s age, degraded condition and lack of classroom space made a replacement necessary,” Mitrecic remarked.

“That’s what makes today’s dedication of this new state-of-the-art school a genuine cause for celebration.”

Mitrecic went on to underscore the importance in continued investment into education initiatives.

“The commissioners remain com-

mitted to securing the funding necessary to guarantee that our children are provided with exemplary education opportunities, to allow them to remain competitive as they move up through the school system,” he said. “Through very careful planning and funding, the county and state have worked hard to provide our students with world-class schools, teachers, learning tools and other resources necessary for success. The new Showell Elementary School is a major stepping-stone along our path to securing an even brighter future for our children.”

The morning included a presentation of colors from the Stephen Decatur High School JROTC Color Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance led by a Showell fourth-grader and a performance by the third- and fourth-grade chorus.

Construction of the new school included the demolition of the old one to create the parking lot and bus loop.

Enrollment at Showell is currently 660 students, according to Carrie Sterrs, Worcester County Public Schools coordinator of public relations and special programs. That number includes the fourth grade, which had been displaced to the Berlin Intermediate School before Showell’s opening.



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
Superintendent Lou Taylor, Showell Principal Diane Shorts and local and state officials cut the ribbon on the new elementary school that opened its doors for the first time to students this year. The 9,600-square-foot school has been ready for full use for more than a year, but the covid-19 pandemic forced the Showell community to settle for distance learning in the 2020-21 school year.

## Passwaters joins school board

Continued from Page 2  
month. While we all still feel Mr. Cropper’s absence, I am confident that Nate will step into this role with the same dedication and love for Worcester County’s children that Eric so easily embodied.”

Passwaters is an active community member whose work with the Sheriff’s Office has made him an outstanding partner with the public schools. He also serves on the Hudson Health Board of Directors.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity and humbled to be able to continue Eric’s legacy,” Passwaters said. “I’m also looking forward to serving on the board to advocate for the outstanding staff and

students of Worcester County Public Schools.”

The BOE is made up of seven members who serve staggered, four-year terms. Each member is elected from one of the seven election districts. BOE members meet the third Tuesday of each month at the BOE office in Newark, Maryland. Vacancies that occur between elections are filled by the commissioners.

For more information, contact Worcester County Public Schools Public Relations and Special Programs Coordinator Carrie Sterrs at 410-632-5092 or Worcester County Public Information Officer Kim Moses at 410-632-1194.

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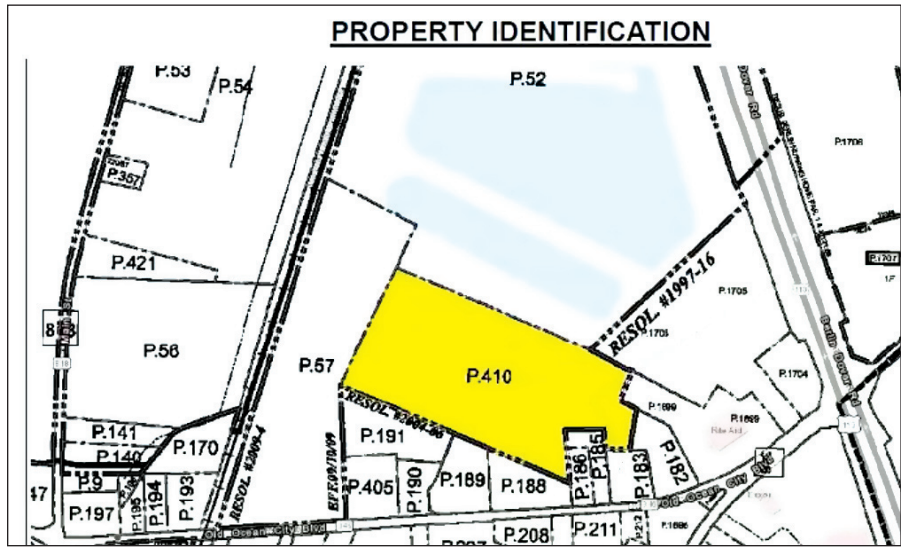
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Berlin councilmembers said constituents have encouraged them to keep parcel 410 at Heron Park on Old Ocean City Boulevard for development of a skatepark, dog park or entertainment venue, but sell parcel 57.

# Berlin on verge of releasing Heron Park sale, lease deal

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Following final edits on Monday, the Berlin Town Council approved a request for proposals to lease or buy parcels 57 and 410 in Heron Park, with the solicitation going out on Nov. 1.

Town officials are seeking lease or purchase offers for the pair of parcels that total 16 acres of the overall 63-acre Heron Park.

Berlin purchased Heron Park for roughly \$2.5 million in 2015 from Berlin Properties North, which counts Councilman Troy Purnell

among its ownership.

Berlin is paying \$200,000 annually through 2045 to clear the debt incurred from purchasing the former Tyson poultry plant located on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said since the document was last reviewed during the Town Council meeting on Oct. 12, a number of language tweaks were executed.

“Staff have been compiling notes from the last meeting,” he said.

Councilman Jack Orris inquired about inserting language proposed by Planning Director Dave Engelhart related to conveyance of infrastructure.

“I didn’t see the language in there,” he said.

Tyndall said Engelhart made a good point about the town avoiding infrastructure or roads tied to development projects falling under its purview.

“We put something in the document about the level of infrastructure that’s passed along to the town,” he said. “It was so well phrased that we wanted to insert it verbatim.”

Orris quoted Engelhart’s earlier statement, “Nothing in this agreement shall encumber the Town of Berlin to accept any dedication of town infrastructure [or] roadways without the approval of the Mayor and council.”

Tyndall asked Orris what an ideal insertion point in the RFP would be.

Orris proposed adding the language under the “scope of work,” section.

“I apologize for overlooking that,” Tyndall said.

A pre-proposal meeting and site tour is scheduled on Nov. 15 at Town Hall.

“Site tours are open to people in-

See PROPOSAL Page 5

# Farr tops ballot, so what’s next?

Continued from Page 1

over his candidacy being disqualified in late July after initially being deemed eligible in May.

Former association secretary Camilla Roger, who resigned during the Sept. 30 board meeting, concluded Farr was not an eligible candidate after an anonymous phone call questioned his property ownership status through a family trust.

Although the association has yet to re-certify Farr, the ballot count last Wednesday was ordered by Judge Sidney Campen during the most recent court hearing on Oct. 6.

In addition to requiring vote tallies by the end of October, Judge Campen also halted an attempted redo election the board had approved by a 4-3



Rick Farr

decision on Sept. 30.

Following a split-vote on Sept. 30 to re-stage the 2021 contest without Farr, the board deadlocked 3-3 on counting the ballots in this summer’s contest.

While less concerned after learning the results, Farr speculated that the last-minute board maneuvers likely lowered vote totals.

“I did have a couple of neighbors that apologized and said, ‘I wanted to vote for you, but I heard that you were disqualified,’” he said.

Farr attributed the strong showing, even after being disqualified two weeks before an Aug. 11 ballot deadline, to making personal connections.

“I thought it was very important to connect with the residents of Ocean Pines,” he said.

“I did well over six hundred home 600 homes,” he said. “I would go out in the summertime and knock on doors in the evening.”

Farr felt assured the wide ranging contacts would put him ahead.

“I felt that I was going to do very well because of the outreach to the community and doing the [election] forums,” he said.

Farr, who retired from the Air Force with 22 years of service in 2007, moved into the corporate realm as a human resources executive.

He said his conversations with residents revealed a wide range of inquiries on numerous issues.

“There were a lot of questions or concerns,” he said. “There were people that were not happy with the current board structure as far as the leadership.”

Farr said his campaign objective was to put aside dissension and focus on attributes he could bring to the board.

“Let people hear my positions on certain things, to let them know what this guy is all about.”



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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
The Better Berlin Group suggested during the public listening session on Monday decorating the former Tyson operating plant on parcel 57 at Heron Park on Old Ocean City Boulevard with artwork until it could be demolished.

## Proposal request issued Nov. 1

Continued from Page 4  
terested in bidding on one or both parcels,” he said. “It’s not a general tour.”  
In terms of dates to open RFPs, Tyndall said although a period of 180 days was previously discussed, that timeframe might be longer than appropriate.  
Tyndall proposed trimming the window to 120 days with RFPs slated to be opened on Feb. 15  
“With the holidays it gives people a little bit of time,” he said.

## Worcester County to host listening sessions for Parks

(Oct. 28, 2021) As part of the 2022 Worcester County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) updating process, Worcester County Recreation and Parks and Environmental Programs professionals will host two public listening sessions on Nov. 3 and 10.  
The LPPRP serves as guide for conservation and park planning and program improvements. The listening sessions will be opportunities for Worcester County citizens to ask questions, share ideas, and provide input on opportunities and priorities for conservation, parks, and recreation in the next five years.  
Maps depicting land preservation and parks, the result of a needs assessment survey and the existing six-year capital budget for park improvement projects, will be briefly shared.  
All ages are welcome to attend and participate in the sessions. The sessions will take place at the following outdoor locations (indoor locations will be available in the event of inclement weather):  
• Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 6 p.m., John Walter Smith Park pavilion, 6030 Public Landing Road in Snow Hill (or at the adjacent recreation center if inclement weather).  
• Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 3 p.m., Berlin Branch Library porch, 13 Harrison Avenue in Berlin (or in the library meeting room if inclement weather).  
Under state law this plan must be updated every five years for the county to remain eligible for state Program Open Space funds. For more information, contact Katherine Munson at kmunson@co.worcester.md.us or 410-632-1220.

## Boating safety course Nov. 2-4

(Oct. 28, 2021) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, virtually, Nov. 2-4 from 6-9 p.m.  
The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.  
This is the last chance to take the boat safety course this year. The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate 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.  
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# OP Communications Cmte. vets future topics

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Ocean Pines Communications Committee considered several new initiatives and highlighted membership needs during its meeting last Thursday.

Committee Chair Cheryl Jacobs applauded Josette Wheatley on recently being appointed to the board of directors and accepting the role of secretary.

"That leaves a vacancy on our committee," she said.

Wheatley's appointment to the board on Oct. 11 requires her to end her committee membership, as she becomes board liaison for the group.

"We will be looking for anyone that would like to join this wonderful committee," Jacobs said. "Please get the word out."

Jacobs said several residents had expressed interest in joining the committee but failed to submit applications.

"Let's shake the bushes again and see if we can't get a replacement," she said.

Although unable to attend last week's virtual meeting, committee member Debbie Bennington, whose current term ended last month, has opted to continue with the group, Jacobs said.

In other business, committee mem-

ber Jenny Cropper-Rines said establishing a contact sheet for community clubs and organizations was discussed at the most recent Strategic Planning meeting.



Cheryl Jacobs

"What we have for contact information for the clubs is simply names, addresses and phone numbers," she said.

Rines said the idea of compiling a distribution list for club contacts to assist with community-wide initiatives, such as the property owners' survey or election participation, has been suggested in the past.

The goal would be to collect current contact information for club leadership.

"If we took the list of contact information that we have for the person we have in the club and divided it between us it would be maybe five phone calls a piece," she said.

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski said the bulk of club contact data is collected by the Recreation and Parks Department.

"When they're doing the room reservations, they provide that information," she said.

Malinowski said a number of community organizations lack the need to book space through the recreation de-

partment.

"So we're really reliant on those organizations providing the contact information," she said.

Rines asked Malinowski to send her the current club contact list to assess what information should be added.

"It can't be that big of a job — there's not that many clubs," she said.

Committee member Marlene Ott turned to the idea of issuing an official welcome announcement for new residents.

"Just so folks would know who their new neighbors are on their street," she said. "Is that a privacy issue?"

Malinowski said new residents currently receive a welcome packet from the membership department that contains general information about the area and passes to community facilities.

"My question is can you put something on there that welcomes them to the community?" she said.

"We don't have anything like that," Malinowski said.

Ott acknowledged in some instances new residents may prefer to remain private.

"It is a matter of public record," she said. "You can search by address but not by name."

Wheatley cautioned approval would be needed before unveiling identities of recent property purchasers.

Rines envisioned potential permission procedures but also expressed reservations.

"When they send back the information from the re-sale packet, there could be a check box that says, 'Would

you be interested in being on an announcement list,'" she said. "But I think that's a maintenance nightmare and I wouldn't open that can of worms."

Changing topics, Wheatley revived earlier discussions about establishing a texting program for the police department to notify residents in case of an emergency.

"Has that ever been revisited with the new police chief?" she said.

Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis said former Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey had considered the approach.

"He said at that time the cost wasn't worth the benefit," Davis said.

Wheatley said her experiences with similar programs using email in other communities proved successful.

"It's a very effective tool to be able to communicate with your neighbors in a short amount of time," she said. "It would be a lovely idea to consider if it was affordable."

Davis said an alternative approach could be to employ the Northstar club management software.

"NorthStar has an app that we can use, but that service won't be live until the private side of the website is activated, which were working on," he said.

The committee also highlighted strong returns from the recently issued property owners' survey.

While the roughly 1,500 survey responses received to this point provide a good sample size, additional replies are being sought from the 31-40 year old demographic.

The next virtual Communications Committee meeting is scheduled on Nov. 18 at 10 a.m.

## Berlin mulls next steps for required well replacement

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Berlin officials are plotting replacement of one of three wells at an estimated cost of \$350,000, plus a long-range goal of obtaining grants to install a fourth site to provide sufficient water to accommodate future growth.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood reported on Monday that well three on Branch Street went offline several weeks earlier.

"Wells one and two are still operating," he said.

Berlin's Water Resources Department discovered well three was discharging excessive amounts of sand and stones while performing routine maintenance on Sept. 28.

In short order the town contacted vendor AC Schultes to delve into the issue.

On Oct. 12, AC Schultes representatives reported that after scoping the well it discovered bottom screening had collapsed.

Town officials reviewed the situation with DBF Engineering.

"Josh [Taylor] with DBF recommended replacing well three immediately," Fleetwood said.

Vendors cautioned against rehabbing well three as it would likely cut production by half.

Berlin uses on average 400,000-500,000 gallons of water daily.

"Well one produces about 1.5 million gallons of water a day and well two produces 350,000-400,000 gallons a day," he said.

Fleetwood said with well three currently offline maintaining well one on Powellton Avenue would be vital, while well two on Franklin Avenue

See BERLIN Page 8

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# Berlin Fire talks funding requests

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Berlin Fire officials discussed capital purchase requests during a quarterly update presented to the mayor and Town Council on Monday.

Fire Chief R.J. Rhode and President Dave Fitzgerald reviewed response times from July through September and budget needs.

Rhode said the average response time during the preceding three months was 3.47 minutes, which is far below the six-minute minimum required in Worcester County.

Fire company responses in town during July to Sept. totaled 58, which represented roughly 40 percent of all calls.

On the EMS side of operations, response times averaged under a minute at .97, which improves on the 1.27 minute rate during the prior three months.

EMS providers responded to 337 calls in town versus 312 out of town during July through Sept.

Looking at finances, Rhode said the fire department has undertaken numerous activities to solicit funds.

“We have done a few fundraisers,” he said. “We’ve taken parking donations for some of the events that have been held.”

Rhode also noted an annual fund drive letter was recently mailed to residents, along with other current ventures to generate financial support.

“Last [week], we had a Friday night dinner,” he said. “We’re trying a couple of those for some fundraisers.”

Upcoming expenses highlighted included replacing aging self contained breathing apparatus.

“The average age for SCBA right now is over 20 years old,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
Berlin Fire Company President Dave Fitzgerald, left, and Chief R.J. Rhode presented a quarterly review during the Town Council meeting on Monday.

“That’s costing us heavily more and more every year on repairs and replacement parts.”

Fitzgerald said precise costs for breathing apparatus remain unknown.

“The quote that we got in the past was about \$450,000 to replace all of our SCBI apparatus,” he said.

Fitzgerald said the fire company is currently completing annual DOT inspections.

“We had to replace two of our four gas meters,” he said. “That was an unexpected expenditure for this year.”

Also, the fire company is hoping to blacktop the roughly two-acre grass parking lot used for overflow parking during town events.

Fitzgerald said the unpaved parking lot area usually is not used during

rainy weather to avoid having vehicles getting bogged down in the mud. The company hopes to change that, depending on the cost.

“We don’t have estimated costs for that yet,” he said.

Capital funding was also requested for EMS services, including replacement ambulances at approximately \$300,000 each.

“We have replacement ambulances due in 2025, 2027 and 2029,” he said.

Fitzgerald also highlighted an additional \$115,000 previously provided by Worcester County for supplemental EMS personnel and the subsequent improvement in response times.

“We dropped that response time by 30 seconds,” he said. “That’s a big thing in our business.”

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# Berlin plans street paving, replacing park walking path

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) After learning State Highway User Revenues would be nearly doubled this year and next, the Berlin Town Council agreed on Monday to move ahead with replacing a walkway in Stephen Decatur Park and repaving three streets.

In addition to replacing the four-foot wide pathway circling Decatur Park, the council also authorized preparation of a request for proposals to repave Stevenson Lane, Decatur Street and Graham Avenue east.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the Maryland Department of Transportation sent a letter late last month announcing estimated highway user revenues would be increased to \$227,221 for FY22 and \$233,293 for FY23.

“We budgeted \$113,000,” he said. Fleetwood said with updated revenue forecasts roughly doubling budget figures for FY22, the town could consider addressing problem roads identified in a street study three years ago.

“The next three streets on that list to receive attention would be Stevenson, Decatur and Graham Avenue east,” he said.

Fleetwood said earlier estimates were roughly \$100,000 to repave the

trio of roads.

Another consideration for the revenue windfall suggested by Fleetwood would be to replace a path in Decatur Park comprised of recycled scrap tires.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the walking path was installed a number of years ago using material from the Maryland Scrap Tire Program.

After the path was set, it became apparent seasonal weather changes rapidly deteriorated materials.

“It was found that it should not have been installed this far north,” she said.

Bohlen said winter freezing and subsequent thawing wreaked havoc on the recycled material.

“We were an experiment,” she said.

Fleetwood said walking path users encounter numerous problem sections.

“There’s some long runs and short runs,” he said. “It’s buckled [and] it’s coming apart.”

“I think this really needs to be done from a safety perspective,” he said.

In terms of cost, Fleetwood said replacing the path with recycled materials would run about \$400,000, while switching to asphalt would drop the price to between \$80,000-\$90,000.

“It would be a lot easier to maintain,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood and Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols discuss street paving and replacement of the Stephen Decatur Park walking path on Monday.**

Excavating the walkway would involve digging six or seven inches and removing numerous roots from surrounding trees.

“There’s a lot of tress and a lot of roots,” he said. “They’re going to grow back — let’s not kid ourselves, but it’s going to slow it down for a period of time.”

Fleetwood did confirm that digging up the .6-mile walkway would cause no environmental damage.

“Folks I’ve spoken to said it’s not devastating enough to do any damage to the trees,” he said.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said the re-

vamped walkway would also be ADA compliant.

“Right now, it may be intended to be ADA compliant but it’s got some major pitfalls in there,” he said.

Fleetwood said based on council consensus a request for proposals would be prepared for both projects by the group’s next meeting on Nov. 8.

Estimating costs at about \$200,000, Fleetwood said more than half could be drawn from highway user revenues with the balance derived from the general impact fee fund.

“I believe the park is used by most, if not all, citizens of the town,” he said.

## Berlin talks well replacement

Continued from Page 6  
would prove less troublesome if needing repair.

“If well two goes down we’re going to be ok,” he said. “If well one goes down we’re going to be tight.”

Fleetwood said DBF Engineering recommended moving forward with installing a new well on Branch Street.

“We did explore with DBF ... the possibility of grant funding for a well,” he said. “Grant funding is available but there’s about a 12- 18 month lag time before we could get that money.”

Mayor Zach Tyndall said all three wells date to the 1940s.

“All three of those wells have some age on them,” he said.

Councilman Dean Burrell asked about the current condition of wells one and two.

Stormwater/Wastewater Superintendent Jamie Latchum said well two had a new pump installed three weeks ago.

“Well one also had a flow test and is doing well,” he said.

Latchum expressed comfort with the current condition of wells one and two.

To finance the estimated \$350,000 cost, Fleetwood said tapping ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds was recommended.

Although the estimated time to re-

ceive grant monies would prohibit addressing well three replacement with appropriate speed, the funding option could be pursued to install a fourth well on the north end of town.

“We would probably drill on the north side of town because we don’t have one there,” he said.

Fleetwood said adding an additional well near routes 50 and 818 would compensate for future growth.

Latchum said costs to install a new fourth well would need to be explored.

“It could be upwards of a million dollars,” he said.

To start the process, Latchum said a test well would be drilled to determine water quality at the location.

“They’ll pull all your samples and they’ll test the water before you do the building,” he said.

Tyndall acknowledged there is some risk that the site selected for drilling would not produce water of sufficient quality.

“The engineer has told us the risk is nominal at this particular site,” he said.

Tyndall said following the discussion during the Town Council meeting on Monday, where the consensus sided with moving forward with replacing well three, the matter would be considered for action during the groups next meeting on Nov. 18.

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# Commissioners may help Furnace Town heal

Costs from Sept. vandalism skyrocketing from extent of damage, canceled season

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) With the costs racking up to repair several facilities at Furnace Town following a September act of vandalism, the Worcester County Commissioners brought up the possibility of helping the beleaguered historical site during their meeting last Tuesday.

“I just want to mention that the (problems at) Furnace Town ... we need to look into seeing if there are any ways that we can (help) after they assess their insurance,” Commissioner Ted Elder, whose district includes the historical site, said at the end of the meeting. “This is not a normal run-in for a business (like Furnace Town). The extensive damage that was done down there, the amount of it, the more you hear about it, the more tremendous it is.”

Elder added that he spoke with Furnace Town Executive Director

Claudia Nagle the day before about the damages and the possibility of the county helping.

“The damage that’s been done to these antique glass windows and the church (et cetera), these buildings are 100 years old and a lot of (these replacements) are going to have to be hand-made,” Edler continued. “Trying to get an approximate damage figure but they’re still assessing it. I would like to see the county after they get an assessment of what the insurance covers, to help with the remainder of it. It’s an educational program that they put on for the kids of the county ... they can’t even go in there right now.”

Commissioner Diana Purnell concurred.

“Furnace Town has always been a big part of the county, for years and years and years,” she said. “It’s a big part of our tourism and growth in the county. Whatever way we can help, we need to put forth that effort to do that.”

Nagle, a month after the vandalizing occurred, still carried a tone of exasperation at the extent of the damage and the thought of just who would

commit such a crime.

“It’s very clear that it was probably more than one person (who vandalized Furnace Town),” she said. “It’s shocking. It’s still shocking, the level of destruction. You can’t figure out a reason. There’s not a rational reason for why anyone would do this to a historic site to the county and Maryland.”

However, Nagle welcomed the possibility that the county could come in to help offset some of the costs.

“If we were to get some additional support from the county it would mean so much to Furnace Town because we are trying to move past the pandemic and all of those kinds of barriers that were put up,” Nagle said.

“With having to close and cancel some of the school tours for the autumn, it’s just really been a challenge.

Additional support from the community would help to make sure that we were able and ready to open in the spring and continue the services and possibly make improvements to what we have to offer in exchange for that support.”

Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic welcomed the idea of gathering more information.

“When you get those answers, bring them forward and we’ll take a look at it,” he said.

The perpetrators, who remained at large as of last Wednesday, caused significant damage to five buildings at Furnace Town, effectively closing all indoor activities. Nature paths and the furnace itself were not damaged and the historical site can still hold some outdoor activities, but the hit to their revenue remains steep.

# Routes 589, 90 on state’s radar, but real work far off

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) Maryland Department of Transportation officials dropped into last Tuesday’s Worcester County Commissioners meeting to discuss the department’s state-wide priorities and the current draft of the FY2022-27 Consolidated Transportation Program.

The presentation outlined the program’s investments in every MDOT agency, including the State Highway Administration. The overall budget for the program is \$16.4 million.

SHA Administrator Tim Smith said his department is providing \$500,000 to study the Route 90 corridor between Route 50 and Ocean City that will focus on safety and evacuation concerns.

Following the half-hour presentation from Smith, MDOT Deputy Secretary Sean Powell, and other department heads, the commissioners inquired about two projects that are front-and-center to the county’s residents: improvements to Routes 589 and 90.

“\$500,000 is a long way away from actually doing something,” Commissioner Jim Bunting said. “Is there a concern on the state’s part

that the existing bridge may not be changed?”

Smith responded that the money is intended to go toward more of a concept study that finds out where problems are.

“We’re going to gather not just traffic, but environmental impacts,” Smith said. “We’re going to do a structural analysis. The bridge is in good shape ... but as age goes, it’s not going to get better. We need to assess what kind of solutions we want to come up with. There could be operational improvements along the entire corridor.”

“That’s really what the \$500,000 is for: to narrow down all the potential options down to a few so we can move forward to a planning process,” he added.

Bunting raised the concern that, if Route 90 were to shut down for any reason, it would place an immense strain on Route 50.

“That’s part of that concept study: to make sure that even during construction we are maintaining what we need both from a safety and mobility standpoint,” Smith said.

Bunting pointed out the issue of development in neighboring Sussex County, Delaware, where new residential neighborhoods are already adding strain on the Route 90 corridor via people who travel through Bishopville to Route 90.

See COMMISSIONERS Page 11

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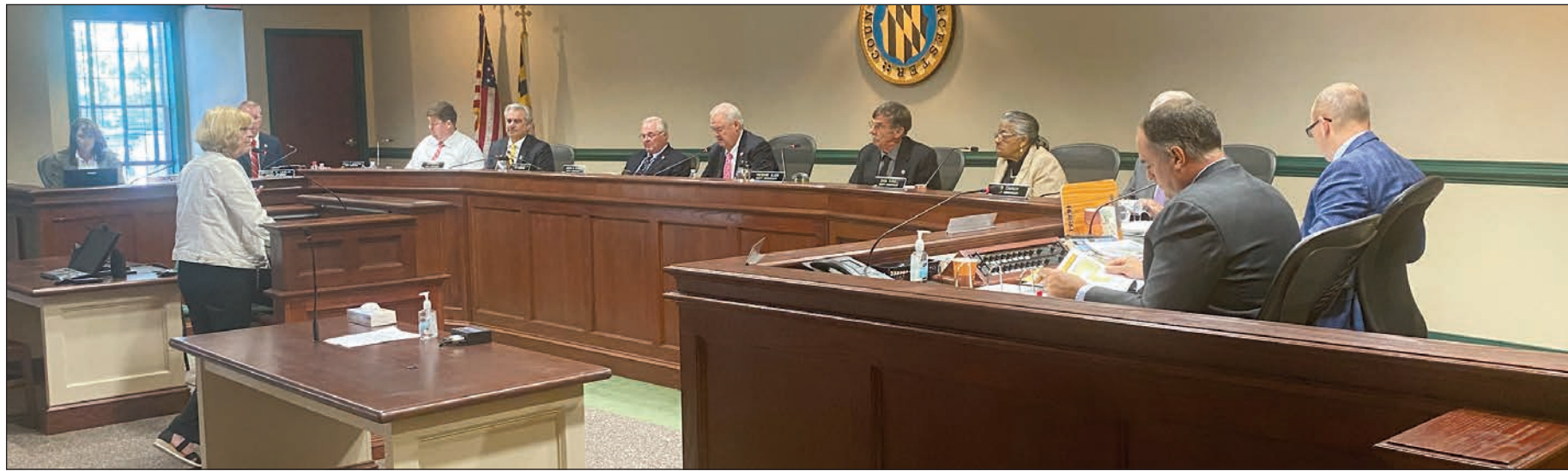
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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Officials from the Worcester County Health Department reviewed its 2017-2019 Community Health Assessment with the County Commissioners on Tuesday. The assessment, at over 100 pages, reviewed trends in the county regarding myriad topics including health insurance coverage, substance abuse trends, chronic diseases and birth rates.

# Wor. health assessment highlights concerns

County research looks at racial disparities, poverty, substance abuse issues

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Worcester County Health Department reviewed its 2021 Community Health Assessment with the county commissioners last Tuesday, highlighting needs to address mental health, youth substance abuse and obesity and inactivity — especially how each issue varies along the demographic lines.

The report looks at data collected between 2017 and 2019.

“What we really looked at in this community health assessment was disparities,” said Jennifer LaMade, director of planning, quality and core services for the health department. “There’s much talk about health equity in our community ... We had some extra time with the data, since the process took a little longer, so we

really looked at racial inequities, gender inequities, inequities based on your zip code and where you live.”

LaMade said department officials compiled their data by conducting town hall sessions and in-person surveys and through workgroups focused on the three highlighted areas.

“(These priorities) are nothing shocking and new,” she said.

Unfortunately, the report does not have much in the way of covid-related data since data “lags” for a couple of years LaMade said.

The three groups have met once so far, LaMade said, and they plan to continue meeting with each other as they compile their next report. The department releases a health assessment roughly every four years, give or take a year.

“This one was pretty unique in that we started it in January 2020 and in March 2020, we had a pandemic,” LaMade said. “This one took a little longer and was a little more challenging.”

The report had numerous noteworthy findings. In Worcester County, the median household income of \$63,499 is \$21,000 less than the state median, while 17.9 percent of the county’s household income falls under \$24,000.

As age groups grow older, the uninsured rate decreased. The highest rates were among those ages 26 to 34 (11.4 percent) and ages 19 to 25 (10.4 percent).

Disparities were obvious along racial lines. The Asian uninsured rate was five times higher than the rate for Whites. Hispanics were uninsured at a rate 2.5 times higher than Whites.

Blacks had the largest percentage point decrease in their uninsured rate — 12.2 percent from 2013 to 2017 to 4.5 percent in 2015-2019.

Overall, from 2010 to 2018, the rate of uninsured residents under the age of 65 declined from 14.6 percent to 7 percent.

The poverty rate is 9.9 percent, only slightly higher than the state av-

erage. But the percentage of school-age children living in poverty (14 percent) is more than two points higher.

The life expectancy in the county actually increased from 2017 to 2019 by 1.1 years. A baby born in 2019 could be expected to live 79.6 years, however, the life expectancy for Black residents was 4.3 years shorter.

Heart disease and stroke remained in the top three causes of death in the county. Diabetes went from the eighth-most common to the sixth-most. The rate of diabetes was nearly two times higher for Black residents than White — 20.3 percent to 11.3 percent. Emergency-room visits for diabetes complications were “consistently” higher along the same lines as well.

The birth rate in the county remained significantly lower than the state average at 7.5 per 1,000 residents, or 34.7 percent lower than the rest of the state. Teen births in the county, like in the rest of the state, continued a steady decline, which has been the general trend for a decade.

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# Atlantic General to launch recruit effort for next CEO

(Oct. 28, 2021) The next step in the process to identify a new president and chief executive officer for Atlantic General Hospital has been taken, hospital officials said this week, as its CEO Search Committee has retained the national executive search firm WittKieffer.

WittKieffer will launch its national recruitment efforts in November. The firm’s senior partner, Rachel Polhemus, will work with the search committee through the new year to identify four to six semi-finalist candidates for interviews, with the goal of selecting the new president and CEO by spring.

Polhemus has more than 17 years of experience at WittKieffer, and also has management consulting experience for leading healthcare and Fortune 500 firms.

Based in Bethesda, Maryland, Polhemus recruits for key senior leadership roles in healthcare and the not-for-profit sector, with particular expertise in identifying CEOs and C-suite executives in the areas of strategy, operations, nursing, and marketing.

While the Atlantic General Hospital Board of Trustees will ultimately appoint the organization’s next chief executive officer, the CEO Search Committee will play a significant role in shaping the candidate criteria and in the review and assessment of applicants.

“We look forward to having a well-planned, thorough process that will ultimately help identify an outstanding CEO for Atlantic General Hospital,” said Charlotte Cathell, chair of the CEO Search Committee.

The target start date for the new leader of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System is May 2022 at the latest.

# Commissioners press MDOT officials over local projects

Continued from Page 9

“If something’s not done, we have traffic now backed up two or three miles on weekends,” Bunting said. “There’s probably nothing to be done about what’s going on in Delaware, but if there is I would like it to be looked into. They had sense enough to turn down a hotel and retail subdivision on Route 54 last week. But 2,200 homes within a mile of Bishopville are all going to cut through on Route 90, so that just puts a little bit more strain on 90. I think it should really be ranked up there higher.”

Smith said that SHA will keep the suggestion on its radar.

“It’s going to get bad,” Bunting added.

Commissioner Chip Bertino thanked the MDOT officials for what they have done to this point.

Still, he asked for clarification on Route 589, considering that a report the commissioners were given showed “no change” in funding.

“I’ve heard in the press and I’ve heard it here today that Route 589 is part of the conceptual project that’s been talking about,” Bertino said. “But what are you talking about for 589? What are we talking about?”

Smith said that MDOT does not want to look at its roads as a single entity, but rather as part of a greater system.

He explained that the system is oftentimes regionally based, and that it was important to keep Route 589 in the forefront as his department looks for opportunities to make improvements with the overall infrastructure

bill.

“We’re looking for opportunities that, if they become available...we can then move forward with,” Smith said. “We want to keep that with our stakeholders, so you know what our priorities are, and to keep our priorities straight as well.”

Bertino highlighted the progress along Route 589 — things like planned developments and a traffic light.

“I know it’s on the radar,” Bertino said. “But it doesn’t seem as if any funding will be allocated in the near future to correct the challenges that we all know exist on 589. Am I missing something ... is it correct that nothing has changed as far as moving forward with a feasibility study that was completed years ago?”

Smith confirmed that nothing has changed in terms of funding that’s been made available.

Bertino asked Smith when that might occur, to which Smith said land-use decisions fall to the planning department and the progress made by counties and their stakeholders. But, Smith added, he does not know when that progress could get underway.

Another department official pointed out to the commissioners that MDOT is working with the Worcester County Planning Commission to investigate how Route 589 is built out and how it impacts traffic volumes, so the road is not completely off MDOT’s and SHA’s radar.

“We just want to see progress,” Bertino concluded.



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# Hardwire awarded U.S. Army MSV delivery

(Oct. 28, 2021) Hardwire, LLC was recently awarded its first delivery order for the Army’s next generation Modular Scalable Vest (MSV) program.

The Army MSV program will replace heavy body armor systems with new lightweight armor and carriers. The contract is scheduled to run for the next nine years. The Army’s top priority for the MSV program is to “lighten the load” on its troops with a tailorable vest. Hardwire’s patented armor was the lightest evaluated for the program and one of the first chosen for production.

Hardwire’s soft body armor is the lightest weight soft armor system in the DoD arsenal. Hardwire, based out of Pocomoke City, is the sole source manufacturer of soft armor for the U.S. Special Operations Command, the United States Marine Corps, and is now a supplier to the U.S. Army via Bethel Industries, the prime contract awardee and Hardwire’s partner on the MSV program.

All DoD services understand the value of lightweight armor and the critical role it plays in troop comfort and peak performance.

“Our job now is to deliver perfect quality exactly on time” said George Tunis, CEO. “Hardwire’s highly automated armor lines bring a level of quality and consistency that had not



PHOTO COURTESY HARDWIRE LLC

Pocomoke-based Hardwire LLC was awarded its first contract to supply the U.S. Army with next generation lightweight body armor as part of the Modular Scalable Vest program.

previously been possible. Our factory looks more like a Tesla factory and nothing like armor factories of the past. Hardwire and Bethel have made a step change in modernizing body armor production.”

Variants of the Hardwire military-

grade armor systems are also available to civilian law enforcement. Hardwire armor is already worn by tens of thousands of officers nationwide and has brought several officers home in the last year alone.

“Our vision was to blend superior

military technology with the needs of the civilian sector to ensure we had the most tested, durable, and trusted armor in the world. That vision is now a reality,” Tunis said.

Visit [www.HardwireLLC.com](http://www.HardwireLLC.com) for more information.

## Snow Hill Seafood Festival Nov. 6

(Oct. 28, 2021) Every year, for the past 10 years, the Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted its annual Oyster Roast in late winter/early spring.

The event features all-you-can-eat oyster-themed delicacies from an array of local chefs and restaurant. This format, coupled with bottomless beer and live entertainment, has made the Snow Hill Oyster Roast one of the most anticipated events in the area, with tickets regularly selling out.

In response to the extremely high demand of this event, the chamber will be hosting a new event in No-

vember that mirrors the successful format of the Oyster Roast.

On Nov. 6, from 1-5 p.m., the Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce will host the town’s first Seafood Festival. Much like the annual Oyster Roast, seafood-themed dishes will be available from vendors throughout the downtown area. Menu items include a raw oyster bar, steamed shrimp, a fish fry, crab soup, and many other seafood delicacies.

Tickets are priced at \$50 and are available on the Chamber’s website, [www.snowhillchamber.com/seafood-festival](http://www.snowhillchamber.com/seafood-festival).

“Ever since I first took this position, I have heard non-stop talk about how amazing the annual Oyster Roast is,” Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Joe Laque said. “With how quickly tickets to the Oyster Roast have sold out in previous years, it only made sense to host a similar event in the fall to allow more people the opportunity of experience such a beloved event.”

Proceeds from the Seafood Festival will help increase the chamber’s operating budget, thus allowing the organization to expand benefits offered to members.

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# MCBP hosting living local farm visitations

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is hosting two local farm visits for guests to learn the beneficial impacts of small-scale farming with sustainable practices.

The first visit is slated for Thursday, Oct. 28 from 3-5 p.m. Farmer Jeanne VanderClute is providing a tour of Splendid Earth Farm in Berlin.

She will be discussing her farming journey including her passion for soil health. Lower Shore Land Trust's Land Stewardship Manager Frank Deuter will also share his wisdom regarding soil health at this event.

The second visit will be held Wednesday, Nov. 3 from 2-4 p.m. Farmer Matthew Harhai is providing a tour of the Goat Plum Tree Farm in Berlin.

Harhai will be sharing his vast knowledge of local fungi and their ecosystem benefits. Participants will have to chance to go foraging with Harhai's guidance and see a cooking

demonstration.

Both visits are open to the public, but registration is required as participation is limited. Register online at <https://mdcoastalbays.org/event/living-local-farm-visit/>.

These visits are part of the expanded Living Local initiative funded by the Environmental Protection Agency to provide agricultural environmental education in Worcester County through the implementation of educator trainings, student field trips, and community workshops on local farms.

These components are designed to address the environmental and human impacts affecting agriculture, as well as the benefits best farm practices have on Maryland's coastal bays.

MCBP exists to protect and conserve the waters and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five coastal bays. Living Local is an initiative to engage and create more environmentally literate citizens and equip them with tools to help them critically think, problem solve, and make responsible decisions towards a sustainable future for the local



PHOTO COURTESY MCBP

Matthew Harhai with Goat Plum Tree Farm in Berlin hosts a visit to its agricultural operation on Nov. 3 from 2-4 p.m.

community.

For more information on 2021 Living Local community workshops or upcoming educator trainings, email Living Local Grant Lead Chandler Joiner, [cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org](mailto:cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org) or 410-213-2297, ext. 107.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a 501(C)(3) consensus non-profit, partially funded by the EPA, dedicated to protecting the Coastal Bays behind Ocean City and Assateague Island through education and restoration projects.



PHOTO COURTESY MCBP

Jeanne VanderClute with Splendid Earth Farm in Berlin hosts a visit on Oct. 28.

## OP Visitors Center opening event

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce invites all to the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new Ocean Pines Visitors Center, located at 11047 Racetrack Road in Ocean Pines.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with the ribbon cutting promptly at 5:15 p.m.

In August, the chamber moved to this location for greater public visibility and more office space.

Steven Sweigert of Mitchell &

Hastings Financial Services has sponsored the conference room.

The Ocean Pines Visitors Center will not only house the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce offices, but it will feature an Information Center sponsored by the Ocean Downs Casino and Racetrack.

The building is also home to Coastal HR Solutions, and will have an office available for those in need of temporary office space.

The owner of Coastal HR Solutions, Ashley Church, will also be celebrating her company's ribbon

cutting during the same event.

The building is also home to Premier Driving School.

For more information, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email [info@ocean-pineschamber.org](mailto:info@ocean-pineschamber.org).

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit corporation comprised of area businesses organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.



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# Obituaries

## ROBERT HARRY PHILLIPS

Berlin  
Beloved by countless friends and family, Robert (Bob) Harry Phillips, age 93 of Berlin, Maryland, passed away at the Coastal Hospice at the Lakes on Oct. 21, 2021.



Born in Hebron, Maryland, on March 27, 1928, he was the son of the late John Edward Phillips and Elizabeth Savage Phillips.  
Bob is survived by his wife of 48 years, Esther Collins Phillips; a daughter, Leigh Ann Taylor (Ricky); a son, Robin S. Johnson (Carol); five grandchildren, Katie Cabrera (Joaquin), Hunter Johnson (Brandie), Ryan Taylor, Brett Taylor and Jake Taylor; and one great-grandson, Gavin Cruz Cabrera.

He is also survived by his sister, Brenda P. Fox (Jim).

He loved his nieces and nephew like his own: Susan Colliton (Kevin), Lori Bennett (David) and Jim Fox II (Dawn).

He also loved his great nieces and nephews: Sarah, Corie, Patrick, Jimmy III, Jordan, Jessie, Johnny and Rachel.

He was preceded in death by not only his parents but also his son, Robbie Phillips; and his sister, Peggy Elaine Phillips.

He graduated from Hebron High School in 1946 and then from Beacom College in 1948.

For 42 years, Bob was employed by two different banks: the Union Trust Co. (24 years) followed by Peninsula Bank (18 years).

He served Peninsula Bank in various lending, managerial and business development capacities including regional vice president for the bank's three offices in Ocean City and Berlin, and in 1988 was named vice president for Business Development in Worcester County.

Active in various civic and community affairs, Bob was a member and a director of the Berlin Lions Club, a director of the Worcester County United Fund Drive, and a director of the Berlin Heritage Foundation.

His other previous affiliations included the Ruritan Rockawalkin Club, the Board of Zoning Appeals for the Town of Berlin, Worcester County Board of Education Technology Task Force, Berlin Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlantic General Hospital Fundraising Campaign Committee.

A member of the Lions Club for 47 years, Bob was a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for his humanitarian efforts. He was also a member of the Stevenson United Methodist Church in Berlin where he enjoyed listening to the church's pipe organ.

After retiring from the banking industry, his passion for fine woodworking drew him into his woodworking "shop" just steps away from his back door.

He spent many hours in his shop fine-tuning his craftsmanship. The exquisite detail of his work was deeply appreciated by countless individuals for whom he made furniture.

Bob was also an avid reader with an insatiable appetite for fiction, reading up to several books a week, even up until the time of his passing.

In his later years, he also thoroughly enjoyed "the Lunch Bunch" gatherings on Wednesdays as well as the monthly Phillips "Cousins" luncheons.

He was well known for his authenticity, humor, intelligence and wit, which served him well throughout his life. It has been said, to know him was to love him.

A celebration of his life will be held on Nov. 21, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Stevenson United Methodist Church in Berlin, Maryland. Rev. James Fox and Rev. David Bennett (nephews) will officiate.

For health considerations, face masks are recommended and there will be no visitation prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are welcome to Coastal Hospice (P.O. Box 1722, Salisbury, Maryland 21802) or to Stevenson United Methodist Church (123 N. Main Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811).

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Avenue, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit [www.easternshorecremation.com](http://www.easternshorecremation.com).

## Town of Berlin Public Notice



### NOTICE of a Public Hearing of the Town of Berlin Planning Commission

Pursuant to the Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing during its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Berlin Town Hall Council Chambers, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD to consider a request to change the zoning classification of the parcel known as Worcester County Tax Map number 0025, Parcel 0004, consisting of approximately 25 acres from B-2 Shopping District to R-4 Residence District 4 received from Delmarva Property Management, Inc.

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# OP asks community's help to pull leaves from ditches

(Oct. 28, 2021) Ocean Pines Public Works is reminding residents to keep their ditches clear of leaves throughout the fall and winter months.

“To help with the drainage, we’re encouraging residents to keep their leaves out of drainage ditches by raking them up to the road,” Public Works Director Eddie Wells said.

Wells said residents shouldn’t start that process until Monday, because Public Works are still mowing the easements on the roadside.

He added that keeping the ditches clear can help reduce flooding.

“The more room we have in those ditches, the more stormwater the ditches can hold,” Wells said.

Public Works will collect leaves and other yard debris curbside from residents, from Nov. 22 through Dec. 17. Additionally, Pines residents may bring leaves and yard debris in bulk or paper bags to the Public Works yard from Nov. 28 through Dec. 31.

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

“Bagging them is still the best way to keep the ditches clear, because they’ll get picked up right away,” Wells said. “If you just rake them out, it can take some time for us to get to them.”

# Berlin sponsors free curbside bulk waste collection in Nov.

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Town of Berlin will hold free curbside bulk waste collections in November.

Collections are for improved, occupied residential properties and collection date is according to regular trash collection schedules.

For those neighborhoods that have Tuesday and Wednesday trash collection, bulk waste collection will be on Wednesday. For Thursday trash collection customers, bulk waste collection will be on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Anyone placing items for collection must submit a request to the town, either by phone or online, by no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before their collection day.

A form is available online at [berlinmd.gov](http://berlinmd.gov) under “Departments/Public Works” or call 410-641-2770, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A maximum of four items will be collected.

All fabric items must be bagged or wrapped in plastic and sealed. Bags for large items such as mattresses are available at local retailers and a limited supply is available at Town Hall.

Additional regulations may apply. Details are available online or may be emailed or picked up at Town Hall prior to collection day.

There are also several holidays in November that will affect regular trash or recycling collection.

For Veterans Day, Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 11, and trash collection will be postponed to Friday, Nov. 12, along with regularly scheduled recycling collection.

Town Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26, and Thursday and Friday trash collection will be changed to Wednesday, Nov. 24 along with regular Wednesday collection.

There will be no recycling collection on Friday, Nov. 26.

Fall yard waste collections will be scheduled for December.

For more information about special collections, visit the town website at [berlinmd.gov](http://berlinmd.gov) and go to the Public Works page under Departments.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

**LEADERSHIP**

The Kiwanis Capital District has divisions which exist by geographic territory. Division 5 encompasses 11 clubs on the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, which are governed by a lieutenant governor. On Sept. 29, Steve Cohen, outgoing president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, was installed as the new lieutenant governor of Division 5. He is pictured with outgoing Division 5 Lt. Gov. Christine Johnson.

## Community Briefs

### Americanism contest

Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645 is sponsoring the national Americanism Essay contest again this year.

It is open to two divisions of students: 5th/6th grades and 7th/8th grades. The contest theme is “What Does it Mean to Love Your Country.”

Entry information and contest rules are available from the Ocean City Elks Contest Chairs, Allen and Gretchen Meyer, [Asm3072@icloud.com](mailto:Asm3072@icloud.com). Cash prizes will be awarded for the first-, second-, and third-place winners in each division.

Essays must be submitted by Dec. 15 to the Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

### Earns degree

Jason Hentschel of Berlin, has earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineer-

ing from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Hentschel was among approximately 1,480 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees during the summer 2021 semester.

### Dean's list

The following local students made the dean's list for the summer term at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

To be eligible for the honor, a student must have completed at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Students recognized were: Keri Payne, Michele Dietz, Emily Trimble and Megan Runyon of Berlin; Nina Tomaselli of Ocean Pines; and Jennifer Hardester, Josephine Sidleck; Steven Lentz and Rachel Dypsky of Ocean City.

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HICKEY RECOGNIZED

Charlie Smith, Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club incoming president, left, presents outgoing president Bill Hickey with his certificate of Life Membership in the organization.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FIELD TRIP

Sixth grade students recently traveled to Assateague to examine climate change and species survival. They had the opportunity to examine shark jaws and fossilized teeth. They discussed ancient shark species as well as how environmental conditions will determine the survival of shark species today. Pictured are Libby Mitchell, Leah Ray, MacKenzie Neal and Kaylee Schwartz.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

TOPSOCCER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently learned about TOPSoccer. Pictured are Club President Steve Cohen, right, a soccer and lacrosse official, and Pete Bussa, head of River Soccer Club in Frankford, Delaware on Sept. 22.



COMMENDATION

The Worcester County Commissioners and Worcester County Board of Education honor the service and legacy of the late Eric W. Cropper, Sr. by presenting a commendation and plaque to his wife and children. Pictured, in front from left, are Commissioner Chip Bertino, Bess, Grace and Eric Cropper Jr., and Commission President Joe Mitrecic; and in back, Board President Elena McComas and Superintendent Lou Taylor. The board voted on Sept. 21 to approved the creation of the Eric W. Cropper Sr. Scholarship. Cropper, who was elected to the board in 2014, passed away suddenly on July 30 at the age of 48.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

KAHNS HONORED

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently honored Veronica Kahn and son, Paul, as Paul Harris Fellows as a tribute to longtime member Stan Kahn who passed away in 2020. Pictured, from left, are Rotarians Dan Harris, Carl Smith, Arlan Kinney, Dr. Larry Michnick, Veronica and Paul Kahn, Rotarians Cliff Berg, Margaret Mudron and Felicia Kahn. The Rotary Club meets every other week at the Resident Inn in the Marriott Hotel, 300 Seabay Lane, Ocean City. For more information or meeting dates, visit the club's Facebook page or email ocherlinrotaty@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

AWARDED

Carolyn Dryzga, Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City secretary-treasurer, was presented the Command Center Award by group President Steve Cohen.

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PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students at Worcester County Technical High School walk toward the entrance of the Newark-area school.

# BOE not forcing vaccine mandates

Local school officials said they have not begun talking about requiring covid shots

By Mallory Panuska  
Staff Writer

(Oct. 28, 2021) In response to impassioned concerns about possible covid vaccine mandates for Worcester County students, the president of the board of education last week assured the public that school officials “are not there yet.”

But the fear exists, according to two speakers during last Tuesday’s board meeting.

“I just wanted to encourage you, when this type of stuff comes down to force people against their will — basically pinning children down and saying you take this in order to get a free and appropriate education — when we reach that point, we have to really assess where are we, where are we going, what are we doing as a school system because that is not a productive environment,” meeting attendee Darren Lombardo told the board.

He said he has been following the issue at the state level, where a special Senate committee has been appointed to monitor the distribution of

covid vaccines and ensure equitable access and fair distribution to residents. The five-member group is made up of four Democratic senators from the central and western parts of the state and one Republican from the Eastern Shore region.

According to a Maryland Matters story from late September, members have urged the health secretary to mandate covid vaccines for eligible school-aged students — those 12 years age and older — but have received pushback.

Lombardo said he is concerned that the mandate may go through at the state level, with the local decision ending up in the hands of the county school officials.

“This county is the front line. It doesn’t matter what happens on a federal or state level, this is the front line, and the citizens look to you,” he said. “The citizens entrust you as elected officials and people who are put in place to look out for them. It is crucial that you protect the citizens.”

Karen Abbott, who has spoken previously against the district’s existing mask mandate, said during last Tuesday’s meeting that she is concerned that federal health officials and mainstream media outlets are “censoring” information about the

potential ineffectiveness of the vaccine, as well as benefits of alternative covid treatments and protections.

As she made her points, Board President Elena McComas interrupted, stating board members are not going down that path.

“We honestly aren’t there yet,” she said of vaccine mandates in schools.

McComas added, after Abbott assured the mandates are “coming,” that officials are fully aware of what could occur. She also encouraged the speakers to continue expressing their concerns and opinions and assured that board members are listening.

The issue may also become more pronounced with the approaching approval of vaccines for children in the 5 to 11 age group, which federal health officials have said could occur by the end of the month.

With the mask mandate, which is required for everyone in school buildings regardless of vaccine status, board members had no say over the passage of the order, and have yet to go public with their stances.

Superintendent Lou Taylor issued the mask directive after members of the state board of education voted for it just before the first day of school. The vote was followed by a General

See MASK Page 20

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Compromise produces Showell Elementary

The smiles, handshakes and congratulatory comments at the ribbon cutting for the new Showell Elementary School on Monday belie a tumultuous beginning roughly seven years ago when the project was tested routinely on a pass-fail basis and endured several time-outs.

When the talks between the Worcester County Board of Education and the Worcester County Commissioners began in 2014, the only thing the participants could agree on was that the school with trailers for classrooms on Route 589 near Ocean Pines needed to be replaced.

Beyond that, it was a matter of money, as is always the case whenever want runs up against need, and passion meets politics.

School officials, who wanted the best of the best for their students and staff, initially envisioned a \$54 million-plus facility. Even though that was later cut down to \$43 million, the county commissioners steadfastly refused to go above \$37 million and change.

The school's estimated cost even became a campaign issue in the 2014 county elections, as commissioner candidates pledged not to raise taxes to finance the project, and maintained there had to be a better way to build it for less.

The negotiations between the school board and the commissioners, along with project planning and reviews, went on for three years before the first shovel of dirt was turned in September 2018.

As it turned out, however, these debates, the commissioners' steadfast refusals and the board's stubborn insistence somehow came together after a series of compromises.

The result, as those in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony know, is a facility that does more than satisfy everyone. It's an accomplishment of which the commissioners and the school board can be proud.

And so what if the ceremony was a year late? Given all that preceded the school's construction, everything seems to have worked out just fine.



## Mother's Cantina leadership meeting

### Local eatery hosts series of workshops beginning Nov. 16

(Oct. 28, 2021) A free leadership education and skills development workshop for individual participants will be held Tuesdays, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5 from 3-7 p.m. at Mother's Cantina, 7805 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City.

The workshop is spread over six sessions (four hours in length for a total of 24 hours) utilizing The Leadership Challenge, the industry-leading framework for developing high-performance leaders and changing

lives.

Participants will be able to build personal relationships, develop leadership and change-management skills, learn how to intentionally monitor and evaluate their own leadership skills while also creating a transformational culture for the essential skills success. A meal will be provided.

Ron Siers, PhD, will be teaching the workshop and has a terminal degree in Organizational Leadership. He has provided training in leadership growth and development, team leadership, and organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

With over 32 years of teaching, coaching and re-

searching, he has developed expertise in the fields of leadership skills and behaviors, leader development, team building, and transformational relationships. He is a Certified Master of The Leadership Challenge, a Trained Coach of The Leadership Practices Inventory, and a Certified Facilitator of The Leadership Challenge.

The workshop is sponsored by the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with WorWic Community College and the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association. To apply, email [KCleaver@worwic.edu](mailto:KCleaver@worwic.edu) by Oct. 29. Pre-course work is due by Nov. 1.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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## Track or Treat event in Snow Hill, Fri.

(Oct. 28, 2021) Worcester County Recreation & Parks invites youth and families for a night of safe Trick or Treating.

Track or Treat will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Friday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m. This family-fun event is open to youth

ages 12 and under.

Local vendors will have goodies to hand out to the kids. Children should come dressed in their Halloween costumes and bring their bags to collect goodies.

There is no admission fee for this event, but children must be accompanied by an adult. All guests must sign in

at the main entrance.

For more information on this event or to become a vendor, contact Tyler Keiser at 410-632-2144, ext. 2505 or [tkeiser@maryland-scoast.org](mailto:tkeiser@maryland-scoast.org). Visit [www.play-maryland-scoast.org](http://www.play-maryland-scoast.org) to learn about other special events happening in Worcester County.

### Have an opinion?

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



# Mask mandates have helped keep classrooms open

Continued from Page 18

Assembly committee voting several weeks later to make it official. Before the state board of education's vote, Worcester County Public Schools were set to begin with masks encouraged, but not required.

Taylor has said that the mask mandate, which eases quarantine requirements for close contacts, have been working to help keep schools open and operating.

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# Wor. Prep welcomes new members

(Oct. 28, 2021) The Worcester Preparatory School Board of Trustees welcomes members Matthew Giardina of Berlin, Stephen Lewis of Ocean City, Nicole Silicato-Miller of Millsboro, and Emily Tunis of Ocean City.

Born in Salisbury, Giardina attended WPS from Kindergarten through ninth grade, and from there he attended Christchurch Boarding School in Urbanna, Virginia.

At Christchurch, he was involved with several sports including lacrosse, football and sailing. After graduating from Christchurch in 2003, Giardina enrolled at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree with concentrations in economics and finance.

After graduating from college, he worked with family businesses in Ocean City, working his way up to vice president of operations for Bayshore Development and Time Inc.

Giardina and his wife, Jessica, have two children who attend WPS, Abraxas ('29) and Kingsley ('32).

In addition to his involvement with WPS, he has also been active with the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Board and the Joan Jenkins Board. In his free time, he is an avid outdoorsman.

Tunis grew up in Mt. Airy, Maryland, where she attended South Carroll High School. She graduated valedictorian of her high school class, as well as played volleyball and softball.

In 2005, Tunis graduated from Washington and Lee University (W&L) with a Bachelor's Degree in physics and mathematics.

At W&L, she was the president of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and played volleyball.

Tunis was recognized with the W&L Distinguished Young Alumna Award in 2015 and was inducted into the W&L Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

After graduation, she moved to the Washington, DC area where she worked as a contractor for the Department of Defense.

In 2010, she received a Master's Degree in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Tunis moved to Ocean City in 2012

and is currently the president and chief operating officer of Hardwire, LLC in Pocomoke City, which was founded by her husband, George.

She has two stepchildren, that graduated from Worcester Prep, Grace ('16) and Owen ('19). Her daughter, Ellie ('35), is a current pre-kindergarten student and her youngest, Brooklyn, will join her sister in just a few short years.

In addition to her commitment to WPS, Tunis serves as the vice chair of the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Board, the chair of the W&L University Science Advisory Board, and a board member of the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Born and raised in the area, Lewis is a 1986 graduate of Worcester Preparatory School. His father, Lloyd, was a founding member of the school and long-serving trustee.

After graduating from Towson University, Lewis returned to the area and assumed the role of vice president for the family businesses, M.R. Ducks and Talbot Street Pier.

Along with his brother, John, and their wives, they oversee all aspects of the business. Lewis and his wife, Kristin, have one son, Turner.

Silicato-Miller was born in Milford, Delaware, and attended college at the University of Delaware where she earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration in finance and marketing, followed by a Juris Doctor degree from Widener University School of Law.

Currently, Silicato-Miller is the vice president of Silicato Development, Commercial Real Estate and Development. She is also the vice chair of the Greater Milford Boys & Girls Club Board, and co-founder of a non-profit entity, the Great Futures Fund, that benefits local Boys & Girls Clubs and children of need in Sussex County.


Silicato-Miller, and her husband Alexander, have two children attending WPS, Frank ('25) and Mac ('28).



SUBMITTED PHOTO/OCEAN CITY TODAY

### COMMENDED STUDENTS

Worcester Preparatory Head of School, Dr. John McDonald, announced that Ayush Batra and Marshall Mumford have been named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Pictured, from left, are Assistant Head of School and Head of Upper School Mike Grosso, Mumford, Batra and Dr. McDonald.



Selected Works



by Delmarva Artist



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# Cuisine

## French toast with berry compote and brie

And so I sit in my office on another glorious morning, the sun not up yet as the autumn darkness has set in. It



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

is the beginning of winter, I am afraid. The nights will get longer, and, of course, it will get colder. But fret not, as you can combat this time of year knowing that a warm plate of breakfast foods will help to get your day started. And throw in a mimosa or two, and you have a formidable start to the weekend. I mean, if you want to start your workday this way, who am I to say not to? I just know that it is not an option for me, so I will leave you to your own devices when it comes to that.

But I digress. What is it about warming breakfast/brunch foods that make them so satisfying? Maybe it's the spices used — cinnamon and nutmeg notably. Maybe the richness of many breakfast foods soothes the soul as we feast, filling ourselves in preparation of a midday nap. And what better dish is there to accomplish this deed than French Toast.

French Toast has always held a special place in my heart, as it is rich, sweet and filling all at once. And I scoff as I think to myself that it is pretty much bread pudding designed as a plate of wholesome food. It is literally dessert for breakfast, and that is a fabulous thought.

In digging through information on this ubiquitous dish, I learned a few things. First, French Toast was first chronicled in an English cookbook centuries before it had been documented in France proper. Second, The French call French Toast pain perdu, which translates into 'lost bread' as it is made with stale, old bread. Mind that I did not say moldy. Don't get all bleu cheese on me, please.

Third, and this was just an epiphany that I had as I was writing this, is the aforementioned notion that this is nothing but bread pudding. Why is it that I had never thought of this before? Sometimes it is these small connections that I make that my life complete, as sad as that may sound.

So, I need to get back to the whole "dark morning" thing. It amazes me, annually, that it stays dark so much later in the morning these days. I mean, just last week it was light at



6:40 a.m. It comes on so fast, and I can understand why some people dread this change, as it inevitably leads into winter. Personally, I am a fan of all four seasons, as I don't think I would be able to handle year-round summer. Maybe when I retire, I will become that person, but for now I like the seasons.

But, man is it dark outside. We are just shy of two weeks away from daylight savings, so at least we will get back to a little light in our mornings, but then it also means that it will get darker so much earlier. Then, the real countdown sets off, which is the race to Dec. 21, the darkest day of the year. But starting Dec. 22, the days get a little lighter, with periods of light growing by just over two minutes per day until spring arrives. And then, we will be right back in the springtime and summertime groove. It is truly a beautiful thing.

But, for now we have to make it through the winter months and gear up for the cold. And nothing will warm you up more than a rich and filling, hot breakfast. And adding some brie cheese will warm the heart even more. Trust me, it will make a chilly dark morning disappear.

### French Toast, berry compote, brie

*Serves 4*

- 8 pieces sourdough bread
- 1 c. Whole milk
- 1 c. Heavy cream
- ¼ c. Granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- dash nutmeg
- 4 whole eggs
- ½ tsp. Pure vanilla extract
- dash salt

Pure maple syrup, as needed

1 wedge brie cheese

2 c. Berry Compote (recipe follows)

1. Just pretend that you're making individual slices of bread pudding (because you are) and let the bread sit out for a little while to stale a bit. If you are not patient enough, you can also toast it before you soak it. This instruction is for the French Toast purist, and is completely optional.
2. Combine the next seven ingredients in a bowl and whisk heartily.
3. Heat a pan to medium and spray with a non-stick spray.
4. Dip the bread, ensuring that each slice has plenty of batter on and in it.
5. Cook the French toast for a few

minutes on each side, removing it when it is golden brown and cooked through.

6. Remove and when you are ready to plate, cut the slices diagonally and then alter bread and brie.

7. Top with the berry compote and serve with the maple syrup.

8. If you are hungover, try this with a Mimosa. It is a delicious pairing.

### Berry Compote

*Makes about 2 cups*

- 2 c. Assorted berries
- 1 Tbsp. Champagne vinegar
- 1/2 c. Granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. Orange juice

1. Combine the ingredients in a pan and bring to a low simmer
2. Cook until the berries have broken down and it starts to thicken
3. Make sure that it does not come to a hard boil

— Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at [www.boxcar40.com](http://www.boxcar40.com).



# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Oct. 28

**ANNUAL COAT & TOY DRIVE**  
Ocean Pines Community Center Parking Lot, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will be collecting unwrapped toys, coats, boots, shoes, thermal ware, sweatshirts, sweaters, jeans, gloves, scarves and blankets. [djlandissr@gmail.com](mailto:djlandissr@gmail.com), 410-641-7330

**STEM STORY TIME ‘EAT THE RAINBOW’**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. Take-home activity included. For 2-5 year old children. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**PJ/MOVIE TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come in your PJs and watch “Mickey’s House of Villains!” Take home some great Disney themed halloween activities. Total run time about 70 mins. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**DOCTOR MADDOCKTER’S MAD, MAD LIBRARY**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2-5:30 p.m. A spooky time for all ages. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**LIVING LOCAL FARM VISIT**  
Splendid Earth Farm, Berlin. 3-5 p.m., Farmer Jeanne Vander and Lower Shore Land Trust’s Land Stewardship Manager Frank Deuter will discuss soil health. <https://mdcoastalbays.org/event/living-local-farm-visit/>.

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

**BEACH SINGLES**  
*Thursdays* - Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Beach Singles, 45 years and older, meet for happy hour. Info: 302-436-9577, 410-524-0649 or [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., Oct. 29

**HOWL-O-WEEN 2021 COSTUMES & COCKTAILS**  
Seacrets, 117 49th St., Ocean City, 6-9 p.m. Tickets cost \$75 each or \$250 for four and includes buffet, open bar, silent auction and live entertainment. Tickets: [LifeCrisisCenter.org](http://LifeCrisisCenter.org) or Tina Ciarmoli, 410-749-0632.

**TRACK OR TREAT**  
Worcester County Recreation Center,

6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 6-8 p.m. Open to youth ages 12 years and younger. Come dressed in costumes and bring bags to collect goodies. Children must be accompanied by an adult. [tkeiser@marylandscoast.org](mailto:tkeiser@marylandscoast.org), 410-632-2144, Ext. 2505

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR LEADERSHIP GROWTH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
Mother’s Cantina 78th St., 7805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. The workshop is free and will be held Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5 from 3-7 p.m. To apply, email [KCleaver@wor-wic.edu](mailto:KCleaver@wor-wic.edu) by Oct. 29. Pre-course work is due by Nov. 1.

**DOCTOR MADDOCKTER’S MAD, MAD LIBRARY**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-4 p.m. A spooky time for all ages. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Meet a real-life team of ghost hunters that investigates spiritual, metaphysical and demonic hauntings. Think your house is haunted? Ask the experts. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**4TH ANNUAL SHERO AWARDS CEREMONY**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this free event. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org/event/shero-awards-2021/>

## Sat., Oct. 30

**HALLOWEEN BOWL BASH**  
Ocean City Town Skate Park, Street Louis Avenue & Third Street, 2-6 p.m. Featuring a best trick skateboarding competition with prizes and music. Also a prize for best costume. For kids 6 years and older. Cost is \$15 or free to pass holders. 410-289-2695

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-3 p.m. Carnival-style games, prizes and snacks for all. Costume parade at 2:30 p.m. Held outdoors, but will be moved inside in the event of inclement weather. All ages welcome. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716



SUBMITTED PHOTO/OCEAN CITY TODAY

**THANK YOU**  
To recognize the men and women of the Worcester County Health Department for their extraordinary measures to combat covid-19, the Worcester County Commissioners present Health Officer Becky Jones and her staff with four custom works of art to be displayed at the four health department offices in Ocean City, Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill. Jeffrey Auxuer Designs of Berlin crafted the pieces.

Sheppards Crossing Road, Whaleysville, 7-10 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. 410-603-0294

**FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER & RECRUITMENT**  
White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m.-noon. Stop by the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department’s booth and purchase your truck raffle tickets, Green Number Plate Signs and learn about becoming a member of the department. 410-641-8272

**SEASIDE 10/5K HALLOWEEN RUN**  
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Register online at <http://OCTraining.com> or onsite. Pick-up begins at 7 a.m., 10 mile run starts at 9 a.m. followed by the start of the 5K race starts at 9:15 a.m. Rain or shine. 443-497-4324.

**DOCTOR MADDOCKTER’S MAD, MAD LIBRARY**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. A spooky time for all ages. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**SWING FOR YOUTH GOLF OPEN**  
Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, Berlin, 10 a.m. Cost is \$125 per person or \$500 per team and includes greens fees and cart, 2 Mulligans, putting contest and raffle tickets.

<https://www.eagleslandinggolf.com>, 410-213-7277

**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. 31

**OCEAN CITY MAYOR’S 2ND ANNUAL BIKE RIDE**  
South First Street, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-noon. Beginning at 10 a.m., the mayor will lead riders along the boardwalk. Register as a rider upon arrival and compete for prizes and give-a-ways. Free event. Halloween decorations/costumes welcome.

**BERLIN TRICK-OR-TREAT**  
Held throughout the Town of Berlin, 5-7 p.m. Washington Street, from Main Street to West Street will be closed to through traffic. Trick-or-treaters are reminded to be aware of traffic and do not accept homemade or unwrapped treats. 410-641-2770

## Mon., Nov. 1

**GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30-11:59 p.m. The group meets twice per month  
Continued on Page 25



# Puzzles

## COMMON CORE

BY JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jeff Chen is a writer and professional crossword constructor in Seattle. He has written a daily online review of the New York Times puzzle at XWord Info since 2013 — and helped many other constructors get published for the first time. His wife, Jill Denny, is an avid puzzle person, too. To date they have co-constructed five crosswords for the paper. — W.S.

**ACROSS**  
1 Conveniently forgets to mention, maybe  
6 Big name in investing  
12 How many writers work  
18 Ran out of patience  
19 Meghan \_\_\_\_\_, Grammy's 2015 Best New Artist  
21 Get warmed up  
22 Word with water or Electric  
23 Meaningful work?  
25 Rock bottom  
26 Special \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Like TV's Niles Crane and Monica Geller  
28 Their existence is debatable  
30 Conflict in 2017's "Wonder Woman," in brief  
32 Source of Supergirl's powers  
33 Clothing line  
36 Ballet supporter, e.g.  
41 N.A.A.C.P. \_\_\_\_\_ Awards  
43 REI competitor  
44 Shout of support  
45 Gamelan instruments  
46 Unflappable  
51 Basic point  
52 Main squeeze, in modern lingo  
53 Texas hold 'em pair nicknamed "ducks"

**DOWN**  
1 "Sick burn!"  
2 Peace Nobel  
3 Cry of success  
4 More orderly  
5 Fuel for a camp stove  
6 Houston A.L.E.R.  
7 Field's yield  
8 Macbeth trio  
9 Golfer Michelle  
10 Sight on an M.C. Escher Möbius strip  
11 Balkan region  
12 Director Welles  
13 Fastidious  
14 Feng \_\_\_\_\_  
15 As things might happen  
16 Something bottled in Cannes

**ACROSS**  
54 "\_\_\_\_\_ and Fugue in D Minor" (piece used in "Fantasia")  
56 Lucifer  
58 The "vice of narrow souls," per Balzac  
59 Goddess who sprang from her father's head  
60 Bibliophile : books :: oenophile : \_\_\_\_\_  
61 "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" author  
62 Muck  
63 Present without being present  
66 Ship for 28-Across  
69 Like a space cadet  
70 Part of the body named after Dr. Ernst Gräfenberg  
71 Accustomed (to)  
73 On edibles, say  
75 A shore thing  
76 Posted one's thoughts  
77 Makes a comeback?  
78 Souvenir for a Final Four team  
79 Ingredient in many balms  
81 Hones  
82 Lock  
83 Company with an iconic yellow Running Man logo  
84 "The Lion King" trio  
86 Receiver of private instruction  
87 Ritzy transports  
94 Japanese prime minister before Suga  
95 Hosp. diagnostic

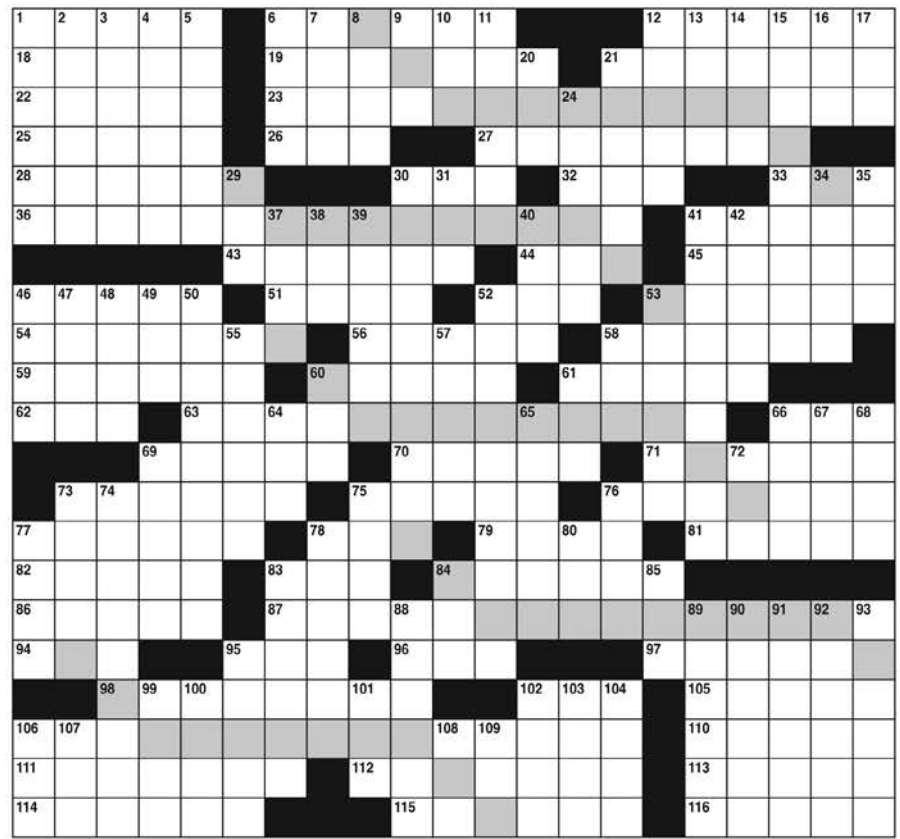
**DOWN**  
96 Where Gal Gadot was born: Abbr.  
97 Instigate  
98 Once  
102 Not worth a \_\_\_\_\_  
105 Pal of Buzz Lightyear  
106 You wouldn't want them to have a crush on you  
110 Director DeMille  
111 Chuck E. Cheeses, in part  
112 One way to go  
113 Better than  
114 Off course  
115 One of the Magi, along with Melchior and Balthazar  
116 Designated things for bikes and buses

**ACROSS**  
17 Price abbr.  
20 GPS recommendation: Abbr.  
21 Look over  
24 Get a move on  
29 Kenan Thompson is its longest-tenured member, for short  
30 Reminiscence about an epic party  
31 Ming-Na who starred as Mulan in 1998's "Mulan"  
34 Played a Halloween prank on  
35 Pickle  
37 Olympic gold-medal gymnast Korbut  
38 Govt. agency that Jimmy Woo works for on "WandaVision"  
39 Santiago of "Scandal"  
40 Horse of a different color  
41 "Aha!"  
42 Sit shiva, e.g.  
46 Male deer  
47 Completely, after "in"  
48 Diez menos dos  
49 Most of Greenland  
50 Like dim sum  
52 One hitting the low notes  
53 Name that means "God is my judge"  
55 Some Chevy S.U.V.s  
57 Present, e.g.  
58 She/\_\_\_\_\_  
60 Droll  
61 Kid \_\_\_\_\_  
64 Denouement

**DOWN**  
65 One who asks a lot of questions  
66 The munchies, e.g.  
67 Step 2?  
68 Nine to five, for example  
69 Animal on Ontario's coat of arms  
72 "Not this again!"  
73 Take out of the game  
74 Law that led to a 1773 revolt  
75 Actress Ward  
76 Abacus piece  
77 James who sang "At Last"  
78 Nary a trace (of)  
80 & 83 Puzzle solver's starting point  
84 Altitudes: Abbr.  
85 It guards against UVB  
88 Like the sun at dawn  
89 Lite  
90 Little blob  
91 Critic of the Great Society  
92 Radicchio relative  
93 Distinctive flairs  
95 Real, in Rio  
99 Disney villain voiced by Jeremy Irons  
100 Bar mixer  
101 The Cardinals, on scoreboards  
102 Series that might feature a long-lost father-uncle  
103 Only known animal to prey on great white sharks  
104 Person calling tech support, say  
106 Bleat  
107 Some conjunctions  
108 Summer worker, in brief?  
109 French possessive

**DIAGONALS (in mixed order)**  
• Breakfast side dish  
• Compassionate  
• Nickname for Mars  
• Starts drinking  
• Truly magnificent

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



**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**HARD - 71**

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

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

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**Walk In**

**Answers to last week's puzzles**

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

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



# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

Call **410-723-6397**  
by Monday 5 p.m.



## HELP WANTED

**Seacrets**  
Hiring Cooks (up to \$18), Audio/Video Techs, Distillery Tour Guides, Food Runners, Hosts, Maintenance Staff, Head Distiller, Painter, & Carpenter.  
Apply in person or online at [seacrets.com](http://seacrets.com)

## HELP WANTED

**CONSTRUCTION WORKERS/ CARPENTERS**  
Must have experience. Competitive pay.  
Call 443-856-5600 or email your resume at [skylineconstructionoc@gmail.com](mailto:skylineconstructionoc@gmail.com)

## HELP WANTED

**MULTIPLE YEAR-ROUND POSITIONS** for Vacasa in Bethany Beach (20 minutes from OC). More info and to apply: [vacasa.com/careers](http://vacasa.com/careers)

In search of self-motivated, creative **NAIL TECH** to join our team and OC Hair and Nail Studio, located in the Gold Coast Mall. Full or Part-time available. Additional incentives offered for those with existing following. Please call to schedule interview, 410-524-7606.

## HELP WANTED

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St. Paul United Methodist Church

## HELP WANTED

Seeking an **Experienced Church Musician**  
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For more information call the Church Office at 410-641-0270 or Email: [thebeacon405@gmail.com](mailto:thebeacon405@gmail.com)

St Paul United Methodist Church  
405 Flower Street, Berlin, MD 21811

## Funeral Associate/Groundskeeper

The Burbage Funeral Home located in Berlin, MD is looking for several individuals to join our funeral home staff. Some job duties include assisting funeral directors with funeral services, doing removals both during normal business hours and after hours, and maintaining funeral home grounds. Must be willing to work nights and/or weekends and be on call as needed. Also must be able to lift 100 pounds. A valid driver's license is required.

Send resume to: [j.weldon@burbagefuneralhome.com](mailto:j.weldon@burbagefuneralhome.com)

## Worcester County Health Department

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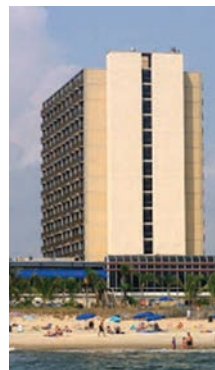
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Bus will leave Stevenson United Methodist Church, Berlin at 8 a.m. on Nov. 6 and arriving at Sight & Sound at 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m show of "Queen Esther." Stopping for lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The bus will return to the church at approximately 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.



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