



Berlin 1st qtr. finances beat budget figures

Advances against last year noted in revenue collection

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) The first quarter of Berlin's general fund budget for FY22 performed well, according to a report to the Town Council Monday, with revenues significantly ahead of last year and expenses only slightly higher.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh, who reviewed general and enterprise funds for July through September for the council, said the town has spent \$1.8 million, or about 26 percent, of a total FY22 budget estimate of \$7.1 million.

During the opening quarter of FY21 total expenditures reached more than \$1.4 million.

On the revenue side, Saleh said the town netted roughly \$5.7 million during the first three months of FY22, which accounts for 81 percent of the \$7.1 million budgeted. That compares to first quarter collections last year of \$3.1 million.

Saleh reported, however, that the higher revenue totals during FY22 could be attributed primarily to \$2.2 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

As of July 12, the town has received \$2.3 million of a total \$4.7 million in ARPA funding.

Saleh also reviewed the collection status of property taxes, which ac-

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CELEBRATION

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce representatives held a ribbon cutting for the newly-launched Ocean Pines Visitors Center last Wednesday.

Berlin OKs ping pong purchase

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) The Berlin Town Council on Monday agreed to allow We Heart Berlin President and CEO Tony Weeg to purchase ping pong tables ahead of gaining final approval to install the feature at John Howard

Burbage Park.

"While the tables are available and in stock from the supplier. I wanted to go ahead and get the tables," Weeg told the council. "One of the first steps is purchasing those tables."

Weeg said 3-D renderings of the project are in the midst of being com-

pleted.

The equipment acquisition was made feasible after We Heart Berlin members raised close to \$20,000 through beer sales during the Oktoberfest celebration in Berlin last month.

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Berlin HDC approves Pitts Street project

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) After debating the merits of stucco over brick and the possibility of enlarging the windows, Berlin's Historic District Commission approved architectural

updates for the corner property at 16 Pitts St. at its meeting last Wednesday.

Samantha Pielstick, representing property owner Jack Burbage, returned to review planning details left unsettled during an appearance

in mid-October.

"We're just trying to make it better and make it fit," she said. "We're just removing the architectural details that were added to the property."

Pielstick said the site is intended

to be used as a new upscale sports bar, 410 Social.

"The additions that they made were the doors that you guys approved last month," she said. "The reason that we choose the red is

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Eastbound Disc Golf members, from left, Randy Preston, Josh Maxfield and Shawn Johnson, pitch a nine-hole course concept to the mayor and Town Council on Monday.

Berlin Council approves new disc golf trial run until Sept.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) After having their idea tabled during discussions in September, Eastbound Disc Golf organizers returned to the Town Council meeting this week with a revamped proposal to install a nine-hole course in Stephen Decatur Park for a trial run through September 2022.

Eastbound Disc Golf members Shawn Johnson, Josh Maxfield and Randy Preston revived negotiations on Monday for a previously proposed 18-hole layout at the site on Tripoli Street.

Johnson said the design has been amended, and the nonprofit also received official 501c3 tax status.

"We're grateful to be here," he said. "In the previous meeting the spirit of the dialogue got awry."

Johnson said the revised course, in addition to being half the scale, also responded to concerns over proximity to a park pond and walking path.

"It kind of stays away from the pond area," he said.

Johnson said organizers were returning to obtain council members' perspective and establish a plan to proceed with the project.

"Our request is to install a nine-hole layout for a six-month trial period," he said.

Johnson said the goal of the test period is to assess optimal setup.

"To see if we need to do things differently or not at all," he said. "We feel that in six months we can give the town ... a chance to make up their minds on this sport and project."

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said an earlier draft memorandum of understanding with Eastbound Disc Golf would require

tweaking to match the current proposal.

Fleetwood said the memorandum should specify the town would not be held liable for injuries related to the course, plus include a 30-day eviction clause and require insurance coverage for special events sponsored by the nonprofit.

Johnson confirmed the group had already acquired an insurance policy for staging events.

"We purchased a policy a few months ago in the spirit of this project," he said.

Mayor Zach Tyndall noted the agreement would not require the town to approve tournaments.

Johnson said Eastbound Disc Golf members were fully aware of approval requirements.

"We fully expect to go through the normal approval process," he said.

Councilmember Jay Knerr said the previously proposed 18-hole course felt intrusive.

"This will allow us to see if it causes problems in the park," he said.

Johnson said the nine-hole course would be better suited for inexperienced players.

"We have to take a step back and realize not everybody cares about this stuff and we have to consider that too," he said.

Councilmember Dean Burrell, who voted against the earlier proposal, echoed continued concerns.

"You're asking town to allow ... as you see fit a considerable portion of one of our main resources for your exclusive use," he said.

Johnson questioned the exclusivity claim.

"It's your property once it is do-

Berlin approves paving, well replacement

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) The Berlin Town Council will issue requests for proposals for street paving and replacing a failing well on Branch Street, council members decided Monday.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said the paving work includes Stevenson Lane, Decatur Street and Graham Avenue east, as well as replacing a walkway in Stephen Decatur Park.

Both the roadwork and well replacement were discussed during the mayor and council meeting on Oct. 25.

In late September, the Maryland Department of Transportation notified the town that estimated highway user revenues would be increased to \$227,221 for FY22 and \$233,293 for FY23.

During the October meeting, Fleetwood said earlier estimates were roughly \$100,000 to repave the trio of roads.

The increased highway user fee revenues are also being slated to replace an existing walking path in Decatur Park comprised of recycled scrap tires.

In October, Fleetwood estimated costs at \$400,000 to use comparable recycled materials, while switching to asphalt would cut the price tag to be-



Engineer Josh Taylor with Davis, Bowen & Friedel, reviews the status of a failing well on Branch Street that went offline recently during the Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

tween \$80,000-\$90,000.

Town officials attributed the current walkways' state of disrepair to seasonal weather changes that caused the material to deteriorate more rapidly.

The council also approved an RFP to replace a failing well on Branch Street.

Last month, Fleetwood informed the mayor and council that the well on Branch Street went offline several weeks earlier.

"The bottom portion of that well has a mesh screen that had deteriorated, and it failed," he said.

Berlin's Water Resources Department found in late September that the well was discharging excessive amounts of sand and stones. The department later learned that the screen at the well bottom had collapsed.

Fleetwood said although two other wells are functional, the town should focus on obtaining grants for a long-range plan to install a fourth well to provide sufficient water to accommodate future growth.

Speaking to the issue on Monday was engineer Josh Taylor with Davis,

Bowen & Friedel.

"These are two separate things," he said. "Replacing the well that has failed and also planning ahead."

Taylor said Berlin has used on average 400,000 gallons a day for the last five years.

"Water usage in 2020 bumped up to 440,000 gallons," he said. "The town is growing, and the 2021 numbers could be even higher."

In an October meeting, Fleetwood recommended tapping into ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to cover the well replacement costs.

Nine-hole course reduces size

Continued from Page 2
nated under the longer-term agreement," he said.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said Eastbound Disc Golf would purchase the equipment, which would be installed on a temporary basis.

"At the end of six months it will be installed in a more permanent fashion and the equipment signed over to the town," she said. "Eastbound Disc Golf would hold tournaments and others using it would be at the discretion of the town."

Johnson said ultimately the town would hold sway over course uses or special events.

"We have no expectation on having authority on who uses this equipment," he said.

Councilmember Troy Purnell moved to approve the temporary course for a trial period ending Sept. 30, 2022.

Tyndall said before the trial run expires the town should have sufficient time to draft an agreement with consultation from attorney Dave Gaskill.

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Council discusses future town expenditures

Continued from Page 4

The sanitation department included a garbage truck replacement for FY25 at a cost of \$450,000 and a recycling truck replacement in FY26 for \$400,000.

Future street paving and sidewalk improvements were also included in the mix.

Starting in FY23, \$50,000 would be committed to pave both East Graham and Stevenson Lane, while comparable repairs on Decatur Street would run \$70,000.

Paving West Street, at a cost of \$1 million, is included for FY26.

Fleetwood said the West Street work would address storm water and sewer capacities, in addition to updating the roadway.

“Not a total reconstruction but the majority will need to be reconstructed,” he said. “It would also address drainage and sidewalks.”

Other sidewalk needs include Tripoli Street to Stephen Decatur Park for

\$50,000 in FY23, with Washington and East Branch Streets listed for FY25 at a cost of \$250,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

Other streets under consideration for sidewalk work at some point include Maple Avenue, Decatur Street, Schoolfield Street, Showell Street and Elizabeth Street.

Other needs included under streets was \$300,000 in FY27 to realign Decatur Street.

Economic and community development needs include a vehicle replacement in FY25 for \$35,000, along with upgrades for the Welcome Center, including HVAC replacement in FY24 for \$120,000 and new windows for \$50,000 in FY26.

Parks and recreation needs include updates at Henry Park for FY23, including basketball court lighting for \$122,000 and playground equipment for \$37,500.

Stephen Decatur Park would also get attention during FY23, including

\$100,000 to replace the walking path and playground equipment for \$37,500.

Burbage Park is also slated for upgrades in FY23, including the pavilion, parking and landscaping for still to be determined costs.

Power Plant generation upgrades for FY23 include replacing a pair of engines with natural gas generators at a cost of \$2.5 million each.

Expanding the wastewater treatment plant for an estimated cost of \$2.5 million was listed for FY 24.

“Which is needed if we want to have EDUs to sell,” Tyndall said.

Other wastewater treatment plant needs include a vac truck for \$500,000 in FY25, with equipment purchases listed including \$110,000 for valves in FY23, West Street water main work at \$750,000 and town water meter re-

placements at \$1 million for FY24, with \$2 million earmarked in FY25 for water and sewer work on Washington Street.

Other big ticket items for the water treatment system include \$1 million in FY25 for a new well, \$500,000 in FY26 for Showell Street sewer work and \$5 million for a water tower in FY27.

On the stormwater front, high ticket items included replacing drainage systems on West Street at a cost of \$3 million in FY24, with Franklin Avenue and Nelson Street improvements listed for FY26 for \$4 million.

Just because certain projects and equipment acquisitions are desired doesn’t mean they will happen on the proposed schedule or at all, for that matter, as Tyndall said adjustments would be considered.

“We will have a group discussion on how to prioritize,” he said.

Parks Commission vets ping pong park pitch for Berlin

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) Berlin’s Parks Commission discussed proposed ping pong and disc golf projects at its facilities during its meeting last Tuesday.

We Heart Berlin President and CEO Tony Weeg and board member Brian Robertson reported on recent fundraising efforts and planned equipment purchases for ping pong at John Howard Burbage Park.

Weeg said the organization netted nearly \$20,000 from beer sales during the Oktoberfest celebration in Berlin on Oct. 16.

“After paying our vendors, we have the money to purchase our first two tables and make our dream come true of this ping pong park,” he said.

Weeg said the group also intends to donate \$1,000 from the beer kitty to support arts and entertainment endeavors in Berlin.

Although architectural renderings are still being completed, Weeg said the group wanted to purchase ping pong tables ahead of schedule.

“Due to supply chain issues, we wanted to buy tables and not wait,” he said.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen asked if the Parks Commission had approved the long-sought ping pong addition at the William Street location.

Weeg said the proposal was included on a parks project “wish list,” previously shared with the mayor and Town Council.

“A wish list is not the same as final approval,” Bohlen said. “It still needs to

go before the mayor and council.”

Public Works Superintendent Jimmy Charles asked how ping pong tables would be installed.

Weeg said tables would be attached to bolts protruding from an associated concrete pad.

“We’ll be able to take them off and put them back on,” he said.

Weeg said design plans would include a minimum five-foot setback from sidewalks and also include a red brick retaining wall.

“Two red-brick sections that go across the front of each of the tables in between the street and the tables,” he said.

Weeg said both ping pong tables and nets would be constructed of aluminum.

“We won’t have to worry about replacing the nets,” he said.

While precise measurements for the roughly 360 square foot concrete pad have yet to be determined, organizers are confident the ping pong area would be located a safe distance from William Street.

“Balls will never get to the road,” he said. “You couldn’t hit it that far.”

Bohlen said parking layouts would also be important to the mayor and council.

“You can’t block the driveway for public works and the power plant,” she said.

Weeg said the group is also raising money to replace a section of seating existing onsite.

“It’s rather decrepit,” he said.

Robertson said the intent is to transform the park area into a functional

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Pitts Street property update OK'd by HDC

Continued from Page 1

they're going to be a very heavily Maryland theme."

Commission Chairwoman Carol Rose asked about previous discussions concerning the removal of stucco on the brick façade.

Pielstick said the masonry contractors they consulted said the removal process could damage the bricks.

Commission member Laura Sterns also conducted a recent site inspection.

"Part of the historical significance of it is how it has transitioned through the years," she said. "Some part of me feels this building is charming and it's part of Berlin."

Sterns said removing existing white bricks could permit windows to be enlarged.

"The windows are small and that's what is making it look unappealing," she said. "My fear is we're taking away the charm of Berlin with something that looks new and shiny."

Commission member Mary Moore said rooflines should also be considered.

"Always look at the roofline, that's the history of the town," she said. "This isn't Main Street, it's a back street which is never as elegant or as grand."

Commission member Robert Poli said the Maryland Historic Trust classifies the property as a two-story stucco over brick, flat roof with exposed decorative cornice.

"We need to keep it that way," he said. "If we continue and go ahead and modernize some of these historic buildings, we may lose grants for storefronts ... if the Maryland Historic Trust finds out."

Poli, while noting exterior stucco can be found on other town structures, raised further concerns.

"My issue is the brick work underneath," he said. "You have white brick over red brick."

Even worse, Poli said sections of white brick are starting to pull away from the exterior wall.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the Maryland Historic Trust



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Samantha Pielstick hashes out design details for the corner property at 16 Pitts St. with Berlin's Historic District Commission last Wednesday.

property rehab standards mandate buildings should be used for historical purposes or newer uses with minimal changes to defining characteristics.

"Historical characteristics of a property shall be retained and preserved," he said. "The removal of historical materials or alteration of features ... that characterize a property shall be avoided."

Maryland Historic Trust guidelines also recommend avoiding removal of architectural features.

Engelhart said it is commonplace for property uses to change over the years.

"Those changes that have acquired historical significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved," he said. "Deteriorating historical features shall be repaired instead of replaced."

Sterns asked about removal of white brick on the building's façade.

"We will have to see if it can be removed," she said. "Our plan was to paint the brick."

Turning to windows, Pielstick said based on earlier discussions the intent was to retain current dimensions.

"The restaurant owners had originally considered replacing windows but [realized] it was too costly," she said.

Pielstick said business developers subsequently decided to devote resources to replacing an entrance door.

"They have put in for a grant to replace the doors," she said.

Rose said the door selection would also need to be approved.

"If they are doing it, we have to meet with them," she said.

Pielstick said restaurant ownership plans to purchase the new wooden door, which would be installed as part of the larger repairs.

Sterns recommended removing cornice work on the Pitts Street side of the property but retaining comparable features on the William Street section.

Rose asked about the potential to remove currently exposed exhaust fans.

Pielstick said the fate of exhaust fans would remain unknown until kitchen schematics are finalized.

If exhaust fans are able to be removed an associated awning could be connected to run on both street sides

of the property.

Pielstick said although the property is owned by a single party the site consists of three separate parcels.

Property owner Jack Burbage said a master plan has yet to be established as to how the storefronts would connect.

"We'll do what you want within reason," he said. "We all want it to look better."

Poli forwarded a motion to approve the site improvements with a host of conditions.

Cornice work on the William Street would be retained but removed on the Pitts Street side.

Exterior stucco would be repaired and matched as closely as possible to the existing pattern of the building.

All windows would remain the current dimensions.

Awnings would be installed on both the Pitts and William Street sides and connected by a rounded corner.

Exterior color selections would be similar to an "oyster white," for the entire building façade including brick work.

The commission voted to approve

See PITTS Page 7

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Tables purchase OK'd by council

Continued from Page 1

“We may end up with extra dollars to put ping pong tables in town through the money we’ve raised,” he said.

Project plans call for a permeable concrete pad and aluminum-based ping pong tables, with an associated brick retaining wall.

“The bricks and blocks are being donated,” he said.

Weeg said the brick wall would be two-feet high and two-feet wide and run roughly 25-foot in length to provide a five-foot sidewalk offset.

“Very much like the red brick you see all over downtown Berlin,” he said.

Councilmember Dean Burrell asked why a retaining wall had been included in the design.

Weeg said the feature would provide an additional park upgrade.

“We know this is going to be a congregation point for people,” he said. “The final design is not set, but we would like a seating area in the middle.”

Mayor Zach Tyndall, who noted the purchase would not negate the need for project approval, confirmed the town could store the equipment until the time comes to install the tables.

Burrell expressed enthusiasm for the ping pong addition at the William Street park.

“This is a splendid Idea and I can’t see why anyone would be opposed,” he said.

Burrell also asked if the town would be responsible for maintaining the ping pong setup.

“The tables should be maintenance-free,” Weeg said.

Pitts St. building update cleared

Continued from Page 6

the conditions with Rose the sole vote in opposition.

“Stucco, white brick and all that, I just can’t vote for it,” she said.

Burbage worried that the oyster white could prove too light a hue for the entire building and said alternative color selections might be submitted for consideration.

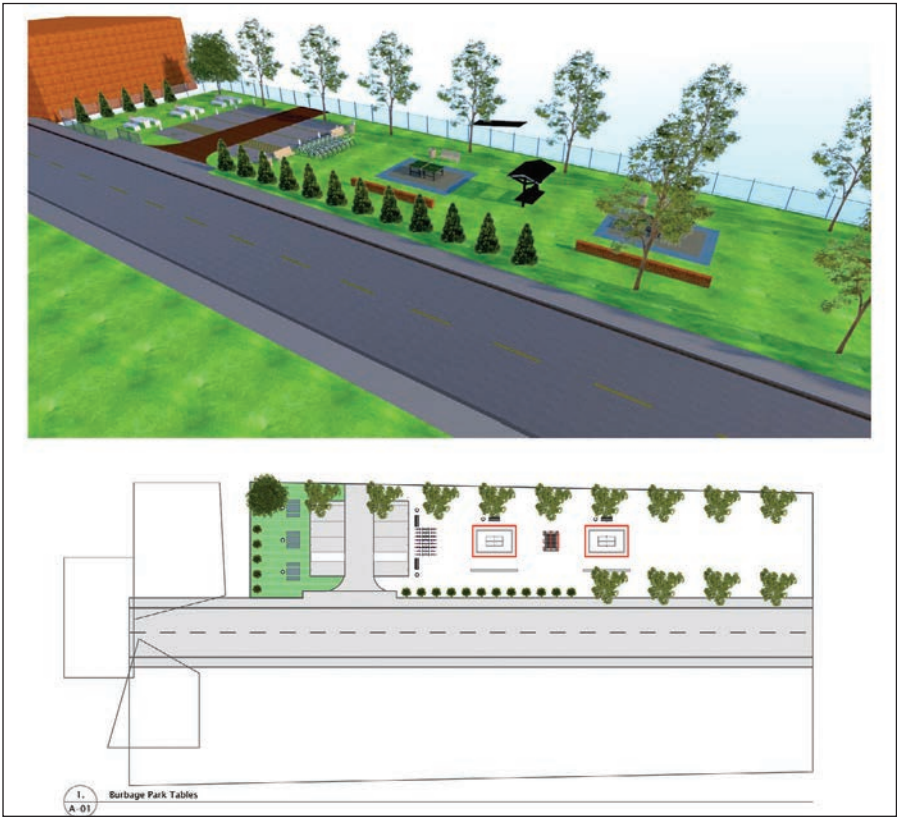
“Maybe a darker color would stand out more,” he said.

Moore expressed gratitude for the level of research conducted into historical architectural standards.

“You really did your due diligence on that building,” she said.

Engelhart said commission members could approve the plans contingent on receipt of revised drawings reflecting the points outlined.

“I’m happy that were coming to the point to being approved,” Pielstick said.



RENDERING COURTESY TONY WEEG

Architectural rendering of a proposed ping pong addition to John Howard Burbage Park being promoted by nonprofit We Heart Berlin.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood raised a pair of concerns, including being cognizant of a nearby natural gas line prior to beginning installation.

“We also need to establish a formal MOU on how this is all going to be handed over,” he said.

Councilmember Jay Knerr asked if a bike rack could be included in ping pong plans, which Weeg confirmed was slated for inclusion.

The council unanimously approved a motion from Burrell for the town to store ping pong tables after purchase.

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Berlin's 1st qtr. does better than forecast

Continued from Page 1
count for 57 percent of town revenues.

Through Sept. 30 the town has collected \$2.6 million or 63 percent of the roughly \$4.1 million budgeted from property taxes in FY22.

During the opening quarter of FY21 the town collected \$2.2 million in property taxes.

Turning to the general fund balance, Saleh said through September the total was more than \$5.1 million, including \$1.68 million in non-spendable funds due from sewer and storm water fees, \$1.64 million in unassigned spending available for unanticipated contingencies, \$931,000 in assigned funds for health care and the community center project, \$802,000 in committed funds from impact fees and \$96,000 in restricted funds from slot revenues.

In addition to providing an overview of general fund numbers, Saleh also reviewed enterprise funds, including electric, water, sewer and storm water.

Starting with electric, Saleh said first quarter receipts were \$932,000, or about 18 percent, of the \$5.2 million in revenues budgeted for FY22.

During the first quarter of FY21 the town received \$1.04 million from electric utility charges.

On the expense side, the town spent \$1.1 million through September, or about 22 percent of the \$5.3 million estimated for the fiscal year. In FY21, electric fund expenses reached \$1.2 million after the three-month mark.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said the electric fund, which is operating at a loss of more than \$222,000, typically ebbs low at the one-quarter mark in the fiscal year.

Saleh said in past years the electric fund performed marginally better, albeit still in the red, with a negative balance of roughly \$159,000 for the first quarter of FY21.

Switching to the water fund, despite a smaller operating loss through September of more than \$93,000, the balance deficit raised larger worries.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Finance Director Natalie Saleh reviews FY22 budget numbers, while Wastewater Superintendent Jamey Latchum reviews financial data during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

"The water fund is a concern," she said.

During the first quarter of FY21 Berlin's water fund operated at a loss of roughly \$28,000.

Water fund revenues through September totaled \$152,000, represent-

ing 16 percent of the total \$937,000 budgeted, while expenses were more than \$254,000, or 26 percent of budget totals.

Sewer fund revenues totaled \$581,000 through September, or 23 percent of the \$2.5 million budgeted.

On the expense side, sewer fund totals were roughly \$452,000 through September, or 20 percent of a \$2.2 million estimated for FY22.

To close September, the sewer fund is operating in the black by roughly \$129,000, compared to a positive variance of \$106,000 for the first quarter of FY21.

"We hope to stay on the same pattern," she said.

Wrapping up with storm water, Saleh said on the expense side, the fund has totaled more than \$37,000, or 14 percent of budget estimates.

On the revenue side, through September, the town has received roughly \$143,000, or 49 percent of the \$292,000 budgeted.

Saleh said the storm water fund closed September with a loss of \$4,100, which was significantly offset by an \$110,000 contribution from ARPA funds.

"This is another priority to look at," she said. "It has operated in the negative for the last three years."

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Work on routes 50, 90 to continue until Dec.

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) Motorists traveling on routes 50 or 90 to and from the Ocean City strip over the next month may need to budget a little more time to maneuver the road work that has already been disrupting their driving paths for weeks.

Shanteé Felix, the assistant media relations manager for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, said in an email last week that road work is underway on both primary gateways into the city, and that the projects are set to continue until December.

The work includes milling, patching and overlay paving on U.S. 50 westbound from Herring Creek to MD 818 and eastbound from MD 346 east to Herring Creek. It began several weeks ago, and has been hard to miss, as lanes have frequently been shut down and traffic has been slowed to a crawl in some areas at times. Felix said crews are permitted to work 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday for that project.

And while some motorists may think they can escape the delays and head to Route 90 to get onto Coastal Highway, they cannot.

Felix said contract crews began eastbound bridge deck and street lighting repairs in late October on the busy thoroughway, and will move to the west side when finished. She said crews are permitted to work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

“Both projects on US 50 and MD 90 have lane closures and flagging operations in place,” Felix said. “We advise motorists to allow for additional travel time when reaching their destinations and to visit md511.maryland.gov so that they will know in advance of any closures that will affect their travel.”

The website includes traffic conditions and other information to help drivers maneuver state roads.

And while it may seem poor planning for both projects to kick off and

wrap up at essentially the same times, thus handicapping many commuters, Felix said the officials planned for the best case scenario.

“MDOT SHA works hard to minimize traffic disruptions while maintaining a safe work zone for our crews and customers,” Felix explained. “The US 50 resurfacing project is a capital project with a contract that expires in December 2021. For MD 90, MDOT SHA coordinated with the Town of Ocean City and the Worcester County Emergency Operations Center so that these routine maintenance repairs would occur during the off-season in order to minimize impacts to the traveling public.”

She added that officials are making efforts to help minimize the disruptions to motorists.

“We are working with Maryland State Police ... and adjusting our lane closure and flagging operation times to help with traffic flow,” she said.

On Route 50, she said traffic has been building up primarily at the traffic signals, and that state police officers have been on site to extend green lights to keep vehicles moving.

“When necessary, crews are shortening the lane closures on the newly resurfaced portion of the roadway once it is cooled enough for travel,” she said.

On Route 90, Felix said crews are using shorter lane closure times and flagging operations.

The cost of the Route 50 project is about \$2.5 million, while the cost of the 90 work is \$125,000.

Felix added that no more state road projects are going on now in Ocean City, but she said officials are scheduling drain clean-outs on Coastal Highway.

“This work would take place from November to May, depending on the weather,” she said. “[It] will be performed in the bus lane or left lane along the curb line. During this time, there will always be at least one lane open to traffic. Since this work is being done

See ROUTE Page 10



LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

State highway contract crews perform eastbound bridge deck work on the Route 90 bridge. The project is one of two on a major Ocean City gateway that began several weeks ago and set to continue until at least December. The other is along Route 50.

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Ping pong park gains traction

Continued from Page 5
space.

“The idea for the retaining wall is just to add seating,” he said.

Bohlen confirmed that the current Burbage Park seating dates back three decades.

Although not guaranteed, Bohlen said the matter probably could be added to the agenda for the mayor and council meeting the following Monday.

“I don’t see a problem,” she said.

Weeg expressed relief the project appears to be gaining momentum.

“I’ve been wanting to do this for years,” he said.

Weeg also asked about the status of a proposed disc golf course at Stephen

Decatur Park and the possibility of We Heart Berlin aiding the effort.

“Our NPO (nonprofit organization) would like to pick up the ball on the disc golf idea,” he said.

In September, Eastbound Disc Golf organizers held the latest round of talks with the mayor and council about a proposed 18-hole course at Decatur Park.

Bohlen said disc golf proponents were scheduled to present additional details to the mayor and council during its Monday, Nov. 8 meeting.

“Eastbound Disc Golf is still in the picture,” she said. “It is not a matter of who is proposing, it’s the mayor and council wants to see the right combination of factors.”

Berlin gets ARPA funding public feedback

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) With \$4.7 million coming its way through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Berlin Town Council on Monday wanted to hear how the public thought it ought to spend the money.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said gathering public opinion is required before establishing spending priorities for the grant.

As of July 12, Berlin has received \$2.3 million of a \$4.79 million approved allocation.

Funding is being released in two batches, with the first rolled out starting in May and the second half sent one year

after the initial payment.

Grant recipients are obligated to earmark funding by Dec. 31, 2024 with projects completed by Dec. 31, 2026.

Among the eligible uses are several areas tied to covid-19, including public health and economic impacts, revenue replacement, premium pay for essential workers and investment in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

During the listening session, resident Marie Velong recommended dedicating a portion of funds to improving the financial picture for both the water and wastewater funds.

Velong said the town should consider not only wants but also needs.

“Those are things that are needed,” she said.

Also speaking was resident Gussie Sholtis, one of several community members who raised concerns about traffic on West Street.

Sholtis said the council should fix existing problems before investing in new projects.

Sholtis proposed painting a pedestrian/bike lane on West Street to make the road safer for non-vehicular traffic.

“We should spend it on keeping

pedestrians safe,” she said.

Other comments regarding West Street included increasing police patrols to help reduce speeding that threatens children and dog walkers.

Impressed with the public participation, Councilmember Dean Burrell said, “I have sat in these type of meetings and the tone has not been that positive.” By comparison, Burrell said the discussion surrounding ARPA spending was fruitful.

“This evening I feel that the tone of your input is something that we need to be proud of,” he said. “Rest assured we have heard your cries.”

Wor. Co. closing offices Nov. 11

(Nov. 11, 2021) Worcester County Government (WCG) offices, including Recreation and Parks, will be closed Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. All five Branch Libraries, Central Landfill, and Homeowner Convenience Centers will be open during standard hours of operation on Nov. 11.

Route 90 study in six-year plan

Continued from Page 9

during the off-peak travel times, impacts to the traveling public will be minimal.”

The highway department’s six-year Consolidated Transportation Program also includes \$500,000 to study the Route 90 corridor between Route 50 and Ocean City, but no timetable for a potential project has been set.

No-Scam November program back

(Nov. 11, 2021) Worcester County’s Vulnerable Adult Task Force is bringing back its No-Scam November program this month, as it continues alert the public to fraud schemes common to this time of year.

The program aims to prevent scams before they can take advantage of people, since identifying the perpetrators is difficult when they employ anonymous high-tech approaches.

State’s Attorney Kris Heiser said the addition of a certified fraud examiner to her investigative team will be helpful in combatting the growing problem of elder abuse. She also said that strong public-private partnerships are critical to scam prevention.

Law enforcement continues to see an increase in the number of reported fraud cases, and senior citizens are the most frequent target.

In Worcester County, the most common types of fraud involve gift card scams, Heiser said. Scammers have been targeting victims either by phone or by email, often claiming that there is an emergency situation the victim must

buy gift cards to resolve.

The scammer typically then requests the code on the back of the gift card so they can use it online. The scammer may claim to be the IRS, or claim that a family member of the victim has been arrested and needs bail money.

In another common scam, the victim is told that they have won a contest or prize money, but they must buy gift cards totaling a small portion of the total prize they will eventually be sent by the scammer.

Many times, the scammer stays on the phone with the victim while the victim travels to the store to purchase the gift cards, to make sure that the scam is successful and that the victim cannot pause to consider whether they should actually go through with the purchase.

As part of the program, the Maryland State Police, the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and the Ocean Pines Police Department will be conducting community outreach efforts and providing local businesses with free signs provided by the Office of the State’s Attorney.

These warning signs are designed to shake would-be victims into realizing and recognizing the scam in the moment, especially if they are still on the phone with the scammer, and encourage them to press pause and exercise caution before making a purchase.

This year, the signs will display a QR code that links the public to more information on scams from reliable online sources.

These signs, along with outreach by prosecutors and police will also help local businesses and shop owners to educate their staff to know the signs of a gift card scam before ringing up the victim’s purchase, and to contact police whenever they suspect a scam.

Businesses wishing to participate in “No-Scam November” can request free gift card scam signs from either the Berlin Barrack of the state police, the Ocean Pines Police Department, or the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

Heiser said people who suspect any kind of elder abuse, including suspected gift card scams, should contact their local law enforcement agency.



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Haunted house, pickleball both successful

(Nov. 11, 2021) Ocean Pines’ Recreation and Parks and Racquet Sports each held debut events last month, and organizers said both were successful.

The Recreation and Parks Department, with help from Public Works and a team of volunteers, hosted the first haunted house on Oct. 22-24.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue indicated feedback from the public said the event “was just the right mix of scary and fun, and they could tell that we had worked hard to put it together.”

“A lot of people complimented the fact that we had done something for Halloween. And for our first time, it went pretty well,” she said.

Donahue said she’s wanted to do a haunted house for five years. An issue with an outdoor location canceled the event one prior year, and the pandemic prevented the haunted house from occurring last Halloween season.

This year, a team of staff and volunteers came together to transform the community center into several rooms of fun and scary scenes for guests to walk through. There were actors in costumes, and each space was transformed into a unique, festive, and occasionally creepy scene, filled with clowns, scarecrows, witches, werewolves and mad scientists.

Donahue said Josh Vickers from Ocean Pines Public Works brought his experience hosting similar happenings, most recently at the Selbyville Library.

“They remodeled the library and decided not to do it again, so then we went and purchased all the things they had, for us to do it ourselves,” Donahue said.

Vickers said another obstacle was following guidance from the local fire



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Costumed participants converged for the inaugural haunted house event, held Oct. 22-24 at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

marshal.

“It took a team effort between Recreation and Parks and members of Public Works,” he said. “It took a lot of patience and the ability to listen to different ideas and design changes. And, finally, it took a lot of heart and commitment from the actors and volunteers.”

“We had quite a few volunteers and staff members that took part in it,” Donahue said, including Clubhouse Bar and Grille Manager Judie Scotti, a member of the Ocean Pines Players, and many friends and family members.

Donahue said about 200 people attended the haunted house, which took roughly 10-15 minutes to walk through.

“Not bad for our first time,” she said. “I’d say that’s a pretty good

start, and we plan on returning again next year.

“It was quite an endeavor and it took a lot of help, and I really do appreciate all the help from Public Works, because I know they have other things to do. It was nice of them to come and help put all that together,” she said.

Vickers said he was also pleased with how the haunted house turned out.

“I believe if we can make it an annual thing, that next year will be even more spectacular and even spookier than the year before it,” he said. “I think we had a great turn out. I wish there were a few more people, but it was a lot of fun and there were many exciting moments.

“I definitely need to make a big shout out to a few members who

made the paper plan a reality, including Paul Jahn, Tony Howard, Public Works and Recreation and Parks employees for the long nights and days, and also to Debbie Vickers for taking a chance on the idea,” Vickers added.

See OP Page 12

Town of Berlin Public Notice



Town of Berlin, Maryland REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2021-02 Disposition and Development of Parcel 57 and Parcel 410 at Heron Park

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Berlin (“Town”) is accepting sealed proposals for RFP 2021-02 Disposition and Development of Parcel 57 and Parcel 410 at Heron Park. Pre-Proposal Meeting: Monday, November 15, 2021, at 10:00 AM. The submission deadline is Monday, February 14, 2022, at 4:00 PM. Solicitation documents including instructions to respondents may be obtained from the Town of Berlin website at www.berlinmd.gov or at 10 William Street, Berlin, MD 21811. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any informalities or technicalities of the bid or to reject any non-responsive and/or non-responsible proposal in the best interest of the Town of Berlin. EEO

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Man charged with animal cruelty

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) A Pocomoke City man was charged with nine counts of animal cruelty on Oct. 28.

Michael Louis Parrett, 65, of 2844 Byrd Road, was handed the misdemeanor charges following a months-long investigation by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

A private dog breeder, Parrett has long had a contentious relationship with the Pocomoke community and the county government. New animal control laws enacted over the summer specifically target breeders with questionable-at-best practices, something neighbors, who dubbed Parrett "Parvo Mike," have claimed of him.

"It's nice to see and I'm very pleased that the new legislation is working to protect our dogs and animals," said Commissioner Josh Nordstrom. "As I said before several times, animal cruelty will not be tolerated in Worcester County. Taking these steps to pass this legislation is a great step in the right direction to make that a reality."

Parrett is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on Nov. 19.

The Animal Control Office levied 10

citations against Parrett on similar charges in 2019.

Nordstrom stressed that what he applauds is not an impending comeuppance, but that protection of animals in Worcester County.

"The dogs that he harms through his means of raising and keeping them, and the damages and the distress he causes to his neighbors, is a major concern to me," he said. "I don't want any more animals to die, to get hurt or see them get loose. I don't want the neighbors to be disturbed any longer. That's why we passed the laws in the first place. Protect not only the animals but the people who want to live a peaceful existence."

"With the dedicated and talented people in the ... state attorney's office, we're moving toward that goal."

Lenore Bennett, owner of Bayside Dog Training and All Paws Doggie Day-care and local animal control reform advocate, welcomed the news of the charges but thought Parrett might be getting off easy.

"I'm very happy to hear that he was charged," Bennett said. "Unfortunately these are just misdemeanors that typically involve only fines. If he does not have an income to pay them, there is little recourse if he does not."



PHOTO COURTESY LENORE BENNETT
Gambino, one of the dogs rescued from Michael Parrett's property, is seen after being taken to the vet and cleaned up.

New county laws were enacted in August that include criteria for hold times for strays, who may operate a kennel, standards that must be upheld to operate a kennel, standards for what's considered suitable shelter, vaccination and mental state requirements for adoption, and specific definitions for related animal control terminology for everything from "commercial kennel" to "dog."

The law comes with a companion bill that defines a "commercial kennel" in the zoning code.

County passes CIP for schools, plans for more projects

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners approved the Board of Education's FY23 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) on Nov. 2.

With the new Showell Elementary School complete and construction on the Stephen Decatur Middle School addition underway, Superintendent Lou Taylor presented what he described as a "planning" document to the commissioners with no "planning or funding requests included."

"The CIP is a forward-looking document and we have identified additional future projects (to be funded in future fiscal years)" Taylor said. "It also includes future renovations and addition projects for Buckingham Elementary School and Snow Hill Elementary School."

According to the plan submitted to the commissioners, projects include roof replacements at Snow Hill Middle School and Cedar Chapel Special School, to be funded in FY24; renovations to Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin, to be funded between FY2026-27; roof replacement at Pocomoke Elementary School, to be funded in FY25; and renovations to

See CIP Page 13

OP recreation events prove popular

Continued from Page 11

Meanwhile, the Ocean Pines Racquet Center held its own debut event from Oct. 22-24, the Oktoberfest Pickleball Tournament.

Donahue, who also oversees Racquet Sports, said 245 players took part.

"We're very happy with the turnout, and this will become an annual pickleball tournament for our

Racquet Center," she said. "Our first one went very well, and there were lots of compliments on how it was run. Everything went very well."

"Everything ran on time, the food vendors were great, the beer cart was a success, and everybody seemed to have a good time," she added.

Co-organizer Darryl Noble, who oversaw the tournament with his wife, Cathy, said the event was a huge

success.

"We received countless verbal compliments from participants, as they were participating and leaving the tournament site. It is very gratifying to hear players are happy," he said.

"For initiating and running the tournament, we used cutting-edge technology, where almost everything is done on participants' mobile devices. I've been playing pickleball for 12 years and served on the national governing board of pickleball. It's amazing to see how pickleball is growing and evolved from the days when everything was kept on paper and done on charts, to where we are today where everything is digital,"

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Obituaries

GEORGE ANTHONY MCNABB

Ocean Pines

George Anthony “Tony” McNabb, 74, of Ocean Pines, died on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, at his home.



George McNabb

Born on Jan. 20, 1947 in Bristol, Virginia, he was the son of the late Edna Elizabeth McNabb Adkins.

Tony spent his teen years in Snow Hill where he graduated from Snow Hill High School. Tony went on to receive his bachelors degree in secondary education from Wake Forest University. He then received his masters degree from Salisbury University.

Tony worked for 34 years for the Worcester County Board of Education. At the beginning of his career he was a teacher at Stephen Decatur High School. Then, he became the assistant principal and then principal of Stephen Decatur High School.

In 1996, Tony moved to the board office where he was the supervisor of Transportation and Maintenance. He retired in 2004 in order to be able to devote more time to serving as a minister of one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Tony loved working with young people, education and enjoyed his years working for the Board of Education.

As much as Tony loved his work, what he enjoyed the most was teaching people what he had learned from

the Bible as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Tony was baptized as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses on Sept. 16, 1989. That was one of the happiest days of his life, as he was baptized on the same day as his daughter, Lisa.

Tony loved what he learned from the Bible. He volunteered as a full-time minister for almost 14 years, until no longer able to do so because of his health.

Some of the happiest years of his life were spent with his wife, Cindy, volunteering their time on construction projects and working together as full-time ministers.

Tony is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Cynthia McNabb of Ocean Pines; three daughters, Leslie Steele and her husband, James, of Berlin, Lisa Barrett of Salisbury and Christina Fernandez and her husband, Michael, of Berlin.

He is also survived by four grandsons, David Barrett, Joshua Steele, Jackson Steele, and Owen Fernandez as well as a sister, Susan Purcell, and niece, Jennifer Ward.

A Memorial Service was held via Zoom on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021.

Donations may be made to the Worldwide Work of Jehovah’s Witnesses on jw.org.

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.

KENNETH RAY STUCK

Georgetown

Kenneth Ray Stuck, 69, of Georgetown, Delaware, formerly of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on Oct. 30, 2021, at the Delaware Hospice Center in Milford, Delaware, surrounded by his loving family, after a 16-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born Nov. 19, 1951, to the late Clair Stuck, Sr. and Flora Stuck (Clouser).

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Jodi Stuck (Barger); sons, Kenneth Stuck and Douglas Stuck of Severn, Maryland, Timothy (Rachel) Barger of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Adam Stuck and Daniel Stuck of Georgetown, Delaware; a granddaughter, Jessica Barger of Georgetown, Delaware; a sister, Gloria (Larry) Shank of Strodes Mills, Pennsylvania; a brother, Charles (Jane) Stuck of Lewistown, Pennsylvania;

and a brother-in-law, Michael Alexander, Burnham, Pennsylvania.

Ken was preceded in death by both parents; a sister, Cathie Alexander (Stuck); and a brother, Clair Stuck, Jr.

Ken was an avid golfer, enjoyed fishing/boating, Philadelphia Flyers hockey (especially their mascot, Gritty), Penn State and Baltimore Ravens football, baking his incredibly delicious apple dumplings, playing with the family’s three dogs, Daisy, Bella and Weeza, and spending time with family and friends.

He will be missed terribly by all that knew him.

At Ken’s request, no services will be held. Cremation will be at Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Services, Berlin, Maryland. A Celebration of Life will be held in Lewistown, Pennsylvania at a later date. Details to be announced in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Ken’s name to: The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN) <https://www.pancan.org/>

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.

CIP for schools looks to future

Continued from Page 12
Snow Hill Elementary School, to be funded between FY2030-31.

The priority for each project is based on a facilities assessment that school system administration uses.

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked if the plan takes into consideration the possibility that pre-K students could be added to public schools soon and if the schools would be able to accommodate them.

“As we move forward, for example with Buckingham next, and through your insight, we were able to add those four classrooms at Showell and certainly that was a very good move on our part,” Taylor replied. “For \$900,000, we put those four classrooms on and we’re using them all the time there. We’re looking at that as we go through the elementary schools ... as well.”

Bertino also asked about portable classrooms — specifically, will the schools come to rely less on them?

“We’ve gone from 56 to 20 right now and when we do Decatur Middle, we’ll lose nine (more) and Buckingham another five,” Taylor said.

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Family-Owned, Private Cremation, Not Outsourced... The Difference is Peace of Mind

WCPS mask mandate slated to remain until at least Dec.

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Nov. 11, 2021) Students and staff inside Worcester County Public Schools buildings will not be given the same air-breathing privileges as those in most other local indoor settings until at least December following a recent update from the state board of education.

“The current mask mandate was passed by the state Board of Education and legislature as an emergency regulation, so the statewide mandate would need to be lifted in order for us to revisit this as a local decision,” said Carrie Sterrs, the coordinator of public relations and special programs for WCPS, in an email.

The local public school system’s masking requirement applies to everyone who enters a school building, regardless of vaccination status, as a means of keeping students learning in person. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, quarantine rules are eased if

close contact occurs between masked individuals.

Local officials initially intended to buck a hard and fast mandate and simply “strongly recommend” masks for the start of the school year. But state board members stepped in at the eleventh hour with a 180-day emergency order requiring face coverings for everyone in all districts, which a General Assembly committee voted into law in mid-September.

At an Oct. 26 meeting, state board members viewed stacks of covid-related data related to vaccination rates, cases, outbreaks, ventilation, messaging, and more since the start of the school year for all 24 districts. According to the data, cases and outbreaks are on the decline for both students and staff statewide, with some counties faring better than others.

The data does not include numbers for hospitalizations, deaths or recovery times, which board member Shawn Bartley pointed out during the meeting.

“The information, with regards to



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Everyone at Worcester County Public Schools, like these students at Pocomoke High School, are required to continue wearing masks indoors as members of the state board of education plan to reassess the mandate in December.

those infected with covid, and their ability to survive and recover, is important,” he said of those metrics.

State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury said solid numbers are “all over the place” for hospitalizations and deaths, but that informal data shows they are low and that “most kids are fine and come back.”

“It does track nationally in terms of how many students ultimately get extremely sick and don’t recover, it’s very low, the hospitalization rates are low,” he said.

He added that Maryland Department of Health officials are looking at the data closely and will “put something together.”

“But I want to be very clear,” Choudhury continued. “Some of the stuff, there’s standardization, and some of it is not because of the approach of local control, even between the health departments ... But we can look at that.”

Bartley followed by asking if the low numbers would be used to reassess the mask mandate, but board President Clarence Crawford instead suggested revisiting the subject at the body’s December meeting, which received no objection from fellow members.

“I would suggest that we use some of our time in December to assess where we are and to get input from

various stakeholders, both positive and those who had reservations, and do what we did a few months ago, and what this board has consistently done,” Crawford said. “And that is get input, have debate and then take the reasonable course of action that’s consistent with why we started this process; returning children and staff to safe, in person learning and do it in a way that minimizes disruption.”

According to data provided from the state, Worcester County has remained steadily in the middle in outbreaks over the past month.

Health guidelines define a classroom or cohort outbreak as at least two confirmed covid cases among students, teachers or staff within a 14-day period who are epidemiologically linked but not household contacts.

A schoolwide outbreak is three or more classrooms or cohorts with covid cases from separate households that occur within 14 days; or 5 percent or more unrelated students, teachers or staff who test positive within a 14-day period.

Data from WCPS’ online dashboard shows five buildings with schoolwide outbreaks as of Nov. 4, with three the highest number of new cases reported. Most of the nine other schools were open with no notifications or restrictions, with one school reporting one to two classroom or cohort outbreaks.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATIONS

Dave Landis and Kitty Wrench kicked off the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City’s combined toy and coat drives on Oct. 28.

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Beach parking staff provide familiar faces

Two former mail carriers and one prior health care worker find sunny gigs

(Nov. 11, 2021) Since the beginning, the Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Club Parking have been unique and essential selling points for the community. Just ask the people who work there. “I think the Beach Club is probably one of the most underrated amenities that we have,” longtime Beach Parking manager Dan Batt said. “A lot of people don’t realize how nice the place is, until they come there and they see it for themselves. Many are really taken aback.” The combination of the Beach Club Pool, the bar and restaurant, the picturesque stretch of beach along the Atlantic Ocean, and the private parking lot make it truly one of a kind, Batt said. “You’ve got everything right there, and it’s so close to Ocean Pines,” he said. “I’ve gotten a lot of positive comments over the years.”

For the last several years Batt has led a trio of attendants who help answer questions, check in guests, and guide them to parking spaces by the ocean.

Dan Batt
Batt grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years. Upon retirement, he took a position at the Ocean City Inlet parking lot with the Town of Ocean City, and then inquired about working for Ocean Pines with Beach Parking. Batt helped manage pool operators for Ocean Pines Aquatics for several years during the winter, and for the last 14 summers he has managed Beach Parking. He said the Beach Parking lot has been basically the same since it was originally developed by Boise Cascade in the late 1960s, with some small improvements. The wall around the Beach Club Pool was a later addition and, three years ago, the Association added a small “welcome hut” for the Beach Parking attendants. What has been consistent each summer are the interesting sights, sounds, and stories of thousands of beachgoers




Seaside relaxation is enjoyed by a collection of sun worshippers during the early days of the Ocean Pines Beach Club in Ocean City.

– many coming from out of town. “You’ve got all these people and, of course, they’re on vacation. Sometimes the questions can be redundant, because each week you’re dealing with a different group of people, and sometimes they can leave their common sense at home,” he said with a laugh. “For the most part, I’ve met a lot of very, very nice people, and we try to make it very friendly for them and try to make their experience a good one.” Batt said many guests from New York and New Jersey are surprised that “the beach is free.” “Up where they are, they have to pay. So, when you tell them they don’t have to here, they’re like, ‘Really?’ They just can’t believe it!” he said. One of his favorite parts of the job, Batt said, is watching the children grow up with each new season. “You’ve got these little guys running around, and the next thing you know they’re pulling into the parking lot with a driver’s license and getting ready to go to college. You just think, ‘Wow, the time has really gone by!’” he said. Batt started the tradition of having attendants wear Hawaiian shirts to greet

customers – a universal symbol that one has arrived at the beach, ready for sunshine and fun. “I said to my wife, ‘We need something recreational and beachy.’ Of course, Seacrets has their little beach theme over there, so through the years I’ve tried out little ideas that I’ve had,” he said. When the Matt Ortt Companies took over Beach Club management several years ago, Batt said they went about cleaning out the stockrooms, which happened to include a large order of Hawaiian shirts. “The next thing I know, the shirts are over at the Yacht Club and Ron Fisher (who runs the Ocean Pines Marina) apparently saw them. So, I go over to get the shirts and he had already beat me to it – and they were all wearing our shirts!” Batt said. “I went over to get some Marina gas one day, and it was so comical because when I walked up the lady said, ‘Why are you wearing our shirts?’ I said, ‘No, no, no – you’re wearing our shirts!’” Batt said with a laugh. “It was a pretty funny moment.” Although they temporarily moved his

shirts, Batt said he was grateful to the Ortt Companies for bringing back former Beach Club Manager Lynda Huet-tner. “She was my original boss and I worked for her for many years. She’s awesome,” he said. “We’ve had a lot of good times and worked with a lot of great, great people.” In prior years, Batt said he enjoyed working with J-1 students, who traveled here thanks to the federal Exchange Visitor visa program. Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the program hasn’t operated normally during the last two years. On the bright side, Batt said he’s gotten to know the two newer Beach Parking attendants: Keith Thomas and Tom Possident. Both have been with Ocean Pines for the last two seasons. “They really are awesome, awesome guys and they’ve been really great to work with,” Batt said. “It’s always been like a family here. You get to enjoy folks’ company and everybody pitches in. “We just try to make everyone’s experience as pleasant as possible, and we’re there for any questions that people may

See TRIO Page 17






Selected Works

by Delmarva Artist

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Pre-K students at Worcester Preparatory School conducted a science experiment to find out if a coconut sinks or floats. The students learned coconuts are mostly hollow inside, and that the buoyancy allows the coconut to float. Parker Moreland drops the coconut in the water to see if it sinks or floats.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GRADUATES

Caleb Foster and Taylor Hartman, officers from the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center, recently graduated from the 112th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

NEW OFFICERS

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City installed new officers on Sept. 29, at White Horse Park. Pictured, from left, are Board of Directors member Dick Clagett, President-Elect Bob Wolfing, BOD member Tom Southwell, BOD and Outgoing President Steve Cohen, BOD member Jackie Dubin, Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Dryzga, and BOD members Dave Landis and Roy Foreman. Recording Secretary Pat Winkel-mayer, BOD member Sue Wineke and Assistant Treasurer Patricia Baglieri are not pictured.



PHOTO COURTESY PAUL LOUTH

HELLO

Berlin Police Department PFC Gary Bratten greets Conor Pelling during Oktoberfest in Berlin on Oct. 16.

CRAFTER RECOGNIZED

Tina Celia has been named the Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines' November Crafter of the Month. Celia has created unique and handmade crafts all her life, from sewing clothes, to making Christmas decorations, candles, beaded jewelry, decoupage bottles, and her latest and fondest creations: dried and framed flowers.

A native of Washington, D.C., Celia has lived in Maryland for most of her life. She retired and moved to Berlin just over a year ago to be close to her daughter and son-in-law, and their dog, Dexter. At her prior residence, Celia had a bountiful garden, filled with many diverse types of plants and flowers. The idea of drying and framing flowers came about and she decided to make use of all that she had. Celia took several months to pick and dry them and, when she moved, she brought them with her.

View Celia's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

AWARDED

Shelley Cohen recently received the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's Presidential Advisor Award from organization president, and her husband, Steve.

Trio enjoy Pines Beach Club parking jobs

Continued from Page 15
have,” he added.

Tom Possident
Possident grew up in the Baltimore area and worked for the Worcester County Health Department before retiring two years ago. Shortly thereafter, he took a job at Beach Parking.

“I was looking for something to do, and this sounded like something I would be interested in, to keep myself occupied and keep my wife from doing me in,” he said with a laugh.

Possident said most of the day is spent checking people in, answering questions, and “trying to be as friendly as you can.”

He said business this year picked up after a slight dip in 2020 because of the pandemic.

“It was definitely more crowded than it was last year, and it seemed like a lot more people were coming from further distances,” he said. “We saw a lot more from Florida, and of course from New York and New Jersey.”

Possident said the workdays are mostly steady, with a small break generally between the morning and afternoon crowds.

“For the most part you’re pretty busy,” he said. “You get your morning people that come in, and they’ll start rolling out usually about 1:30 or 2 p.m., and then you have the afternoon people who come in to replace them,” he said.

That’s not to say everything goes smoothly all of the time. He remembers one family frantically using a fork to fish out their Beach Parking pass after it got stuck in their car.

“The pass had fallen and gotten stuck between the dashboard and the front windshield, and they were renters and were worried about having to get it out of there, so they wouldn’t have to pay a fee to their landlord,” he said.

There are also plenty of questions to answer throughout the day.

“We get a lot of people who come up off the street that want to know if you have to pay to park on the street. We’re constantly answering that question, and things like where does the boardwalk start, and even ‘Where is Ocean Pines?’” he said.

“But I think we all get along and work well together. It’s a good retirement job to keep me occupied,” he added.

Keith Thomas
Thomas is originally from Chester County, Pennsylvania. Like Batt, he worked for the Postal Service before retiring several years ago.

“Most of the people here are pretty nice and it’s been a great experience,” he said. “You see a lot of families, and it’s generally people who love the beach and the pool.”

Thomas said Beach Parking is successful because it offers a solution to a common problem for vacationers – where do you park at the beach?

“There’s a lot of tight parking, so this is just a great place to park where you can



PHOTOS COURTESY OPA
(Above) Present day view of patrons consuming food and drinks at the Ocean Pines Beach Club in Ocean City. (Below) Beach parking crew, members, from left, Keith Thomas, Dan Batt and Tom Possident.

go to the beach and use the pool. That’s kind of a rare bird in Ocean City,” he said.

A year ago, Thomas said many of the Beach Parking visitors were people who “just wanted to get outside” because of the pandemic.

“With covid last year, I’d say we had less cars and less people. We had a little more cars this year,” he said.

Aside from their normal duties, Thomas said the parking attendants can be something of a “lost and found” for the hundreds of customers who pass through.

“There’s always stuff getting lost. We get a lot of car fobs and driver’s licenses and IDs. We’re always glad to get that stuff to people, when we find it,” he said.

There are also some funny questions and encounters.

“I had two guys who came up to me because we had to scan their permits, and they were going to walk over to Seacrets and asked me if I had to stamp them so they could come back, like we were in a bar,” he said with a laugh. “I said, ‘No, you guys are free to go!’”

All three attendants said they genuinely enjoy the work. It helps keep them busy, and the usually sunny disposition of the clientele makes for a positive atmosphere.



“We’re all retired, so we’re not under the gun and it’s a pretty loose environment,” Thomas said. “And it’s great to see all the people having fun. They’re happy to get there, and most of them are in a really good mood and enjoying their vacation or their time at the beach.”

“That’s why I like the job – it’s pretty stress free and we’re just moving people along, so they can go about having fun and having a good time,” he added.

The Ocean Pines Beach Club and Beach Parking are open each Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Membership passes are available to homeowners, renters, and the general public.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/beach-club.

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Opinion

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

No-Scam November: be cautious, skeptical

It's No-Scam November, Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser reminded the public this week, and that means extra scrutiny is being directed at the bogus offers many of us receive all year-round.

Because of the Internet and highly advanced telephone techniques, the odds of getting ripped off have soared since the days of door-to-door salespeople of home siding and the driveway re-pavers who "just happened to be in the neighborhood on another job."

As unsophisticated as those approaches were, they still worked on occasion, especially when "vulnerable adults," a euphemism for naïve and trusting elderly people, were involved.

But, as we continue to discover, age is not the factor it once was in terms of gullibility, as more and more people tend to believe just about anything these days if it strikes the right chord.

That has given scammers and con artists a much larger crowd to work with their "can't-miss" investment opportunities, fake lotteries and sweepstakes, nonexistent charities, bogus invoices and alerts that "your account is in default."

There's seemingly no end to the ways people are being targeted, and as we emerge from a year of economic desperation, many of us are too ready to believe whatever we're being told.

As Heiser said this week, her office and local law enforcement are focusing on preventing these frauds, especially as the holidays approach. Their advice is to be skeptical of any phone call, alert or notification that even hints at being too good or too bad to be true.

Recipients of such messages and pitches should be extra careful not to provide any information or to act in any other manner until checking with trusted friends, family members or local authorities, including the state's attorney's office.

And if, as one con game goes, a stranger informs you that a relative has been jailed and needs bail, it can wait. If it's true, they'll still be there tomorrow.

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Worcester GOLD holds Helping Hands

(Nov. 11, 2021) Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is holding its Helping Hands for the Holidays program once again this year.

In 2020, GOLD provided holiday gifts for 649 children and 74 vulnerable adults.

This program provides Worcester County families and individuals in need with holiday gifts to help reduce financial burden and stress during the holidays. All recipients are screened by GOLD's community partners to assess need and to prevent the duplication of services.

"The pressure to provide holiday gifts can weigh on families struggling with low to no income," said Nicholas Cranford, executive director. "With cost of living increasing and temporary benefits expiring, holiday assistance will come as a tremendous relief to those we serve."

To participate in the Helping Hands for the Holidays program sign up to sponsor a family, donate toys (new and unwrapped), or mail a check to be used by GOLD to purchase gifts. The deadline for sponsor signup is Nov. 22 and all gifts must be dropped off by Dec. 10. GOLD will accept monetary donations throughout the holiday season.

For more information about GOLD's programs and services, visit www.WorcesterGOLD.org.

BAYSIDE



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BBBSES launch Brovember campaign

(Nov. 11, 2021) Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore, Inc. (BBBSES) announces its Brovember campaign.

The goal of this campaign is to recruit new male mentors, gain awareness of the need for mentoring and the availability of program services to Maryland's Eastern Shore, celebrate Big Brothers, and reduce the number of boys waiting for a male mentor.

Throughout the month of November, BBBSES will post regularly on its social media accounts to highlight different male matches. BBBSES social media handles are www.facebook.com/bbbSES; TikTok @ESBigs; Instagram @ESBigs; Twitter @ESBigs.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, or businesses looking to support mentoring matches by making a donation, visit www.shorebiglittle.org or call 410-543-2447.

BBBSES is an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the largest and most experienced youth mentoring organization in the United States. BBBSES is a nonprofit providing free mentoring services to children ages 6 – 16 in all nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

BBBSES depends on community involvement to enhance match experiences. Expanding social media platforms creates new channels to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

Lower Shore Land Trust raises funds, Nov. 13

Flannel Formal event held at The Manor at Brooklyn Meadows farm in Berlin

(Nov. 11, 2021) The Flannel Formal, hosted by the Lower Shore Land Trust, raises funds for conservation programming on the Lower Eastern Shore.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 3-6 p.m. at The Manor at Brooklyn Meadows in Berlin, a 40-acre working horse farm and venue that boasts state-of-the-art amenities.

The event raises funds through tickets sales, sponsorships and a

silent auction. This year's Flannel Formal event provides live music with Margot & Co., featuring vocalist Margot Resto and guitarist Gabe Resto and bass player Todd Smith, offering "A Little Blues, A Little Motown and a Little Get Down!"

The event includes a pig roast, shucked oysters, desserts by Baked Dessert Café, Hors d'oeuvres, Bloody Mary Bar, craft beer and wine for \$75 per person.

The event is at an earlier time this year. According to Committee Chair Suzy Taylor, the earlier time allows for most of the event to take place in daylight hours and include outdoor yard games along with entertainment.

Last year the event went virtual, and organizers produced videos of the Trust's programs, recorded music from Resto and a virtual toast. The event will be in-person with CDC guidelines in place.

This annual award is to be given in honor of renowned conservationist, Stephen N. Parker, to recognize a landowner or conservation practitioner for their contributions to private land conservation on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Parker is remembered for his work as director of the Virginia Coast Reserve with The Nature Conservancy and as a long-time board member of Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore.

His background in business and nonprofit leadership served to bring together economic development and conservation — preserving the health and productivity of large ecosystems and the needs of human communities. To purchase tickets or to inquire about sponsoring the Flannel Formal to support land conservation and the Lower Shore Land Trust visit www.lowershorelandtrust.org or call 443-234-5587 for more information.

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

Bikers Without Borders food drive in OP, Sat.

Group members to collect donations at Food Lion from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(Nov. 11, 2021) Join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Food Lion in Ocean Pines (11007 Manklin Creek Road) for its Fill-the-Truck Food Drive.

Members will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items, and monetary donations for local food banks.

Food banks receiving donations this

month include FORGE Youth & Family Academy (Pittsville), Delmarva Evangelistic Church Agape Food Pantry (Salisbury), Bayshore Community Church (Millsboro and Selbyville, Delaware), Carter G. Woodson Elementary School (Crisfield), and Sunrise Church (Berlin).

Three of these locations will be providing food in backpacks to school-age children for weekend and the holidays, and several are focused on serving the needs of senior citizens.

The needed items are ready-to-eat and microwave-ready meals, single-

serve cereals, shelf-stable milk, breakfast and granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, individual snack packs, microwave rice cups and cases of bottled water.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional food items to ensure well-rounded donations are provided to each organization.

Ensuring covid-19 protocols are adhered to for everyone's safety, members will direct guests through a drive-through drop-off system. Everyone is asked to wear a mask while engaged with members.

Bikers Without Borders Foundation

is comprised of men and women that believe that giving back to the community is a civic duty. Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities, which support local communities.

The foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in area communities. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation or email bikerswithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com.

OP Community Church bringing symphony

Mid-Atlantic Orchestra will perform Nov. 14 at 3 p.m. with pair of oboe concertos

(Nov. 11, 2021) The Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra continues its 2021-2022 season in mid-November with a program featuring two oboe concertos performed by guest soloist Joshua Lauretig, Tchaikovsky's String Serenade and the premier of Maestro

Julien Benichou's Romance for Strings. The program will be performed on Sunday, Nov. 14 at Community Church in Ocean Pines at 3 p.m.

"Our November program highlights music composed to showcase strings and double reeds," Benichou said. "We are fortunate to have award-winning oboist Joshua Lauretig perform these works with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony's outstanding violin, viola, cello and double bass players."

In addition to the String Serenade and

Romance for Strings, the concert includes Antonio Vivaldi's Oboe Concerto in C Major and Alessandro Marcello's Concerto for Oboe and Strings in D Minor.

Individual tickets for the November concert are \$45. For additional information or to order tickets, visit www.midatlanticsymphony.org. Tickets also may be ordered by telephone at 888-846-8600, or purchased at the door.

To ensure the safety of its audience members and musicians, the Orchestra

requires proof of covid-19 vaccination for everyone entering venues.

The only professional symphony orchestra serving southern Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council; the Talbot County Arts Council; the Worcester County Arts Council; the Sussex County, Delaware Council; and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc.



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MAIN COURSE [CHOOSE ONE]

Turducken Casserole

smoked turkey layered with braised chicken, duck confit & house cornbread stuffing

Whole Pear Stuffed Duck

maple farms • oven roasted • red wine poached anjou pear stuffed • house cornbread stuffing

Spiral Cut Bone-In Ham

virginia smoked • maple spice glazed • house cornbread stuffing

Vegetarian Lasagna

pea protein • ricotta • tomato sauce • mozzarella cheese

SIDES & DESSERT

Cranberry Sauce

red wine • fresh cranberries • orange juice

Chef's Gravy

classic turkey gravy with a smokey twist

Vegetable Medley

broccoli • cauliflower • carrots • green beans

Yukon Gold Masked Potatoes

golden potatoes • butter • salt & pepper • whipped

Biscuits

housemade • buttermilk • honey cinnamon butter

Spice Cake

all-spice • buttercream icing

Harvest Salad

kale • local greens • crainsins • red onion • goat cheese • candied walnuts • butternut squash • bacon shallot vinaigrette

Cuisine

Homemade pasta topped with lobster

The time has come for another fresh pasta recipe. It has been a while.

But there is just something so majestic about a pile of eggy gluten coated in reduced cream and wine. And did I mention that it's topped off with some fresh lobster?



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

The Maine lobster provides a fabulous meat, at once sweet and succulent, tender if not boiled to death and an obvious decadence to many of us who cannot afford it on a regular basis.

Yesterday, I was reading an interesting article in "Business Insider" about a machine invented for the sole purpose of removing lobster meat from its shell without it seeing any heat whatsoever. If you've ever tried shucking a lobster, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

There was only one time in my career that I attempted to shuck a raw lobster after dispatching it as humanely as possible. And it did not end well. No, it did not end well at all.

The meat simply won't come out when the beast is raw, clinging to the shell with a fury that ensures that it will be torn to shreds if you continue to work with it. So, you par cook it for a few minutes and then shock it in ice water, leaving you with separated but obviously partially cooked meat.

That's not to say that's it's lesser in quality, but this machine – The Big Mother Shucker – yes, that is the name of this 80,000-pound beast, is amazingly simple technology.

Based on similar processes used in Louisiana to shuck oysters, it basically applies thousands of pounds of pressurized water onto the lobsters, killing them instantly and in 60 seconds leaving the meat completely removed from the shell.

At that point, it's simply a matter of hand-shucking the meat out and sending it off to its various destinations. Even more fascinating is the inadvertent discovery that the pressure was found incidentally to kill all pathogens harmful to humans, to include salmonella, listeria and e. coli. Now that is a cool machine. And the beauty of science is that the meat is not squashed as it is a perfectly even pressure from all sides.

At the end of the day, it made



sense to fire up the pasta roller again and throw together this simple pasta dish. You really don't need too much else except some fresh pasta, a cream reduction and some Maine lobster meat. Pair this with a nice pinot noir or crisp steel chardonnay and I think you'll be set. Just make sure that the wine has a fair amount of acidity to cut through the unctuous cream sauce.

Also be sure not to overcook the beast, as chewy lobster is an egregious waste of meat that can cost upwards of \$40 per pound if completely shucked. Yes, that is fairly accurate if you are paying \$9.95 per pound for whole lobster, as the yield is approximately 25 percent of total weight. Yes, it can be quite pricy. Of course, you can use the shells to make a delicious stock or lobster butter so as to not waste anything from the animal, but that's up to you.

Either way, give this a shot as it is super simple. And you get to make that fresh pasta once again. You'll be a pro at it.

Lobster Pasta

serves 4
1# fresh pasta (recipe follows)
1 Tsp. Clarified butter

1 shallot, finely minced
1 clove garlic, smashed and minced
1 sprig thyme, stripped of its leaves
1/2 c. Dry white wine
1 c. Heavy cream
1# lobster meat (save claws for top)
Salt & Pepper, to taste

1. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil.
2. At the same time, heat a sauté pan and add the butter.
3. Sauté the shallots until they dry a little and then add the garlic and thyme.
4. Cook for two minutes and then add the wine, reducing by half.
5. Add the cream and reduce this by half.
6. While this is cooking, add the pasta to the water and return to a soft boil.
7. Cook for 2-3 minutes and then remove to the cream sauce.
8. In a separate pan, heat a bit more butter and sauté the lobster meat to cook through if raw or warm up if precooked.
9. Assemble and serve, garnishing with fresh Italian parsley.

Fresh Pasta

makes about 1#
7 oz. Type 00 flour

7 oz. Fine Semolina flour
4 eggs, whole
2 Tbsp. Milk, or as needed
Salt to taste

1. Add the flours, eggs and 2 tbsp. milk to the bowl of a stand mixer.
 2. With the paddle attachment instead of the dough hook (a great trick I learned from Chef Giuseppe at Sello's in West Ocean City), turn the machine on a low speed.
 3. The paddle will put the dough together in less than a minute, and then allow it to knead for about five minutes. If it gets too hard on the machine, then and only then would you replace the paddle with the hook.
 4. When the dough is ready to go, remove from the bowl, cover with plastic wrap and allow to sit for 30 minutes.
 5. Roll and cut your pasta, ensuring to toss it in a little extra flour to keep it from sticking together.
- Set aside or refrigerate until ready to use.

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

Calendar

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

Thurs., Nov. 11

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, 410-641-7330

STEM STORY TIME ‘BIG FEELINGS’

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

STORY TIME: ‘HOW DO DINOSAURS STAY SAFE?’

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Great story about safety and dinosaurs. Stick around for a quick craft or take it home. For children ages 2 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines. 11 a.m. Featuring guest speaker Col. Craig M. Harmon, vice-commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the Del-marva Chorus. Bring a chair. www.opvets.org

WRITING WITH RUTH

Meeting via Zoom, 1-3 p.m. Monthly gathering of writers who share their independent work and receive feedback from group participants. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

COVID VACCINE CLINIC (PFIZER ONLY)

Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-6 p.m. For ages 5 years and older. 410-641-1100, <https://www.atlanticgeneral.org>

TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: MILITARY HISTORY & HEROES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3-4:30 p.m. Celebrate Veteran’s Day with a trivia contest hosted by Jim Meckley. Prizes (for the top three teams) and refreshments provided. There is no cost to participate. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve

mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Guest speakers will be veterans who served in WWII, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. The public is invited. 410-289-3166

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

Fri., Nov. 12

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘THE POET X’ BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Kelly Rouse and Nancy Mitchell of Salisbury University. Books are available at the Ocean Pines branch. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

ST. MATTHEWS BY-THE-SEA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Matthews By-the-Sea United Methodist Church, 1000 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, 4-7 p.m. Church Bazaar held Nov. 12 and 13. 302-537-1402

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. Cost for a one crab cake sandwich platter is \$14, a two crab cake sandwich platter is \$24 and a single crab cake sandwich is \$10. Bake sale table available. <https://www.stevensonchurch.org>, 410-641-1137

Sat., Nov. 13

ST. MATTHEWS BY-THE-SEA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Matthews By-the-Sea United Methodist Church, 1000 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Church Bazaar held Nov. 12 and 13. 302-537-1402

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

7TH ANNUAL STORM WARRIORS 5K WALK AND RUN

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 9-11 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Featuring an out-and-back course. Awards for top competitors. No pets. Cost is \$30. Register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/OceanCity/StormWarriorsBoardwalk5kRunWalk>. 410-289-4991

SHOPPERS FAIR

Willards Fire Company, 35356 Regnault St., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A variety of vendors and breakfast, lunch and baked goods available for sale. 757-408-3170.

FILL-THE-TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

Food Lion, 11007 Manklin Creek Road, Berlin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bikers Without Borders Foundation will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items and monetary donations for local food banks. There will be a drive-through drop-off system. Masks required.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Noted rod maker and owner of JPR Rods, Paul Reyburn, will give a hands on demo of rod building for tog and fluke as well as guide options, grip and blank choices. All are welcome. 410-641-7662

43RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Christmas Home Place, vintage and new jewelry, bakery delights and gifts and silent auction. Carryout lunch includes chicken salad and homemade soups. Thrift Shop will be open. <https://atlanticumc.org>, 410-289-7430

JAZZ AT NOON

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 12-1 p.m. Award winning jazz guitarist Abe Ovadia plays and discusses improvisation. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

FALL FESTIVAL

Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 3-8 p.m. Fall Festival held from 3-6 p.m. and a Family Movie Night held from 6-8 p.m. Admission is \$5 and free for children 3 years and younger. <http://www.believeintomorrow.org>, 410-744-1032

BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 4-7 p.m. Includes pit beef, oysters, hot dogs,

sausage with peppers and onions, baked beans, Cole claw and draft beer. Cost is \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of 8. Tickets. 410-289-3166.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Nov. 14

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY’S NOVEMBER CONCERT

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 3 p.m. Featuring two oboe concertos, Tchaikovsky’s String Serenade and Maestro Julien Benichou’s Romance for Strings. Tickets cost \$45. Tickets: www.midatlanticsymphony.org, 888-846-8600 or at the door.

Mon., Nov. 15

RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR DEMOCRATIC WOMEN’S CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The luncheon takes place Dec. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Yacht Club Ballroom. Cost is \$35, choice of 3 entrees. Reservation form: www.dwcmd.org, Events, December calendar. 410-629-9107

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN’S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, As-sateague Room, 235 Ocean Parkway. Social time at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Speaker will be Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes. Current and prospective members welcome. www.dwcmd.org, 410-629-9107

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

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

SUPER POWERED STEM: SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. How fast can you crack the code? How fast can you finish the list? Join the group for a scavenger hunt. For ages 8 years and older. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference
Continued on Page 25

Puzzles

CHOICE WORDS

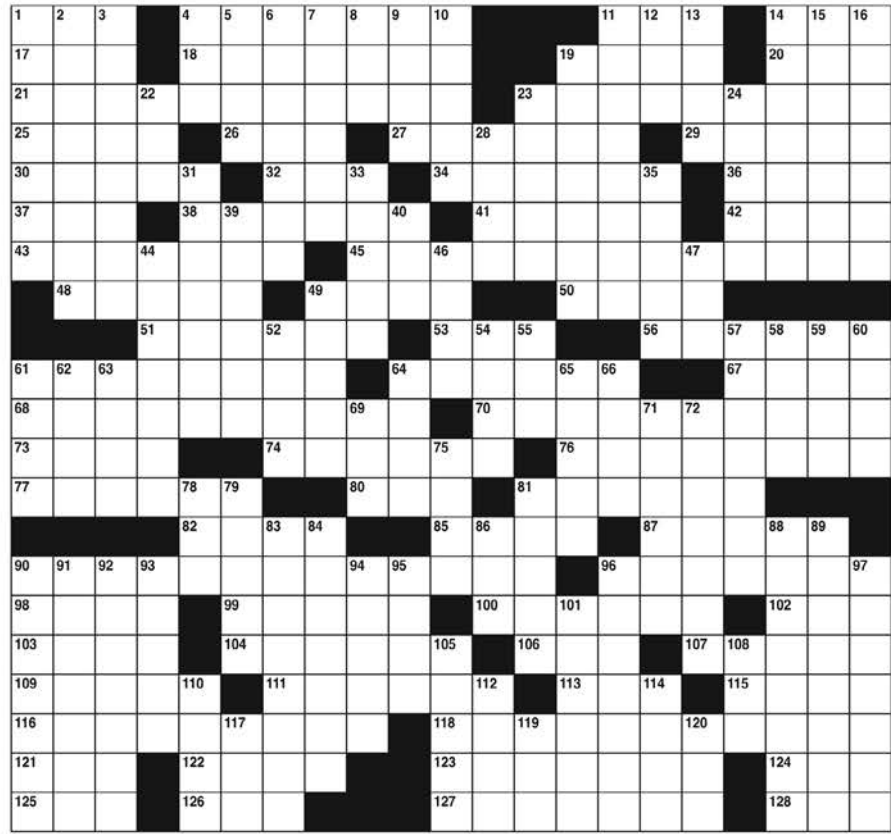
BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Eaton-Salners is an in-house attorney for Western Digital, a technology company headquartered in San Jose, Calif. He has been a frequent crossword contributor to The Times since 2017. Alex also enjoys making different sorts of word puzzles. He has a book of diagramless crosswords scheduled for publication next spring from Puzzlewright Press. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
1 Action done while saying, “Good dog”
4 Mischief-makers
11 It might click for a writer
14 Fall mo.
17 Kind to Mother Nature
18 Harris in the Country Music Hall of Fame
19 Living ____
20 Member of the superfamily Hominoidea
21 Noted Apple release of 1968, to fans
23 Haphazard
25 Some crumbly blocks
26 Inits. for a theatrical hit
27 Send away, in a way
29 Accomplished the task
30 What wiggly lines in comics may represent
32 Cause of boom and bust?
34 Convene for another session
36 Up to it
37 What’s frequently used by poets?
38 “To quote yours truly ...”

41 ____ dish
42 Heath
43 Desperate
45 Traditional British entree
48 Tries for a role
49 S.F. metro
50 “Hey ... over here!”
51 Derby lengths
53 Equivalent of the Face With Tears of Joy emoji
56 Give a buzz
61 Inconvenience
64 Execute, as a royal of old
67 Classic concert chambers
68 Noted U.S. rock group?
70 Approximately
73 See captain?
74 Studio fixtures
76 “I’m game!”
77 State of equilibrium
80 Code-cracking grp.
81 Match-ending rugby call
82 Bygone sovereign
85 Dance-a-____
87 Build on
90 Military dismissal
96 “You game?”
98 State to be the case
99 ____ Kornfeld, music promoter for Woodstock
100 Daddy-o
102 Great Basin native
- 103 Stun
104 Heavy weights in Britain
106 “Murder, ____ Wrote”
107 Samuel ____, business partner of Marcus Goldman
109 Gradually wear away
111 Lipton competitor
113 Keypad triplet
115 Critical remark
116 Regardless of the outcome
118 Hectic trip abroad
121 Card in a royal flush
122 Purposes
123 One runs from Me. to Fla.
124 Seminoles’ sch.
125 “You betcha!”
126 Northern ____ (curiously named apple variety)
127 Have
128 Boggy expanse
- DOWN**
1 Fare that’s eaten hands-free
2 Wanted badly
3 Mano a mano
4 Negligent
5 Silicon Valley’s ____ Research Center
6 Candy bit that comes in a plastic roll
7 “Battlestar Galactica” robots
8 Clerical vestment
9 F, in music
10 Southern region of Mesopotamia
11 Fabric options
12 Sense of self
13 Fluent speaker of Elvish, say
14 Uttered a sound
15 €
16 Bugs
19 Relative of a bug
22 Churchill ____ Rooms (London tourist attraction)
23 Long ball
24 City with a Little Havana
28 Nickname for José
31 Farthest down?
33 Anklebone
35 Least messy
39 Sorority member
40 Yang’s counterpart
44 “I Wanna Be Sedated” band
46 Horrid
47 Maximum degree
49 The brainy bunch?
52 Profligate sort
54 Measures of electrical resistance
55 One of the fire signs
57 Alveolar trill, as it’s commonly known
58 Concept, in Cannes
59 Just in case
60 Glasgow gal
- 61 Mischief-makers
62 ____ court
63 Stage between larva and imago
64 Consecrates
65 Act investigated by an insurance company
66 ____ ex machina
69 QVC alternative
71 Journalist Fallaci who wrote “Interview With History”
72 Bindis, e.g.
75 Running behind
78 Kinda
79 Berate blisteringly
81 They can be wrinkled or thumbed
83 Field that deals with fields
84 The newest trend, in slang
86 Inits. at Westminster
88 Trigger
89 Head for the hills?
90 Moved aside (for)
91 Cupidity
92 Changes from commercial to residential, perhaps
93 Words to live by
94 Wash out
95 Popular tick repellent
96 Piercing eye hue
97 Trial
101 ____ of Alexandria (wonder of the ancient world)
105 Clinch
108 Puerto Rico clock setting: Abbr.
110 Ballpark figures, in brief
112 Semiserious “Got it!”
114 Places hangers hang
117 Guff
119 Distributor of CARES Act funds
120 ____ Moines

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



- 61 Mischief-makers
62 ____ court
63 Stage between larva and imago
64 Consecrates
65 Act investigated by an insurance company
66 ____ ex machina
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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 69

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

Answers to last week’s puzzles

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

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

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

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



HELP WANTED

Front Desk Clerk

Now hiring part-time **Front Desk Clerk**. Must be 21 years of age, computer experience, upbeat attitude, and superb front desk skills. Please contact the Membership/Assessment office at: member@oceanpines.org

HELP WANTED



HIRING ALL POSITIONS!!

Starting wages are \$13.50-\$15.00 depending on experience. Full time & Part time **Stop by our location on 52nd Street or call 443-664-2825**

HELP WANTED



NOW HIRING!!

Production Crew for our WOC kitchen facility Up to \$18/hr. Apply online at: www.delmarvadd.com

HELP WANTED

Small Engine Mechanic Year-round. Competitive wages. **443-754-1047**

Chairside DENTAL ASS'T.

Experience Preferred Ocean View, DE

Email Resume: molarbiz@yahoo.com

HELP WANTED

CASHIER WANTED.

Delaware Tobacco Outlet, 100 Coastal Hwy., Suite 3, Fenwick Island, DE 19944. Apply in person.

MULTIPLE YEAR-ROUND POSITIONS for Vacasa in Bethany Beach (20 minutes from OC). **More info and to apply: 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.**

WEIGHT ROOM ATTENDANTS Sea Colony, Bethany Beach (20 minutes from OC) Experience not necessary. **Info and apply: vacasa.com/careers or Jen Neal: jennifer.neal@vacasa.com**

RENTALS

WINTER RENTAL - 1BR Poolside Apartment - 47th Street. Available Nov. 1. \$795/mo. Utilities, cable TV & parking included. No pets/smoking. www.oceancity21.com. **443-506-2738**

Seeking YR & Seasonal Rentals! Call Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555.

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SEEKING RENTAL

I am seeking a Christmas miracle. I lost my live-in health care position after 16 years because the person now suffers severe dementia/violent tendencies. Since June I have been living off savings in a hotel w/2 others. One in a wheelchair. I am seeking a monthly 2/3 furnished handicap accessible rental in the OC or Berlin area and must be a place we can keep our appts. with DSS/Encompass. There have been no monthly rentals. Shelters are not an option for a handicap person. If you have a rental or can help us stay afloat with a donation toward food/or night stay until we find a rental, please leave message at **443-953-9574, 443-879-2566.**

Charitable foundation expanding and coming to Ocean City (See TheLearnersLabFoundation.org & Therapy Connection Institute.org). **Corporate Rental Needed.** Multiyear, minimum one year, with option to renew. NO HOA properties. Seeking 2BR, 2BA no more than \$1250 monthly, including utilities or mobile home without utilities. OC/Berlin area preferred. No further out than the Bishopville-Ironshire region. Studio/1BR no more than \$750-1k/monthly. No Salisbury rentals please. **Call Jerri at 202-839-7750.**

Retired Single Female seeking immediate year-round rental in Ocean City, Ocean Pines or Berlin area. **443-754-7054**

Classifieds Deadline is 5pm Monday

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

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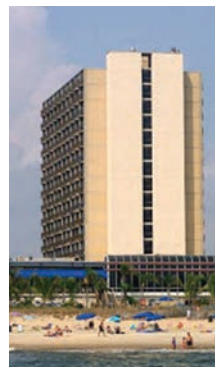
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Calendar

Continued from Page 22
Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin,
5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is
a weekly support and educational group
promoting weight loss and living a
health lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-
0157.

CONFECTIONARY DELIGHTS
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill
Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30
p.m. The Royal Port Candy Company
will demonstrate some sweet delights
and offer samples. Register:
www.worcesterlibrary.org under
“Events.” 410-632-2600

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

Tues., Nov. 16

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke
Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m.
Dance, sing and play rhythmic instru-
ments to fun and silly songs. For 2-5
year old children. www.worcesterli-
brary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME ‘DOGS’
Worcester County Library - Berlin
Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m.
Stories, songs and fingerplays. Take-
home activity included. For ages 2-5
years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-
632-2600

DINE AND DONATE
Ropewalk Ocean City, 8203 Coastal
Highway, 4-8 p.m. Sponsored by Ocean
City Lodge 2474 Sons and Daughters of
Italy. Fifteen percent of checks will go to
Believe in Tomorrow. Door prizes

awarded. www.sonsofitalyocceancity.com

EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC
Worcester County Library - Ocean City
Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4-6
p.m. Clients receive assistance from vol-
unteer attorneys. Register: www.worces-
terlibrary.org under “Events” or call
410-524-1818 for assistance.

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

Wed., Nov. 17

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY
Meeting via Zoom, at 10:30 a.m., for
songs, rhymes and stories. Optional:
have a scarf and rattle/shaker handy for
interactive rhymes. Register:
www.worcesterlibrary.org under
“Events.” 410-632-2600

STORY TIME ‘I AM THANKFUL’
Worcester County Library - Ocean City
Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30
a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. A fun
activity is also included. For 2-5 year old
children. www.worcesterlibrary.org,
410-632-2600

**FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MA-
RINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING**
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166,
2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City,
noon. Any Marines and Navy Corpsman
who have served in the Corps, living in
Worcester and Sussex counties, are wel-
come. 410-430-7181,
websergeant@firststatemarines.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
John H. ‘Jack’ Burbage, Jr. Regional
Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway
Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and
current patients battling breast cancer.
Women Supporting Women, 410-548-
7880.

STEM ‘BUILDING CHALLENGES’
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke
Branch, 301 Market St., 4:30 p.m. Solve
four different building challenges. For
ages 8-12 years.
www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-
2600

SCREENED
Dustin Pari explores the benefits and
pitfalls of our new virtual reality and
weighs the cons and pros based on clini-
cal research and personal observation,
5:30 p.m. Register: www.worcesterli-
brary.org. 410-632-2600

ONGOING EVENTS

29TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th Street, Ocean
City, Nov. 18 through Jan. 1. Hours are
Wednesdays through Sundays, 5:30-
9:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$5 for
adults and free to those 11 years and
younger. Pets are welcome on Wednes-
day evenings. The 2021 Winterfest of
Lights will be an expanded walking tour
through the animated lights. There will
be hot chocolate, photos with Santa, a
gift shop and an array of holiday ex-
hibits. Visit
https://www.facebook.com/events/2416
49021281497/ for updates. Info: 410-
250-0125, 800-626-2326.
On Nov. 18, the opening ceremony will
be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. when
Mayor Rick Meehan will “flip the
switch” to light the displays and the 50-
foot Christmas tree. There will be live
entertainment, free admission to the

walking path, Santa and a special holi-
day experience in the sky.

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKETS
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean
Pines-Ocean City will be selling their
“Lottery Raffle” tickets on Saturdays at
the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8
a.m. to 1 p.m., through the end of the
year. Tickets cost \$20 and entitle the
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wanisofopoc.org

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Free workshops dealing with hyperten-
sion, chronic pain self-management,
chronic disease self-management, dia-
betes, fall prevention and a free 6-week
workshop titled, “Building Better Care-
givers.” If you would like to register for
one of these workshops or you would
like more information about bringing
any of the workshops to your business or
group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-
0505, Ext. 159 or jak@macinc.org.

‘SAVE OUR STORIES’
The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Mu-
seum is asking community members to
send in their accounts as to how COVID-
19 has impacted them. The submissions
can be a specific experience, direct an-
swers to the prompt questions, or a
combination. No story is too long or too
short. To submit, visit www.ocmu-
seum.org. Info:
Christine@ocmuseum.org.

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