



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Turkey-infused festivities on tap with family and friends gathering to get their fill and share thoughts as another holiday season commences.

Berlin to open holidays with tree lighting

Ice sculpting competition returns in all its cold glory

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) After launching an adapted Christmas season kick-off event in 2020 because of covid-19, Berlin continues its Ice Ice and Tree Lighting shindig staring at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said prior to last year Berlin sponsored a "Tree Lighting & Holiday Shop Night."

"Everyone thinks that this has been going on for years, but this is actually only the second year we've done this event," she said.

Although before 2020, Berlin's an-
See ICE Page 6



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

In 2020, ice artist Erik Cantine replicated the Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services' logo through a frozen sculpture during the Ice Ice Berlin event that returns on Friday.

Tree-lighting ceremony goes live

Last year's was virtual, but 'Hometown' celebration this year returns to usual format

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) After switching to a virtual format last year, Ocean Pines 11th annual "Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting," event is scheduled on Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m. in White Horse Park.

Recreation Supervisor Katie Goetzing said holiday revelers are invited to witness the lighting of decorated trees for the first time this

yuletide season.

"There's going to be 40 trees up in the park this year," she said.

The dozens of decked-out holiday trees will remain on display in White Horse Park through New Year's.

"Each tree is sponsored and decorated by a different business, family or Ocean Pines community group," she said.

Goetzing expressed relief the celebration could return to form this year after being staged virtually in 2020.

"Last year we had to pull back, but this year [we] return to normal," she said. "I'm hoping to have the park

filled with 500 people again like it has been in years past."

Santa Claus is also scheduled for a brief visit on Saturday.

"He will stop by for a greeting on Saturday," she said.

Kids looking to put in gift requests with St. Nick have two chances when Santa returns to the Pines on Fri. Dec. 18 from 5-8 p.m. and Sat. Dec. 19 from 2-4 p.m.

Canine fans can learn who was selected in the annual "Pup of the Pines" photo contest, with the winner unveiled on Saturday.

Goetzing has overseen produc-
See CHOPTANK Page 6

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OP Strategic Planning looks at financial trends, surveys

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) In addition to reviewing return rates for a property owners' survey, the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee examined financial trends for the past five years during its meeting last Thursday.

Committee Co-Chair Bernie McGorry said the deadline to submit responses for the owners' survey was last Monday.

"The board approved the communication plan for the survey on Sept. 15," he said.

Since launching the survey on Sept. 23, the committee received 1,784 replies, with full-time residents outpacing part-timers by 1,092 to 692.

"It gave a chance for every homeowner to see it," he said.

McGorry said both full and part-time owners eclipsed the goal of 500 from each camp.

Publicity efforts were key to soliciting a decent response rate from part-time residents, McGorry said.

"It was on the front of the quar-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Co-Chair Bernie McGorry reviewed property owner survey data during the group's meeting last Thursday.

terly newsletter," he said.

The total number of survey responses slightly topped the 1,773 received during the last survey in 2018.

See OP Page 4

OP treasurer report unveils slight investment rate drop

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) Ocean Pines Treasurer Doug Parks reported on the associations' financial standing, investment rates of return and reserve balances during the board of directors meeting on Saturday.

Parks said the associations' cash position dipped slightly to end September.

"We had \$16.4 million in cash compared to \$16.8 million last month," he said.

At the end of September, the association reported approximately \$16.4 million in cash and investments, with that sum split with \$8.1 million in CDARs (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) and \$8.3 million in money market funds and other operating accounts.

Parks also noted a slight reduction in return rates, which dropped to 0.75 percent in September.

"It had been holding steady at 0.85 percent for about four or five months," he said. "It's a reflection of market conditions."

Looking at assessment collections, Parks said the total through Septem-



Doug Parks

ber is ahead of last year.

"In 2020 through September, we collected \$8.7 million of \$9.1 million or approximately 95.3 percent," he said. "In 2021 of \$9.34 million due we collected through September \$9.31 million or 99.69 percent."

Parks said delinquent accounts currently total roughly \$29,000.

"Kudos to everyone in Ocean Pines that understands the importance of paying their assessment and allowing us to budget accordingly," he said.

Turning to reserve accounts, Parks said overall balances dropped from \$7.8 million to \$7.6 million during September.

Parks said the change included a transfer of \$100,000 in general replacement reserves and a comparable total in bulkheads.

"We're tracking well and there's no surprises there," he said.

Parks said to end August the association was trending toward a year ending total reserve account balance of \$6.2 million but are now estimating a sum of \$6.05 million.

"We're about where we need to be going into next fiscal year so we can plan contributions to reserve accounts and budget going forward," he said.



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McGorry said the total financial impact from amenities on annual as-

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 9 a.m.

Smith said the association owns

See ROUTE Page 8

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Ice sculpting becomes big holiday attraction

Continued from Page 1
nual yuletide celebration included an ice-sculpting demonstration, things changed last year.

“Last year because of covid, we altered it,” she said. “You can’t have people standing around watching a live demo all close together.”

Wells said in 2020 the number of ice sculptures skyrocketed to roughly 30 entries, with all work done before the gathering.

“Last year we did it in advance and stored them in freezer,” she said. “Then they bring them down in this big truck and set them up in the middle of the road.”

The approach is being replicated this year with 33 sculptures slated for delivery, with each sponsored by a local business.

“This is such a success because of the sponsorships of the businesses,” she said.

Wells said in a throwback to earlier celebrations, a pair of ice artisans would be on hand for demonstration purposes.

“There’s going to be two guys carving ice in front of the Sterling Tavern,” she said. “It’s a huge event.”

Wells said retail shops would remain open late to accommodate visitors.

“Bring the whole family out,” she

said. “Shops will be open late, and you get to experience one of a kind ice art.”

On a somber note, the Ice Ice event will also serve as a fundraiser for ice artist Erik Cantine.

“He was diagnosed with stage four brain cancer,” she said.

Wells said financial support can be provided in two spots.

“In front of the ice-carving demonstration there’s going to be somewhere to make a donation,” she said. “Also there’s an ice sculpture wishing well set up sponsored by Fathom.”

All donations will be contributed to a college fund being established for Cantine’s children.

Confirming the holiday season is underway, Santa Claus is slated to arrive at the “Kringle Kottage” at 5 p.m. for a three-hour tour.

At 6 p.m., Annapolis town crier Frederick Taylor will introduce Mayor Zach Tyndall, who will light the Christmas Tree in front of the Atlantic Hotel on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets.

Adding some rhythm to the evening, the Seaside Dance Academy will perform at 6:30 p.m., with Berlin Heat taking center stage at 7 p.m.

Throughout the evening, Big Al Reno from Ocean 98 radio will pump

up the volume.

“Big Al Reno is going to be playing music from the balcony at the Atlantic Hotel starting at 6 p.m.,” she said.

Wells said nearly three dozen ice sculptures would be placed in front of sponsoring businesses for additional

viewing the next day, which is also Small Shop Saturday.

“Depending on the weather ... people can come out on Saturday if they can’t make it Friday night,” she said. “They won’t be as nice but they’ll still be there.”

See BERLIN’S Page 7



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines kicks off its annual “Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting” event, pictured last year, in White Horse Park on Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Choptank Electric supports outdoor lighting campaign

Continued from Page 1
tion of the Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting for the past nine years.

“Many of the people are returning sponsors that have done it year after year,” she said.

On a related note, the annual “Light Up the Pines” outdoor decorating program, sponsored by Choptank Electric Cooperative, is underway, with an initial deadline to participate on Dec. 3

An online map of participating homes may be viewed at

[google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1u2nS6ymxVtFBOKH2utHslf-HLm27ds-b&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1u2nS6ymxVtFBOKH2utHslf-HLm27ds-b&usp=sharing).

Participating homes will be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits donated by Choptank. Also, the first 25 registered participants receive a small goody bag courtesy of Choptank.

Households wanting to participate should submit their name, address and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717 ext. 3014.



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Community Briefs

Initiated

Morgan Mathey, a native of Berlin, was recently initiated into the Salisbury University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.

The society welcomed 350 new initiates from 17 universities during October.

Students initiated into the society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than 5 percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

New student

Ian Ramnarain, from Bishopville, is now a member of the class of 2025 at Loyola University Maryland.

As first-year students embark on their college experience, they will all take part in Loyola's living learning program, Messina.

The common text for Messina is "Heartland," by Sarah Smarsh. The book, an eye-opening memoir of working-class poverty in America that "will deepen our understanding of the ways in which class shapes our country."

Loyola enrolls 4,000 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students from across the country.

Route 90 pond improvements

Continued from Page 4
the pond and woods directly around it, with a State Highway Administration easement running along the edge bordering Route 90.

Wolf said a number of properties are located directly east of the pond, but do not about it.

Among the possibilities discussed, Wolf said, is extending pathway all the way around the pond.

Smith agreed some improvement would be needed but said his impression was positive after walking the trail.

"The path is in pretty good shape," he said.

Wolf said the direction for any change would be in the spirit of nature preservation.

"More of a sanctuary that's not as heavily used," he said.

Wolf said the potential to add a fishing dock has been floated but that giving people greater access could have a downside.

"What you put in there might attract more people," he said.

Measuring roughly half the size of the adjacent South Gate Pond, the Route 90 pond has an average depth of 10-13 feet.

Smith said the pond is fed by ground water and rainfall.

"It's cooler and cleaner," he said.

Among potential upgrades Smith mentioned were adding habitat structures for fish and basking platforms for turtles.

"I know the turtles would appreciate it," he said.

Smith also highlighted the perks of underwater fish structures such as PVC cubes or natural logs and tree trunks.

"Where you're going to catch fish is where there's structure," he said.

"The pond bottom is fairly barren," he said.

Smith said other ideas include installing wood duck nesting boxes or adding interpretative signs to highlight the diverse plant life present.

"It's an almost bog habitat in some areas," he said.

Smith also suggested having the pond bottom surveyed.

He said the Coastal Bays Program has worked extensively with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources survey crew.

"I'll put that request in," he said. "It will not survey boundary or property lines."

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Pines GM report shares positive numbers

Viola unveiled September monthly financials showing budget ahead of estimates

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) The Ocean Pines Association’s financial performance continued in the black through September, with revenues for the month closing \$200,000 ahead of budget, with expenses just \$25,000 more than projected.

Appearing before the association board of directors Saturday, General Manager John Viola said, “We’re operating on all cylinders.”

Viola said top financial performers in revenue-generating amenities were golf, racquet sports and aquatics.

“Marinas came in favorable,” he said.

Year-to-date through September, association balance sheets show a positive budget variance of about \$1.3 million, with revenues over by \$1.07 million and expenses under by about \$232,000.

“Throughout the year we’ve continued expense reductions,” he said. “We’ve scrubbed all accounts.”

As would be expected this time of year, expenses will begin to outpace revenues and remain that way in the

remaining months of the fiscal year, Viola said.

“The numbers will come down,” he said. “Some of it is timing for maintenance.”

As for October, Viola said it appears to be running ahead of budget by \$75,000.

On other fronts, Viola discussed maintenance on the North Gate Bridge.

Following a recent accident at the bridge involving a flipped vehicle, Viola said potential improvements are being considered.

“We are working with Vista [Engineering] to address the approach to the bridge,” he said.

Viola said association officials discussed the situation with Worcester County officials, who provided a list of contractors to consult.

“We will be coming forward with more details on the project in the next few months,” he said.

Viola said in terms of immediate repair needs, nothing is pressing.

“It’s nothing structural,” he said. “We are waiting for materials but it is stabilized.”

Project costs are initially estimated at \$15,000, including \$7,800 for timber and \$7,500 for in-house labor costs.

“It will probably take another 14 weeks to get materials,” he said. “Insurance will be involved one way or the other.”

On a related note, Viola said bids are being solicited to power-wash the bridge.

Viola also provided an overview of a reserve study recently completed by
See PINES Page 10



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola updated monthly financials and pending projects during the board meeting on Saturday.

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Ocean Pines Elections Committee members reviewed an annual report and changed leadership roles during its meeting on Friday.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OP Elections Cmte. changes chair

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) In addition to changing chairperson assignments, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee examined final edits for an annual report and pondered ways to improve the elections process at its meeting on Friday.

Chairman Steve Habeger offered his resignation, noting that his term and that of member Mark Heintz had expired in September but were extended into November.

Habeger said two new members,

Joseph Peloso and Jeannie Pennington, were slated for approval at the board of directors meeting on Saturday.

Despite leaving the group, Habeger said that after serving three terms they both would follow association elections.

“We’re not going to go away,” he said. “You can expect to hear from us in the future.”

The committee voted unanimously to appoint Carol Ludwig as the new chairperson.

“This is the passing of the baton,”

Heintz said.

Habeger reviewed the status of an annual report nearing completion, and

encouraged members to limit the report to reviewing past events. He also discussed ways the elections might be improved, such as ways to boost voter participation.

“The Elections Committee is considering a number of alternatives to improve the election process,” he said.

He also suggested that the committee prepare a separate report outlining some of the changes that could be considered.

One such area in need of improvement is assuring that ballots are received by the submission deadline.

Habeger said recent subpar service from the U.S. Mail has exacerbated the challenge, noting nearly 300 ballots were received after deadline for the most recent board election.

Committee member Bob Windsor
See LUDWIG Page 11

Pines GM report updates budget

Continued from Page 9
Richmond-based Design Management Associates.

“It’s a valuable tool [and] puts fixed assets into perspective,” he said.

Completing the report to the board was Doug Greene, reserve specialist and partner with DMA, with oversight from Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin, and support from Viola and Finance Director Steve Phillips.

The data was presented to the Budget and Finance Committee last week.

“Budget and Finance signed off on all our assumptions in detail,” he said.

The DMA study was first completed in 2015 and last updated in 2018.

“It gives us a guide so we can get an understanding where our reserves are,” he said. “Which is a big number and big part of our balance sheet.”

Sticking to financial fronts, Viola said preparation work for the next fiscal year’s budget is moving along steadily.

“We have met with all department heads [and] all will present to Budget and Finance,” he said.

Department heads and second-in-command positions will take part in a multi-day presentation to the Budget and Finance Committee from Jan. 4-6.

Viola said Budget Committee members would be provided a binder no later than Christmas Eve to prepare for the detailed presentation.

“They can really get into it,” he said.

The advance time allows for initial questions to be answered.

“We’ll address any questions they have,” he said. “We address any assumptions, pricing, expense control, capital outlays and the DMA study with the team.”

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Police misconduct review process changing

New discipline criteria will put citizens on boards that assess proper punishments

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) A three-tiered system for addressing police discipline is coming to Worcester County. Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly repealed the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights, which governs how police are disciplined. The law will expire at the end of June 2022. Its replacement is known as the Police Accountability Act, which “replaces the most internal discipline system under LEOBR with a multi-tiered system of (three) external civilian boards,” according to a memo from County Attor-



Roscoe Leslie

ney Roscoe Leslie to the county commissioners. According to Leslie’s memo, presented during the Nov. 16 commissioners meeting, the boards would include a police accountability board, the overall governing body of the system that cannot have active police on it but must have a chair with “relevant experience” and will receive complaints of police misconduct; a five-member charging committee comprised of the accountability board chair and four civilians picked by the accountability board and the commissioners that will review complains and investigations into misconduct,

decide if an officer should be charged with misconduct and recommend discipline; and a three-member trial board comprised of a retired judge, a civilian appointed by the accountability board and a police officer from the agency involved. The trial board will conduct hearings if the officer doesn’t accept discipline and will have the power to issue subpoenas. Leslie outlined current concerns as the financial burden, finding qualified board members, the extent of local board power and addressing issues like handling internal complaints that the new legislation is not clear on. “During this process,” Commissioner Chip Bertino asked, “are the rights of the individual law enforcement officer protected each step of the way?”

Leslie responded that the goal is to protect officers similar to how the county protects them now. “Board appointees will be trained properly with metrics similar to what the Maryland State Police use now,” he said. “(We just) need to fill in gaps to assure it.” Bertino also voiced concern over the inclusion of civilians on the board. “If we have citizens not well-versed in police procedures on these boards, or influenced by public opinion or videos on CNN or Fox News, it could irreparably harm individuals going through this,” Bertino said. “Like everyone else, they’re innocent until proven guilty and it’s darn important to protect their rights moving forward.” A formal resolution on how to implement the new system is expected early next year.

Ludwig bestowed leadership role after Habeger departs

Continued from Page 10 said the Parke neighborhood opted to switch from mailing in ballots to electronic voting for its board election three years ago. “We haven’t had any issues,” he said. Windsor said a computer (and help on how to use it) is available to Parke residents without online access. Parke ballots include a code for voting online or over the phone. “The goal is to make it easier to vote and increase percentages,” he said. “You can vote by phone, so we totally eliminated the post office as far as late ballots.” Habeger said the bylaws require all property owners to be notified by mail regarding the date, time and location of the annual meeting. “We piggyback that required posting with election materials,” he said. While bylaws do not require mailing election materials, Habeger said switching to online options might

meet some resistance. “There are people that will be opposed to it,” he said. Other election scheduling challenges include current deadlines for candidate applications by May 10, with the association secretary required to submit a final list to the committee by June 1. Heintz said in past years there was an unsuccessful push to have the Search Committee solicit candidate applications sooner than May 10. “What would be next steps to shorten the dates?” he asked. Habeger proposed moving the dates forward a month, with applications due by April 10 and final candidate list due May 1. Such a change, he acknowledged, would have to be approved by referendum. Habeger said he would complete edits on the committee’s annual report before turning it over to Mary Anne Whitcomb for formatting. The report would then go to the board.

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OP reaffirms cash for Jenkins Point project

Coastal Bays officials offer to help association solicit grants for larger endeavor

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) Looking to take a second swipe at securing state funding for a proposed restoration of Jenkins Point, Maryland Coastal Bays Program Watershed Coordinator Steve Farr reconfirmed financial support from the Ocean Pines Board on Saturday.

“Last year Maryland Coastal Bays approached [Director] Doug Parks to consider some opportunities for resiliency projects,” he said.

Farr said Coastal Bays’ officials were aware the Maryland Department of the Environment had issued request for proposals for community projects to protect natural assets and habitat.

“We looked at several opportunities in Ocean Pines and Jenkins Point really popped out,” he said. “We put together a proposal for DNR and submitted about this time last year.”

The funding, while not ultimately



SCREENSHOT BAYSIDE GAZETTE

(Top) Map detailing shoreline erosion since 1961 near Jenkins Point in the Isle of Wight Bay. (Bottom) Maryland Coastal Bays Program Watershed Coordinator Steve Farr reconfirmed on Saturday that the Ocean Pines Board was still on board with pursuing state funding for a resiliency project at Jenkins Point near the Yacht Club.

awarded, was intended to support design and permitting for the restoration work.

In recent years, a precipitous decline has been observed in migrating bird species traditionally spotted on the Eastern Shore.

The proposal would seek long-term restoration of the coastal bay island located in the Isle of Wight Bay for use by colonial nesting birds, such as herons, swallows and sea gulls, which typically shelter in areas devoid of ground predators.

Farr previously estimated the Jenkins Point engineering study would cost up to \$100,000, while the eventual project to restore migratory bird nesting habitats would total several million.

In May, the board unanimously approved investing \$10,000 to cover design and permitting costs for a proposed restoration for Jenkins Point.

Despite the earlier funding denial, Farr said state officials indicated the project had been under consideration.

“If they had more money they hopefully would have approved it,” he said “We have since had discussions with DNR and they have encouraged us to submit another proposal for this project.”

Farr said the next step would be for the board to reconfirm their earlier financial commitment.

“It’s always a big help to show local skin in the game,” he said.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Project funding is available through DNR’s Restoration for Resilience program.

Restore America’s Estuaries administers the funding stream provided by the Environmental Protection Agency for the National Estuary Program.

The intent is to bolster natural infrastructure to provide the community with a more resilient future.

See FARR Page 13

Town of Berlin Public Notices



Section 108-5.”

OCD-11/25/2t



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to The Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Text Amendment to the Town Code at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 5:30 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

Proposed Text Amendments for Authorization of Crematorium as Conditional Use on M-1 Light Industrial Property

“Sec. 108-5. – Definitions
Crematorium defined: a building containing furnace(s) for cremating dead human bodies”

“Sec 108-163. – Conditional uses, variances and special exceptions.

(c) Within any M-1 Light Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in Section 108-5.”

(d) the old (c) will then become the new (d)

“Sec. 108-518. – Conditional uses.

(4) In any M-1 Light Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to The Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Text Amendment to the Town Code at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 5:30 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

Proposed Text Amendment

I hereby propose to amend Section 108-403 of the Berlin code to allow fee simple townhouse dwellings with the following lot and area requirements:

1. Minimum lot size – 2,000 square feet;
2. Minimum lot width – 18 feet;
3. Front yard setback – 20 feet;
4. Rear yard setback – 25 feet; and
5. Side yard setback – 0 feet along party wall and 8 feet on the end units.

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Communications Cmte. updates initiatives

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) The Ocean Pines Communications Committee discussed pending business during its virtual meeting on Thursday.

Committee member Marlene Ott said a recent update from Choptank Electric Cooperative highlighted its sponsorship of the annual “Light Up the Pines” holiday promotion.

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski said residents began registering for the self-guided tour of lights last Monday.

Malinowski said about a dozen properties had registered to be included among the stops listed on an online map.

To back the effort, Choptank has provided promotional items for the first 25 Pines residents to sign up.

“This year they have donated three \$50 bill credits,” she said. “We’re going to do a drawing for everyone that signed up.”

In old business, Committee Chairwoman Cheryl Jacobs inquired about the status of purchasing electronic signs to replace manually updated marquees located along Ocean Parkway.

Board liaison Josette Wheatley said the latest word from General Manager John Viola was that he “had some concerns and they were holding back on that.”

Jacobs asked where a request to acquire at least one electronic messaging board stood.

“We have pursued it vigorously and feel good about it,” she said.

Wheatley, however, admitted the current status remains unknown.

“Something had him (Viola) pause the button and I’m not sure why,” she said.

Jacobs said until an answer is forthcoming the existing community signs would have to suffice.

“We’ll have to do it the old-fashioned way and get the people out there changing the letters around,” she said.

Turning to other matters, Malinowski said the deadline to return responses for a recently issued property owners survey was Monday.

“We got probably around 1,800 responses,” she said. “My understanding is they hit the targets they were inter-

ested in hitting in terms of responses they wanted from people.”

Jacobs said the final tally nearly doubled the initial target of 1,000 returns.

“It will be very interesting to see their final report on the outcome of that what people had to say and what they do with that,” she said.

Jacobs also asked about the status of a lawsuit brought by board candidate Rick Farr over being disqualified in July, which had a hearing in Worcester Circuit Court on Monday.

“They haven’t made a decision and that’s how they left it,” Wheatley said. “We had a follow-up meeting for Tuesday, but we cancelled that because no decision was made.”

Jacobs said the recent appointment of Wheatley and Amy Peck to fill vacancies created because of the resignations of Tom Janasek and Camilla

Rogers has given the board a full complement of directors.

“We’ll just carry on business as usual until something changes,” she said.

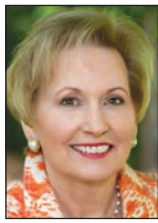
Committee recruitment efforts were also examined, with Jacobs noting at least one new member is being sought to fill the opening created when Wheatley was appointed to the board.

“We don’t have any capacity [issues], so we can have more members,” she said.

Wheatley said a potential committee member had just submitted an application that awaited Jacobs’ approval.

“That’s wonderful but we can still have more,” she said.

The committee is forgoing a December meeting but will reconvene on Jan. 20.



Cheryl Jacobs

Farr reviews funding pursuit for resiliency work by coast

Continued from Page 12

nity enhanced protection from climate change issues, notably the mounting occurrences of intense coastal storms causing erosion to shorelines and increased levels of flooding.

Grant application guidelines also require the board to discuss the matter in a public meeting.

“It’s one of the main reasons I’m here today,” he said. “At this point you have most of the elements needed.”

Farr said the current project would be limited to design and permitting.

“If design and permitting is achieved what happens with these grants is that DNR would provide funding for construction,” he said. “There’s no financial commitment from the OPA beyond the \$10,000 that was approved last year.”

Farr said in the event additional construction funding is required beyond DNR contributions; Coastal Bays’ officials would help the association source alternative streams.

“There are other opportunities to get money for projects like this,” he said. “We would work with you to seek other grants.”

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The Worcester County Public Schools 2021-22 calendar was altered slightly last week to change Dec. 17 to a half day of in-person instruction, make Dec. 20, 21 and 22 distance learning days, and add two half days on March 11 and May 16.

“In light of the impact the pandemic

Carrie Sterrs, the coordinator of public relations and special programs for WCPS, also presented board members with two options for the 2022-23 calendar. One would institute an early June dismissal date and the other a later one. Board members will take the options under advisement and vote on them at a later date.

"While we have all been impacted in some way by the pandemic this past year, the foundation has been able to respond exactly as it was designed to do – as a leading resource for our community, built to withstand the test of time," said Community Foundation President Erica Joseph. "We were able to respond to crisis in our community during a time when support was desperately needed."

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See TOTAL Page 15



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State BOE gauges feedback on school mask requirement

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) Members of the state board of education have a great deal to think about over the coming weeks.

For nearly four and a half hours in a busy virtual Zoom session on Nov. 16, the group that passed an emergency order requiring everyone in school buildings to mask up indoors without exception listened to testimony on all sides of the controversial issue. The meeting was their first time publicly reviewing the order since passing it almost unanimously in late August.

And in the name of “science” and all the evidence every speaker could find, district representatives from across the state and a panel of doctors and health officials made adamant points both for and against the mandate ahead of a board meeting set next month to revisit it.

The arguments for and against the requirement were all over the board, from pleas to keep the mandate in place to protect not only the vulnerable students, but their parents and grandparents and everyone they’ve ever known from covid transmission, to claiming child abuse and mental and emotional distress from unfair and unjust “muzzling.”

“We were hoping to get a cross-section of views and opinions,” Board President Clarence Crawford said at the end of the hearing. “I was disappointed we didn’t get a silver bullet ... But we have a lot of good information to think about.”

Crawford and all but one member of the board bypassed the advice of Gov. Larry Hogan and passed the emergency order on Aug. 26. The decision, which was voted into law weeks later by a General Assembly committee, prompted officials in Worcester County Public Schools to flip original plans to start the school year mask-optional. Worcester Public Schools officials have said that they will not revisit

Total \$94 million granted since '84

Continued from Page 14

endeavors, and has provided \$94 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

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the mandate locally while the state order is in place.

Crawford said during the meeting that the emergency order ends Feb. 25 and cannot be extended or reissued, thus board members have to decide how to proceed.

“We need to assess how it’s going and then begin to think through a thoughtful and prudent way forward. What do we do?” he said of the reason behind Tuesday’s hearing.

The groups represented at the hearing included members of the public, who testified nine to seven against keeping the mandate in place; parent and student groups; county school districts and state education organizations; and national health professionals and officials.

Testimony from the educational groups leaned toward keeping the mandate. Several speakers pointed out that the pandemic is far from over and that transmission is evident among children across the country. They also said that most children have no problem wearing a mask and claimed that schools have remained open because face coverings have been required.

Those against keeping the mandate testified that the decision should be left to the local jurisdictions, and claimed



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State board of education members spent nearly four-and-a-half-hours in a virtual Zoom meeting last week listening to all sides of the controversial indoor mask mandate they ordered for all districts across the state. They will take the information received and make a decision about the future of the directive next month.

that children do not contract or transmit the virus at the same rate as adults.

The health officials presented varying testimony as well.

Dr. Lucy McBride, a practicing internist from Washington D.C. who has studied the effects of covid since its inception, said that masks were the clear answer for preventing the spread of the virus at the start of the pandemic. But now that a vaccine and advanced testing are available, and more science exists regarding transmission rates among children, her advice has changed.

“Now that we have these vaccines that not only reduce the risk of disease in the vaccine recipient, but that also

reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to someone else, it’s really time to think about removing a medical intervention whose benefits are not clear and that does have harm,” she said. “Masks are not a zero risk intervention.”

McBride pointed out that no real evidence exists that show the benefits of masking outweigh the negative effects on children, which include mental and emotional distress from not having the ability to see and hear teachers and peers.

“We need to recognize these are not risk-free interventions,” she said. “Students need to see faces to learn and for

See BOARD Page 16

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Worcester County Public Schools officials, board members, staff members and local dignitaries ceremoniously gathered Nov. 17 to break ground on a long-awaited nearly 25,000-square-foot addition at Stephen Decatur Middle School. The project is set for completion by the end of the 2022.

MALLORY PANUSKA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Project slated to finish end of '22

Continued from Page 16
wanted it then. He deserves credit for getting the space off the ground.”
Principal Lynne Barton, who served as emcee of the event, also pointed out the importance of all of the partnerships that brought the project to light, and board President Elena McComas noted the “joyous” nature of seeing a project of this caliber come to fruition.
The evolution of the project was long, with planning beginning practically when the original school was built, as Taylor said. In July, board members opted to fast-track the bid process for the steel contract, for fear of a shortage due to covid supply chain constraints.
With that, the project is set for completion by the end of 2022.

Body cam hours present problems for prosecutors

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer
(Nov. 25, 2021) Worcester County State’s Attorney Kristin Heiser made the case to the county commissioners on Nov. 16 that her office is going to struggle to keep up if the county’s 12 law enforcement agencies implement body-worn camera footage ahead of the 2025 state mandate.

Appearing during the commissioner’s meeting with Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli, Heiser said that the unfunded mandate has strong potential to burden her understaffed office and that moving up the schedule, as some towns such as Ocean City want to do, would only strengthen those chances.
“(Body-worn cameras) are an entirely new body-worn of evidence for every single case we prosecute,” Heiser said. “If the state’s attorney is not adequately staffed, we will not meet obligations for discovery standards.”
Heiser stressed that she and her office do not have an issue with body-worn cameras themselves and touted the benefits they could offer when trying a case — it’s about maintaining her office’s efficacy to try and convict cases.
She broke down her case into a matter of time: In 2019, Heiser said, her office tried around 25,000 cases. Body-worn camera footage per case averages about one hour, meaning the review of the footage alone would have added 25,000 work hours to her office.
Footage reviewers watch the video, prepare it, redact segments where needed and provide the evidence and
See HEISER Page 18



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Heiser: Need more time to prep for cameras

Continued from Page 17
review to the district attorney by a deadline, typically within 45 days of the charging incident, Heiser said.

Currently, the Worcester County office carries the highest caseload per prosecutor in the state.

“Once agencies go live with these body-worn camera programs, it’ll be like drinking from a firehose for us, our team at the state’s attorney’s office,” Heiser said. “There would be no way that we can keep up with that.”

Another issue would be the competition, since every other Maryland state’s attorney is looking to beef up their staff too.

“I’m at the mercy of (what our police stations want to do),” Heiser said. “We will be competing with other counties to hire prosecutors. I don’t want to do that when I know we can’t offer the same salaries as others across the bridge.”

Commissioner Ted Elder asked about citizen subpoenas for body-worn camera footage and the process that entails.

Heiser said “a lot of complications are arising” from that situation. Depending on the nature of the incident, who responded, it could be a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a state Public Information Act



Worcester County State's Attorney Kristin Heiser meets with the county commissioners to update them on how prepared her office is for the state mandate that will require body-worn camera footage to be used by police officers at all times. If local police departments go through with plans to implement the new standard before the 2025 deadline, Heiser said her understaffed office may be overrun by the influx of new evidence. She estimated she could start hiring more people next summer at the earliest.

JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

(PIA) request or other possibilities.

“We are projecting that these FOIA requests are going to skyrocket,” Crisafulli stepped in to say.

Commissioner Chip Bertino showed sympathy to Heiser’s dilemma and laid some responsibility on the Maryland General Assembly, which passed the law mandating that body-worn cameras be implemented

by 2025.

“I think we should have the leadership of the state legislature come down and explain themselves because they’re the ones that pushed this through,” Bertino said. “I suspect a lot of the concerns expressed over the years about police conduct in Worcester County will benefit from these cameras more often than not (in showing that), hopefully, 99 percent of the time our officers have done the right thing.”

Bertino continued to categorize the idea of a prosecutor “sitting and watching thousands of hours of videos” as a “waste of time.” He asked Heiser for a timeline for her office to be able to prepare itself.

“If every agency’s budget requests are approved in full, everyone’s on the same page with funding, (camera) vendors and deadline, to me the earliest I’ll be able to do it is if I come to

you in the next budget cycle (for FY23),” she said. “If it’s approved, starting July 1 I can start recruiting and hiring.”

Commissioner Diana Purnell reminded Heiser and the other commissioners that the point of the footage is to secure convictions and that even more factors are considered when they workshop these budget items.

“If we fail, or you fail ... of if they don’t have what they need, the cost on the other end could be greater than what we’re looking at,” Purnell said. “The cost factor when we do our work session is to look at that possibility so we know what we’re looking at... the human cost and the financial cost.”

“If you lose, you’ll be sued. You know that.”

Heiser pointed out that mishandled video will also lead to a loss.

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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Department of Public Works Director Bob Mitchell meets with the Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday to recommend the awarding of the Lewis Road sewer extension project facilities bid to EA Engineering, Science and Technology. The project, which will connect residents along Lewis Road to the Landings sanitation service area, has been in the works about 20 years.

Lewis Rd. bid awarded to OP firm

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 25, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners signed off on awarding the contract for the Lewis Road gravity sewer and pump station design to Ocean Pines-based EA Engineering, Science and Technology for \$97,056.57 on Nov. 16.

The bids entailed the completion of the design, permitting, and construction-phase engineering services for the Lewis Road sewer expansion project, which the commissioners voted 4-3 to pursue earlier this year, with Commissioners Ted Elder, Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting having consistently voted to not go through with the project.

The gist of their opposition has been that the project is being treated as a special exception, albeit one that

is needed, considering the use of the American Rescue Plan Act funding for it while residents who benefitted from similar projects had to pay for it. Bunting and Bertino again showed their opposition on Tuesday as the bid was awarded on a 4-2 majority, with Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic absent.

Residents benefitting from a similar project in Newark were saddled with higher rate costs, even though they told the commissioners it would be a hardship for them.

A Lewis Road sewer expansion has been in the works for 20-some years. The project aims to connect long-underserved residents along the road that runs between Sinepuxent Road and Stephen Decatur Highway to the Landings sanitation service area. It will be paid for with a \$1.48 million grant and funding from the ARPA. The ARPA money will be used as a stand-in for a \$500,000 USDA loan.

The project calls for multiple sanitation facilities to be constructed but will also use existing pipelines and a water tower.

“The money is for infrastructure,” Commissioner Diana Purnell said in June. “To infer that Lewis Road (is special) — no one is special. We all work in the county together ... You can’t tell me that after 20 years of doing water and sewer in this county, there’s been a time where we’ve done anything for this area. ... This is money that’s here, that came in from ARPA so we can use it.”

“This is in an area that’s growing by leaps and bounds all around ... I think we should use the ARPA money for this very much underserved area.”

32

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Snapshots



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DOWNTOWN TOUR

Berlin Intermediate School sixth grade students in Kelly Powell's enrichment class toured downtown Berlin for different electrical elements. Students then applied their findings toward the discovery and creation of a light circuit. Pictured are Mackenna Foreman, Emory Jack, Catrina Donmoyer, Donavon Robbins, Israel David, Aiden Buchheit and Tanner Edelmann.

PROCLAMATION

The Worcester County Commissioners issue a proclamation recognizing October as Shore Craft Beer Month in Worcester County. Pictured, in front, from left, are Paul Carlotta of Sinepuxent Brewing, Business Development and Retention Specialist Michele Burke, Tourism and Economic Development Director Melanie Pursel, and Anne Neely of Shore Craft Beer; second row, Commissioners Diana Purnell, Ted Elder, Bud Church, Jim Bunting, Chip Bertino, and Joe Mitrecic; and in back, Commissioner Josh Nordstrom.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City usually has a guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday 8 a.m. meetings in the Ocean Pines Community Center. President of the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Kerrie Bunting was the guest speaker on Oct. 13. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECOGNITION

Worcester County Commissioner Diana Purnell presents a proclamation recognizing Oct. 10-16, 2021 as Worcester County History Week to history week organizer Nancy Howard. Activities took place throughout the county.



Holiday Season Kick-Off

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRAFTS
Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone oversees pottery selections available for purchase at the Winter Wonderland Artisan and Craft Fair on Nov. 6 at the community center.

Online giving event supports 121 area nonprofit groups

(Nov. 25, 2021) The Lower Shore’s Giving Tuesday event will feature a record-breaking 121 nonprofits during the 24-hour online giving event. Held each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, this year’s event falls on Nov. 30, but donors can begin scheduling their gifts now.

The local campaign, known as The Shore Gives More, is hosted by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and assists nonprofits serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties with fundraising efforts.

The online donation portal features an easy way for donors to quickly learn about the individual nonprofits and make as many or as few donations as they like in one online checkout.

“The campaign has grown greatly in just seven years. In 2015, the local campaign started with 23 nonprofits and raised just under \$7,500, but by 2020 it grew to \$269,627 raised for 99 area nonprofits in a single day,” said Community Foundation President Erica Joseph. “This year marks the largest number of nonprofits to participate in the campaign.”

Donors can rest easy knowing that the gifts they make will go to the charities of their choice and will also make a local impact. The campaign carefully vets each participating organization to ensure current tax-exempt status and service to the lower shore area.

“The generosity of our local community is what enables area nonprofits to increase their impact on the lower Eastern Shore,” Joseph said. “Each gift made to a nonprofit on Giving Tuesday makes a difference for the area we call home.”

Nonprofits are given access to on-

line fundraising platforms, marketing campaigns and incentive prizes.

Software purchased by the Community Foundation allows donors to schedule their gifts in advance of the event and allows supporters the option of donating to multiple nonprofits at once. The Community Foundation provides the services at no cost to the nonprofits. Nonprofits cover standard credit card processing fees.

“The campaign is truly a collaborative effort,” Joseph said. “Each nonprofit works hard to make their fundraising goal’s a reality, and months of preparations are put in before the big day. Our primary sponsors, Shore United Bank and 47 ABC, provide invaluable support, which allows the event to be a success.”

To learn more about the Shore Gives More Giving Tuesday campaign, visit www.ShoreGivesMore.org.

As leaders, grant makers and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided \$94 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

It collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources. CFES is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy.

For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or vkent@CFES.org.

ThanksKitten Fun Run/Walk for Town Cats set for today

(Nov. 25, 2021) CrossFit Assateague (CFA), invite all those in the Delmarva area for Thanksgiving to participate in its fourth annual “ThanksKitten Fun Run/Walk,” Thursday, Nov. 25, at the Ocean Pines South Gate Pond Trail.

“ThanksKitten” will consist of three laps around the Ocean Pines South Gate Pond with exercise stations throughout each lap. Exercise stations are optional and participants can complete one, two or three laps.

Three laps around the pond is approximately 2.5 miles.

Families, children and pets on leashes are welcome. Registration for the Fun Run/Walk is \$15 per person for adults, \$10 for children 13 and over, and children 12 and under participate for free.

Coordinators will also be collecting kitten supplies such as clumping cat litter, Purina One kitten dry food and Friskies turkey pate canned cat food.

The Fun Run/Walk will start at 9 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. Participants can register online at www.crossfitassateague.com. Day of registration is also available at 8:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park by the South Gate pond. Parking is available at the Ocean Pines Library and surrounding area.

“ThanksKitten” will benefit Town Cats, a local nonprofit charity, dedicated to enriching the lives of free-roaming, feral, or abandoned cats in the Ocean City and surrounding communities by limiting the population growth and providing medical care through Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), and affordable adoption services.

In 2020, CrossFit Assateague was unable to hold the event due to covid, but still provided an online fundraiser as well as a cat food supply drive.

“We are so excited to be able to host ‘ThanksKitten’ again this year. Our goal is to create a fun family friendly event, that burns some calories Thanksgiving morning and hopefully double the amount of money/supplies we raised for Town Cats the past two years,” said Sandra Kerstetter, co-manager of CrossFit Assateague.

For more information or for a list of needed cat supplies, visit www.crossfitassateague.com or its Facebook page @crossfitassateague.

For those that can not attend, but still want to make a difference, CrossFit Assateague has sent up a GoFundMe Page at <https://gofund.me/30f76e67>.

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John Milton Pruitt shares life memories along coast

(Nov. 25, 2021) John Milton Pruitt has released his first book, “Tales of the Tide,” which depicts coastal life from Maryland’s Eastern Shore to the Carolina Low Country. The book combines local history, how-to, regional recipes and personal stories.

Born and raised in Berlin, Pruitt dedicates the book to his late father, John Q. Pruitt who owned an insurance agency on Main Street and served on the Town Council for nearly 20 years.

Tales of the Tide is a 128-page coffee table book that combines personal narratives with original artwork, but also includes videos that can be launched via QR codes at the end of each chapter.

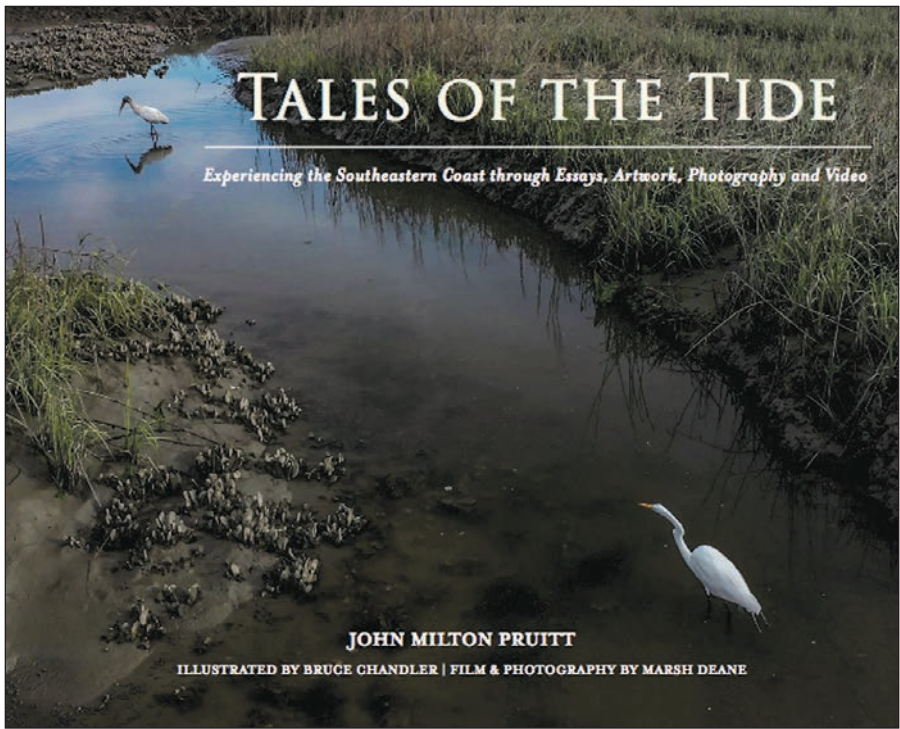
From Assateague to Ocracoke, Croppers Island to Murrells Inlet, Pruitt writes of boyhood in Berlin and raising a family on Carolina’s Grand Strand. Now residing in Atlanta, Georgia, he endeavors to relive memories “made where land mingles with the sea”.

In the book’s page notes, Eastern Shore of Virginia sculptor and writer William H. Turner wrote, “Take a voyage along the shore and into the salt marshes of the Mid-Atlantic and Carolinas. The combination of emotional essays, original artwork and stunning videography take the reader beyond that of a typical book about the coast. It is apparent that Pruitt and his colleagues share a deep passion and unique understanding of the people and places depicted in these charming stories”.

The Greyhound Indie Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery is holding a book signing for “Tales of the Tide” on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street in Berlin.



John Milton Pruitt



Pocomoke Christmas parade Mon.

(Nov. 25, 2021) Pocomoke City will be transformed into a “Winter Wonderland” on Nov. 29, as the town plays host to one of Delmarva’s largest nighttime Christmas parades.

Always held on the first Monday night after Thanksgiving, the Pocomoke parade has become an Eastern Shore tradition and will attract over 100 units from Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia along with thousands of spectators.

Those interested in participating this year’s event, should go to pocomokechristmasparade.com to register. Contact Mike Shannon at 410-726-5777 and leave a message with name, address and telephone number and type of entry.

Each year the parade features marching bands representing high and middle schools from seven counties in three states. Also featured will be beautifully decorated and lighted floats en-

tered by schools, civic organizations, churches and commercial enterprises.

Marching units, fire departments, equestrian units, and Santa Claus will round out the two-hour event, slated to kick off at 7 p.m. sharp. The route will take the parade north on Market Street beginning at 14th Street and ending at the Pocomoke River Bridge.

The judge’s stand is located in downtown Pocomoke City just in front of the Mini park.

Professional judges, including mem-

bers of the National Judges Association (NJA), will score entries in many different categories. Awards will be presented immediately following the event to the top entries in each category.

A special thanks to the community of Pocomoke City and surrounding areas for the support given to continue this tradition that has been a part of the town for the past 49 years.

In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be postponed until Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m.

Worcester hosts household hazardous waste collection

(Nov. 25, 2021) The Worcester County Public Works Recycling Division will hold its household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. at the West Ocean City Park and Ride site on Route 50. The annual service will allow residents to dispose of laptop and desktop computers, but no other

electronics will be accepted.

Collection day provides an opportunity for Worcester County residents to safely dispose of products containing harmful chemicals, such as bleach, pesticides, pool chemicals, oil mixtures, gas and other fuels, acids, automotive fluids, thinners, and other

See COUNTY Page 23



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Opinion

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

Thankful we continue to get second chances

One might have asked this week, what do we have to be thankful for after the past year-and-a-half of exceptionally difficult circumstances?

Well, as my 102-year-old great-aunt replied after being asked how she had been doing, “I’m still here, aren’t I?”

And that’s the thing. Another year under the curse of covid-19, of physical suffering, financial hardship and nation-threatening political divisiveness might have sent us stumbling into the ropes, but we have continued to bounce back for round after round.

Our resilience is pretty remarkable, and we ought to be thankful for that, as we keep getting chances to recognize the mistakes we’ve made and to attempt to correct them. Maybe we will and maybe we won’t, but at least we continue to be given the opportunity to try.

That’s a gift worth noting, because we certainly haven’t done much to earn these opportunities — they just keep coming despite our missteps and misadventures, leaving it up to us to do something with them finally, and, hopefully, sooner rather than later.

We should be thankful for this endless string of second chances. But we do need to start thinking about repaying the debt by engaging in a little more give and take instead of wasting time in the impossible and ridiculously stupid pursuit of one half of us gaining and holding onto dominion over the other half. It’s a mathematical impossibility, so we might as well come to grips with that fact and fix what we can.

Maybe one of these days, we’ll get over ourselves and realize that we’re all in the same foxhole, so to speak, and that we can’t advance if we spend all our time confronting each other instead of what awaits outside.

If we can ever manage to make some progress in that regard, it would be something for which we would be profoundly thankful. Until then, however, we’re grateful for continuously getting another shot at it.

— Stewart Dobson



Letters

Editorializing concerns

Editor,

I am writing in reference to the first paragraph of the article by Mallory Panuska in the Nov. 11, 2021 edition of your paper, titled “WCPS mask mandate slated to remain until at least Dec.”

That paragraph reads as follows: “Students and staff inside Worcester County Public Schools building will not be given the same air-breathing privileges as those in most other local indoor

settings....”

Characterizing the decision from the state board of education as restricting “air-breathing privileges,” in my view is editorializing the news, not reporting the news. There are many ways one may characterize the decision, including to say the students and staff were given a greater degree of protection rather than a greater degree of restriction.

The job of the reporter is not to characterize the information, but to report it. Just the facts. Over the past year or more I have noticed an increasing number of articles in your paper in which the author characterized the facts rather than simply reporting them. I’m no journalist, but I believe this violates some standard within your profession to maintain the integrity of the information being reported by letting the facts speak for themselves.

I hate to see the integrity of your paper’s reporting slip in this way. Your readers deserve better.

Colette Horn
Ocean Pines

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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County offers trash disposal on Sat.

Continued from Page 22

everyday hazardous wastes accumulating in and around the home, like CFL light bulbs, batteries, and oil-based paints.

County officials noted that water-based paints are not hazardous materials and should not be brought to any hazardous waste collection event. Instead, they recommend solidifying water-based paints by drying or adding absorbent materials, like sand, kitty litter, or mulch. Then place the dried paint in the trash.

Collecting hazardous waste for safe disposal saves landfill space and helps protect the environment, as many of these items do not degrade and contain poisonous materials that could seep out of the landfill and contaminate surrounding soil and groundwater.

Collection day is open at no charge to county residents only. This event is hosted in conjunction with Maryland Environmental Services and the Maryland Department of the Environment. A representative from the department will be checking vehicle registration. Clean Ventures of Baltimore will be responsible for the safe disposal of all hazardous waste collected. Computers and laptops will be collected and later recycled.

For more information, contact Worcester County Recycling Manager Mike McClung at (410) 632-3177.

Have an opinion?

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

Cuisine

Seared scallops with butternut squash puree

Oh, you thought I was going to write about turkey today, didn't you? No, there is enough rubbish out

there this month to feed a small army, or rather a massive one. You certainly do not need to read another thing about that magnificent bird and what is quite honestly my favorite meal.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Death row? Thanksgiving dinner, please and thank you.

It is good, however, to reflect on the season itself, if I may be so bold. I absolutely adore this time of year, and as much as I hate the thought of chopping down the banana palms in preparation of winter and eventually next spring, I appreciate the seasons with which we are fortunate.

After living in San Diego for three and a half years, a span of coastal desert in which they planted grass and faked an entire ecosystem where there really aren't seasons of sorts, I can appreciate this. Out there, it is either hot or a little chilly. That's about it.

Of course, you can drive a few hours northeast to ski or snowboard, so at least they have that. The mountains in California are beautiful as you gaze at them, snow-covered and peaceful as you stand in the street wearing surf trunks and flip flops. Yet, as amazing as that feeling can be (standing in a street in Riverside trying to get your head wrapped around snow-draped mountains), it takes away from the idea of seasons in the first place.

Just the notion of seasons pleases me, as it was truly the reason I moved back to the East Coast. It happened as my parents picked me up from BWI in June, 1989. I was already embedded in the SoCal culture as well as the Marines, and I enjoyed it. But when we hit the bay bridge on that fateful day, there was a torrential squall that was heading right towards us from the Eastern Shore.

I will never forget that moment, as I grew up with those storms that would pop out of nowhere. In California, the closest I ever came to that sensation was dust devils in the Mojave desert. And while those little bastards can tear a tent city apart in about 30 seconds, they're kind of pointless. It's just more dust, dirt and sand in every crevice of your body



and gear.

A squall ripping across the water is both terrifying and humbling if you happen to be on a vessel on the water. Pulling in the sails, you weather the storm and simply hope that it is a short one. And when it passes, you realize that it all just goes back to business as usual. Set the sails and get flying up the bay again.

So that day was when I realized that I would move back to the East Coast when things were settled with my military contract. And here I am. Not a day goes by that I don't reminisce of good times in Southern California and Mexico, but that was a day gone by.

Now I'm here and love living in such a rich and diverse place. One of my favorite parts of cooking in areas like this is, in fact, the seasons. Soft shells in the summertime, scallops, the point of this article, now waning in their supply as fishermen prepare for dry dock, and the rest of the bounty from our ocean.

I love buying fresh seafood from Skillagallee or Sea Born in the commercial harbor. There is literally no greater sign of the seasons than fresh fish. Embrace it, buy it and cook with it. You can have turkey next Thanks-

giving.

Seared Scallops

Serves 4

24 ea. Fresh, dry scallops
Trimix, as needed
Clarified butter, as needed
2 c. Shiitake mushrooms, sliced
1/2 c. White wine
4 c. Butternut squash puree
(recipe follows)

2 c. Kale sauteed in roasted garlic, as garnish

Pat the scallops dry with a paper towel and set aside until ready to sear.

Season with trimix, and then heat the clarified butter in a good saute pan.

Sear the scallops in the hot pan for around 2 minutes per side, or until they have a nice crust before turning.

Remove and keep warm while you immediately add the mushrooms and more butter, if needed.

Cook until almost done, and then add the wine and reduce.

Season to taste and keep warm until service.

Place the puree in the center of the plate, and surround it with the scallops and mushrooms.

Top the dish off with a little bit of the kale and enjoy a hearty, lovely autumn meal.

Butternut Squash Puree

Makes about 2 quarts

1 ea. Butternut squash
1 c. Cream, or as needed
1 tsp. Kosher salt
1/2 tsp. Black pepper
2 tbsp. Pure maple syrup
1/2 tsp. Ground cinnamon

Cut the squash in half and scrape the seeds out.

Brush with oil and place face down on parchment on a baking sheet.

Place in a 375F oven for about 40 minutes, or until a skewer passes right through the tender squash.

Remove and when cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh and place in a food processor.

Add the other ingredients and process until the squash is nicely pureed. Adjust seasoning and keep warm until ready to serve.

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

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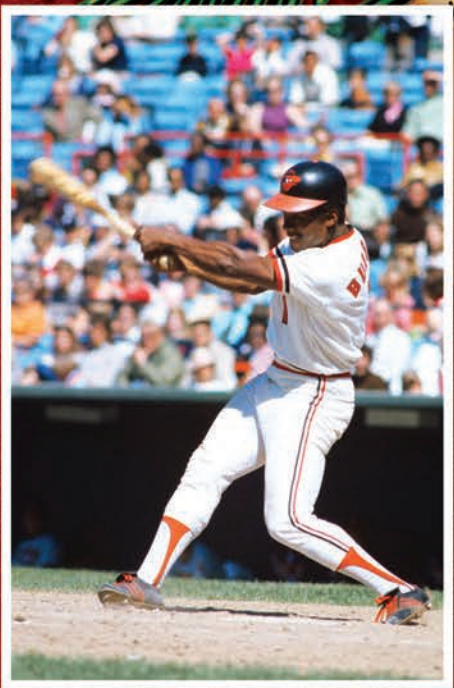
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WPS FALL FESTIVAL
Worcester Preparatory School's 10th grade held the annual Fall Fun Festival on Oct. 27, for first through fifth grade students. Pictured, from left, are Evelyn Westman, Ava Conaway and Maggie McCabe, who told fortunes at the festival.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Brooke Arnold collects her prize at Hunter Simons' station.



Worcester Prep teacher Katie Moreland is pictured with her daughters, Parker and Landon, who are also students, during the festival.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Calendar

Thurs., Nov. 25

THANKSKITTEN FUN RUN/WALK IN SUPPORT OF TOWN CATS
Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 9-11 a.m. In person registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Online registration: www.crossfitassateague.com. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 13 and older and free to those 12 years and younger. 443-513-4520

42ND ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER
Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Come and receive a free Thanksgiving dinner. RSVP: 410-289-4054 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday or OCBaptist.com. Dinners will be delivered to shut-ins in Ocean City and West Ocean City.

Fri., Nov. 26

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 150 vendors, food court, door prizes, children's activities and face painting. Weekend tickets cost \$3 for adults and free to those 13 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

ICE ICE BERLIN & TREE LIGHTING
Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 5-9 p.m. More than 30 ice sculptures and demonstration, tree lighting at 6 p.m., Santa visit at Kringle Cottage from 5-8 p.m., dance performances, shops open late and music by DJ Big Al Reno. info@berlinmd.gov, 410-641-2770

Sat., Nov. 27

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 150 vendors, food court, door prizes, children's activities and face painting. Weekend tickets cost \$3 for adults and free to those 13 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER & RECRUITMENT
White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m.-noon. Stop by the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment's booth and purchase your truck raffle tickets, Green Number Plate Signs and learn about becoming a member of the department. 410-641-8272

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
West Ocean City Park and Ride, U.S. Route 50, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Household hazardous waste and computers/laptops may be dropped off for safe disposal. No other electronics accepted. Open at no charge to Worcester County residents only. Mike McClung, 410-632-3177.

MERRY MARKETPLACE IN BRRRLIN
Berlin Maryland Welcome Center Parking Lot, 14 S. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring Santa House, artisans, food cultivators, grab n go holiday crafts, hot chocolate, hot cider, mead, live music, free horse drawn carriage rides and Santa letter mailbox. info@berlinmd.gov, 410-641-2770

JOHN MILTON PRUITT BOOK SIGNING
The Greyhound Indie Bookstore and Fine Art Gallery, 9 S. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Pruitt will be signing his first title, "Tales of the Tide," depicting authentic coastal life from Maryland's Eastern Shore to the Carolina Lowcountry. 410-641-0291, greyhound.bookstore@gmail.com

Sun., Nov. 28

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. More than 150 vendors, food court, door prizes, children's activities and face painting. Weekend tickets cost \$3 for adults and free to those 13 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

MERRY MARKETPLACE IN BRRRLIN
Berlin Maryland Welcome Center Parking Lot, 14 S. Main St., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring Santa House, artisans, food cultivators, grab n go holiday crafts, hot chocolate, hot cider, mead, live music, free horse drawn carriage rides and Santa letter mailbox. info@berlinmd.gov, 410-641-2770

Mon., Nov. 29

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.

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, Continued on Page 29

Puzzles

HEADS OF STATE

BY AIMEE LUCIDO AND ELLA DERSHOWITZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Aimee Lucido, of Berkeley, Calif., is a crossword constructor and children's-book author. Her second book, "Recipe for Disaster," came out in September. Her friend Ella Dershowitz, of New York City, is an actor who has appeared in films like "Knife Fight" and "Addiction: A 60's Love Story." Aimee writes: "This puzzle came about the way a lot of our collaborations come about. We decide we miss each other, get on a Zoom call and start brainstorming crossword ideas." — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Miss

5 Fairy-tale monster

9 Meat in ragù al cinghiale

13 "Everyone knows the secret now"

19 Lincoln or Ford

20 Purchase in the board game Catan worth one wood and one brick

21 Singer Guthrie

22 Genre for Nirvana and Soundgarden

23 Forgetfulness experienced by soon-to-be moms, informally

26 Final innings, usually

27 Heinie

28 What a baby might start eating at around 6 months

30 Universal donor's blood type, informally

31 A, in Aachen

32 "Dancing With Hands Tied" (Taylor Swift song)

33 What well-connected people may have

37 Scented plug-in brand

40 "Afternoon, pardner!"

44 "Oh yeah? Give me an example!"

46 Response to a texted joke

47 Worldly wisdom

49 Deg. for a creative type

50 Booting

53 Juice cleanse, essentially

55 Cocktail made from gin, vermouth and Campari

56 Big letters in home security

59 In Latin, it's "stannum"

60 Pound part

61 Church council

62 Succeed in life

64 Portfolio listings

65 Common sense

68 The "gone girl" in "Gone Girl"

70 A negative one might be positive

71 Used colored pencils, say

74 "___ be a real shame ..."

75 Jovian planets, by another name

78 Changes back to factory defaults, say

80 Way too loud

81 Figure in the iconic "We Can Do It!" poster

85 Quite enough

86 Bit of fiction

89 Suffix with quack and mock

90 National law enforcement, informally

92 Simple flotation device

95 Arranges in random order

96 URL ending

97 TV display option

101 ___ tai

102 Picked up

104 Above

105 Like the bread ideal for bread pudding

107 Theoretical primordial substance


108 Word on an Irish plane

110 Oscar-winning director Lee

111 Obama's birthplace

113 Playing to the crowd

117 Japanese condiment sprinkled on rice

121 

124 Slogan about willpower ... or a hint to four pairs of answers in this puzzle

126 Courtroom cry

127 "Something From Nothing: The Art of Rap" director

128 Aptly named bus driver on "The Simpsons"

129 Catering vessels

130 "Whatever you say, sweetheart"

131 Unilever tea brand

132 Bert who played the Cowardly Lion

133 Children's author DiCamillo with two Newbery Medals

10 Like some traditions

11 Et ___ (and others)

12 Sonata movement

13 The uninformed masses, colloquially

14 The Jonas Brothers, e.g.

15 Dish named for a day of the week

16 Toronto's prov.

17 "What a mess!"

18 Your: Fr.

24 Bar ___

25 Queen's "We Will Rock You," e.g.

29 2K, for one

31 Sheep

34 Award hopeful

35 Passes along to, in a way

36 Like the winner of a handwriting contest

37 Narrow valleys

38 Very affectionate

39 Get on the same page, in corporate-speak

41 URL ending

42 Alternative to fiber or satellite

43 Leave off

45 Early PC software

47 Planting more than one kind of seed in a field, per Deuteronomy

48 Pollution stat

51 Historical subject of Hilary Mantel's 2009 novel "Wolf Hall"

52 Action item

54 Brings back to use

56 Home of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau: Abbr.

57 "Yo ___" (internet meme with rapper Xzibit)

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19				20				21				22							
23			24					25				26							
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37	38	39			40	41			42	43	44		45						
46					47						48					49			
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55							56	57	58		59				60				
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71	72	73			74			75			76				77				
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92					93				94			95							
96				97						98	99	100					101		
102								104							105	106			
107							108		109			110			111	112			
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121	122	123						124				125							
126								127				128					129		
130								131				132					133		

58 Prioritization process

63 It added "essential worker" in March 2021: Abbr.

64 Author Rand

66 Quaint contraction

67 Title that comes from "Caesar"

68 Assist

69 Day celebrated by "Star Wars" fans

71 Curtains

72 Interior design job

73 Support, as a belief

76 Fellow

77 Like bacon and lobster, in Jewish law

79 Prime-time slot

82 Home of the National Voting Rights Museum

83 Perfect

84 Nail-polish brand

86 Like some nachos and questions

87 "Real" ones were first issued in the 2010s

88 Muppet who hosts the "Not-Too-Late Show"

91 Fifth-century invader

93 Poisonous shrub

94 Suffix with Euclid

95 Metric for online traffic, in brief

98 Get ready for action

99 The "C" of D.R.C.

100 World of Warcraft, e.g., for short

103 One who's at home on the job?

105 Branch of Islam

106 Thai taxi with a repetitive name

109 Send, as payment

112 Mail, e.g.

114 Actress Taylor-Joy of "The Queen's Gambit"

115 Costa ___

116 Mother of Don Juan

117 Cheese on a meze platter

118 Gillette razor

119 Daily Planet reporter

120 Gaelic tongue

121 Sorority letter

122 "Yikes!"

123 Pile of cash

125 TV button: Abbr.

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HARD - 67

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



Real Estate Title Company seeks experienced **Title Professional** with at least two (2) years specific experience. This position is in the Ocean City area, where we provide settlement services for sale and refinance transactions in Maryland and Delaware.

The ideal candidate will be a good multi-tasker and have a customer service orientation. Title Producer's License helpful but not required.

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Please send resume and salary requirements to ops@brennantitle.com

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



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Local real estate management office in Bethany Beach is looking for a Community Association Manager to oversee a number of our resort communities. Applicant must have experience in community management, excellent communication skills, and strong organizational and time management skills. Full time position with benefits.

Email resume to: Jodi@wilgusassociates.com

Small Engine Mechanic
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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

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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



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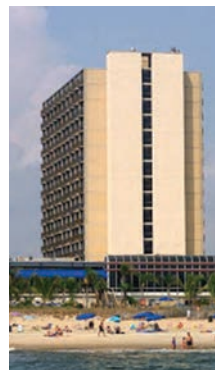
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Rooms Division Manager

We are currently recruiting for a year round Rooms Division Manager for our Oceanfront convention hotel (250 rooms w/ 85 adjacent condominiums). The preferred candidate should have a minimum of 3 years hotel front desk management with working knowledge of housekeeping, inventory/revenue experience, good verbal communications and telephone etiquette. Qualified candidates apply. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits package available. Apply in person, Mondays through Saturdays 10am - 4pm.



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SEEKING RENTAL

Charitable foundation expanding and coming to Ocean City (See TheLearnersLabFoundation.org & TherapyConnectionInstitute.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.**

www.baysideoc.com
www.oceancitytoday.com

SEEKING RENTAL

Furnished Room Wanted in Ocean City/West O by Dec. 1. YR or Seasonal. Single 57 yr. old, non-smoker, no kids/pets or drama. Works 60 hours a week, 6am-6pm. References available. Local Ocean City resident. **Call Tom 410-202-6669.**

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

COMMERCIAL

1 Office/Retail Space Approximately 1600 sq. ft. in West Ocean City. **Call 443-497-4200**

STORAGE

Storage West Ocean City. 2-car garage for rent w/attached work room. Total 775 sq. ft. **Call John 410-726-0075.**

AUCTIONS

The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com.

Units to be auctioned: B5/ B27/ B50/ B52/ B85/ S35/ L9/ O27/ O38/ O55/ O29/ O115/ O164. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

**Date: Friday, November 26, 2021
Time: 10:00 am**

This will be an online auction. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions regarding the online auction.

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Calendar

Continued from Page 26

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

POCOMOKE 49TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Market Street & 14th Street, Pocomoke City, 7-9 p.m. Proceeding on Market Street from 14th Street to the Pocomoke River Bridge. Judge's stand at Mini park. Featuring marching bands, floats, fire departments and Santa Claus. Rain date Nov. 30.

Tues., Nov. 30

WSW PRESENTS "DELICIOUS DECEMBER" SWEETS AUCTION

Women Supporting Women is doing our first WSW presents "Delicious December" Sweets Auction as our Giving Tuesday Campaign. This will be an online auction for people to bid on sweet desserts. 410-548-7880

STORY TIME 'TRANSPORTATION'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays about planes, trains and automobiles. For 2-5 year olds. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'MUSIC AND MOVEMENT'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Get your groove on with fun movement activities. For ages 2-5 years.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BEACH SINGLES 55 PLUS

Keenwick Sound Club House, 37547 River Run, Selbyville, noon. Bring your lunch and beverage. Call 302-436-9577. beachsingles.org.

DELMARVA HAND DANCE

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

Wed., Dec. 1

THE GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$8 for dine-in or take-out. Dine-in price includes a one-time, re-order of breakfast. 410-289-9340, ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

CRAFT TIME 'FOR THE BIRDS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Make pinecone bird feeders. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BOOK LOVERS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, noon. Discuss the book, "Dragon Pearl" by Noon Ha Lee. Book can be found on

Hoopla. For ages 12-15 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: 'MOON OF THE CRUSTED SNOW'

Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. Discussing "Moon of the Crusted Snow" by Waubgeshig Rice. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The group provides discussion, education and a speaker, 6-7 p.m. Contact Darlene Jameson at 410-208-9761 or djameson@atlanticgeneral.org for more information.

NOTES IN TIME PRESENTS: NOTES ON THE BEACH, GOLDEN AGE OF BROADWAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6 p.m. Don't miss Jeff and Glenn's engaging banter as they play some of the most popular Broadway songs from decades of its storied history. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

ONGOING EVENTS

'LIGHT UP THE PINES' OUTDOOR DECORATING EVENT

Those who register with the program will be featured on an online Google map, which will include locations of the decorated properties. The first 25 registered will receive a small goody bag from Choptank Electric Cooperative and all participants will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 bill credit. Those inter-

ested should submit name, address and phone number via email to info@ocean-pines.org or call 410-641-7717, Ext. 3014. Google map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1uznS6ymxVtFBOKH2utHslf-HLm27ds-b&usp=sharing>.

29TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th Street, Ocean City, 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 Wednesday 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 exhibits. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/241649021281497/> for updates. Info: 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326.

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKETS

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

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

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