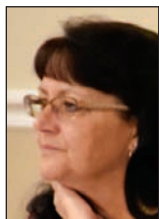


OPA's GM, exec asst. resigning posts

John Viola leaving in Feb., assistant Michelle Bennett departing end of month

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Ocean Pines Association Senior Executive Assistant Michelle Bennett tendered her resignation on Friday following the retirement announcement by General



Michelle Bennett

"John decided to resign to begin his well-deserved retirement," Perrone said.

Manager John Viola days earlier.

Last Wednesday, Association President Larry Perrone issued a statement after Viola opted to terminate his employment contract early.



John Viola

John Bailey.

After inking a six-month contract that June, in Dec. 2019 the board

Viola's employment contract was slated to run through June 30, 2022.

Viola took the reins on an interim basis in March 2019 following the dismissal of former General Manager

voted unanimously to extend the agreement for 30 additional months.

On Friday, Viola issued a statement after Bennett tendered her resignation effective as of Dec. 28.

"Michelle has been a trusted, highly valued member of Ocean Pines Association for almost 10 years and has provided the General Manager's Office and the Board of Directors with excellent service," he said.

See GENERAL Page 2



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WINNER

Jolly Roger Amusement Park's float took top honors during Berlin's 50th annual Christmas Parade that filled Main Street with throngs of spectators to partake of holiday revelry on Thursday. See more pictures on page 21.

HDC permits restaurant makeover

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Following several months of back and forth exchanges over its design, plans for the 410 Social Eatery and Barroom on the cor-

ner of Pitts and William streets were approved last Wednesday by the Berlin Historic District Commission.

After rejecting initial renderings in October, the commission last month voted 4-1, with Chairwoman Carol

Rose opposed, to approve the project contingent on updated renderings.

Business developers Marcos Lopez and Brandon Tolan returned last Wednesday still seeking the go-ahead

See REVISED Page 3

Snow Hill gets grant to repay river boat loan

Town owes county \$400K for paddlewheel purchase

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously passed the Department of Housing and Community Development's amended Community Legacy Grant agreement, which was originally awarded to Tysons Foods, and instead now grants \$100,000 to the Town of Snow Hill for its acquisition of the Black Eyed Susan Riverboat.

"This money is to be used to pay back the loan to Worcester County for acquisition," said senior budget accountant Kim Reynolds.

Seeing what seemed like an unnecessarily lengthy process, Commissioner Chip Bertino asked if the money has to go from the county — which gets it first — to Snow Hill, then back to the county.

"Or are we just going to keep it and sign whatever paperwork is necessary?" he asked.

Reynolds replied that there is an option to cut out the middle man and have the county just keep the money, which would knock the outstanding \$400,000 loan down to \$300,000

See FIRST Page 5



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New Welcome to Maryland's Coast campaign wins award

(Dec. 9, 2021) Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Tourism and Economic Development (RPTED) took home the Best Media Campaign and Best Website Awards at the 40th annual Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit in November.

In the midst of a pandemic, RPTED professionals devised and launched a complete rebranding of these recently consolidated departments. This fully-integrated campaign was completed in just over a year and includes a media, marketing and PR campaign, Welcome to Maryland's Coast – Worcester County. This rebranding won the Best Media Campaign Award.

"We initiated a strategic planning and branding process to strengthen the county's identity and integrate destination marketing and business attraction/retention," Tourism and Economic Development Director Melanie Pursel said. "Despite a na-

tionwide quarantine that shuttered travel and restricted business, the team moved forward and developed Maryland's Coast...Naturally Cool. With the official brand launch in October of 2020, the real work began. All of the television, radio, outdoor, print, and web needed to be completely updated with the new brand. We are still expanding to other parts of our county, truly embodying the Live, Work, Play concept."

Under the umbrella of RPTED, county staff also created a new website, which won the Best Website Award. This site redirects visitors to each of the three RPTED sites.

These are 'Visit' to the tourism website, 'Choose' to the economic development website, or 'Play' to the recreation and parks website.

"This web address encourages people to learn more about Mary-

See WOR Page 5

General Manager John Viola will leave post in February

Continued from Page 1

Viola said Bennett elected to accept an employment opportunity that will allow her to use more of her accounting expertise than her current position demands.

"Michelle has been a great asset ... and will be missed very much," he said. "Please join me in wishing the very best to Michelle in her new career endeavor."

For her part, Bennett said another employment option lured her away from the Pines.

"I am excited to join a local private family-owned business, where I will utilize my accounting experience fully," she said. "I have enjoyed serving the Ocean Pines community for almost 10 years and will miss working with the team."

In his statement last week, Perrone said Viola would officially step down on Feb. 28, while also noting the board would launch a search process for replacement candidates.

Following a closed session meeting on Friday morning at the Golf Clubhouse, this week the association posted a job opening online for a "city (general) manager" in Ocean Pines.

The job listing notes Ocean Pines is a "city governed by a Homeowners Association," which includes roughly 12,000 full-time residents and 8,000 part-time residents.

"Due to the announced retirement of the current General Manager the Ocean Pines Association is searching for his replacement," the posting states.

Listed qualifications include a

minimum of a bachelor's degree in business, public administration or a related field, with a master's degree preferred.

Additionally, no less than 10 years management background with municipalities or sizeable community associations.

"The ideal candidate will be an inspiring, service-minded leader with strong interpersonal, communication and collaboration skills," the posting reads.

Required skills include familiarity with a "breadth of municipal functions" including but not limited to police and fire services, parks and recreation, human resources, marketing, public relations and information technology.

Ideal candidates should also exhibit a "track record of operational excellence in organizational and financial management, planning and public works."

Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, with paid time off and a 401(k) matching retirement account.

The posting says the salary is open for the full-time executive contract position.

Candidates should be experienced team leaders with "unquestioned integrity" that exercise stellar ethical standards, along with "The courage to do what is right, not necessarily what is expedient or popular," the posting states. "As the public face of the community excellent political and constituent relationship skills are essential."

Revised design earns commission's praise

Continued from Page 1
to develop 410 Social at the 16 Pitts Street location.

Lopez said the goal is to create a family-friendly establishment with a welcoming interior.

"We want to open it up," he said. "It's a pretty dark place."

Project drawings indicate the existing bar area would remain in place at the former Goober's Restaurant.

"We will have one wall separating the kitchen and front of the house," he said. "We want to try to create something to get people excited," he said. "We have every intention of being very active in the community."

Lopez said despite the general focus on Main Street development, Berlin encompasses a larger area of neighborhood streets.

"There's a lot of growth here and a lot of growth to come in the future," he said. "We'd like to be a part of that."

Commission member Norman Bunting said the most recent renderings address earlier design concerns, such as paint schemes and exterior surfaces.

"This is what my eye was really looking for," he said. "I like it a lot."

The latest design plans for 16 Pitts Street include an illuminated 48-inch round marquee sign mounted to the corner of the building and an awning painted black with the bottom portion of the structure in a charcoal gray shade.

Bunting said the black awning detail serves to make the exterior appearance flow together.

Commission member Mary Moore said the multiple meeting approval



Presenting renderings for the 410 Social Eatery and Barroom to the Berlin Historic District Commission last week, from left, are Brandon Tolan, Samantha Pielstick and Marcos Lopez.

process was not intended to stymie progress.

"I know we came off as rather difficult," she said.

Moore said the commission typically handles development proposals for Main Street.

"We haven't been on back streets as much as Main Street," she said. "This is the industrial working street part of Berlin."

Moore also applauded the 410 Social sign design.

"The marquee sign will catch a lot of eyes," she said.

Commission member John Holloway also praised the revised design and concurred the project was ready

to move ahead.

"The more we were going back and forth, we were delaying the process," he said.

Commission members' approval, however, carried with it several stipulations: repairing the exterior stucco to match existing patterns, windows will remain as is, an awning placed

on the William Street side joined by an angled corner and color schemes in accordance with the town's historic nature.

Lopez said the new eatery would serve as a "cornerstone of the community."

"Everyone could go in there to see friends," he said.

Mediacom dedicates \$60K to back scholarship program

(Dec. 9, 2021) Mediacom Communications is offering \$60,000 in scholarship support for high school seniors who plan to obtain further education.

The scholarship program is in its 21st consecutive year and Mediacom's investment will award \$1,000 World Class Scholarships to 60 high school seniors.

Scholarship recipients are given the flexibility to use the financial awards to support post-secondary college costs or vocational training from an accredited institution starting in the fall of 2022. Award selection is based on academic achievement and leadership.

Applications for Mediacom's World Class Scholarships are available online: mediacomworldclass.com. Information recently was sent to all high schools in areas where Mediacom de-


livers its high-speed internet services.

School officials are asked to encourage seniors to submit applications on or before the Feb. 15 deadline.

"Our company makes it a priority to give back to communities in which we do business, and we believe one of the best ways is to invest in promising young students who will be our future leaders," said Mediacom Regional Vice President Doug Frank.

Applicants do not have to be Mediacom customers but must live in areas where Mediacom's broadband service is provided.

Recipients will be selected from the 22 states where Mediacom's residential customers reside. A complete list of communities in Mediacom service areas is included with the online application. Inquiries may be sent to scholarship@mediacomcc.com.



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Strategic Plan cmte. prepares survey report

Advisory group set to share data details during board meeting this Sat. at 9 a.m.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) After wrapping up collection efforts for the Ocean Pines property owners' survey in mid-November, members of the Strategic Planning Committee met last Thursday to prepare a summary report for the Board of Directors' meeting on Saturday.

Committee Co-Chair Bernie McGorry said the deadline to submit responses was Nov. 15.

"The survey is done," he said. "We had a great response, which was more than expected and better than the last survey."

All told, 1,838 responses were collected in the recent survey, eclipsing the 1,773 replies filed during the community survey conducted in 2018.



Bernie McGorry

"We want to review with the board of directors on Saturday and then we're going to take it to the executive council, which is the heads of all the [advisory] committees," he said.

In addition to viewing the report presentation during the board meeting on Dec. 11, McGorry said residents would also be seeing survey results in their mailboxes.

"We're going to put it in the newsletter in January, which will go to every resident," he said.

Contingent on board approval, plans are also afoot to stage a town hall meeting early next year.

"We're recommending to the board ... to have a town hall to review results with all property owners," he said.

The survey was released on Sept. 23 with a Nov. 15 deadline to respond.

Prior to issuing the property owners' survey, Strategic Planning members drafted the 15 questions in under 60 days.

While primarily an online survey, a hybrid approach was employed to provide residents access through alternative means.

In addition to distributing 2,500 "reminder business cards" containing a phone-scan QR code at select locations such as the Sports Core Pool, Yacht Club, Golf Course, Ocean Pines Library, the Administration Building and Community Center, 300 hard copies were also made available.

"We did receive some hard copies, but we only had 65," he said.

McGorry said 65 percent of respondents expressed support for online options.

"That tells you that even though

Ocean Pines is a lot of older residents, like myself, they're still pretty tech-savvy and were happy to take the survey online," he said.

Precise timing for the proposed town hall meeting remains undetermined.

"One of the issues we're going up against is they're (the board of directors) working on the budget," he said.

"To put this in the middle of it just confuses things," he said.

McGorry said at this point survey data would likely have minimal impact on the next fiscal year operating budget.

"We did not miss their capital spending cycle, so I think it will have an impact on future capital spending," he said.

McGorry said the full slate of survey results would eventually be posted on the association website.

In terms of next steps for survey responses, McGorry hopes to delve deeper into the results for more in-depth analysis in the future.

"There's a lot of different data," he said. "I want to dig down and look at full-time versus part-time ... to see what the differences are."

OP Farmers Market unveils achievement awards Jan. 8

(Dec. 9, 2021) Behind the name "Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market" are a group of merchants, volunteers, community partners and market leadership that brings the marketplace to the public each week of the year.

After 10 successful years, the market continues to be an essential part of the local food and handmade product system in Worcester County, offering the community a central place to gather and shop for those local products.

On Jan. 8, the market will recognize individuals, groups and businesses that contributed to the market's success with the 2022 Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market Achievement Awards.

The Ocean Pines Market will recognize with honors a legacy merchant, an outstanding marketplace leader, and a dedicated marketplace volunteer. Awards will also be bestowed in several other categories, including Best Marketplace Storefront and Outstanding Social Media Promotion.

"It's always incredible to see how much love and labor our merchants put into their market businesses," Assistant Market Manager John Chandler said. "We want to recognize these efforts that make the Ocean Pines market one of the most unique public markets in this region."

Other award categories will in-

clude Artisan of the Year, Green Market Merchant of the Year, Peddler Merchant of the Year, and overall Market Merchant of the Year.

"To the average marketgoer, it might seem like the market just sort of happens. We can assure you that this is not the case," Market Manager David Bean said. "We couldn't function without our entire market team, and we want to give them a big thank you with these honors."

Bean said 120 merchants participated in the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market this year. The market will accept new merchant applications, starting in February.

"We will be searching for potential merchants with new and different products to add to our lineup," Chandler said.

Additionally, The Ocean Pines market will hold a special weekday Christmas Market on Thursday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at its White Horse Park location.

The market will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, through February. In-season hours return in March, with the market open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>.

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Worcester County Commissioners unanimously passed the Department of Housing and Community Development’s amended Community Legacy Grant agreement, originally awarded to Tysons Foods, and instead now grants \$100,000 to the Town of Snow Hill for the Black Eyed Susan Riverboat.

JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

First payment on boat due in Jan.

Continued from Page 1
before interest.

The first repayment for the loan comes due in January. Bertino asked Reynolds if there has been any word on if the county can expect payment then. Reynolds replied that Snow Hill would like the \$100,000 from the grant to go to the first three years of loan payment.

Whether that arrangement will come to pass looks like it will have to wait until the new year because such wording was not included in what the commissioners decided on Tuesday.

“Not that you would (falsely indicate to them otherwise), but they’re not under the impression that we’re going to automatically just say ‘yes’ to that, right?” Bertino continued.

Reynolds replied that not “automatically,” at least.

Commissioner Josh Nordstrom said he’d envision that Snow Hill will come before the commissioners in

January to settle the matter, but Commissioner Joe Mitrecic pointed out that their first payment is due before the first January meeting.

“We’ll see,” Mitrecic said.

The Black Eyed Susan, which finally paddled home to Snow Hill in June, opened for business in August with a few private cruises.

The boat went through multiple upgrades and inspections after the town bought the 111-foot paddle-

wheeler, which delayed how long its operators wanted to wait before opening it to cruises.

Today, the riverboat has a few private events booked through the end of December, but operator Jim Washington said it will likely be April before more trips are booked. The boat will need to come out of the water for routine maintenance and a Coast Guard inspection in the meantime.

Wor. campaign receives award

Continued from Page 2
land’s Coast, the only place in Maryland where the ocean meets the land,” Pursel said.

In addition to providing visitors with people, places, activities and events of interest, the sites are important tools for county staff.

For example, the tourism website alone provides analytic reports that identify the number of visitors who are viewing the new website. During May 2021 there were over 8,300 visits, with over 15,700 views. Also accompanying the new website and newly-branded Visitor’s Guide is a new Go Coastal app.

RPTED professionals invite residents and visitors alike to explore all the county has to offer. To learn more, go to www.marylandscost.org.

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More help ‘mission-critical’ for department, sheriff says

County passes measure to convert five part-timers to full-time after Crisafulli plea

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli implored the county commissioners on Tuesday to allow him to promote five part-time officers to full-time because the safety of the county is at stake.

He left with a 6-1 approval, including a pay-grade increase for deputy sheriffs in training, with Commissioner Ted Elder voting against the measure.

“We have not received any part-time applications since March 2021 and since July 2019, I’ve received 15 part-time applications,” Crisafulli said to the commissioners. “All of the positions within my office are needed to be effective and to maintain the level of service that our county residents deserve. Having so many vacant positions is certainly a burden on my remaining staff to provide this level of service.”

“Filling these five positions is absolutely mission-critical to sustaining the level of service that we provide to Worcester County.”

Crisafulli said a few full-time applicants could serve in these proposed roles. He described it as a “recruitment tool that we need to take advantage of now.”

He also told the commissioners that his department anticipates the departure of part-time personnel because of recent legislation that calls for an increase in service training and physical agility requirements. More specifically, he said, full-time personnel are leaving for opportunities elsewhere.

Crisafulli described the recruitment challenges the department faces as the result of better opportunities at different agencies. One applicant is going to the Maryland State Police because of better incentives,

which for the MSP can be as much as \$85,000 for a lateral position, he said.

The Salisbury Police Department, he continued, just announced a \$25,000 sign-on bonus for lateral applicants.



Matt Crisafulli

“The cost associated with these five conversions for FY22 with a projected hiring date of April 4 would be approximately \$12,000. That cost is associated with benefits,” Crisafulli said. The cost for salary would be neutral as a result of reallocating hours for current and part-time vacancies.”

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked if the idea is to send recruits through the police academy, to which Crisafulli responded they would, but they’re also looking at entry-level recruits.

“Right now we have some good lateral applicants, but we’re trying to open the pool so we can get some people through the academy,” Crisafulli said.

Elder asked why the department needs the increased force when the force has already increased by nine — 56 to 65 — since 2018 when Crisafulli was elected.

“The costs didn’t sound right to me, what it’s going to cost to do this?” Elder asked. “I don’t have any problem with ... either having sign-on bonuses or some kind of incentive to increase these positions, but if you hire these people now, what’s to say they won’t just leave and go to the state police or Salisbury or wherever?”

Crisafulli said that people still want to work in Worcester County.

“I don’t have a crystal ball to be able to say who may potentially leave, but the full-time applications that we’ve received and the feedback that we get, those men and women want to work in Worcester County because of the services that we provide, because of the type of residential communities that we have, the business communities that we have.”

Elder pointed out that there are also some mandates coming down from the state that will cost the county “quite a bit of money.” That’s what the commissioners should be worried about when it comes to granting Crisafulli’s request, he said.

“We’re all concerned about the mandates that are coming down,” Crisafulli said. “But ... we have a very safe county and it’s my responsibility to keep (it) safe. If we don’t have the safety in this county, then virtually nothing else matters — if our businesses are not safe, if our residents

See SHERIFF’S Page 7

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Wor. charges trio for burglary and attempted murder

(Dec. 9, 2021) The Worcester County Bureau of Investigation has charged three individuals involved in a Dec. 3 burglary and attempted murder in Pocomoke.

Wendy Dawn Taylor, Gary Joseph Fleig and Coy Edward Bailey are in custody in Accomack County, Virginia, awaiting extradition to Worcester County.

These individuals were charged with various offenses to include the following:

Taylor, 46, of New Church, Virginia:

- Attempted first degree murder
- Conspiracy to commit murder
- First degree arson
- Use of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime

Fleig, 45, of New Church, Virginia:

- First degree burglary
- Third degree burglary
- Theft

Fleig, 45, of New Church, Virginia:

- Attempted first degree murder
- Conspiracy to commit murder
- First degree arson
- Use of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime

- First degree burglary
- Third degree burglary

See POCOMOKE Page 8

Sheriff's dept. to get more officers

Continued from Page 6
are not safe.”

Commissioner Jim Bunting said he saw a report that showed that Worcester County has more police officers for its 52,000 residents than Montgomery County, which is 20 times larger than Worcester, has per 52,000 people.

“I’m just curious, how are they successful with the same amount of officers per population? If that’s the truth,” Bunting asked.

There was some confusion about which county was the correct to reference — whether it was Montgomery or Howard — but Crisafulli said ultimately all he can answer for is Worcester County.

Howard County has a population of 325,700, a little more than six times the size of Worcester County.

Crisafulli said he can’t answer for Montgomery County, but said for the level of services his department provides, maintaining that roster is a dire need here.

With the motion passed, the projected hiring date for full-time conversions is April 4, Crisafulli said.



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Trummel said the committee continues to wait for legal advice from association counsel Jeremy Tucker regarding the Architectural Review

See PENDING Page 9

Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members, clockwise from left, Jim Trummel, Director Colette Horn, Bob Hillegass, Steve Jacobs, Keith Kaiser and Lora Pangratz met virtually last Friday.

Detectives of the Worcester County Bureau of Investigation were assisted by the Accomack County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Maryland State Police, Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office, and the Ocean City Police Department – Forensic Crime Unit.



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Pending work group updates approaches completion point

Continued from Page 8
Committee provision and board oversight abilities.

“I emailed this morning on where we stood in the process,” he said.

Besides the work group’s list of proposed updates, Trummel said the board is writing new rules related to board member dismissal for cause, eligibility to vote and owner of record issues.

Trummel asked board liaison Collette Horn if the Search Committee issue was still listed as a discussion topic during the directors’ meeting on Dec. 11.

“Are we still a go at the meeting?” he said.

Horn confirmed the matter was still on the meeting agenda.

“What does the board want you to consider for the Search Committee moving forward?” he said. “In recent years it has not been fully effective.”

Horn suggested one solution would be altering the committee formation from an annual appointment process.

“If it were a standing committee engaged in communication or other efforts for the election throughout the year, then we may get better participation,” she said.

Trummel said a comparable suggestion was made several years ago.

“To create a committee that was not appointed every year,” he said.

Turning to voting eligibility, Trummel said the committee is drafting a rewrite of a work group summary from September.

The aim is to clarify eligibility language in bylaws section 5.02A and removing a 35-day provision in section 3.01C.

The amended language would read, “notwithstanding provisions in 3.01C of the bylaws, any board candidate shall have paid dues by May 15 of the election year.”

Horn said the board would likely offer further language revisions for voting eligibility.

“We hope to fast-track that to counsel to review and make any legal adjustments to protect the association,” she said.

The intent is to have updates finalized, which would then require passage by referendum, and ready for mailing with board election ballots in spring 2022.

Trummel said two other issues under consideration for changes include removing a director for cause and owner of record status.

Horn said the board would be is-

suing related opinions soon.

“There’s only about six months until [election] materials are sent out to members,” Trummel said.

Trummel said the Bylaws Committee would need to understand board priorities before drafting proposals for language changes.

“We may be approaching a point where priorities need to be set,” he said.

Horn said the concern would be related to board members with documents ready for review during the next committee meeting.

In terms of voting eligibility and qualifying board candidates, Horn suggested the association secretary be given the responsibility of confirming members’ identity.

Committee member Keith Kaiser asked if the secretary duties should include additional points that need clarifying.

Horn noted the candidate application form could be updated to assure identities are confirmed.

Committee member Lora Pangratz said the candidate application form should specify listing legal names of record.

In terms of owner of record status, Trummel said during the most recent bylaws meeting members agreed to hold off considering language updates until the pending lawsuit brought by disqualified board candidate Rick Farr is settled in Worcester Circuit Court.

Horn said the board has opted to turn the issue over to legal counsel Tucker.

“There’s case law that needs to be considered and other business and professional code issues,” she said.

Regardless, Horn said little doubt exists that the board retains legal authority to define owner of record.

“The outcome of this litigation notwithstanding, the association has the authority to define owner of record,” she said. “To keep ourselves out of trouble, let’s just send that to the lawyer to figure out.”

Trummel also confirmed the board was slated to consider a proposal to allow associate members to serve on advisory committees during its meeting in January.

Trummel said the suggestion was made during the Executive Council — committee chairs — meeting in May.

“Member recruitment could be enhanced if associates were allowed on committees,” he said.

The next Bylaws and Resolutions Committee virtual meeting is scheduled on Dec. 17 at 1 p.m.

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State board of ed discusses ‘off ramps’ for school masks

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Maryland’s school mask mandate probably won’t be going anywhere for now, but a path to an end is almost in sight after state board of education members voted Dec. 1 to allow department officials to develop “off ramps” to eventually lift it.

The 14-member board gathered for a virtual Zoom meeting to assess the status of the emergency mandate, which went into effect at the beginning of the school year and expires Feb. 25. Members are tasked with deciding whether to let it expire and move on, or implement a new order.

Ultimately, members voted 12 to two in favor of another emergency regulation that would include what

they called “off ramps,” or points of exit, that would permit local jurisdictions to lift the mandates if they reach specified targets.

The vote tasks members of the Maryland State Department of Education to come up with the logistics and once they are in place, the board members will take a final vote.

“What our current thinking is, we can’t mask our children forever,” State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudury said during the meeting. “We do know however that masking does play a role in helping keep our communities safe with the vaccine, along with everything related to inoculation and other mitigation strategies. I believe that we can update our regs that allows for an off ramp for our com-



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Members of the Maryland Board of Education voted last week to move forward with a new emergency order for a statewide school mask mandate that includes “off ramps” that would eventually permit local jurisdictions to lift restrictions if certain thresholds are met.

munities based on where they are at.”

National data is skewed on how much masking has kept students in school. Some health officials say covid numbers are low in children because they do not contract the virus as easily or get seriously ill when they do. Others say masking has been the catalyst for keeping the doors open in schools, with schools in places like Texas and Tennessee reportedly shutting down after opening with no mask mandates.

As for what “off ramps” would look like, Choudury gave examples like meeting and staying below specified transmission rates based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, and meeting specified vaccine requirements for students and staff.

Board members’ comments varied, but they ultimately agreed that vaccine rates, as well as other factors, should be taken into account.

The implementation time of the order is unresolved, as it could go into effect when the current one expires or right after the new regulation is approved.

“We will have the opportunity, once we decide, whether we want it to begin immediately, as soon as possible, or have it end at the conclusion of the current regulations,” Board President Clarence Crawford said.

Wednesday’s meeting came on the heels of a marathon meeting held Nov. 16 when district representatives and a panel of medical doctors and health officials provided testimony both for and against the controversial mandate.

Board members did not comment during that meeting, saving their assessments for Wednesday’s meeting before taking the vote on the new order.

During the discussions, board member Shawn Bartley from Montgomery County suggested passing an amendment that would have allowed the new emergency order to not take effect if transmission and positivity rates — based on the same federal data officials used to provide current metrics — stay the same or decrease.

He stated several times that he is against a permanent mask mandate and would feel better about instituting another one if it had what he called “a sunset period.”

And while three other board mem-

bers voted in favor of his amendment, the majority rejected it.

Bartley was later one of the two board members who voted against proceeding with the overall emergency ordinance.

Several board members also made sure to clarify that the new order would kick the masking decision back to the local jurisdictions if the right thresholds are met.

Board member Gail Bates from Howard County, who was the lone vote against the original emergency order because it superseded the control of the local boards, said the new one is acceptable. Board member Warren Sumpter from Somerset County also commented on the importance of local district officials making the decisions based on data from their local health departments.

“This is one time that I really feel this is something best left local,” he said.

Crawford, who voted in favor of the statewide mandate, claimed that he personally favors local control, but said it comes with a responsibility.

“What I have seen over the years is when you as a leader have been given a lot of flexibility, you have flexibility like this but you also have accountability,” he said. “I have no problem with local control, but I would just argue again that there needs to be a match of local control and accountability and responsibility.”

In any case, the goal of the board and state officials — to keep students safely in school — is the same as it has been from the beginning and the board members and officials assured that they will do what it takes to ensure that.

In Worcester County Public Schools, Carrie Sterrs, the district’s coordinator of public relations and special programs, said in an email that officials are watching the state board’s actions closely and will let students and parents know about any changes made to the covid-related policies.

Recently, the district implemented a new option for quarantining that allows students who are a close contact of a covid positive person to stay in school if they are asymptomatic and test negative for a period of seven days.



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Berlin 50plus members give back to help pets in shelter

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Roughly 50 members of Berlin's 50plus Center are teaming up on a pair of holiday donation drives to aid homeless people, as well as animals sheltered at the Worcester County Humane Society.

Kelly Jenkins, site supervisor at the Berlin 50plus Center, said the center on Old Ocean City Road is operated by the Worcester County Commission on Aging.

In addition to Berlin, the Commission on Aging also operates 50plus locations in Ocean City, Snow Hill and Pocomoke. The organization also conducts Meals on Wheels, an adult day center and a senior ride program.

Jenkins said the Berlin spot had been tagged as a senior center.

"We decided to change our name to 50plus," she said. "It means that you're 50-plus to be a member."

Since taking the reins in September 2019, Jenkins has worked closely with Program Coordinator Mary Conway.

"When I first came, they were in the process of changing the name that used to be the Worcester County Senior Center," she said.

The 50plus Center, which operates from Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., attracts two to three dozen people on any given day.

Jenkins said an even larger number of members are on board with a pair of holiday donation drives currently underway.

"Every other month we have meetings with our members," she said. "At our last meeting, some of our members decided that they wanted to give back to the community by making donations."

To get the spirit of giving flowing, the group agreed to assemble care packages for the homeless.

Santa for senior program nearing final week for aid

(Dec. 9, 2021) There is just one week left to participate in Home Instead's Be a Santa to a Senior program, which supports older adults who may be overlooked, isolated or alone during the holiday season.

This is the fifth year for the local program that gives back to older adults. The gifts collected, which are often necessity items such as toiletries, clothing and blankets, make a big impact and help area seniors combat the holiday blues.

"We've all experienced feelings of loneliness during the pandemic, and

See HOME Page 12

"Personal care items and some people will be donating different clothing items, such as mittens and hats," she said.

Once assembled, the care packages are being dropped off at the Atlantic United Methodist Church on Fourth Street in Ocean City.

"They have the soup kitchen," she said. "We'll donate some of the packages to them and they'll be handing them out on days that they're open for the soup kitchen or when they have the really cold nights."

Also concerned about four-legged residents, Berlin 50plus members launched a donation effort for the Worcester County Humane Society.

"They have been bringing in different food and care items for pets," she said. "Even some blankets and towels, because we know that they need it when they come to the shelter."

Jenkins said to add a dash of festivity to the Humane Society campaign, members transformed a large cardboard box into a Yuletide-themed dog house.

"One of our members [Cheryl Dale] is very artsy," she said. "She did some painting on the box and we have little puppies hanging out of the windows with the top open to actually drop donations in."

In addition to gifts for furry friends



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin 50plus Center members deliver an expertly decorated donation box with animal supplies to the Worcester County Humane Society on Wednesday.

from Berlin 50plus members, the group also garnered support from nearby Concord Pet Foods & Supplies on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

"The manager there gave us two bags of items from Concord Pets to put in our donation box," she said.

Jenkins said the animal shelter drive was welcome news to Jessica Summers, who manages the Humane Society facility.

"I asked her if they were accepting and she said, 'Absolutely,'" she said.

Both charitable endeavors are also yielding dividends for participants, Jenkins said.

"It makes them feel that they're still a part of helping people," she said. "One thing that seniors really miss is being the helper in the family and not always having to depend on other people."

Town of Berlin Public Notice



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Berlin Town Hall Council Chambers, 10 William Street, on Ordinance 2021-04. The public is invited to attend and comment. Written testimony will also be accepted until noon on the day of the meeting, and can be sent to: info@berlinmd.gov. A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for inspection in Town Hall, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Ordinance 2021-04

An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of The Town of Berlin, Maryland amending Chapter 22, Titled Parks and Recreation, Article III, Section 22-49, Titled Rules and Regulations, to Prohibit Smoking In Town Parks.

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PHOTO COURTESY PINE TONES CHORUS

Pine Tones Chorus members will perform on Friday starting at 7:30 p.m. at Atlantic United Methodist Church located on Fourth Street in Ocean City.

Pine Tones Chorus Christmas concert, Friday

Performance takes place at Atlantic United Methodist Church on Fourth St. in OC

(Dec. 9, 2021) The Pine Tones Chorus will present its Christmas concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church on Fourth Street in Ocean City, Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will open with its title song, “Can’t Wait for Christmas.” Popular selections will include the all-time favorites: “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays” as sung

by Perry Como, and “Let it Snow, Let it Snow,” from Frank Sinatra and other artists.

Other songs will present fanciful arrangements of the tunes from “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers” and the “Nutcracker.”

Classical selections will feature themes such as Bethlehem, the Child in the manger, and shepherds in the fields. A highlight attraction is the well known Christmas favorite “O Holy Night” performed by Mary Price, soprano.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes

about 40 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City and nearby areas. June Todd and Jenny Anderson are the group’s co-directors. Guest musicians will include Len Rubin, percussionist, and Tom Baione playing string bass.

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas

since 1984. For additional information, call the Chorus President Dave Holloway, 410-641-5672, or 610-213-7472.

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities comes from individual donations and patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Home Instead holiday program

Continued from Page 11

seniors are at a particularly high risk for isolation,” said Corrie Boger, owner of the Berlin Home Instead office. “Be a Santa to a Senior shows the older adults in our community that they are valued and thought of during the holidays.”

This year, the Berlin office is partnering with several organizations to provide gifts to approximately 800 seniors in the area.

Be a Santa to a Senior trees with ornaments will be on display in local retailers and businesses. Each ornament includes a local senior’s gift request, such as slippers or a blanket.

Individuals can visit one of the participating locations and look for the Be a Santa to a Senior tree on display through Dec. 14. Each tree will be decorated with ornaments featuring seniors’ first names and gift suggestions. Holiday shoppers can choose an ornament, buy the re-

quested gift, and return it wrapped to the tree with the ornament attached.

“A small act of kindness can make a big difference. And a heartfelt gift brightens the lives of older adults who may feel alone during the season,” Boger said. “Finding ways to care and support one another is important now more than ever and we are grateful for the community’s involvement every year.”

Be a Santa to a Senior trees can be found at the following locations in Worcester County: Apple Drug in Snow Hill, Ocean Pines Community Center and Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce.

Since the program’s inception 18 years ago, Be a Santa to a Senior has helped provide more than two million gifts to over 750,000 seniors in North America and attracted upwards of 65,000 volunteers.

Gifts will be delivered to seniors in time for the holidays. Shoppers are encouraged to purchase as many gifts for seniors as they would like. For more information about the program, visit BeaSantaToaSenior.com.



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Copy Central in Pines nearing 20-year mark

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 9, 2021) Over the past 20 years of operating Copy Central in Ocean Pines, proprietor Linda Dearing has expanded services to accommodate a range of business and personal printing needs.

“We’ve built up a rapport with our regular customers,” she said. “It’s just a matter of providing personal customer service.”

After relocating to the Eastern Shore from Carroll County a few years earlier, Dearing opened Copy Central in February 2002.

“Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14th, that’ll officially make 20 years that Copy Central has been in existence,” she said. “That’s the day I signed on the dotted line for the lounge.”

Following a brief period of acclimation to shore life, Dearing’s business acumen blossomed into a new venture.

“I’ve always been in business for myself,” she said. “I had a daycare center for 23 years.”

Besides working in early childhood education, in previous years Dearing also ran custom balloon and cake decorating businesses.

“I’ve always been my own kind of person out there just doing my thing,” she said.

Dearing’s entrepreneurial spirit rose to the occasion in 2002 after the part-time gig she picked up with a local copy outlet was about to end.

“It was run by a woman who had a business where she did resumes and special writing,” she said.

Dearing was hired as counter help less than six months before the shop was shuttered.

“She had one copy machine and an antiquated computer,” she said. “I’d never even seen a computer that old.”

After mulling the situation briefly, Dearing decided to start her own business.

“That’s when I started Copy Central because at that time I thought there is definitely a need,” she said. “There was nothing in this area that had any kind of copying or shipping so I just kind of took the ball and went with it.”

In hopes of compensating for her own technical shortcomings, Dearing’s initial hire was Linda Kessinger.

“She is an art major and graphic design person,” she said.

“She had all the expertise of graphic design, so I brought her on as a manager and we’ve been together ever since.”

After a handful of years in operation, Dearing opened a second Copy Central store in West Ocean City.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Copy Central owner Linda Dearing, left, and graphics expert Linda Kessinger have teamed up to operate the area business since its inception in February 2002.

“We were trying to get more of the Ocean City business with restaurant menus, hotels, flyers and programs,” she said. “I had two shops going for a while and then the bottom fell out of the economy.”

Since closing the West Ocean City branch over a decade ago, Dearing has focused on expanding existing services in Ocean Pines.

“We do a lot of fine art prints and do a lot of work for local artists,” she

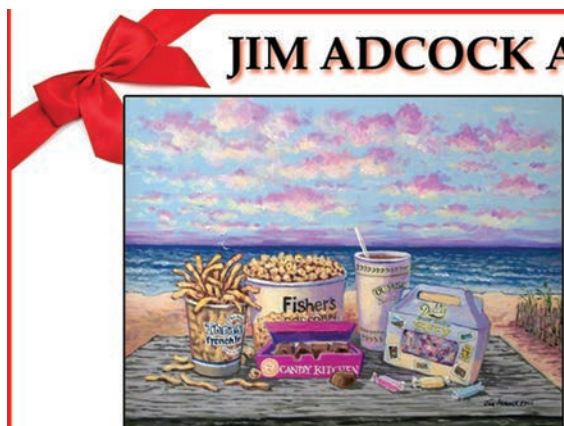
said.

In addition to offering giclee prints, Dearing also sought to capture business from property developers.

“We added on a digital engineering machine that’s a four-roll system,” she said. “It does all the blueprints and mylars for the surveyors and contractors in the area.”

Along with top of the line digital printers, Copy Central has grown its

See COPY Page 14



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Business Briefs

New hygienist

Atlantic Dental Cosmetic & Family Dentistry welcomes Jennifer Atkinson as its newest hygienist.

She was born and raised in the Baltimore area and recently moved to Berlin. Atkinson attended Stevenson University for her Bachelors of Science Degree and the completed Dental Hygiene School at The Community College of Baltimore County.

She was a part of the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association and was her class representative.

Atkinson is committed to making sure patients are comfortable and have the absolutely best experience.

She is thrilled to join the Atlantic Dental team and to be a part of improved health of the community.

Atlantic Dental Cosmetic & Family Dentistry is located at 12308 Ocean Gateway, Ste. 6, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

For more information, call 410-213-7575 or visit www.atlanticdental.com.

Appointed

Gail Mansell, chaplain and director of supportive care services for Atlantic General Hospital and Health System, has been appointed to the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life by Gov. Larry Hogan.

She will serve a four-year term. Mansell joined Atlantic General Hospital in 1998 and has served as the director of supportive care services since 2000. During this time, she implemented the first pastoral care program at the hospital and oversaw the construction of the Showell Family Chapel.

In 2009, Mansell developed the or-



Gail Mansell

ganization's Palliative Care Program and she was instrumental in launching the Telehealth Remote Patient Monitoring Program for patients with chronic diseases in 2017.

She is a board certified clinical chaplain, community health worker and the hospital's community educator for advanced directives, MOLST, and end-of-life care.

Mansell provides grief and bereavement counseling and remains active in oversight of the organization's remote patient monitoring telehealth services. Mansell serves as facilitator of the Faith Partnership and is the chairperson of the Ethics Committee at the hospital.

US Wind unveils partnership with trio of local nonprofits

(Dec. 9, 2021) Baltimore-based US Wind Inc. announced this week partnerships with three local nonprofit conservation organizations serving the inland and coastal bays in both Delaware and Maryland.

US Wind has pledged \$100,000 to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program – a National Estuary Program and nonprofit partnership between the state of Maryland, the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, Worcester County, the Assateague Island National Seashore, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – to help with land restoration and efforts to prepare for the effects of

climate change.

A \$50,000 pledge has also been made to the Assateague Coastal Trust Coast Kids program, which will enable Delmarva's youth to immerse themselves in outdoor experiences, ranging from kayaking to bird banding to help them understand more about coastal ecosystems.

US Wind has also made a \$100,000 pledge to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, also a National Estuary Program, which will serve as a contribution to the capital campaign behind their master plan for the James Farm

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Copy Central hits 20th anniversary

Continued from Page 13
product line to include general business supplies.

"Retail stuff that people could just run in and grab and go," she said. "An endless amount of what we do is we fax and we are notaries."

Copy Central also provides UPS shipping services.

Dearing said achieving years of retail success was no small feat.

"It was not easy at all," she said. "The first thing I did was join all the different chambers to get my name out there."

Maintaining profitability is not easily accomplished, Dearing said.

"It takes a lot of work and effort to get out there and market yourself," she said. "I give back to the community through helping out with fundraisers and donations."

Dearing and her husband, Michael, started their own charitable endeavor in 2015 after their daughter,

Gina Maria Barnes, 37, lost her battle with colon cancer the day before Thanksgiving in 2014.

Since that time, during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March Copy Central has collected donations for Gina's Warriors Comfort Fund, which has raised more than \$20,000 to this point.

After her daughter lost a multi-year health fight, Dearing joined Gina's husband, Erik Barnes, and brother, Tony Christiani, to form the Gina Maria Barnes Warrior Foundation in conjunction with the Carroll Hospital Center's Carroll Regional Cancer Center.

The charitable endeavor took a hit in 2016 after an unidentified suspect robbed the cash register and snagged a nearby container with about \$750 in donations for Gina's Warriors Comfort Fund.

Dearing said witnessing the outpouring of community backing that followed the theft was beyond mov-

ing.

"This is a great ... community and everybody just kind of looks out for one another," she said. "In the end, we ended up with more money than what was stolen from us."

The range of services provided has permitted Copy Central staff to share in moments of pure joy and extreme sadness.

"We've cried with a lot of people at the counter for a loss in their family," she said.

Copy Central is located at 11065 Cathell Road and open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 410-208-0641 or visit copycentralmd.com online.

Twenty years after starting Copy Central Dearing remains grateful to handle an array of diverse printing needs.

"It's great when you can get up to go to work and love what you do every day," she said.



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Eastern Shore environmental groups funded

Continued from Page 14

Ecological Preserve. In recognition of the gift, the center will name the new facility the "US Wind Environmental Education Center at the James Farm Ecological Preserve."

"Strong connections in the community are critical to our efforts to bring clean energy and good jobs to the region," said US Wind CEO Jeff Grybowski. "We're honored to lend our name to the Center for the Inland Bays' Environmental Education Center and to be partnering with such well-respected and effective local conservation groups on the Delmarva peninsula."

"We've been working with the state, Audubon, and US Wind to find a way to create a new coastal resilience position that will help us stem the loss of our tern and skimmer island habitat," said Maryland Coastal Bays Program Executive Director Kevin Smith. "This partnership with US Wind will make that much-needed position possible."

"US Wind's commitment to clean, renewable energy and the health of our coast is tremendous," said Chris Bason, executive director of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. "We're honored to add US Wind's name to the Environmental Education Building that will be constructed as a part of the Master Plan for the James

Farm Ecological Preserve. Their support will greatly improve the Center's capacity to educate and engage youth and adults in our efforts to restore the health of the Inland Bays and their watershed for decades to come."

"As part of the Waterkeeper Alliance, we work closely with our local estuary programs to help reduce nutrient inputs into our local waterways and educate and engage our next generation of environmental stewards," said Kathy Phillips, executive director of Assateague Coastal Trust. "Partnering with US Wind on the Coast Kids program is a huge boost to our efforts, allowing many kids who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it to attend this

experiential program."

In 2014, US Wind acquired an 80,000-acre federal lease area off the coast of Maryland. In 2017, the company was awarded Offshore Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs) from the state of Maryland for its MarWin project.

The passage of Maryland's Clean Energy Jobs Act in 2019 increased the state's offshore wind energy requirements, calling for an additional 1,200 MW to be procured from developers with projects near the state's coast.

In 2021, US Wind submitted its vision of how to satisfy Maryland's offshore wind goals with the full buildout of Momentum Wind. Momentum Wind will also bring steel back to Bal-

timore via Sparrows Point Steel, a new steel fabrication facility to be built in conjunction with Momentum Wind at Tradepoint Atlantic in Sparrows Point, Maryland.

US Wind was founded in 2011 and has established its position as a premier offshore wind energy development company in the United States.

In 2014, US Wind obtained a federal lease for site control to develop approximately 1.5 GW of offshore wind power generation off the coast of Maryland.

US Wind is majority-owned by Renexia SpA, a leader in renewable energy development in Italy and a subsidiary of Toto Holding SpA.

Wor. Goes Purple backing recovery

(Dec. 9, 2021) Worcester Goes Purple (WGP) continues to champion that "Recovery is Possible" and OnlyPositiveStories, founded by Dylan and Hunter Simons, encourages everyone to "Think Positive."

The two local organizations are joining together to sponsor a writing contest entitled "Find Your Strong." They are encouraging members of the community who "found their strong" to share

their story of strength to inspire others.

Applicants of all ages and from all walks of life are asked to answer the questions: "How did you find your strong in 2020 & 2021? Did you 'find your strong' in your faith, community family, or your passion?" in 250 words or less.

The first 25 submissions will receive "Find Your Strong" T-shirts.

Two weekly winners will each receive

a "Find Your Strong" sweatshirt and the grand prize winner will be presented a \$250 Amazon gift card.

Submissions may be made from Dec. 1-31 at onlypositivestories.com/submit-your-story; or mailed to WGP, P.O. Box 593, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Any questions, contact Debbie Smullen at wgpwarriors2021@gmail.com or 410-870-5161.



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Mayor Jewell appoints Hall to Snow Hill Town Council

(Dec. 9, 2021) Snow Hill Mayor Dr. Jennifer Jewell has announced the appointment of long-time town resident Rob Hall to the vacant position on the Snow Hill Town Council.

Hall's family has been in the Snow Hill area since the mid 1660s and he is a graduate of Snow Hill High School and Salisbury University.

The vacancy in the council's Eastern District seat occurred when the incumbent, Lisa Outten Harrison, was required to resign the seat after moving to a new home outside the town limits.

The Snow Hill Town Charter provides that when such a vacancy happens, the mayor and remaining council shall, within 45 days, elect a suitable, qualified person to serve until the next regular election.

That election is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 when the seat of Jewell will also be on the ballot. The other incumbent members of the council are Regina Blake and Melisa Weidner.

Hall had a long career with the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone



Rob Hall

Company, later AT&T, has served as a substitute teacher in the Worcester County school system and was involved in supermarket management.

He has served or is currently serving on numerous civic boards and commissions and said, "I feel I have the experience and background to contribute to the council."

In announcing Hall's selection, Jewell said, "Mr. Hall is an invested community member with a wealth of knowledge and we are excited to welcome him to serve on the Town Council."

One other resident, Shawn Johnson, had applied for the post but later withdrew from consideration stating his schedule "will not permit me to fulfill this obligation with excellence."

IAFF Local 4916 lends backing for Operation Warmth

(Dec. 9, 2021) Worcester County Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 4916, once again partnered with Operation Warm, to provide 335 new winter coats to local kids in need.

WCPFFA Local 4916 has been working with this program since 2013. Operation Warm is a national nonprofit that manufactures brand-new, high quality coats for children who do not have this essential piece of cold-weather clothing.

Its mission is to help children meet their basic needs, such as a winter coat, and help build confidence. When a child doesn't have to worry about something as simple as warm clothing, they can focus on school-work and being a kid.

WCPFFA Local 4916 has teamed up with Worcester County Public Schools as well as Buckingham Elementary, Snow Hill Elementary and Pocomoke Elementary to deliver these coats each fall.

The guidance counselors work with Sean Sullivan, WCPFFA Local 4916 member and Operation Warm coordinator, to identify children who would benefit from this program.

Prior to the pandemic, members would go to each elementary school mentioned and help children get properly fitted and then select the coat they wanted.

"Those events were truly the highlight of our year, when we were able to talk to the kids, and watch them pick their favorite colors and write their own name inside their new coat," Sullivan said. "The children were often selfless, asking for a coat for a sibling at home. We did our best

See IAFF Page 19

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In this Holiday Season the Worcester Commission on Aging would like to once again thank all those individuals and businesses who contributed to the success of our 2021 Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser. **On September 18th, 18 teams played 18 holes** under beautiful skies at the Ocean Resorts Golf Club.

The Worcester Commission on Aging (WorCOA) is committed to helping seniors in Worcester County age well in place. Contact us by email, phone or online to find out about resources available for you or your loved ones. — Info@worcoa.org • 410.632.9915 • www.worcoa.org

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Opinion

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

Viola set course, OPA needs to stay with it

Whether one agreed with the way he did things or questioned his decisions, John Viola’s performance as the top administrator of the Ocean Pines Association since March 2019 shows he has been the best general manager the association has had in years.

If his primary task as a quick replacement for his predecessor was to get the association back on sound financial footing after it endured years of one big loss after another, he did that exceptionally well, aided, of course, by a highly competent staff.

That would include, of course, his senior executive assistant, Michelle Bennett, who has also tendered her resignation.

Although it’s a fact that the OPA did get a huge boost from the federal government’s pandemic-related financial recovery program, it’s to Viola’s credit that he led the staff to the solid performance the association now enjoys.

His departure from the association’s employ in February will be a major loss for the community, which had suffered from more than one reign of inadequate and ineffective management.

Now, the question before the board of directors is what kind of manager it will select to replace him. What it needs, obviously, is more of the same, as opposed to someone with a grand vision, or revision, of how things really ought to be.

Given the board members’ propensity for wanting to run things themselves — not to mention the political shenanigans that seem to take place regardless of who’s on the board — the association would benefit from someone at the helm who can continue to steer the course Viola set, regardless of whatever pressure board members might apply.

Apparently, Viola could take the heat that the general manager’s position brings with it, and that’s the kind of person the board should recruit.

In the meantime, Ocean Pines residents should thank Viola and Bennett for a job well done, and wish them well in whatever future endeavors they choose to pursue.



“Dad said that Supply Chain problems would cause some of Santa’s gifts to not be delivered on Christmas. That won’t affect my pony will it?”

Letters

Opposes geese kills

Editor,

EUTHANASIA — The wrong word, a wrong choice.

Reading today about the latest developments relating to wild geese in Ocean Pines, I am disheartened in a way I hoped I would never be again.

A page 6 story in the Ocean Pines Progress newspaper discusses the abandonment of a special turf option used to discourage growth of wild geese populations and notes that other options could include increased shrubbery around ponds and “the one that no one likes, euthanasia.”

Euthanasia?

What a gross misnomer for the slaughter of innocent wild animals, living in bonded pairs, raising families of young, all so beautiful and graceful to see in this community originally built on wetlands that provided a

natural home for such noble and impressive creatures.

I still get a sick feeling when I recall the shock of the surprise overnight netting and gassing of hundreds of geese here a few years ago. An operation that was planned in secret by the so-called Environment and Natural Assets Committee and some leaders in the Ocean Pines Association, this cruel travesty created widespread outrage among many residents.

Euthanasia is a term used to describe the merciful ending of life in patients human and animal that have agonizing and incurable conditions. Nowhere in the numerous dictionary definitions does one find usage to denote the killing of helpless creatures for human sanitary or convenience reasons.

Instead of considering the horrible slaughter of hundreds of geese (again!) or trying various costly (and often ineffective) methods to

reduce their number and the droppings they create — why not learn to co-exist and simply invest in methods of cleaning up after them?

Hire a daily or weekly cleanup crew for paths and walkways, maybe the pond shorelines too. Post signs warning people to watch where they walk.

Perhaps create a few stations with small cans, wipes and plastic bags, as are used for dogs. Any or all of these measures could be implemented at reasonable cost.

I love seeing the beauty of all the geese in Ocean Pines, daily watching them grow, along with the other wildlife that exists here. I am saddened by people who see the geese only as a nuisance and completely miss the point of the natural calming effect they can have on our minds and souls.

Besides, the geese were here first!

Susan Koski-Grafer
Ocean Pines

BAYSIDE

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Have an opinion?

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

Whited retires as maintenance supervisor

County Commissioners give praise for 15 years spent in role that ended last month

(Dec. 9, 2021) The commissioners honored on Nov. 2, Maintenance Superintendent Ken Whited, who was set to retired at the end of the month following a 15-year career with Worcester County Government.

“Ken is one of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, and hardworking people I’ve ever served with,” Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. He’s also a really great person, and I will miss working with him. I hope he and his wife have a long, enjoyable retirement.”

Throughout his Worcester County Government career, Whited played a key role in modernizing the progressive maintenance programs for county-owned buildings and

grounds, facilitated building renovations and boat ramp construction, and managed HVAC building automation systems.

Prior to joining Worcester County Government, Whited served with SPN, Inc., where he worked closely with county government officials on numerous county building projects, including the Charles and Martha Fulton Senior Center in Snow Hill, where he provided on-site project management to sequence construction activities and oversaw and inspected all phases of construction.

Whited and his wife, Kathy, plan to spend more quality time with their children and grandchild, cycling and traveling to see the wonders of the country in their recreation vehicle. He passes the torch of leadership to incoming Maintenance Superintendent Mike Hutchinson.



Worcester County Commissioners pose with Ken Whited, who stepped down from his position with Public Works at the end of November.

Wor. hires Hutchinson as maintenance super

(Dec. 9, 2021) The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Michael Hutchinson as the new superintendent within the Maintenance Division of Public Works.



M. Hutchinson

“Mike is thoroughly familiar with Worcester County’s facilities,” Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. “His knowledge of building maintenance management and attention to detail make him the perfect choice as the new superintendent.”

Hutchinson, who joined Worcester County Government as the Maintenance supervisor in 2013, brings 29 years of experience in management to his new position.

Prior to joining Worcester County Government, he served as the HVAC engineer at Wor-Wic Community College and as operations foreman for West Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District in New Jersey.

He earned certification as an educational facilities manager from Rutgers University and as a stationary engineer from the State of Maryland.

As superintendent, Hutchinson is directly responsible for planning, di-

recting, and administering the day-to-day operations for the Maintenance and Mosquito Control Divisions. He also supervises and directs the overall management of the maintenance and repair activities for Worcester County

facilities and grounds.

Hutchinson lives on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland with his wife, Laura, and three children. He takes over for Ken Whited who was set to retire on Dec. 1.

IAFF Local 4916 aids coat program

Continued from Page 16

to always make sure those requests were filled. We are hopeful that next year, we may be able to return to in-person coat distribution with the kids.”

When WCPFFA Local 4916 began this venture, it held a series of fundraising events to support its mission. Since 2013, the group has purchased almost \$40,000 worth of coats.

Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic, the organization has not been able to hold fundraisers like in


past years and has exhausted all remaining funds. I

The group is asking for help from the community. Donation checks can be mailed to: Worcester County Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 4916, P.O. Box 1524, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Note “Operation Warm” in the memo.


“We have seen the faces of these children light up when they receive their coat. We have heard the stories they tell us when we help them pick out their new coat,” Sullivan said. “We know this is a vital program,

that does more than just keep them warm. We have been blessed to be able to work with Operation Warm, and we are hopeful our organization can continue this, as long as there is a child in Worcester County who needs it.”

Worcester County Professional Fire Fighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4916, is made up of 25 members, all of whom are employed by local fire departments in Worcester County as firefighter/paramedics or firefighter/EMTs.




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Berlin's 50th Annual Christmas Parade



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Buckingham Presbyterian's float entry for Berlin's 50th annual Christmas Parade on Thursday featured wide-eyed children accompanied by the Grinch, just days ahead of its "Holiday Grinch Fest" held on Saturday.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Assateague Coastal Trust's Coast Kids brought along wildlife to liven up the Berlin Christmas Parade on Thursday.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Stephen Decatur Middle School's Marching Band brought the groove to Main Street during Berlin's 50th annual Christmas Parade on Thursday.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Recreating Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Incorporated gang, from left, are Aiden Backof, Delaynie Kerrigan, Abby Bunting and Brianna Clark.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Seaside Dance Academy team members bop in rhythm on Main Street during Berlin's 50th annual Christmas Parade on Thursday.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School students fill their nativity float with angels and wiseman during Berlin's 50th annual Christmas Parade on Thursday.

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., Dec. 9

WINTER TRAIN GARDEN
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, through Jan. 3, 2022. Visitors of all ages can interact with buttons to activate accessories or sounds. Kids can take part in a scavenger hunt to win prizes. Open during the library's regular hours. 410-524-1818

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

MID-MORNING CRAFT
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come make some winter friends out of paper towel tubes. Be ready to get a bit messy. For children ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

WRITING WITH RUTH
Held via Zoom, 1-3 p.m. Monthly gathering of local writers who share their independent work and receive encouraging feedback with group participants. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

COVID VACCINE CLINIC
Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 4-6 p.m. This clinic is available to those ages 5 years and older.

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

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., Dec. 10

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THEY CALLED US ENEMY' BY GEORGE TAKEI
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Kelley Rouse and Nancy Mitchell of Salisbury University. Books are available at the Ocean Pines branch. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS ACROSS CULTURES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 6-11:59 p.m. Explore celebrations and traditions from around the world. Bring an ethnic treat or dish from your heritage. Crafts for kids. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or call 410-957-0878.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CAROL SING-ALONG
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 6:30 p.m. SUMC's Handbell Choir and Praise Team, Ty Thompson, Ruby Manos, Emily Martin. Free admission. An offering will be taken to benefit Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. www.stevensonchurch.org, 410-641-1137

PINE TONES CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City, 7:30 p.m. Selections include "O Holy Night," "Can't Wait for Christmas," and more. Admission is free but an offering will be received. Re-

freshments served afterwards. Dave Hol-loway, 410-641-5672, 610-213-7472

Sat., Dec. 11

OCEAN CITY COMIC CON
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grab a picture with Star Wars characters, compete in our cosplay contest, or shop a huge convention floor of vendors, independent artists, guests and more. There will be informative and entertaining panels, anime screenings, video game tournaments, and a few additional surprises running throughout the entire day. Admission costs \$10 for adults and free to kids 9 years and younger with paying adult. Receive \$1 off admission with a non-perishable food item for Diakonia or dressing in costume. <http://www.oceancitycomiccon.com>

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Angler members will provide a review of the 2021 club activities. The 2021 Walt Boge Fishing Tournament winners announced. Non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations collected. 410-641-7662

SANTA'S TRAIN WONDERLAND
Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free event. Enjoy the train displays and beautiful decorations throughout the museum. Get your photo with Santa beginning at 1 p.m. www.delmarvadiscoverymuseum.org, 410-957-9933

6TH ANNUAL HOMEMADE COOKIES BY THE POUND SALE
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 18 Third St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A variety of homemade cookies sold at \$8 per pound. Most can be frozen for later.

<https://www.stmaryspocomoke.org>, 410-957-1518

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

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., Dec. 12

SANTA'S TRAIN WONDERLAND
Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free event. Enjoy the train displays and beautiful decorations throughout the museum. www.delmarvadiscoverymuseum.org, 410-957-9933

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., Dec. 13

MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Watch a movie based on an acclaimed book each month. Light refreshments provided.

Continued on Page 25



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TREE LIGHTING
Holiday revelers delight as Ocean Pines officials flip the switch during the "Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting" in White Horse Park last Saturday.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Santa Claus touches base with some youthful adherents upon arriving in White Horse Park during Ocean Pines' "Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting" last Saturday.

Puzzles

GARAGE-SALE PITCHES

BY JEFF KREMER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jeff Kremer is a management consultant at KPMG in Chicago. His initial interest in crosswords was sparked by his parents, who were journalists and avid solvers. But it was his wife, he says, who “obsesses over her solving streak and times” and who inspired him to start constructing. Jeff thinks this ad-themed puzzle — his first — is nicely timed for the Sunday between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as we all are flooded with sales pitches for the holidays. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Evidence of disorderly conduct?

5 Animated greetings

11 Threads

15 Some words of Wordsworth

19 Mötley ____

20 Fiend

21 Instrument with a solo in Seal's "Kiss From a Rose"

22 "There's no place like ____" (Alaskan's quip)

23 TV, volume knob broken, only \$10!

26 A bit

27 "Me too"

28 Food Network host Brown

29 Sandal variety

31 Barbecue side dish

35 Tried one's hand

38 Before, once

39 In large supply

41 What may cover some ground

43 Baseball mitt, has a small hole, just \$1!

47 Casual greeting

49 Model featured on many romance novel covers

52 Split personalities?

53 Stretch of time

54 Wipe out

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

56 "Predictably ..."

58 Much of Italy's north

60 What the universe may or may not be

62 Huey, Dewey and Louie, e.g.

63 ____ colada

65 She can act as a D.J., nowadays

67 Raised

68 Guitar, never used, \$15!

72 Baseball's Matty or Felipe

74 After-tax investment account, informally

75 Award achievement for Audrey Hepburn and Andrew Lloyd Webber

76 Ones coming on board

79 Classic mower brand

81 Loosen

83 Raiser of team spirit

84 Ready for a refill, say

85 Sucker

86 "Voilà!"

89 Running figure

90 Nautilus's locale

91 Textbook, a few pages torn out, \$2!

96 Extremely energetic people

98 "Ain't that the truth!"

99 Or rather

102 Least enjoyable parts

105 Super wrong identification?

108 Words that might elicit the response "Prove it!"

110 Goldfinger's first name

112 Blood line

113 Final check?

114 Two fish tanks, accessories included, \$5!

120 Started a turn, perhaps

121 Like a tautology, by its nature

122 Name for zinc sulfide that is one letter short of a kitchen appliance

123 Demolish

124 Ingots

125 Source

126 Heir to the throne, as a rule

127 Catch a glimpse of

DOWN

1 Andrew who became the acting F.B.I. director after James Comey was fired

2 It gets the lead out

3 A good dessert to split?

4 Having made up one's mind about

5 Outback sight

6 Stingray or Barracuda, e.g.

7 Taylor of fashion

8 U.S. poet laureate with a 1987 Pulitzer

9 "The BFG" author

10 Disperse

11 "Heaven forbid!"

12 Blood-typing letters

13 Word that can come before or after home

14 Lloyd ____, Dukakis's veep pick in 1988

15 Amenity in G.M. vehicles

16 Prop ax used in "The Shining," a valuable collectors' item, \$200!

17 Actress and gender equality activist Watson

18 Trickle

24 "____ but a scratch": Monty Python

25 As well

30 Set up

32 Back

33 Pin point?

34 "A Clockwork Orange" narrator

36 Actress Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"

37 Horror director Aster

40 Started again, as "99 Bottles of Beer"

42 False front

43 Get off one's high horse?

44 Libertines

45 "Sure is"

46 Target with a pass for short

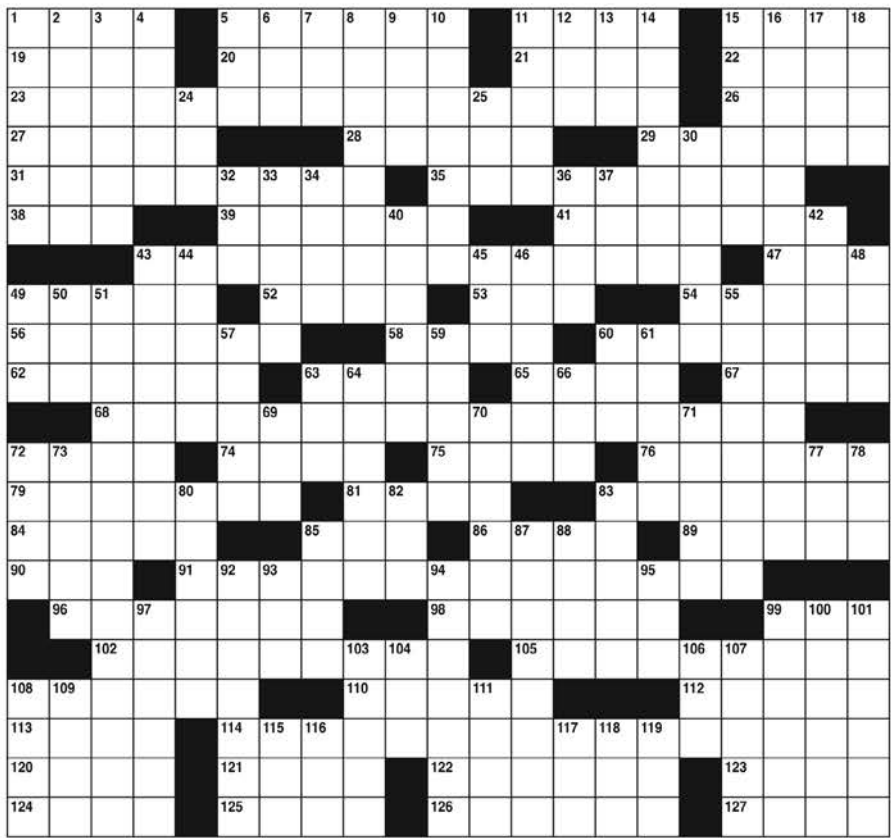
48 Concern for veterans, for short

49 Not even close

50 Incense residue

51 Wallet, in good condition, plenty of card slots, \$5!

55 Person from Calgary or Edmonton



- 57 Brave's opponent in the 2021 World Series

59 Removes, as a tattoo

60 Stretch of time

61 Special-interest, e.g.

63 Fruit detritus

64 Like a wailing cat

66 TV's Cousin ____

69 Pam's former partner on "The Office"

70 When you're about as smart as a fifth grader
- 71 Aware of

72 Some beers

73 This Hebrew letter: ב

77 90° bend

78 Kind of blue akin to cerulean

80 Concerns for a homeowners' association

82 Bonobo, e.g.

83 Banh mi toppings

85 Not a "no no"

87 Hooked

88 Regular intake
- 92 Some beers

93 Cattle call

94 Strip

95 Wash. neighbor

97 It's good, in a saying

99 Netflix crime drama starring Pedro Pascal

100 Take a pot shot?

101 Like the smell of rising dough

103 Bare

104 Ice-cream container

106 Course standard
- 107 Tours can be found on it

108 Website with star ratings

109 ____ mia (Italian term of endearment)

111 "____ all be fine"

115 Wash. neighbor

116 Stick on a table?

117 Only's partner

118 Ward workers, for short

119 Term of endearment

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 65

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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



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.

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HELP WANTED

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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MONTGOMERY FINANCIAL SERVICES is looking to add a team member for the position of **Operations Assistant**. This is a full-time position, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. A degree is not required, however, experience in an office setting is preferred. If interested in this position, please email your resume to info@mfswealth.com.

Atlantic Shores Sotheby's Int Realty is hiring **Real Estate Agents**. No experience needed. Please text Steven Diaz for more information.
410-245-1089

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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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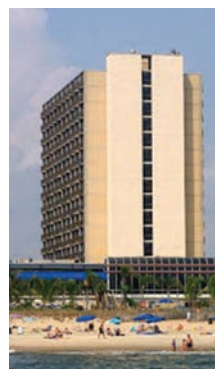
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We are currently recruiting for a year round Rooms Division Manager for our Oceanfront convention hotel (250 rooms w/ 85 adjacent condominiums). The preferred candidate should have a minimum of 3 years hotel front desk management with working knowledge 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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Charitable foundation expanding and coming to Ocean City (See TheLearnersLabFoundation.org & TherapyConnection 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.**

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Classifieds Deadline is 5pm Monday

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Calendar

Continued from Page 22
www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference 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.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LECTURE
Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. Taking a look at the beloved classic "It's a Wonderful Life." Hear the tale and struggle of George Bailey, because his issues are our issues. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 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., Dec. 14

STORY TIME 'WEATHER'
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

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Dance, sing and play rhythmic instruments to fun and silly songs. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP
The Macky & Pam Stansell House Coastal Hospice, 1500 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 3:15-4 p.m. Provides discussions, mutual support, education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Reserve: Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.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. 15

ZOOM WITH YOUR BABY
Babies under 2 years and caregivers join on Zoom for songs, rhymes and stories, 10:30 a.m. Optional: have a scarf and rattle/shaker handy or interactive rhymes. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'AUTHOR FOCUS, JAN BRETT'
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join the group for stories written by the beloved author, Jan Brett. An activity also included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROCLAMATION
The Worcester County Commissioners joined with Patty Behr, president of the Eastern Shore Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland, to proclaim Oct. 15, 2021, as White Cane Awareness Day in Worcester County to encourage area residents and employers to value the white cane as a tool of independence for the blind in both public spaces and businesses.

patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

STEAM 'SNOWFLAKE SCIENCE'
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4:30 p.m. Complete science and art projects to learn about symmetry in nature and the unique artistic beauty of snowflakes. For ages 8-12 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin,

5:30-7 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

ONGOING EVENTS

WINTER TRAIN GARDEN
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, through Jan. 3, 2022. Visitors of all ages can interact with buttons to activate accessories or sounds. Kids can take part in a scavenger hunt to win prizes. Open during the library's regular hours. 410-524-1818

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