BAYSIDE GAZETTE

JANUARY 6, 2022

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY• OCEAN PINES



LOAD OUT

Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club members Christopher Thomas and Christina Dolomount pack up Christmas lights and decorations as the holiday season closes out in Ocean Pines at White Hose Park on Sunday.

Berlin Council outlines 2022 goals

Cutting park purchase debt leads list of priorities, along with new community center

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Long-term goals, such as selling parcels in Heron Park and planning a new community center, along with recent conversations about short-term rental regulations, are among the Berlin Town Council's priorities for 2022.

In early December, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development awarded Berlin a \$500,000 Strategic Demolition Fund Grant to raze the former Tyson poultry plant at Heron Park.



Jay Knerr



Troy Purnell

during 2022.

"The sale of these lots will signifi-

After issuing a request for proposals for parcels 57 and 410 in Heron Park in November, the council last month agreed to include a third section, parcel 191, which Jack Orris adds 1.5 acres to the roughly 16-acre pack-

Councilmember Jay Knerr anticipates working with developers to find a good project for the three parcels in the overall 63-acre Heron Park



cantly reduce the overall debt service that the town now pays," he said.

In 2015, Berlin paid roughly \$2.5 million for the land along Old Ocean City Boulevard where the

Tyson poultry plant was located.

The town purchased the land from Berlin Properties North, which counts Councilman Troy Purnell among its ownership, with an associated \$200,000 annual debt payment through 2045.

Councilmember Jack Orris is focused on laying groundwork for Heron Park development, along with See PUBLIC Page 3

Assessments lowered by \$1 in draft budget

But no guarantees come with first round proposal

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Despite anticipating reduced revenues of \$1.2 million in the next fiscal year, the proposed Ocean Pines budget for FY 2022/23 cuts a dollar off assessment fees.

Association officials released a draft budget late last month as they prepared to hear departmental presentations early this week.

Although the draft budget is subject to changes as it goes through the process, assessment rates at this point are \$996 for non-waterfront lots and \$1,611 for waterfront properties. Both figures were one dollar higher during the current budget year. The new budget will go into effect in May.

Association officials estimated that this fiscal year's final figures will include roughly \$18 million in revenues, while the budget at this juncture anticipates \$16.8 million in FY 2022/23, a reduction of a little more than \$1.2 million.

On the expense side, the current year is expected to close with just under \$17 million at \$16.99 million, while the forecast for next year is slightly less at \$16.88 million.

Ocean Pines reserve accounts, which include replacement, bulkheads, roads, drainage and new capital, are estimated to end the current budget year on April 30 with a balance of about \$5.5 million.

During FY 22/23, reserve account contributions are planned at \$3.3 million, with expenditures of \$2.8 million. That would leave a balance of \$5.9 million when the budget year closes on April 30, 2023.

Reserve account contributions for FY 22/23 include \$1,750,166 for replacement, \$1,063,850 for bulkheads, \$350,000 for roads and \$100,000 for drainage.

Reserve account expenditures for See SOME Page 2



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Clubhouse staff shares credit for saving life

Fast-acting duo honored with Heartsaver Hero Award last week in Ocean Pines

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Two months after deploying an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to revive a heart attack victim at the Ocean Pines Clubhouse Bar and Grille, staff members Rob Ruszin and Judie Scotti continue to receive accolades.

Dave Van Gasbeck, president of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, honored the pair with a Heartsaver Hero Award from the American Heart Association last Thursday.

Van Gasbeck, who applied for the award shortly after Oct. 31 incident, said this latest recognition follows similar honors bestowed on the two by the Worcester County Commissioners in mid-November.

"You did a great job and just jumped into it," he told Ruszin and Scotti. "You are both truly heroes."

Ruszin and Scotti also received state honors from Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Del. Wayne Hartman.

Scotti, Clubhouse Bar and Grille manager, deflected attention for her actions and gave more credit to Ruszin, who tends bar at the establish-



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Taking part in a Heartsaver Hero Award ceremony last Thursday for a recent lifesaving incident at the Ocean Pines Clubhouse Bar and Grille, from left, are Doug Parks, Judie Scotti, Dave Van Gasbeck, Rob Ruszin and Carol Rose.

ment.

"As a human being, if you can help somebody, then that's what you're supposed to do," she said.

Ruszin echoed that sentiment.

"I don't like taking credit for it," he said

As it was, Ruszin quickly found an AED unit nearby.

"I was just there and knew where it was," he said. "Everyone that was there helped during the situation."

See AMERICAN Page 3

Christopher Takacs, DMD

Some amenity fees will change

Continued from Page 1

FY 22/23 includes \$924,515 for replacement, \$1,169,921 for bulkheads, \$350,000 for roads, \$400,000 for drainage and \$6,000 for new capital.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department is earmarked for a boost in association funding, with FY 22/23 budgeted at \$1,038,922, which represents an increase of \$316,772 over the \$722,150 contributed during the current budget year.

In terms of capital projects, the FY 22/23 budget includes \$600,000 to upgrade the golf course irrigation system.

Several minimal increases to amenity fees are also included in the FY 22/23 draft budget.

These include weekly parking rates at the Beach Club, with family, individual and non-member rates jumping to \$135 compared to \$75 in the current year.

Daily rates for swim facilities are also slated to bump up slightly for both residents and non-residents.

Daily swim rates for adult residents would increase to \$10 from \$8 this year, with fees for children 5-17

jumping to \$8 from \$6 and children 1-4, who were previously free, now costing \$3.

Daily swim rates for adult nonresidents in the new budget would be \$15, up from \$12, with children 5-17 costing \$13, up from \$10, and children 1-4 now costing \$5.

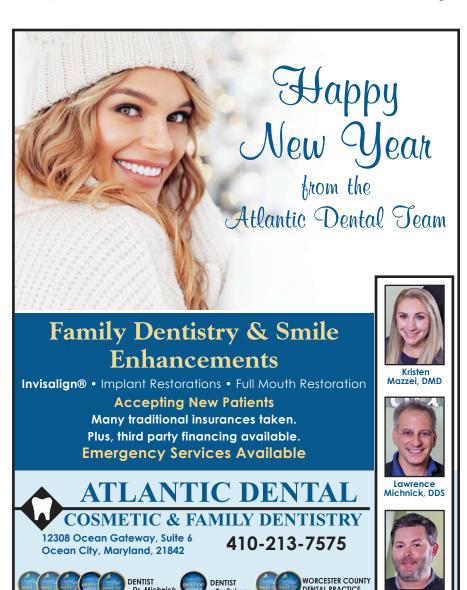
Tennis rates are also changing a wee bit.

Daily tennis rates for residents would drop from the \$10 charge, while pickleball and platform tennis would go up to \$8 from \$6.

Nonresident daily rates for tennis, pickleball and platform tennis in the new year are currently budgeted at \$10 across the board. This would be a \$2 reduction in tennis fees and a \$3 jump for pickleball and platform tennis over the current budget year.

Golf cart fees for FY 22/23 are budgeted at \$25 for 18 holes and \$15 for nine holes, up from \$22 and \$12 in FY 21/22.

Greens fees for non-member property owners and guests are budgeted at \$59 for 18 holes, up from \$54 in FY 21/22, with the cost for nine holes remaining unchanged at \$35.



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Public opinion sought on community center

Continued from Page 1 other infrastructure concerns.

"We need to review and address capital projects ... including new water meters and a new well," he said.

Proceeding with demolition work at Heron Park is also topping the list for Councilmember Shaneka Nichols in 2022.

"Let's get this building demolished and have the space cleaned up so we can get a more efficient price," she said.

Nichols is optimistic the clear view will aid development.

"With the land being cleared, hopefully prospective purchasers ... are able to see their vision more clearly with an open space," she said.

Developing plans for a new community center to replace the aging Flower Street multi-purpose building is also a primary driver for council members.

In June, the council voted to establish a committee of residents to examine the issue.

Championing the proposal last summer was Councilmember Dean Burrell, who noted Flower Street was a proposed location but consensus had yet to be reached.

"We have talked about it and passed around ideas, but never got community input," he said.

Knerr hopes to continue pursuit of grants in 2022 to fund the community center project.

"Given the historical significance of this property, we should also apply for state and Federal Historical Site registration," he said.

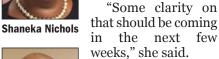
In September, council members voted unanimously to purchase the Flower Street property for \$45,000. Totaling less than an acre, the site was the location of the former Flower Street School that served the African-

American community before it was shuttered in 1970 after Worcester integrated schools.

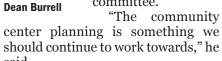
The site is home to SHORE UP, a nonprofit organization that helps people become economically self-sufficient, and the Berlin Community Improvement Association's multipurpose building.

Nichols is looking to chart a path

for the oft-discussed project in 2022, while also anticipating formation of the Community Center Development Committee.



Orris, who initially proposed the committee last June, is also focused on recruiting residents for the development committee.



Knerr raised the prospect of approving a short-term rental ordinance in 2022.

"We need to pass sensible shortterm rental regulations," he said.

In June, the council revisited regulating short-term rentals within town limits. The issue was examined in 2018 when no action was taken.

Short-term rentals are classified as property rented for up to 28 days, with longer stays deemed month-to-month.

During the June discussion, Planning Director Dave Engelhart said in 2018 the prospect of rental licensing regulations garnered both proponents and detractors.

Engelhart said the greatest concern expressed by local property owners involved the possible harm short-term rentals might do in R-1 and R-2 single-family home districts.

Another issue raised by residents was the possibility that investors would buy multiple properties to serve as rental units.

During a council meeting in December, the topic drew extensive commentary from residents with concerns about limiting property rights.

The council is planning to solicit further public opinion after refining the proposed rental ordinance in early 2022.

Nichols feels encouraged that the hot-button topic would finally be addressed this year.

"The hope is to get to a place in 2022 where there is some type of establishment of what the regulations will be," she said.

Purnell said his focus for 2022 remains unchanged from prior years.

"It's the same goal and objective I've had since day one," he said. "Trying to make sure there's enough money put aside for reserves."

Purnell stressed the importance of establishing replacement reserves for future capital projects and infrastructure needs.

Despite the town being awarded \$4.06 million through the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021, Purnell is focused on needs after the covid relief package is expended.

"We're way ahead of the curve with four million dollars from the federal government," he said. "That helps a lot, but going forward once that's gone, and it will be, they'll be a whole lot of things we've got to be putting money aside for in the future."

ARPA funds must be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. The council is slated to solicit public comment on allocation early this year so it can earmark funding for FY23 budget considerations.

Purnell said the mayor and council typically covered capital projects from budget surplus in past years.

"I've just never been comfortable doing it that way," he said. "We got tight here a few years ago."

Purnell applauded Mayor Zach Tyndall for starting the discussion about establishing reserve fund accounts.

"We've never really done this," he said. "I've got to give the mayor some kudos because he came out with a great basic plan to start talking about it, but now we've got to do it."

American Heart Assoc. award

Continued from Page 2

Scotti said the praise was warranted for all involved parties.

"It was a big effort for everyone that was here," she said. "It's not just an award for us, it's for them too."

After the heart attack victim was resuscitated, Ocean Pines EMS transported the patient to Tidal Health in Salisbury where he made a full recovery.

On a related note, Van Gasbeck said EMS units have been taking an increasing number of ill residents for medical attention.

"Virtually every patent we've brought in over the last several months has bene unvaccinated," he said. "Do yourself a favor and protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated."







White Horse decision denial stirs residents

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Although the Worcester County Commissioners Dec. 7 decision to consent to White Horse Park updating its declarations had been all but written in stone since May, the news nonetheless caused an uproar among some members of the 465-person mobile home community.

The commissioners' decision means that the White Horse Park Community Association can enforce its bylaw that states residents cannot stay in the community for more than 30 straight days or an aggregate of 60 days between Sept. 30 and April 1.

An agreement was also struck earlier this year that would afford residents 18 months to comply with the order. Thirtyseven residents were staying year-round as of December 2020.

On Dec. 17, White Horse Park Board of Directors member Jon Gilmore emphatically denied the assertion in an Ocean City Today story that the association had "received confirmation" from the commissioners about the decision, claiming that many of the 37 year-round residents were upset because they felt they were learning they were being evicted as soon as possible.

Gilmore said the story blindsided the community. The denial prompted a correction to the article.

However, Worcester County Attorney Roscoe Leslie said on Dec. 22 that his of-



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Commissioners approved the White Horse Park Community Association's request to update their declarations to conform with the county code and bar residents from living in the community year-round, but a conflict arose among community members concerning whether or not the county had actually notified them of the decision.

fice did leave a copy of the signed and approved documentation in the county government office on Dec. 15 and that someone from the association attorney James Almond's office picked it up the following day.

Almond confirmed that his office received the documents and that, earlier in December, he informed WHPCA President Pat Heath of the confirmation.

It didn't come down to the Dec. 7 decision, though, as Almond put it.

"To get the declarations amended, White Horse Park had one extra strep they needed to get 60 percent of the owners to approve it, and we did," he said. "Once we got that, probably late October or early November, I sent the document to the county attorney and he approved it with some changes, then went and got it signed by the commissioners and then I got it signed by White Horse Park."

"Everything that has happened since May, White Horse Park has been a part of. As attorney, I've been one organizing and managing the process, so maybe I should have directly told the board about the decision ... but they've all known the process or should have known the process, which is we need the owners to

approve it."

Problems with board transparency have allegedly plagued the community for some time.

"Since our new BOD has been elected, we have had many transparency issues in our park," read an email by a group known as the White Horse Park Concerned Owners. "History has shown that this group of board members has been less than factual. We have certain reservations in doubting the WHP BOD denial (to Ocean City Today's reporting)."

The WHPCA declined to comment for this article.



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Tyndall examines past, future goals for Berlin

Mayor pursuing community outreach on social media to solicit residents' input

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) In addition to reviewing 2021 accomplishments at the Berlin Town Council meeting Monday, Mayor Zack Tyndall hopes to receive constituent opinions as he develops goals for 2022.

Tyndall said Berlin's Town Charter requires the mayor to give the council an annual report. That summary will be delivered to the council on Jan. 10.

"It will include 2021 accomplishments of the town and also the first three months of 2020 when I was mayor," he said. "It will recap that pe-

Tyndall, who had been serving on council, was elected mayor in Octo-



Zach Tyndall

tives from residents.

ber 2020 after garnering nearly 70 percent of the votes.

"It will provide a recap of the accomplishments operationally and town wide," he said.

Earlier this week, Tyndall launched a social media outreach to solicit input on town objec-

"We've been getting some good stuff there," he said.

Initial comments from community members has included potential goals for 2022, along with longerterm objectives.

"We all see different things," he

In prior years, establishing annual town goals was principally handled by council.

'There's never been a tangible con-

versation ... about putting those goals in one place," he said.

Tyndall is also looking to gather information from department heads and town staff.

"Get the council to weigh in on their thoughts and get the community to speak up," he said.

During the council meeting on Jan. 24, Tyndall plans to review townwide goals for 2022.

Tyndall noted upgrading livestreaming capabilities for meetings is a likely goal for 2022.

"We will continue to stream our meetings on Facebook," he said.

Upgrading equipment and expanding platforms are the next steps under consideration.

"We have access to the public access channels ... built into our contract with Comcast," he said. "There's no reason we can't upgrade that service to stream meetings."

The advent of remote meeting access has helped enhance community involvement, Tyndall said.

"I've noticed a lot more people chiming in after the meetings," he

Tyndall is also aiming to develop a strategic plan in 2022.

"We don't have a list of capital priorities," he said. "That's why when I got into office, I said we need funds for a strategic plan."

Since being elected mayor, Tyndall has begun working with council to establish a five-year comprehensive plan.

"It's still in draft format but is something we will be using heavily for the upcoming budget cycle," he said.

Residents wishing to provide input for 2022 goals, in addition to commenting on the Town of Berlin Facepage, can also email MayorZack@berlinmd.gov or call 410-641-3858.

County forced to pivot for omicron, weather

Social distancing in place at government center, snow postpones commissioners

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Covid cases are surging again with the emergence of the omicron variant and in response, the county is again instituting social distancing protocols in the Worcester County Government Center.

A Dec. 29 press release from the county said people attending meetings in the commissioners' meeting room and the adjacent board room will need to practice social distancing and are encouraged to wear masks.

Kim Moses, county public information officer, said masks are encouraged but not required in the government center, but they will be required in any areas where social distancing is not possible.

These enhanced safety measures for commissioners' meetings and other public meetings have been implemented in these gathering places to protect public health in response to the recent uptick in covid-19 cases in Maryland," read a statement from the county commissioners.

'In keeping with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the wearing of face masks in other areas of the WCGC and other county buildings is recommended, but not required at this time."

The weather this week also presented obstacles for the county as it gets going in the New Year. Monday's snowstorm and the ice that set in overnight forced the commissioners to postpone their Tuesday meeting one week to Jan. 11.

Some issues the commissioners will discuss include broadband grant applications, EDUs for the planned Sea Oaks Village and proposing state legislation to allow small alcohol manufacturers to obtain Class L licenses from the Worcester County Board of License Commissioners.

No other scheduled meetings have been affected yet and Moses said that the items on the commissioners' agenda will likely stay the same, but new items could be added to it.

The commissioners' agenda and information for other county meetcan be found https://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/commissioners/minutes.





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OP Budget cmte. examines food, fire service

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee launched discussions of next fiscal year's budget on Dec. 22 with presentations from representatives of food operations and fire/ems services. The association's fiscal year begins in May.

Matt Ortt Companies CEO Ralph DeAngelus, who oversees dining and catering services at the Yacht Club, Clubhouse Bar and Grille and Beach Club, said profit margins will probably shrink slightly in the year ahead.

"I'd rather under-promise and over-deliver," he said.

Sales boomed last spring with the easing of covid-related restrictions, but DeAngelus said he does not expect that same level of market enthusiasm this year.

"I foresee a great year for banquets and good year for food and beverage, but I don't think it will match last year," he said.

Aside from the financial aspect of the business, DeAngelus said client response during 2021 was overwhelmingly positive.

DeAngelus said while overall profit levels might dip in 2022, the Clubhouse Bar and Grille is slated for an increase based on more play at the golf course. "The more business they do, the more people that are going to come into the Clubhouse Grille," he said.

Turning to fire and ems services, the 2022/23 budget outlook for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department was reviewed by President Dave VanGasbeck, Chief Steve Grunewald and Capt. Harvey Booth.

Based on increased call volumes and steadily decreasing volunteer ranks, department officials want to hire two new full-time staff in the year ahead.

"We've done a risk analysis to determine that we need the two positions that were asking for," VanGasbeck said.

Grunewald said the fire department answered approximately 1,700 calls in 2020, of which more than 280 were within 10 minutes apart.

"There's been several times where we're running three to four calls within a half-hour time period," he said.

Booth said the total number of calls in 2021 would likely go higher.

"In 2021, we're going to run about 1,800 ambulance calls," he said.

For contrast, Booth compared call numbers from the mid-1980s, when he joined the department, with the current requests for help.

"Back in 1985, we ran 255 calls," he said.

In addition, Booth said the department's 12 full-time employees serve dual roles as firefighters and EMTs.

"All are rescue-trained and can drive fire trucks," he said.

The proposed new hires would continue that practice.

"Part of the reason we want to add a couple full-time EMTs and firefighters is because we really struggle to have a full crew to get out for these fire alarms," he said.

Bolstering volunteer members has become more difficult as the population ages, Grunewald said. He put the median age of Ocean Pines residents at just under 60.

See DEANGELUS Page 7

Obituaries

EUGENIA ROSENBERG

Berlin

Eugenia "Jeanne" Rosenberg passed away on Dec. 22, 2021.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter of Michael and Eugenia Gorecki.

She is survived by her daughter, Rachel Onufrak, and her husband, Matthew; her grandchildren, Mia and Nikolas Onufrak; her beloved brother, Carl Rohacek; nephew, Zack Rohacek; and niece, Ava Rohacek.

Jeanne is also survived by her sister, Marion Cross; nephew, Michael Kegg; and niece, Lisa Michael; as well as her sister-in-law, Vicky Gorecki; niece, Alexis Sappenfield; and several grand-nephews and cousins including the Thorsens, the Jankowskis, the



. Rosenberg

McNiffs, the Simons and the Genuarios.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Eugenia Gorecki; her step-father, Charles Rohacek; her brother, Alex Gorecki; her

husband, James J. Rosenberg; and her daughter, Linda Rosenberg.

Jeanne lived in West New York, New Jersey, for most of her childhood.

She attended local schools and graduated from Memorial High School in 1960 as a member of the National Honor Society.

She worked for Penn Refining Company and then Boonton Electronics as an administrative assistant.

She married Jim Rosenberg in 1966, and they soon moved to Denville, New Jersey, to start a family of their own. Later, Jeanne worked for Dermatology Associates of Morris as a medical transcriptionist, and then Lucerne Media as an administrative assistant.

After enjoying vacations in Maryland for many years, Jeanne and Jim decided to retire and move to Berlin, Maryland, in 2003. Jeanne was delighted by the ocean, the seagulls, and the more leisurely pace of her new home.

Jeanne loved her family, loved to laugh, and was a great sister. She was a devoted mother and was kind and generous to her family and friends.

She was fond of animals and birds, and enjoyed a variety of pets throughout her lifetime.

Jeanne loved studying the Bible and attending meetings with Jehovah's Witnesses, and she did her best to share the spiritual treasures that she learned with her family and friends

Private funeral arrangements were made under the direction of Norman Dean Home for Services in Denville, New Jersey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, 911 Ocean Pkwy., Berlin, Maryland 21811; or The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia 22203.



Berlin kicks off Restaurant Week

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Berlin's sixth annual Restaurant Week will kick off Monday and run through Sunday, as local dining establishments offer special fare with special pricing.

Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said as of Tuesday the Atlantic Hotel and Crush N Crab were the only establishments to submit menus.

"Hopefully, people are just getting back from the holiday," she said.

Wells said snow on Monday also likely delayed menu submittals.

"Menus will be uploaded this weekend," she said.

Restaurants expected to participate are Pop's Kitchen, Blacksmith Berlin, Baked Dessert Café, Rayne's Reef Soda Fountain & Grill, Gilbert's Provisions,



Ivy Wells

Main Street Deli, Boxcar on Main, Burn Wood Fire Pizza, on What Grounds and the Globe Gastro Theatre.

Wells said two new establishments, Rusty Anchor Seafood Market and the Sterling

Tavern would also join the list this year.

As in past years, Restaurant Week diners will use a passport to mark progress.

"It doubles as a raffle ticket," she said. "You need three stamps from three different restaurants."

Completed passport cards can be turned in at a drop box in the Welcome Center at 14 S. Main St., which is accessible 24 hours.

Berlin Restaurant Week founder Cam Bunting, who operates Bunting Realty, will collect passports.

"Cam will pick the winner a week or so after Restaurant Week," she said.

Despite the onslaught of cancellations in 2021, Berlin Restaurant Week soldiered onward.

Wells credited the popularity of curbside and carryout dining options for maintaining the event in recent years, while also noting that dining parameters this year would be established case by case.

"Each individual restaurant will determine their own options," she said.

While the entire list of Restaurant Week offerings remains to be seen, Wells said the week-long event allows patrons to expand their palates.

"It's important as always to eat local and support our restaurants," she said. "It gives people a chance to sample unfamiliar foods.'

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Berlin cancels NYE event last week

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) After Berlin officials decided last Monday to continue plans for New Year's Eve celebrations, they changed course last Thursday and cancelled the downtown festivities because of skyrocketing covid positivity rates.

In a statement released last week, Mayor Zach Tyndall said the decision to forego New Year's Eve in Berlin was reached in consultation with council members and town staff.

"On Monday ... the Town decided to continue with the New Year's Eve activities as planned," he said. "However, within 48 hours of the ... decision to continue with the activities, Worcester County's covid-19 positivity rate jumped from 14.84 percent to 21.6 percent."

To further exacerbate the situation, the rate spike also affected event vendors

"In addition to the spike in covid-19 cases locally, the Town was informed by multiple vendors they could not attend due to their staff being ill or testing positive for COVID-19," he said.

Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the sudden unavailability of vendors was a death knell.

"That morning all vendors indicated they were quite ill," she said.

Despite the short notice, town officials tried to find replacement vendors but were unsuccessful.

"It's difficult to have an event with-

out sufficient staff," Wells said.

With time running short, Tyndall discussed the situation with the Town Council, which voted 3-2 to cancel the year-end shindig.

"As a courtesy, the public was informed on social media of the local businesses that planned to remain open for those who wished to celebrate New Year's Eve," he said.

Tyndall also noted that some Berlin establishments provided carryout, delivery, or outside dining options.

Wells said protecting the health of residents was first and foremost.

"The events we hold in Berlin are mostly for the locals," she said. "We listen to what the community says and respond appropriately."

DeAngelus expects lowered profits

Continued from Page 6

"Once they join, it takes a year to get onboarded," he said. "It is getting increasingly difficult to get this equipment out the door."

Grunewald said the department relies heavily on career staff to compensate for the volunteer shortage.

"Most of the volunteers we get are retired from elsewhere," VanGasbeck said.

The fire department's initial proposed budget request from the association includes a roughly \$300,000 increase in expenses, going from about \$722,000 in FY21/22 to \$1.03 million for FY22/23.

VanGasbeck said total expenses are estimated to top \$1.7 million in 2022, with Worcester County government expected to contribute about

Of that sum, \$300,000 is earmarked for fire service, with about \$508,000 for payroll, equipment and transport duties.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Dick Keiling said the group would look for ways to close the gap between expenses and income as the budget process proceeds.



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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PILEATED WOODPECKER

An alert pileated woodpecker scurries about tree limbs on Sunday at South Gate Pond in Ocean Pines.



Talkie looking at broadband progress in north Worcester

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Jan. 6, 2022) Supply chain issues and inflation have forced Talkie Communications to reevaluate its plan for connecting Worcester County to broadband internet, but officials with the internet service provider are holding to their three-year goal and leaving as little cost as possible on the taxpayer's end.

"We have several backup plans," said Andre DeMattia, co-CEO of Talkie. "Originally, we wanted to wire up Worcester for \$52 million, but (all costs) increased by 30 percent. The goal is to connect in three years and have the county pay minimal costs.

"We hooked up quite a bit of Pocomoke. We're now in the process of getting the electricians and construction teams to build up Bishopville and set up a remote office there. We're hoping to get (a contractor) out there this month to get it started, and then we will start construction possibly in February or March to build up Bishopville."

Two grant applications – \$18 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and \$2 million from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Neighborhood Connect grant – are awaiting approval and Talkie plans to brief the county on two more grants it wishes to apply during Tuesday's commissioners meeting.

Delays in when grants are being awarded have made the process go slower than the company has wanted. For instance, federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

money should be released in about 60 days. But DeMattia remained confident that Talkie can still hold to its three-year plan.

To date, Talkie has won a com-

bined \$6.6 million in grants from the state and federal governments.

DeMattia said he anticipates that Talkie will receive the federalgrant, which should be announced in January or February. If they do win it, he



Andre DeMattia

on the Bishopville area "immediately." A prior agreed-

upon loan from the

also expects the funds

to be released about

two weeks after the

announcement, which will ensure the

company gets to work

county to Talkie for \$1 million, for building materials in the Bishopville area, may not be necessary if the federal grant is won.

If Talkie does not win the grant, DeMattia mentioned vast funds in President Joe Biden's infrastructure legislation could offer opportunities for Talkie.

The two grants to be applied for a total up to \$45 million – \$20 million from a state infrastructure grant and up to \$25 million from the Department of Agriculture's ReConnect grant program.

DeMattia said the company is waiting for commissioner approval on both grants. The state grant will cover areas that the Consolidated Telecommunications Company, a Talkie partner, classified as unserved.

Talkie is still working with that company on identifying how the Re-Connect grant funds would be used.

"We're working with the CTC on that application and commissioners for approval to apply to this grant. Prices on fiber and supplies have increased by 30 percent due to the shortage, late times scheduled for over a year now," DeMattia said. "This grant will help expedite the installation of the fiber optics ... to under three years."

Community Briefs

UMGC Dean's List

More than a dozen local students were named to the dean's list for the fall term at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

To be eligible for the honor, a stu-

dent must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Students recognized with dean's list honors are: Kathleen Arbin, John Dembeck, Rachel Dypsky, Jennifer Hardester, Steven Lentz, Sibel Lorentz, Steven Pacobit and Edith Sipos of Ocean City; Erin Bilenki, Alli-

son Hunter, Keri Payne, Megan Runyon and Emily Trimble of Berlin; and Nina Tomaselli of Ocean Pines.

Student honored

Kai McGovern, forestry major, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester at the University of Vermont.

McGovern from Berlin, is in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

New Royal Farms planned in Season's Plaza

Hanna Team at SVN Miller Real Estate recently closed deal for Ocean Pines spot

(Jan. 6, 2022) Wesley Cox, CCIM Senior Advisor with The Hanna Team at SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate, recently closed on retail redevelopment, "Season's Plaza," located on US Route 589 in Ocean Pines.

The property is located adjacent to a Walgreens, in front of a shopping center, and at the foot of the Route 90 exit ramps making it easy to access Ocean City. The property is planned to be redeveloped as a new Royal Farms.

Wesley and The Hanna Team have completed several transactions with Royal Farm's real estate team.

"This deal is a great testament of how we operate in a fiduciary manner and proactively cooperate with other brokers," Wesley said. "I specifically targeted the real estate broker for Royal Farms for this property because as a fiduciary I knew it was the best thing for my client. Their team was great to work with while working through all of the challenges of redeveloping this site."

The Hanna Team is currently ranked in the top 15 in the United States within SVN International and No. 1 in the Mid-Atlantic region as it continues to outperform while oper-



Wesley Cox, CCIM
Senior Advisor with
The Hanna Team at
SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate, recently
closed on retail redevelopment, "Season's Plaza," on US
Route 589 in
Ocean Pines. The
property is located
adjacent to a Walgreens at the foot
of the Route 90 exit
ramp.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ating under the principles of the SVN Difference.

For more information, contact Cox, CCIM at 410-543-2440, 410-543-2421, or by email at wesley.cox@svn.com.

SVN | Miller Commercial Real Estate, with offices in Salisbury, Bethesda and Easton in Maryland, Seaford, Delaware and Onley, Virginia, is a regional firm specializing in commercial real estate in the Mid-At-







Insley brokers deal for Assateague Market

(Jan. 6, 2022) SVN | Miller Commercial Real Estate Senior Advisor Tonney Insley recently settled on the Assateague Market, located at 7643 Stephen Decatur Highway, in Berlin.

Tonney represented both sides of the deal, listing the property for a previous client, and securing a buyer resulting in a new client.

The market is the last stop before heading into Assateague Island's State and National Parks.

The market serves as a one-stopshop for the millions of annual visitors at Assateague Island, offering a variety of goods including a full-service deli, beach supplies, fishing gear, crab traps, beer, wine, souvenirs, camping necessities and other items.

In 2018, Assateague Island drew 2,136,889 visitors according to the National Park Service. These visitors are also estimated to have spent \$94,476,000 in communities near the park.

"Tonney's local knowledge and guidance through the sale of our prop-

erty is unmatched. We were happy to have a seamless transaction and for our market's legacy to live on with a new owner," said seller David Sharrof.

The buyers of the Assateague Market have plans to continue to run the business as a family and are eagerly waiting to open next season.

"First off, Tonney was easy to work with and helped throughout the way. For the market, we plan to bring our own personal touch with full renovations and a fresh look to this long-standing Assateague Island staple," the owner stated.

To discuss similar opportunities with Insley, email tonney.insley@svn.com or call 410-543-2440.

SVN | Miller Commercial Real Estate, with offices in Salisbury, Bethesda and Easton in Maryland, Seaford, Delaware, and Onley, Virginia, is a regional firm specializing in commercial real estate in the Mid-Atlantic region. It provides advisory, brokerage, consultation, leasing and asset and prop-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SVN | Miller Commercial Real Estate Senior Advisor Tonney Insley recently settled on the Assateague Market, located at 7643 Stephen Decatur Highway, in Berlin.

erty management services to clients in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

SVN | Miller is an Accredited Management Organization (AMO). It is

currently ranked eighth out of 200plus international SVN offices. For information, contact 410-543-2440 or visit www.SVNmiller.com.

Business Briefs

Recognition

Becker Morgan Group has climbed several spots in Architectural Record Magazine's Top 300 report, ranking 253rd nationwide.

The 2021 Top 300 Architecture Firms list is ranked by revenue for architectural services performed. Becker Morgan Group has ranked in the top 300 firms for the last five years.

Significant projects leading to the ranking are located from Delaware to North Carolina in a variety of practice areas. One project of note is the Ocean City convention center expansion project, adding 30,000 square feet of exhibition space and a bayfront gallery to the coastal Maryland amenity.

Established in 1983, Becker Morgan Group is a leader in architecture, engineering, surveying, land planning, and interior design in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States. The full-service design firm de-

livers award-winning work in education, healthcare, public safety, hospitality, commercial, government, residential, and land development. Learn more at www.beckermorgan.com.

New manager

Reid Tingle, president and CEO of Bank of Ocean City along with the board of directors, announce the pro-



Robin Gribble

motion of Robin Gribble to branch manager of the Ocean Pines office.

Gribble joined Bank of Ocean City in July of 2020. She brings 25-plus years of management experience coupled with extensive workforce development

training.

Gribble is committed to providing an outstanding customer experience. She is looking forward to serving the clients

of the community and building customer relationships.

Bank of Ocean City is a locallyowned, independent community bank. Established in 1916 and headquartered in West Ocean City, the bank has five offices; two in Ocean City, one in Ocean Pines, one in Berlin and a Delaware branch in Fenwick Island.

New addition



Cathy Diekmann

Cathy Diekmann has joined the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore as program officer, where she will lead the administrative aspects of scholarships and provide addi-

tional support in nonprofit capacity building.

Diekmann's professional background includes her most recent posi-

Royal Farms set for site in Pines

Continued from Page 9

lantic region. It provides advisory, brokerage, consultation, leasing and asset and property management services to clients in the Mid-Atlantic region.

SVN | Miller is an Accredited Management Organization (AMO). SVN | Miller Commercial is currently ranked eighth out of 200-plus international SVN offices. For information, contact 410-543-2440 or visit www.SVNmiller.com.

tion as the director of membership services for the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, along with over 25 years of experience in conflict resolution education, training design and nonprofit program development.

Continued on Page 11



OPEN HOUSES January 6 - January 13



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT	
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF		Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate	
Sat, 11am-1pm	10002 Coastal Hwy. #205, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$395,500	PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate	
Sat, 10am-1pm	14 39th St. #1, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$224,900	PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate	



GIRL AND JEWELRY

Showell Elementary School student, Piper Smith, 8, vends handmade bracelets and necklaces to raise funds for the Worcester County Humane Society on Dec. 5 in Berlin.

Business Briefs

Continued from Page 10

Joins team

Taylor Bank announces that Andrea Adams has joined its team as senior vice president, director of branch administration.



Andrea Adams

Adams brings over 35 years of experience in banking to her new position with Taylor Bank, where she will focus on branch performance and employee development.

Adams has previously held senior leadership roles at Bank of America, including market

sales manager/market leader and regional operations support manager. She is located at Taylor Bank's Ocean Landing Branch at 11359 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Joins board

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore recently announced that Robin Evans, Tyrone Mills, Melody Nelson and Sonya Whited have joined the its board of directors.

for

High

Evans is originally

from Crisfield. She

worked on Capitol Hill

Doug Bereuter 23

years before returning

to the Eastern Shore.

After returning, she

Mills lives in Hebron

School

served as the director

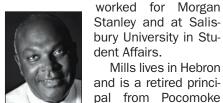
of athletics for Worces-

and

Congressman



Robin Evans



Tyrone Mills

ter County Public Schools. He is a board member for Hudson Health Services and currently works part time at Dove Pointe.



Melody Nelson

Nelson is a past board member and chair of the Community Foundation and is retired from a career in the insurance industry. She has remained active on various committees and volunteer efforts since her retire-

ment. She is excited to rejoin the board of directors since her retirement from it in 2019.



Sonya Whited

Whited moved to Salisbury 16 years ago. She is employed by Perdue Foods as its senior director of retail product development where she and her team work with crossfunctional associates and vendors to make

concepts into reality. She is involved in many community efforts and is a CFES Legacy Society member.

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

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

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



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Dr. Laura Chylinski, Au.D. (Salisbury, Ocean Pines)

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Local host families needed for J-1 students

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Matt Ortt Companies are asking Ocean Pines homeowners to consider hosting a J-1 student for 16 weeks this summer.

The federal J-1 visa is for university students from all over the world who are approved to participate in work-and-travel exchange visitor programs.

J-1 students are prepared to pay a reasonable rent based on the season and depending on the quality of the house and distance to work. The average going rate is \$2,200 to \$2,500, according to Ralph DeAngelus, cofounder of the Matt Ortt Companies, which run Ocean Pines' food and beverage programs.

DeAngelus said the J-1 student workforce is essential to summer operations.

Students generally work in the service industry and many help to

staff local restaurants.

"Because of the housing shortage for college students and J-1 students in the summertime, mainly in Ocean City, J-1 programs are being drastically slashed," DeAngelus said. "Many of the houses that in the past were used for students have all since been remodeled and are going out to Airbnb, because people can make more money that way."

DeAngelus said students who stay in Ocean Pines will be assigned to work at a Matt Ortt Companies-controlled Association facility, as a Matt Ortt Companies employee.

"The students that get housing from Ocean Pines residents will then sign a contract with Matt Ortt Companies to work at an Ocean Pines facility managed by the company. They could work at the Yacht Club or the Beach Club, or the Clubhouse Grille. So, by taking in a student, you're helping Ocean Pines operations," he said.

Landlords must provide a private bedroom for one or two J-1 students, along with a shared bathroom.

"Their stay would be for 16 weeks from the day of occupancy to their end work dates," DeAngelus said. "The J-1 students will be between the ages of 18-28 years of age from many countries around the world, such as the Dominican Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Lithuania, Slovakia, Jamaica, Romania and possibly more. Landlords can't specify which country they want to take in a student from, but they can specify whether they want to host a male or a female."

DeAngelus added that Landlords can house a J-1 student at no charge if they wish, but added, "these students are prepared to pay a fair rental fee."

"There is an income potential for empty nesters and families wishing to supply their children a great cultural experience, not to mention you will be helping your community and making a dream come true for a young foreign person," he said.

The deadline to inquire about hosting a student is Jan. 15. DeAngelus said all applicants must go through a screening process, and host applicants must submit to a walk-through.

J-1 students will arrive vaccinated and will be covid tested, before and after flights.

For more information, contact DeAngelus at 410-726-4747 or J-1 Program Director-Ocean City, Maryland Anne Marie Conestabile at 443-664-6519 ext. 1039.

Berlin resident earns Carnegie Hero award

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Carnegie Hero Fund will recognize 17 civilians who risked their lives for others, and among them is Jonathan Bauer of Berlin.

Bauer is to be recognized for his

actions following a May 2 multi-vehicle accident on the Route 90 bridge into Ocean City. The force of the crash caused a toddler to fall from her family's pickup truck into the bay. Bauer, a 51-year-old IT executive, was

involved in the accident, but after learning what had happened to the 23-month-old girl, he climbed over the bridge's guide rail and jumped 30 feet into the shallow water below.

He swam to the girl, who was unresponsive. Holding her over his shoulder, he tapped her back until she coughed, spit up water and opened her eyes. Bauer held her above the surface of the water until a pontoon boat arrived to take them to shore.

The toddler was airlifted to the hospital and was released the following day. Bauer was sore, but he did not require medical treatment.

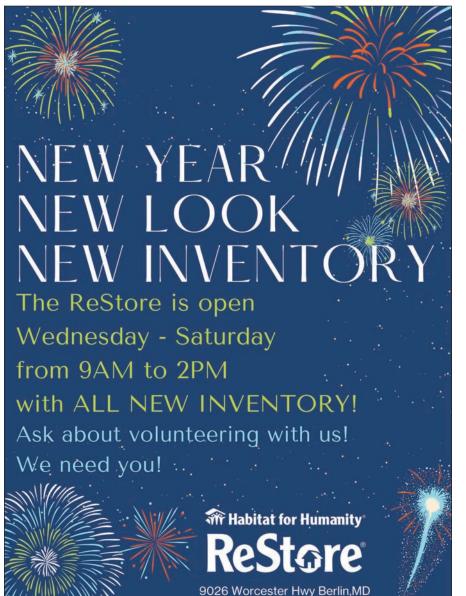
Each of the honorees will receive the Carnegie Medal, North America's highest honor for civilian heroism.

The Carnegie Medal is given throughout the U.S. and Canada to those who enter extreme danger while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

With this announcement, a total of 10,273 Carnegie Medals have been awarded since the Pittsburgh-based Fund's inception in 1904.

Commission Chairman Mark Laskow said each of the awardees or their survivors will also receive a financial grant. Throughout the more than 117 years since the fund was established by industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, more than \$43 million has been given in one-time grants, scholarship aid, death benefits, and continuing assistance

More information on the Carnegie Medal and the history of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission can be found at carnegiehero.org. Follow on Facebook: facebook.com/carnegiehero and Twitter: @carnegie_hero.



OP tennis pro Underkoffler wins 'Grow the Game' grant

(Jan. 6, 2022) Ocean Pines Racquet Center Head Tennis professional Terry Underkoffler was recently awarded \$876 by the United States Tennis Association Mid-Atlantic Region.

The grant was given for the Racquet Center's staff efforts last summer to attract new players and to entice existing players to seek tennis instruction.

"The 'Grow the Game' grant is a recognition and reward for organizations that are offering entry-level tennis programs aimed at new and returning players," Underkoffler said. "It was a competitive grant that or-

ganizations had to meet specific criteria to receive the award."

Underkoffler and his staff trained more than 80 junior and adult players in a variety of formats last summer. All the Ocean Pines instructors are professionally licensed to teach the skills of the game and return people to play in a safe and welcoming environment.

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center is a USTA- recognized site that offers play and instruction all year around.

For more information, visit https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pa ges/racquet-sports.



YOUNG BUILDERS

Berlin Intermediate School sixth grade students in Kelly Powell's enrichment class extended their knowledge of circuits and switches to build a spooky Halloween town. Students in the school were able to tour the town and trick-or-

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HISTORY WEEK

DONATION

Ocean City Lioness

Lions Club President

Bev Topfer, left, and

Vice President Donna

Greenwood present a

check to Capt. Matt

commanding officer

of the Lower Shore

provides youth,

disaster relief

and Somerset

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services to

counties.

senior, social and

Salvation Army, which

Worcester, Wicomico

Trantham, a

Germantown School Community Heritage Center in Berlin participated in Worcester County History Week by replicating their classroom from 1922. The school educated African American students prior to integration. Pictured are two former students, Catherine Whaley, left, and Barbara Purnell, **GSCHC** president.



SCHOOL SPIRIT

Students at Worcester Preparatory School celebrated spirit week Oct. 4-9, by dressing accordingly to each day of the week's theme. Pictured above, from left, during Time Travel Day are **Sophie Haines, Summer** Vent. Reagan Sterrs. Natalie Brushmiller. **Ainsley Gardner and Anna** Carpenter. (Left) Also participating, from left, are sophomores Dylan Simons, Lebby Becker, **Moorea Phillips and Hunter Simons.** SUBMITTED PHOTOS/

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Clasing named Public Works deputy director

Will assist in fiscal and operational management of several county divisions

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners named Christopher Clasing as the new deputy director of Public Works. He stepped into his new role with Worcester County Government (WCG) on Dec. 1.

"Chris has served in multiple roles at other Public Works departments on Delmarva," Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. "I'm excited by his addition to the Worcester Public Works team and am looking forward



C. Clasing

to working with him."

Clasing, a registered professional engineer in Maryland, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware in 2015. He brings six

years of experience to WCG.

From 2018 to 2021, Clasing worked with the Wicomico County Department of Public Works where he rose from civil engineer to chief civil engineer. Prior to that time he served as project engineer in the Department of Infrastructure and Development for

the City of Salisbury.

"I'm truly appreciative to the commissioners for this opportunity," Clasing said. "I look forward to serving the citizens and visitors of Worcester County."

Clasing, an Eastern Shore resident, is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Eastern Shore Branch, co-founder and past president of ASCE Eastern Shore Branch Younger Member Group, and an active member of the County Engineers Association of Maryland.

He will assist the director in fiscal and operational management of the Fleet, Maintenance, Roads, Solid Waste, and Water and Wastewater Divisions.

His responsibilities include preparing bid specifications, reviewing and approving developers' construction plans for public infrastructure projects, coordinating inspection and acceptance for county maintenance of public facilities constructed by developers, providing engineering comments on proposed public infrastructure projects, and establishing departmental policies and procedures.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Kim Moses at 410-632-1194.

Ross honored by Worcester upon retirement

(Jan. 6, 2022) During their Dec. 7 meeting, the commissioners paid tribute to Public Works Deputy Director John Ross, PE, who will retire later this month following a 19-year career with Worcester County Government.

"John has been responsible for so many improvements, which have increased the resiliency of our water and waste water systems," Public Works Director Dallas Baker said. "His knowledge and insight are going to be missed, but what will be missed more is the great person John is. I



John Ross

wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement."

Ross played an integral role in numerous infrastructure projects, including the ongoing improvements to the Ocean

Pines water system, the wastewater collection, and pumping systems, as well as the latest expansion of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). He also helped spearhead

the construction of the new Mystic Harbour WWTP, pump station, and spray irrigation projects.

"I look back on my career with Worcester County and all that we have accomplished over that time," Ross said. "I would single out former Public Works Director John Tustin, who most influenced me. Since I was coming from the private sector, John taught me how to work in the public sector in general, and he always supported me during our time in Worcester County. I would also recognize the

dedicated personnel in the Water and Wastewater Division, county administration staff, finance team, environmental, and planning groups who were always available to help."

Ross played an integral role in the overall management of the Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works, where he planned, directed and administered day-to-day operational activities, as well as water and wastewater treatment plant and pump station upgrades and expansions

OP Association presents meals to Diakonia

(Jan. 6, 2022) Ocean Pines Association staff recently sent holiday meals for 10 local families to Diakonia, a West Ocean City nonprofit operation that has been supplying services to the homeless for nearly 50 years.

The staff collection sent 10 turkeys, plus instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, gravy, green beans, corn, brownies, cake mix and other items to Diakonia as part of the Association's annual

holiday giving initiative. The Matt Ortt Companies also contributed food items

Diakonia Executive Director Bee Miller said the organization is always busy during the holiday season. The nonprofit serves about 200 local people each year through its shelter, plus an additional 200 families each month through its food pantry.

"Food drives this time of year are tremendous for us. We're getting loaded with food, which is great because nobody leaves without a full trunk of food," she said. "And the Ocean Pines donation made sure that 10 more families will go away with a full trunk of food."

Other needed items include peanut butter and jelly, Miller said, "because it stretches a long way."

"If we have street homeless, we try to make bag lunches or just peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that we can give out to people on the street," she said. The organization is also asking for twin bedsheets.

"Anybody who goes to our shelter, we allow them to take bedding with them when they move into their own place, so there's always a need," Miller said.

Miller said monetary donations are also helpful, because they help fill gaps in between services.

"What a lot of people don't know is, all the financial donations we get are considered matching funds for the grants we go after as well," she said. "So, with every dollar that's given, we can double or triple it."

Diakonia programs include Supportive Services for veterans and their families serving Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties; Homeless Solutions that helps with rent and utilities for eligible households serving Wicomico and Worcester counties; Rapid Rehousing serving Wicomico and Worcester counties; and Emergency Rental Assistance for those affected by coviding in Worcester County.

To donate, call 410-213-0923, or donate online at www.diakoniaoc.org.



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www.baysideoc.com

OP Children's Theater performs 'Frozen' in OC

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Ocean Pines Children's Theater announces its upcoming production of the musical, "Disney's Frozen, Jr.," in January.

The production will take place in the Performing Arts Center, located in the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 15 at 3 p.m.

Based on the Oscar-winning film, the stage adaptation of "Frozen" opened on Broadway in 2018, earning three Tony award nominations, including best musical.

Unfortunately, in May 2020, after

825 performances, the decision was reached to suspend further Broadway performances of "Frozen" due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of 2021, the show has been on the road, again captivating audiences across the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia. The Ocean Pines Children's Theater is proud to offer audiences yet another opportunity to see this magical show.

"I am so proud of the 16 talented and hard-working young people in our cast, and of course incredibly grateful to our wonderful artistic directors and production crew," said Paulette DeRosa-Matrona, director/choreographer and president of the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. "Everyone is so excited to be a part of this. I'm particularly honored to represent one of the theater groups performing this enchanting modern Disney classic, and I encourage all to come out and experience its magic. Help us truly celebrate Elsa and Anna's song, 'For the First Time in Forever."

Tickets can be purchased through

ticketmaster.com, or in person at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 40th Street, bayside

The Children's Theater acknowledges and is grateful for special funding awarded by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Worcester County Arts Council.

"Disney's Frozen Jr." is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

Delmarva Blood Bank requesting donations

(Jan. 6, 2022) Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) announced a blood emergency due in large part to fears of the Omicron variant and the holiday season.

Currently, the region's blood supply stands at a three-day level, well below the ideal inventory of seven days. Most precariously, the key blood types of O positive and O negative are at 0.9 and 0.8 days, respectively.

Blood centers across the country are and have been suffering from shortages for the 19 months of the pandemic.

Many factors complicate the situation, including:

- Donor fatigue from constant urgent/critical messages and a significant decrease in first time donors stepping up to help.
- Working from home is the new normal, preventing many organizations from being able to host successful blood drives.
- Hundreds of groups that had supported the blood supply pre-pandemic have not resumed blood drives.
- Widespread fear of covid-19 infection continues and new fears about Omicron variant keep donors away.
 - · Many high schools and colleges,

which accounted for 25 percent of BBD blood donations, have not returned to hosting blood drives.

- Donor confusion over eligibility around vaccination status. (Donors are equally confused about whether having nor not having the vaccine impacts their ability to give blood.)
- Currently, there is no national surplus. Prior to the pandemic, a national surplus of blood products would be used to mitigate any regional blood shortages.
- During the busy holiday season, people donate less.

In addition, the Omicron variant is creating new concern. Donors with upcoming appointments and organizations with upcoming blood drives are cancelling, thereby creating extra volatility to the blood supply. Hospitals and patients must be able to rely upon a steady flow of volunteer donors. The new variant is causing uncertainty at the worst time of the year, heading into the winter and holiday season.

"In a normal year, winter is a difficult time to maintain the blood supply. Unpredictable weather, cold and flu season, school breaks, family and holiday travel all contribute to making blood donations less of a priority.

Normally, October and November are a time where we build our inven-

tory in anticipation of these challenges, but this year is especially dire without a solid inventory pre-holiday and the news of a new variant," said Patty Killeen, senior executive director at BBD. "Donating blood is safe, easy and vital to those who need it. This is the season of giving and there is no better gift to your fellow Delmarva residents then life-saving blood donations."

Donating blood only takes one hour. Extra precautions are in place to help prevent the person-to-person spread of covid-19. All NYBC staff are vaccinated.

As always, people are not eligible to donate if they're experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms. People can donate blood regardless of vaccination status. Additional information on donor eligibility and covid-19 precautions is available here.

Donors can schedule appointments by calling 1-888-8-BLOOD-8 or visiting www.delmarvablood.org.

Founded in 1954, Blood Bank of

Delmarva is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community blood bank with a simple mission: saving lives.

The Blood Bank of Delmarva achieves its mission every day by providing safe blood and blood products to all 19 hospitals in Delmarva and relies on over 80,000 volunteer blood donors each year to ensure patients' needs are met.

The Blood Bank of Delmarva distributes over 130,000 blood products annually and operates four donor centers. Each year, the Blood Bank of Delmarva normally hosts over 600 blood drives. These blood drives would not be possible without the commitment of community organizations that volunteer to serve as sponsors or coordinators, which provides opportunities for blood donors to give blood and help patients in need.

BBD is a New York Blood Center Enterprises affiliate and a member of AABB and ABC. For more information, visit delmarvablood.org or follow at facebook.com/delmarvabloodbank.

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"Malibu's Surf Shop"
by Jim Adcock
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Opinion

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

Creating budgets now requires extra caution

Budgeting is nothing like it used to be for business or government, both of which these days have little choice but to proceed prudently while fervently hoping the year ahead doesn't go sideways.

The last two years certainly did, rendering useless many of the logical conclusions on which budgets are based. Time was, budget masters could produce a reasonably solid fiscal package by building on figures from the year before.

After 2020 and 2021, however, anyone who plugs numbers into a spreadsheet has to be a little nervous about how much flexibility to build into a budget so it can absorb another bad bout of the unexpected.

No one drafting a plan at the end of 2019 could have anticipated that the beginning of a two-year pandemic was just three months away, nor could they have prepared for its nearly overwhelming financial and social fallout.

Budgets, being the products of math, logic and recent history, don't include a worst-case scenario entry that says, "use your imagination."

That said, the financial planning taking place now in Berlin and Ocean Pines might be involve an extra degree or two of caution. In Berlin, for instance, town officials recognize that the smart move is to get out from under the debt service on its Heron Park purchase. In Ocean Pines, officials are playing it safe in the early rounds, as expenses appear to be stable enough to accommodate an expected drop in revenue.

This is as it should be, while everyone waits to see what this year will bring.

Ralph DeAngelus, CEO of Matt Ortt Companies, which handles food service for Ocean Pines, demonstrated his acceptance of this new normal when he presented his financial outlook to the budget committee late last month.

In explaining his conservative forecasts for the year, DeAngelus told committee, "I'd rather under-promise and over-deliver."

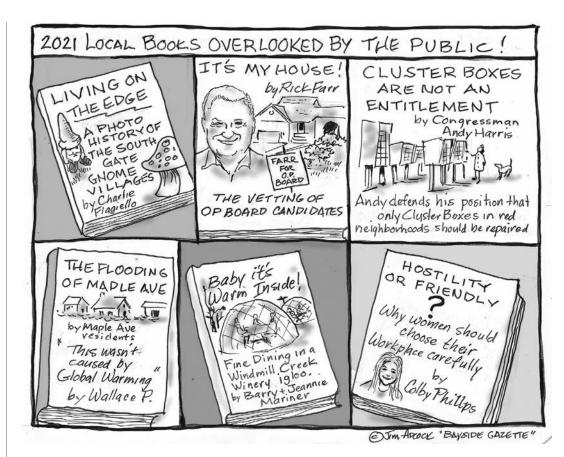
That's what everyone hopes to do in 2022.

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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Wor. Historical Society dinner Jan. 16

Dunes Manor in OC hosts winter meeting

(Jan. 6, 2021) The Worcester County Historical Society will hold its winter dinner meeting at the Dunes Manor, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Sunday, Jan. 16.

Dinner guests will learn about Worcester County's past from Dr. Ray Thompson, retired history professor at Salisbury University.

Dr. Thompson will speak to the members and guests about the early history of Worcester County. Dr. Thompson said that the Eastern Shore has been fortunate to have the oldest continuous records in British-speaking America starting in 1632 to help people understand who the earliest settlers were.

He called them hearty men and women who lived in the frontier environment away from civilization. His talk will look into who they were and their lifestyles and how they transformed the Eastern Shore.

He will trace the movements of the settlers up the peninsula of Virginia into Maryland's Eastern Shore and into Delaware. Their economic, political, cultural and religious societies led to the fundamentals of America today. He also plans a power point to supplement his discussion.

Dr. Thompson, along

with Sylvia Bradley, was the co-founder of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University in 1983. His 45-year career at the university included teaching history and serving as chair of the history department. Today, he continues speaking and doing research in local history.

Doors will open for the event at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$29 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to: Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. The deadline for reservations for the dinner, which is open to the public, is Jan. 9.

Play Bingo and support Grace Center

(Jan. 6, 2022) The public is invited to play Bingo, possibly win money and support a good cause every Friday in January.

The Ocean City Knights of Columbus Council #9053 is dedicating any proceeds from its Game Nights during "Support Life Month" to the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin.

Starting on Jan. 7 and continuing on Jan. 14, 21 and 28, play every game for \$24.

The Knights Hall is located at 9901 Coastal Highway in Ocean City, behind St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church. Doors open at 5

p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are available as are pull tabs and 50/50 games.

Any individual donations to the Grace Center will be matched by the Knights of Columbus up to \$1,000.

For more information, call the center at 443-513-4124.

Md. awards grants for easements

Rural Legacy Program gives \$4 million to back Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

(Jan. 6, 2022) Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) was recently named a recipient of the FY22 grant award for the Agricultural Security Corridor's (ASC) Rural Legacy Areas (RLA) from the State of Maryland's Rural Legacy Program.

At the Dec. 1 meeting of the Maryland Board of Public Works, grant awards for all three of ESLC's-sponsored RLA were approved, totaling nearly \$4 million for conservation easements.

The awards break down as follows: ASC – Eastern Shore Heartland (\$750,056), ASC – Harvest Crescent (\$1,897,634) and the ASC – Tuckahoe (\$1,316,321).

"This allotment represents a significant increase over recent years' awards, an important show of faith in ESLC's dedication to conservation and the importance of the region in which we work," said David Satterfield, land program manager for ESLC.

Enacted in 1997, the Rural Legacy program has been a key resource for land trusts and local governments to protect key resources throughout Maryland.

Each year, the program receives an allocation of funding from the state budget, which is shared by the many sponsors of RLAs throughout the state.

The funding is used by the sponsors to promote the preservation of large, contiguous tracts of land and the enhancement of natural resources, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection, all while supporting a sustainable land base for natural resource-based industries.

The Eastern Shore Rural Legacy Sponsor Board, which includes ESLC and county planning and zoning representatives, began working with the program in 2000. They have submitted annual applications each year since becoming sponsor, leading to protection of 63 properties on over 11,000 acres to date.

While originally conceptualized as a single RLA, the ASC was divided into three separate RLAs in 2020 to represent the unique regions in which they reside and to improve flow of funding to the shore.

The FY22 awards are expected to allow for protection of over 600 acres of prime agricultural and natural resource properties in the region. While the FY22 funding has been obligated to these projects, ESLC is already planning for its upcoming annual application due in February 2022.

Those interested in learning more about the program, or determining if their property may be eligible for inclusion in the FY23 application, should contact Alex Kazer at akazer@eslc.org or 410-690-4603.

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) is a private, nonprofit land conservation organization committed to preserving and sustaining the vibrant communities of the Eastern Shore and the lands and waters that connect them. For more information, visit www.eslc.org.

OP Players holds vocal auditions today, tomorrow

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Ocean Pines Players announces open vocal auditions in preparation for its February original cabaret, "What's Love Got to Do With H?"

Calling Director Karen McClure at 703-727-0528 to schedule a vocal audition on Thursday, Jan. 6 or Friday, Jan. 7. The auditions as well as the cabaret will be in Ocean Pines.

Plan by preparing an upbeat song and a ballad to sing at the audition. (No more than two minutes for each song.)

A list of songs being considered for the cabaret will be published by Dec. 31, on the group's Facebook page and online at oceanpinesplayers.com. The Ocean Pines Players values diversity and inclusion in casting and all other areas of the organization.

Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501-(c)(3) charitable organization, supported in part by a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council & Maryland State Arts Council and the generosity of community members.

Cricket Center's 'Shop With a Cop' event successful

Numerous law enforcement agencies help out in Berlin

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack again partnered with the Worcester County CRICKET Center for the annual "Shop With A Cop" event.

Assisting with the event were members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Ocean City Police Department, Berlin Police Department, Pocomoke Police Department and troopers from the Salisbury Barrack. As part of the event, the Worcester County Board of Education identified 18 elementary school students throughout the county to participate.

Financial donations were received by the CRICKET Center to assemble food baskets for each family. Each of the students were paired with a uniformed trooper or officer from one of the local agencies. The children received a tour of the Berlin Barrack and were sworn in as "auxiliary" police officers for the event.

The students and law enforcement partners then traveled by Maryland State Police bus to the Berlin Walmart. Once at the store, the children were given \$100 to spend. After their shopping spree, participants were bussed back to the barrack and provided lunch courtesy of the West Ocean City Chic-fil-A.

After lunch, volunteers wrapped gifts the students purchased for their family and friends.

This event was made possible through the generous support from the CRICKET Center Board of Directors, the Berlin Walmart and the National Walmart Foundation, the West Ocean City Chic-fil-A, the Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Matthew Farr, Esquire, and the Bless Our Children Campaign sponsored by WBOC.

Wor. Public Works providing tree recycling until Jan. 15

(Jan. 6, 2022) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County Public Works will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through Jan. 15.

Area residents can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that

sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may take them to the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the Central Landfill. For more info, contact Recycling Manager Mike McClung at 410-632-



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Cuisine

Use homemade pasta for porcini lasagna

I sit on a warm, cozy couch in St. Augustine, reminiscing an extraordinary Italian meal that my daughter and I ate last night.



By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

I peer at the posts of the friends and family up north dealing with the snow and ice, and I have to admit that I feel guilty complaining about having to wear a jacket for most of the week down here.

I will come back as pale as I was six days prior, but so be it. It is still better than the skating rinks that the roads are in Maryland.

But I digress. It has been a long time since a dining experience has moved me like this, and I am savoring every moment— the service, the wine, the meal itself, the ambience. Yes, the entire package. Our meal at Alta Marea rivaled a dinner that I have written about many times in the past 15 years at the Martini House in Napa Valley, to date in the top three meals for me.

In fact, it was at the Martini House where I learned this simple fresh pasta recipe that I have used and shared since. Todd Humphries mastered the art of this amazing staple, and while it may not be ideal to eat fresh pasta every day, suffice it to say that the occasional foray into the land of breads and pastas is a trip well-made. The sacrifice is real, and well worth the extra pounds.

I couldn't resist ordering the Porcini Lasagna ('lasagne') and it was delightful. There is something so utterly lovely about homemade, fresh pasta. And it did not disappoint.

To top off the evening, the server recommended the Tiramisu, and we were stuffed. There wasn't room for another ounce of food. Why did he have to say 'Tiramisu'? I responded with two questions. First "Is it homemade?" to which the answer was to the affirmative.

The second question decided our fate.

"Does the chef use Savoiardi (those crispy ladyfinger looking biscotti)?"

"Chef Simone will only use those. If he can't get them, he simply doesn't serve it."

Damn it, I thought to myself. I must order it. My daughter resisted, but she had never had Tiramisu, let alone a properly made one, so order it I did. And it was glorious. It was like the quakes that sepa-



rated the continents. In a word, it was sublime.

My daughter, the more resistant of the two, had no problem helping me finish it off and I was happy to introduce her to one of the finer things in Italian cuisine. But that recipe is for another day. For now, let's stick with the lasagna.

Porcini Lasagna

serves 6

1 lb. Fresh pasta (recipe follows)

2 Tbsp EVOO

2 Tbsp. Unsalted grass-fed butter

8 oz. Porcini mushrooms, fresh

8 oz. Cremini mushrooms, fresh

4 oz. Portabella mushrooms, fresh

2 ea. Leeks, whites only, washed and sliced thin 2 cloves garlic, smashed and minced

1 ea. Shallot, fine diced

2 c. Dry white wine

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 c. Heavy cream

1/2 c. Mascarpone cheese

1/2 c. Ricotta

1 c. Good parmesan cheese

- 1. Cut the pasta into the shapes that will determine the final shape of the dish.
- 2. Cook for 2-3 minutes in simmering water, remove and set aside for assembly, keeping them warm.
- 3. Heat the oil and butter in a pan large enough to house the mushrooms, and add said mushrooms.

- 4. Add the leeks as well and cook for about nine minutes, or until soft.
- 5. Add the garlic and the shallot. You have the option of cooking these first, but they will maintain a much more pronounced flavor in the finished dish if you wait until this point.
- 6. When most of the liquid has cooked off the mushrooms, add the white wine and lemon juice.
- 7. Reduce by at least half, and then season with salt and pepper to your liking.
- 8. In a separate pan, combine the cream and reduce until thick. Add salt and pepper and add the ricotta, mascarpone and parmesan and warm through
- 9. To assemble, place a bit of the cream in your serving bowls, add a layer of pasta, then mushrooms and a touch of cream. Repeat until all of the ingredients are gone and serve immediately.

Fresh Pasta

makes one pound

2 1/2 c. Hi-gluten flour or semolina (preferred)

1 tsp. Salt

3 egg yolks

1 whole egg

heavy cream, as needed

- 1. I was taught a few years ago by a Sicilian chef to use a paddle in a stand mixer for pasta dough. Using the dough hook takes too long, and it is rather amazing how quickly this dough comes together with the aforementioned paddle.
- 2. Put the flour, salt, egg yolks and egg in the mixer with the paddle and let her rip.
- 3. One caveat: You can always add dry ingredients to a wet dough, but it is nigh impossible to add liquid to a bone-dry dough. So, as you mix this, add cream as needed to ensure that it isn't too dry.
- 4. When the dough comes together in a tight but pliable ball, wrap in plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for one hour.
- 5. When ready, simply roll it out and cut into the shape that you desire. In this case, pappardelle works wonders with the rich, creamy lemon sauce.
 - Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.





Calendar

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

Thurs., Jan. 6

OCEAN PINES PLAYERS VOCAL AUDITIONS

"What's Love Got to Do With It?" auditions: Karen McClure, 703-727-0528. Songs being considered for the cabaret can be found on the groups Facebook page or online at oceanpinesplayers.com.

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointment required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

STORY TIME 'AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: LOIS EHLERT'

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

MERRY MAKERS - NEW YEAR, NEW BUSINESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Makers will brainstorm about new projects to work on during 2022. Their goal is to repurpose items whenever possible. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or 410-208-4014.

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME: 'HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYWHERE!'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Learn all about how our friends around the world celebrate the New Year. Make some crafts that showcase how different countries ring in 2022. For children ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'BORN A CRIME' BY TREVOR NOAH

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Cynthia Hanagud and Gail Samis of Salisbury University. Copies of the book are available at the Pocomoke branch. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

AGH JOB FAIR

Atlantic General Hospital's Main Lobby, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-6 p.m. The job fair is for all open positions throughout the Hospital and Health System including clinical and non-clinical roles. www.agh.care/careers. Register: 410-641-9612, jobs@atlanticgeneral.org.

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. Info: 302-436-9577 or Beachsingles.org

Fri., Jan. 7

OCEAN PINES PLAYERS VOCAL AUDITIONS

"What's Love Got to Do With It?" auditions: Karen McClure, 703-727-0528. Songs being considered for the cabaret can be found on the groups Facebook page or online at oceanpinesplayers.com.

JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. A collaboration between visual artists and writers during the annual "Shared Visions" exhibit. All are welcome to this free event. Also held at the Coffee Beanery and Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel. 410-524-9433

BINGO FOR BABIES

Ocean City Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Play every game for \$24. Refreshments are available as are pull tabs and 50/50 games. Proceeds will be dedicated to the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin. 410-524-7994

Sat., Jan. 8

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Pete Roskovich and Steve Lewis will be recounting \$1 million win in the 30th Annual MidAtlantic Tournament. All are welcome but it is requested that those attending be fully vaccinated. 410-641-7662.

CRAFTY SATURDAY STEM EDITION: MAD AND MESSY SCIENCE LAB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come and do some fun, crafty, STEM experiments. Prepare to get messy. For ages 4 years and older. While supplies last. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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., Jan. 9

RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR THE WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER DINNER MEETING

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave.,

Ocean City. Held on Jan. 16 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$29 and can be purchased by sending check to Robert Fisher, WHS Treasurer, 230 S. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD 21863 by Jan. 9. 410-632-1265

Mon., Jan. 10

MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE

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

VISION BOARD WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30-7 p.m. Come make a visual representation of your goals. All supplies provided. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

Tues., Jan. 11

STORY TIME 'BATH TIME BUBBLES'

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

RSVP DEADLINE FOR WINTER WARM-UP MIXER

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City. Networking opportunity for businesses and organization leaders, Jan. 12 from 5-7 p.m. RSVP by noon on Jan. 11 at

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winterwarm-up-marylands-coast-mixer-tickets-233761295327. 410-632-3112

RETIREMENT BOOTCAMP: RETIREMENT SUCCESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Covering some basic but powerful fundamentals about retirement and the factors that can positively, or negatively, affect it. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PARACHUTE GAMES

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke

Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Play parachute games. 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 Pine, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org.

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 7:30 p.m. Erik Zlokovitz, from DNR, will speak on Record Fish. Ron Smith, smitty3894@aol.com

DELMARVA DANCING

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Participants show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. delmarvahand-dance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151

Wed., Jan. 12

STORY TIME 'HATS & MITTENS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories about hats and mittens. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'CUTTING FOR STONE' BY ABRAHAM VERGHESE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Michael Hayes. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean City branch. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 3-5 p.m. Drop into the library every Wednesday to receive one-on-one guidance from library staff to strengthen you're resume and help with your job search. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

LEGO PLAYDATE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Bring your LEGO bricks and build alongside other kids. Challenges and other activities provided. For ages 5 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STEM - 'BIRDS OF A FEATHER'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4:30 p.m. Learn all about bird anatomy, how to use a field guide, identify bird songs and make a bird feeder. For ages 8-12 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

Puzzles

PEST CONTROL BY CHRISTINA IVERSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Christina Iverson, of Ames, Iowa, is a crossword constructor with two young children. She has been making puzzles for The Times since 2019. Christina says she aims to make puzzles that are fun and accessible. "I try my hardest to stay away from obscure language — and squeeze in dad jokes whenever I can." This is her fourth Sunday and 10th crossword overall for the paper. — W.S

ACROSS

- 1 Appoint 7 People of the
- Southwest
- 13 Wishy-washy
- response 19 Had the opportunity
- to, casually
- 20 Entertainment with a private audience?
- 21 Malice, more formally
- 22 One wearing chap stick, perhaps
- 24 Be up against
- 25 Poker variety similar to Texas Hold 'em
- 26 Counterpart of "Thx" 27 Saves for later, in a
- way 29 Ploy
- 30 Lost
- 32 Antarctic coordinate
- 35 "A man has cause for ____ only when he sows and no one reaps": Charles Goodyear
- 38 Bit of tinder
- 41 First side to vote
- course
- 43 New York City transport stopping at Kennedy Airport
- 46 Beginning stage
- 47 Prefix with thermal
- 50 There might be a catch with this
- 51 Blouse and broach, perhaps
- 54 Wet bar?

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

- 55 Form of nepotism, symbolically
- 57 Herd member
- 58 Sauce
- 59 Place, as ceramic tiles
- 60 Like autumn air
- 62 Person helping with a delivery
- 63 Word before film and after clip
- 65 It has many beet and beef options
- Trois Petits Cochons" (French fable)
- 71 Sport at the Special Olympics
- 73 G.I.
- 74 Calling
- 76 Not be able to stand 77 Ending with invent
- 78 War and peace, in "War and Peace"
- 83 Like most dorms nowadays
- 84 Tickled
- 87 Focus of modern mining
- 88 " be an honor!"
- 89 They can be graphic 90 Surround, as with light
- 91 Considerations for N.C.A.A. eligibility
- Wintour, longtime Vogue
- editor in chief 93 Spring locales
- 94 Takes by force
- 96 Pop fly
- 100 Some family babysitters
- 102 Match
- 103 Sarge's boss
- 105 A-number-one

- 106 The Venetian way?
 - 110 Alternative to Dropbox
- 113 Gradually fix something. ... or what to do to understand this puzzle's italicized clues?
- 116 Briefly, e.g.
- 117 What's used to catch some waves
- 118 Supreme Egyptian god
- 119 Bum out
- 120 Famous cryptid, familiarly
- 121 Intimates
- DOWN 1 Number of sides on a sign reading "ALTO"
- 2 Space mater (brain
- cover) 4 Politico-turned-TV-host
- 5 Form thoughts
- 6 Catch
- 7 Seeks a favor, say favor
- 9 Working hard
- 10 Java activity
- 11 Product from un ave 12 Boo-boo
- 13 Texter's qualifier
- 14 One might be put through the wringer
- 15 Geek Squad members, e.g. 16 "I can thrill you more than any
- could ever dare try' ("Thriller" lyric) 'The Glass Bead
- Game" author, 1943

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- 18 Pecan or peach
- 20 Sch. where a live bear used to take the field during football
- 23 Echo, perhaps
- 28 Pimple look-alikes
- 31 It usually works in corners
- 33 "Catch!"
- 34 Baker's Joy alternative
- 35 Record speeds, for short
- 36 Adams of New York City politics
- 37 Antelope, say
- 38 Parable or allegory
- 39 Devices with Nunchuks 40 Business
- newsmagazine
- 44 "For shame!" 45 Slugging stat
- 46 Member of the inn crowd?
- 47 Approach for directions
- 48 Onetime collaborator with Ice Cube and Dr. Dre
- 49 Some sports tournaments
- 52 Big name in women's hair and skin care
- 53 Boo-boo
- 54 Word with story or sister
- 56 Economist/author Emily
- 58 Screw up
- 60 Relative of a club, for short
- 61 Place for boarding
- 63 You can count on them
- 64 Member of the modern work force
- 66 Great Lakes natives 67 Kind of bean
- 68 Taiwanese electronics giant

110

116

- "I'm about to tell you
- something shocking' 72 Haddock relative
- 75 Doesn't put it all on
- one pony Suvari of "American Beauty"
- 79 Sounds heard in 93-Across
- 80 Destructive 2021 hurricane 81 Nouveau-Mexique

113

117

- e.g.
- 82 Lip or cheek
- 84 Put over the moon 85 One hanging around
- Queen Elizabeth?
- 86 With it, in old slang 89 "Snowpiercer" airer
- 92 Sporting a certain natural style
- 93 Avoids

- 95 Tortoise's challenge to 102 Snaps the hare 96 Nickname for the
- French Alexandre 97 No longer squeaky
- (one hopes!) 98 John Wayne, by birth
- 99 Who ran against George Washington
- for president 100 " _chance!"
- 101 Letters that
 - complete this word: P ROPRIA E
- 104 Squeezes (out)

118

- 105 Good thing to be in
- 107 Letters on dreidels
- 108 Taj Mahal's home
- 109 Exam that once required fingerprint identification, for
- short 111 Exercise
- 112 Animal house
- 114 Demon of Japanese folklore
- 115 Folklore villain

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom **HARD - 61**

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.

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

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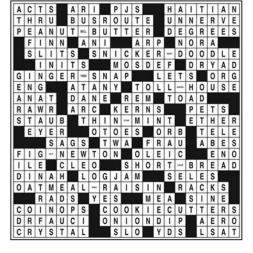
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week's puzzles

nwarketp

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by Monday 5 p.m.





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