



## Planning opts against zoning for residential

Commission nixes rezoning for big townhouse project

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Density issues and increasing the demand on town services were among the reasons the Berlin Planning Commission voted 5-1 last week against backing a request to rezone property by Routes 50 and 818 from commercial to residential.

Developer Chris Carbaugh and attorney Mark Cropper returned to the commission last Wednesday after presenting concept plans for a proposed 176-unit townhouse project on a 24-acre parcel on the north side of Route 50 in October.

In February 2020, based on a request from Carbaugh, the property was altered from M-1 industrial use to B-2 shopping district.

After the subsequent covid-19 pandemic slowed commercial development and expanded the housing market, developers changed course to seek rezoning for a portion of the land to R-4 residential district to allow for a 176-unit townhouse development.

Cropper said the proposed mixed-use commercial area adjacent to Route 818 would border the residential portion located to the rear.

"You would travel through the commercial road to enter the residential area," he said.

Cropper said the 2020 rezoning to B-2 was based upon a mistake.

"The Berlin Planning Commission was not made aware in 2020 of the volume of commercial zoning in close proximity to this property," he said.

Cropper said numerous lands in close proximity were designated as commercial use when the Worcester County comprehensive zoning map was adopted in 2009.

"When the comprehensive land use plan was adopted in 2007 ... the county concluded it had more com-

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### REACHING AHEAD

Ocean Pines Children's Theater members practice lines and stage directions for "Disney's Frozen Jr." on Jan. 7 at the community center in Ocean Pines in preparation for a two-day run at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center held last weekend.

## Farr ends busy first week on board



Rick Farr

Catching up rapidly said like trying to drink from fire hose

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Since being seated on the Ocean Pines Board of Directors last Wednesday, Rick Farr has had an active first week getting up to speed with the new role.

"It's been a whirlwind in terms of getting to know different people on committees," he said.

In addition to gaining the lay of the

land, Farr was assigned board liaison duties for the Architectural Review and Recreation & Parks committees.

"I've been tasked with those roles," he said.

Speaking on Tuesday, Farr was slated to attend his first ARC Committee meeting later that day.

"I'm doing a meet and greet," he said.

Before meeting committee members in person, Farr contacted ARC Committee Chair John Dilworth and Recreation & Parks Chair Patti Stevens for introductions.

"I'm getting familiar with different folks

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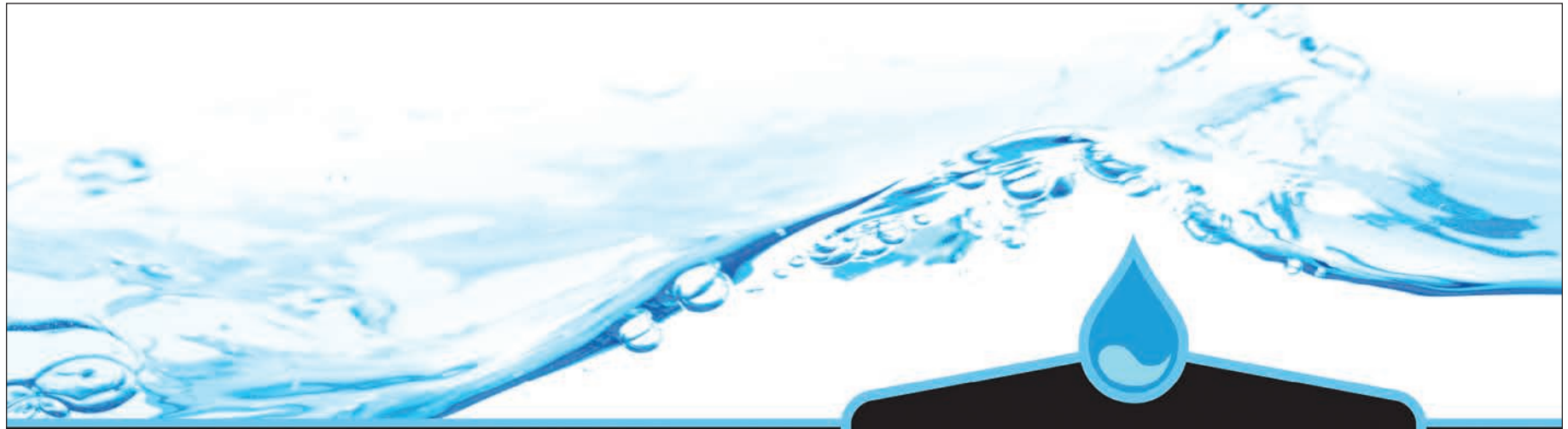
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# We Heart Berlin pitches projects

Nonprofit organizer Weeg checks in with Planning Commission on three fronts

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) We Heart Berlin President and CEO Tony Weeg discussed a trio of proposals with the Parks Commission during a virtual meeting last Tuesday.

Leading the list was Weeg's idea of "Love Day" as an annual celebration. The observance was introduced last year as a community event in Henry Park.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said if the Parks Commission votes to back the proposal, Weeg could submit a request to add "Love Day" to the town calendar.

"What support from town services would be needed?" she said.

Weeg said comparable support to the inaugural gathering would be required.

"We already had a police presence and public works was on hand," he said.

In general, the event would focus on the arts, music and, of course, basketball, Weeg said.

"What it turns into and how we evolve it, I'm not really sure," he said. "It will be a day of dancing, fun and food."

Bohlen said there had been previous discussions of an arts festival on Flower Street.

"We talked last year about holding an arts festival, but the timing wasn't right, and we weren't able to pull it together," she said. "Are you interested in combining with that or looking at two separate events?"

Weeg said Love Day would be one element within a larger concept.

"Personally, I want to see a Flower

Street festival that is more than just 'Love Day,'" he said. "'Love Day' is part of what's going to happen."

To that end, Weeg has been strategizing with Councilmember Shaneka Nichols and Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells on plans for Flower Street celebrations.

The Parks Commission voted unanimously in support of establishing "Love Day" as an ongoing tradition.

"Beyond that it has to go to the mayor and council," he said.

Bohlen encouraged Weeg to continue forming plans in consultation with Nichols and Wells.

"To put together a proposal for one or more events in Henry Park," she said.

Event details and proposed dates would also need clarification, Bohlen said.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said crews would be available to assist with set up and trash removal.

"The bathrooms will be ready and cleaned," he said.

Bouncing over to table tennis, Weeg asked what needed to be done to see that a ping-pong attraction is installed in Burbage Park.

"We would love to call it the, 'Tables at Burbage Park,'" he said.

In addition to a pair of tables, the pocket park plans proposed by Weeg include twin brick walls measuring 25 feet by 18 inches.

Weeg also suggested installing two brick pads underneath each ping pong table instead of concrete surfacing.

"I think that a brick pad would actually look better aesthetically and be

more fun to play on," he said. "It would match the wall as well."

Long-term maintenance was one concern cited by Bohlen.

"There are porous concrete and impervious surfaces that could be used that might be a better long-term," she said.

Weeg noted the nonprofit had already purchased ping pong tables and, regardless of design options, were chomping at the bit to proceed.

"What are next steps to get shovels in the ground and start the process?" he said.

Bohlen said town staff would have to discuss that.

"We will get back to you and start moving sooner than later," she said.

Weeg welcomed the news.

"I've talked to enough people and their paddles are ready," he said.

Long-range plans for a skate park was the last initiative on the agenda from We Heart Berlin.

"The reality is we've raised some money through some amazing donations in the past two weeks," he said.

With coffers now flush, Weeg said the goal is to contract a design firm to flesh out the vision.

"I'm here tonight asking what are the steps to figure out the physical space in town?" he said.

While understanding the project timeline could stretch out several years, organizers are prepared to finance a feasibility study.

Bohlen said the group could bring a feasibility study back to the town or wait for the mayor and council to issue a request for proposals.

While the former option could save time, there are no guarantees the town would agree to selected locations or design details.

"We haven't done this before, so we're finding our way as well," she said.

## Pines Env. Cmte. Chair Wolf resigns after lengthy run

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Leadership changes are taking place on the Ocean Pines Environmental and Natural Assets Committee after longtime chair Ken Wolf unexpectedly resigned last week.

"I didn't want to leave," Wolf said.

During the committee meeting on Jan. 13, Wolf floored group members by tendering his resignation.

"I left because it was getting too political," he said.

Committee member Sharon Santacroce, who is in line to assume the chairperson assignment, expressed regret at witnessing Wolf's departure.

"We are disappointed Ken resigned," she said.

After failing to convince Wolf to reconsider, the committee selected Santacroce as chair, with approval pending during the next board meeting on Saturday.

"They voted for me," she said.

Wolf, who joined the Environmental Committee in 2012, served two terms before leaving the group for a period only to return in November 2019.

During his time with the committee, Wolf served as chair on two occasions, with his current term set to expire in July.

"The group has a lot of interesting things going on, but I felt I had to step away," he said.

Wolf gave up his committee seat following a series of contentious interchanges during the group's No-

See WOLF Page 6



Tony Weeg



Ken Wolf



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# Proponents: project worth millions to town

Continued from Page 1

commercial zoning than needed to accommodate public demand for next 10-15 years,” he said.

Cropper said if facts had been presented differently in 2020, the B-2 designation would not have been approved.

“Our position is had the mayor and council, and prior to that the Planning Commission, been made aware of the vast amounts of commercially zoned land in close proximity ... this property shouldn’t have been rezoned to B-2,” he said.

Carbaugh estimated the housing project would earn the town more than \$600,000 annually from residential and commercial taxes, while also netting about \$3.6 million from real estate revenue.

“This would mean a 17 percent increase in revenue to the town,” he said.

Other associated revenue streams would bolster enterprise funds, including about \$670,000 from electric, roughly \$40,000 from water and \$126,000 from wastewater.

Further, Carbaugh said the town would collect about \$3.2 million from water and sewer EDUs.

“This project has a potential first year benefit to the town of \$5 million,” he said.



RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN PLANNING COMMISSION

**Berlin Planning Commission members voted 5-1 to issue an unfavorable recommendation for a proposed 176-unit townhome development by Routes 50 and 818 during its meeting on Jan. 12.**

Among those opposing the housing development was Robert Bunting, who operates Buntings Field, a private airstrip situated three nautical miles north of Berlin.

Representing Bunting was attorney Dirk Widdowson, who argued that re-

zoning is permitted if there was a significant change in the character of the area or if a previous determination was made by mistake.

“Based on a mistake in fact, not in judgment,” he said.

Bunting, noting the county issued a

special use exemption for the airfield in 1980, said the smaller aircraft using the site tend to fly lower and are nosier than larger planes.

“Every resident in that development are going to complain to the person they bought the townhouse from,” he said.

Bunting’s operation primarily launches planes for crop dusting and displaying promotional banners along the beachfront in Ocean City in the summer.

Bunting envisioned a rash of lawsuits based on noise and disturbance complaints from residents annoyed by aircraft.

“I could be sued and the town could be sued,” he said.

Widdowson said a residents’ survey tied to Berlin’s Comprehensive Plan showed an overall preference to decrease residential development in favor of commercial ventures.

Additionally, Widdowson noted the comprehensive plan also seeks to preserve the character of the community by limiting new residential development to provide workforce housing.

“The focus is on developing jobs in the community as the main priority,” he said.

Cropper questioned the potential impact of nearby biplanes, arguing that the Ocean City Airport handles a higher percentage of plane traffic and is also located near residences.

Bunting questioned that assertion.

“I have had days I have been busier than the Ocean City Airport,” he said. “I know they will complain about my airport.”

Cropper noted the property in question was zoned R-3 residential when Buntings Field was approved.

“You think your operation should take precedence over how the Town of See PROPERTY Page 5

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## Wolf steps down from Env. Cmte. to surprise of group

Continued from Page 3  
vember meeting with then association President Larry Perrone.

During a discussion on potential development of OPA-owned bayfront property across from the Beach Club, Perrone said the issue would be handled by the Marine Activities Committee.

After Wolf expressed interest in continuing to study the environmental portion of the bayfront parcel, Perrone suggested that the committee should, “stay in its lane.”

Additionally, Perrone said the committee should also follow suit regarding plans for mailbox cluster repairs, which would be assigned to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Perrone once again told the committee to “stay in its lane,” at which point Wolf proposed resigning if an amicable working relationship was not possible.

Speaking this week, Wolf praised the efforts of current board liaison Amy Peck and also expressed confidence in his replacement.

“Sharon will do a great job,” he said.

For her part, Santacrose said transitioning into the new role would be eased by working with a strong team.

“It was completely unexpected but I’m ready to take on this challenge,” she said. “I have a great group guiding me.”

On a related note, Association President Colette Horn announced current committee liaison assignments, with Doug Parks overseeing the Environmental and Marine Activities committees, Frank Daly overseeing Aquatics and Golf, Rick Farr overseeing ARC and Recreation and Parks, Peck overseeing Racquet Sports and Strategic Planning, Perrone overseeing Budget and Finance and Elections, Josette Wheatley overseeing Communications and the Fire Department and Horn tasked with the Search and Bylaws and Resolutions committees.



Lifelong skater, Jay Graybill, seated among his personal collection of rare regional skateboards, is giving back to local facilities available for youths to embrace the sport.

## Graybill supports area skateparks

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Eastern Shore skateboard enthusiast Jay Graybill, who formerly operated Exodus Skate Park on Old Ocean City Boulevard, is donating funds to support skate facilities in Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Salisbury and a proposed site in Berlin.

“It’s strictly out of my pocket,” he said. “It’s something I’ve been wanting to do for a long time.”

From 1999 to 2006, Graybill, along with business partners William Dyer and Ken Waymouth, operated the indoor skate park Exodus.

“We opened an indoor skate park where the Tractor Supply is right now,” he said. “Ever since we’ve shut down, I’ve always wanted to do something with the community to give back.”

The skateboarding trio bonded while coming of age in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Graybill began his infatuation with four-wheeled boards in 1984 and nearly 40 years later remains passionate about the sport.

“We all grew up skating together,” he said.

In the late 1990s, Dyer was the first of the group to relocate to the beach.

“Dyer moved down here first and he wanted us to come down because there was a great skate scene down here already going on,” he said.

In short order, the friends reunited on the shore and embarked upon a new vision.

“There was a great scene down here, but there was no indoor skate park,” he said.

The business partners tapped an old cohort, Keith Consylman, to manage the new business.

“Keith moved down a little before we started Exodus and he was man-

ager,” he said.

Graybill said the resort became a prime spot among skateboarders from the pastime’s earliest days.


“Ocean City was an epicenter,” he said.

Despite announcing the list of donations last week, Graybill is still ascertaining funding levels for Ocean City, while committing to pony up \$2,000 for Berlin’s proposed facility and \$1,500 for the still expanding Salisbury Skate Park.

“I live in Ocean Pines and I’m literally in the center of all three of them,” he said.


Graybill is waiting to learn more about the proposed re-development of Ocean City’s Downtown Recreation Complex between 3rd and 4th streets, which is home to the Ocean Bowl Skate Park.

“I don’t know anything about their See SEASONED Page 7




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# Koltuk brothers open Berlin Pizza

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Berlin Pizza, which opened last month on Old Ocean City Boulevard, is the newest culinary venture from longtime restaurateurs and brothers, Muhammet and Mustafa Koltuk, who formerly operated Mahos Kitchen in Ocean Pines.

Located at 10524 Old Ocean City Blvd. next to the Tractor Supply Co., Berlin Pizza occupies the space of the former Taylor Bank and put to good use one of the bank's features ... the drive-through teller window.

"Not many other pizza places have drive-through pickup," Mustafa Koltuk said.

Along with its namesake offering, Berlin Pizza's menu features other Italian cuisine staples, such as strombolis, calzones, pastas and parmesans.

Cold or hot subs and sandwiches are also featured prominently, in addition to appetizers, tortillas, burgers, salads, hot wings and kids' options.

"We have a big crowded menu," he said.

Open for lunch at 10 a.m., Berlin Pizza also provides evening fare until 10 p.m.

"We make our fresh dough daily and have a secret sauce recipe," he said.

On tap for the discerning foodie, gourmet pizza selections, such as the crab, seafood or the Eastern Shore, which features shrimp in a creamy sauce with a sprinkle of Old Bay.

Additional entrees include seafood or chicken sautés, with dessert selections also available.

"Our shrimp scampi has been popular," he said.

Berlin Pizza is not the first food operation the Koltuk brothers have operated in tandem.

"We are not new," Mustafa said. "I have at least 12



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Mustafa Koltuk removes a freshly baked pie from a conveyor oven at Berlin Pizza on Old Ocean City Boulevard. The establishment opened last month.**

years experience and [Muhammet] has 20 years in the food business."

Native to Turkey, Muhammet emigrated to the U.S. in 2000, followed by Mustafa in 2008.

After Muhammet launched a solo business venture in 2005, the siblings reunited three years later and opened food establishments in Crisfield and Salisbury before establishing Mahos Kitchen in Ocean Pines in 2010.

"We built that space from scratch," he said.

See BERLIN Page 8

# Seasoned boarder backs facilities

Continued from Page 6

revenue ... what comes in and what they can use," he said.

Regardless of plans for the Ocean City Downtown Recreation Complex, Graybill intends to support the Ocean Bowl.

"I was hoping they would never tear that place down because it's sacred ground," he said. "It's the oldest municipal run skate park in the whole country."

Graybill estimated hordes of youths have ridden the ramps and curves at the Ocean Bowl Skate Park.

"Every single pro from the '80s has been to Ocean City," he said.

The Salisbury Skate Park, which opened in December 2015 and was later expanded in June 2018, is set to launch a final phase of construction.

"They already have two phases of

the skate park up and going," he said.

Graybill said Salisbury officials scheduled a public hearing this week to receive input on design details from residents.

"I'm not sure when they will break ground," he said. "I was there for the original groundbreaking."

In a similar spirit to the skate park proposal in Berlin, Graybill is looking to lend backing without strings attached.

"People have been awesome who are involved and I'm not trying to muscle my way in and run the show," he said. "I'm strictly giving donations from one skateboarder to the skateboard community."

Along with donations for skate parks in Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Salisbury and future plans in Berlin, Graybill is also hoping to send fund-

ing to his hometown Lancaster County Skate Park.

During his youth, which was prior to the skate park being built, Graybill was among a clique of boarders who frequented the Outfitter Ski Shop, which also doubled as a skate retailer.

The dual-purpose business attracted an array of youths to a back parking lot area where a curb was repurposed for maneuvers.

"We did that for hours on end for years and years," he said. "We ground it down to literally the rebar."

To Graybill's amazement, during a recent trip back to Lancaster he unearthed the whittled down curb section hidden in the bushes behind the shop.

"I came back a couple weeks ago and I sawed off the center section of it," he said. "I've got maybe a foot section of the actual curb."

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# County approves big fiber grant application

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners voted on Jan. 11 to allow IT Director Brian Jones and Talkie Communications to apply for a federal infrastructure grant to help cover the cost of continuing to connect rural areas of the county to broadband internet.

If the county receives the grant, which could be worth up to \$20 million, it would have to match 10 percent of the total award. Receiving the maximum amount would require a \$2 million match from the county. In a memo to the commissioners, Talkie said it believes the county's match would put the county at the "fore-front" of the statewide requests, which will be weighed on a points system.

This year the Office of Statewide Broadband has \$100 million in grant funds to provide 90 percent of the construction cost for areas that have no internet," the memo stated. "In the past, the match for these grants was 50 percent. This match will help bring fiber internet to the most rural areas of the county, typically less than 8 households per mile. Without these grants, it is unlikely that any wired internet provider would serve these areas due to the return on invest-

ment.

The funding from the grants would be used to connect large swaths of southern Worcester and areas west of Snow Hill. But work also would begin in the northern areas between Newark and Berlin.

The county would use American Rescue Plan federal money for its matching contribution.



Brian Jones

Jones also provided updates to the commissioners on other existing and upcoming grants.

A \$3 million Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grant is expected to be released to the county in the coming months. When it is released, a subsequent \$3.6 million grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development will be released shortly thereafter.

An \$18 million National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant has been applied for with results expected by the end of the month.

There is no timetable yet as to when the county will hear about the DHCD's \$2 million Neighborhood grant.

Talkie and the county recently

found out that they will not be able to apply for the \$25 million ReConnect grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"(It's due to) some of the areas that we already have coverage in with RDOF," Jones said. "Hopefully we're looking at some other ways to get that (money) and it will be back in front of you again if we can get around (that restriction.) But so far everything I've heard is that we're not eligible for it."

Jones estimated that it will cost about \$67 million to fully connect Worcester County to broadband, provided Talkie and the county don't see more cost increases. The estimate was about \$52 million a couple of years ago, he said.

Current grant funding plus the potential infrastructure grant would put

the project at \$46 million funded, leaving about \$21 million for the county and Talkie to come up with by other means.

Commissioner Ted Elder and Jim Bunting said they would support the idea of the county footing the bill for leftover funding if it gets the project completed.

"I just wanted to point out that this is definitely going to happen, broadband, one way or the other," Bunting said. "We were at one time entertaining the idea of paying the full \$52 million out of county money. It's been hard work finding ... and getting these grants. With luck, we will get out of this without having to pay anything, but if we do have to pay something, I'm committed to paying the money to get Worcester County served."

## Berlin Pizza owners return act

Continued from Page 7

After roughly half-dozen years, Muhammet sold the business to return home for family affairs.

"My brother had to return to his country, so we sold out," he said.

After Muhammet returned state-side a few years ago, the Koltuk's are now back in the restaurant trade.

"We are trying to work together again a build a new business," he said.

Despite the name change, Mustafa said numerous first-time patrons have walked in only to discover a sense of the familiar.

"People have recognized our faces," he said. "Ocean Pines people know us."

Now winding down its second month in operation, Berlin Pizza's customer base is steadily growing with lots of return business, Mustafa said.

"We're trying to market a new face to past customers," he said.

Berlin Pizza offers walk-in carry out service, drive-through pickup or delivery seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. To view menu options search Berlin Pizza on Facebook or call 443-944-7479 to order.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Pizza proprietor Muhammet Koltuk prepares a fresh dough pie, one of a wide array of culinary delights offered by the restaurant located at 10524 Old Ocean City Blvd.

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# Worcester’s financial report for FY21 wins another award

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) Worcester County’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) was presented to the County Commissioners on Jan. 11 and highlighted the achievements and solid decision-making in FY21 that led to the county’s 13th consecutive Certificate

of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award, handed out by the Government Finance Officers Association, certifies that the county has provided a document that is comparable to other governmental units and has adopted the required accounting changes and pronounce-

See ACFR Page 10

Worcester County earned its 13th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for its achievements and solid decision-making in FY21, following the publication of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

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The Worcester County Commissioners bid phase two of the County Jail Building Improvements project out to Bancroft Construction following a 6-0 decision on Jan. 11. Despite the decision to move forward with the project, some commissioners voiced concern that the county is not doing enough to address air conditioning in the cellblocks, which are not part of the project.

# Jail project won't have cellblock AC

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners approved “phase two” of the county jail building improvements project on Jan. 11, which will include replacing much of the original operating equipment and upgrading the heating and ventilation around the facility.

The cellblocks themselves, however, will not be a part of those HVAC renovations, according to County Engineer and Building Administrator William Bradshaw.

“During the original construction,

there had never been any provisions for cell block conditioning both in the original (facility) and the addition,” Bradshaw said when questioned about the exclusion. “I think if you talk about conditioning, it’s an order of magnitude that the facility was never designed to have. In other words, there’s no infrastructure for electric, cooling systems in those areas. Not to say that it couldn’t be done, but it was never designed nor intended to be conditioned in the living, cellblock areas.”

The roughly \$12 million project phase was bid out to Delaware-based

Bancroft Construction, which has a Salisbury field office.

The project will include air conditioning for corridors, offices and employee areas in the 42-year-old jail. Other improvements include repairing and replacing the oldest roof sections, building controls and other major maintenance items, shower enclosures to improve hygiene, LED lighting in working areas and generally bringing the building up to standard with similar county facilities.

The new estimate is roughly \$20,000 more than the original project estimate.

Regardless of the many improvements the project will accomplish, the commissioners often came back to the issue of the cellblocks. Though the presentation was ostensibly about awarding the bid for phase two of the project, some commissioners took time to highlight this and other concerns.

“We’ve had issues retaining guards because of the extreme heat in the summertime,” Commissioner Ted Elder said. “Won’t we eventually be liable for unsafe conditions when we reach this extreme heat in the summertime? We had issues last year with complaints, which led to problems with some of the inmates not returning to their cells and other things. I think if we’re investing this kind of money, we should be able to

See JAIL Page 11

## ACFR award 13th straight for county and finance team

Continued from Page 9  
ments needed to comply, county Finance Officer Phil Thompson said.

In his presentation, Thompson highlighted various changes to the document, including a fundamental one — changing the name from Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the current ACFR because the former’s acronym was phonetically identical to a South African racial slur.

“The document contains a flat budget for the county, which was adopted in response to covid-19 about two months after the pandemic began,” Thompson said. “Details of the adopted budget, fluctuations and the revenue and expense items are contained in the management discussion analysis.”

Thompson noted other changes such as the adoption of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s Statement No. 84, which seeks to improve the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities are reported.

“This change has made it easier than ever to see the total financial activity processed each year by the county and subject to this audit,” Thompson said.

On the sheer numbers side, Thompson highlighted the General Government Fund total revenue at \$242 million, the Enterprise Fund revenue at \$23.1 million and \$89.3 million in the “other governments” collected money fund.

“Previously you couldn’t see (these numbers) in the financial statements, so it’s improving the accountability as well as the transparency,” Thompson said. “But the total revenue audited and included in the document is \$354 million collected in FY21.”

The General Fund clocked in at \$71.2 in total fund balance, which represents a roughly 50-50 split between the assigned and unassigned funds.

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# County pushes for Class L licenses

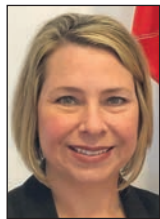
Initiative will allow smaller alcohol manufactures to sell other Maryland goods

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 20, 2022) After receiving a 5-1 approval from the Worcester County Commissioners on Jan. 11, the county Office of Tourism will ask the county’s delegation to the General Assembly to submit legislation that would allow local small alcohol manufacturers to obtain a Class L liquor license.

“The goal here ... some of our local manufacturers wanted to be able to provide, either by sample or sale, other Maryland-made products, especially Worcester County-made,” Office of Tourism and Economic Development Director Melanie Pursel

said to the commissioners. The Worcester County Board of License Commissioners would still be the ultimate arbiters in determining which businesses received the license. Holders would carry it in conjunction with their state manufacturing license.



Melanie Pursel

In her memo to the commissioners, Pursel noted that similar legislation was passed by the Maryland General Assembly for Alleghany County in 2019.

Commissioner Jim Bunting, the lone holdout on the dais, appeared wary that this request would further push the rural areas of the county into agritourism reform, which he voted against multiple times in 2021.

“Does this apply to the agritain-

ment bill ... in agricultural areas?” Bunting asked.

Pursel explained that, currently, small alcohol manufacturers in the county can only sell products they make themselves. This legislation would allow them to offer other alcoholic products, but she stressed only those that are made in Maryland.

Stressing his original question, Bunting again asked, “So this does apply (to agritourism)?”

“We’re expanding liquor sales into the agricultural zone even further,” Pursel responded. “It would give diversification to the products, so if you’re able to sell wine you’d now be able to have distilled spirits or craft beer as an option. And again that’s still up to the Worcester County Liquor Control Board to issue that license.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## LUNCHEON

The Republican Women of Worcester County held their general meeting and luncheon on Oct. 28, at The Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City. The guest speakers were Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino and Worcester County Health Department Officer Rebecca Jones.

# Jail project phase two on deck

Continued from Page 10  
get something out of it. It doesn’t have to be 70 degrees in there year-round but it shouldn’t be 103 or 110 either.”

Elder also asked if the project, as is, could indirectly cool the cellblocks at all. Bradshaw said it helps, but it’ll still get hot in there.

Commissioner Jim Bunting saw a potential opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. Bunting has been very public in his opposition to a proposed \$32 million public safety building that would house the Sheriff’s Office, emergency services and possibly other offices such as the Fire Marshal and State’s Attorney.

With the county set to lose its contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, or ICE, to house federal immigration detainees, Bunting pondered if the space ICE uses could be retrofitted to become the new public safety building and if this could be worked into the overall jail improvement project.

Bradshaw replied that there would

still be logistical obstacles with housing incoming inmates — often individuals who had been arrested that day — and thus the ICE space still has a use for the jail itself.

In speaking about improving the entire jail, including life in the cellblocks, Commissioner Diana Purnell invoked the lesson the county learned with the multi-million-dollar Stephen Decatur Middle School addition, which would have cost a fraction of what it cost today had it been built when it was proposed with the original school in 1998.

“I don’t know what the engineer went into and all when you first built this jail, but we do know we have a major problem with heat and different things and it’s been talked about,” Purnell said. “For the time in my term, we’ve needed to do it and we haven’t done anything. I think we need to go ahead and do what we need to do because you don’t know what the future is going to hold. We do know that it’s going to be more expensive to build as we go along.”



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The annual Worcester Preparatory School Student Government Association-sponsored food drive started Nov. 15, and on Dec. 9, the Upper School gathered to sort and divide canned goods and non-perishable food items that will be donated to several local organizations.

# Wor. Prep SGA food drive gives abundance

(Jan. 20, 2022) The annual Student Government Association-sponsored food drive at Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) started Nov. 15, and on Dec. 9, the Upper School gathered to sort and divide canned goods and non-perishable food items that will be donated to several local organizations.

This year, Worcester Prep had a

special kick-off to the annual event.

In celebration of the school's 50th year, each homeroom set a goal to collect 50 can goods in three days. If the goal was met, that homeroom was allowed a dress down day, where students could wear red, white and blue instead of their traditional uniform. That Friday, all home rooms dressed down with every class achieving the goal.

Thanks to the SGA and all those who donated, nine local organizations in Maryland and Delaware will receive a large bundle of canned goods and non-perishable food items.

In addition, students also donated \$3 each to help buy meat products for holiday dinners. The following organizations will receive and distribute the food collected:

Diakonia, Inc., West Ocean City; Atlantic United Methodist Church, Ocean City; The Joseph House, and HALO, both of Salisbury; Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen, and Sonrise Church, both of Berlin; The Community Church at Ocean Pines; The Seaford Community Food Closet, Seaford; and Bethel Mariner Food Bank, Ocean View.

# Worcester honored for financial reporting

(Jan. 20, 2022) The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada awarded Worcester County Government (WCG) a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 13th consecutive year.

This prestigious award, which is valid for a period of only one year, is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

"Accountability and transparency continue to be the focus of our financial reporting," Finance Officer Phil

Thompson said. "We do this to provide the residents of Worcester County with a document that is understandable and useful for decision making."

Thompson, Budget Officer Candace Savage, Deputy Finance Officer Jessica Wilson, Senior Budget Accountant Kim Reynolds, Tax Manager Michelle Carmean, and Enterprise Fund Controller Barbara Hitch accepted the certificate on behalf of the county.

The GFOA recognizes contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding

financial management.

WCG was honored with this recent recognition for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

The ACFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the ACFR.

The Certificate of Achievement represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its man-

agement in any of nine categories.

To be awarded the Certificate of Achievement, a governmental unit must publish an easily-readable and efficiently-organized ACFR, with content that conforms to program standards. Such reports should satisfy Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and applicable legal requirements.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 18,000 government finance professionals. Additional information on the Government Finance Officers Program is available at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org).

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# Assateague Island recognitions presented

Superintendent's annual award, safety honors go to Williams, Pearl and Rhodes

(Jan. 20, 2022) The winners of the annual Assateague Island Superintendent's Award and the Assateague Island Safety Award were recently announced.

The 2021 superintendent's awards were presented to Tami Pearl and Markus Williams. The 2021 Safety Award went to Anastasia Rhodes.

The superintendent's award is given to an employee or employees who have performed "above and beyond" during the previous year. The safety award is bestowed to an employee who has made a major contribution to the safety program or the safety culture of the park.

Pearl is a biological science technician, specializing in wildlife. Her primary responsibilities lie with Assateague's avian monitoring programs, which include the piping plover, a federally-listed threatened shorebird species.

In January 2021, Pearl initiated the first-ever virtual meeting for wildlife managers within the Piping Plover Southern Recovery Unit and was recognized for her significant leadership in this endeavor by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and her peers.

She conducts annual avian population surveys including breeding bald eagles and American oystercatchers and works closely with the Maryland DNR monitoring colonial nesting shore bird species in the summer and migrating saw whet owls in the fall.

Pearl is passionate about all of the seashore's wildlife management projects and has worked to make significant technological advances in field data collection protocols for the beach nesting bird monitoring program. She readily participates in inter-divisional discussions, works well with external collaborators, and is actively engaged with finding solutions to some of the park's biggest challenges.

Williams is the supervisory recreation fee technician for the national

seashore.

He has taken on many additional duties while leading a hard-working fee collection staff through another year of record-breaking visitation at one of largest and most popular campground operations in the National Park Service.

Williams has participated in important national-level programs including the launch of the new service-wide Recreation Business Management System, training all fee staff and troubleshooting system functionality and the development and implementation of the new and improved reclassification of the fee collection job series.

Williams is an active member of Assateague's interdivisional wild horse working group and an advisor for future entrance station and campground improvements.

Rhodes is a seasonal visitor services assistant working with Assateague's Horse Management staff.

This year was her second season with horse management, which saw her in an important leadership role. Rhodes was integral in orienting and training new Horse Management interns and Pony Patrol volunteers.

These staff members are dedicated to educating visitors about the wild horses while monitoring and ensuring safe viewing distances and proper food storage compliance.

Rhodes has drafted standard operating procedures for moving wild horses and a new job hazard analyses for UTV operation.

She has worked and operated equipment for two seasons without any safety incidents. She and her 2021 Horse Management team performed hundreds of hours of patrols safely. Her work ethic, skills and training provided for a safe season for park visitors and the Assateague wild horses.

The award winners each demonstrated initiative far surpassing their routine duties. Their hard work and innovative solutions to the challenges of the 2021 season have made a significant, positive difference at Assateague Island National Seashore.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The annual Assateague Island Superintendent's Award was presented to Markus Williams and Tami Pearl, center, and the Assateague Island Safety Award went to Anastasia Rhodes.

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# Opinion

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

## Giving credit where credit is due in OPA

As is usually the case, when something goes according to plan or exceeds expectations, the person at the top gets the credit. When the opposite occurs, and something goes awry or fails to achieve the expected results, the blame is assigned to that same individual. It's just easier to do that than to think about what else might be involved.

Meanwhile, seldom in line for admonition or appreciation are the people who do the work on which leadership must depend.

As a spokesperson for a covid test manufacturer said recently in a conversation about labor shortages and test kit supply problems, success is dependent on all the people involved. In this instance, she said, the company could produce and ship plenty of complete test kits, if only it had the workers to put the instructions in each box.

In that vein, Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola, who is generally acknowledged as being responsible for the community's financial turnaround, did have the people to carry out the mission.

But without the right people working behind-the-scenes in the finance department, he would not have been able to hail the association's exceptional financial performance this year and last.


The finance department personnel are the ones who work directly with the public, track the billing and the expenses and collect the receipts.

As the OPA's public information officer, Josh Davis, wrote in a "meet the team" piece this week, these are the people who make Viola's pursuit of financial responsibility work.

Accounting Manager Julia Johnson, Membership and Assessment Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer, support staffer Joanne Heinlen, accountant Nekia Wise, accounts payable staffer Geraldine Tate are responsible for maintaining the course set by Viola and Finance Director Steve Phillips.

Much of the association's recent success is because of them and although they are never in the spotlight, they clearly deserve a great deal of the credit for doing the job and doing it well.

BAYSIDE



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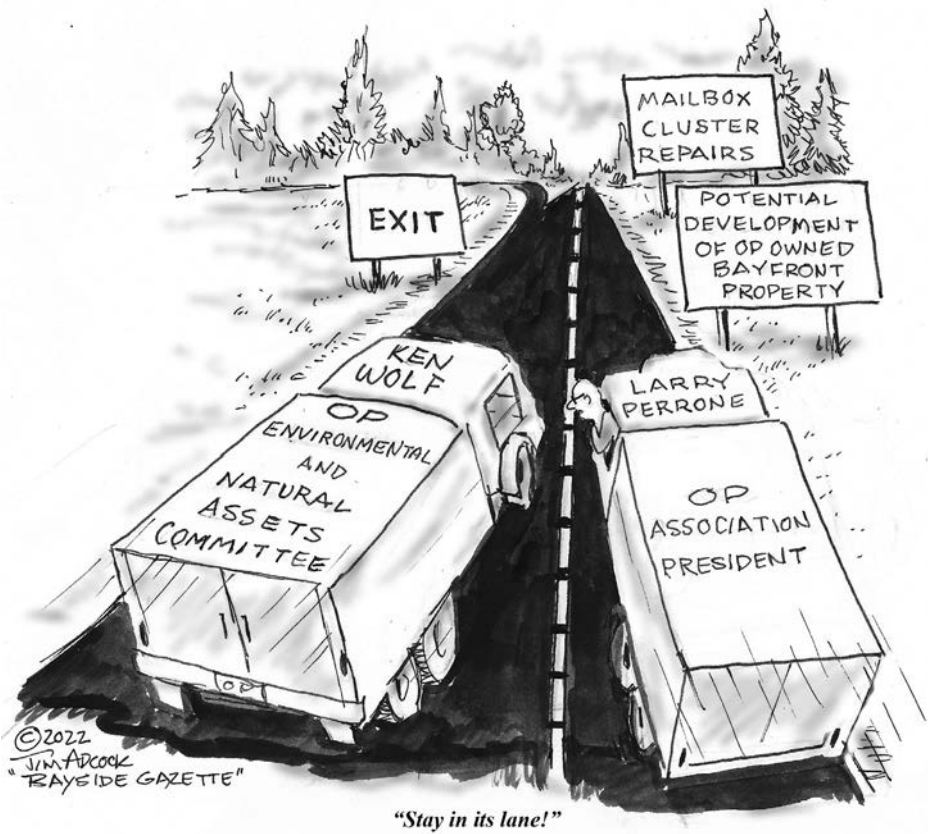
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## Letters

### Backs funding for fire service

Editor,

I wanted to write in regards to the article in the paper where OPFD is asking for more money for staffing.

As someone who has been an active first responder for the OCBP and the OCFD Dive Team, and has worked closely with these positions, let me share a little description of their job: The Paramedic/Firefighter/EMT: We go where no one else wants to be.

To the mangled car wreck, the elderly fall victim who has been lying on the floor covered in their own waste for days.

The end-stage cancer patient who reminds you so much of your mom, or brother or, God forbid, your child, that it makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up, or to the babbling, paranoid drug addict and we make a difference.

We leave the safety of our home or station, we leave meals uneaten and sleep un-

finished because an emergency is just that — unplanned, unpredictable, and uncertain.

Sometimes we simply put someone back in their bed. Sometimes we arrive only to find there is nothing we can do.

Every now and then, we get to restart a heart, stop the bleeding, or ease the pain and suffering. Every time, we make a difference.

On an average day, people don't typically think about the worst happening at any moment, but then a sudden pain fills your chest, a family member has an asthmatic episode, or maybe someone close to you begins to have an allergic reaction.

After a call to 911, Emergency Medical Services' job begins.

Does response time matter? Yes!

For a small subset of patients, EMS response times are a critical matter of life or death. We just don't know if the next patient will be one of those.

The thinner the resources and longer the response

standard, the more likely those outliers will happen in many communities.

As Director Daly stated, "the main concern should be how rapid emergency responders arrive" and "We, as a board, need to consider that as a sacred time" and he is absolutely correct.

The OP Board needs to seriously consider increasing staff funding for the largest community in Worcester County, Ocean Pines.

When you have an EMS unit driving to PRMC with a driver and a medic in the back taking care of the patient, what happens when another emergency comes in? Their ask of having four full-time positions on a 24/7 schedule is not asking a lot, especially when considering the safety of the community.

Possibly if the board would spend less money on legal counsel, they could positively fund something that is a true need for the OP Community.

Colby Phillips  
Ocean Pines



# Surfing Hall of Fame awards Phillips, Wright

(Jan. 20, 2022) Former Executive Director of the Eastern Surfing Association (ESA) and longtime Ocean City resident, Kathy Phillips, and former Ocean City resident, businessman and surfer, Spyder Wright, were inducted into the East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame on Jan. 5, in Orlando, Florida.

The East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame began in 1996 by East Coast surfing legend and ESA co-founder, Cecil Lear, and international surfing legend, Greg Noll.

The organization is an independent, nonprofit educational institution created to honor and memorialize the pioneers, legends, champions and individuals who, through their passion and dedication, have made outstanding and significant contributions to the development and recognition of surfing on the East Coast of the USA.

Phillips, who had previously been inducted into the East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame Class of 2004 for her tireless work advocating on behalf of East Coast surfing at the national and international level, was honored earlier this month with the 2022 EC-SHOF Cecil Lear President's Award.

Recipients of the Cecil Lear President's Award are selected by the EC-SHOF Board of Directors and awarded to individuals who have made a lasting contribution in leadership or mentoring to East Coast surfing.

Lear, in introducing Phillips said, "I'm thrilled to present The Presidents Award for only the second time, and to see it go to Kathy Phillips. Through her leadership and administrative skills, the ESA grew to be the largest surfing organization in the world, a competitive powerhouse and an environmental and beach access advocate up and down the East Coast."

"I feel privileged to have been a



PHOTO COURTESY TOM DUGAN, EASTERN SURF MAGAZINE  
Former Ocean City resident, businessman and surfer, Spyder Wright, was inducted into the "Legends" category of the Class of 2022, awarded to a surfer who has achieved fame as a respected surfer, and considered a legend or pioneer.

blip in the timeline of East Coast surfing and honored to have worked with such an incredible community of people who have given their time and love to the sport of East Coast surfing," Phillips said during her acceptance speech.

Phillips has been at the forefront of competitive surfing on the East Coast for decades. She, and her husband, Jeff, were volunteer ESA district directors who ran the Delmarva District of the ESA from 1979 to 2004. She then accepted the role of executive director of the ESA from 1990 to 2005.

Phillips also served on the US Surfing Federation Board of Directors, the Pan American Surfing Association Board of Directors and helped to form today's US Olympic National Governing Body of Surfing, USA Surfing.



PHOTO COURTESY ESA  
Former Executive Director of the Eastern Surfing Association (ESA) and longtime Ocean City resident, Kathy Phillips, was recently honored with the 2022 East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame Cecil Lear President's Award. She is pictured with Kelly Slater, 11-time world surfing champion.

Wright was inducted into the "Legends" category of the Class of 2022, awarded to a surfer who has achieved fame as a respected surfer, and considered a legend or pioneer.

In 1963, Wright started making surfboards while away at college in California. He began making, selling and renting Spyder Surfboards.

In the summer of 1964, Wright scoured the beaches of Southern California for used surfboards, loaded them onto the roof of his car and headed back home to Maryland where he set up a beach rental business, the first in town.

In late 1964, he opened the first Spyder Surf Shop in Ocean City where he sold Spyder and Dewey Weber Surfboards.

In 1979, Wright won the Senior Men's East Coast Championship and was seeded into the US Championship where he came in fifth in his division.

From 1979-1982, he was competition director for the US Surfing Federation and in 1980 led an effort at a meeting with the US Olympic Committee, Competition Committee to include surfing in the Olympics.

"I am extremely honored and proud to be inducted tonight and I look forward to working with my fellow inductees to support East Coast surfing well into the future," he said.

See EAST Page 18

## Jewelry

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### SUPPORTING AGH

Telescope Pictures co-owners Jon and Sam Cameron recently presented Atlantic General Hospital with a \$3,500 donation. Looking to generate revenue for charitable causes in the area, Telescope Pictures offered an opportunity for customers to round up and donate change from their transaction to local nonprofits. Pictured, in front, from left, are Toni Keiser (AGH vice president public relations), Sally Dowling (AGH co-interim president/CEO), Cassie Amabile (Telescope Pictures store manager), the Camerons, Caroline Phillips (AGH development officer), and Kam LaBrunda (AGH development analyst/coordinator); and in back, Kim Justice (AGH co-interim president/CEO), and Steve Green (AGH Foundation Board chair).



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

### VISITS CLUB

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Commander Martin Killian recently visited the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.



### PHYSICS CLASS

Jenn Corron's Senior College Prep Physics class met in the lab on Oct. 27, to build roller coasters. The project kicked off their study of kinetic and potential energy after a recent trip to Busch Gardens, Williamsburg. (Far left) Pictured are Lily Baeurle, left, and Ava Nally. (Left) Pictured, from left, are Hannah Brasure, Anna Buas and Anna McDonald.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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FLASHBACK

The eighth grade class sponsored “Decade Dress” Spirit Day on Oct. 22, to help celebrate Worcester Preparatory School’s 50th anniversary. Middle School students (grades 6-8) participated by wearing outfits representing the 70s, 80s, 90s or the 2000s. Pictured are sixth graders, in back, from left, Ruya Kucuk, Sarah Williams and Emma Brooks; and in front, Addison Perdue, Ariana Dorfler and Gracie Holloway.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Also participating in “Decade Dress” Spirit Day are eighth graders, from left, Preston Adkins, Lynden Prosser, Ashton Browne and Jack Townsend.

Worcester Library sponsors no-cost expungement clinic

(Jan. 20, 2022) The Worcester County Library is offering a free expungement clinic in partnership with Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services on Jan. 25, from 4-6 p.m. at our Ocean City Library on 104th Street.

The event will give those who qualify the opportunity to expunge their criminal record in the state of Maryland with the assistance of an attorney. Clients must qualify for services by meeting income, case type and geographic guidelines.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and to bring with them the following: income information for all members of their household; the value of the house and car (if either is owned); and the amounts in checking, savings, and/or investment accounts. Once the required forms are complete, a paralegal and an attorney

will guide attendees through the expungement process.

“The library is pleased to offer an event that removes a barrier to employment and job advancement. The feedback we have received about this program has been overwhelmingly positive,” Adult Program Manager Elena Coelho said.

Space is limited to 12 individuals. Register at WorcesterLibrary.org under “Events,” or call for assistance.

For more information on this event, contact Coelho at 443-783-6164 or ecoelho@worcesterlibrary.org or call the Ocean City branch at 410-524-1818.

The mission of the Worcester County Library is to promote reading, thinking, learning, and the enjoyment of the arts.

East Coast Surfing gives awards

Continued from Page 15

“Remember to be respectful of all both in and out of the water, and forever stay stoked for East Coast surfing!”

Wright currently has two retail lo-

cations in Nantucket and Palm Beach, Florida, and numerous shops sell his surfboards. He is widely recognized as one of “the living legends” in the sport.

For more information, visit [www.eastcoastsurfinghalloffame.org](http://www.eastcoastsurfinghalloffame.org).

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# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Jan. 20

**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.

**OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are preferred. Sign up online here: [smarturl.it/BBD\\_OCMD22](https://smarturl.it/BBD_OCMD22) or call 888-825-6638 to schedule an appointment.

**STORY TIME: ‘SNOWBALL FIGHT!’**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come listen to a fun story written by the Tonight Show’s Jimmy Fallon. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**STORY TIME ‘AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: EMMA DODD’**  
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](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a Q&A session. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**CROCHETED RUGS**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2-5 p.m. Learn how to crochet a rug from old sheets. Bring a size K, L or M crochet hook and old sheets, cotton or poly cotton fabric or clothing cut into 11/4” wide strips. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 410-632-2600

**WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP JANUARY MEETING**  
Dr. Angela Gibbs M.D. will discuss the Omicron variant, 6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting link is

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83182494619?pwd=UEJpMDdSeTZMMjFU-UHVraFVOZG1JQT09>. Meeting ID: 831 8249 4619. Passcode: 901997. Info: 443-944-6701

**BEACH SINGLES**  
*Thursdays* - Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or [Beachsingles.org](https://www.beachsingles.org)

## Fri., Jan. 21

**MINDFULNESS COLLAGE**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Join Bevin Jones in creating collages of self-discovery using methods of peace and tranquility through mindfulness. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events” or call 410-957-0878.

**BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY’ BY ERIK LARSON**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Cynthia Hanagud and Gail Samis of Salisbury University. Copies of the book are available at the Berlin branch, 410-641-0650. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org).

**BINGO FOR BABIES**  
Ocean City Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 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. 22

**FAMILY LIBRARY DAY**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-noon. Spend the day at the library. Enjoy family friendly activities, games and crafts. Fun for all ages. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**CRAFTY SATURDAY: PAPER PLATE CRAFTS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.-Come and make some creative and fun crafts to take home. For ages 4 years and older. While supplies last. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://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.

## Mon., Jan. 24

**WRITING FOR WELLNESS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. Andrea Schlottman facilitates this program. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**SUPER POWERED STEM: STRAWBERRY DNA EXTRACTION**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Come join the group for a fun, brand new experiment. (Materials donated by ThermoFisher Scientific) For ages 7 years and older. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://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.

**FORGOTTEN HISTORICAL PEOPLE: NESTOR MAKHNO**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Nestor Makhno, a pivotal figure of the early 20th century, freed Ukraine from outside control after World War I. Nathaniel Godfrey will facilitate. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

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

## Tues., Jan. 25

**STORY TIME ‘DRIFTING SNOWFLAKES’**  
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](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**SILLY SONGS**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Sing and dance to silly songs. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**RETIREMENT BOOTCAMP: RETIREMENT INVESTING**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This

presentation covers some basic ideas that you can implement to adjust your strategy from working life to retired life. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 410-632-2600

**FREE EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4-6 p.m. Clients attend in person to receive assistance from the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service volunteers. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events” or call 410-524-1818. Info: 443-783-6164

**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. [delmarva-handdance@gmail.com](mailto:delmarva-handdance@gmail.com), 410-208-1151

## Wed., Jan. 26

**STORY TIME ‘COOKIES’**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories about cookies. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING**  
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 12 p.m. Any Marines and Navy Corpsman who have served in the Corps, living in Worcester and Sussex counties, are welcome to join fellow veterans. 410-430-7181, [websergeant@firststatemarines.org](mailto:websergeant@firststatemarines.org)

**JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-5 p.m. Drop into the library every Wednesday to receive one-on-one guidance from library staff to strengthen your resume and help with your job search. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB**  
Held via Zoom, 3:30 p.m. Kids, ages 8-11 years, talk about “Mercy Watson to the Rescue.” Title available on Hoopla. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**  
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, [gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org).



# Puzzles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY TIMOTHY POLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Timothy Polin, of Central City, Pa., has been making crosswords for The Times since 2011. This is his 55th one for the paper and his eighth Sunday. He specializes in puzzles with visuals in the grids — like a “Jaws”-themed crossword in 2018, in which you could connect five squares in the solution containing the letters F-I-N to form a picture of a shark’s fin. Today’s puzzle isn’t quite as unusual, but it’s close. — W.S.

**ACROSS**  
1 Disseminated  
5 JPEG alternative  
8 Quick-witted  
14 “Forbidden fruit is the sweetest,” e.g.  
19 Kind of writing  
21 Hurting more  
22 Mineral used as a flame retardant  
23 Aromatic herbal drink  
24 Carmen McRae or Anita O’Day, notably  
26 Disorganized  
27 Sound in the Serengeti  
29 Tying words?  
30 Horrible boss, say  
31 Neighbor of S. Sudan  
32 Endpoint of a Shinto pilgrimage  
36 What’s going up in Chicago?  
38 And so forth  
40 Munchkin  
41 Spade with a short handle?  
42 Morse morsel  
43 You can have a blast with this  
44 “Yes, indeedy!”  
47 \_\_\_\_ volante  
49 Makes clearer, in a way  
51 1997 pop hit with a nonsensical refrain

**DOWN**  
2 Cause of a jolt  
3 It’s nothing to joke about  
4 Artist known for his lampooning cartooning  
5 Startin’ place  
6 “\_\_\_\_ moved on”  
7 Calming words  
8 Holy city near Baghdad

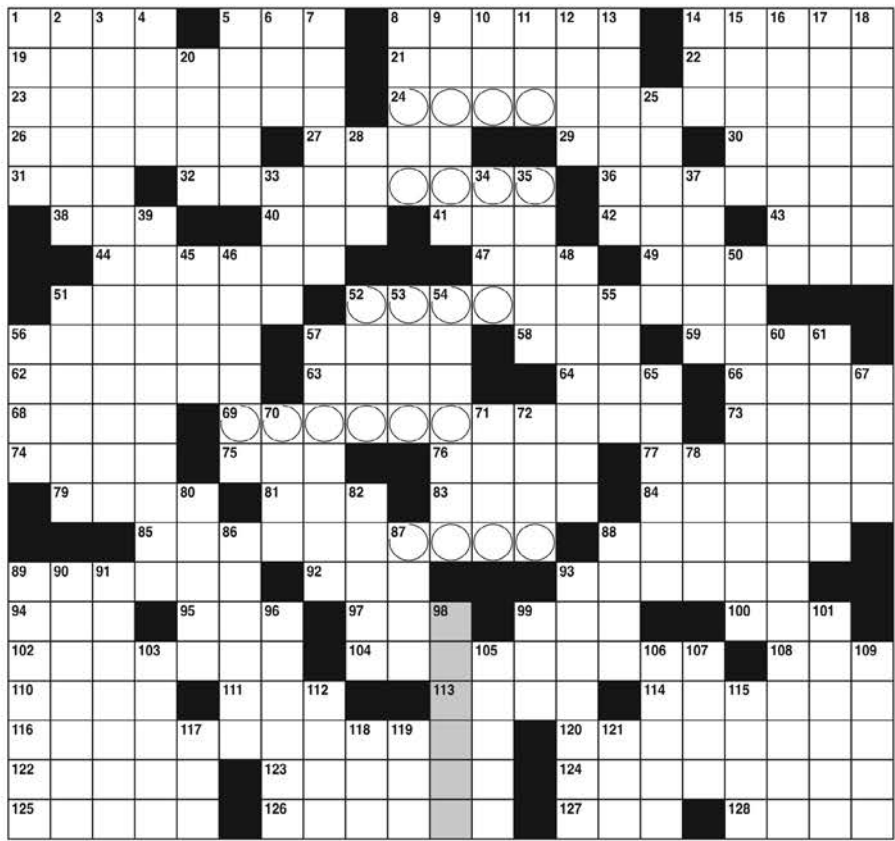
**ACROSS**  
52 Fete  
56 Anago, on a sushi menu  
57 In \_\_\_\_ fertilization  
58 & 59 Flag bearers, for short?  
62 Clap back  
63 Many moons  
64 Chaired  
66 Many, many, many moons  
68 Subj. line heading  
69 Birthplace of five U.S. presidents, with “the”  
73 German title  
74 Like discriminatory employers, often  
75 Just roll with it!  
76 See 88-Across  
77 Eliminates, mob-style  
79 Driving stick?  
81 \_\_\_\_ out a victory  
83 Pack (in)  
84 Fracas  
85 Start of some conventional wisdom  
88 With 76-Across, Mexican business magnate who was once the world’s richest person  
89 Means of a quick recharge  
92 “\_\_\_\_ funny!”  
93 Fab  
94 Akin to  
95 Rapper \_\_\_\_ Cudi or DJ \_\_\_\_ Loco  
97 Comprehension  
99 Domain of Mars

**DOWN**  
100 Boise-to-Spokane dir.  
102 Post-default event  
104 “Eureka!”  
108 “That’s the spot”  
110 Kinda  
111 Lunkhead  
113 Court order  
114 Red accessory for cartoonism’s Huckleberry Hound  
116 Scientific contribution from 98-Down, discovered in a manner suggested by this puzzle’s theme  
120 Crow’s-nests, e.g.  
122 One living in the rial world?  
123 Lingerie fabric  
124 Blights  
125 More mirthful  
126 Defiant refusal  
127 \_\_\_\_ Plaines, Ill.  
128 Start of a story, in journalese

**ACROSS**  
9 Hardly a lover of hot wings?  
10 Radio-frequency meas.  
11 Ad or show follower  
12 \_\_\_\_ P. Morton, Benjamin Harrison’s vice president  
13 Lost deposits, as a bank?  
14 Attorney’s org.  
15 Sorrow  
16 Thank you, in Tokyo  
17 Stovetop device  
18 Breadths  
20 Sled dogs, e.g.  
25 Word in some cocktail names  
28 Baseball’s “Master Melvin”  
33 Westernmost sch. in Conference USA  
34 Actress \_\_\_\_ Pinkett Smith  
35 “Er ... umm ...”  
37 Nonbinary possessive  
39 Game-show invitation  
45 Modern lead-in to “X”  
46 Got out fast  
48 Exit  
50 Tom Petty hit with the opening line “She’s a good girl, loves her mama”  
51 Rendezvous  
52 Nickname for Virginia  
53 Declare  
54 Is beaten by  
55 You might take a lift to one

**DOWN**  
56 Married mujeres: Abbr.  
57 All-in-one purchase from a smoke shop  
60 Unforgettable, unstoppable sort  
61 They’re not to be trusted  
65 Julie who played Catwoman on old TV  
67 Puzzle (out)  
70 Personal bearing  
71 Strong pan  
72 Hard thing to do?  
78 German title  
80 Capital of Bangladesh  
82 Mushroom in miso soup  
86 Afterword  
87 Nicolas who directed “The Man Who Fell to Earth”  
88 Lab where the Higgs boson particle was discovered  
89 Inventory  
90 “My Cousin Vinny” setting  
91 Airport route  
93 Squealed  
96 Opposite of a glut  
98 Who was famously hit over the head with inspiration?  
99 Tech release of 2006  
101 Didn’t act rashly, say  
103 Pit  
105 Words before relax or remember  
106 Small section of a pit  
107 Bowl-shaped cooking vessels  
109 German state that includes Frankfurt  
112 Manage  
115 What’s got ewe covered?  
117 Hemlock relative  
118 Old \_\_\_\_ (London theater)  
119 Gag line?  
121 Spanish “hey!”

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**su | do | ku**  
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**HARD - 59**

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.

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

**Answers to last week's puzzles**

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

PAPER SOLANGE ELSA  
AGREE FOREWORD GOTAT  
REINDEER CALVES OSIRIS  
IND TUNE ICES ERODE  
STEWARDS DOG COLLAR NIX  
POGO FAVRE ITSABET  
CARS ALTER SADE NUDE  
GERMAN BEER RENO STRUT  
IDA LOADS MARINE CORPS  
FADERS FORUM MIN  
TREE MENTAL IMAGE YAWN  
GPA AIDAN ERR SRO  
STAR CLUSTER PAIGE TEA  
HOLES BALD PEACE MARCH  
ELMS POLE LITHO IMOK  
ADASTRA BETAS STAN  
FAR HOT CEREAL LETSOFF  
ELSIE SILO MARA MEL  
DIAPER VEGETARIAN MENU  
ELAND INAPANIC CIRCE  
ADDS CANARDS EASES



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## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED



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