



## OPA board foresees drop in assessments

Major boost to bottom line would allow directors to cut property owners \$71 break

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Assessments could be cut \$71, from \$996 a year to \$925, in Fiscal Year 2022-23, according to a proposal made during an extended review of departmental budgets last



Steve Phillips

Wednesday by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.

General Manager John Viola said despite the surge in inflation, along with higher labor and material costs, the proposed operating budget would cut assessments substantially.

"We are really fortunate this year

to have tailwinds," he said.

The board review followed a multi-day vetting of the Ocean Pines Association's financial package by the Budget and Finance Committee during the first week of January.

Viola cited improved amenity revenues and current budget favorability as key factors for offsetting increased costs on other fronts.

"Right now we're running a nice surplus for this year," he said.

Based on current budget performance, Viola suggested that \$53 of the \$71 reduction in assessments would be because of a one-time boost of \$450,000 to the bottom line. Another \$18 would be added to that as higher expected amenity revenues exceed increased payroll costs (roughly \$267,000), additional staffing for the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department and a slight rise in insurance

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### COMING AND GOING

Tandem herons change out sentry duties while scouting prey on snow-covered greens at the Ocean Pines Golf Course on Sunday.

## Bylaws change would tighten election rules

Candidate eligibility focus of several Daly proposals

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members discussed proposed rules revisions for director elections currently under review by legal counsel with board liaison Colette Horn on Friday.

During the committee meeting on Jan. 7 numerous language changes aimed at clarifying bylaws section 5.02 election eligibility requirements for board candidates were examined.

Chairman Jim Trummel said OPA legal counsel Jeremy Tucker is on the verge of completing a review of potential language changes forwarded by the committee, as well as tweaks recommended by Director Frank Daly.

"Daly and Tucker recently met and reviewed [his] proposals and ours ... submitted at the last meeting," he said.

Trummel said Tucker would combine the efforts for board review.

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Colette Horn

## Tyndall lists his '22 goals for Berlin



Zack Tyndall

Says objectives embody concerns of residents, officials and staff

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall on Monday reviewed the goals and objectives he set for 2022 after hearing from other elected officials, staff and residents.

"I sent a social media request to the public to

send in their ideas," he told the Town Council.

Tyndall said residents' concerns were combined with suggestions from council members and department heads.

"The first goal is to maintain and create safe, inclusive public spaces," he said.

Ideas listed in this category included continuing to pursue the plan to build a new community center, improving the walking path at

See TYNDALL Page 2



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# Worcester declines to sign on to single bay bridge plan

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Swiftly and unanimously, the Worcester County Commissioners rejected Anne Arundel and Queen Anne's Counties' request on Jan. 18 to adopt their bay bridge replacement resolution, which supports their goal, first introduced at a Maryland Association of Counties meeting, of replacing the current two-span bridge with a single-span, two-way bridge with four lanes on each side.

"Worcester County needs something done to the Route 50 bridge (and) we're looking at Route 90, which is years down the road. And they're asking every county to do this?" Commissioner Jim Bunting said. "(Unless) they want to include that they do



Jim Bunting

something about Route 50 bridge and Route 90 that helps us here, all they're going to do is get the people here quicker and we're going to have bigger backups on 589 and Route 50. I can't support it the way it's written."

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Joseph Parker said the focus of the two-county initiative is to improve the corridor between the intersection of Interstate 97 and Route 50 in Anne Arundel County and where Routes 50 and 301 split in Queen Anne's County.

Both areas are notorious chokepoints during the busy summer  
See COUNTY Page 4

# Tyndall issues 'things to do' list for Berlin in year ahead

Continued from Page 1

Stephen Decatur Park, replacing playgrounds infrastructure with inclusive recreational equipment and establishing a dog park in Berlin.

Further objectives were renovating the Veterans Memorial on Main Street, redeveloping Burbage Park, finalizing a sustainable path for Heron Park, identifying locations for a skate park and creating a pocket park on the corner of Flower and Bay streets.

The second goal is supporting diverse art and cultural activities in town.

This list includes holding a Flower Street Festival, introducing an annual Homecoming Parade, developing a gospel festival and exploring options for an outdoor concert venue.

Goal three involves enhancing safety for the community and town staff.

To that end, Tyndall mentioned continuing to evaluate the use of speed cameras, developing a pedestrian and bicycle safety program, as well as creating an emergency community response team.

Tyndall also mentioned working with the State Highway Administration to install traffic lights on both ends of Main Street.

"Where it intersects the highway," he said.

Also, exploring potential locations for roundabouts in town was on the list.

The fourth goal involved management and maintenance of infrastructure.

"The focus is on stormwater and flood management projects," he said.

Tyndall said replacing broken liquid fuel generators with natural gas models is under consideration.

Other objectives include completing an electric rate study, replacing aging water meters, street maintenance and renovating the old police station in Town Hall.

"Review a parking study and work towards a solution for parking," he said.

The next goal discussed was increasing interconnectivity between neighborhoods.

In addition to working with SHA to install crosswalks, other aims are building a pedestrian bridge across Route 113 at Bay Street and launching phase one construction for the Rails for Trails pathway project.

Further 2022 goals for Berlin include promoting environmental stewardship and managing natural resources.

Under this category Tyndall mentioned instituting the Berlin Beatification Committee, installing a water bottle refill station, expanding recycling programs and providing composting options.

Increasing tourism and supporting the business community was another goal.

"Rebrand the town as a destination community," he said.

Improving Berlin's financial position was the next objective raised. That includes providing equitable funding for Fire/EMS services, maintaining the current property tax rate and finalizing the American Rescue Act spending plan.

The final goal is transparency with residents, which includes increasing online document access, filling vacant seats on advisory commissions, completing a strategic plan and implementing short-term rental regulations.



# Budget package will go to town hall session

Continued from Page 1

premiums.

Looking at reserve accounts, Viola said \$350,000 was earmarked for this year, with the same sum proposed for FY 22/23, to replenish road funds.

“Budget and Finance [Committee] also proposed building up road reserves,” he said.

Viola estimated that current budget favorability of about \$1.1 million could be further increased by roughly \$334,000 for a year-end surplus of \$1.4 million.

Turning to Public Works, Viola said improving dilapidated mailbox clusters is under consideration for the next budget year.

“We asked them to focus on pedestals and ... mostly maintenance,” he said.

Viola said replacing 13 concrete pads in dire need of repair could cost up to \$40,000, with another \$50,000 required to replace 100 pedestals at \$55 each.

Viola said new cluster boxes would run about \$20,000.

“It could be a big number,” he said.

Bulkhead replacement costs, which totaled \$1.3 million this year, are estimated to drop to \$919,000 in the new fiscal year.

“We dialed it back at least for this year.”

Director Larry Perrone asked about the status of receiving dredging permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Viola said in the wake of coronavirus issuance of permits slowed to a crawl.

“We just got permits from 2019, so we’ll be working on that,” he said.

Viola said dredging operations would begin in the spring.

Turning to golf operations, Finance Director Steve Phillips said the proposed budget reflects increased revenues on par with the current year.

“We’ve raised some green fees and some cart fees,” he said.

Phillips cited higher labor and fuel rates as financial challenges.

“We had really good weather this year and our financial numbers are

showing that,” he said. “We didn’t miss any big weekends.”

Police Chief Leo Ehrisman noted an extra cost for body cameras beginning next budget year.

Phillips said the equipment would be deemed a capital expense because of a lease agreement.

“We don’t own the equipment,” he said. “It would not be used until January 2023.”

Ehrisman estimated costs at \$30,000 annually for five years, with the potential for grants to offset the price.

“We’re budgeting right now as if we’re not getting any assistance for it,” he said.

Director of Aquatics Kathleen Cook said the amenity experienced higher revenues this year based on higher membership numbers, which added roughly \$13,000 to the bottom line.

After previously proposing adding a daily-use charge for children under age 5 during the Budget and Finance Committee review, Cook amended the proposal last week.

Cook said regional market research shows that children over the age of 2 are usually charged for entertainment activities.

The revised recommendation would add a \$3 daily use fee for children between ages 2-4.

Perrone, who questioned the suggestion during the Budget and Finance Committee review, again voiced displeasure.

“I think this is a bad idea,” he said.

Perrone recommended tracking usage data for the upcoming season and revisiting the issue next year.

“I think we need to raise the fees more on nonresidents as opposed to raising it on 3- and 4-year olds,” he said.

Cook said raising rates on nonresidents would be less effective, because

approximately 96 percent of pool users are residents.

Bouncing over to Racquet Sports, Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said adjustments to proposed rate changes were made following the Budget and Finance review.

Director Amy Peck said the Budget and Finance Committee balked at the initial rate proposals.

“We’re lowering individual drop-in rates for tennis, while at same time increasing the price of tennis memberships,” she said.

Peck said the Budget Committee proposed a \$15 charge for tennis, as opposed to the \$10 suggested.

Peck also said the previously proposed \$8 drop-in fees for tennis were deemed too low, with the budget committee suggesting between \$10-15, while also proposing a charge from \$7-8 for pickleball and platform tennis drop-in rates.

“The goal is focused on increased memberships, not just revenue,” she said.

Viola backed the idea of setting tennis drop-in rates at \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents, with pickleball and platform tennis charges of \$7 for residents and \$8 for non-residents.

Marina Manager Ron Fisher said revue estimates next year were conservative because fluctuating fuel prices made forecasting these expenses almost impossible.

“Our guess is as good as yours where gas costs and oil costs are going to go,” he said.

Fisher said the marina’s cost for ethanol could hit \$4 per gallon this summer.

“We filled up the tank at end of the year and we do have 18,000 gallons,” he said.

Based on guidance from the Budget Committee a 4 percent increase for boat slips was included in the FY

22/23 proposal.

Fisher said the increase would include a \$2,025 fee for boats from 15-25 feet, \$2,755 for boats from 26-39 feet and vessels between 40-44 feet paying \$3,896.

Swim and Racquet Club slips would cost \$1,460.

“As of today we have 85 boats on the waiting list and we just got two more,” he said.

Ocean Pines Fire Department President Dave VanGasbeck stressed the importance of repairs and maintenance for emergency stations.

“This past year we had mold remediation,” he said. “The south station is in poor shape and in need of renovation.”

VanGasbeck said a feasibility study for the proposed building project is nearing completion.

“We remediated the mold that was in the living quarters. However, we still have a lot of mold left,” he said.

Additionally, VanGasbeck noted that the Pines fire stations still have drainage issues.

“We had gas lines that fell out of the ceiling,” he said.

Along with \$80,000 for repairs, VanGasbeck estimated \$20,000 would be required to expand station living quarters.

Further, fire officials estimated \$20,000 would be needed to purchase a new alerting system in the north station along with \$16,000 to replace the HVAC system.

“The altering system isn’t working in a large portion of the building,” he said.

Viola said recommended budget changes would be part of a forthcoming town hall slated to review details with the community.

Ocean Pines annual budget requires final approval 45 days prior to the next fiscal year commencing on May 1.



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# County rejects appeal to support bridge plan

Continued from Page 2

months — on top of the backups to get on the bridge itself. The intersection of Interstate 97 and Route 50 is where traffic from Baltimore and points north merges with traffic from Washington, D.C. and points west and south, while Route 50 funnels down to two lanes once it splits from Route 301 near Queenstown, on the way to Easton.

The current two bay bridges feature three westbound lanes and just two eastbound lanes. Eastbound traffic getting onto the bridge during the summer often backs up to Interstate 97, which causes backups on Route 50 that have been known to stretch all the way to neighboring Prince George's

County and on Interstate 97 for miles before the intersection.

But if Worcester County is to endorse the concept for an all-new bridge that alleviates traffic en route to Ocean City, the commissioners feel that more has to be done at the terminus for all that traffic.

"Route 589, Route 90 and Route 50 are in major need and to promote an influx of even more traffic down here before the state has fixed our problems down here, my goodness, it's only going to multiply many times over," Commissioner Chip Bertino said. "Until that's part of it, I have



Chip Bertino



Josh Nordstrom

problems with this."

Commissioner Josh Nordstrom added that he understands that the request is coming from MACo and not the Department of Transportation, which oversees the road improvements the county requests, but all the same, it's too much to be asked for a favor when the county is routinely brushed off.

"We've been ignored and things have been pushed back and we make our statement and they come here and do the dog and pony show every year. We tell them the same thing every year. We run into these folks outside

the meetings and tell them the same thing every year. And what do we get? Lip service," he lamented. "I understand that this is coming from MACo, I do ... And I know this may just be a piece of paper, but again, we're being asked to do something and we're not getting any help."

Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic pointed out that while his colleagues' frustrations have merit, it's not Queen Anne's and Anne Arundel that have spurned Worcester. In fact, Worcester has never asked either county for endorsements of its own endeavors.

"But it's up to you all," he said. "I'm not going to throw myself on the train tracks, that's for sure."

# OP bylaws revisions must pass referendum

Continued from Page 1

"Tucker will blend both."

Horn said the finalized language would likely be presented during a special meeting before the regular board meeting on Feb. 23 to assure changes are enacted before the next board election.

"The idea being that we want to proceed timely towards getting a referen-

dum started," she said. "It should be done speedily to have bylaws changes done before the next election."

Trummel said committee recommendations for updating section 5.02a included specifying that candidates be listed as property owner on Worcester County land records and Maryland Department of Assessment taxation rolls.

Further proposed language changes would block people, like current Director Rick Farr, whose property is not personally owned by them but by a corporation or partnership from running for office.

The board disqualified Farr as a candidate for that reason midway through the election, but he successfully sued the association to have his

candidacy and vote totals reinstated.

"The Daly proposal goes beyond what the Bylaws Committee has proposed," Horn said.

In addition to requiring candidates be current property owners in Ocean Pines, Daly has proposed including a three-year minimum residency, dating from Jan. 1 of the election year.

"Unless for the purposes of duration of ownership they have served on an [advisory] committee for a period of no less than 12 months prior to May 1 of the election year," Horn said.

Daly also recommended restricting anyone involved in pending legal action involving the association from becoming a board candidate.

"The candidate may not be a plaintiff or a defendant in a pending action in a Maryland or federal Court in which the association is named as defendant or plaintiff," she said. "Jeremy is cleaning up that language, but that's the concept."

Other Daly proposals include blocking candidates if they or their spouse have a felony conviction within 10 years of May 1 for that election year.

"Jeremy does not like the spouse thing," she said. "He believes the members will reject that."

Horn said Tucker is drafting referendum language to separate voting on criteria for candidates and spouses.

Committee member Steve Jacobs noted the proposed restriction for candidates involved in litigation with the association could cause problems if a board member running for re-election is named in a lawsuit.

Any changes to bylaws provisions would require a majority vote of residents through a referendum. The next Bylaws Committee virtual meeting is scheduled on Feb. 11 at 1 p.m.

As for the Farr case, the board of directors announced this week they will not appeal the Circuit Court's ruling in Farr's favor.

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# Berlin Council approves street work, meters

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Berlin Town Council awarded bids for street repairs and replacing a well, and approved request for proposals to update water meters during its meeting on Monday.

Starting with street repairs, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said a trio of bids were received on Dec. 15 to repair Decatur Street, East Graham Avenue and Stevenson Lane, along with excavating the walking path in Stephen Decatur Park.

Fleetwood said George & Lynch submitted the lowest bid at \$166,000.

"They were lower than our original estimate," he said.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said funding for the project was previously earmarked.

"For FY 22, we have allocated state

highway funding and impact fees to cover the \$166,000," she said.

Next on the agenda was awarding a contract to replace the failing Branch Street well.

"In simple terms, it had collapsed at the base," he said.

Fleetwood said a pair of bids for the project's first phase were received on Dec. 15 with Delaware-based A.C. Schultes coming in lowest at \$64,581.

"The total cost to replace the well, motors and pumps is up to \$350,000," he said.

Fleetwood said during a discussion on the topic in October, the council approved designating American Rescue Act funds for the project.

In addition to requesting contract approval from council, Fleetwood

also sought a motion to allocate funding.

"We can't touch the ARPA money unless there's a formal motion," he said.

The council also signed off on a pair of requests for proposals to purchase and install smart water meters to replace outdated equipment.

"Mechanical meters, the day they come out of the box, they begin to fail," he said.

To this point, about 400 meters have been identified as needing repair.

Based on the size of the project, town officials opted to call for separate bids for procurement and installation. "We thought it would be financially prudent to break this down," he said. "It could be the same company in the end."

Josh Taylor of Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc. said the town might be

able to save on some costs by buying meters directly from the manufacturer.

"We're going to be ordering over 2,000 meters and there's no need to pay a middleman for the cost of the meters," he said.

Fleetwood said initial price estimates are roughly \$1 million to upgrade water meters.

"Yes, we're seeking approval for money [but] the main purpose of tonight is to move forward with the RFPs," he said.

Fleetwood said final funding allocation would occur after bids were in hand.

After work begins, Taylor would create a street map to chart progress, Fleetwood said.

"To be able to show the public and council from day one after the meters arrive, here's where we're at as far as the installation," he said.

# Berlin's town chicken killed in hit-and-run

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Berlin's adopted town chicken, Althea, perished last Tuesday afternoon following a hit-and-run accident on Main Street.

Mayor Zack Tyndall posted the tragic news on social media last Wednesday.

"In the fall of 2021, Althea, the town chicken, randomly showed up [and] became a local celebrity," he said.

In short order, the inquisitive fowl was provided digs outside Health Freedom at 12 Artisans Way, where proprietor Erin Bilenki constructed a coop.

Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said Althea quickly endeared herself to residents.

"The community embraced her as one of its own," she said. "What made Althea special was the fact that she felt so comfortable downtown."

Tyndall said the chicken, an escaped broiler, no doubt, materialized at an ideal moment in time.

"Her presence put a smile on the faces of residents, visitors and business owners when we needed one the most," he said.

Wells said the comfort level exhibited by Althea was startling.

"She made downtown Berlin her home and went window shopping," she said.

To highlight the presence of a unique character inhabiting town, in

November Wells installed a chicken crossing sign on Main Street by Island Creamery.

"She was hit by a car right where I put the sign up," she said.

Althea was laid to rest last Wednesday in Stephen Decatur Park.

"Apparently, chickens do like crossing the road even if they shouldn't," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY IVY WELLS

Berlin lost one of its own after Althea, the adopted town chicken, was killed by a hit-and-run driver last Tuesday on Main Street.



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# OP Communications Cmte. examines signs

Advisory group discusses host of ongoing initiatives during meeting last Thursday

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Ocean Pines Communications Committee discussed electronic signs, annual meeting attendance, electronic voting and preservation of historical items during its meeting last Thursday.

Committee Chair Cheryl Jacobs said the prospect of upgrading community marquee signs to electronic message boards was scheduled to be examined during the Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 22.

Jacobs said committee members should present a united front to answer any questions generated by the board.

“There’s been so much time and effort put into this and it’s really such a good thing for the community,” she said.

Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines said sign price quotes have been forwarded by Marketing Director Josh Davis to General Manager John Viola.

Jacobs did email board members about the matter before their meeting.

“I did get a reply from [Director Doug] Parks in support,” she said.

“I’m thinking we’ve got a good chance of moving forward with this, finally.”

Board liaison Josette Wheatley, who was previously a committee member, said a wealth of useful data regarding sign particulars were obtained during the group’s investigative process.

“Many of us are for this,” she said. “It’s moving our community forward for communications for the younger generation.”

Jacobs highlighted potential monetary savings.

“There’s real dollar savings in this ultimately, because staff spends a lot of time and effort changing out those signs,” she said.

Rines said electronic signs could prove useful in the event of Amber Alerts or other safety warnings.

“In my opinion the main negative is impacting property values due to placement,” she said.

Rines stressed the importance of strategic placement to also avoid light pollution affecting residents.

Jacobs suggested both the North and South gates as prime spots for initial sign placement to avoid subjecting individual lot owners to the lights, while providing the commu-

nity an opportunity to receive the information.

Turning to the annual association homeowners’ meeting, Jacobs asked committee members for ideas to bolster attendance.

“What can we do to generate interest and get people to come to the annual meeting?” she said. “It’s pathetic in my opinion.”

After Rines broached the concept of door prizes, committee member Marlene Ott suggested adding guest speakers.

“You’ve got to prime them,” she said.

Jacobs pondered turning the meeting event into a larger affair to achieve more participation.

“It’s not just the meeting, there’s more to it,” she said.

Rines said a “family-fun day” might prove useful to lure in meeting attendees.

Switching to the topic of electronic voting for board elections, Jacobs asked if a town hall meeting on that subject should be planned after feedback from the Ocean Pines Community Survey indicated potential interest.

Rines, who also serves on the Strategic Planning Committee that conducted the recent survey, said a town hall is forthcoming to review overall results.

“We are still planning a presentation for membership,” she said.

Rines said the survey presentation would likely occur near the end of the FY 22/23 budget process, while also offering to update the group after the next strategic planning meeting.

Rines also raised the issue of safely preserving historical items and memorabilia from Ocean Pines.

Long-term plans to either locate or build a structure to house Pines history have been previously discussed, Rines said.

Prior to those plans, Rines requested committee approval to research the topic of historical preservation at the Nabb Research Center located at Salisbury University.

“They do historical cataloging,” she said. “I wanted to research a bit ... to see if I could find a solution.”


Rines said, ultimately, a permanent home for historical documents and artifacts needs to be identified.

“Where they are today is not going to keep them in good condition for the next 50 years,” she said.

With all committee members in agreement, Rines promised to return with further details after contacting the research institution.

The communications committees’ next virtual meeting is scheduled for Feb. 17 at 10 a.m.

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# Viola reviews Ocean Pines active initiatives

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola gave progress reports on current and pending projects during the Board of Directors' meeting on Saturday.

Viola said a proposed pickleball court addition, which was approved by the board last January, is now moving forward.

"We received a number from the contractor of \$180,000 in July," he said. "We believe the price is still good."

Viola said Vista Engineering, which prepared plans to build four new courts, called for bids the day before with a return deadline of Feb. 18.

"We're in the bidding process," he said. "Bids will be leveled within a week of receipt."

Viola said, contingent on board approval, a bid contract would be awarded immediately.

Project timeframes will be determined by both the contractor's schedule and availability of materials.

"We hope to have it done by the end of May if it goes right," he said.

Turning to work in progress, Viola said installing glass panels and doors to section off the meeting room at the Golf Clubhouse got underway earlier that week.

"Walls should be completed within three weeks, if materials are available," he said.

Project cost estimates are roughly \$15,000, including \$8,000 for a doorway, \$4,000 for materials, \$2,000 to relocate HVAC equipment and \$1,000 to relocate alarm systems.

"Wall lights will be moved next week and the HVAC relocated," he said. "New doorway and glass panels are ordered and should be in next week."

By contrast, Viola said closet doors are anticipated to take over a month to arrive.

"The biggest cost is the door," he said.

On a related note, Viola said upgraded broadcast equipment for hybrid meeting functionality is in place



Rendering of proposed pickleball court addition at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center recently sent out for bid.  
RENDERING COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

at the Assateague Room in the Community Center and would be forthcoming at the Golf Clubhouse.

Viola said Mid-South Audio was contracted to install hybrid-meeting systems, which include a custom table with built in microphones and cameras to be integrated into the existing Microsoft TEAMS platform.

Costs are roughly \$15,000 to add a projector in the Golf Clubhouse meeting room, with the Assateague Room costing an additional \$8,000 for a projector screen.

Viola said if equipment is in stock, the Clubhouse upgrades would be completed within one month of the wall addition being finished.

Other initiatives Viola reviewed included removing the old guard shack at the North Gate Bridge.

"The decision was made to remove the guard shack at an estimated cost of \$2,500," he said. "We did the work in-house."

See PINES Page 8



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# OP board weighs election tweaks

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors delayed voting on revising resolution M09 to change election verification processes after Director Frank Daly announced that a slew of related revisions would be unveiled at a special meeting.

Association President Colette Horn said the proposed changes for certifying board candidates includes specifying that the secretary verify property ownership through assessment and taxation records.

The language changes also include a new candidate registration form, which the secretary would officially accept or reject, prior to submitting to the Elections Committee by June 1.

“The list of eligible candidates and the registration form will be released to public once approved,” she said.

Director Larry Perrone said election procedure updates should require that the secretary use Worcester County land records to determine property ownership.

“With the recent litigation and the judge taking the position that ownership is inferred based on our membership roll ... we should add that membership rolls are not determinant,” he said.

Before further consideration could

be given for Horn’s suggestions, Daly pitched an even larger batch of bylaws revisions.

“I have 14 proposed bylaws changes being reviewed by counsel,” he said.

Daly said a special meeting would be held within a week to consider his recommended updates.

“Some of those changes directly affect those issues and this [candidate registration] form,” he said.

Horn said the first reading for M09 changes was scheduled prior to learning of Daly’s efforts with association legal counsel Jeremy Tucker.

“We can delay the second reading of this until we get input from counsel,” she said.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair Jim Trummel said regardless of Daly’s recommendations, the board could proceed with approving M09 changes.

“This effects the candidate application and that can be today,” he said. “Delaying M09 and its consideration is not ... really what you want to do.”

Unlike changes to bylaws or declaration of restrictions that require approval by referendum vote, amending association resolutions can be done at



Frank Daly

the board level.

Tucker said M09 changes could be approved prior to other bylaw revisions being adopted.

“If amendments are adopted, you’ll revisit and revise,” he said.

Daly said the bylaw changes could be incorporated during a second reading for M09 updates.

“By the time the second reading comes up, we should know what proposed changes are, if they are board approved and if we’re going to referendum,” he said.

Perrone envisioned a means to streamline procedures.

“We could include a second reading of resolution M09 at Daly’s special meeting and make adjustments right then and put the resolution in place,” he said.

## Pines GM report highlights number of current efforts

Continued from Page 7

The shack structure and old decking are being dismantled, with completion anticipated with a few weeks.

Viola said power lines for bridge and entrance sign lighting would be relocated, and that the schedule for bridge lighting would be dependent on material availability.

Looking at pending projects, Viola said the proposed budget includes funds to renovate the Administration Building in White Horse Park.

Viola said the office renovations would require relocation of staff while updates are underway.

The total project cost is estimated at \$125,000, including \$50,000 for flooring, \$45,000 for HVAC system, \$10,000 for ceilings, \$5,000 for lighting and \$15,000 for painting.

Work to replace or repair mailbox clusters is also on the horizon, Viola said.

“At the last board meeting, I was instructed to move forward,” he said.

## Pines hits pause on electronic sign purchase for now

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Saturday delayed approving a pair of electronic message boards to replace existing marquees until they find out more about the permits from Worcester County government.

Association President Colette Horn said the purpose of the new signs is to improve safety and provide timely community updates.

“We could get timely information to the community related to safety concerns,” she said. “We want to determine next steps from the board perspective.”

The proposal to switch the old signs for the electronic message boards was initiated by the Ocean Pines Communications Committee, which recommended initially purchasing two signs to gauge community sentiment.

Director Larry Perrone said county officials had indicated any investment in electronic signs would require removal of all existing marquee signs.

See REPLACING Page 9

Viola said the first step will be to examine the concrete pads at each mailbox site to determine replacement needs.

“We will identify next week 10 priority locations to begin,” he said.

Up to 100 pedestals deemed for which replacement is most needed would be identified, at a cost of \$500 each for a total of \$50,000.

“We will review clusters and determine the priority to repair or replace,” he said.

Viola said bids would be solicited to clean mailbox clusters where appropriate.

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# Replacing marquees uncertain

Continued from Page 8

“If we’re going to rip the rest of them down, I don’t think two is adequate,” he said. “That changes the math tremendously.”

General Manager John Viola reviewed price quotes obtained, all of which indicated a pair of electronic signs would run at least \$70,000.

Viola expressed concern that replacing the larger number of manually-updated signs with just two electronic models would prove insufficient and eventually require an additional investment.

“The number would be well over \$200,000,” he said.

Director Frank Daly said the manually updated signs requires one staff member one day a week to change the messages.

“It would require 26 years to recoup the investment,” he said.

Daly noted alternative means for emergency notification exist, such as cell phones and radio announcements.

“If we’re ... spending \$200,000 for emergency notification, would it be better to spend \$300,000 for an emergency notice system to notify residents by cell phone?” he asked.

Director Doug Parks said the essential question is how residents consume information.

“We’re making the assumption

that the primary source of information is the sign,” he said.

Parks backed Daly’s suggestion that alternative emergency notice systems be investigated.

“I would be curious to gauge what people’s primary source of information is for Ocean Pines,” he said. “This has got to be sustainable for some period of time based on that investment.”

Communications Committee Chair Cheryl Jacobs suggested association officials contact Worcester County to confirm the need to remove marquee signs if electronic upgrades are acquired.

“We need clarity from Worcester County,” she said.

Jacobs said based on previous discussions with county officials committee members were not under the impression that the sign change was an either-or scenario.

“We did understand more than one or two signs was necessary,” she said. “That’s why we got permission to go up to eight.”

Horn said before proceeding with sign purchases the Communications Committee should provide recommendations regarding the total price to replace the existing marquee signs.

“We have to understand this is going to be a very expensive proposition,” she said.

# Worcester posts nonprofit grant applications online

(Jan. 27, 2022) Worcester County Government (WCG) is accepting applications from area nonprofit agencies now through Monday, Feb. 7.

Applications are available to download as a PDF at [www.co.worcester.md.us](http://www.co.worcester.md.us). Once there, the link to the Non-Profit Grant Application can be found under “Important Links” on the right hand side of the web page.

Completed grant applications should be mailed to the following

address: Wester County Government, One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill Maryland, 21863, Attention: Senior Budget Accountant Kim Reynolds.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered, and applying for a nonprofit grant is not a guarantee of funding approval from WCG.

Grant awards will be announced by mail following the adoption of the FY23 WCG Operating Budget in June 2022.

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# Pines financials maintain positivity

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) With five months remaining in its fiscal year, Ocean Pines' bottom line continues to look good, with operations beating the budget by \$1.4 million through November 2021.

General Manager John Viola and Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin reviewed financials to close November during the board meeting on Saturday.

For November, Martin reported the association closed the month \$42,000 better than projected, as revenues exceeded forecast by \$58,000 while expenses came in \$16,000 above estimates.

Martin said the year-to-date figures through November show a net operating surplus of \$1.4 million, as revenues were better than budget by \$1.28 million and expenses were \$133,000 less than budgeted.

Viola said Recreation and Parks closed ahead of budget by \$34,000, with General Administration at \$31,000 and Public Works at \$30,000.

Turning to of year-to-date figures through November, Public Works lead the pack with \$297,000 in budget favorability, closely followed by golf operations at \$292,000, with Aquatics at \$197,000, general administration at \$153,000 and the yacht club at \$151,000.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**OP Public Works Office Manager Linda Martin reviewed year-to-date figures at Saturday's board meeting.**

## County Teacher of the Year candidate names revealed

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The 14 nominees for the Worcester County Public Schools Teacher of the Year competition were announced on Jan. 18 during a Board of Education meeting in Newark.

Each nominee was named "Teacher of the Year" for their respective school, and in March, they are expected to compete for the top honor in the county.

Superintendent Louis Taylor congratulated each of the teachers after reading their names during the meet-

ing, thanking them for their impact on students and the community they serve.

"I hope the next time you enter one of our schools, you will join me in recognizing these educators," he said.

**Named Teachers of the Year are:**

- April Anft, Cedar Chapel Special School
- Kristin Cashman, Pocomoke High School
- Melanie Coleman, Ocean City Elementary School

See TEACHER Page 11

## Viola rescinds resignation, agrees to extend GM term

(Jan. 27, 2022) The following is a statement from Ocean Pines Association President Colette Horn:

"After consulting with John Viola regarding his recent resignation as general manager, and discussing transition planning with the board, I am pleased to announce that the Board unanimously agreed that it is in the best interests of the association to request that John rescind his resignation and continue in his position as general manager via an extension to his existing contract at least through the second



John Viola

week of September to facilitate a smooth transition for the entire organization upon the hiring of his successor.

"This request was conveyed to John via our corporate counsel, Jeremy Tucker, along with a proposal for adjustment in responsibilities during the period of transition. I am pleased to announce that John has agreed."



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# Berlin house blaze still under investigation

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) Multiple units responded on Jan. 19 for a house fire at 211 Maple Avenue in Berlin, with the cause still under investigation.

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office said in a press release that the Berlin Volunteer Fire Company arrived first at the scene around 2:40 p.m. and discovered significant smoke and fire showing at the two-story home.

Berlin firefighters, with assistance from Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Newark and Showell fire departments, brought the fire under control quickly with no injuries reported.

The residence, which is owned by Tita Merari Bermudez Garcia, was in the process of being renovated.

The blaze also damaged an adjacent trailer.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Investigators from the Ocean City Fire Marshal's office along with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office and the Berlin Police Department have assisted with



Multiple units responded to a house fire at 211 Maple Avenue in Berlin on the afternoon of Jan. 19.

PHOTO COURTESY BERLIN FIRE COMPANY

the investigation.

Anyone with any additional information can contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 410-632-5666, with anonymity guaranteed.

## Teacher to be selected in March

Continued from Page 10

- Blake Cropper, Pocomoke Middle School
- Steve Deakyne, Stephen Decatur High School
- Danielle DiMichele, Buckingham Elementary School
- Saudi Evanski, Pocomoke Elementary School
- Matthew Haelig, Snow Hill High School
- Lindsay Harrington, Stephen Decatur Middle School
- Samantha Keyes, Showell Elementary School

mentary School

- Michael Levy, Worcester Technical High School
- William Tignor, Snow Hill Elementary School
- Olivia Tyndall, Snow Hill Middle School
- Melissa Vit, Berlin Intermediate School

According to the announcement posted on the school district's Facebook page, the 2022 Worcester County Teacher of the Year will be announced on March 25.



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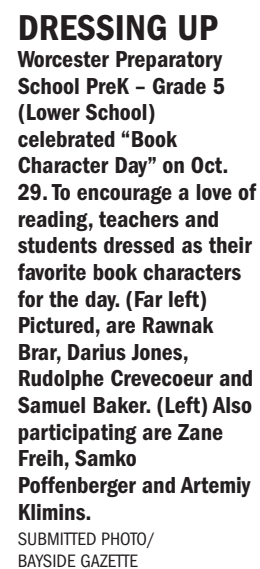






PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

KIWANIS DRIVES

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City held its annual coat and toy drives in November. Toy Drive Chair Dave Landis and Coat Drive Chair Kitty Wrench are pictured with two new youth bicycles and helmets donated by a part-time resident. Toys were donated to Worcester GOLD and distributed to those checked by Social Services. The coats went to various local charities who distributed them to those in need.

RECOGNITION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tim Lund reinstated the Kiwanian of the Month Recognition Award, which is given to a member who has done a recent outstanding job. The October recipient was Carolyn Dryzga, who was presented the award for her dedication to the club and work as the treasurer and corresponding secretary, plus numerous other responsibilities and volunteering.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



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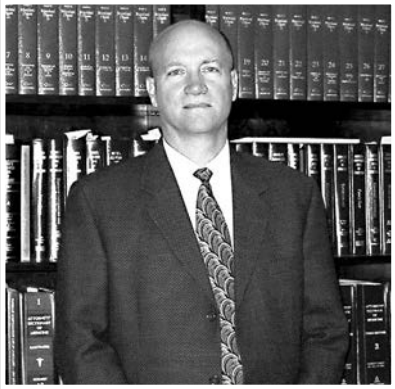
GUEST SPEAKER

Alison Webb Schweiger, right, was the keynote speaker at a recent meeting of the Worcester County Garden Club. A club member and retired florist, Schweiger demonstrated several methods for creating holiday outdoor pots using plant materials that will stay green throughout the winter. She is pictured with Club President Deb Young.

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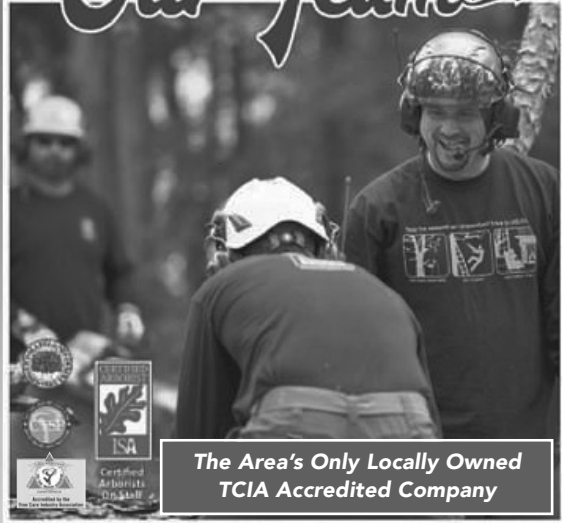
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# Opinion

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

## Election rules revision has no good purpose

Election bylaw change: you must be this tall \_\_\_\_ to run for a seat on the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors. As ridiculous and smart-alecky as that is, it nevertheless reflects the nature of the effort by members of the OPA board to narrow the pool of possible candidates by creating a package of especially restrictive election regulations.

Undoubtedly, some of these recommended rule changes are an after-the-fact backhand to the face of Circuit Court Judge Sidney Campen, who early this year ruled against the board in a lawsuit challenging the majority's attempt to block a candidate from outside their ruling clique.

The plaintiff in the case, Rick Farr, was elected as a result of the court's decision, but the bylaws revisions proposed by Director Frank Daly, who ran against Farr in last year's race, would prevent that from ever happening again.

Anyone who owns property through a corporation, as Farr does, would no longer be eligible to run. Instead, a candidate's name must be on the deed recorded with the county.

Another particularly conspicuous revision to the bylaws offered by Daly targeted another of his challengers in the last election by attempting to disqualify him, (and anyone else, one would presume) because of his spouse's legal difficulties. The OPA's attorney apparently quashed that one.

Meanwhile, other amendments up for consideration would make it more difficult to run for the OPA board than it would be for Congress.

By calling for a greatly extended period of residency or reducing that requirement via a year of service on an OPA advisory committee, these recommended changes either suppose that serving the people of Ocean Pines is more difficult than, say, serving in the U.S. Senate, or they are purposely exclusionary for reasons unknown or unspoken.

As difficult as it is to get good people to run for the board, tightening the rules to this degree would not benefit the community, leaving open to speculation whether this is an act of spite or the product of some other unknown agenda.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Controlling Americans

Editor,

There are eight levels of control that must be obtained before you are able to create a social state, wrote Saul Alinsky in his book "Rules for Radicals" in 1971.

- 1) Control healthcare and you control the people.
- 2) Increase the poverty level as high as possible, poor people are easier to control and will not fight back if you are providing everything for them to live. Consider the illegal alien flood.
- 3) Increase the debt to an unsustainable level. That way you are able to increase taxes, and this will produce more poverty.
- 4) Gun Control – Remove

the ability for citizens to defend themselves from the government. That way you are able to create a police state.

- 5) Welfare – Take control of every aspect of citizen's lives like food, housing, and income.
- 6) Education – Take control of what people read and listen to – take control of what children learn in school like the critical race theory that divides us.
- 7) Remove the belief in God from the government and schools. No more then, will we be able to recite, "endowed by our creator..."
- 8) Class Warfare – Divide the people into the wealthy and the poor.

This will cause more discontent and it will be easier to tax the wealthy with the

support of the poor.

How are we doing with all of these given the fact that a Niagara Falls of dependent humans are coming across our border every day from all over the world?

We Americans better get our heads out of the sand and pray hard that Trump gets to stop this slide to socialism and then communism in 2024.

We need to insist on voter picture ID before a citizen can vote in order to have fair elections stopping voter fraud.

If you think that socialism/communism for America would be a good thing, than you need to speak to a person who has lived under such a regime.

Dennis W. Evans  
Berlin

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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## Snow Hill seeks feedback on bikeway

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Town of Snow Hill is partnering with Toole Design Group to develop a new bikeway connecting key destinations in the community. As part of the planning process, Snow Hill is seeking community input on bicycling in the town and on the pro-

posed bicycle route. All residents and visitors are encouraged to share their thoughts via the online survey and map, which are available at [tooledesign.github.io/Snow\\_Hill](https://tooledesign.github.io/Snow_Hill). Feedback from the survey and map will inform the

bikeways visioning sessions being held Jan. 25-28 at the old fire hall. More information about the upcoming bikeways meetings is available at [www.snowhillmd.gov](http://www.snowhillmd.gov). The online survey will remain open until at least Jan. 31.



# OP Library Art for Wellness program slated for February

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Worcester County Library is offering an Art for Wellness program with Art Therapist Sivan Perdue, in February

This program is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore through the Katherine Ellen Brown Community Fund.

While this is not a therapy session it does provide the chance to explore the mind through creation.

Join Perdue as she introduces and guides participants on ways to use art in order to increase wellness.

This is a three-part series at the Ocean Pines branch on Wednesdays, Feb. 2, 9, and 16 at 10:30 a.m.

“The library is pleased to offer an event that helps people express themselves through guided art classes,” said Adult Program Manager Elena Coelho.

## Worcester school board nixes first semester exams

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 27, 2022) The Worcester County Board of Education marked a first when met for its monthly meeting on Jan. 18 — it was the first time the board streamed its meeting online.

The streaming worked seamlessly and never crashed, though speakers needed to be reminded at times to speak into the microphone or else the public watching online would not be able to hear them.

Along with introducing this new technology, the board made decisions on the following items:

**First semester final exams**

At the request of Superintendent Louis Taylor, board members unanimously agreed to nix final exams for the first semester of the school year, which currently count as 20 percent of a student’s grade in the class.

Dr. Annette Wallace, the chief operating officer and chief academic officer for grades 9-12 for the district told the board members that several teachers raised concerns about students being absent from daily classroom instruction because of covid-19. She also said there was some uncertainty regarding how many students would be quarantined when the final exams were held.

On average, 62 staff members were absent from work the week prior to the meeting due to covid, according to Wallace. That does not include staff who were out for other reasons.

She also said the district averages

See BOE Page 17

# Send Valentine cards to veterans; deadline Feb. 3

(Jan. 27, 2022) For the 19th year, Valentine cards will be sent to four veteran rehab medical centers to thank them for their sacrifices and to let them know they are loved, appreciated and not forgotten.

All area schools, clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to participate with purchased cards (no youth cards), but homemade cards are particularly appreciated.

No postage is necessary and the card is addressed to “A Veteran.”

Through the generosity of Linda Dearing and the Copy Central staff, the cards, plus some candy, will be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Rehab Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Perry Point Hospital.

Drop off locations are: Shamrock Realty Group, 11049 Race-track Rd., Ocean Pines; Copy Central, Cathell Rd., Ocean Pines; the Ocean Pines Library, the Ocean Pines Community Center and Recreation and Parks building, and other locations as they become available. The deadline is Thursday, Feb. 3.

This project is sponsored by Caring for America, a mission of the Republican Women of Worcester County.

## Worcester County Residents and Property Owners Be AWARE!

### A proposed Text Amendment is being considered to allow slaughterhouses in A-1 Districts

**A proposed Text Amendment to allow slaughterhouses to operate on A1 Agriculture land is being planned.**

**Slaughterhouses are only permitted as a special exception use in the I-2 Heavy Industrial District. The County has historically and correctly recognized that slaughterhouses are compatible only in the I-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning District due to adequate infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and transportation facilities.**

**The proposed text change will permit farmers, investors, businesses to operate slaughterhouses in A-1 Districts.**

**The future of Worcester County is at stake.**

**The detrimental impacts to our environment and Maryland’s Coast will be significant.**

**We urge you to write to our planning commission and county commissioners to oppose changing our zoning laws to allow livestock slaughterhouses on A1Agriculture lands.**

**For more information, please email  
saynotoslaughterhouses@gmail.com**



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# BOE sets '22-'23 calendar and adds evening meetings

Continued from Page 15  
534 student absences each day for covid-related reasons.

Taylor said rather than eliminate the exams all together, teachers will be required to have a culminating event to conclude the first semester, whether it is a test or a project.

## 2022-2023 calendar set

Carrie Sterrs, the Coordinator of Public Relations & Special Programs for the school district, presented next year's school calendar, which was put together after taking feedback from parents, employees, and students.

The new calendar called for a mix between early release and longer, yet more frequent breaks during the school year.

The 2022-2023 school year will start on Sept. 6, includes a winter break that kicks off with a half day on Dec. 21 and lasts well over a week, and a spring break that starts with a half day on Wednesday, April 5, followed by closures that Thursday, Good Friday, Monday after Easter, and Tuesday. The last day of school will be on June 13.

The board approved the new schedule.

## Evening meetings

To highlight the students more when families can attend, rather than in the middle of the day when many people work, the board unanimously agreed to hold two evening meetings this year.


The first evening board meeting will take place on March 15, starting at 6 p.m. Board members will hold a closed session earlier in the day, take a short break, then return for the 6 p.m. meeting.

The second evening will take on the same format and will take place in July.

## President and VP elected

Superintendent Taylor opened the meeting with a request for nominations for the Board of Education president, a position held by the late Eric Cropper who died in July. Upon his death, then Vice President Elena McComas moved into the position of president and Todd Ferrante was elected by the board as vice president.

Board members nominated and unanimously approved keeping McComas and Ferrante in their current position.



**2022 - 2023 SCHOOL SYSTEM CALENDAR**  
SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED PROPOSAL

15 - 25 New Teacher Orientation	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	17 Early Dismissal for Students: Professional Development
29 - 31 Teacher Preparation & In-Service Activities	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	20 Closed: Presidents Day
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	
	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	
	28 29 30 31	26 27 28	
1 Teacher Preparation & In-Service Activities	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	10 Early Dismissal for Students: Professional Development
5 Closed: Labor Day	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	
6 First Day of School	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	
	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	
	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	
20 Early Dismissal for Students: Professional Development	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	5 Early Dismissal for Students: End of Marking Period (47 Days)
21 Closed: MSEA Convention	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	6 Closed for Students: Professional Day
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 - 11 Closed: Spring Break
	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	
	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	
	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	
	30 31	30	
4 Early Dismissal for Students: Professional Development; End of First Marking Period (43 Days)	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>MAY</b>	29 Closed: Memorial Day
7 Closed for Students: Professional Day	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	
8 Closed for Students: Countywide PD Day / Election Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6	
23 - 25 Closed: Thanksgiving Break	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	
21 Early Dismissal for Students	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	
22 - 30 Closed: Winter Break	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	
	30 31	28 29 30 31	
16 Closed: MLK Day	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	12 - 13 Early Dismissal for Students, High School exams
25 - 26 Early Dismissal for Students, High School exams	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	13 End of Fourth Marking Period (44 Days), Tentative Last Day of School
26 End of Second Marking Period (46 Days)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3	
27 Closed for Students: Professional Day	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	
	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	
	29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	
	<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>CALENDAR LEGEND</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
	S M T W Th F S	Yellow - New Teacher Orientation	Worcester County Public Schools has identified three (3) inclement weather days in this calendar. Beyond those three days, the school system will not close for inclement weather, but will transition to distance learning.
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Red - Schools/Offices Closed	
	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Blue - Early Dismissal for Students	
	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Green - Schools Closed for Students	
	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Orange - Inclement Weather Make-Up Days (if needed)	
	29 30 31	End of a Marking Period	

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# Cuisine

## Smell of bread rising warms heart, mind

It is that time of year again, a time when it is important, if not imperative, to bake breads.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

With the chilly weather and rain-sleet-snow mix about, there is nothing like the smell of bread rising in the kitchen to warm the hearts and minds of people around you.

As Francis Bacon once so famously stated, “Acorns were good, until bread was found.”

Whether it is a simple dinner roll, a 24-hour counter-made bread or a sourdough boule from fresh poolish and starter, there is something wonderfully esoteric about homemade bread.

Unlike meat (which I adore as well) it doesn’t leave the house saturated with that lingering residue of heavy meaty overtones, which are seldom desirable the longer they stick around.

Instead, it is a temporary and delightful aroma that fills the air until the bread is gone; until the last morsel has been used to sop the broth of some mussels or cioppino, or the remaining heel slathered with soft garlic butter and washed down with a crisp pinot noir.

I could wax poetic on the fireplace and its role in this setting, but I think that would be overkill. Suffice it to say, bread has a special place in my heart.

Truth be told, is there anything more disappointing than a menu that reads ‘fresh baguette’ and out comes a from-the-freezer ciabatta? It is heart-breaking; shattering almost.

Perhaps that is a little dramatic, but you catch my drift. If you are like me and going to ‘cheat’ with a piece of bread, it better be well worth the trouble.

As this is the first week in the new semester at school, I start my baking class out by having them make the soft roll you see below. This is from “On Baking,” an amazing book on the subject by Sarah Labensky et al.

It is about the best and most thorough tome you will find on baking, at least at the introductory level.

I throw this at the students for one reason, and one reason alone.

I insist on having them jump right into the one thing that many of them



believe that they cannot do: bake. And what they learn is that they can do just that.

In fact, what they learn is that they are much handier in the kitchen than they previously believed. And that is exactly why I have them do it.

It is one of the most satisfying things of being a teacher; watching your students grasp what they can become and what they can do.

Last semester, in a basic cooking class, I had my students make a hot Italian sausage from scratch.

I went through the process of grinding, and then double grinding through an ice-cold set up. Then we added our seasoning, made testers to ensure that the sausage was right where we wanted it to be. And, then we made our sausage. Was it simple?

Yes, it was. Is it easy to mess up? Absolutely, but they didn’t need to know that. They just needed to understand how simple it can be to create a forcemeat, a skill that will last them their entire career and beyond.

The same applies to baking. I can’t say that any of my students aspire to be pastry chefs or bakers. But having that basic knowledge is a tenet that

we as chefs and teachers can never take for granted.

It is wonderful to see an underling gain a little confidence in the bakeshop and then watch them blossom from there.

To me, that has been the most satisfying part of my fourteen-year career in education.

These dinner rolls are simple and delicious. Remember, nothing in the kitchen or bakeshop needs to be difficult to taste great.

Just roll with it, pun intended, and expand your skillset in the kitchen. After all, I can’t think of a better time of year to do it.

### Soft Dinner Rolls

*adapted from On Baking, Lebensky makes 64 rolls*

- 2 oz. Cake yeast or dry yeast
- 24 oz. Water between 95-100 degrees F
- 2.75# Hi-gluten flour
- 1 oz. Salt, fine ground
- 4 oz. Granulated sugar
- 2 oz. Milk powder
- 2 oz. Shortening
- 2 oz. Unsalted butter

2 large eggs  
Egg wash, as needed

Dissolve the yeast in the water in a bowl.

Combine flour, salt, sugar, milk powder, shortening, butter and eggs in the bowl of a stand mixer.

Add the water/yeast mixture and knead with a hook for ten minutes.

Transfer to an oiled bowl and proof at 100F for about an hour or until it has doubled. You may place a damp towel on top or cover the bowl with plastic wrap. This will keep the dough from forming a skin and drying out.

When the dough has risen, punch the dough down and allow to rest.

Cut into 2 oz. dough balls and roll into whatever shape you like.

Proof again until doubled. Use an egg or dairy wash of your liking (many recipes online).

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until the rolls are golden brown.

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



# 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. 27

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR RECREATION & PARKS MIDNIGHTER**  
Northside Park Recreation Complex, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Held Jan 29, 6 p.m. to midnight. Featuring Gladiator Dodgeball, Laser-Tag, bowling and food. For grades 7th and 8th. Cost is \$38 for Ocean City residents and \$46 for non-residents. Register by Jan 17. 410-250-0125

**STORY TIME ‘AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: ERIC CARLE’**  
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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**MID-MORNING CRAFTS: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Make and take home some great musical instruments, perfect for at home sing-alongs. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 410-632-2600

**BEACH SINGLES-55 PLUS**  
*Thursdays* - Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or [Beachsingles.org](http://Beachsingles.org)

## Fri., Jan. 28

**SCHOOL’S OUT CAMP**  
Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Participants play various sports, games, make crafts and more. Choose 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Derek Jarmon, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2509 or [djarmon@marylandscoast.org](mailto:djarmon@marylandscoast.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. 29

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. 410-603-0294

**FUNDRAISER FOR PAUL DAISEY**  
Smitty McGee’s Raw Bar & Restaurant, 37234 Lighthouse Road, Selbyville, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Featuring \$1 beers, \$2 rail drinks, \$5.20 Key West wings, and an auction including fishing trips, golf, spa and restaurant. Also featuring 1/2 off apparel. Music by Dustin Showers Band, 3-6 p.m. and DJ Waxx, 6-9 p.m. 302-436-4716

**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. 31

**BOB DYLAN AT 80**  
Bob Dylan continues to release albums and remain relevant in the 21st century. Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett offer their opinions in this audio presentation, 2 p.m. Prerecorded on Facebook. 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

**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., Feb. 1

**FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP**  
John H. ‘Jack’ Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway

Drive, Berlin, 10-11 a.m. Also held via Zoom. A cooperative effort between AGH and local worship centers to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. [gmsnell@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:gmsnell@atlanticgeneral.org) or 410-641-9725.

**STORY TIME ‘GOING ON A SAFARI’**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, and songs about animals found on an African safari, For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**STORY TIME ‘BEARS HIBERNATE’**  
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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC WITH GINNY ROSENKRANZ**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Mast Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring any questions you have. Feel free to show your plants as well. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**AFRICAN AMERICAN ART**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. This group looks at some of the high-lights of Black artists. Investigating an abbreviated history of people who were left out of the canons of art history. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**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., Feb. 2

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

**ART FOR WELLNESS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Sivan Perdue, art therapist, introduces and guides the group on ways to use art to increase wellness, Feb. 2, 9 and 16. Supplies are included. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 443-783-6164

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

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30-4:30 p.m. The group provides discussion, education and a speaker. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, [djameson@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:djameson@atlanticgeneral.org)

## ONGOING EVENTS

**VALENTINE’S DAY ESCAPE ROOM**  
Teams of four or fewer may participate throughout the month of February at all Worcester County Library branches. At the end of the month, teams with the shortest time will win a special prize. For ages 12-18 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**VALENTINE DINNER**  
To be held Feb. 12 from 4-7 p.m. at the Sons of the American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave. N.Y. Strip Steak & Shrimp Dinner with baked potato, vegetable, dessert and complimentary drink. Cost is \$20. Tickets are available at the post or by calling 410-289-3166.

**FREE WELLNESS WORKSHOPS**  
Free workshops dealing with hypertension, chronic pain self-management, chronic disease self-management, diabetes, fall prevention and a free 6-week workshop titled, “Building Better Caregivers.” If you would like to register for one of these workshops or you would like more information about bringing any of the workshops to your business or group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-0505, Ext. 159 or [jak@macinc.org](mailto:jak@macinc.org).

**‘SAVE OUR STORIES’**  
The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is asking community members to send in their accounts as to how COVID-19 has impacted them. The submissions can be a specific experience, direct answers to the prompt questions, or a combination. No story is too long or too short. To submit, visit [www.ocmuseum.org](http://www.ocmuseum.org). Info: [Christine@ocmuseum.org](mailto:Christine@ocmuseum.org).

**LIBRARY TO GO & PRINTING TO GO**  
Safe contactless pick-up of library materials at all Worcester County branches. Call to schedule a pick-up time. Mobile printing services also available at all Worcester County branches. (Only black and white copies are available.) <https://worcesterlibrary.org/article/printing-to-go>



# Puzzles

## PLAYING THE HITS

BY DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Derrick Niederman, of Charleston, S.C., teaches mathematics at the College of Charleston. This is his 12th crossword for The Times, not counting variety puzzles, beginning in 1983 — all Sundays. On March 7 last year, the paper published an amazing novelty challenge by Derrick, “Two-for-One Crossword,” that had two completely different solutions. After you finish this puzzle, it’s worth looking up, if you haven’t done so yet. — W.S.

- ACROSS**

1 Symbol of authority, informally

7 Compañero

12 Delhi issue

16 Reaction to puppy pics

19 Water buffalo, for one

20 French \_\_\_\_ (trick-taking game)

21 Land of blarney

22 Pass during the N.F.L. playoffs

23 THE LADY VANI \_\_\_\_ (No. 2, 1964)

25 Who infamously boasted “They can’t collect legal taxes from illegal money”

27 Luxurious

28 Suffix in some pasta names

29 BILLE (No. 3, 1972)

31 He gave Starbucks’ orders

34 NATO members, e.g.

35 Adorable sort

36 x<sup>0</sup> (No. 1, 1985)

41 Barnyard baby

42 Keep one’s mouth shut?

43 Porky Pig’s girlfriend

44 It cost 5¢ in 1965

47 Home of Iowa State

49 Help with a crime

50 Google web browser

53 Laser-pointer chaser
- 54 Like the Balkans in the 1990s

57 Certain peaceful protest

58 Country singer McEntire

59 Captivate

60 VAUDEVILLIAN (No. 2, 1988)

65 Become more complicated, say

66 Getting together

67 Sheen

71 LOST, E.G. (No. 1, 1984)

73 Glacier-scaling tool

74 Yard tool

77 Private student

78 Figure it out

79 \_\_\_\_ Lilly (pharmaceutical giant)

80 “Jeez!”

82 Actress Garr

85 Beach shaper

86 Only player to win the U.S. Chess Championship with no losses or draws

88 Darling

91 Harbor helper

92 \_\_\_\_ story (tale of a car company’s bankruptcy?)

93 CHAN\_E\_PPEA\_ANCE TO CONCEA\_D MISLEA\_ (No. 1, 1968)

97 Islamic spirit

99 Brand of insecticide strips

100 Madhouses

101 TITTLE-TATTLE (No. 16, 2011)

103 Opposite of post-
- 105 Airline posting

109 Furnace for calcium oxide production

110 ENTICEMENT (No. 1, 1983)

114 Big club in Las Vegas?

115 The final word

116 Give a lift

117 Know-it-all

118 “\_\_\_\_ Como Va” (Santana hit)

119 Female Olympian of note

120 Palindromic battlers

121 Place of worship whose third, fourth and fifth letters are appropriate
- 16 180

17 Arthur who invented the crossword puzzle (1913)

18 Overgrown, say

24 Kind of terrier

26 Young chicken, e.g.

30 Actress Tyler

32 Move barefoot across a scorchingly hot beach, maybe

33 Shock’s partner

34 Throw \_\_\_\_ (rant and rave)

36 No longer frozen

37 Kind

38 Crop up

39 Chafe

40 Out of gas, informally

41 Internet ending that’s also an ending for inter-

44 Part of the brainstem

45 Chatter

46 Greek letter that might follow “z”

48 Affix, in a way

50 Eyelashes

51 Ketchup brand

52 “One \_\_\_\_-dingy” (Ernestine the operator’s catchphrase on “Laugh-In”)

55 Arch type

56 Landlord’s due

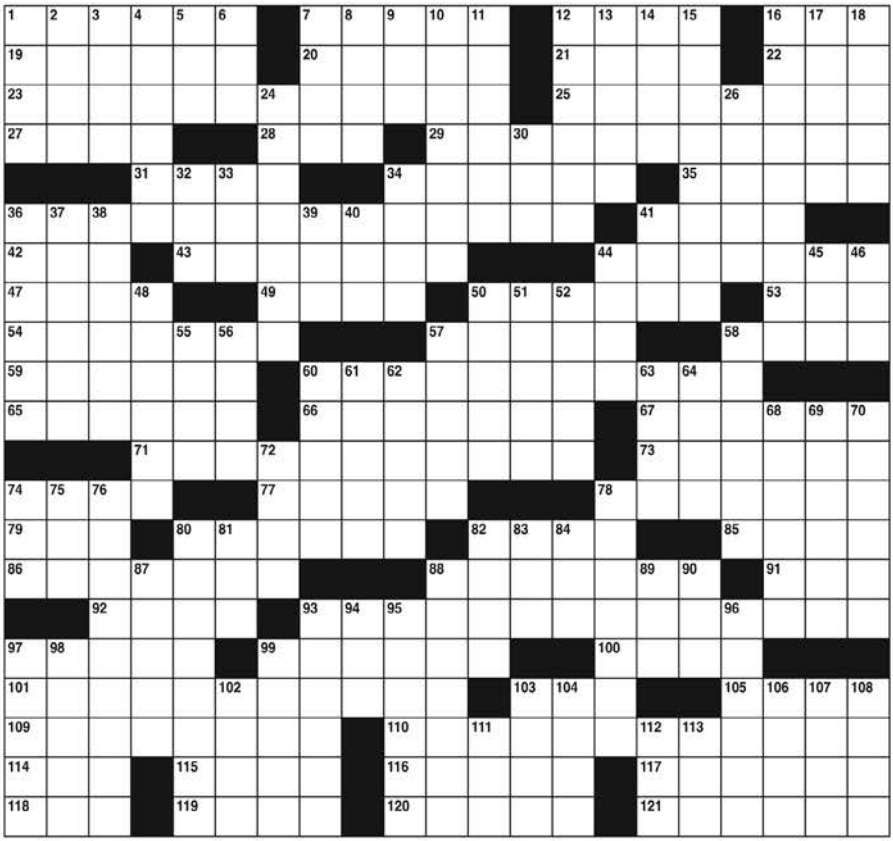
57 Petrol unit

58 Surgically remove

60 Unearthed

61 Mi, in a C major scale

62 Number twos



- 63 Pelvic bones

64 Air carrier

68 Island where Paul Gauguin painted

69 Book that’s the source of the phrase “a land flowing with milk and honey”

70 Go back (on)

72 Instruction in an oatmeal recipe

74 “Zebra”

75 Slugger from Louisville
- 76 Florida city whose name has three pairs of doubled letters

78 Upscale watch brand

80 Annual eight-day celebration

81 Basketball stat: Abbr.

82 Numbskull

83 Poetic dusk

84 Color of traffic on a GPS

87 Craft carried over a portage

88 Rhythmic part of a heartbeat
- 89 Same: Prefix

90 Sense of self

93 Protagonist in “The Stepford Wives”

94 FedEx competitor

95 Clears for takeoff?

96 Old Glory

97 1964 Tony Randall title role

98 Like oranges and some gossip

99 Duck or Penguin

102 Frost
- 103 Davidson of “S.N.L.”

104 Richard and Jane in court

106 Commercial prefix with postale

107 Out of office?: Abbr.

108 One-named Irish hitmaker

111 Tops

112 Madrid’s country, in the Olympics

113 Song lead-in to “Believer,” “Loser” or “Survivor”

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**HARD - 58**

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

**Answers to last week’s puzzles**

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





# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

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



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**Montego Bay Market** has positions available in Deli and stocking. One deli morning position does require cooking and salad making abilities. These are full time, year round. Please apply in person. Located in the **Montego Bay Shopping Center, 12903 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City.**

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[oceancitymd.gov](http://oceancitymd.gov)

## SPRING SPORTS COACHES

Worcester Preparatory School, a coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK-12, is currently seeking Spring Coaches for: Boys Varsity Lacrosse Assistant, Boys JV Lacrosse Head Coach/Varsity Assistant, Middle School Boys Lacrosse Head Coach, Middle School Boys Lacrosse Assistant, Girls Varsity Tennis Assistant.

Minimum of 2 yrs. experience and CJIS Background Screening required. EOE



Contact: Matt McGinnis  
410-641-3575 or  
[mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org](mailto:mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org)

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