

# BAYSIDE GAZETTE



FEBRUARY 3, 2022

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## Election rules focus of major bylaw changes

Admin responsibilities also on list of possible revisions

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will hold a hybrid meeting on Monday at 8 a.m. to consider a list of bylaws revisions that would affect board elections, candidate qualifications and director removals.

Originally scheduled for this past Monday, the meeting date was reset because of last week-end's snowstorm.

Approximately 30 bylaws revisions are under consideration relating to petitions and referendums, voting rights, board candidate eligibility and verification, board meeting guidelines, general manager responsibilities, director responsibilities and resignation or removal of directors.

Changes to bylaws provisions would require a majority vote of association members via referendum.

Topping the list is a motion from Association President Colette Horn to revise bylaws sec 1.12 to define "eligibility to vote" as referring to a member paid up on annual charges that is not suspended from voting.

The board is also seeking to clarify the definition of "owner of record" to mean the name recorded on a deed filed with Worcester County government.

Director Frank Daly has proposed a dozen revisions regarding board candidate requirements and verification procedures.

Among those are nine changes to bylaws section 5.02a that would prohibit board candidacy for anyone convicted of a felony or anyone whose spouse has been convicted of a felony in the past decade, anyone involved

See BYLAWS Page 3



Colette Horn

## WINTER POSTCARD

Traffic moves down Main Street on Sunday as downtown Berlin remained under a blanket of fresh powder following significant snowfall last week-end.

## Water, sewer reserves fall far short

Consultant advises officials immediate changes must be made to avoid problems

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Berlin Town Council is contemplating establishing capital reserve funds for both water and sewer services to address long-term financial deficits.

Jean Holloway, from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc. (SERCAP) in Delaware and eastern Maryland, returned for the council meeting last Monday to review conclusions initially shared in November.

"Neither water or wastewater is financially sustainable under the cur-

rent circumstances and rate structure," she said.

Also, Holloway said Berlin's sewer system is overloaded with debt, which accounts for more than 30 percent of total expenses.

"Capital reserves need to be established immediately for both utilities," she said.

Mayor Zack Tyndall agreed with the assessment.

"Our funds are not doing well on the revenue side and capital investment side," he said.

Holloway said both systems are currently not sustainable as enterprise funds.

"The fact that these systems are

not sustainable jeopardizes your abilities to get program funding if you need improvements and you can't self-fund a large project," she said.

Based on the results of a previous water audit, SERCAP concluded that Berlin is losing almost one quarter of water production.

"If you were a manufacturer, that would be the same as taking 25 percent of your product and throwing it in the dumpster and not getting paid back for it," she said.

Holloway said based on current water rates, the town could anticipate a significant loss of revenue.

"Old and insufficient metering is definitely part of problem, but meters alone will not make the system sustainable," she said.

See WATER Page 5



Zack Tyndall



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# Bylaws revisions also would clarify rules for referendums

Continued from Page 1  
in pending litigation against the association, and limiting directors, or their spouses, from seeking re-election after two terms.

Daly's proposals would also require board candidates to be an owner of record of Pines property for a minimum of three years prior to the election year, with one-year service on an advisory board an acceptable substitute.

Looking at petition and referendum guidelines, another motion from Daly would revise bylaws section 4.07c to clarify signature requirements.

Daly's proposal would require a minimum of 100 signatures of members eligible to vote for non-referendum issues, while also requiring signatures equal to a minimum of 10 percent of potential votes to trigger a referendum.

Also signatures equaling a minimum of 15 percent of total eligible votes would be needed for members to call a special meeting.

Director Doug Parks is proposing revising bylaws section 4.08c to require referendums to receive a major-

ity vote of at least 40 percent of eligible votes for passage.

Other motions from Daly would revise bylaws section 5.12c to allow removal for cause of any director with a felony conviction in the past 10 years, which would also apply to spouses.

The hybrid meeting will be held in the administration building board room and also aired live online.

To access remotely, use the Microsoft Teams link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzdhN-WMyMWMtMjY0Mm2NkLThiZ-TAtMjhlOTMzZjZmEo%40thread.v2/o?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22625a6322-2b2f-40fa-94f8-d7dd44d78153%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bbe60b-d4e0-49eb-b4c6-d257cae7f063%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzdhN-WMyMWMtMjY0Mm2NkLThiZ-TAtMjhlOTMzZjZmEo%40thread.v2/o?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22625a6322-2b2f-40fa-94f8-d7dd44d78153%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bbe60b-d4e0-49eb-b4c6-d257cae7f063%22%7d).

For anyone who needs assistance to participate via MS Teams, a YouTube tutorial video can be accessed at [https://youtu.be/AL-OD3\\_yaOA](https://youtu.be/AL-OD3_yaOA) or they may contact [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) for assistance."

The meeting video will also be posted later on the OPA YouTube channel.



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# Skatepark feasibility study launched by town nonprofit

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Plans to develop a skatepark are coming into focus after the nonprofit “We Heart Berlin” announced last week that a feasibility study is in the works.

The organization’s CEO, Tony Weeg, said the study would be conducted through the Business Economic and Community Development Outreach Network (BEACON) at Salisbury University.

Operated by the Franklin P. Purdue School of Business, BEACON provides applied business and economic research for targeted outreach programs.

“I’m hoping the report from BEACON will be the linchpin to determine where and how we will break ground,” he said.

Weeg said the study should provide the data needed to determine an ideal skatepark location, estimated construction costs, build-out timelines, maintenance needs, anticipated usage, potential impacts and possible funding sources.



Tony Weeg

“We would like to see it at Henry Park,” he said. “The area would be more ideal to pursue grants because it’s an underserved area.”

Weeg said, ideally, the skatepark project would be one element of a larger push to bring new attractions and businesses to the Flower Street region.

We Heart Berlin board members also held a conference call last week with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to investigate potential sources of funding.

“I’m really excited that the Community Foundation has taken notice [of] how effectively we get projects completed,” he said.

The developing partnership should open up a pathway to solicit funding for future initiatives.

“Community involvement is crucial for everything we’re doing,” he said.

How much time it will take to complete the feasibility study is unknown.

Weeg expressed gratitude to Mayor Zack Tyndall and Town Council members for voicing support for the skatepark proposal.

“You guys rock,” he said.

Weeg said a suggestion from We Heart Berlin board member Brian

See SKATEPARK Page 5

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# Water, sewer funds ‘unsustainable’

Continued from Page 1

The recommendations championed by Holloway in November included replacement of current water meters with apparatus that reads gallons from the first used.

“A water audit can help determine actual losses, but you should wait until new meters are operational for six months to a year,” she said.

Holloway also proposed instituting interim rate measures for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, through the close of FY 23 at the end of June 2023.

“It will help you be sustainable until you get readings from new meters to know exactly what water you’re putting out and how much you’re getting paid for,” she said. “You can build a new rate structure around it.”

In addition to proposing rate revisions after new meters are in play, Holloway proposed adding a new surcharge in the interim to build capital reserve funds.

“This would be a flat charge separately itemized on the bill and has nothing to do with usage,” she said.

The recommendation would include adding a \$5 surcharge for residential EDUs and \$10 for commercial EDUs per billing cycle.

On the sewer side, a fee of \$14.50 per residential EDU and \$29 per commercial EDU would be added to each billing cycle.

“Your sewer service costs about 2.9 times more to run than water service,” she said.

The estimated monthly revenue from the water surcharge would be roughly \$13,000, with \$41,228 generated for the last quarter of FY 22 and \$164,910 collected during FY23, for a total sum of \$206,138.

The sewer surcharge would net roughly \$40,000 monthly, with \$120,460 collected during the last quarter of FY22 and \$481,839 during FY23, for a total of \$602,229.

“By the end of this period, you’d have a significant ... reserve to both

help fund some capital outlays and also to build up a reserve for emergencies and contingencies,” she said.

Holloway said neither water or sewer services are currently being operated as enterprise funds.

“From everything I’ve seen, right now your only emergency contingency fund is ‘general fund, how much can you lend us,’” she said.

Due to the lack of reserves for water or sewer systems the town is susceptible to operational or financial challenges, Holloway said.

“Establishing these funds is critical to achieving sustainability and credit worthiness for future projects,” she said. “Charges should begin April 1.”

Holloway noted installation of new water meters is also critical.

“Your lost water is really crippling you,” she said. “You’re losing money hand over fist.”

Holloway said water and sewer rates for residential and commercial accounts are not equitable at present.

“In some cases, each pays higher,” she said.

Improved meter reading could result in rate reductions in some instances, Holloway said.

“It’s almost impossible to know rates when you’re losing a large volume of water,” she said.

Tyndall asked council members

how they felt about authorizing the new fees to build capital reserves.

“I don’t generally want to raise fees, but the funds need to break even and right now they aren’t,” he said.

Councilmember Jay Knerr agreed that the fund deficiencies should be addressed but questioned the timing for adding charges due to inflation concerns.

“I would recommend to start with the next FY budget cycle,” he said. “We don’t know where inflation is going to take us in the next few months, but it is getting out of control.”

Councilmembers Shaneka Nichols and Dean Burrell both recommended seeking public input before to authorizing fees.

Taking a different bent was Finance Director Natalie Saleh who lobbied for establishing fees by this April.

“Six months down the road, we will be in the same or an even worse situation,” she said.

Tyndall said the recommendations would remain under consideration for potential approval at a subsequent council meeting.

“We would like to take it back to the drawing board,” he said. “I think there are ways we can balance this out.”

# Skatepark work grassroots effort

Continued from Page 4

Robertson has led to the group’s effort to consider different approaches to promoting town park facilities.

“Each one has a slightly different angle,” he said.

Weeg stressed the importance of engaging residents with the nonprofits’ grassroots efforts.

“It’s sort of beautiful to watch things fall in place and watch people come together to make this happen,” he said. “This is grassroots and community supported, and therein lay the most meaningful projects.”



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# OP Strategic Planning Cmte. mulls core values

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) The Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee last Thursday discussed how to break down Homeowners' Survey results and how to use that data to drive long-term priorities.

Board liaison Amy Peck, who was appointed as a director in November, kicked off the virtual meeting with a brief introduction.

Peck, who was formerly a pre-K educator, said her professional background has provided useful skills for board interactions.

"I'm finding that experience helpful in working with the board," she said.

Over the past few months, Peck has been surprised to witness the extreme level of dedication exhibited by board members and association staff that regularly send out emails over weekends and off hours.

"The commitment with the board and the staff is amazing," she said.

Committee Co-Chair Bernie McGorry said Peck is passionate about

increasing community engagement. "You bring a lot of different perspectives to the board," he said.

Committee members reviewed progress on the Homeowners' Survey, which was created, tested and executed between July and November last year, with a summary presentation provided to the board in December.

"My expectation is this will have a major impact on future planning," McGorry said.

Although survey results were not finalized until after the next operating budget process was launched, committee members anticipate the data will be useful over the next five years starting in 2023.

"It has been useful to help setting priorities," he said.

Committee goals for this year include analyzing survey results in preparation for a town hall meeting for residents, tentatively slated for March.

"I would like to make it interactive," McGorry said.

Committee plans for the town hall

include presenting data in digestible form, reviewing how to incorporate feedback into planning and holding an open discussion with residents.

Committee member Becky Colt-Ferguson suggested holding the town hall outside at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

"So that people can attend in an open-air environment," she said.

About a month after the town hall, committee members planning to hold a board work session, to be followed by coordinating with the Budget Committee about priorities.

"We want to work with them closely," McGorry said.

Committee members wanted to present recommendations to the board by August and in time for the next budget process.

Committee member Wes Blackley said the board appears highly interested in the groups' conclusions.

"The board seems to be supportive of what we're doing [and] wants this information," he said. "I'm still not sure I know what some of the responses mean."



Bernie McGorry

Colt-Ferguson said there was a fair percentage of neutral responses to survey questions.

"We've had on multiple occasions null responses," she said. "Bernie has helped me understand that you can't make further inferences about that neutrality response."

See PENDING Page 7



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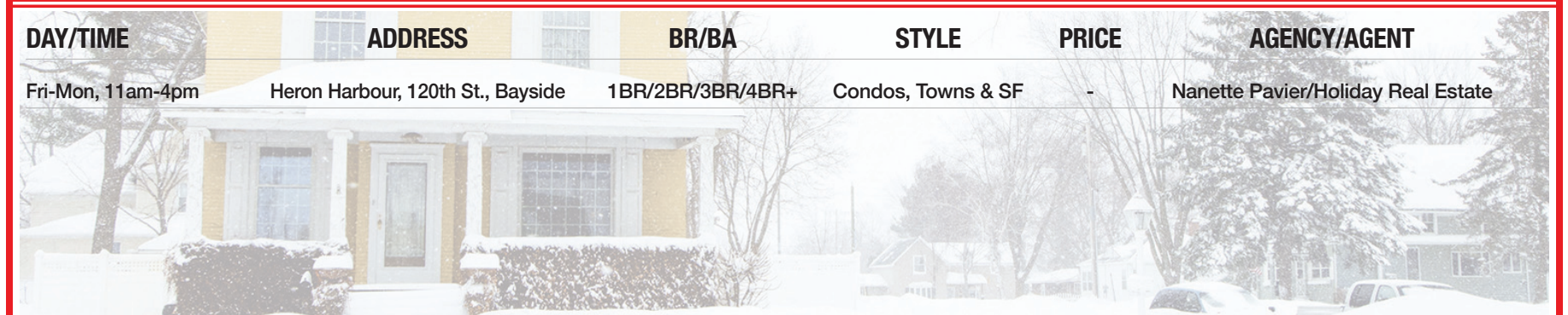


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# Pines FY22-23 budget town hall highlights reduced fees

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola and Finance Director Steve Phillips reviewed the proposed FY 22-23 budget during a virtual town hall meeting on Tuesday.

Viola said inflation would affect the budget, but that steps were taken to mitigate losses.

Viola said the association is on track to close the current budget year with an operating surplus of roughly \$1.2 million.

“That surplus will have a positive effect for assessments this year and a positive effect on our reserves,” he said.

Additionally, Viola said the budgetary surplus would also be used to purchase previously approved T-docks for the Yacht Club.

In light of the anticipated \$1 million plus surplus, Viola has recommended dedicating \$450,000 of that sum for a one-time assessment reduction of \$53.

“This would be depending each



John Viola

year on the prior year performance and where we are at the end,” he said.

Improved financial figures for amenities and departments is also providing budget positivity.

“If you go through all the line items ... every amenity across the board, we have growth,” he said.

Viola said price increases are proposed for numerous amenities, including golf, aquatics and racquet sports.

“A lot of these amenity prices have not been raised in years,” he said.

Higher golf greens and cart fees are anticipated to boost revenues by roughly \$125,000, while aquatics is poised to capture an extra \$180,000 based on volume and fee increases.

Previous bad debt, which reached \$1.6 million in FY18, has continued trending lower.

Recent assessment figures included an annual percentage to reduce the total debt over a five-year period.

“We didn’t need all of that,” he said. “Over the last three years, we decreased the rest of that deficit just from operations surplus,” he said.

Out of the anticipated current year

See PINES Page 8

# Pending meeting to review homeowners’ survey results

Continued from Page 6

McGorry replied, “People either don’t care or don’t have an opinion.”

Committee member Bob Keesling said although 1,800-plus surveys were completed, a much higher percentage of residents failed to participate.

“That means there’s over 6,000 people not participating,” he said. “What else would they bring to the table if they did participate?”

McGorry noted about 20 percent of homeowners did reply to the inquiry.

“It would be curious to see who didn’t and why,” he said. “One of the keys of social media engagement is asking questions.”

Based on survey data, the committee identified long-term priorities as infrastructure maintenance, community appearance and assessment fee value.

“When I looked at all these different demographics, the overall conclusions did not change,” he said.

In terms of values identified in the survey, the committee listed accountability, collaboration, sustainability, respect and integrity.

McGorry, who noted one survey question asked how best to measure integrity, said the inquiry could be

broadened.

“How are we going to measure any of our values that we’re going to include in future plans?” he said.

Committee member Helen Johnson said integrity was not easily qualified numerically.

“Are people dependable, do they keep commitments and are they open and honest?” she said. “All of that intertwines with our other values.”

Blackley characterized integrity more as an impression than a quantifiable value.

“Integrity is one of those odd things you can’t always define but is evident when there,” he said.

Blackley attached more importance to acknowledgment than assigning a numerical value.

“I don’t know that measuring integrity is as important as the board understanding that this is a very important factor for our people.”

Johnson said the question of integrity has to weighed within a larger framework of values.

Blackley proposed a different scale. “It’s hard to measure objectively, but we certainly can measure is subjectively,” he said.

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.

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# OP Chamber hosts annual Community Expo, April 30

(Feb. 3, 2022) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce’s annual Spring Community Expo will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to noon at White Horse Park.

Dozens of locally-owned businesses will be on hand as well as many community service organizations and governmental agency resources.

The event is free to attend, and all are welcome. Vendor spaces are available, and registration is open on the chamber’s website, OceanPinesChamber.org.

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit corporation comprised of area businesses organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

# Ocean Pines Association names new senior executive

(Feb. 3, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola this week announced that Rosanna Montalvo has been hired as the association’s new senior executive assistant. The appointment will be effective Feb. 14.

“Rosanna has a wealth of administrative experience in the nonprofit, public and private sectors,” Viola said. “Her strong customer service and communication skills will be an invaluable asset to the association.”

As senior executive assistant, Montalvo will hold a dual role as a confidential assistant to the general manager and the board of directors.

She will also serve the board as the association’s assistant secretary. Linda Martin, Public Works office manager, has been fulfilling those duties pending the hiring of a new senior executive assistant.

Montalvo, who is new to the Ocean Pines area, most recently worked as the executive administrative assistant/marketing, research and development coordinator for a nonprofit organization serving adults with behavioral health and developmental disabilities and their families.

Having spent several years prior working at resort facilities, Montalvo’s additional professional qualifications include revenue and expense management, marketing and advertising, and creating workplace efficiencies.

# Pines proposed budget uses surplus to cut assessments

Continued from Page 7

budget surplus, \$350,000 is being earmarked to replenish road reserves that were previously reallocated for drainage.

Looking at wages and salaries, the proposed FY22-23 budget accounts for a number of increases, including \$37,000 for mandated minimum wage rates, \$70,000 for part-time staff, \$118,000 to cover a 3 percent merit increase and market adjustments of \$42,000.

In total, salary costs are slated to increase by \$267,000, which represents a \$32 rise in assessments.

Increased staffing needs for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department adds \$250,000 to budget numbers, which represents a \$38 assessment increase.

Legal fees were also adjusted from the current year.

“We tried to compare to this year and believe we can reduce it by \$10,000 or reallocate to the election and the referendum expenses that we believe will possibly increase this year,” he said.

Viola also highlighted the importance of monitoring reserve account balances.

“Depreciation is a big number,” he said.

Viola said the recommended level for general replacement reserves is between 22-28 percent of assets.

“We’ve had that in place for several years,” he said.

Right of way fees paid by Mediacom and Comcast are jumping by \$30,000 for a total of \$190,000 during FY22-23.

Also, marina boat slip fees are jumping by 4 percent to account for an additional \$8,000 in revenue.

“When you add all the revenue growth, as well as pricing, we get about a \$500,000 increase budget versus budget,” he said.

Ocean Pines annual budget requires final approval 45 days before the next fiscal year, which begins on May 1.

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# Kelly family marks 75 years nourishing dogs

Continued from Page 9

Bob Kelly said the Berlin plant was selected strategically for access to fresh chickens.

“We’ve got to be in an area where there’s thousands and thousands of birds processed everyday,” he said.

Each year Kelly Foods purchases more than 60 million pounds of chicken, organ meats and other ingredients from businesses located within 30 minutes of its Berlin plant.

“We put a lot of dollars back into the economy just from the ingredients we buy,” he said. “Our wages last year in Berlin were just under \$8 million.”

Highlighting four key differences that set Bil-Jac apart from competitors, Bob Kelly hit on freshness first.

“We use 25 pounds of fresh chicken to make a 30-pound bag of dog food,” he said.

Although after dehydration the precise weight is lighter, the prime ingredient is fresh meat, unlike most pet foods on the market, Bob Kelly said.

“You’ll see chicken as the first ingredient in the bag but they don’t tell you how much they use,” he said.

Much as the human palate can discern if food is spoiled, canines heightened sense of smell provides even stronger indicators.

“It’s just as important to a dog and their senses are keener,” he said. “They can tell if something’s not

fresh.”

Kelly said the next key difference, likely the most crucial, relates to dehydration processing temperatures.

“A lot of the protein that goes in dog foods comes from dry powdered meals made in rendering plants,” he said. “We use a little bit of that, but the majority of our protein comes from fresh chicken.”

Unlike typical rendering plants that dehydrate at temperatures reaching 280 degrees, Bil-Jac ranges far lower at 160 degrees or under.

The reduced temperatures help retain a far greater percentage of crucial sulfur bearing amino acids, Kelly said.

“They are much more susceptible to heat damage and they have to be in dog’s food every day,” he said.

Another distinguishing factor separating Bil-Jac from average pet foods is the correct balance of protein, fats and carbohydrates,

“We use whole grains as our carbohydrate,” he said.

Kelly said if carbohydrates were not properly converted to starches, the unconverted percentage would speed up digestion, often resulting in softer stools.

“We convert carbohydrates to make sure dogs can utilize them,” he said.

Fat additives, or lack of, were the final distinction keyed on by Bob Kelly.

“We don’t add fat because it’s in the chicken we buy,” he said. “We use so much ... that we don’t have to add fat.”

Despite making a convincing case, Bob Kelly suggests pet owners draw their own conclusions.

“I want you to prove it to yourself,” he said.

Harkening back to the businesses founding, Kelly said his father and uncle established the “Bil-Jac Two Bowl Challenge” as a key marketing tool.

Canines inevitably exhibit the same predilections during the blind taste test with an unnamed competitor

“We win literally every time,” he said.

Now in its 75th year in operation, Bil-Jac has expanded outside the U.S. to international distribution points in Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada, Israel and Australia.

“It’s fun to get up and go to work in the morning,” he said.

Kelly said Berlin plant manager Robert Garner shares his enthusiasm.

“We’re blessed with people like him and he has a lot of people like that working for him,” he said. “People that work for me understand it’s what happens in that plant in Berlin that changes a lot of dogs lives, and it makes them feel good.”

Kelly said the family businesses’



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Bil-Jac premium dog food features abundant amounts of fresh chicken for nutritional value.**

marketing message is best described as “common sense nutrition.”

“We don’t try to be the biggest company out there, but we want to continue to be the best,” he said. “I truly believe that we make the most nutritious and palatable dog food in the world.”

Bil-Jac products can be purchased online at Chewy.com or PetSmart.com, as well PetSmart, Concord Pet Foods & Supplies and other retail outlets.



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**Matt Jones**

ing and help individuals achieve their goals. She resides in West Ocean City with her husband. She enjoys playing golf, boating, running and spending time outdoors.

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## Group recognized

Continued on Page 12



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## Business Briefs

Continued from Page 11

Becker Morgan Group ranked in the following categories:

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Top 150 University Sector Architecture and A/E Firms - 148th

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Retail Sector Architecture and A/E Firms - Restaurants - 44th  
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Top 150 K-12 School Sector Architecture and AE Firms - 63rd

Top 150 University Sector Architecture and AE Firms - 149th

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# Newark residents opposing proposal for slaughterhouse

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Residents along Croppers Island Road in Newark are organizing to protest a proposed livestock slaughterhouse that would be located on the corner of that road and Route 113, directly across from houses.

The case was scheduled to be heard by the Worcester County Planning Commission last week, but it has since been postponed and remains unscheduled at this time.

The debate is a matter of zoning. The land in question is in the A-1 agricultural zone. Livestock slaughterhouses are allowed in I-2 industrial zones.

Landowners Mark and Julia Ewell are seeking a text amendment to allow their slaughterhouse to be built on the A-2 land.

"This county and surrounding counties, (slaughterhouses) have always been (only allowed) ... on heavy industrial lands and by special exception because of the extensive use of water, the waste (produced), transportation problems and the impacts to the environment and the health and wellbeing of residents," resident Michele Sardelis said. "It's a very controlled industry ... And all of our surrounding counties and our county here have always assumed that position."

The residents along Croppers Island Road are working with attorney Demetrios Kaouris to formulate the case they plan to present to the county.

The issue first arose, Kaouris said, last year after the Ewells put in a request to permit the slaughterhouse "as a matter of right in the A-1 district."

When that request was denied, Ewell appealed the decision.

"Which is when I get involved on behalf of several owners, residents and (other) taxpayers in the area," Kaouris said. "That appeal was ultimately withdrawn by the Ewells and we kind of knew that next would be an attempt at the text amendment. I alerted my clients to that possibility

and now we're six months down the line and as we anticipated, there's an attempt to change the law to authorize this use as a matter of right in the A-1 district."

Sardelis said their main concern is the impact on the local environment and coastal waterways.

The wastewater alone, she said, could lead to fish kills, harmful algae blooms and could even potentially compromise private well systems.

"We're all on private wells. Most of the county, I believe, is on well systems, so this is a big concern," Sardelis said. "Heavy industrial (zones) have those facilities to manage the water. They (can accommodate) the water availability. That's where the wastewater goes. They can immediately process the wastewater where they need to."

Maryland Coastal Bays Program said in an email that they're also monitoring the situation.

"What we know so far would seem to indicate that ... slaughterhouse operations should be carefully regulated to protect water quality from adverse impacts of slaughterhouse wastewater," Coastal Bays watershed coordinator Steve Farr stated. "We also know that the proposed site on Cropper Island Road is in the vicinity of two streams that flow into Newport Bay, which has been assessed to be the most significantly impaired of the Maryland Coastal Bays."

"In this regard, MCBP will be giving this matter our close attention as it proceeds."

Kaouris laughed when asked if the Ewells had reached out to offer any assurances.

"Not even," he said. "This isn't about not liking or having any animosity toward the Ewells. They certainly knew this was A-1 property when they bought it, and we don't have a problem with the typical agricultural uses of growing crops, et cetera. But certainly, A-1 has never been used for the slaughter of livestock, which includes

See SLAUGHTERHOUSE Page 13

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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.

## Saleh, Holloway give officials straight facts

If there’s one thing good financial administrators and accountants can be depended on to do, it is to tell it like it is. Massaging the message and sugar-coating the math doesn’t happen, because the numbers are the numbers and can’t be denied.

That’s more or less the approach Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh took last week, when she advised the mayor and Town Council that they should begin to rebuild the town’s woefully insufficient water and sewer reserve funds by imposing new fees in April.

Two months is no time at all in the governmental scheme of things, but that’s how worried Saleh and consultant Jean Holloway are that these continuing shortfalls could become critical if not tended to quickly.

Holloway, whose services are being provided through the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc., told town officials in the bluntest of terms that if these utilities don’t start pulling their fiscal weights, the town’s ability to obtain funding or a loan will be in serious jeopardy if fast financing is needed to undertake urgent repairs or projects.

The mayor and council, however, did the verbal equivalent of shifting uneasily in their seats because they know that no matter how or when they proceed it isn’t going to be popular with residents and businesses.

That said, residents and business people need to acknowledge that Holloway and Saleh know what they’re talking about and that the pain of filling these fiscal sinkholes will only get worse the longer remedial action is delayed.

Assessing constituents’ opinions on how they feel about the situation is appropriate as long as the deliverers of this bad news also explain the dire nature of the circumstances and the ramifications of doing nothing.

Although the current crop of officials might not have created this problem, they nevertheless signed on to fix it and whatever else might come their way during their terms. As uncomfortable and unpopular as it may be to have to revive these failing funds, there’s just no getting around it.



*“A giant snow sculpture was made this week in front of Health Freedom in Berlin in memory of Althea, Berlin’s roaming hen who was killed by a hit and run driver last week. The sculpture has since melted.”*

## Addis runs for Worcester County BOE

(Feb. 3, 2022) Katie Addis announced this week that she has registered to run for the Worcester County Board of Education seat to represent District 6.

As a mother to three young children, Addis said she understands the struggles most families are facing in the local community, especially within the last two years of covid.

She believes in medical sovereignty in making masks and experimental vaccines a family choice. She also believes in a fundamental education – reading, writing arithmetic and removing political and social ideologies

from the curriculum.

Addis said she is excited to speak with citizens in the area to hear their concerns about the state of the Worcester County schools.

She believes parents need someone who can genuinely represent them in this

chaotic time and who is not afraid to be bold and stand firm on hot-topic issues.

As a candidate, she believes in a quality public education for all current and

future students no matter their gender, color, or creed.

She is a firm believer in the American Experiment and believes patriotism for country is an exceptional quality to have.

“I am ready to dedicate my time to the people of District 6 so that we the people can make positive changes for the community that will impact the next generation of leaders,” she said.

To learn more about Addis, go to [www.thepeopleforkatieaddis.com](http://www.thepeopleforkatieaddis.com) and her Facebook page, Katie Addis for Worcester County MD Board of Education District 6.



Katie Addis

## Coast Guard offers boat safety class

(Feb. 3, 2022) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, virtually, Feb. 8-10 from 6-9 p.m.

The virtual course is taught by the same US Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors as the in-person class. All the required material is covered along with time for questions.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972, must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate, which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

The cost is \$20, which covers the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to: USCGAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USCGAUX 12-05, P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email [CGAUXOC@gmail.com](mailto:CGAUXOC@gmail.com).

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Meyer, Johnson cover OP finance

Obituary

Recent and seasoned staff members make team effort to oversee fiscal matters

(Feb. 3, 2022) Among the many unknown or under-appreciated people who have helped the Ocean Pines Association over the years are the handful of employees in the Finance Department.

They work on the front lines at the Administration Building front desk, and in the back office.

Accounting Manager Julia Johnson is one of the newest members of the department, while Membership and Assessment Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer is among the longest tenured and most experienced.



Julia Johnson

**Julia Johnson**  
Originally from Latvia, Johnson came to Ocean Pines in August 2019. She previously worked for CPA firm Robert M. Hoyt & Co. and was a senior accountant and financial analyst for Wicomico County.

Johnson wears many hats for the Ocean Pines Finance office, but her biggest project so far is the implementation of Northstar software systems.

“With that, I got to know a lot of people from different departments and what they actually do,” she said. “I had to learn their processes, so we could set up [the software] to introduce efficiency and transparency in

daily operations.

“Everything changed with Northstar,” Johnson continued, adding that earlier processes included lots of manual entry.

“It was a great opportunity to revamp the whole system, and it gave us the chance to streamline a lot of processes,” she said. “Everybody had a kind of eye-opening experience, where they enter the financial transactions, and they end up here in Finance. Before that, it was manual submission of cash and manual recording, and that was extremely time consuming.”

She said Northstar also allows for better internal controls and real-time analysis of financial data. As an example, Johnson said she recently studied three years of fuel costs for the Ocean Pines marinas, to see if there were any trends that could lead to future cost savings.

“We’re finding out a lot of good details,” she said. “With internal controls and analysis, you don’t see the results right away, but I feel that it makes the whole structure of Ocean Pines stronger.”

“It is really all about risk management,” Johnson continued. “Stronger internal controls reduce OPA’s exposure to risk. With Northstar, we are

See OP Page 16

**WILL BISHOP**  
Pocomoke

Will Bishop, 40, of Pocomoke, passed away on Jan. 10, 2022.

Will A. Bishop was born on Nov. 24, 1981, in Salisbury, Maryland. He was the son of Sandra M. Bishop and the son of Harry C. Bishop Jr.

He is survived by his sister, Lisa M. Butler and his brother-in-law, Terry Butler; nephew, Stevie Orth, and his niece, Elizabeth M. Butler.

He was very patient and very compassionate to his family and his friends. He enjoyed his computer and his friends on Facebook.

He will be awesomely missed.

There will be a memorial service at a later date.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Avenue, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit [www.easternshorecremation.com](http://www.easternshorecremation.com).



Will Bishop

# OP Players pre-audition prep classes to kick off Feb. 10

(Feb. 3, 2022) The Ocean Pines Players will host pre-audition prep class and youth auditions for the May production of “The Big Bad Musical.”

A free pre-audition class is designed to review the music and concept of the musical. This class will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 10 and Thursday, Feb. 17 from 6-7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The purpose is to encourage youth in the community to participate in live theater.

The youth auditions will be Tuesday, Feb. 22 and Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Pkwy, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811. Auditions are open to ages 8-17 and designed to be safe, casual, and fun. No experience necessary.

The story features quirky characters who want to get even with the notorious “Big Bad Wolf” by filing a class-action lawsuit. A cast of 18 is necessary to commence the legal wrangling as the two greatest legal minds in the Enchanted Forest, also known as the Evil Stepmother and the Fairy Godmother clash in this judicially funny matchup.

For more information and the audition form, go to <http://sites.google.com/view/ocean-pinesplayers> or email Director Frank Pasqualino at [BigBadMusicalOPP@google.com](mailto:BigBadMusicalOPP@google.com).

The “Big Bad Musical” by Al Strum, with music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur is possible through Pioneer Drama Services, Inc of Englewood, Colorado.

The OP Players values diversity and inclusion in casting and all other areas of the organization. For more general information on the Ocean Pines Players, follow on its Facebook page or visit [www.oceanpinesplayers.com](http://www.oceanpinesplayers.com).

ers.com.

Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501-(c)(3) charitable organization and supported in part by grants from the Worcester County Arts Council and Maryland State Arts Council.

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# OP Finance Department twin-team leaders

Continued from Page 15  
not only able to analyze data at any point of time, but we are also able to identify exposure to risk and reduce or eliminate this exposure by establishing stronger controls.”

Johnson added the new system allowed the association to change its internal processes and create a greater degree of separation of duties in the department among herself, Meyers, accountant Nekia Wise, accounts payable staffer Geraldine Tate, and Finance Director Steve Phillips.

“Now, we have cash collections going through Nekia, bank reconciliations going through me, AP [accounts payable] going through Geraldine and assessments going through Ruth Ann, so there are so many people involved and I just feel so much more confident in the whole structure,” she said. “It makes me feel good that we’re better protected.”

### Ruth Ann Meyer

While Johnson focuses on the back end of the finance office, Meyer works on the front line. She supervises the front desk operations and, during assessment season, deals with thousands of homeowners face-to-face.

Meyer has been with Ocean Pines for two decades.

“I get to meet a lot of the residents and we get to hear a lot of feedback

directly from them, whenever decisions are made,” she said. “We’re responsible for billing, all the sales of memberships, and we work closely with Julia to make sure the money is right.”

Aiding Meyer on the frontline is longtime office support staffer Joanne Heinlen, plus a rotating crew of summer help.

“Joanne is the most even-keeled person ever,” Meyer said. “Her demeanor is always the same and very professional, and she’s just great at the front desk. You need to have that type of person in the front to deal with all the different personalities that come through the door.”

Meyer said more than 50 percent of homeowners pay assessments in person. Accordingly, she meets with thousands of customers each spring, when the association mails annual bills.

While assessment season is the most hectic part of her year, Meyer said there’s little to no downtime.

“Come September, we deal with liens and collections lawyers, and then go right into the budget and getting the annual billing statements ready,” she said. “And, once those go out, our busiest season starts.”

All of that can mean dealing with upwards of 100 visitors and phone

calls each day. Asked how she copes, Meyer joked, “You go into your office, you breathe for 10 seconds, and you come back out.”

“You have to remember that the customers want to be right all the time and, even if they’re not, you have to make them feel like they are,” she said.

Both women said recent customer service initiatives have been successful, including the promotion and use of [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) for general questions.

“That’s helped a lot,” Meyer said. “Having that central location that you can go to has been a big help, and of course if they don’t have answers they’ll go to the separate departments.”

“I think it’s always challenging to be in customer service,” she continued. “You never know how people will take things. You think that they’ll be angry and they’re not, and then you have others that you think are going to be even-keeled and they really are not. So, you have to be ready for whatever they throw at you.”

Both also said flexibility is key when working in finance.

“If somebody has a project, you might get pulled off of something that you thought was important and you are now on that new project,” Meyer

said. “Any given day, you think your day is planned and then all of the sudden it’s not.”

Johnson and Meyer have played major roles during the association’s financial success of the last two years. That includes the \$1.2 million favorable-to-budget finish during the covid-plagued fiscal year 2021, and a \$1.3 million budget favorability during the current fiscal period.

“What I’ve seen on my end ... I will praise all the people that work in every department,” Johnson said. “I’ve seen, personally, how much they’ve all done and helped things to change from worse to better.”

“They’re extending the operations, they’re bringing more people in, and they’re working with what they have and making things more approachable and interesting for the public to come in and enjoy what they do,” she continued. “I’ve seen it not only in the numbers, but in everything they do.”

Meyer said teamwork has been the key to recent success.

“Everyone has to do their part in order for it to be successful. It’s not just one person over another person, but it’s everyone working together,” she said. “I think we all also respect each other. We all have our moments of frustration, but then you get over it and you figure out how to fix it.”

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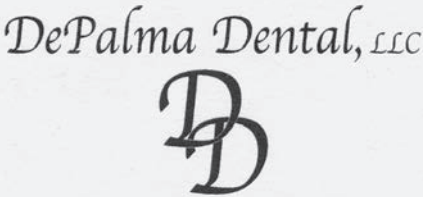
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# SDHS student raising funds for local Eagle Scout project

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Sometimes to move forward you have to revisit your roots.

That’s what Stephen Decatur High School student and Boy Scout William Kozma is doing with his Eagle Scout project, which is to construct a gazebo on the grounds of his previous school, Most Blessed Sacrament, where his career in the Scouts started a decade ago.

“(This gazebo) is for when kids come outside, or in the summertime, or for the teachers who want to bring their kids outside,” Kozma, 17, said. “It’ll be a nice little place, a shaded spot. There are a lot of places where you can sit outside (here) but there aren’t a lot of covered spots.”

“I was mainly thinking in the last few years, we’ve had the pandemic and there’s always talk about how everyone has to socially distance, be six feet apart.”

Essentially, being outside is a way to deal with the virus.

“So I thought well, this would make for a nice outdoor section and be something to help the school,

mainly because, one, I’ve been approached by former principals and also, I started my scouting career back in 1st grade and we had a little troop (at the school). So, I thought it’d be appropriate for me to end my scouting at MBS.”

The biggest need for the project is donations. So far, Kozma has raised about \$1,500, as of Tuesday. His goal is \$7,000.

Once the project is fully funded, he said he anticipates it will take around two weekends to finish.

“There are a lot of people I have in mind as volunteers and I think they are very knowledgeable in construction,” said Kozma. “It shouldn’t be too challenging to get it done in two weekends.”

The rank of Eagle Scout is the culmination of the Boy Scouts’ hierarchy — Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and, finally, Eagle Scout.

To earn the rank, one has to be in a position of leadership for at least six months, complete the Eagle Scout project and file a subsequent application for review.

Kozma said he anticipates receiving the rank in July or August, provided there are no setbacks.

She added that the gazebo can be viewed as an outdoor classroom as well.



William Kozma



RENDERING COURTESY WILLIAM KOZMA

The 10x10 gazebo should take a couple weekends to build once funding is secured, according to Boy Scout William Kozma. He hopes to have it finished by May. The gazebo will offer a shaded spot to sit on the Most Blessed Sacrament grounds and can serve as an outdoor classroom for the school.

“We’re excited to see this process and we’re grateful for his desire to do his Eagle Scout project here at MBS. He was a student here from pre-K through 8th Grade,” said Evans. “Mr. Record, our former principal who passed away — too soon — was a big influence on his life and the lives of many of us here at MBS. He’s dedicating his outdoor classroom to (former Principal) Mr. Record’s memory.”

When finished, the gazebo will be unveiled at a dedication ceremony for

Mark Record, who passed away from cancer last March at the age of 67.

“He was a really big impact on my life, a role model,” Kozma said.

MBS Director of Admissions and Advancement Amanda Evans, who has been working with Kozma to facilitate the intake of donations, described Kozma as a great student who has done wonderful things throughout his student career.

Anyone interested in donating to Kozma’s project can call Most Blessed Sacrament at 410-208-1600.

## Community Briefs

### Dean’s List

Several Worcester County residents were recently named to the dean’s list at their respective colleges for the fall 2021 semester.

- Katherine Mitchell, marine science major from Berlin, Coastal Carolina University of South Carolina
- Lily Timmons, biology major from Ocean Pines, Coastal Carolina University of South Carolina
- Baylie Holmes, sustainability and coastal resilience major from Bish-

opville, Coastal Carolina University of South Carolina

- Chadwick Fischer, Berlin, Nichols College in Massachusetts
- Gabrielle Izzett of Berlin, Shenandoah University in Virginia
- Julianna Fohner of Ocean City, Shenandoah University in Virginia
- Emily Gottfried, from Berlin, PTE\*Early Child(PK-4)/DHH major, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Erin Trask of Berlin, History-Spanish major, College of the Holy

Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts


### President’s List

Several Worcester County residents were recently named to the president’s list at their respective colleges for the fall 2021 semester.

- Sophia Edens, an English major from Berlin, Coastal Carolina University of South Carolina
- Gabrielle Izzett, Berlin, Shenandoah University in Virginia
- Grace Watson, freshman biblical

counseling major from Berlin, Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina

- Christian Davenport of Berlin, Southern New Hampshire University
- Taylor Hershey of Berlin, Southern New Hampshire University
- Cristina Jones of Berlin, Southern New Hampshire University
- Mikayla Shemansky of Ocean Pines, Southern New Hampshire University
- Zachary Figard of Berlin, Southern New Hampshire University



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# School district modifies covid-19 protocols

Officials offer free testing events while eliminating daily screenings for virus

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 3, 2022) Officials at Worcester County Public Schools are making changes across the district regarding covid-19 protocols to align with the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, and Maryland's Department of Education.

Those changes, according to a call sent to students' families by Superintendent Louis Taylor on Jan. 11, include quarantine measures if someone tests positive for covid-19, meets someone with covid-19, and the elimination daily screenings.

Specifically, Taylor said, individuals who test positive for covid-19 or have symptoms should quarantine for five days from when symptoms were first experienced.

For asymptomatic individuals, they would be required to quarantine from the date of their first positive

test.

Once the fifth day passes, individuals can return to school if the symptoms are gone, and they do not have a fever.

Anyone returning will be required to wear a mask when they are around others, for the next five days, indoors and outdoors. If a person cannot wear a mask, they will be asked to quarantine at home for those five additional days.

There were additional changes when it came to vaccination statuses.

For example, staff and students over the age of 18 who have received the booster shot or first two shots of Pfizer within the last five months, Moderna within the last six months, or first Johnson and Johnson vaccine within the last two months, will not be required to quarantine after exposure but should wear a mask around others for 10 days fol-

lowing their last contact with someone with covid-19.

The same is in place for students 5-17 years old who have completed the Pfizer vaccine series and do not have symptoms, or anyone who has had covid-19 within the last 90 days.

A full list of changes can be found by visiting [worcesterk12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=577441&pageId=10122835](http://worcesterk12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=577441&pageId=10122835).

The superintendent said the school officials decided to eliminate daily screenings for covid, but instead sent a direct message to the parents:

"If your child is exhibiting any signs or symptoms – even mild ones – of illness, keep them home and contact your healthcare provider or your child's school to determine next steps," he said. "We truly can't stress this enough: when sick, stay home."

Taylor also said school-based covid-19 testing clinics were being of-

ferred through the end of January. A full list of dates can be found on the district's website at [www.worcesterk12.org](http://www.worcesterk12.org).

"We encourage all families and staff to utilize these free, accessible testing events if you are symptomatic or quarantined," Taylor said. "Please do not come to school if you are symptomatic or in need of a covid-19 test."

In addition to the free tests, the school system plans to focus contact tracing efforts toward school activities where people are unmasked – like lunch and sports.

The school officials will continue to notify families and staff when someone in their group tests positive.

"As individual contact tracing proves to be less effective when community transmission is high, our health staff will shift their efforts from investigating relatively low-risk, in-school exposures to more critical activities like the identification, early isolation, and management of students and staff with active covid-19-like symptoms," Taylor said.

**'We encourage all families and staff to utilize these free, accessible testing events if you are symptomatic or quarantined.'**  
Superintendent  
Louis Taylor



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SUBMITTED PHOTO / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CELEBRATION

Members of the Republican Women of Worcester recently traveled to Rockville, Maryland, to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women (MFRW). Pictured, standing, are Mary Adair, Sandy Zitzer, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Former First Lady Kendel Ehrlich and Susan Ostrowski; and seated, are Carol Frazier and Amy Mike.



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

DONATION

Dina Holloway accepts a check for \$2,000 on Nov. 4, from Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club President Charlie Smith for the Toys for Tots program.

RECOGNITION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tim Lund, left, presented Mike Castoro with the November 2021 “Kiwanian of the Month” award for his outstanding work, which includes cooking during many events as part of the Dawg Team.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



SHOWING SUPPORT

Carol Rose of We Heart Berlin Inc., accepts a \$100 donation from Worcester County NAACP President Ivory Smith, to use toward the painting of the Henry Park basketball courts.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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GUEST SPEAKERS

The guest speakers at the weekly Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City meeting on Nov. 10 were co-managers of the Pine’er Artisan Gift Shop in Ocean Pines, Diane Denk (also a Kiwanis Club member), left, and Kim Perrone, who are pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund. Meetings of the Crafters Club are the third Thursday of the month in the Ocean Pines Community Center at 9:45 a.m.


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SUBMITTED PHOTO/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**ANGLER AWARDS**  
The Ocean Pines Anglers Club presented awards for 2021 Angler of the Year during its December meeting. Angler awards coordinator Tim Mullin kept the records throughout the year and presented certificates and cash prizes for 14 categories of fish. Winners from left, are: Frank Tortella, fresh water trout, 15 inches, spot 9 and 1/8 inches; Scott Carstairs, striped bass, 28 inches, croaker, 12 and 3/4 inches; Bob Woodward, flounder, 23 inches; Ken Thompson (accepting for son, Adam), red drum, 27 inches; and Budd Heim, sheephead, 16 inches. Not pictured: Greg Donahue, bluefish, 15 inches, weakfish (trout), 22 and 1/2 inches; Steve Stein, tuna, 49.6 inches; Kevin Welkner, tautog, 16 and 1/2 inches; Jim McWinney, black sea bass, 16 inches.



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# Cuisine

## Suplee: Beauty of banana leaves twofold

As much as I love the snow, I lament not protecting my babies this winter. I never chopped down my banana palms and covered the roots with insulation as is the annual ritual, and frankly they haven't asked to come down.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Typically, and especially in cold winters, they will sag and droop at the first sign of cold weather (something that a 53-year-old man is not usually comfortable discussing), but this winter has been different. They have stood the trial in rare form, neither flinching nor falling limp. It is rather impressive, truth be told.

In fact, one tree that I picked up two weeks ago – with the intention of yanking it out of the ground and throwing away – yielded evidence that it was already sprouting for the oncoming spring. So, all I need is for these trees to make it six more weeks... give or take.

Why do I love these “trees” so much? Maybe it's the bucolic tropical ambience that they lend to the landscape in my backyard: envision a small tawdry hotel in Key West with a crappy pool, rickety chaise lounges, terrible food and just enough tropical shrubs to make that \$15 rail-tequila margarita taste completely worth the price.

Maybe it's the fact that I can use the leaves for cooking: I love making tamales in them, and grilling and steaming seafood in banana leaves that I loved so much over the years in the Bahamas, Costa Rica and Hawai'i.

Or maybe, just maybe, it's the fact that these bastards are weeds. They are just mean, never-dying, wide-spreading weeds. It's hard to kill the damn things.

Every year around June, I give about 30 sprouts away, and then I still go Hannibal Lecter on the rest of them, mowing them down with an incredibly satisfied yet menacing smirk that would prevent you from asking for that extra cup of ranch dressing for your wings if I were your server.

I hate yardwork, and “hate” is a strongly underserved word for this sentiment. Loathe? Simply imagining the snow melting and the grass growing tightens my chest, my face resting in a bitter and tight grimace as my arms sit folded across my chest. God, I hate yardwork. So, yes, these little darlings are truly my babies. They bring me solace.

My only challenge is keeping the dogs off them until the trees have a chance to grow above four feet. Once the dogs get their inaugural annual taste, it is difficult to keep them away.

While these Japanese hybrids will never grow a fruit a day in their lives, if you bite into the stem, the flavor is unmistakable. There is nothing but the tannins of an unripe banana, and it is wonderful.

In Hawai'i, these are used in Lau Lau and many other dishes. In the Bahamas, it is not unusual to find them finely wrapped around lobster and prawn. In Costa Rica (as well as the aforementioned El Salvador), tamales find their home inside these lovely wrappers.

Remind me to tell you about Miss Sylvia one



day. Man, was she mean. But, she did teach me how to make tamales, so I'll take the bruises.

I'm just happy to know that they will be back in a few months: my friends. My little babies.

### Fresh Fish in Banana Leaves

- Serves 4
- 4 whole fresh banana leaves (or frozen this time of year)
  - 2 lb. Assorted fresh and high quality seafood
  - 2 in. Peeled and smashed ginger
  - 4 ea. Cloves garlic, smashed and minced
  - 1 Stick unsalted, grass-fed butter
  - Splash sesame oil per packet
  - 4 ea. Spring onions, sliced
  - 1 c. White wine
  - 2 Tbsp. Soy sauce
  - 2 Tbsp. Sugar in the raw, jaggery or brown sugar
  - 2 Tbsp. Rice wine vinegar
  - Salt and Pepper, to taste

1. If the leaves are large, strip the rib out of the middle and use either side as your wrapper. If the leaves are somewhat small, you may have to leave them whole and lightly smash the rib to get the leaves nice and pliable.

As the leaves get “older” (it's an annual, for God's sake) they get tougher. You may have to dip them in water over 140F to loosen them up a bit.

Otherwise, they can simply shred apart.

- 2. After that, it's all simple, or at least as simple as rolling a burrito.
  - 3. Top the leaf with some seafood and the remaining ingredients.
  - 4. Look up a burrito-wrapping video, and follow those instructions to the T. I honestly would not have enough words left to describe how to do it.
  - 5. The beauty of the banana leaves is twofold. It adds an induplicable flavor to the food, and it acts as a protective barrier to your precious seafood, as follows in the next step.
  - 6. Heat a grill and cook the seafood until it is cooked through. It is quite similar to the old French technique en papillote but with actual flavor, an insult I write with a modicum of chagrin considering my own lineage.
  - 7. When the leaves are properly scorched, and the seafood is cooked through, merely serve them as they are. Serve with a salad or grilled vegetables.
- Frankly, I don't care. Just serve them as they are and afford your guests the privilege of opening up their special packages to enjoy. There is little in the culinary world to compare to it

—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., Feb. 3

**CPAP MASK FITTING**  
Atlantic General Hospital, Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. For patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. This is a free service. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

**STORY TIME: 'THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS'**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join the group for a new twist on a classic tale. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**STORY TIME 'AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: JANAY BROWN-WOOD'**  
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

**MERRY MAKERS - FEBRUARY FUN**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Create something red and special to give to your Valentine. Ten spaces available for program participants. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under "Events" or call 410-208-4014.

**POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE POET X' BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Cynthia Hanagud and Gail Samis of Salisbury University. Copies of the book are available at the Pocomoke branch, 410-957-0878. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS**  
Held via Zoom, 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

**PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC**  
Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-7:30 p.m. This clinic is available to those 5 years and older. Register: [www.agh.care/vaccine](http://www.agh.care/vaccine). 410-641-1100

**BEACH SINGLES**  
*Thursdays* - Join us 55 plus at Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., Feb. 4

**FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENINGS**  
Ocean City Center for the Arts - Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Cele-



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

**RINGERS RECOGNIZED**  
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City has been ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's "Red Kettle" Holiday collections for many years at Walmart on Route 50 in Berlin. Pictured, from left, are Roy and Candy Foreman, 2021 Kiwanis chair for bell ringing, Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund and Kiwanian Tom Southwell with the 2019 first place award for 90 hours of bell ringing by a civic group. Not pictured is Kiwanian Dave Landis who took the picture.

brating nature and emotions. Free and open to the public. Masks required. Shows also at the Coffee Beanery and the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel. [www.ArtLeague-ofOceanCity.org](http://www.ArtLeague-ofOceanCity.org), 410-524-9433

**FORGOTTEN HISTORICAL PEOPLE: THOMAS SANKARA**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Known as 'Africa's Che Guevara,' Thomas Sankara was a President of Burkina Faso. Facilitated by Nathaniel Godfrey. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

## Sat., Feb. 5

**EASTERN SHORE SHOWDOWN**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for two-day pass. Event registration, hotels, schedule, contact info and more: <https://webuildyouplay.com/eastern-shore-showdown-volleyball-tournament-home/>. 410-202-8849

**AARP TAXAIDE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. AARP Foundation Tax Aide is offering tax preparation free of charge to the citizens of the lower shore. The group is IRS certified Tax Preparers. Appointments: 443-373-2667 or [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

**LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST'S LAND STEWARDS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**  
Virtual workshop for community members interested in volunteering as Land Stewards, 9:30-11 a.m. Register: <https://www.lsltevents.org/post/02052022-land-stewards-workshop> or 443-234-5587.

**FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch,

13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market lead and writing exercise. Drop-ins welcome. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**BELIEVE IN YOUR BEAUTY**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Learn about the beauty standards of black women compared to American and white beauty standards. Facilitated by Gabriele Miles, MA a graduate of Salisbury University. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**DRIVE-THRU FRIED CHICKEN DINNER**  
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Includes 4 pieces of fried chicken, string beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, applesauce, roll and cupcake. Cost is \$14. Stay in car and use east drive-way. 410-835-8340

**GRIEFSHARE PROGRAM**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12:30-2:30 p.m. For those struggling with the loss of a love one. This 13-week program is open to the community. Cost is \$20. Carole, 301-509-2002

**FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET**  
*Saturdays* - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

## Sun., Feb. 6

**EASTERN SHORE SHOWDOWN**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for two-day pass. Event registration, hotels, schedule,

contact info and more: <https://webuildyouplay.com/eastern-shore-showdown-volleyball-tournament-home/>. 410-202-8849

**8TH ANNUAL 'BEST WINGS ON THE SHORE' CONTEST**  
Seacrets, 117 49th St., Ocean City, 12-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes unlimited tastings. Ticket holders also receive a ballot to cast votes. Children 9 years and younger are admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Ocean 98 "Cash for College" Fund. 410-723-3683

## Mon., Feb. 7

**AARP TAXAIDE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AARP Foundation Tax Aide is offering tax preparation free of charge to the citizens of the lower shore. The group is IRS certified Tax Preparers. Appointments: 443-373-2667 or [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

**GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will closely examine the narrative poem "The Goblin Market" by Christina Rossetti. The group is currently reading selections in Book 2 of Great Conversations. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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 healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

**PAINT NIGHT WITH CALVIN**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn to paint with teacher Calvin Garrison. The group will be creating an image of "Hot Coffee." Supplies included. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under "Events." 410-632-2600

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

## Tues., Feb. 8

**STORY TIME 'LOVE IS IN THE AIR'**  
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

Continued on Page 27



# Puzzles

## Turns of Phrase

By Nancy Stark and Will Nediger / Edited by Will Shortz

Nancy Stark, of New York City, is a writer, lyricist and former editor for the Literary Guild book club. Will Nediger, of London, Ontario, is a professional crossword constructor. Nancy thought of this puzzle's theme (at 4 a.m. one night when she couldn't sleep), they brainstormed examples of it, Will constructed the grid and they both wrote the clues. This is their first collaboration for The Times. — W.S.

**ACROSS**

1 Web site?

6 Browser window

9 Streaming service acquired by Fox in 2020

13 Civil rights grp. once led by M.L.K.

17 Fictional character who says, "I will take the ring, though I do not know the way"

18 Scorpion, for one

20 Wasn't overturned on appeal

21 Artists sketching pectorals?

23 Stays out all night?

24 Glowing or shining

25 Work rotations

26 French "I like"

27 "Right on!"

28 Spot at a casino

30 Either side of a beaming grin, in a phrase

31 Tony winner McDonald

32 Something to make after you wake

33 Vow to remain mum about hotel guests' secrets?

37 Hoops org.

40 Possibility

41 Scoffing sound

42 Driver of film

43 Nonbinary people, informally

47 Declined

49 Over-poetical?

50 Modern-day "carpe diem"

51 Early times in verse

52 Small distance covered by a naval armada?

56 First sitting prez to fly in an airplane

57 Words after walk or cash

58 Hyperbolic wait time

59 Like climates where cactuses thrive

60 Pointy part of a charger?

62 Group of followers

64 Willem who played Jesus in "The Last Temptation of Christ"

66 Some pianos and motorcycles

68 2000s Fox teen drama

69 Playwright Simon

70 "Emotion in motion," per Mae West

71 Thomas \_\_\_\_, British general at Bunker Hill

72 Sweetie

73 Boxer lacking a left hook?

77 One of the boxing Alis

78 Gumbo ingredient

80 :- ) alternative

81 Below par

82 Something unleashed in a denial-of-service attack

83 Destination for a return flight

84 Himalayan humanoid

86 \_\_\_\_ eyes

88 "I'm a frayed \_\_\_\_" (punchline of a classic joke)

89 What brass-band music has?

92 Court

95 Groups of Greeks, informally

97 Watcher of the skies, for short

98 Old \_\_\_\_ (motherland, affectionately)

99 Announced

100 You can count on them

101 Beat in a race

104 Very productive

106 Not even a little off

107 Tree feature in winter?

109 Quaint bathroom sign

110 Galosh

111 Lumberjack's favorite kind of beer?

112 "What are the \_\_\_\_?"

113 Audience for Cocomelon, the most-viewed YouTube channel in the U.S.

5 Cereal once advertised by Woody Woodpecker

6 Subject for Laozi

7 Sounds from a lab

8 "The Art of Fugue" composer

9 One's kin, casually

10 Loosen, in a way

11 Some zeros and ones

12 Bar necessities, at times

13 It has several steps

14 What a dog walker and a strong-willed pooch might vie for?

15 Run easily

16 Makeup of some music libraries

19 Main

20 Huge quantity

21 Lacking color

22 Brief period of work

26 "Easy ... everything's going to be OK"

29 Bottle marked with a skull and crossbones

31 Cost for a spot

33 Garden-shed items

34 Caramel-filled candy

35 "You can leave this to me"

36 Declaration by one who's done playing

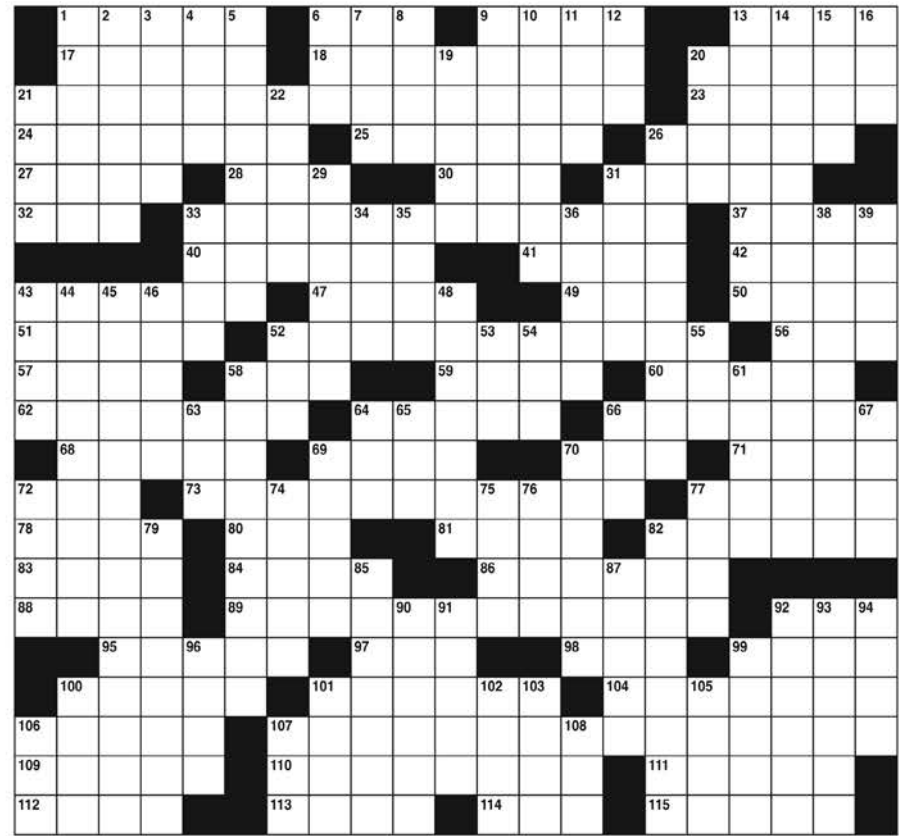
38 Benjamin Franklin famously considered it "a rank coward" with "bad moral character"

39 "Te quiero" sentiment

43 Mideast V.I.P.

44 Response to "No offense"

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



- 45 The Bee Gees' Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb?

46 It might gather lint

48 Somersault

52 Adversary

53 To's opposite

54 Old-timey reproach

55 Scottish tree

58 Aromatic trees

61 Really bother

63 Jacqueline or Jacques

64 For sure, for short
- 65 Something a snowboarder catches

66 Last word of "Ulysses"

67 Goal in musical chairs

69 Nick of "48 Hrs."

70 Beer brand whose name spells an article of apparel backward

72 Knock on the head

74 Carolers' repertoire

75 \_\_\_\_ dancer

76 Minotaur's foot
- 77 Bird known in the U.K. as a diver

79 Draws

82 Red-light district establishment

85 Like some vodkas

87 Fly into a rant

90 Spuds

91 Tall tales

92 Dispensed with

93 N.H.L. team with five championship-winning seasons in the 1980s

94 Praising poetry
- 96 Ballet sections

99 Play station?

100 Got rid of

101 "Duh," in modern slang

102 Pine

103 Like the Radio City Music Hall sign

105 Harvest

106 Something swollen on a pro athlete?

107 Totally fine

108 Alternative to Webster's, in brief

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**HARD - 57**

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.

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

**Answers to last week's puzzles**

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

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



# 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.



## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED

## HELP WANTED



### Worcester County is currently recruiting for an **ACCOUNTANT**

Responsible for general accounting and administrative duties. Assists in all phases of accounting and financial reporting. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field with 2 years or equivalent combination of education and progressively responsible accounting and fiscal experience preferably in a government setting.

Excellent benefits, including paid time off and retirement.  
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### Worcester County is currently recruiting for **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER TRAINEES**

Responsible for supervising inmate population to ensure security, custody and public safety for the Worcester County Jail. Must be 21 years of age, possess High School Degree, valid Driver's license with less than 4 points (MD). Must successfully pass pre-employment testing to include: Background check, drug and alcohol testing, physical, fitness testing, and psychological testing.

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### Worcester County is currently recruiting for full time **GROUNDWORKERS**

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\$32,947 Annually/\$15.84 Hourly.

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CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES - 410-632-0090

### 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:

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Contact: Matt McGinnis  
410-641-3575 or

[mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org](mailto:mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org)



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Calendar

Continued from Page 24

STORY TIME 'BE MY VALENTINE'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts to celebrate Valentine's Day. For ages 2-5 years.  
**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. **delmarvahand-dance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151**

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 7:30 p.m. Guest speakers are from the US Coast Guard, OC. They will be speaking on new regulations, navigation, safety issues and answering questions. Guests are welcome. Ron Smith, **smitty3894@aol.com**

LET'S COOK!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. Chef Charles Oppman will demonstrate some dishes for the upcoming Super Bowl. Recipes are provided and there will be a tasting. Register:  
**www.worcesterlibrary.org** under "Events."

410-632-2600

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Held virtually, Feb. 8, 9 and 10, 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, **cgauxoc@gmail.com.**

Wed., Feb. 9

STORY TIME 'LOVE'

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

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'JUST MERCY' BY BRYAN STEVENSON

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

HEART ART

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 Heart inspired arts and crafts just in time for Valentine's Day. For kids ages 5 years and older. **www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600**

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