



PHOTO COURTESY JULIE MALINOWSKI

PACKED HOUSE

Journey tribute band Eclipse filled the Ocean Pines Yacht Club to capacity on Saturday, with numerous music fans turned away at the door for the early evening performance. See story on page 5.

Berlin Goes Green to aid recovery

Project's second year aims to continue battle against local substance abuse

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Helping people overcome substance abuse issues is the impetus for the second annual "Berlin Goes Green for Recovery" fundraising campaign that promises to adorn numerous storefronts with green shamrocks bearing best wishes.

Worcester Goes Purple founder Debbie Smullen, who works with

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, said the St. Patrick's Day holiday outreach project collected approximately \$1,400 last spring.

"We were just looking for something to bring awareness to recovery," she said.

Although September is designated as annual recovery month, Smullen said that highlighting addiction battles year round is important.

"This is something people struggle with every day," she said.

Following the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, the recovery fight

became more challenging.

"It's been very hard for people to stay in recovery and to continue on during this time," she said.

Smullen stressed that recovery patients need to have face-to-face contact with support groups, because remote meeting options have been less effective.

"They (recovering patients) depend on routine and all of us know during covid there was no routine," she said.

Hoping to maintain focus on the recovery community, Smullen envi-

See BUSINESS Page 3

Budget Cmte. previews final FY23 proposal

Surplus funds to be used to drive down assessments

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee members were updated on Tuesday regarding final tweaks to the proposed FY23 budget ahead of the Board of Directors reviewing the data during its meeting on Wednesday.

General Manager John Viola said the latest addendums to the proposed budget would lower next year's assessments to \$896 for non-water lots and \$1,344 for waterfront properties.

The current charges are \$996 and \$1,494 respectively.

Viola said with surplus figures from the prior budget year now finalized, a portion of that sum was earmarked to reduce assessments.

"It comes down to two main items," he said. "One is the surplus we had in retained earnings that we realized from last year."

Viola said, contingent on board approval, a newly proposed budget line item tied to assessments would become an annual affair.

"Depending on the operations, we either recommend to increase the assessment or decrease," he said.

For the FY23 budget, approximately \$650,000 of current operating surplus is being included, which trims \$77 off assessment charges.

Also contributing to the proposed reduction are increased revenues from amenities, most notably golf and food services.

"All are trending to the upside, so we increased our estimating for golf and food and beverage in the next budget," he said.

Golf revenue estimates for the current year were increased by \$50,000, with a comparable uptick included for food and beverage.

The latter nets the association \$25,000 after a 50 percent split with

See BUDGET Page 3



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Pines Rec Parks Cmte. talks
walking trails, kayak launch

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Promoting and enhancing exercise on the water and land was the focus during the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee meeting last Tuesday evening.

Committee Chair Patti Stevens said plans are progressing to install a dock with floating launch for kayak and canoe access. The exact location will depend on a review of environmental considerations now being conducted, but Steven said the tentative location is Pintail Park.

After conferring with the Budget and Finance Committee and General Manager John Viola, committee members were enthused to learn the kayak launch was under consideration for the next budget cycle, if not sooner.

"We got estimates from two different locations that had launches similar to what we're looking at," she said.

Stevens and committee member Laura Scharle joined forces to research comparable facilities in the region.

"We've seen a couple different examples of what we like," she said.

During their investigation, the duo recognized that the design had to ensure that launch areas were close to parking.

If plans proceed, committee members also hope to have a kayak storage rack installed at some point at Pintail Park.

Stevens said the rack would be "for people to rent for a season to put their kayaks, paddleboards and canoes close to the launch area."

If the storage rack is approved, it would be the second storage area for personal watercraft, as the previously approved Swim and Racquet Club site is on the brink of being installed.

Stevens said j-rack mounts for kayaks at the Swim and Racquet Club, which were slated for installation last summer, have now been received.

"They took a really long time to come in due to covid supply issues,"

she said.

Public Works plans to install storage racks in time for residential rentals this spring.

"They will be mounted along the fence line next to the beach," she said.

On a related note, Scharle is working with Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue to introduce waterway-focused educational classes.

"Laura has offered through Recreation and Parks to do a spring water safety and paddling 101 course," she said.

The course is intended to highlight certain paddling routes for experts and novices.

"We're also considering some guided paddling from different launch sites within Ocean Pines for spring and summer," she said.

To aid the effort, Scharle created a water trails map that is posted on the association website.

Work to restore nature trails in Ocean Pines was also a committee talking point last week.

Stevens said the long-term committee goal was echoed by the recent homeowners' survey.

To that end, committee member Bill Barnard is drafting a proposal to apply for an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge Grant.

"It's given to communities seeking to foster health and wellness," she said.

The grant submission seeks backing to install signs and markers for the Robin Hood and Route 90 trails.

"We would work with Ocean Pines on improving crosswalk markings where trails cross roads," she said.

On a related note, the committee also posted a walking trails guide on the association's website.

In concert with the AARP grant pursuit, Viola agreed to have Public Works add woodchips and fill in holes with gravel and stone on both trails this spring.

See PINES Page 4

Berlin man on scooter dies
after being struck by vehicle

(Feb. 24, 2022) A Berlin man died early Tuesday morning after the electric scooter he was riding on Route 50 was struck from behind by a car.

Maryland State Police said troopers from the Berlin Barrack responded to reports of a vehicle collision near Route 50 and Riddle Lane just after midnight on Tuesday.

A preliminary investigation found Samuel Cornish of Berlin was riding a scooter with no lights in one of the highway's two westbound lanes.

Police said a Dodge Charger that

was traveling in the same lane struck the scooter from behind and Cornish died on the scene.

When asked on Tuesday morning for additional information on the matter, police said the investigation is still in its early stages and the reconstruction of the accident has not been conducted. They added that no criminal charges were not pending.

State Police investigators are asking anyone who might have witnessed the accident to contact the Berlin Barrack at 410-641-3259.

Business support last year ‘overwhelming’

Continued from Page 1
sioned a St. Patrick’s Day fundraising effort last spring.

“Last year was the first we did it and we’re hoping for more participation this year,” she said.

In addition to the Main Street businesses that joined the campaign in 2021, Ocean Downs Casino also jumped on board.

“We gave them a special plaque because they were sort of in a different category,” she said. “They did a wonderful job of promoting it at the casino and they actually will do it again this year.”

Support from area businesses was overwhelming in 2021, with paper shamrocks purchased for a minimum \$1 donation quickly filling shop windows.

“The businesses here are good about helping with community projects and nonprofits,” she said.

Because of support from a wide range of entities, organizers ranked collection totals separately for retail services and food establishments.

“We had two winners and gave plaques,” she said.

Leading the pack for retail was Oh My Hair at 29 Broad St., while Island Creamery at 120 N. Main St collected the top dollar amount for eateries.

“With Oh My Hair and Island Creamery, you couldn’t even see out their windows,” she said. “They even had them posted inside.”

Smullen noted Baked Dessert Café

ran a close second for restaurant participants.

“They [all] did a great job of stepping up and really pushing the campaign,” she said.

Assisting Smullen with the undertaking was Berlin Chamber of Commerce Deputy Director Steve Frene.

“We had Steve Frene dressed in his leprechaun suit last year,” she said. “He walked around selling shamrocks on the street one day.”

Financial support for the Worcester Goes Purple program helps to meet the needs of individuals in recovery. This includes helping them with support training and securing housing.

“Anyone that has lived experience can get a Maryland certification that they are certified peers,” she said. “That helps them become employable.”

Costs for training classes to qualify as peer counselors are also funded.

“This does give them the skills to be employed by recovery houses,” she said.

Certified peers are also hired to serve in hospital emergency rooms and area health departments.

“Our peers are really our best resource,” she said. “A person that is in recovery can relate to that experience and that person.”

Patients in recovery seeking peer certification must complete classwork related to ethics, boundaries, wellness and advocacy.

Maryland certification requirements include 500 volunteer hours, 45 classroom hours and 25 hours working under a licensed supervisor.

“It is a real commitment,” she said. “This gives them the opportunity to have a skill associated with their lived experience.”

In addition to shamrocks, items available to purchase for the fundraising effort have been expanded this year.

“We’ve also added green beads and shamrock body jewelry,” she said.

All offerings require a minimum \$1 donation, with organizers looking to far exceed the sum netted in 2021.

“We’d like to shoot for \$5,000 this year,” she said.

To widen the project’s reach, Smullen is asking businesses in Ocean City for backing over this St. Patrick’s Day holiday.

“I know that’s a big time with the parade in Ocean City,” she said.

Smullen encourages any business interested in joining the cause to make contact by calling 410-870-5161.

“There’s no greater thing than to support a cause that helps our local community,” she said.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The Island Creamery, pictured last year, was one of the top fundraising partners for “Berlin Goes Green for Recovery” campaign to support Worcester Goes Purple.

Budget trends looking good, new budget will reflect that

Continued from Page 1
food contractor Matt Ortt Companies.

“We did recognize that we are trending better and did increase on the amenity side,” he said. “We’re seeing the ship turn around.”

In terms of closing out the present budget year, Viola said the final numbers are coming into sharper focus.

“We believe we’re going to come in favorable to budget \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million,” he said.

Finance Director Steve Phillips anticipates budget favorability on the upper end of the scale when the fiscal year closes at the end of April.

“The higher end is probably more likely,” he said.

Ideally, the current budget year surplus numbers would also be used in a similar fashion next year when finalized, Viola said.

“Let us realize it first and then you

get it back in the assessment,” he said.

Viola also recapped current budget numbers from last month and highlighted new expenses through February.

Additional costs include \$21,000 to hire a search firm to locate candidates to fill the general manager position Viola is on the verge of vacating.

“That hasn’t hit yet, but we will probably see it in the February numbers,” he said. “Obviously, we didn’t budget for that this year.”

Also, Public Works spent roughly \$31,000 for snow cleanup in recent weeks.

Viola said Public Works Director Eddie Wells attributed the price tag to costs for salt and equipment needs.

“He did rent some more equipment,” he said. “We had a lot of equipment out there compared to the past.”

Phillips said about \$15,000 of snow-removal costs are included in January figures, with the balance billed during February.



Steve Phillips

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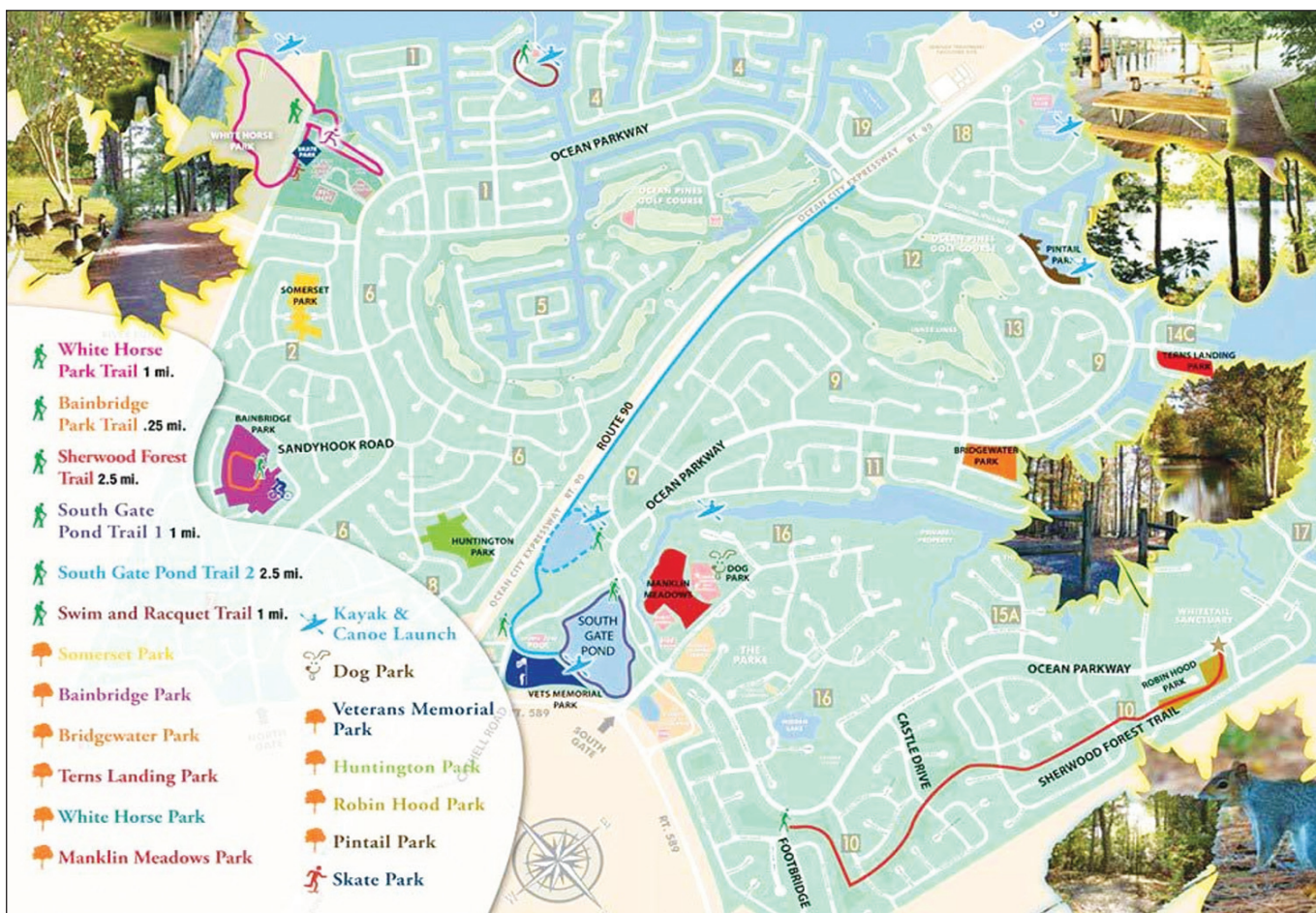
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Journey tribute band Eclipse fills Yacht Club

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Although the packed house at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club resulted in some fans missing out on the music inside last Saturday, plenty of opportunities to catch a groove outdoors will begin in May with weekend performances set through September.

Before hosting live acts on the water starting in the spring, two off-season shows were planned, including Journey tribute band Eclipse last Saturday and Great Train Robbery on March 11.

Matt Ortt Companies CEO Ralph DeAngelus said last weekend proved far too cold to consider staging outdoors.

“We did it upstairs,” he said. “It was first come, first serve for tickets.”

Lines formed outside before the doors opened at 4 p.m. on Saturday, with capacity quickly reached.

“We had no idea we were going to sell out in 16 minutes,” he said. “We thought we were going to do well, but who could have ever guessed?”

While outdoor shows at the club can pack in up to 600 people, the stage room inside is limited to 250.

“That’s just a giant difference,” he said.

Much to the chagrin of management, the smaller space left a few folks out in the cold.

“You want to accommodate everybody and when you can’t you feel bad,” he said. “I hated sending a cou-

Holy Trinity holds life line screening March 9 in Berlin

(Feb. 24, 2022) Residents living in and around the Berlin area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening on March 9.

Holy Trinity Cathedral at 11021 Worcester Hwy. in Berlin will host this community event.

Screenings can check for: The level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis; and kidney and thyroid function.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with attendees to create a package that is right for them based on age and risk factors.

Call 1-877-237-1354 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

ple of hundred people away, it was horrible.”

Before kicking off the outdoor show schedule on May 6, Great Train Robbery will perform on March 11 at 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5, with doors opening at 4 p.m.

DeAngelus said the March 11 show is scheduled indoors and will again be first come first served.

In terms of pre-sale options, DeAngelus said past experiments proved troublesome.

“We tried selling them online ahead, but people were never definitive,” he said. “For us it just creates more problems.”

Despite a few hiccups last weekend, DeAngelus said customer feedback has been glowing since the Yacht Club reopened on Super Bowl weekend after a brief winter hiatus.

“It’s been a nice return,” he said.

Until spring, the Yacht Club opens at 11 a.m. from Thursday through Sunday.

Ocean Pines Yacht Club live music schedule:

- May 6 Great Train Robbery
- May 7 Josh Christina
- May 13 Sons of Pirates
- May 14 Exit 93
- May 20 Scorpion Rose
- May 21 Opposite Directions
- May 27 The Benderz
- May 28 Tranzfusion
- May 29 Great Train Robbery
- June 3 Full Circle
- June 4 Bob Loughheed & the Memphis Mafia
- June 5 Downhill Uprise
- June 10 Over Time
- June 11 Mike Hines & the Look
- June 12 Beach Bandits
- June 17 Tranzfusion
- June 18 Kaleidoscope



Journey tribute band Eclipse Steve Perry replicator works the crowd at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Saturday.

- June 19 Rockaholics
- June 24 Sons of Pirates
- June 25 Opposite Directions
- June 26 Hometown Strangers
- June 30 Josh Christina
- July 1 Tranzfusion
- July 2 Eclipse: the Ultimate Journey Tribute
- July 3 Great Train Robbery
- July 7 Brian and Things
- July 8 Full Circle
- July 9 KITTYBACK
- July 10 Over Time
- July 14 Beach Bandits
- July 15 Kono Nation
- July 16 The Funsters
- July 17 Rockaholics
- July 21 Nelly's Echo
- July 22 Mike Hines & the Look
- July 23 Jaded Love
- July 24 Sons of Pirates
- July 28 Downhill Uprise
- July 29 Janglebachs
- July 30 Weird Science
- July 31 Zander Jett
- Aug. 4 Zander Jett
- Aug. 5 Tranzfusion
- Aug. 6 Kittyback
- Aug. 7 Over Time
- Aug. 11 Lauren Glick
- Aug. 12 Great Train Robbery
- Aug. 13 Lee Alverson's Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel
- Aug. 14 Josh Christina
- Aug. 18 Brian and Things
- Aug. 19 The Big House Band
- Aug.20 Full Circle
- Aug. 21 Rockaholics
- Aug. 25 Nelly's Echo
- Aug. 26 The Benderz
- Aug. 27 Jaded Love
- Aug. 28 Scorpion Rose
- Sept. 3 Tranzfusion
- Sept. 5 Great Train Robbery
- Sept. 9 Over Time
- Sept. 10 Eclipse: the Ultimate Journey Tribute
- Sept. 16 Sons of Pirates
- Sept. 17 Full Circle
- Sept. 23 Josh Christina
- Sept. 24 KITTYBACK
- Oct. 1 Jaded Love

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Sound Storm Records embraced by Berlin

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Vinyl enthusiasts have been flocking in droves to Sound Storm Records in Berlin since its opening earlier this month on the corner of Broad and Gay streets.

The new business is the brainchild of Brandon Zlatniski and his girlfriend, Lauren Carlson.

“We need something like this in Berlin,” Zlatniski said.

The couple was caught off guard by the onslaught of music consumers who surfaced during the shop’s grand opening over Valentine’s Day weekend.

“We were kind of blown away,” he said. “We weren’t expecting this overwhelming of a response.”

Carlson said a steady stream of customers perused the selections of new and used vinyl on opening weekend.

“It feels as if the town has welcomed us with open arms,” she said.

Now entering his 30s, Zlatniski became entranced by the music scene during his teen years.

“I followed all the bands on Fuse and the Warped Tour, [plus] bought all the

music I could find,” he said.

In addition to learning to play guitar at a young age, Zlatniski also dreamt of starting a retail record business.

The vision persisted into adulthood and eventually became a passion shared by Carlson.

“It’s always been a dream of Brandon’s to open up a record store, but it has wholeheartedly become a dream of mine as well,” she said.

The two embrace music collecting and have spent countless hours scouring bins at vinyl outlets in various East Coast cities.

Looking ahead, Zlatniski envisions expanding floor space at Sound Storm Records and possibly becoming a distribution hub for independent music.

“Hopefully, we could be like the Berlin equivalent of Rough Trade (a major dealer of independent records in London),” he said.

Zlatniski also hopes to partner on promotional efforts with the adjacent Globe Gastro Theatre.

“There’s so many shows throughout the summer,” he said. “We would love to work with the Globe on having bands

do a meet-and-greet or singing.”

For her part, Carlson is taking charge of financial duties.

“A lot of what I love to do is behind the scenes,” she said. “I make sure we know what and where to budget.”

Zlatniski and Carlson bring different abilities and perspectives to the business.

“It’s so fun to work with your best friend and we are very complementary when it comes to division of duties,” she said. “Brandon is definitely the audiophile.”

Sound Storm Records is currently open Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and plans to expand hours next month.

“In March, for the first weekend

we’re going to Florida,” he said. “When we come back, we’re going to be opening up probably four to five days a week.”

By May, Zlatniski intends to open seven days a week for the summer season.

Carlson said while initial support has been humbling, the community reception is not fully surprising.

“We are located in the perfect mix of small town shopping with a generationally diverse population and are a popular destination for tourists,” she said. “This allows us to flourish and grow our business.”

Sound Storm Records is located at 14 Broad Street. For more information call 443-513-3305 or visit sounstorm-records.com.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Sound Storm Records owners Lauren Carlson and Brandon Zlatniski have been pleased with the community response since opening their business earlier this month.



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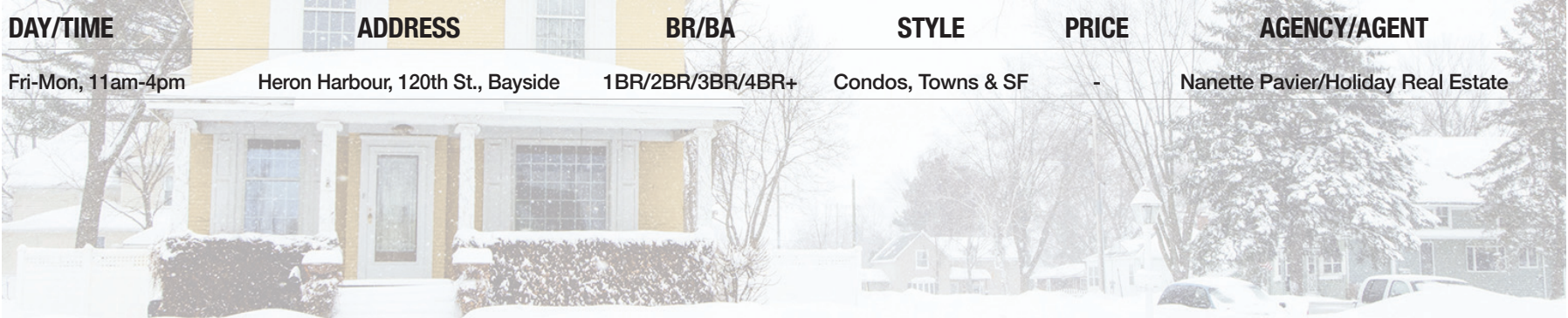


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Business Briefs

Joins AGH

Kerri Ellinger, PA-C, recently joined Atlantic General Health System to provide care at Atlantic General Women's Health in West Ocean City.



Kerri Ellinger

Ellinger earned her degree in physician assistant studies at State University of New York at Stony Brook and has over 25 years of experience. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Ellinger moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 2000 and since then has focused on women's health and urology. She is passionate about helping women at all stages of life take care of themselves – physically, emotionally and mentally.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling Atlantic General Women's Health at 443-728-1050.



Jennifer Merritt and snapper

New coordinator

The Lower Shore Land Trust announces that Jennifer Merritt has been hired as program and development coordinator.

Merritt brings over 10 years of non-profit experience to LSLT. She holds a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Her diverse experience includes leading teams performing aquatic biosampling on the Potomac River, serving as executive director for the Pocomoke Chamber of Commerce, and creating the successful application for the designation of the Crisfield Arts & Entertainment District as well as serving as the leadership for this District for four years.

She served as the circuit rider for the cities of Crisfield and Pocomoke, and through this position, as the assistant city manager for Crisfield. Merritt also served as the technical coordinator for the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, a role that involved both field work and grant writing and management.

Together with her husband, Rusty, she co-owns the business IT with Merritts, LLC. She lives in Pocomoke, where she enjoys gardening using native plants.

Reach Merritt at jmerritt@lower-shorelandtrust.org or by calling the office at 443-234-5587.

Lower Shore Land Trust is a nationally accredited 501(C)(3) nonprofit that is dedicated to preserving rural lands, promoting vibrant towns, and to building a healthier and more connected Eastern Shore.

Mancilla welcomed

Atlantic General Health System recently announced that Dr. Sandra Mancilla has joined Atlantic General Primary Care in Selbyville, Delaware, to provide primary care alongside Dr. Sally Dowling and Nurse Practitioner Kathleen Morris.



Sandra Mancilla

Mancilla has more than 14 years of clinical experience in community medicine and is fluent in both English and Spanish.

She completed her residency and internship in family medicine at Saint Francis Healthcare in Wilmington, Delaware, in addition to internships at General Military Hospital in Guadalajara, Mexico. Mancilla received her Doctor of Medicine from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, in Mexico.

She is board certified in family medicine and is a member of the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Mancilla cares for adults and children ages 4 and older. To schedule an appointment, call Atlantic General Primary Care in Selbyville at 302-436-8004.

New location

Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates recently relocated the Berlin office (formerly 314 Franklin Ave.) to a new space in Ocean Pines.

The new office address is: 11107 Cathage Road, Unit 101, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates Ocean Pines offers orthopaedic services, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

The new office is fully equipped with 17 spacious exam rooms, on-site DME and x-ray imaging, and offering a wide variety of orthopaedic specialties including: foot/ankle, wrist/hand, elbow/shoulder, hip, knee, sports medicine, joint replacement and urgent care/same-day appointments.

For more information, call 410-749-4154.

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OP Board reviews latest budget, fees drop

Directors consider approval for FY23 proposed figures in meeting on Wednesday

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Ocean Pines’ assessment fees for next year continue to dwindle with the proposed FY23 budget presented for Board of Directors approval on Wednesday. The new fee reflects a \$100 reduction from current charges.

General Manager John Viola had earlier recommended earmarking \$450,000 from prior year budget surplus, which would have knocked \$53 off assessment fees next year.

Last week, the latest budget documents upped the surplus contribution to \$650,000, which would result

in a onetime assessment reduction of \$77.

An estimated \$50,000 in higher revenues from golf greens and cart fees would cut \$6 off assessments, while increased profits in food sales cuts \$10 from previous FY23 figures.

At present, the proposed FY23 assessment rates are \$896 for non-water lots, down from \$996 this year, and \$1,344 for waterfront properties, down from \$1,494 at present.

Contingent on board approval, the new line item for assessment charges proposed by Viola would become a permanent feature.

Viola cautioned that the assess-



John Viola

ment line item would be dependent on the prior year performance and current status, which could serve to decrease or increase fees based on profitability.

Other changes to the proposed FY23 budget include an \$118,000 decrease in general replacement fund contributions. That cuts \$14 off assessments.

The reduction was based on results from a reserve balance study conducted by Design Management Associates.

Also, an \$100,000 decrease to pay down past bad debt, which peaked at \$1.6 million if FY18, shaves \$12 off assessments.

The proposed FY23 budget in-

cludes revenue projections of \$16.4 million, compared to current year estimates of \$18.08 million, representing a reduction of approximately \$1.6 million.

On the expense side, the FY 23 budget includes projections of \$16.4 million or roughly \$570,000 under current year estimates of \$16.9 million.

Bulkhead funding of approximately \$738,000 is included in FY23 budget figures, with roughly \$731,000 put aside for capital funding.

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

County approves bonds for sports complex and more

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) Another sports complex item, another 4-3 vote.

The Worcester County Commissioners narrowly approved proposed bond bills and official intent resolution this week to finance several projects through General Obligation Bonds on Feb. 15.

As usual, Commissioners Chip Bertino, Jim Bunting and Ted Elder comprised the opposition.

The projects include \$11.2 million for a sports complex, \$10 million for the Stephen Decatur Middle School addition, \$2 million to Snow Hill Middle School and Cedar Chapel School roof replacements, \$3 million for a public safety logistical storage facility, \$11 million for phase two of the jail improvement project and \$3.6 million for the water and wastewater project in the Ocean Pines Service Area.

Each project is considered one that the county intends to complete “in the near term,” according to a memo from county finance officer Phil Thompson.

The official intent resolution will enable the county to use the bond proceeds to reimburse expenses incurred for each project prior to the issuance of bonds, Thompson wrote.

A general obligation bond is a type of municipal bond that is backed by the credit and taxing power of the

government issuing it, in this case, the Worcester County government. Funds for these bonds are typically furnished with tax revenue. The essence of issuing such a bond is the belief that the projects at hand will eventually turn into a revenue stream and pay for themselves.

And that’s where the difference on the commissioners’ board focused.

“Currently, the property is not in the town of Berlin. It’s county property. I would assume we’re going to have to figure out how we’re going to handle it with sewer and water (and other necessities),” Bunting said. “I don’t know how we’re going to advance with a sports complex when we don’t know anything. And it may be the best thing in the world. But without knowing what it’s going to cost, we don’t have any definite facts that prove this will make one penny. These are all just thoughts, everybody’s ideas. I can’t support it.”

Bertino offered a similar take, saying the process is moving too fast.

“I understand what you’re (Thompson) asking and I don’t think it comes as any surprise that I’m not going to support this, with the sports complex included in there,” he said. “We haven’t vetted that; we have no planning. With all of the things we’ve talked about before, I think it’s premature to say that we’re going to spend taxpayer dollars without a public hearing on that particular item. We don’t have a land partnership, none of that stuff.”

A public hearing will occur on March 15 for the subsequent bond legislation before the process can proceed.



Chip Bertino



Jim Bunting

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County backs shore member to Kirwan board

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Feb. 24, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners gave their unanimous and emphatic support to HB633 on Feb. 15, a bill that would require the Kirwan Commission’s 11-member Accountability and Implementation Board to implement “geographic diversity in membership,” according to the bill’s language.

In other words, it would give the Eastern Shore a seat at the table, which to this point has not happened. The bill, sponsored by Del. Jefferson Ghrist of District 36, calls for the board to be comprised of one member each from Western and Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore and one member from each of the five counties with the largest student populations — Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. County Chief Administrative Offi-

cer Weston Young said it is unclear at present how the legislation would affect sitting members on the board — whether anyone would lose their seat or if ultimately it would simply add seats. “How that would be determined, is to be determined,” Young said. Commissioner Josh Nordstrom made no bones about this legislation being a priority. “This shouldn’t even be necessary,” he said. “There should be someone from the Eastern Shore on all of these commissions, especially one as important as this. So I’m absolutely in favor and (I commend) Del. Ghrist and the Eastern Shore delegation for backing him up.” Commissioner Chip Bertino went a step further than what the letter asks for and said that there shouldn’t just be a member from the Eastern Shore, but, specifically, one from Worcester County. “However we do it, (I make a) strong recommendation that someone from Worcester County sit on it because we’re the most affected by the unfairness of the funding for-

mula,” Bertino said. “We bear the largest brunt as taxpayers when it comes to funding for education and the Kirwan Commission has done absolutely nothing to lighten our load, even though they were chartered to do that at the beginning.” “We should have a Worcester County representative sitting up there.” The Kirwan Commission was established to suggest policy recommendations that would enable Maryland schools to perform at the highest levels attainable and to address the state’s funding formula for schools. In Maryland, a county’s taxable base plays a central role in determining funding for each county’s public school system. Worcester County, which has one of the highest taxable

bases in the state but also one of the lowest tax rates, consistently sees some of the lowest school funding figures in the state, owing to that high tax base, which is greatly affected by property value in Ocean City. The county commissioners and the Worcester County Board of Education have argued that the issue with the state’s formula is that it doesn’t serve the county’s year-round and largely low-income population and instead bases the county’s funding on numbers that are inflated by more affluent and often nonresident property owners. While the state maintains that the county should increase its tax rates to address funding woes, the county contends that doing so would unfairly burden residents further who already struggle to make ends meet.

Spring rehearsals for Pine Tones Chorus set for March

(Feb. 24, 2022) The Pine Tones Chorus will begin its weekly spring rehearsals on Thursday, March 3, at 1 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The group welcomes potential new members to come and join the singing. Both ladies and gentlemen of all parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass, are invited. The chorus musical style can be described as “easy listening.” Songs from movies, Broadway shows, and traditional tunes from Irving Berlin and Cole Porter are styles typically included in the Pine Tones programs. The Pine Tones have been present-

ing concerts in the spring and in December for more than 35 years. This year’s spring concert is scheduled for Sunday, June 5. The chorus also sings at various community events such as ceremonies at the Worcester Veterans Memorial. For additional information, call Karen McClure, 703-727-0528, or June Todd, 443-880-3922. Funding for chorus activities comes from patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

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WPS students present WYFCS check, gifts

(Feb. 24, 2022) Worcester Preparatory School students Dylan and Hunter Simons, along with Jayden and Dillon Scopp, recently presented a \$1,000 check to Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services.

In addition, they also provided the organization with a TV donated by the Scopp family and game system donated by classmate Ryan Lenox and family.

It all started with a GoFundMe campaign to benefit the WYFCS that kicked off in the beginning of December, and met its goal of \$1,000 in just four days.

The Simons and Scopp siblings teamed up to create a fundraiser on the GoFundMe website to raise money for WYFCS during the holiday season.

The students are focusing on facilitating positive outcomes for kids in need. It is their wish to provide the local youth a place to feel safe, and also have fun. The goal is to raise funds to create a grand and dynamic space for children by supplying them with smart TVs, video gaming system, and other kid-friendly games at the WYFCS facility located in Berlin.

“Everyone should feel special and loved especially during this holiday season,” Hunter Simons said.

Although the fundraiser has met the goal of \$1,000, it is still open for donations. The money raised will go directly to WYFCS where any donation makes an impact. The Simons and Scopp fam-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Preparatory School students Dylan and Hunter Simons, along with Jayden and Dillon Scopp, recently presented a \$1,000 check to Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services. They also provided the organization with a TV donated by the Scopp family and game system by classmate Ryan Lenox and family. Pictured, from left, are Lenox, Dylan Simons, Dr. Jen Leggour of WYFCS and her son, Jax, Jayden and Dillon Scopp, and Hunter Simons.

ilies are asking anyone able to chip in to help make the facility a happier, and more stimulating environment for local youth.

“We hope other kids will want to join us, and giving back will become contagious,” Dylan Simons said.

To donate visit <https://gofund.me/b08c67eb>.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. (WYFCS) is a non-profit organization serving the community since 1975. WYFCS has been at the heart of what is really happening in the families and homes in Worcester County by reaching the people who need help.

Through programs that include comprehensive Mental Health Counsel-

ing, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Youth Mentoring, Family Resource Navigation, and Youth Camps and Groups, WYFCS is increasing awareness about mental health, advocating for abused and neglected children, providing community resources and education, and truly making a difference in the lives of the people in the community.

Worcester Prep ‘Shrek The Musical’ staged Feb. 25-26

(Feb. 24, 2022) Worcester Preparatory School presents “Shrek The Musical” on Friday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

The Upper School students, parents and teachers are working hard, and having fun with this show. All tickets purchased in advance are \$12. Tickets purchased at the door will be

\$15.

Tickets can be purchased from Debbie Taylor, located in the Middle and Upper School Office, during school hours (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) Tickets are also available on the school’s website at www.worcester-prep.org/arts/musical-tickets. Tickets purchased online will be available for pick-up at the door on the night of the show.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OP Quilters by the Sea Guild continues nonprofit support

(Feb. 24, 2022) Founded in 1985, the Quilters by the Sea Guild of Ocean Pines has grown from a small operation among friends and volunteers to a busy branch of the community.

Last year, the Quilters donated 451 handmade items to more than a dozen different organizations, including Believe in Tomorrow, Coastal Hospice, the Cricket Center, Diakonia, and Women Supporting Women.

Jo Anne Donnelly, assistant volunteer coordinator, joined the group in 1996. She always enjoyed sewing and made her first quilt in 1986.

“The group was very small back then and we were very limited, time wise,” she said. “We used to work out of the old community center and our volunteer day was only three hours.”

Now, the Quilters meet for five

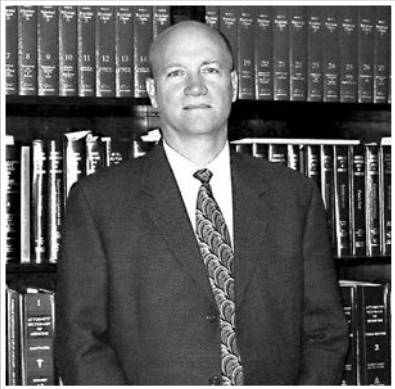
See QUILTERS Page 12

Founded in 1985, the Quilters by the Sea Guild of Ocean Pines has grown from a small operation among friends and volunteers, to a busy, bustling branch whose love of quilting and giving spirit benefits an entire community.


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Quilters by the Sea Guild maintains tradition

Continued from Page 11
hours every Wednesday in the As-sateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

“We’ve really grown, and I’ve been very active since the very beginning in the volunteer day,” Donnelly said. “That is something I’ve really enjoyed.”

The Quilters host volunteer day on the first Wednesday of each month, when anyone can show up and work on items to be donated to local charities. Since 1986, the group has given away more than 2,000 quilts.

Second Wednesdays are “UFO” days, short for “unfinished objects,” when the focus is on individual work and fellowship with other guild members. Third Wednesdays are for general business meetings, and fourth Wednesdays feature workshops and guest speakers.

“It’s really very active and I enjoy all the different projects,” Donnelly said. “Everybody is friendly and it’s a great thing for people in Ocean Pines to do.”

Donnelly’s sister, Stephanie Dil-

worth, is the chief volunteer coordinator. She said among the items donated last year were 117 soft pillows that cover seatbelts, given to breast cancer survivors through Women Supporting Women.

Dilworth said the Quilters received a grant last year from Choptank Electric Cooperative for the Believe in Tomorrow Children’s Foundation, an organization that helps young people with terminal illnesses. Those funds helped produce 39 quilts for the non-profit, which is based in Ocean City.

“This year, the American Legion, Post #166, Ocean City, MD gave us a grant to make patriotic-themed quilts for veterans, and most of those are given to Coastal Hospice,” she said. “They have a little ceremony when we give the quilts to them, and we’ve donated 10 so far, since we got the grant.”

The guild also donates items to the Berlin Nursing Home, which houses about 15 veterans, Dilworth said. Other recent beneficiaries have included foster children through The Cricket Center in Berlin, area homeless through Diakonia in Ocean City,

and individuals and families struggling with addiction through Worcester Goes Purple.

“Every once in a while, we’ll also do something special for a member who is sick, or the friend of a member, where we’ll just make and give them quilts” Dilworth said.

“I like all the aspects of the guild, but the giving is very near and dear to my heart,” she added.

Jacqui Santangelo is the current Quilters by the Sea president. She moved to Ocean Pines in 2017 and was previously active in a similar club in Pennsylvania.

Last year, Santangelo said the Quilters stayed active through Zoom meetings.

“Of course, we were sewing like mad, making masks,” she said. “Everybody made hundreds and hundreds of masks for Mountaire Farms, because they didn’t have enough masks. Some people also gave them to first responders, or anybody who requested them.

“That was a tough year, but we continued to make and donate quilts,

and we stayed connected through little workshops,” Santangelo added.

Resuming activities this year has also meant resuming the giving tradition.

Along with handmade items, Guild members this year donated canned goods to Diakonia and Sarah’s Pantry, to help feed local children struggling with food insecurity, as well as toiletries to the Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health in Berlin. Quilters also donated more than 100 toys to Toys for Tots during a recent Christmas party.

“It feels good to give a little more,” Santangelo said. “Not only are we keeping people warm with quilts, but we’re giving them something to eat to warm their bellies, and we’re helping out in any way we can.”

For information about joining Quilters by the Sea, email qbsope-mail@gmail.com or attend any volunteer day, the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

The group also accepts monetary donations, as well as donations of materials.

“We need backings mostly, so that’s larger yardage,” Dilworth said. “It should be 100 percent cotton, and I don’t turn down anything that’s quilting related.”

For more information, search “Quilters by the Sea Guild of Ocean Pines Maryland” on Facebook.

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Community Briefs

Dean’s List

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

College of William & Mary: Maeve Donahue, Berlin; Carey Hickman, Pocomoke City; and Mohammad Ali, Snow Hill.

In order to achieve dean’s list status, a full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

Hood College: Samantha Hill (’22) and McKayla Staley (’25), both of Berlin.

The dean’s list recognizes degree-seeking students who completed at least six semester hours of Hood work with at least a 3.5 semester GPA.

Dickinson College: James van Kuilenburg, Berlin, a junior history and women’s, gender & sexuality studies major; Drew Haueisen, Snow Hill, a sophomore quantitative economics and mathematics major.

All students earning a position on the dean’s list must have a grade-point average of 3.7 or above on a 4.0 GPA scale for the semester.

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Opinion

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

School mask decision moving to local board

The Worcester County Board of Education, like every other school board in the state, is waiting for the General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive & Legislative Review to approve the state Board of Education’s decision to end the public school mask mandate.

The 20-member review committee, which ensures that proposed regulations don’t run afoul of the state’s legal standards is set to meet virtually at 2:30 p.m. Friday and will undoubtedly follow the board’s recommendation.

There’s no reason for it not to, considering the state school board made clear that Maryland’s high vaccination rate and dropping number of infections have made one-size-fits-all regulation unwarranted.

The board has said the time has come for local jurisdictions to make their own decisions based on their local circumstances. That, however, could be more than a notion, depending on the county.

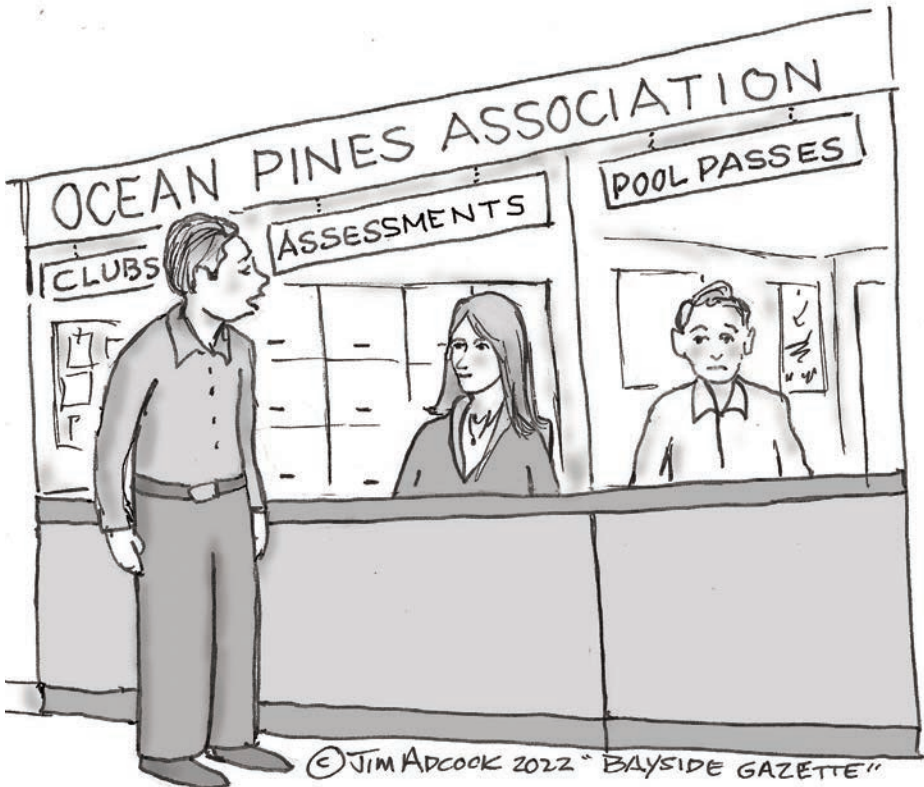
Whether the review committee rules now or later is almost beside the point. The authority to enforce school regulations rests entirely with the state school superintendent, and since it was Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury who recommended the masking rule change, it isn’t likely that he will respond harshly if a local board acts a little prematurely.

Even so, the Worcester County Board of Education still faces a difficult situation. Now it will have to face the cacophony of conflicting demands and opinions from parents, teachers and advisors before deciding how to proceed.

The state mandate, at least, insulated local boards from that when it took control of that debate last fall, and its departure from the discussion puts county boards back on their own.

That’s good from the perspective of maintaining local autonomy, but board members undoubtedly know they will be walking a tightrope between varying schools of thought.

On the positive side, however, is that no matter what the Worcester board decides, the school year will end in three-and-a-half months or so, and that will be that.



“Can I pay my assessment fee with Bitcoin?”

Beach Lacrosse registration open

Sign up for youths up to eighth grade runs until March 1

(Feb. 24, 2022) The 2022 Beach Lacrosse season is right around the corner and registration is now open to all ages, pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade, until March 1.

Beach Lacrosse board members are hoping to see registration numbers grow, encouraging more kids to fall in love with America’s oldest sport.

“It’s a new year and a perfect time for kids to get excited about a new season with Beach Lacrosse,” said

Beach Lacrosse Vice President Jenny Carven. “Whether you are new to the sport or an experienced player, we thrive on fair, inclusive play that forms a fun, sportsmanlike environment for all ages.”


The season will open the week of March 7, with practices at Worcester County’s Northern Athletic Complex. Along with practices, games are held on Saturdays, beginning the first weekend in April through mid-May. “Beach Lacrosse belongs to the Eastern Shore Youth Lacrosse Association (ESYLA) and plays teams across the Eastern Shore,” Carven said. “Whether it’s

developing new skills during practices or being challenged during games against our ESYLA opponents, we are proud that our Beach Lacrosse Club participants are enjoying the highest levels of competitive recreational lacrosse while also developing lifelong friendships.”

Beach Lacrosse is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to the growth of youth lacrosse on the lower shore of Maryland and Delaware.

To learn more, or to get involved as a volunteer, visit www.beachlax.org, or contact beachlacrosse@yahoo.com.

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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OP Players Radio Air Waves March 1

(Feb. 24, 2022) The Ocean Pines Players announces the first 2022 production featuring the cast of its Radio Air Waves group.

Gather friends and family and prepare to step back in time to the Golden Age of Radio Shows as the Players perform two shows from the era on March 1.

The event will take place at the Ocean City American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Avenue. Tickets cost \$10 (cash or check) and will be available at the entrance door on 24th Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Six-person table seating will be available.

The Ocean Pines Players values diversity and inclusion in casting and all other areas of the organization. For more general information on the Ocean Pines Players, follow the group on Facebook or visit www.oceanpinesplayers.com.

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

Chesapeake Conservation offers internships

Applications due March 3 for Lower Shore Land Trust program helping nonprofits

(Feb. 24, 2022) The Lower Shore Land Trust is seeking qualified candidates for internship and Chesapeake Conservation Corps opportunities.

Application due March 3: Chesapeake Conservation Corps Members at Lower Shore Land Trust:

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps places young adults with nonprofits or government agencies to work full time in the environmental field for a one-year term.

Throughout the year young professionals manage projects and programs at their host organization and

receive leadership and professional development training, mentorship, a network of young professionals, and other skill-building opportunities including networking and grant writing.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust anticipates placing around 30-35 Corps Members at host organizations throughout the Chesapeake Bay region for a paid year of service (\$20,500) beginning on Aug. 16.

Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is looking to host two Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) members for the 2022-2023 term:

The restoration coordinator will work on habitat and water quality projects ranging from residential scale, congregation lands, and larger landscape-scale projects. They will

have the opportunity to learn about and work on the planning and implementation of at least one tree planting project.

As a member of the restoration team, the Corps Member will assist in the planning efforts for pollinator/quail habitat projects on rural lands, work on smaller projects through the One Water Partnership, and invasive species.

The outreach coordinator will learn about and participate in implementation of various restoration activities, including pollinator meadows, rain barrel workshops, and invasive species removal and contribute to the development of educational materials for LSLT publications Land Connections and Field Notes, content for online publi-

cations and social media platforms, and development of social media and outreach plans and schedules related to restoration and land protection activities and environmental events to target audiences.

Applications are due by March 3 at 4 p.m. and must be submitted through the Trust's online system. To learn more about the program, positions being offered, and how to apply go to <https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-conservation-corps/apply/>

Lower Shore Land Trust is seeking interns for the spring semester (paid position or for credits) to provide support in its pollinator and native plant programming.

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See CHESAPEAKE Page 17

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Optimist Club presents art awards to county students

(Feb. 24, 2022) Students from Worcester County high schools recently received awards in the annual art competition sponsored by the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club.

A total of 27 entries were submitted for the contest and are showcased in the exhibition held at the Worcester County Arts Council's Gallery in Berlin.

The selection of artwork accepted for the competition, including original paintings and drawings, was judged by former art educator, Gloria Richards.

The competition offered a total of \$1,350 in cash prizes to the student artists.

Awards in the painting category were presented to: first place, Izzy Huber, Worcester Preparatory School; second place, Kayla Halbig, Stephen Decatur High School; third place, Cadie Littleton, Stephen Decatur High School; and honorable mention, Alyssa Garner, Snow Hill High School.

In the drawing category, awards were given to: first place, Jacob Payne, Pocomoke High School; second place, Aria Islam, Worcester Preparatory School; third place, Briannah Shockley, Snow Hill High School; honorable mention, Nadia Bullock, Stephen Decatur High School.

People's Choice Award was presented to Payne.

The exhibit of students' work will be on display at the Arts Council's Gallery until Feb. 27. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Lower Shore Land Trust has partnered with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy thanks to a grant from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Cornell Lab)'s Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative Small Grant Program. The \$5,000 award will be used to develop a six-part bird conservation series. Pictured is an Indigo Bunting. PHOTO COURTESY MAREN GIMPLE, FOREMAN'S BRANCH BIRD OBSERVATORY

ES Land Conservancy, Lower Shore Land Trust bird series

(Feb. 24, 2022) Lower Shore Land Trust announces a partnership with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy thanks to a grant from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Cornell Lab)'s Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative Small Grant Program.

The \$5,000 award will be utilized to develop a six-part bird conservation series to be held from January to August of 2022, highlighting various bird conservation and restoration practices across the Delmarva Peninsula.

The series will also promote opportunities for engaging new and existing volunteers in meaningful stewardship of conservation lands through the lens of bird conservation.

ESLC and LSLT will be planning events that highlight the expertise and efforts of Audubon MD-DC, Washington College Natural Lands Project, Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Delaware Wild Lands, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, and the Delmarva Birding Weekend.

The Delmarva Peninsula is a vulnerable peninsula, with the Chesapeake Bay to the west and Coastal Bays and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The peninsula hosts a variety of critical ecosystem habitat and supports a plethora of habitats ranging from forest interior, grasslands, wetlands and saltmarsh habitat. Unfortunately, habitat loss from sea level rise and development, along with large-scale changes in farming practices, have contributed to the declines in a variety of bird species that were once plentiful on the coastal landscape, such as saltmarsh sparrow, seaside sparrow, black rail, and bobwhite quail.

This conservation series will highlight regional restoration efforts being implemented by conservation partners through discussions of restoration practices and trainings geared toward land trust members and volunteers, as well as

See SMALL Page 17

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CREP participants may apply to sell easement to Wor.

(Feb. 24, 2022) Worcester County is accepting applications from landowners interested in participating in Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) through the voluntary sale of an easement to Worcester County.

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that restricts the land in perpetuity. A CREP easement would make the conservation practices established by a CREP contract permanent.

The remainder of the parcel would be required to remain permanently in forestry or other agricultural use. Eligible properties must be enrolled currently or eligible to enroll in the USDA's CREP contract. CREP practices include stream buffers, grass plantings, and/or shrub and tree planting on eligible agricultural land.

Payment is a one-time, per-acre payment determined by a variety of factors.

Over 600 acres in Worcester County are permanently protected with a CREP conservation easement.

Worcester County landowners interested in learning more about this and other land conservation options may contact Katherine Munson, Worcester County Department of Environmental Programs, at 410-632-1220, extension 1302.

Chesapeake Corps internship program open to applicants

Continued from Page 14

ment of its native plant guide and other publications as needed, and event planning for the Native Plant Sale and the Pollinator Garden Tour.

Outreach and Restoration - For candidates looking for more hands-on activities, this position includes a restoration aspect in garden installation and maintenance, working with volunteers on garden cleanup, spring planting, basic restoration design and implementation, educational materials. This internship could take place spring or summer.

For more information contact Suzanne Ketcham at sketcham@lowershorelandtrust.org. For more information about the Lower Shore Land Trust visit lowershorelandtrust.org.

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Expungement clinic held March 8

(Feb. 24, 2022) The Worcester County Library is offering a free expungement clinic in partnership with Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services, March 8, from 4-6 p.m. at the Ocean City Library, 10003 Coastal Highway.

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

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and to bring with them the follow-

ing: income information for all members of the household; the value of house and car (if own either); and the amounts in checking, savings, and/or investment accounts. Once the required forms are complete, a paralegal and an attorney will guide attendees through the expungement process.

"The library is pleased to offer an event that removes a barrier to employment and job advancement while opening opportunities for a greater array of work choices," said Adult Program Manager Elena Coelho. "People who have participated tell us that this

event relieved stress about work and they feel more confident when applying for jobs."

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

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

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

Small bird grant program awarded

Continued from Page 16

interested members of the community.

Through these focused programs, which include bird banding demonstrations and birding walks, partners aim to increase awareness of the challenges to bird populations and of the actions being implemented to counter these declines.

Existing conservation easement

landowners will gain insight and knowledge as to how their land plays a role in the larger picture of restoration efforts, and whether their property might have potential to be enrolled in the highlighted restoration projects.

Individuals within local communities can become more involved with local land trusts and will have the opportunity

to learn how to become more involved with conserved lands.

For questions about this series, contact: Larisa Prezioso, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy restoration specialist, at lprezioso@eslc.org; or Kate Patton, Lower Shore Land Trust executive director, at kpattton@lowershorelandtrust.org

Town of Berlin Public Notices

OCD-2/24/2t



NOTICE of a Public Hearing

Pursuant to The Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Mayor & Council will hold a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Text Amendment to the Town Code at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

Proposed Text Amendments for Authorization of Crematorium as Conditional Use on M-1A Industrial Property

- "Sec. 108-5. - Definitions
Crematorium defined: a building containing furnace(s) for cremating dead human bodies"
- "Sec 108-163. - Conditional uses, variances and special exceptions.
- (c) Within any M-1A Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in Section 108-5."
- (d) the old (c) will then become the new (d)
- "Sec. 108-518. - Conditional uses.
- (4) In any M-1A Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in Section 108-5."



NOTICE of a Public Hearing

Pursuant to the Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Text Amendment to the Town Code at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 5:30 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

Proposed Text Amendment
I hereby propose to amend Section 108-403 of the Berlin code to allow fee simple townhouse dwellings with the following lot and area requirements:

1. Minimum lot size - 2,000 square feet;
2. Minimum lot width - 18 feet;
3. Front yard setback - 20 feet;
4. Rear yard setback -25 feet;
5. Side yard setback - 0 feet along party wall and 8 feet on the end units.

If a townhouse project is developed as allowed herein, the density shall remain calculated as set forth for "All Dwellings" (Minimum Lot Area (square feet) is 5,000).

OCD-2/24/2t



TOWN OF BERLIN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP # 2022-01 Smart Meter Equipment Procurement

Due Date: March 22, 2022
Time: 10:00 AM EST

The Town of Berlin is seeking Proposals for the procurement and delivery of the necessary equipment including smart meters, transmitters, data collectors, all software & hardware required for meter upgrades, mobile meter readers, electronic tablets, and appurtenances, for the Town of Berlin's Smart Meter Upgrade Project. The Smart Meter Upgrade project scope includes upgrading all Town owned water meters to smart meters and any necessary appurtenances, including coordination with the Town, the Town's meter installation contractor, and the Town's Meter Reading and Billing systems provider (Tyler Technologies) for startup and testing of all smart meter reading and billing systems. Qualified suppliers are encouraged to visit the Town of Berlin website at berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/ or contact Town Administrator Jeffrey Fleetwood at 410-641-4002 or jfleetwood@berlinmd.gov for the official RFP. EEO.

OCD-2/24/1t



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMENDATIONS

The Worcester County Commissioners in November, present commendations to honor Worcester Technical High School students who earned gold medals in eight individual and team categories during the SkillsUSA Maryland Virtual State Championship last April. Those pictured include Advisor Crystal Bunting, left, with students Matt Burns, Aryavir Sangwan and Myra Cropper, Advisors Rick Stephens and Denise Coston, student Jessica Beck, and Advisor Tammy Hearne; and in second row, students Jeff Eichelberger and William Kozma, Commissioners Bud Church, Jim Bunting and Joe Mitrecic, and student Jacob Yankalunas; and Commissioners Diana Purnell, Ted Elder, Josh Nordstrom and Chip Bertino, Superintendent of Schools Louis Taylor, and WTHS Principal Tom Zimmer.

OFFERS THANKS

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tim Lund, left, presents a check, in appreciation of his weekly service to the group, to Ocean Pines employee Norbert Violante. PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRAFTERS RECOGNIZED

The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines chose Terry and Bill Lobecker as the February Crafters of the Month. The couple have been married for 47 years. After retiring, they decided to move from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, down to the shore. Looking to fill their spare time in retirement they decided to make and sell craft items. Terry enjoys making wreaths, bracelets and dog leashes. More recently, she started to make essential oil scented soaps. Bill makes home décor wood items including signs, buoys and other items. He also hand pours scented candles. To see the Lobecker's items and work of other crafters in the group, visit the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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KIWANIS TOY DRIVE
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City held its annual Toy Drive in November. Pictured are Worcester GOLD Director Nicholas Cranford, left, and Kiwanis Toy Drive Chair Dave Landis. PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

Phillips Crab House, 2022
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Cuisine

Picanha served with roasted vegetables

One of the most frustrating parts of being a chef is finding that beautiful “Lesser Cut” of meat that no one knows about yet, and then all of a sudden everyone knows about it.



but with all the tenderness of a filet mignon.

When it hit the industry around 2002, we could buy it for around \$2.95/pound, making it a profitable addition to the menu.

Then, some food network started touting its wonderful flavors and properties, and the next thing we knew, it was \$7.95/pound.

The same thing could be said for flank steak after WWII.

With our boys and girls returning home from war, there was a boom in the housing market, with mortgages becoming readily available for GIs. And, in every backyard was a grill. And on every grill was a flank steak.

Well, that was at least until demand far outweighed demand. You see, just like the Teres Major, there are only two flanks on a 1,400-pound steer. This limited cut paired with its popularity raised the bar and, consequently, the price.

And now we have Picanha, hands down my favorite cut of meat to grill and serve. This comes from the sirloin cap, or coulotte in butcher's terms.

A fat-laden cut, it has tremendous flavor, and if treated properly, it is tender as can be. When I cook mine, I like to skewer it as you would find at Brazilian steakhouses — you know the ones where they walk around with swords of meat?

Yes, those steakhouses, and they are using picanha. As you cut the steak with the grain initially, and curl it to skewer it, you are keeping the meat fibers stretched as they cook, and when you finally slice the meat against the grain, it will be almost as tender as a tenderloin, but with a great deal more flavor.

And the price? Well, it was affordable, but because of rising popularity, it is now becoming the next prized cut to obtain.

While it was only available to

knows about yet, and then all of a sudden everyone knows about it.

In the past, it was the Teres Major or beef clod, a cut isolated from the chuck that had all the flavor of this divine stewing chunk,



wholesale accounts a mere year ago, it is now becoming much more available to the public in grocery stores. And so it goes.

For this dish, I serve it on a vegetable stew of sorts. My brother taught me years ago to buy as much sweet corn as I wanted to deal with in the summertime, and then remove the kernels and freeze them to use all winter long.

It is a mighty fine trick, as nothing replicates that sweet corn flavor. Cooked down with a nice wine and stock combination, there are a great many flavors at work in this composition.

A favorite vegetable of mine to serve here is the Mexican BBQ Onion. You can find them in most local Latin markets, and their flavor is somewhere in between a scallion and a white onion.

First seared, and then roasted to finish, there is a sweetness that lends itself well to the dish.

This cut of beef is a standard on my wedding menus. I have served it to thousands of guests and I doubt I will ever stop serving it. And as much as I shouldn't share this with you, you should add it to your repertoire this summer or now if you are grilling already.

And now the price just went up two dollars a pound. Oh, the things I do for my readers.

Picanha, Roasted Vegetables

- serves 4
- 4 ea. 6 oz. Picanha steaks
 - 1 stick butter, clarified
 - Trimix or Steak seasoning, as needed
 - 2 ea. Large Mexican BBQ onions, halved
 - 4 ea. Medium carrots, peeled and halved
 - 2 ea. Roma tomatoes
 - 2 c. Fresh kale, cleaned and ribs removed
 - 1/4 c. Fresh or freshly frozen corn kernels
 - 1/2 c. Fava beans, peeled
 - 1/2 c. Red wine
 - 1/2 c. Good veal or beef stock
- It is probably easier to pull up a video on how to properly prepare a picanha, but I'll do my best.
 - Trim the fat cap to 1/4-inch and then cut the steaks 2 inches thick with the grain. It is critical that it is with the grain at this point.
 - Curl the steaks into a U so that you can spear them at the ends with a heavy-duty metal skewer. This

stretches the muscle fibers as the meat cooks, and that it what keeps it tender at the end.

- To finish, simply brush the steaks with the butter, season and grill to the temperature of your liking (rare to medium rare).
- Allow steaks to rest for at least five minutes.
- Now is when you will slice the steak against the grain. At the end of the day, you will have the most tender of tender sirloin.
- For the vegetables, Get a pan hot and sear the carrots and BBQ onions. Remove to a baking sheet and finish in the oven until tender.
- In the same pan, add the Roma tomatoes, kale, corn, fava beans, wine and reduce by half.
- Add the stock and reduce all down to a nice glaze or syrupy consistency.
- Season to taste and serve the steak atop the vegetable “stew” and then top the steak with the carrot and onion. And Bob's your uncle.

—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; www.boxcaronmain.com

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

Call **410-723-6397**
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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

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HELP WANTED

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Greens Landscaping: 410-
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TOWN OF BERLIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

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The Town of Berlin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Superintendent. This position is responsible for daily, hands-on supervising of the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of all town streets; planning, coordinating and administering the Town's refuse collection and recycling program; supervising crews providing services for Town sponsored and related events. The Public Works Superintendent is also responsible for advising the Director of Public Works on the proper use of traffic signage; maintaining departmental safety standards; serving as the Town's representative on advisory committees; managing and maintaining park property and equipment; and supervising department employees. The successful candidate will possess an Associate's Degree in Construction Management or related degree; or equivalent combination of training and experience; at least five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in the field of public works or construction management, at least three (3) of which shall have been at the supervisory level; ability to read and interpret building and engineering plans and specifications and enforce regulations associated with the disposal of waste and the operation of the Town's recycling program. Must be able to inspect streets; be computer literate with Microsoft Office; possess exceptional written and oral communication, reading and math skills necessary to perform administrative duties with accuracy. Municipal government experience in public works is preferred. Salary will be dependent on qualifications.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a confidential Town of Berlin application for employment, a resume, and three professional references to the Town's Administrative Manager at kjensen@berlinmd.gov. Applications can be found at www.berlinmd.gov.

TOWN OF BERLIN
10 WILLIAMS STREET, BERLIN, MD 21811
410-641-2770
EOE M/F/V/D



The Castle in the Sand Hotel & Barefoot Mailman Hotel

are currently seeking applicants for the following positions for the 2022 season:

Castle in the Sand

- Front desk agents • Night auditor • PM desk manager
- Please contact Bob at 410-289-6846 for further information or to schedule an interview.

Coconuts Beach Bar & Grill

- ALL positions

Please contact Jeff at 410-289-6846 for further information or to schedule an interview.

Experienced applicants are preferred, but not required.
We require a satisfactory pre-employment background check by all applicants.

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

We are currently looking to hire a Curriculum Coordinator for Worcester Preparatory School.

The Curriculum Coordinator provides leadership for Worcester Preparatory School's curriculum and teacher development across all grade levels. This includes working with the administration and faculty to plan and design comprehensive, school-wide curriculum and foster instructional best practices which meet the college preparatory mission of the school. This position works with the administration and faculty to coordinate and articulate curriculum throughout the school while providing input on the selection of textbooks and digital/learning materials, as well as coordinating professional development opportunities and instructional resources.

The Curriculum Coordinator will focus on maintaining the present high-quality curriculum, while helping to adjust the program accordingly to meet the future needs of students. Master's degree or higher preferably in administration/supervision/curriculum. Minimum of 5 years teaching experience (preferably in independent school education).

Employee must be legally qualified to work in the United States. Employee must pass a background check conducted by a neutral third party. References will be contacted and all information provided will be verified.



Please contact
Linda Watson 410-641-3575 or
lwatson@worcesterprep.org

Year Round - Full Time HELP WANTED

Central Reservations is a busy vacation rental company seeking a rental agent. Must be dependable, professional and have great customer service skills. Weekends are required.

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We have two busy rental offices. We are looking for someone who can train for a Office Management position in our Ocean City office. Vacation Rentals and some Year-Round Property Management.

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- ☐ Must work most weekends as needed
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Help Wanted.
Bottom Painter for West Ocean City Boat Yard. \$15 an hour. Call **410-213-1383**.

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Pipeline Contracting LLC is one of the area's premier home remodelers on the eastern shore serving Maryland & Delaware beaches and surrounding areas. We are looking to hire a **Crew Lead, Skilled Worker,** and a **Helper.** Please call to schedule interview, **410-208-1518.**

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Retired, Single Female seeking immediate year-round rental in Ocean City, Ocean Pines or Berlin area.
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2 Office/Retail Spaces available in West Ocean City. Each are approximately 1600 sq. ft.
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2-car garage for rent w/attached work room. Total 775 sq. ft.
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1994 19' Sunbird Bowrider, 115 hp Johnson (rebuilt in 2017), Ez-Loader bunk trailer. **Reduced to \$5,000. Call 410-213-1383.**

2013 22' Sunchaser Pontoon Boat, 115 hp Evinrude ETEC, no trailer. **Reduced to \$14,900. Call 410-213-1383.**

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Calendar

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

Thurs., Feb. 24

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

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME: ‘TEA PARTY RULES’
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Learn about a few tea party rules and listen to a cute story all about what a friend wants at theirs. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ADULT SHOW AND TELL
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Join the group to share objects of interest and the tales that come with them. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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 under “Events.” 410-632-2600

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

Fri., Feb. 25

ST. PATRICK’S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Adult Co-Rec and Over 30 Divisions, Teens Ages 15-18 years. \$400 per team. tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

BOOK TASTING
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 6 p.m. An evening of literary delights with a smorgasbord of titles to sample and local author discussions. Light refreshments served. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events” or call 410-957-0878.

WORCESTER PREP PRESENTS SHREK THE MUSICAL
Worcester Preparatory School, 508 S. Main St., Berlin, 6:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets: Debbie Taylor at the Middle and Upper School Office or www.worcesterprep.org/arts/musical-tickets.

Sat., Feb. 26

ST. PATRICK’S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Adult Co-Rec and Over 30 Divisions, Teens Ages 15-18 years. \$400 per team. tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET
Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet will include 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.

REACH THE BEACH NATIONALS: GRAND NATIONALS (DANCE)
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m. Cheerleading National Competition. Spectator pricing is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, 6-16 years, seniors and military. Children 5 years and younger admitted free. <https://www.varsity.com/acda/>, 877-322-2310

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.

DIY FLEECE PILLOW
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Make an Avocado fleece pillow using tie-knots. All materials provided. All ages welcome. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events” or call 410-208-4014.

WORCESTER PREP PRESENTS SHREK THE MUSICAL
Worcester Preparatory School, 508 S. Main St., Berlin, 3 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets: Debbie Taylor at the Middle and Upper School Office or www.worcesterprep.org/arts/musical-tickets.

ITALIAN TAKE-OUT DINNER
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Spaghetti with chicken parmesan or meatballs served with salad, garlic bread and dessert. Cost is \$18. Orders: 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com with name, phone number and dinner choices.

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. 27

ST. PATRICK’S SOCCER TOURNAMENT
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Adult Co-Rec and Over 30 Divisions, Teens Ages 15-18 years. \$400 per team. tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

Mon., Feb. 28

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.

WRITING FOR WELLNESS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness, may boost health & psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SUPER POWERED STEM: ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. You’ve been trapped in a fairy tale. Can you escape the Evil Queen’s spell? Live escape room challenge for ages 7 years and older. 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

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., March 1

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP
John H. ‘Jack’ Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 10-11 a.m. A cooperative

effort between AGH and local worship centers to increase health awareness. Also held via Zoom. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

STORY TIME ‘DR. SEUSS STORIES’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PARACHUTE GAMES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Play fun and active parachute games. For ages 2-5 years. 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. Each month is a different topic. Bring any questions. Feel free to show your plants as well. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ANNUAL PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DINNER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Each dinner includes pancakes, sausage and hash browns. Carryout only. Cost is \$7. All profit benefits youth. Kathy, 443-235-6761

OCEAN PINES PLAYERS PRESENT ‘RADIO AIR WAVES’
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. Step back in time to the golden age of radio shows. Tickets cost \$10 (cash or check) and available at the door. Seating is six-person tables. www.oceanpinesplayers.com

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

Wed., March 2

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Non-Surgical patients meet via Zoom. Contact the Atlantic General Hospital’s Bariatric office at 410-641-9568.

THE GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 a.m.-noon. Hearty breakfast and fellow-
Continued on Page 24

Puzzles

CHANGE OF HEART

BY DAVID STEINBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Steinberg, of Pacific Grove, Calif., is the puzzles and games editor for the Andrews McMeel Universal media company. The Universal Crossword, which he edits, appears in many newspapers, including The Seattle Times, The Boston Globe and The Philadelphia Inquirer. David's first crossword for The Times appeared in 2011, when he was 14. This is his 101st for the paper. — W.S.

Note: The middle letter of the answer to each starred clue can be replaced by a different letter to form two new words across and down. Read the new letters, in order, for a bonus.

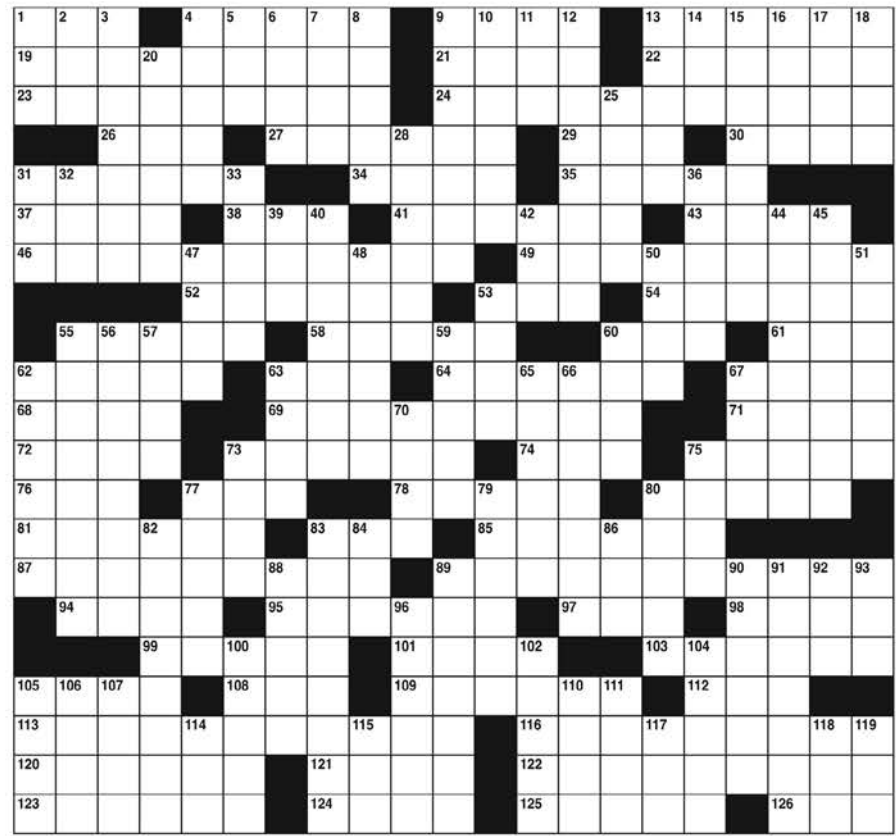
ACROSS
1 Bank offerings, in brief
4 Twists
9 Losing roll at dice
13 In itself
19 Piece played with four hands
21 Tart sorbet flavor
22 Kind of bed
23 *Opposite of endearing
24 *Freely expressive
26 Winter eaves dropper
27 Some attacks on castles
29 Día de ____ Muertos (Mexican holiday)
30 Stories that may or may not be true
31 12-year-olds, e.g.
34 Ballerina's bend
35 App whose icon features a camera, in slang
37 Aimee with two Grammys
38 Plank targets
41 Only trisyllabic rainbow color
43 Ferrari of automotive fame
46 *Communicating (with)
49 *Contracting
52 Acceptance principle of improv comedy

DOWN
53 2-year-old, e.g.
54 What may connect the parts of a school assignment?
55 "Who ____?"
58 Relative of an alpaca
60 "A Christmas Carol" cry
61 Dress in
62 Things people catch and then ride
63 Fifth sign
64 Actress Hepburn
67 Poke
68 Nickname in baseball and gossip columns
69 *Harsh language
71 Up
72 Loses firmness
73 Country with the most archaeological museums in the world (110+)
74 Brand seen at speedways
75 Cut off
76 French menu phrase
77 Sushi chef's eggs
78 Uncle for whom an annual award is supposedly named
80 Not so many
81 When nothing goes right
83 Dutch name starter
85 Frank Robinson or Brooks Robinson of the Baseball Hall of Fame
87 *Watered artificially
89 *Goes well with
94 Turn in a game

ACROSS
95 Canine coat
97 Instant, informally
98 Island with a trisyllabic name
99 Sat around
101 In the thick of
103 Ending remark that's surprising
105 Starting point
108 Suffix with labyrinth
109 Czar known as "the Great"
112 Once called
113 *Noisy disagreement
116 *Ordered
120 Service with a Capitol Corridor route
121 Promote aggressively
122 Without accompaniment
123 Crows
124 Ones in hills or farms
125 Luxury vessel
126 The dark side

DOWN
11 Bon ____
12 Instrument used in a medical checkup
13 Out of whack
14 Vessel with a hatch, informally
15 The "teardrop of India"
16 Not exceeding
17 "Dark Lady" hitmaker, 1974
18 ____ Park, N.Y.
20 Christianity's ____ Creed
25 Word with code or card
28 Good witch in Oz
31 "That's enough about your sex life!"
32 Pallid
33 Some have combinations
36 Like J, alphabetically
39 English majors' degs.
40 Having three unequal sides
42 Equal: Prefix
44 Outmoded storage device
45 Witness
47 Some breads
48 Smitten
50 British exclamation
51 One of three for German nouns, or one of four for those in Africa's Zande language
53 Like a tug-of-war rope
55 One may go off in the middle of the night

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



- 56 Scientist whose name is associated with a number

57 Wine list section

59 Heavy medieval weapons

60 Robot sound

62 Hot condiment

63 Italian bread that's no longer made

65 Comply with a peace treaty, maybe

66 Some camping excursions

67 "I'm relieved!"

70 H.S. subject

73 "La Tauromaquia" artist

75 Come off as

77 Went ballistic

79 "Easy there!"

80 Small particle

82 Binder inserts with tabs

83 Literally, "revenge"

84 Org. that evaluates toothbrushes

86 Good cheer

88 Singer ____ Marie

89 Joins firmly

90 Epoch when palm trees grew in Alaska

91 In an obvious way

92 All-time connector

93 Big ____

96 Plan in detail

100 Puppy "kisses"

102 Rot

104 Ill suited

105 9-5 automaker; once

106 Muppet who refers to himself in the third person

107 "At Last" singer James

110 Almond ____ (toffee brand)

111 Computer with a Pro model

114 Ship pest

115 H+ or I-

117 A ticket may be given for a high one: Abbr.

118 Man's name derived from the Bible

119 Man's name derived from the Bible

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Walk In

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HARD - 54

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

P	H	D		P	A	L	A	C	E		A	C	C	O	S	T		H	S	N				
R	I	O		A	V	A	T	A	R		Y	A	H	W	E	H		I	P	O	S			
E	G	O		R	E	B	E	L	A	L	L	I	A	N	C	E		T	A	R	A			
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DONATION
Wendy Myers, (now former) executive director of the Cricket Center in Berlin, and service dog, Josiah, spoke at the Kiwanis weekly meeting in November. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President-Elect Bob Wolfig, who presented a \$500 check. The center provides child and non-offending family members support, crisis intervention, trauma-based therapy and medical intervention.
PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



SUPPORT
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City supports its five Service Leadership Programs student Kiwanis Clubs in Worcester County schools. On Jan. 24, a check for \$500 was presented at Berlin Intermediate School. Pictured, from left, are BIS Principal Ryan Crowder; longtime BIS teacher advisor for the Builders Club, Jane Slotter; Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund and Kiwanis Club Advisor to the BIS Builders Club, Doreen O'Connor.
PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

Calendar

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ship. Cost is \$8 for dine-in or take-out. Dine-in price includes a one-time, re-order of breakfast. 410-289-9340, ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

STORY TIME: 'OUTER SPACE'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts all about space. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MARY PICKFORD
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Historical interpreter Elaine Flynn takes the audiences on a journey through Mary Pickford's life. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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, 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 on the topic of diabetes. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org

RAINBOW CRAFTS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:30 p.m. Learn about rainbows and make a couple of your own to take home. For ages 6 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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