



In The Pines

Election bylaws revisions spark strong protest

Speakers challenge rules on candidate eligibility

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) Granting more time for consideration or voting no for a host of proposed bylaw changes were the main messages residents sent to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors during a town hall on Saturday.

Communications Advisory Committee Chair Cheryl Jacobs moderated the hybrid meeting held at the Golf Clubhouse that was intended to solicit public comments.

The directors have spearheaded a comprehensive review of the bylaws, which were last revised in 2008.

Saturday's gathering was preceded by a special board meeting in early February when more than 30 changes were weighed and approved for inclusion on a referendum ballot.

Among the suggested revisions are several from Director Frank Daly regarding board candidate requirements and verification processes.

Daly had originally recommended prohibiting anyone with a felony conviction within 10 years of the filing date from running for director, while also proposing to ban their spouses from running as well.

During the board meeting on Feb. 7, Daly withdrew the spouse line, and agreed to amend the 10-year period for prohibiting board candidates with felony convictions to five years after restitution and

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Frank Daly



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LIFT-OFF

Hordes of seagulls descend in a flurry to swarm boat docks outside the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Sunday.

Berlin council sticking with '22 tax rate

Would net \$144K more over current year's revenue

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) Berlin officials appear ready to maintain the current real property tax rate for FY23, with a first hearing held during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

Financial Director Natalie Saleh said the proposed tax rate is 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value of real property within town limits.



Natalie Saleh

"The ordinance is introducing the current rate to be at the same as FY22," she said.

Saleh said the same rate applies for both residential and commercial properties.

"This rate is above current yield," she said.

The constant yield rate is the amount required to maintain revenues at the same figure as the prior year.

Saleh said the current yield, which is calculated each year by the state Department of Assessments and Taxation, is 78.6 cents, which is roughly 4 percent above the current real es-

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Crematorium awaits code change

Parties argue over project's appropriateness in town

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) A discussion of a proposed zoning amendment that would permit crematoriums in town as a conditional use resulted in a spirited disagreement at the Monday night meeting of the Berlin mayor



Jeff Fleetwood

designation means the party seeking permission under that rule would

and Town Council.

The amendment sought to revise the town zoning code to include crematoriums as a conditional use in districts zoned for light industrial uses.

The conditional use

need the approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Attorney Joel Todd, representing W. Kirk Burbage and Burbage Funeral Home, reviewed the proposal with the Planning Commission in December and January, with a subsequent favorable recommendation forwarded to the mayor and council.

Burbage Funeral Home is looking

See CREMATORIUM Page 4



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OP Elections Cmte. preps referendum mailer

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) Along with reviewing mailing materials for the Ocean Pines Association’s upcoming referendum, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee discussed procedural duties for the next board of directors’ contest at its meeting last Friday.

Committee Chair Carol Ludwig said design details of the referendum mailer is nearly complete. The piece includes more than two dozen proposed bylaws amendments.

“We’re trying to get people to fill the whole thing out,” she said.

Ludwig said for the referendum changes to pass, a majority of at least 40 percent of eligible voters would need to approve.

“The scanner does count the number of ballots,” she said. “Invalid ballots do count towards the return percentage.”

Committee member Mart Ann Whitcomb questioned the length of referendum materials and their 28 specific bylaw changes.

“If they look at how long it is, they might just throw it out,” she said.

Ludwig said referendum materials need to be finalized by March 14 ahead of a March 25 mailing deadline.

After referendum packages are

sent, Elections Committee members are tasked with answering questions.

“They leave messages on our voicemail,” she said. “We each take a week of calling voicemail to check.”

Ludwig said members would begin monitoring phone lines on March 27 with a new person assigned each week.

“The first week is probably the easiest,” she said. “The last week is usually the worst.”

Although not anticipating further language revisions, Ludwig said the list of questions would be finalized after a related town hall scheduled the next day.

“The format we send out has to end with a yes or no,” she said. “That’s why they call them questions.”

Ludwig noted less than 50 percent of the community’s residents receive association mailings at their Ocean Pines property.

“This is where the problem comes from,” she said.

Ludwig said questions stemming from voting eligibility are directed to Membership and Assessment Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer.

Whitcomb asked how to handle questions about specifics.

“What happens if people have questions about the content of ques-



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Spirited discussions and diligent note taking took place during the Ocean Pines Elections Committee meeting last Friday.

tions?” she said.

Ludwig said those should be directed to the board by emailing directors@oceanpines.org.

“We’re not the experts,” she said. “We’re not answering any questions on the content.”

Looking ahead, Ludwig said committee members would need to draft three questions for the next board candidate form by May 10.

“We suggest what those questions are,” she said.

Questions are often redundant

from year to year, with the exception of hot-button issues, Ludwig said.

Committee members will revisit the topic during its next meeting on April 1.

“Bring your ideas to the meeting,” she said.

Ludwig also updated the status of adopting electronic voting for board elections and referendums.

At this point, uncertainties remain over requiring membership approval to institute electronic voting.

See OP Page 8

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Crematorium needs ‘conditional use’ status

Continued from Page 1
to build a crematorium on a 1.6 acre parcel just off Main Street Extended near Route 50.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said a crematorium is defined as a building or facility containing furnaces for cremating dead human bodies.

“It’s a fairly simple text amendment,” he said. “It was aimed at one particular parcel that the Burbage Funeral Home owns.”

Engelhart said if the text amendment was approved, the project would still need the approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals before it could begin construction.

Objecting to the change were Jon Bulkeley and Bradford Kirby, with Frost Law representing Berlin Living LLC, which owns a large tract of ad-

jacent land.
Bulkeley’s concerns regarding the proposal included the need to regulate emissions and the impact the operation would have on nearby waterways.

“The question the mayor and council need to ask itself before going forward with any of this is do you want a crematorium at the gateway of the ‘Coolest Small Town in America?’” he said.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood replied that approving the amendment would not mean construction could begin on the project.

Bulkeley suggested the mayor and council should take more time to review the matter.

“This approach is more of a procedural backdoor to get this in,” he said. “Once it’s in the code, it’s an allowed

use.”
Kirby said the “character” of Berlin is an intangible aspect that adds value for residents.

“It’s not necessarily what you want to have directly next to one of the main thoroughfares that brings you into the Town of Berlin,” he said. “Everybody knows what’s going on in a crematorium and it’s an unpleasant thing to welcome you into the city.”

Kirby said building a crematorium facility would disincentivize development on adjacent parcels.

“I certainly wouldn’t want to build a house next to a crematorium,” he said.

While admitting the amendment approval is not specific to that property, Kirby said its passage would allow development plans to proceed.

“The reason that a crematorium

isn’t specified already as a permissible use is when the code was drafted it was not intended,” he said.

Kirby said many options exist to build the facility elsewhere in the county.

“There’s plenty of other areas a crematorium could be built, and it doesn’t necessarily need to be in the town limits,” he said.

Kirby argued that the amendment approach provided a means to gain approvals without notifying surrounding property owners.

“By getting it into the code, it’s already halfway there and an easier battle than a variance,” he said.

Taking exception with the criticisms was Todd.

“It’s not going to be a blight on the community,” he said. “I’m frankly offended that some outside attorneys would come in here and accuse me of doing something sinister by filing this legal pathway.”

Todd said the Burbage Funeral Home has operated in the region since 1810.

“I can assure you whatever Burbage builds and wherever it goes will be nice looking,” he said.

Todd also questioned the assertion that a crematorium would be less than ideal at the northern gateway to Berlin.

“It makes me wonder would he be happier if we put it in downtown Berlin because Mr. Burbage does have some property ... downtown,” he said,

While acknowledging his client would not seriously entertain building a crematorium downtown, Todd said Burbage should not be limited to building outside of town.

“Mr. Burbage doesn’t want to do anything that’s going to adversely affect the conditions anywhere in the Town of Berlin,” he said.

While little demand for such services existed in the past, Todd said about 70 percent of the roughly 400 funerals Burbage handles annually request cremation over burial.

“There certainly is a demand for this and that’s only going to increase,” he said.

Todd also questioned opponents’ concerns about the possibility of unhealthy emissions.

“That was a falsehood,” he said.

Todd said modern crematoriums typically include a ventless processing station.

“There’s a built in exhaust plan and a filtration system that reduces ... airborne particulates from escaping into the atmosphere,” he said.

Town Attorney Dave Gaskill reiterated that the conditional use would require approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

“The Board of Zoning Appeals could deny or put conditions on it,” he said.



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Planning votes in favor of Berlin Activities Depot plans

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) After a further review of the stormwater management plans for an expanded Berlin Activities Depot, the Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation last week for the project on Old Ocean City Boulevard

Last Wednesday, Jesyl Silva of George, Miles & Buhr presented site plans during the Planning Commission meeting, followed by a presentation from Berlin Activities Depot owner Carmella Solito last month.

Master concept plans proposed for the roughly 2.9-acre site zoned B-2 shopping district include additions to an existing structure and new construction.

Silva said minor changes were made since last month for the phased-in growth plans proposed by Solito.

“We changed the pitch roof along Old Ocean City Boulevard to better hide the HVAC units,” he said.

Silva said the project’s first phase would involve an addition to the side of the existing building bordering Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Development plans include a north-side addition to the existing building to roughly double the exist-

ing 11,250-square-foot recreation center. The two-story build-out would also include a café of more than 2,000 square feet.

Silva said seating counts for the restaurant portion were reduced from the earlier 84-seat total to include 30 inside and 10 outside spots.

Longtime drainage issues on adjacent roadways were also examined.

Commission Vice Chair Ron Cascio said the project should not channel excess stormwater runoff towards Graham Avenue.

“It’s maybe the most challenging spot in town,” he said.

Silva said initial calculations by the planners have left them confident the project would not result in adverse impacts from water runoff.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said a finalized stormwater plan is still forthcoming, and noted George, Miles & Buhr officials have been working in conjunction with the town’s stormwater engineer.

“So, the concept they want to pursue is doable,” he said. “That’s my understanding, but no formal submittal has been made yet.”

In terms of stormwater management practices, Engelhart said both a

See GROWTH Page 8

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Daly amendments harshly received

Continued from Page 1
probation are completed.

First to the microphone was former Bayside Gazette publisher Elaine Brady, who brought up the legal parameters that must be met for criminal background checks.

"Unlike property records, criminal records are actually governed by federal law to obtain and use them," she said.

Brady said to obtain arrest records, board candidates would have to be fingerprinted and provide notarized release of information for each state in which they have lived in the past five years.

"Candidates will also have to sign an FBI release, as all information provided has to be certified by the federal criminal justice department information system for states to release ... what most people know as a 'rap sheet,'" she said.

Further, Brady said criminal background information could not be shared with anyone but the individual in question.

Also, using the background information to embarrass, harass or cause harm to reputation or livelihood could be a criminal offense.

"It is not considered just idle gossip," she said.

Brady recommended current

board members complete background checks prior to subjecting future candidates to the process, while also questioning the relevancy of a felon provision.

"If this is voted on, I think the author should take into consideration that this isn't even necessary," she said. "Board members have no access to funds, nor can any one individual ... make a financial decision that would harm the association."

Echoing Brady was Director Rick Farr who said background checks are complex.

"If running background checks for a [business or HOA], there has to be consent of an individual for ... release of information," he said.

Farr said comparable regulations are included in the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

"It's a slippery slope when you're dealing with background checks of an individual," he said.

Farr also noted legalities exist for how background information is stored and disseminated.

"As an executive in human resources, I am the administrator for pulling background checks for where I work," he said. "I am the sole source [and] that information stays with me."

Farr said divulging details with

anyone but the person in question is not permitted and all information has to be destroyed within five days.

By contrast, Farr said running a personal background is a different animal.

"That's not a thorough, reliable background check," he said.

Former board member Slobodan Trendic said the bylaws represent a vital legal document for the association.

"The board has lost two recent lawsuits during which the bylaws were heavily scrutinized," he said.

Trendic said while it would be reasonable to conclude that bylaws warranted attention, questions exist if the proposed changes would solve issues or add complexity.

"If the board moves forward, I will vote no on all," he said

Trendic encouraged other association members to follow suit while also recommending delaying the planned referendum to allow more time to refine details.

Pines resident Joe Reynolds backed the approach, while also advising against abstaining, as unreturned ballots would not influence the outcome.

"Nothing we're doing here is critical to this association," he said. "I'm with Mr. Trendic, vote no across the board."

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair Jim Trummel said the group made recent recommendations to change the proposed definition of owner of record.

"The committee recommends that the provisions regarding representatives of corporations, LLCs and partnerships being ineligible for board candidacy or appointment be removed and relocated as disqualified," he said.

Trummel said Daly had proposed updating the owner of record definition in bylaws section 1.11 as the "person(s) listed on the deed ... in Land Records of Worcester County."

Daly's proposal also outlines that in instances of property listed under a trust, the owner of record is a trustee(s) or co-trustees.

Lastly, the proposed section 1.11 language states if a corporation, LLC or partnership is listed as owner on a property deed, owner of record would be, "an officer of the corporation, a living person who is a member of the ... [LLC] ... or a living person who is a partner in the partnership..."

Trummel said committee members vetted the owner of record topic during its meeting on March 4 and concluded the trustee aspect should remain but corporate or partnership elements should be removed.

"Those [corporate] representatives have an inherent conflict of interest," he said. "Their interest is in the property as the objectives of the entity."

See BYLAWS Page 7



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Bylaws revisions weren't rushed, Horn says

Continued from Page 6

By contrast, Trummel said individual homeowners typically feel a different obligation to the community than businesspeople.

"They have no personal commitment and are ill-suited on the board," he said.

In addition to the committee recommendation, Trummel also opposed earlier suggestions to vote no on referendum proposals.

"There are provisions in this proposal that should and need to be clarified," he said. "Don't just wipe it all out."

Association President Colette Horn, noting bylaw revisions have been underway for two years, questioned the perception that the process was being rushed.

"The board has had considerable discussion," she said. "We have publicized every step of this process."

Town Council aims to stay with same tax rate in FY23

Continued from Page 1

tate tax rate.

Despite proposing an unchanged tax rate over the current year, Saleh said the town would realize additional revenue because of rising property values.

"With the same current rate of .815 per \$100, the town will generate \$144,000 additional revenue," she said.

For a home assessed at \$200,000, the real property tax rate of .815 per \$100 would run \$1,630 annually.

The tax rate ordinance will have a second reading and public hearing during the mayor and council meeting on March 28.

Code amendment would make room for crematoriums

Continued from Page 4

Gaskill said the appeals process also involves the zoning board examining potential detrimental impacts on surrounding properties, traffic flow or decreases to land values.

Engelhart said if a conditional use ceases for one year it would be discontinued.

The council voted unanimously to approve the amendment.

While in agreement, Brady noted a number of changes were made more recently.

"Those are the ones with the most problems," she said.

Daly said the list of bylaw revisions was a mixed bag with some issues dating back years and others arising from recent litigation.

"Yes, there were things added at the last minute, but [those] ... typically were items worked on the longest," he said.

Daly also acknowledged a number of changes were tied to the recent lawsuit filed against the board by then-candidate Farr, after the board ruled that he was ineligible to run. The Worcester County Circuit rejected the board's arguments and Farr was elected.

"We basically got skewered by a court of law that said our bylaws are in conflict with each other," Daly said.

Daly said the problem appeared two-fold.

"We don't have proper procedures to implement the bylaws we have and the procedures that we did have we did a shitty job of following," he said.

Director Doug Parks, while opposing the "no vote" suggestion, acknowledged there were issues that warrant attention.

"I have been saying we are rushing," he said.

Parks said by allowing more time, the odds of passing the roughly 30 revisions would be heightened.

"The average person is probably not going to put the scrutiny and the analysis involved in making a decision for all 30," he said.


Horn questioned if additional time would be effective.

"It negates hundreds of hours of time for many changes that are not controversial," she said. "It's extremely disrespectful of our Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, our work group and the individuals who have put these hundreds of hours into studying these bylaws."

Horn recommended members vote against specific proposals if opposed instead of the whole list.

The association is scheduled to mail homeowners referendum ballots for bylaw changes by March 25 with a voting deadline of April 29.

In a subsequent statement after the meeting on Saturday, the association encouraged members to email any questions regarding bylaw changes or the referendum process to directors@oceanpines.org.




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Growth plans for Berlin Activities Depot progressing

Continued from Page 5
pond area on the corner of Graham and Nelson avenues and a submerged gravel wetland elsewhere on site are included features.

Engelhart acknowledged recurring drainage problems near the site and are largely attributable to inadequately sized underground pipes.

“The pipes were never sized large enough back in the ’50s or ’60s,” he said.

Engelhart also noted sewer line hook-ups would still need to be determined for the expansion.

Commission members voted to approve site plans contingent on their inclusion of a solution to stormwater run-off problems.



Jesyl Silva of George, Miles & Buhr presented site plans to the Planning Commission last week for proposed multi-phased expansions at Berlin Activities Depot.

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OP referendum mailer finalized

Continued from Page 3
Ludwig said several vendors have claimed language in the Maryland Homeowners' Association Act would negate the need to revise bylaws.

“The Board of Directors is concerned about what the wording is in the Maryland HOA Act ... which says not withstanding language in our by-

laws we can do electronic voting,” she said.

Despite those reassurances, Ludwig said association bylaws contain specific references to mailing physical ballots.

“It would have to be a referendum through the mail to OK electronic voting,” she said.

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Presenting a text amendment to allow fee simple townhomes before the Berlin Planning Commission last week, from left, are Steve Engle with Vista Design, Attorney Mark Cropper and developer Jason Malone.

Berlin Planning reviews fee simple townhome proposal

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) Future townhouse projects in Berlin could include fee simple ownership options after a related text amendment was given a favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission last Wednesday.

Attorney Mark Cropper and Vista

Design principal/founder Steve Engle reviewed a proposed addition to the zoning code that would allow fee simple townhome dwellings.

“Your code doesn’t address it today,” Cropper said. “It’s just another way to develop a townhouse project.”

Cropper said the language revision will be presented to the commission next week.

See TEXT Page 11



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OC Power Squadron hosting safe boating course in OP

(March 17, 2022) The Ocean City Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will present a three-night comprehensive safe boating course beginning on March 22 at the Ocean Pines library.

This nine-hour course will be given on three nights, Tuesday through Thursday, March 22-24 from 6-9 p.m, and includes a review and exam on the last night.

There is a \$20 fee for the course material. Middle and high school students can take the course, including material, for free.

Registration information can be obtained by e-mailing ocpsabc@gmail.com.

Anyone born after July 1, 1972, is required to satisfactorily complete a safe boating class to operate a recreational vessel or personal watercraft in Maryland (Jan. 1, 1978 in Delaware). Successfully completing this class also satisfies state requirements nationwide.

This course covers basic boat handling, rules of the road, navigation, federal and state regulations, aids to

See THREE Page 12

Text amendment moves ahead

Continued from Page 10

sion, which would provide developers another means to market units, was tied to a proposal for 28 townhomes on 4.8 acres off Old Ocean City Boulevard near Purnell Crossing.

Cropper, representing developer Jason Malone, said his client indicated a higher percentage of townhome purchasers are expressing a preference for owning the outside portion of individual lots.

“The difference is whether the unit owners want to own in total their own unit and yard,” he said.

By contrast, other townhome communities have condominium associations that bear responsibility for maintenance and repairs for common areas and open space back yards.

“Everyone has a percentage ownership,” he said.

Cropper said fee-simple housing developments could still permit homeowners’ association to manage aesthetics.

“This is almost like buying a single-family dwelling on a single-family lot,” he said. “It’s just that your home is attached to your neighbors’ home.”

Cropper said concerns about the greater density of townhome projects arose during discussions with the mayor and Town Council.

Engle said the proposed text amendment would reduce required setbacks from 25 to 20 feet for front yards and from 35 to 25 feet for backyards.

“Typically, townhomes setbacks for yards are less than single family,” he said.

The redefined boundaries would also increase the proposed unit count from 24 to 28.

“Part of the decision was also there’s a lot of restrictions on this piece,” he said.

Engle said these include utility easements, drainage and stormwater management.

Commission member Pete Cosby questioned the revised setback limits.

“We don’t like to pass legislation, so it suits this particular project,” he said.

After briefly conferring and examining project renderings, Cropper and Engle proposed retaining the current 25-foot setback for front yards.

“This way they could have 18-foot wide units and still have large backyards,” he said.

Cropper also stressed that the zoning amendment would only represent an additional option for developers.

“It isn’t changing the code to say all these projects have to be fee-simple lots,” he said.

The commission voted to give a favorable recommendation for the amendment, which would still require final approval from Town Council.

Following that discussion, Cropper and company remained in place to present the latest renderings for the West View townhouse project proposed by Malone.

Engle said rights-of-way were reduced from 50 to 30 feet, with roadways measuring 24-feet wide.

“Everything still fits within the 30-foot right of way,” he said.

Engle said fire and emergency vehicle access was factored in for cul-de-sac sections.

“The stormwater pond is an existing pond,” he said.

Commission Vice-Chair Ron Cascio questioned the roadway width.

“If you’ve got people parking on both sides of the street, you’ve got a problem,” he said.

Cascio said comparable road sections elsewhere in Berlin have been made one way to avoid clustering.

“You need to address the street parking situation,” he said. “Let’s do it now rather than later.”

Other issues highlighted were landscaping, street lighting and stormwater management.

Cropper said the group would return for site plan approval after it addresses those issues.

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Statistics show that in 82 percent of boating fatalities, the captain had no formal boating education. The Ocean City Power Squadron encourages all boaters to complete a boating safety class.

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Opinion

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

Eliminate controversy and proceed with vote

If the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors wants its suggested bylaws amendments to get a good reception from voters at this spring’s referendum, the easiest thing to do is to cut the most controversial proposals from the ballot.

As was evidenced by the outrage expressed at the board’s town hall meeting Saturday, the offending revisions involve stricter candidate and voter qualification rules sponsored by board member Frank Daly.

Right or wrong, and watered down from their original form, these proposed amendments bubbled up in a cauldron of resentment left over from last year’s political circus.

Anyone who has been paying attention would conclude that Daly’s amendments aim to punish political opponents and to legitimize that board’s failed attempt to keep current board member Rick Farr off the ballot by declaring him a non-property owner.

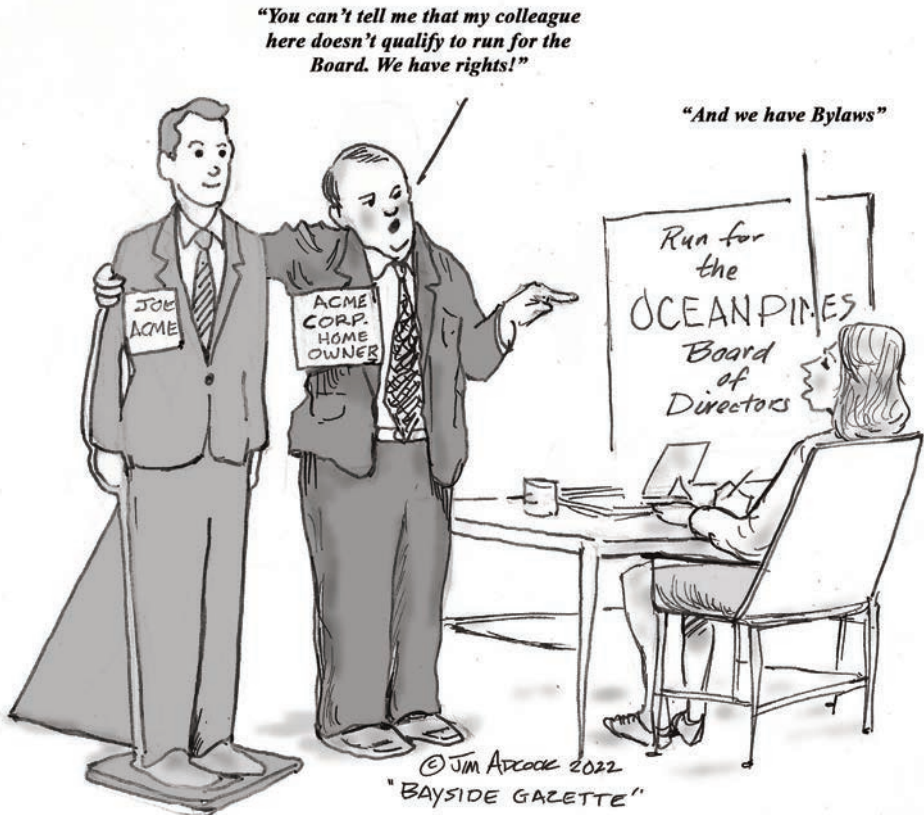
Farr, obviously, did win a seat after a Worcester County Circuit Court judge gave last year’s board a good public thrashing for playing cutesy with the rules. Obviously, the survivors of that debacle have yet to get over it.

It makes no difference how much effort the bylaws committee devoted to writing and rewriting these possible amendments. That is not the issue, even though it is being suggested that the committee’s diligence ought to be rewarded with a positive response. It doesn’t work that way.

The committee did what it could with the Daly amendments, but it was like asking a top chef to make bad ingredients taste better.

Not all the proposed revisions, of course, warrant a “no” vote. Since the bylaws were last updated in 2008, some portions need to be made current, while fuzzy language in other sections should be made more precise.

That is for the voters to decide in this spring’s referendum, which will be more productive if the board presents voters with a ballot free of real and perceived post-election baggage.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fentanyl education of vital importance

Editor,

“The fentanyl crisis is getting worse, not better. Fake pills with deadly amounts of fentanyl are popping up everywhere. It’s in fake Xanax and Percocets, it’s being laced in cocaine and ecstasy. A single pill can kill,” Families Against Fentanyl founder James Rauh, who lost his son to fentanyl poisoning (from a Feb 5 article on Foxnews.com) said.

I attended an information session sponsored by Worcester Goes Purple and the Worcester County Sheriff’s office. The event, entitled “One Pill Can Kill” was aimed at educating parents of school-age children about the dangers of fentanyl poisoning.

Sadly, there were no parents in attendance. There were sessions in Snow Hill, Pocomoke City and Berlin also and very few, if any, parents, attended those either.

The three grandparents

who attended the Ocean Pines session were given a lot of information regarding the dangers of fentanyl. The following are some of the facts we learned:

1. Fentanyl is laced into OTC medications as well as prescription drugs such as Zanax and Percocet, as well as illegal drugs that are not fatal, but become so with the addition of Fentanyl.
2. Fake pills are being mass-produced and sold as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
3. Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and are often sold on social media making them available to anyone with online access (we were also given a hand-out entitled “Fifteen Apps Parents Should Know About”).
4. As little as 2 mg of fentanyl can be lethal.
5. In 2021, there were 60 opioid overdoses in Worcester County — 10 of them were fatal.
6. Preteens and teens ex-

perimenting with drugs are the most at risk. One time is all it takes to end a life if a person receives a counterfeit pill or a laced drug.

Young people today are more at-risk than ever before. Adults who work with them (teachers, counselors, first responders, etc.) are extremely concerned about their mental and emotional health. These issues make young people much more vulnerable.

I encourage parents to please contact Debbie Smullen at Worcester Goes Purple (410-870-5161) to obtain the information we were given at the session. Please start a dialogue with your friends, neighbors, church members and co-workers. And please, please talk to your kids about this.

We parents and grandparents have been bombarded by one crisis after another for the last two years, but this is one crisis we simply must address.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines

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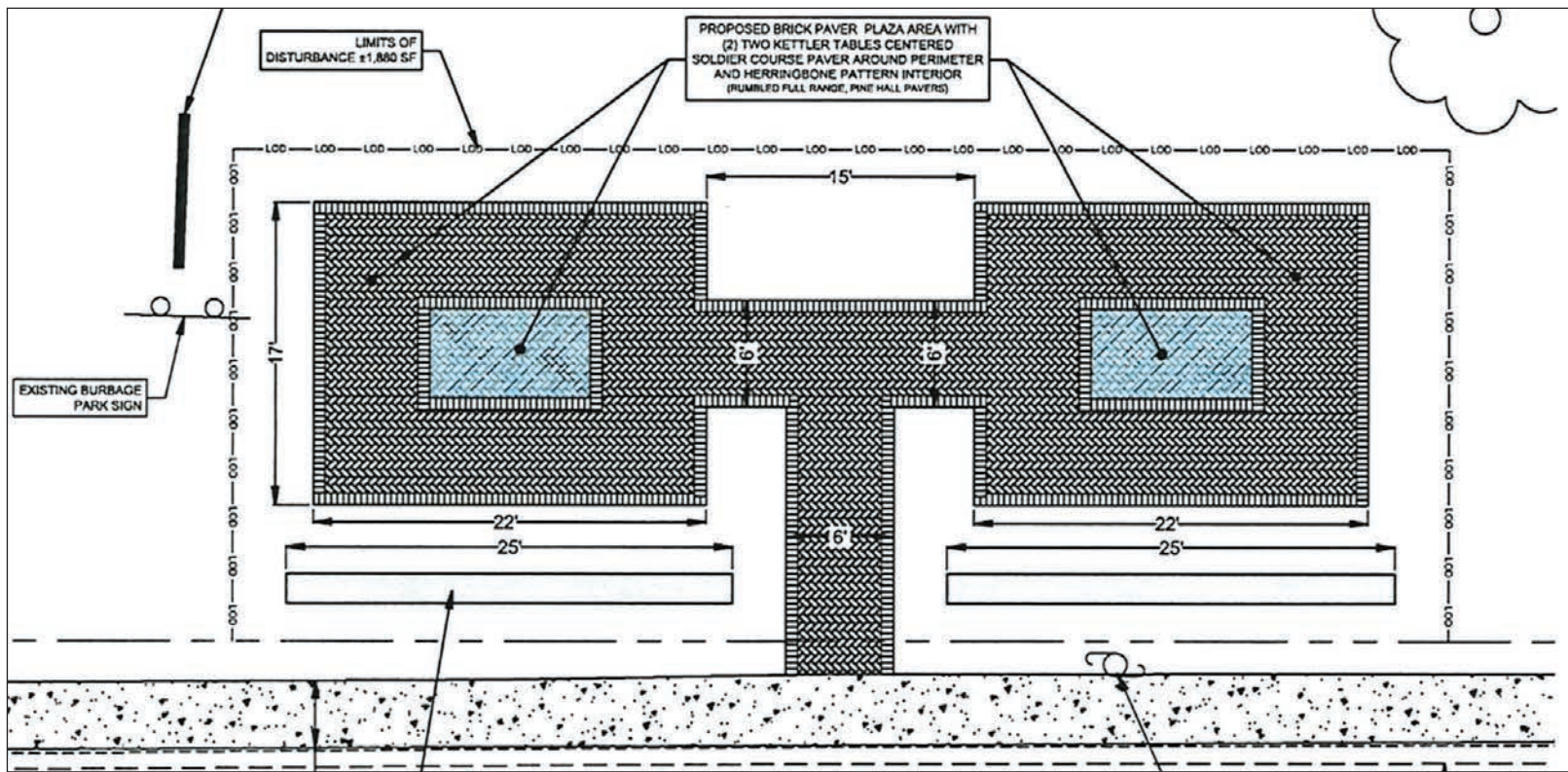
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Have an opinion? All letters are subject to verification, please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com.

Project renderings for the “Tables at Burbage Park” were approved this week by the Berlin Town Council.
PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN



Berlin ping pong park plans greenlighted by Town Council

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) The long-desired addition of ping pong at Burbage Park was approved by the Berlin Town Council on Monday.

In November, the council authorized the nonprofit We Heart Berlin to purchase ping pong tables and equipment ahead of receiving formal approval.

We heart Berlin Vice-President Jeff Smith presented final project renderings during the council meeting on Monday.

“We already have tables [and are] just waiting for the town’s approval,” he said. “We’re really excited to get it underway.”

Project plans include two ping pong tables, parking and a brick retaining wall running parallel to William Street.

Council member Shaneka Nichols asked if the addition of the “Tables at Burbage Park” would reduce green space at the site.

Smith said the impact should be minimal.

“It’s just the tables ... everything else will be grass,” he said.

Parks Commission Chair Mike Wiley said the bulk of comments received on the project have been positive.

“I haven’t heard too many concerns,” he said.

Wiley said the consensus was that residents were glad to see enhanced uses for the pocket park area.

“People said they didn’t even know there was a park there,” he said.

Council member Jay Knerr asked if the brickwork would be set in sand, as opposed to mortar, which should ease future maintenance.

Wiley said the need to ensure that the brick would remain in place had been discussed.

“One of the concerns was it could become unlevel, as far as people when they’re playing, tripping,” he said.

See WE Page 15



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A Rose For Grandmom
~ In Memorium ~

Dear God... I've picked out the loveliest rose I could find and wish to give it to her. Would you please give it to her, and tell her that it's from me? I know that she's safe and free of pain in the presence of your glory for 5 years now... but oh, how I still miss her so.

~ Much Love, Kelly

Martin assumes role as OP senior exec. office mgr.

(March 17, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola has announced that Linda Martin has accepted a position as the association's senior executive office manager, effective immediately.

In her new role, Martin assumes the duties previously performed by the senior executive assistant, a position she had held temporarily since the beginning of the year.

"Linda has been a part of the Ocean Pines Association for many years, most recently as the office manager for the Public Works Department," Viola said. "Her work with the leadership team on initiatives such as the DMA reserve study, the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget and Ocean Pines customer service illustrates her willingness to take on new responsibilities and makes her an ideal choice for this position."

As senior executive office manager, Martin will report to and serve as a confidential assistant to the general manager. She will continue to lead the Compliance, Permits and Inspections (CPI) Department and customer service program, in addition to her new responsibilities.

She also will be responsible for performing tasks as the board of directors' assistant secretary.

Born and raised on the western shore of Maryland, Martin majored in accounting at Anne Arundel Community College and has held a variety of finance-related jobs in government, retail, medical and community-based organizations.

She moved to the Eastern Shore in 2006 and worked for the Public Works/CPI Department from 2006-2017 as an office coordinator. She returned to Ocean Pines as the Public Works office manager last fall.



Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Committee members reviewed pending repairs and future promotions during its meeting last Thursday.
GREG ELLISON/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OP Racquet Sports looks to spring

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Committee members met last Thursday to review pending business as warmer weather begins to seep into the region.

Committee Chairman Rhett Parsons said a new racquet sport option is planned for this spring.

"The official Spec Tennis Club in Ocean Pines has been approved," he said.

Spec Tennis, which incorporates aspects of tennis, platform tennis and pickleball, features an underhand serve for less shoulder stress and is promoted as easier to learn than comparable sports.

Turning to center wide issues, Parsons said maintenance work to repair court cracks is still in the plans.

"We're still waiting for vendors to give us solid bids," he said.

Similar issues are also at play for an installation of additional pickleball courts at the Manklin Meadows

Racquet Sports Complex.

"For the pickleball courts, we sent five bids out and got one in," he said.

Four additional pickleball courts have been planned next to existing court number 10.

To add insult to injury, the sole bid received was incomplete, Parsons said, adding that subsequent vendor solicitations intended to separate stormwater control issues from the construction aspect of the project.

In terms of court surface crack repairs, Parsons said the work is still on pace for completion this spring as weather becomes warmer.

"We definitely have plenty of them to be repaired," he said.

Parsons said a list of maintenance needs has been provided to Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue, who is conferring the Public Works to complete in-house tasks.

Parsons said committee members are still researching the possibility of a number of new promotions this season, with firm plans yet to come

into focus.

Other points Parsons mentioned included promoting the presence of Racquet Sports Complex Manager Madison McLain.

"We really need a strong presence, especially as the season kicks off," he said.

Parsons said McLain should become a familiar site to residents and racquet center members.

"We need to give her an opportunity to interact," he said.

In terms of other jobs McLain is overseeing, Parsons said work is being completed on a center calendar for the 2022 season.

Parsons is also consulting with Strategic Planning Committee Chair Bernie McGorry to create a survey for racquet center members

"We would like to form a subcommittee to create the survey, with members of each sport to help craft questions," he said.

The next Racquet Sports Committee is scheduled on April 14 at 4 p.m.

We Heart Berlin project approved

Continued from Page 14

Speaking of bricks, Smith noted We Heart Berlin is currently offering commemorative bricks, which would be installed on site, for \$100.

"We are also selling names on bricks for anyone interested in donating to support the park," he said.

To purchase a personalized brick, visit weheartberlin.org and click the donate button.

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WP swimmers to compete at Junior Olympics

(March 17, 2022) Worcester Preparatory School students, Jude and Gabriella Damouni and Anna Mumford, will participate in the Mid Atlantic Junior Olympics, March 17-20, in York Pennsylvania.

In December, representing Mako Swim Club, Gabriella Damouni and Mumford attended Keystone Aquatics Arena Holiday Cup Championship in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where both girls competed against the top swimmers in the country in their age group.

From the meet, they qualified for the Eastern Sectional Zones Divisional Team, which is made of the top swimmers from the Mid-Atlantic area spanning Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, DC, and Virginia. They also both qualified for several events in the Junior Olympics, including all different lengths from 50-yard freestyle to 1,650 freestyle, and 100 backstroke.

“These girls excel in school at Worcester Preparatory, and all the rigor it gives them, as well as outside of school in their swimming,” Gabriella’s mom, Helen said. “If they were not on deck ready to swim, they were studying and catching up on schoolwork in the car or at the hotel.”

A month later at the Friends Central Aquatics Distance Challenge, the

girls along with Jude Damouni, reached another milestone while they swam 1,650yards.

All three students completed the mile swim, a total of 66 laps, in less than 20 minutes with Anna finishing in 18:25, Jude in 18:33 and Gabriella in 19:25. This again qualified the girls Junior Olympics, and now Jude as well.

Anna is ranked 11th and Gabriella 58th nationally in their age group. Jude is ranked 225th nationally for his age group.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, Anna is ranked second and Gabriella 11th among the girls, and Jude is ranked 30th among the boys.

In February, the three competed at the Double Last Chance Meet and qualified for additional events for the Junior Olympics. The races were for highly qualified swimmers in their respective age groups.

While there, Anna also qualified for more senior championship events. It takes an extremely talented swimmer to qualify for the senior championship before the age of 15. Jude and Gabriella are on the brink of doing so while competing at the Junior Olympics.

Currently, Anna’s tally for Senior Champs is the 200-, 500-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyle events. She will



Worcester Preparatory School students representing Mako Swim Club, from left, Anna Mumford, and Gabriella and Jude Damouni, will participate in the Mid Atlantic Junior Olympics, March 17-20, in York Pennsylvania.

race girls who range in age from 14-30 years old.

“I love being with my friends, practice and pushing my limits and meeting other awesome swimmers,” Anna (class of 2027) said.

Also, during this meet Jude qualified for the 200 free and the 100-yard butterfly, Gabriella qualified for the 50-yard butterfly and the 400-yard IM, and Anna qualified for the 200-

yard backstroke and the 400-yard IM for Junior Olympics.

“I am very excited to be going to Junior Olympics and national championships,” Gabriella (class of 2027) said. “My coach always tells me that there is no such thing as adding time, but setting a new goal to beat that time. I feel so honored that I got into Zones, and I am so excited for future

See WPS Page 18

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HELPING HAND
Worcester Preparatory's Lower School students donated gifts to those in need at Diakonia, which provides emergency and transitional housing, food services and counseling for its guests, on Dec. 15. Pictured, from left, are fifth graders Ella Tull, Abby Ferguson, Addyson Wisniewski, Elle Wilsey, Kristi Carr and Emily Hafeli.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



ENGAGEMENT

Cooper - Rowlands



Matt and Mary Cooper are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Alexandra Cooper of Ocean City to Andrew Scott Rowlands from Bristol, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Raymond and the late Karen Rowlands. An Autumn 2023 wedding is planned.

OPVFD conducts training sessions at Seasons Plaza

(March 17, 2022) The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department is holding training sessions in the Seasons Plaza commercial building on Route 589, through April 9.

Chief Steve Grunewald said the fire department acquired the rights to the commercial building, near the snowball stand and Walgreens on Route 589, between Cathell Road and Racetrack Road.

It's the future site of a Royal Farms store, and Grunewald said the company has granted rights to use the property for training.

He said Ocean Pines residents may notice fire department personnel and vehicles in the area. That also includes neighboring agencies.

"It is very rare to have an opportu-

nity to train in a commercial structure, so department leadership has offered to share our access with neighboring fire and police departments," he said. "To ensure the highest level of safety, a representative from the OPVFD will always be on-site while neighboring agencies train. Most trainings will occur on Tuesdays. However, you may see action on other days and nights."

At the end of the training period, the building will be used for controlled burn training, followed by a complete burn tentatively scheduled on April 9.

"We would like to thank the ownership of Royal Farms for this amazing training opportunity, and to officially say, 'Welcome to the Neighborhood!'" Grunewald said.

WPS swimmers qualify for meet

Continued from Page 16

competitions and hanging out with all my friends. I feel like I had such high goals and when I hit them, I was so happy."

Jude looks forward to future competitions, and one day competing in the Olympics.

"I think what helped me reach my accomplishments was my drive and practice. My drive is wanting to be better than my current self because if I

don't worry about my competitors then I can focus on myself and train at my best every day," Jude (class of 2026) said. "Comparing my times to last year or even a few months ago, I have seen major improvements because of my hard work and the push that my teammates and I give each other whether it is in practice or at an actual meet."

Both Jude and Gabriella agree that their mom is their biggest fan.

"She is always the first one to congratulate me on dropping time, and she always pushes me to do better," Gabriella said. "She is an amazing mom and I don't know what I would do without her."

Competing on a swim team would not be possible without their mom, Jude added.

"She takes us everywhere and always supports us in our meets," he said. "I am really looking forward to Junior Olympics and the national championships meet in Florida with her."



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Cuisine

Closed-oven prime rib cold-weather feast

It is hard to look down at the little time and date stamp on my computer and realize that March will soon be departing us.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Boy, time flies when you're having fun. Wait, is anyone having fun out there?

I hope you are, and as the weather is breaking and daylight savings is fully in effect,

it will be time again to shed the layers and think about fun times ahead.

Yesterday, it was 70 degrees and sunny, while today it will be in the 50s. Our ADD state simply can't reconcile the time of year and we are all the sufferers for it. Yet, the palm trees are trimmed, awaiting new sprouts from the turf, and the grass seed that was strewn last year is starting to take hold.

It amazes me how it is winter until that one day when you come home from work and realize that your yard, which has been brown for months, all of a sudden has a greenish hue to it. And then and only then do you realize that spring is here.

But as the weather is still senseless, I am sure that we will have an April snow shower or at least another frost. I mean, why wouldn't we at the Mason-Dixon?

But, while it is still chilly (at least on occasion) go ahead and try this closed-oven prime rib.

I had seen this for a couple years, but never took the time to make it. Namely, that is because I am the only one in the house that eats roast beef. Steaks are one thing, but roast beef apparently another altogether. So, I simply never made it.

The time came, the weather was right and I decided to give it a go. The secret here is to sear the outside of the roast, giving it a beautiful crust and allowing the inside of the roast to slowly come up to temperature.

As an aside, I do not recommend eating prime rib rare. To me, it absolutely needs to be medium rare and up.

There are fats in the rib roast that need to render and melt, and that cannot happen until the roast hits around 129 degrees. So, make sure that it gets to that point.

One glorious little cheat that I found is a thermometer probe called the Meater and it is phenomenal.



Simply by inserting it to the proper depth in the roast, this oven-proof gadget will allow you to monitor the internal temperature from your phone. Man, I love technology.

With the ability to set the temperature that you would like to reach, it alerts you about 10 degrees prior, as it is calculated to take into consideration the carryover cooking.

What this means is that the meat will continue to cook even after you pull it from the oven. Ergo, pulling it a few degrees early will allow the meat to slowly come to temperature and rest at the same time.

And when the dust settles, or in this case the smoke clears, you will have an amazing rib roast unlike any other that you have cooked. I have cooked hundreds if not thousands of rib roasts in the numerous hotels, clubs and restaurants since 1983, but I am rather impressed with this technique.

And as the grills will soon be brushed off and fired up, take the time to make one last comfort meal for the season. There is much to be said for that.

Closed-oven Prime Rib

serves 6

- 4# bone-in rib roast
- ¼ c. Kosher salt
- 3 Tbsp. Granulated garlic
- 2 Tbsp. Onion powder
- 2 Tbsp. Dried thyme
- 2 Tbsp. Dried rosemary
- 2 Tbsp. White pepper

• Pull the rib roast out of the ice-box 2 hours prior to roasting. Allowing it to slack will let it roast more evenly. According to universal safety laws, you have four hours to start worrying about little germs, but as you're going to place this in a 500° oven, anything that may have started to encourage itself will quickly be smote

• Blend the spices and salt well, and coat the rib roast and allow to sit the entire duration with this wonderful-smelling concoction

• When the time is right to roast the beast, preheat the oven to 500° F

• Place the roast in, cooking it for 5 minutes per pound, never opening the door

• When time is up, turn the oven off and let it sit, but do not open the

oven. That ruins the process

• Here is where I do cheat a little bit. Months ago, I purchased a wonderful kitchen tool called the Meater® which is an oven-proof probe that you insert in your meat and monitor from your phone. From here, just watch the internal temperature slowly rise, getting it to around 130° internally

• When it hits this magic number, remove from the oven and allow it to rest for about 20 minutes before slicing. Be sure to use the drippings in a pan gravy or au jus

• Serve with Yorkshire pudding, mashed potatoes, pureed cauliflower or anything else that suits your fancy with roasted beef

• Either way, get this out of the way before the weather turns for good. I don't know about you, but roasted meats always feel like a cold-weather feast

—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

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One dead in fiery Berlin car crash

State Police said weather possibly contributed to vehicle spinning off road

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) A Snow Hill man died on Saturday morning after the vehicle in which he was a passenger spun off Route 113 and caught fire.

Wilbert J. Harmon, 61, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash by emergency personnel.

A press release issued by the Maryland State Police said the Berlin Bar-

rack responded to a report of a single-car crash near Route 113 and Georgetown Road in Berlin at approximately 6:15 a.m. that day. When troopers arrived, a Ford Crown Victoria was in the center median and engulfed in flames.

A preliminary investigation conducted by State Police determined the driver, Miguel Carrion, 33, of Snow Hill was traveling north on Route 113 when the vehicle spun off the highway and into the trees before coming to a rest in the center median.

Carrion was transported to Tidal-Health Peninsula Regional Hospital in Salisbury and treated for his in-

juries.

Inclement weather, police said, may have contributed to the crash, though the exact cause was still under investigation.

The accident forced troopers to shut down all northbound lanes of Route 113. Members of the State Highway Administration assisted with redirecting drivers away from the scene.

Along with State Police and Highway Administration officials, crews from the Berlin Fire Company and Showell Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the crash.

SUV plunges into Pocomoke River

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(March 17, 2022) A man died Friday after driving a vehicle off of Route 12 and into the Pocomoke River in Snow Hill, according to police.

A press release from the Maryland State Police said a preliminary investigation found Robert Jarrell, 73, of Snow Hill was driving south on Route 12 when he crossed over the northbound lanes for “reasons unknown.”

on arrival, was the only person in the car.

The Salisbury City Fire Department Dive Team responded to the scene and tended to the submerged SUV.

Ocean City Police Department Deputy of Communications Ashley Miller said members of the department’s dive team also assisted at the crash.

Although the preliminary investigation was included in the press release, State Police are looking at all

factors involved in the crash, saying “all possible cases are being considered.”

Along with State Troopers from the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack and the OCPD, Worcester County Sheriff’s Department deputies, and Snow Hill Police responded to the crash.

Also responding were officers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and members of the Ocean City and Snow Hill fire departments.

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Berlin Parks offers free tree bundles for backyard buffers

(March 17, 2022) The Berlin Parks Commission is working with the Maryland Forest Service to again give away Backyard Buffer tree bundles to Worcester County residents.

Backyard Buffer bundles provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, food for bees, butterflies and more, along with erosion control and nutrient removal, while beautifying and naturalizing the landscape.

Twenty seedlings will be included in each bundle – four each of Bald Cypress, Chickasaw Plum, Northern Bayberry, Southern Crabapple, and Willow Oak.

Free bundles are available to Worcester County property owners, especially those on or near streams or other waterways. Those interested in tree bundles do not need to be a Berlin resident to receive them. Bundle quantities are limited.

For more information about Maryland’s program, visit <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pages/programs/backyard-buffer-program.aspx>.

Contact Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen at mbohlen@berlinmd.gov or call 410-641-4314 to reserve a bundle. The deadline is Thursday, April 7, or while supplies last. Pickup will be at Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street (parking area at rear of building) on Saturday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.



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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., March 17

CARD AND GAME PARTY FUNDRAISER AND LUNCHEON

Held March 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grand Hotel, 2100 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City. Order lunch/sign up: gopwomenof-worcester.org, download the February 2022 newsletter for registration form, mail it along with your groups payment by March 17th.

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. For patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Free service, but requires an appointment: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

'IRISH' YOU LUCK SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Use your research skills and the Dewey Decimal System to find all 10 clues. Names will be entered in a special drawing. For ages 8 year and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'WELCOME SPRING'

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

STORY TIME: ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join the group for fun stories about leprechauns and luck. Stay after for a fun craft, or take it home with you. For children ages 2-5 years. Make sure to wear your green. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 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

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by a Q&A session. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STEM PROGRAM: 'MAKING SLIME'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch,

13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Come ready to get your hands messy. For ages 8-12 years. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-641-0650.

FILM: ANCIENT FEMALE RULERS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. These recorded lectures dive into the worlds of religion, government, literature and social justice. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

TRIVIA NIGHT (DURING THE DAY) - ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3 p.m. A special Irish-themed trivia game. Test your knowledge and win prizes. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30 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

WORCESTER COUNTY NAACP MEETING

Hosting Denise R. Shorts, WCPS, 6:30

p.m. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81003984518?pwd=NmFDcHMrVGhLMWRZb241dzRlTbDdDz09>; Meeting ID: 810 0398 4518; Passcode: 780704. Info: 443-944-6701.

Fri., March 18

HOME, CONDO & OUTDOOR SHOW PLUS ART AND CRAFT FAIR

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission cost is \$7 for adults; \$6 for seniors (55 yrs. and older) & students (14-22 yrs.); & free to children (13 years and younger), military, police and fire with ID. <https://oceanpromotions.info> 410-213-8090

'IRISH' YOU LUCK SCAVENGER HUNT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Use your research skills and the Dewey Decimal System to find all 10 clues. Names will be entered in a special drawing. For ages 8 year and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SURVIVAL SPANISH: 'HOTEL SCENARIOS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines
Continued on Page 22

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Calendar

Continued from Page 21
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2-3 p.m. Offering four classes that focus on conversational Spanish. The third class will be all about hotel scenarios. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘NORMAL PEOPLE’ BY SALLY ROONEY
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. This is the story of mutual fascination, friendship and love. It takes the reader from that first conversation to the years beyond. Facilitated by Gail Samis. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER
Berlin Fire Co Headquarters, 214 N. Main St., Berlin. 4:30-7 p.m. Four pieces of fried chicken (breast, wing, thigh, leg), home-made mac & cheese, string beans and a roll for \$12. Carry out.

FISH DINNER
Bowen United Methodist Church, 8323 Newark Road, Newark, 4:30-7 p.m. Plates cost \$10 and include flounder filet, macaroni and cheese, green beans, cornbread and dessert. Beverage included for those who dine-in.

Sat., March 19

HOME, CONDO & OUTDOOR SHOW PLUS ART AND CRAFT FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission cost is \$7 for adults; \$6 for seniors (55 yrs. and older) & students (14-22 yrs.); & free to children (13 years and younger), military, police and fire with ID. <https://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC
Visit the Atlantic General Hospital Facebook page at 9 a.m., where there will be short presentation by one of the hospital’s providers. Then walk and share your selfie on social media with #walkedwithagh.

AARP TAXAIDE
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 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.

CRAFTY SATURDAY: WELCOME SPRING!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Celebrate the new season and make some crafts to take home. For children 4 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GENEALOGY RESEARCH
Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Part of a series of lectures that highlight African American perspectives of 20th century Worcester County’s past. Register: germantownschool@gmail.com or

Karen Prengaman, 443-235-9803.
ROSENWALD SCHOOLS AND AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION
Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Part of a series of lectures that highlight African American perspectives of 20th century Worcester County’s past. Register: germantownschool@gmail.com or Karen Prengaman, 443-235-9803.

NAACP’S WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM
Meeting information is on the Worcester County N.A.A.C.P. Facebook page. Meeting ID: 82154389487; Passcode: 796386. Info: 443-944-6701.

DRIVE-THRU FRIED CHICKEN DINNER
New Hope United Methodist Church, 7348 New Hope Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Drive-thru pick-up only. Menu includes: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, roll and dessert. Cost is \$14. Info: 410-543-8244 or 443-235-0251.

10TH ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FESTIVAL
Saint Andrews Hall, 205 W. 145th St., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Food choices will feature such Italian staples as ravioli and meatballs, minestrone soup, zeppole and other breads and cakes. There will be Italian music, merchants and an auction. Admission is free.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY GOLF & DINNER
Bayside Resort Golf Club, 12021 N. Haven Drive, Selbyville, 11:30 a.m. Foursome team scramble format. Sit-down pairing of fine food and high-end Irish Whiskey at 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Semper K9. Register: <http://www.delmarvawhiskey.com/golf>. 215-815-1706

MINDFULNESS YOGA WITH LIZY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12 p.m. Featuring guest Lizy Maratea who will be demonstrating yoga poses and a story for children, ages 4-8 years, and their families to learn about mindfulness. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

FREE PLATFORM TENNIS LESSONS
Saturdays - Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 9:30 a.m. All abilities welcome and equipment will be provided. oppaddle2020@gmail.com or 516-508-0313.

Sun., March 20

HOME, CONDO & OUTDOOR SHOW PLUS ART AND CRAFT FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$7 for adults;

\$6 for seniors (55 yrs. and older) & students (14-22 yrs.); & free to children (13 years and younger), military, police and fire with ID. <https://oceanpromotions.info>, 410-213-8090

Mon., March 21

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN’S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center - As-sateague Room, 235 Ocean Parkway. Refreshments beginning at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Speaker will be Amber Green, Executive Director, Fenix Youth Project. All are welcome.

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.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group will examine an excerpt “Planning and Democracy” from “The Road to Serfdom” by Friedrich Hayek. The group meets twice a month. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SUPER POWERED STEM: OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CHALLENGE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Building trust, teamwork and a new sense of adventure. Some awesome activities perfect for any outdoor explorer. 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

WOMEN ON THE EASTERN SHORE
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Purnell Museum Director and Curator Cindy Byrd will talk about women on the Eastern Shore as a celebration of Women’s History Month. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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

Tues., March 22

STORY TIME ‘SPRING CRAFTS DAY’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs

and fingerplays. Take-home activity included. For 2-5 year old children. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME ‘BIRDS AND NESTS’
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts about the life cycle of birds. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

IPAD BASICS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stop by the library to learn the basics of iPads. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SAFE BOATING COURSE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. Held March 22-24, 6-9 p.m., this 9-hour course satisfies state requirements nationwide. Cost is \$20. Free to middle and high school students. Registration: email ocpsabc@gmail.com. Info: ocusps.org.

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. delmarvahanddance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151

Wed., March 23

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Surgical patients meet via Zoom. Contact the Bariatric office at 410-641-9568.

STORY TIME: ‘SPRING’
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes all about Spring. For ages 2-5 years. 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

‘STAND WITH UKRAINE: THE GUIDE’ FILM FUNDRAISER
Sun & Surf Cinema, 14301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. A special release of “The Guide,” the 2014 Ukrainian entry to the Academy Awards for best foreign film. All money from ticket sales will go to the Ukraine Relief Fund. Tickets: www.foxshowtimes.com.

FREE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7-9 p.m. Held Wednesdays, March 23 through April 20. New students, singles and couples welcome. 908-229-8799, 302-436-4033, barbcroos@gmail.com

49 Roly-poly, scientifically	70 Showed off one's pipes	84 It's under @ on a keyboard	97 Universal Human Rights Mo.
50 ____ torte (Austrian cake)	77 Airport with a Harvey Milk terminal: Abbr.	85 ____ lodge	100 Ability to sustain long-term interest
53 Warm-up act	78 Harry Styles tune about a woman who "lives in daydreams"	86 Rowing machine, informally	101 Kiss, in Kent
54 Move shakily		87 Event for moving vehicles	104 Sports fan's cheer
59 Ross Perot founded it in 1995	79 Lines of notes	88 Super	105 Gift wrapper's final touch
60 Lack of engagement	80 Sight line?	89 Actress Tatum	106 Nail-polish brand
61 More wacky	81 Cooked with hot seasoning	91 Folk medicine practitioner	107 Buffet table item
62 "You're just assuming"	82 Prefix with -lithic	94 Foolish sort	108 Zoo animal whose name rhymes with "zoo"
68 It's blown in the winds	83 Not against the rules	96 Sports fan's cheer	

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HERZOG HIGHLIGHTED

Barbara Herzog was named the Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines' March crafter of the month. After retirement in 2019, Herzog and her husband moved to Ocean Pines and she joined the Pine'eer Craft Club. She loves to sew and was influenced by her mom making her clothes. When she was 19, her parents took her shopping for her own sewing machine and she has been sewing ever since. Herzog uses her mom's sewing machines, which has expanded her ability to produce more professional finishes and seam construction. She has made clothing for her family as well as home décor. For the last several years, she has enjoyed making children's clothing, primarily dresses for girls. She recently ventured into making infant clothing, including Bummies (diaper covers). To see the items Herzog has created and those of other crafters, visit the Artisan Gift Shop located in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Currently the gift shop is seeking new crafters who would like to sell their handmade items. For more information, contact shop managers Diane Denk at dianedenk@comcast.net, or Kimberly Perrone at perrone4499@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

IN CHARGE

Worcester Prep fourth grader Lea Jaoude of Lewes, Delaware, acted as head of school on Dec. 16. Her parents purchased the "Head of School for a Day" during the WPS Virtual Gala fundraiser auction last April. As head of school, she asked students, teachers and administrators for a donation of \$1 to go toward SOS Children's Villages of Lebanon, and in return they were allowed to wear a "crazy hat" for the day. SOS supports orphaned children deprived of parental care and provides them with family-based care preventing child abandonment. She is pictured with WPS Head of School Dr. John McDonald.



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QUILT DONATION

Faith, Hope, Love Quilters of St. Matthews By-the-Sea United Methodist Church in Fenwick, Delaware, delivered 70 comfort quilts to patients of the DaVita Dialysis Center in Berlin on Dec. 17. Pictured, from left, are Shawna Bandoch of DaVita, and Shirley Loveland and Jeanie Higgins of Faith, Hope, Love Quilters. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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WINTER PROGRAM
The Worcester Preparatory Lower School put on a Winter Program for their families on Dec. 10. Lower School music teacher Joanie Brittingham wrote, directed and choreographed the program, encompassing 200 singing and dancing students from Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. Pictured is the fifth grade class.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



GIFTS COLLECTED
Worcester Preparatory School students gathered on Dec. 9, to load a truck with gifts to be donated to Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity). Students also collected blankets to donat to a local nursing home.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



NEW MEMBERS
The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club welcomed new members, William Smith, left, and Janet Rollman Smith, on Jan. 6. They are pictured with membership chairman Roger Pacella.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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