



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## Farr dissents on vote about 'owner' bylaw

Electronic voting must be unanimous to be official

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Despite initial assertions that the Ocean Pines Board of Directors voted unanimously by email last week to amend the definition of owner of record in its proposed bylaws revisions, it has since come to light that Director Rick Farr opposed the motions.

For the board to vote electronically, unanimous consent is required for both the procedure and also to pass motions put forth.

Speaking on Tuesday, Farr said while he did concur with the email vote procedure, he declined to support the subsequent motions.

"[Association President] Colette Horn assumed I voted when I didn't," he said. "I never cast a vote."

The directors have spearheaded a comprehensive review of the bylaws, which were last revised in 2008. Those resulting revisions will be voted on by association members in a referendum this spring.

During a related town hall meeting on March 12, Bylaws Committee Chair Jim Trummel said the group recommended changing the proposed definition of owner of record to prohibit representatives of properties owned by corporations, LLCs or partnerships from running for the board.

Conversely, the proposed definition for owner of record would allow trustees or co-trustees to qualify for board membership.

Farr took exception with the approach and proposed expanding the trustee parameters.

"I said, 'I'll vote yes if you guys change the motion to add equitable ownership,'" he said. "I thought it was

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Rick Farr

## SMOKEY

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department crews responded for a structure fire on Maid Marion Lane around 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday that started in and was contained to the attached garage with no injuries reported.

## Rose steps down as chair of HDC

But she'll continue to serve while turning leadership role over to Norman Bunting

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Leadership roles on Berlin's Historic District Commission changed earlier this month with former chairperson Carol Rose handing the reins over to Norman Bunting.

After 14 years as commission chair, Rose opted to vacate the role.

"I really just needed a break mainly to be home with my husband," she said.

Annual appointments for chair and vice-chair were made during the

See ROSE Page 8



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Berlin Historic District Commission members, from left, John Holloway, Mary Moore, Carol Rose, Norman Bunting and Robert Poli examined a number of projects during its meeting on March 2.



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PHOTO COURTESY IVY WELLS

Early rendering for a section of “Pollinator Way” proposed for the alleyway next to Island Creamery on Main Street that is moving forward after the Town of Berlin was awarded a Clean Up & Green Up Maryland grant last week.

Berlin awarded state grant  
to establish ‘Pollinator Way’

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Town of Berlin officials’ goal of converting an eyesore in to an educational attraction for youth — while promoting its Bee City designation — is coming to fruition after being awarded a \$5,000 grant through the Keep Maryland Beautiful program.

Clean Up & Green Up Maryland grants, which are intended for volunteer organizations, communities and land trusts, help finance environmental educational projects that protect natural resources.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the town applied last fall for grants to spruce up the alley between Gilbert’s Provisions at 116 N. Main St. and Island Creamery at 120 N. Main Street.

“We’re trying to do an entire project to help solve some of the problems we’ve experienced in that alley,” she said.

Project plans include installing bio-retention gardens to help alleviate flooding.

“‘Pollinator Way’ is what we’re calling it,” she said.

Additional funds from the Maryland State Arts Council are earmarked to finance an interactive sidewalk mural.

“It’s a fun kids sidewalk mural,” she said. “Start at Main Street and directions on the mural tells them to

‘flap your arms like a bee and spin around like a butterfly.’”

Wells said the aim is to entertain youngsters while also imparting knowledge.

“The line for Island Creamery is always super long in the summertime,” she said. “It gives kids something fun to do and learn while they’re waiting in line for ice cream.”

Mural artist Jess Hall, with Happy Now Creations, is on board to transform the sidewalk into a colorful pathway.

“She’s going to paint this on the sidewalk leading from Main Street all the way to the back of the building,” she said.

The bio-retention gardens are intended to handle condensation runoff from a pair of rooftop AC units that often leave a slimy mess in the alley.

Building owner Troy Purnell previously granted permission for the alley project.

Award recipients were notified on March 20, which is designated as Keep Maryland Beautiful Day. Funds are distributed by April 15 and intended to be used through Feb. 28, 2023.

Wells said the grant award would also help purchase re-useable bags to be given away at the Berlin Welcome Center.

“It also helps with the flooding issues in a fun way,” she said. “The alley isn’t very attractive in its current state and we want to improve that.”



# Environmental Cmte. talks geese deterrence

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Continued efforts to reduce the wild goose population around ponds in Ocean Pines were focused on last week by the Environmental and Natural Assets Committee.

In addition to the plan to post signs that discourage feeding wildlife, other proposals for geese control options were examined during the groups' meeting last Thursday.

Committee Chair Sharon Santacroce said the association just received new "Keep Wildlife Wild" signs that caution against feeding wild geese and other critters at the South Gate Pond.

"Those are in now," she said.

The committee also will assist Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue on establishing sites for signs, with subsequent installation by Public Works crews.

The soon-to-be installed placards state, "help conserve wildlife and their natural habitats."

Going further, the substantial sign explains, "feeding geese, ducks and wild animals can cause the following harmful effects: overcrowding, poor nutrition, spread of disease, unnatural behavior, pollution, delayed migration, safety concerns and dependency on humans."

Santacroce said although replacements for existing "do not feed" signs are forthcoming, pond frequenters should remain patient.

"We're hoping to have up them within the next month," she said.

In the same vein, committee members also continued work on brewing up a multi-tiered approach to deter waterfowl from congregating around the ponds.

Santacroce said the committee has almost com-

pleted a report on geese control methods that have been employed by the association over the past decade.

"We polled present and past [committee] members to pull this document together," she said.

Santacroce said the finalized report would be delivered to board of directors liaison Doug Parks for distribution to his fellow directors.

With past lessons in mind, committee members also continued work on a board presentation to promote future deterrent efforts.

Santacroce said the main message is that overgrowth around water areas prevents geese from grazing.

"The whole point of this is we're wanting to plant indigenous vegetation, especially around the South Gate Pond," she said. "Our logic is it will deter goose gatherings."

Canada geese, nests and eggs, are protected under federal law by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibits capturing or killing except during legal hunting seasons.

Santacroce said the intent would be propagating water-edge indigenous plants that are aesthetically pleasing.

"We want to get master gardeners involved," she said.

Unaltered views would be another aim, with plants averaging a foot in height being proposed.

Santacroce said a maximum of 12-inches would be sufficient to keep geese off land.

"They are worried about predators and it makes them nervous," she said. "We don't need something that's four-feet tall."

Although echoing prior approaches, current committee plans would be significantly altered.

"Before I lived here ... they allowed vegetation to



PHOTO COURTESY DEBBIE DONAHUE


New signage to deter feeding animals are being installed in the coming weeks around the South Gate Pond in Ocean Pines.

grow around the pond," she said. "It was just willy-nilly wild, and people didn't like the way it looked."

Santacroce stressed future committee suggestions, while certainly related, would not chart the same course.

"It was unattractive, unkempt natural growth and there was no real thought given to it other than let's just let it grow," she said.

See PINES Page 4



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# Church retiring as commissioner at end of fifth term

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) West Ocean City's county commissioner is ready to "smell the roses."

That was the phrase Worcester County Commissioner James "Bud" Church used often in discussing his decision to retire from his position of the last 20 years when his term expires later this year.

Church, 80, whose District 3 also includes Assateague Island, everything east of Route 611, all of South Point and parts of Berlin, said he's talked to the political hopefuls who will run for his vacant seat and said part of his decision was the notion that it's time to infuse some fresh blood into the commissioners' chambers in Snow Hill.

"And it's time for Bud Church to say, 'Here's an empty seat' and here's an opportunity for one or two or three people to throw in and seek the position. I wish them all well," Church said.

"You realize there's time for someone else to come in with new ideas and a lot more energy. Not that I didn't have all the energy I needed to do the job, but an opportunity for someone else to do it. It's time for Bud Church to take some time off and smell the roses."

A former president of the Worcester County Board of Education, Church first became interested in a seat on the board of commissioners when his district was formed and it's been under his watch ever since.

He ran against Susan Wenzlaff, the daughter of beloved late Ocean City Mayor Roland "Fish" Powell in what he described as a "good, clean race."

"I was always interested in a county commissioner position but (this area) was always pretty much at-large and then they developed a district that was just perfect for what I thought was an opportunity to run," Church said. "I talked to my wife and she said, 'Don't hesitate. If this is something you want to do, jump in.'"

"When they developed that district,  
See AFTER Page 5

# Pines prepares for no feed signs

Continued from Page 3

The new approach would also seek to maintain land by the water's edge.

"We have realized there is a little bit of an erosion problem at the South Gate Pond," she said.

Ideally, Santacroce said future indigenous plantings would include rocks as surface dressing to reduce soil erosion.

"The plan would be three-fold," she said. "It would look nice, stop the erosion and deter geese."



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# After two decades in office Church plans to step down

Continued from Page 4  
it intrigued me to take a shot at it and 20 years later I'm happy that I did."

True to his background, ensuring a quality public school system has been a focal point for Church throughout his five terms.

"I think my biggest interest and focus when I first got elected and — it hasn't changed much — is the school system," Church said. "I spent 10 years on the school board, I've had five grandkids go through the school system, I've gone through the school system — I just thought that was a major interest point for me. I wanted to do whatever I could to promote the system and help with funding, and not just for the main education support. I always wanted to support the ancillary things like football, baseball, I wanted kids to have those opportunities too. But my main focus was on the curriculum, hiring the best teachers available, having the best superintendent we can have, having the best principals."

His fellow commissioners will remember him for his one-of-a-kind personality and his commitment to Worcester.

"Bud's always been Bud. He's always been committed to the county and making sure things are right for the county," Commissioner Diana Purnell said. "If I needed advice from him, Bud always gave me direct answers and he'd tell me when I had to make up my mind. But Bud was always very good. He's an excellent person to work with, has a crazy sense of humor but he's a very nice person to work with."

Purnell brought up the relationship Church had with her late husband, Commissioner Jimmy Purnell, and said that relationship carried over to her as a commissioner.

"He always supported me if it was something for the community," she said. "Bud would always support. And I have to appreciate that. And I do —



**After five terms and 20 years as a Worcester County Commissioner, Bud Church is ready to "smell the roses," he says. He will give up his District 3 seat at the end of the year. Church has been the first and only commissioner in his district, having won the first election for the chair in 2002. The area was considered at-large before.**

as a businessperson, a commissioner and just as a person in general, Bud was always a very nice person to me."

Commissioner Ted Elder wished the best for his retirement.

"He's been gold, somebody you can always talk to," Elder said. "You can reach out to him and even if you don't agree with him, (work something out). He's a good guy."

Church will continue being involved with Bud Church Realty in Ocean City but also pointed to the job that his son and company vice president Ken Church have done over the last decade-plus. His grandson is also in the company.

After he gives up his seat, he said he and his wife, Allyson, plan to do a bit of traveling but "nothing major."

"It's time for Bud Church to smell the roses and I think it's perfect timing," he said. "I've had several calls (about my decision), I've told them all the exact same thing, there just comes a time where you need new blood."

# Snow Hill election deadline March 31 for mayor, council

(March 24, 2022) The Town of Snow Hill will hold its general election in-person on Tuesday, May 3, at the Train Station on 200 Belt Street. The polls will be open during that time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Up for election this year are the offices of mayor and Eastern District council.

Interested candidates will need to submit a request for an application to Margot Resto, Town Hall's administrative assistant via email to: [mresto@snowhillmd.com](mailto:mresto@snowhillmd.com). The deadline to submit the application is Thursday, March 31, at 4:30 p.m.

Citizens can register to vote by contacting the Worcester County Board of Elections at 410-632-1320, emailing [Worcester.Elections@maryland.gov](mailto:Worcester.Elections@maryland.gov), or by visiting 201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill Maryland, 21863.

The deadline to register to vote is Friday, April 1, at 4:30 p.m.

Those who wish to vote by absentee ballot can call Town Hall or email Resto to request a ballot application. The deadline to submit a request for an absentee ballot application is Friday, April 22, at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Resto via email or call at 410-632-2080.



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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WBCA members hold up signs during last Tuesday's Worcester County Commissioners meeting in support of the organization's request for better compensation. The organization says the requests represent a necessary and fair solution to mounting costs for bus drivers, who are more often than not responsible for the maintenance of the buses they drive.

# Bus contractors bring fight to Worcester Commissioners

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) The Worcester County Bus Contractors Association has made its desire for what it considers fair compensation known in recent weeks. On March 15, representatives brought their argument to the County Commissioners meeting.

For the 2022-23 school year, the WBCA is asking for an additional \$1.29 increase to hourly wages up to \$26.29 per hour — \$80,110 total for the county — and an additional 18 cents per mile in maintenance reimbursement — \$223,560 total for the county. The organization calculates the costs based on its 69 bus drivers.

Currently, the county Board of Education has agreed to a total increase of \$175,121 for the 2022-23 school year for the 69 bus drivers. The organization's total request — \$303,670 — would raise the increase to \$478,791, or about \$6,939 per bus driver.

"While this may at first glance seem excessive, it is important to know that a school bus contractor from Worcester County nets an estimated 28 to 33 percent of the total gross income if everything goes right," said Lori Thompson, acting WBCA secretary. "We are at a crossroads where it is no longer economically sustainable for Worcester County school bus contractors to continue under current financial conditions."

Thompson outlined how repairs on school buses — the responsibility of the bus driver — can wipe out one's income. She stressed that their buses are not "old or outdated." She compared driving in Worcester County and driving in Montgomery County, remarking that it doesn't matter where one drives because maintenance remains the same.

Commissioner Chip Bertino, while thanking Thompson for the "respectful" presentation, questioned some of her comparisons.

"We're not on the other side of the bridge," he said. "I don't think the comparison to the other side of the bridge works. We are here on the Eastern Shore. If you want to drive a bus over there, I certainly understand that but we have to live in the reality that we exist here on the lower Eastern Shore."

At one point, Commissioner Josh Nordstrom said he'd like to hear the Board of Education's reasoning behind its denial of the contractors' request, prompting Bertino to interject that the commissioners were not holding court nor a negotiation.

"I don't think it's fair truthfully to have a negotiation at our meeting. I don't think it's right and I think that's what it's going to develop into even if members of the Board of Ed come up and speak," Bertino said.

"I think this is the wrong forum for that. I don't think this discussion should be had here. The elected Board of Education had these conversations and, quite truthfully, I think we're setting a very bad precedent for this body to then have this going back and forth, Josh."

Commissioner Ted Elder spent 30 years behind the wheel of a school bus and about 20 as president of the WBCA. After the meeting, he said the contractor had "very legitimate concerns."

"They've never had any health insurance (benefits)," Elder said. "They say it's because (the bus drivers) are independent contractors but yet they aren't treated like independent contractors. There are no negotiations for contracts or anything done by the contractor's association. They're never involved. (The schools) just rewrite the contracts whenever they feel like it, throw it in front of them and say, 'Here, you have to sign this.' That's the way they deal with it normally."

"These 1-percent increases the last See BUS Page 9

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# OP remains ahead of budget for fiscal year

GM John Viola says positive variances anticipated to be retained through April

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola updated the Budget and Finance Committee on Monday on year-to-date revenues and spending and gave a progress report on capital projects.

Viola reported the month of February is anticipated to close with a \$635,000 operating loss, which is less than the budget forecast of \$662,000.

“We’re probably about \$20,000 favorable to budget for February,” he said.

Viola said the association’s current positive operating variance of roughly \$1.4 million is not expected to change much over the final two months of the fiscal year.

“The February projection is not a major change,” he said.

To this point, Viola said the financial performance of the amenities have accounted for about half the budget overage, with the inclusion of marinas and beach parking pushing the total to roughly \$800,000.

Outside of assorted cost-cutting



Future moves to address aging irrigation infrastructure at the Ocean Pines Golf Course were discussed this week by the Budget and Finance Committee in light of Worcester County opting against funding a proposed project at the site.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

measures, Viola credited “organic growth” from amenities for the financial windfall.

“When I say organic revenue growth, I’m not talking about price increases, I’m talking about revenue that wasn’t there before,” he said.

Turning to capital projects, board liaison Larry Perrone asked what might be done to update the golf course irrigation system in the wake of Worcester County deciding not to fund the wastewater spray irrigation

project.

“Since the county decided they weren’t going to do the irrigation system, we were going to look at doing it in phases,” he said.

Viola said following the recent change of course at the county level, association officials examined how to address the situation.

“We talked about a contingency plan if something did break [and] what to do if the system went down,” he said.

Viola said irrigation pump stations are the greatest concern.

“I’m told now it won’t take that long for the type of parts we would need,” he said.

Ideally, replacing pump stations could be included in subsequent budget cycles, Viola said.

In some instances, underground irrigation lines dates back several decades.

“Some of those pipes, the fittings  
See OP Page 9

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 WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SNOW HILL



# Rose expresses confidence in her successor

Continued from Page 1  
Historic District Commission meeting on March 2, with Laura Stearns joining Bunting to fill the top positions.

Regardless of stepping down as chair, Rose intends to continue serving on the Historic District Commission.

"I'm still on the committee but the chair position is more than just running the meetings," she said.

Rose said the chairperson typically fields phone calls from historic district property owners with inquiries about style particulars.

"I did more than I probably needed to but it's important to me," she said "If someone has a project they're really excited about doing,

we're able to work with them to accomplish it."

Rose said the commission's goal is to assure renovations compliment and maintain downtown style standards.

"I have enjoyed 99 percent of what I've had to do," she said.

Looking ahead, Rose feels encouraged as the next generation of Berlin residents continue to join advisory committees.

"Young people on every board I'm on have great ideas," she said. "Our town needs the young people to be involved and boy they are."

Rose is also enthused by Bunting's ascension to chairperson.

"Norman has sufficient experience to take us forward with all the new

stuff going on," she said. "We've got a really good, strong board."

For his part, Bunting said it was an honor to be nominated as chairperson.

"I look forward to maintaining the historic charm of our town," he said.

Bunting said the commissions' primary focus is maintaining the historic integrity of residences and businesses.

"After being on the commission for the last four years, and now as the chairman, I look forward to serving the mayor, council and the towns people of Berlin," he said.

Born and raised in Berlin, Rose has vivid memories of properties she encountered in her childhood.

"With the homes that are in the historic district ... a lot of these homes I went in or played in growing up," she said.

Rose said both Bunting and commission member John Holloway have spent their lifetimes in Berlin.

"We've got that perspective on what the homes should stay like," she said. "We've got three people right now that grew up in Berlin."

Additionally, Rose said commission member Mary Moore has spent the bulk of her years as a Berlin resident, while also noting Stearns provides other intangibles.

"Laura's been here a good time and she has a good eye for details," she said. "Everybody brings something different to the table."

# Farr calls for lightening up on LLCs

Continued from Page 1  
relevant because of this last litigation that took place."

Farr said the point stems from his recent lawsuit over being disqualified as a board candidate last summer.

"I was an equitable owner of my trust," he said. "That was one of the key factors of the judge's ruling."

Farr said the inclusion of equitable owner would help avoid future litigation.

"I thought that was important that go in there because it could be challenged again," he said. Farr's challenge was successful.

Another point of contention Farr gave for the failed email vote was re-

lated to Limited Liability Corporations.

"The issue with the LLC is you could have a husband and wife owning property under an LLC and that's as far as it goes," he said.

Farr said in many instances LLCs include limited members, which are often family relations.

"You're disenfranchising people who could be just a mom and pop or a man and wife having their home in an LLC," he said.

The argument for prohibiting LLC-based property owners from seeking a board seat, as well as corporate interests or partnerships, boils down to divided loyalties.

"They're making a judgment that their loyalties won't be to Ocean Pines," he said. "You don't know that, and I don't know that."

In large part, Farr said private homeowners place property under LLCs for tax purposes.

"I can see corporations could be carved out, but LLCs are typically smaller groups," he said. "I have an LLC in my consulting business and it's just me."

In light of the stalled email vote,

the recommended bylaws revisions would be voted on during the board meeting scheduled on Wednesday.

The currently proposed definition for owner of record in bylaws section 1.11 cites ownership as the "person(s) listed on the deed ... in Land Records of Worcester County."

The proposed owner of record definition also accounts for trustees or co-trustees, but if amended as recommended by the Bylaws Committee, would prohibit representative members of LLCs, corporations or partnerships from board candidacy.

"You're making a judgment on people that's not fair," he said.

Farr plans to argue in favor of amending the trustee aspect at the board meeting this week.

"I'm going to bring this up tomorrow, why we should add equitable owner to it," he said.

Regardless of long-term concerns aired over business entities taking control of the board, Farr said rule changes should be inclusive.

"You want to encourage people to run for the board and be part of the board," he said.

# County approves upgrades in HVAC in two buildings

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners last Tuesday agreed to spend \$248,840 so the Department of Public Works can perform upgrades on the HVAC systems at the county's government center and courthouse and the Berlin Health Department.

"We have money allocated, around \$350,000, under the assigned fund balance," public works Director Dallas Baker told the commissioners. "We're also asking to sole-source this to Modern Controls, they've been our select vendor for various projects like this in the past."

Modern Controls has worked with the county to outfit the recreation department office, the State's Attorney's Office and county libraries in Snow Hill, Berlin and Ocean City.

In his memo to the commissioners, Baker said that the work would include removing "factory" operating controls on rooftop units "to provide complete control over each unit."

The current setup limits maintenance personnel's ability to control airflow, outside air intake and proper ventilation, the memo said.

"These standalone units are constantly and consistently an issue when trying to regulate and control space temperatures," the memo said. "Covid has identified shortcomings in our ability to properly control various HVAC equipment."

The work will also ensure proper environments for the county's IT systems.

The proposal estimated the project will cost \$61,870 for the government center, \$109,970 for the courthouse and \$77,000 for the Berlin Health Department.

# Town of Berlin Public Notice



## Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals NOTICE of an Appeal

Pursuant to the Town of Berlin Code Sections 108-163 "Conditional Uses, variances, and special exceptions, and 108-165 "Variances" the Berlin Board of Zoning Appeals will hear an appeal from Brett and Meghan Hines for a front and rear yard setback variance within the B-1 Town Center District for the property situated at 21 Jefferson Street, Berlin, MD at their regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 5:30 PM in the Mayor and Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 2nd floor, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

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# Commissioners approve Shady Side amendment

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) A modification was made to the Worcester County zoning code last Tuesday that will accommodate the Shady Side Village residential planned community to be built on Old Ocean City Road.

After little discussion, the county commissioners approved the amendment — brought to them as emergency legislation — 7-0. The amendment modifies the zoning code for a series of townhouses to say that a maximum length of 200 feet and a maximum capacity of 10 units is a recommendation, not a requirement.

Last month, the developers ran into a snag when the townhome row they proposed came in just over 200 feet.

The zoning requirement had been in place since 2009.

“Before 2009, not all townhouse projects needed to be (classified as planned unit development or residential planned community). They just went through site plan approval,” said attorney Hugh Cropper, representing landowner Kathy Clark and Shady Side Village LLC. “I represented many clients who did townhouse projects that were not RPCs ... We just turned in a site plan and we went to planning commission, it got approved or denied.”

Cropper said the plan brought before the commissioners in the past

See SHADY Page 11

# Bus drivers seek higher pay rates

Continued from Page 6

few years are catching up, along with the maintenance on these buses. As I stated today, I could buy a whole set of (fuel) injectors for what one injector costs nowadays and (compensation) just hasn't kept up at all.”

Regarding whether the bus drivers should have been in front of the Commissioners stating their case, Elder said they have a right to petition the government.

“That’s one of the things — they’ve always tried to stifle us whenever I was president of the contractor’s association,” Elder said. “They always encourage us not to say anything publicly and not to go in front of the commissioners. We did it one time at least 25 years ago and we were successful in those days but I don’t know what they’ll do now.”

The commissioners will hold an open budget work session on March 29 with the Board of Education. President Joe Mitrecic invited the WBCBA to attend.

# OP weighs golf irrigation updates

Continued from Page 7

... if we increase the pressure ... that’s where had past problems,” he said. “We don’t put that kind of pressure on it anymore.”

Perrone suggested the board could vote to approve the overall project, which would be completed in phases.

“If we get a proposal, the board can vote ... on replacing the system in phases,” he said. “We can approve that and then the spending would be approved as it’s done over years.”

Committee Chair Dick Keiling asked if the county had offered any explanation for backing out of the project.

While Viola acknowledged not receiving any reasoning, Perrone offered one possibility

“If I had to guess, it probably had to do with the \$10 or \$11 million

bond they’re asking for the sports complex,” he said.

On other fronts, Viola said efforts are still underway to install new pickleball courts at the Racquet Sports Center.

“We have had challenges,” he said. After sending out a handful of requests for proposals, problems surfaced about needing to have site work completed prior to construction.

“We did get back two [bids] and they just wanted to do the courts, not the site work,” he said.

Recognizing the need to divide duties, association officials subsequently contacted several firms to bid on site work details.

Viola said an alternative plan to separate site work and construction is expected to be presented at the board meeting on Wednesday.

“We want to get installed this season,” he said.

Also on tap for the board meeting on Wednesday is an approval to spend about \$40,000 to replace lighting at the North Gate Bridge.

Viola said the upgrades include four main lights at the bridge entrance, as well as side illumination.

“Taking the guard shack down and cleaning it up — I think it looks better,” he said.

Several upgrades to dock facilities are also on the horizon, including public works replacing ramps at Mumford’s Landing and contractors building T-docks.

Viola said the T-docks are being built in Florida and remain on track for installation by Memorial Day.

“We lined up with Fisher Marine to put them in,” he said.

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# OP Communications Cmte. looks to pull in community

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) Building resident interest in community issues dominated discussions during the Ocean Pines Communications Committee meeting last Thursday.

Chair Cheryl Jacobs opened the St. Patrick's Day virtual meeting with an update on changing existing marquee signs to electronic message boards.

In September 2019, the OPA Communications Committee began looking into replacing the community's marquee signs with digital versions. After conferring with county officials it soon came to light that the sign swap would require a zoning code amendment specific to Ocean Pines.

Although eventually gaining that approval, Jacobs said the board of directors' discussion on the issue in January put the proposal in doubt.

During the board meeting in January, Director Larry Perrone said Development, Review and Planning Deputy Director Jennifer Keener had indicated any investment in electronic signs would require removal of all existing marquee signs.

After hitting an apparent roadblock, Jacobs contacted Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino to confirm the directive was accurate.

"I did have a positive conversation with Chip," she said.

Bertino subsequently spoke to Keener, who reportedly was amicable to reaching an accord to permit new signs.

"It does appear that we are going to be able to, if [board] approved, install one or more to begin with, without having to remove all of the other

ones immediately," she said.

Jacobs said a firm meeting date with Keener should be set later this month.

"That's the first next step," she said.

Drumming up attendance for the annual homeowners' meeting held on the second Saturday in August was also a meeting focal point.

Jacobs said a previous committee discussion centered on staging a larger "Community Day" to build the annual meeting into a larger celebratory event.

"We talked and came up with suggestions," she said.

Jacobs said committee board liaison Josette Wheatley has also indicated other efforts are underway to lure residents to the meeting.

"Josette did tell us last month that the board is also working sort of in that direction," she said.

Jacobs noted Strategic Planning Committee Chair Bernie McGorry has offered to craft a mini-survey to gather resident suggestions on how to boost meeting attendance.

"Bernie said he would be happy to help put together questions if we needed that," she said.

Committee member Marlene Ott wondered whether the approach would work.

"We've done quite a few surveys," she said.

Ott said committee members might have better luck brainstorming ideas among themselves.

Noting strong attendance for several recent Ocean Pines historical panels, Ott recommended opening the annual meeting in a similar spirit.

"Maybe start the annual meeting 15 minutes early ... with a historical presentation," she said. "Maybe a few

See PINES Page 11

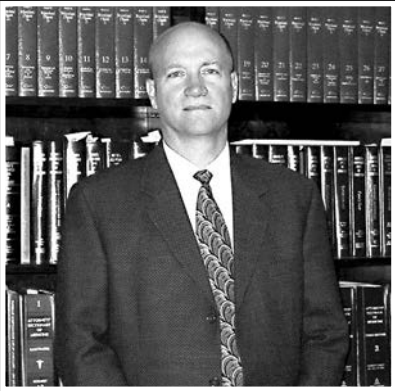


Cheryl Jacobs

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# Wor. reduces weight of final exams

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) The Worcester Public Schools Board of Education unanimously agreed to a policy change that weighs final exams less toward students' course grades.

Under the district's current policy, final exams count as 20 percent of a student's final grade, but after last week's board of education meeting,

the exams will only count as 10 percent.

Annette Wallace, the district's chief operating and academics officer, told board members at the meeting that former superintendent and current school board member Jon Andes asked the district to review the final exam policy a few months back.

The school board, Wallace said, fully agreed and put together a com-

mittee to discuss the policy.

"The committee overwhelmingly agreed that we should return to final exams counting as 10 percent, not 20 percent, of the final grade," she said.

With the committee's support and recommendation, Superintendent Lou Taylor was seeking approval for the measure.

The board voted unanimously to make the policy change.

# Worcester County names Teacher of the Year finalists

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(March 24, 2022) The winner of Worcester County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year contest will be announced this Friday, just one week after the final four were named.

The four finalists, who were selected by a panel of education experts and the 2021 Worcester County Teacher of the Year, are Kristin Cashman, Steven Deakyne, Lindsay Harrington, and Michael Levy.

The criteria on which the teachers were selected included instructional abilities, collaboration, building connections in the community, leadership, innovation in and out of the classroom,

See TEACHER Page 12

# Pines still seeking electronic signs

Continued from Page 10

minutes at the start with a host would attract people who would stay for the meeting."

Other topics of discussion included how to encourage residents to vote in an upcoming referendum for bylaw updates.

"Whenever the board sends it out ... we will have to figure a way to get people to respond," Jacobs said.

Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines suggested creating an "understanding piece" to accompany the referendum materials, which include nearly 30 language revisions.

"So people don't look at it and do the straight line no," she said. "Take a look at what this is and make sure

you vote accordingly."

Jacobs said the list of bylaw changes is quite extensive.

"We're going to be asking people to weed through all of that," she said.

The list includes a mix of minor language alterations and more substantive matters regarding board elections

"My opinion is people are just not going to take the time to go through that to make responsible decisions about these issues," she said.

Rines said committee efforts to heighten participation are not intended to influence decisions.

"We can't take a position," she said.

Jacobs offered to advise the board

the committee suggests that clear explanations be provided to encourage referendum voting.

The next Communications Committee meeting is April 21 at 10 a.m.

# Shady Side amendment sought

Continued from Page 9

had not yet received the scrutiny that ultimately led to the planning commission to rule that the amendment would be needed to approve the project as-is, which is why it was filed as "emergency legislation."

"The reason the code needs to be changed is, before 2009 when it was adopted, you needed standards," he said. "Now, the planning commission looks at this as part of an RPC and the PC reviews the project, sets setbacks. An RPC is intended to have a well, holistically designed project and

that's what this project (will be)."

The 33-unit community will feature townhomes and duplexes on the corner of Old Ocean City Road and Green Ridge Lane. The 4.82-acre site is surrounded by a motel, trailer park and commercial area.

The development has been in the work for roughly four years. In 2020, architect Keith Iott said there would be three recreation areas in the community that would include physical fitness areas and more general recreation such as corn hole and badminton.

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# Teacher of the Year ceremony to stream live

Continued from Page 11  
and the ability to articulate their education beliefs while advocating how to make the field better.

“These outstanding teachers, and the entire 2022 cohort of school-level teachers of the year in Worcester County, represent the hundreds of phenomenal teachers throughout our school system,” Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor said in a press release. “It is important that we collectively celebrate not only these fine educators, but the field of education as a whole.”

The school district’s choice will be announced during a celebration Friday at 6 p.m. The event will be closed to the public but those wishing to watch it live can do so by visiting [www.worcesterk12.org](http://www.worcesterk12.org) and the school district’s social media channels.

The winner will go on to compete in the 2022-23 Maryland Teacher of the Year competition this fall.

The finalists are:  
**Kristin Cashman**, Pocomoke High School

Cashman is a Salisbury University Graduate with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree as a reading specialist. She is also finishing her fifth education certification.

Still connected to Salisbury University as an adjunct faculty member, Cash-



Kristin Cashman

man teaches English at Pocomoke High School, is the coordinator for a mobile community engagement-outreach program called Worcester on Wheels, is a facilitator for Women who Rise

Program, which aims to inspire students through education, works on school and county technology teams, is an equity champion and lead for Pocomoke’s equity team, and is the new teacher liaison at Pocomoke.

**Steven Deakyne**, Stephen Decatur High School

Now in his eighth year at Stephen Decatur High School, Deakyne teaches physics, AP physics, and physical science.



Steven Deakyne

He earned a master’s in education from Wilmington University and a bachelor of science in wildlife ecology from the University of Delaware.

“Deakyne believes in creating a positive learning environment with an emphasis on student engagement,” the release from the district read. “When students are actively engaged and thinking critically, learning naturally results.”

Along with teaching at Stephen Decatur High School, Deakyne coaches the swim team, is a member of the School Improvement Team, is a member of the Magnet Schools Assistance Program, or MSAP, and co-chairs the school’s chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

**Lindsay Harrington**, Stephen Decatur Middle School

Harrington is in her 12th year teaching science at Stephen Decatur Middle

School and has a bachelor of science from Randolph Macon College and a master of education degree from Salisbury University.

Her philosophy is that students should become curious and lifelong learners.

“Lindsay teaches her students how to be observant of the world around them and how to use the skills she has instilled in them to solve problems,” the press release read. “Her passion for teaching is shared with other teachers as she helps others create learning experiences for students to develop a deeper understanding of their world beyond the science classroom.”

**Michael Levy**, Worcester Technical High School

Levy retired from the United States Air Force in 2003 after serving 20 years



Michael Levy

in the Security Forces. From 1989-2013, Levy was a member of the Ocean City Police Department.

Now, in his ninth year at Worcester Technical High School, Levy teaches criminal justice, forensic science, and homeland security.

“Levy endeavors to create collaborative learning environments that build problem-solving skills and believes his purpose in education is to prepare students for situations they might encounter in criminal justice and public safety careers,” the press release read. “To date, he has developed cooperative internships for program alumni with nine public safety entities across the country.”

Ten other teachers were nominated: April Anft of Cedar Chapel Special School, Melanie Coleman of Ocean City Elementary School, Blake Cropper of Pocomoke Middle School, Danielle DiMichelle of Buckingham Elementary School, Saudi Evanski of Pocomoke Elementary School, Matthew Haelig of Snow Hill High School, Samantha Keyes of Showell Elementary School, William Tignor of Snow Hill Elementary School, Olivia Tyndall of Snow Hill Elementary School, and Melissa Vit of Berlin Intermediate School.

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# Opinion

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

## What’s good for goose not good for gander

It’s not just “the goose problem” in Ocean Pines, it’s “THE goose problem” that has been bedeviling officials for years, as boards and committees pursue all manner of tactics to prevent resident flocks of Canada geese from setting up housekeeping around the community’s ponds.

Nothing has worked all that well, from either a practical or political standpoint. The geese just keep showing up and creating one big mess on the ground, blessed as they are with highly efficient digestive systems.

Despite an appearance that has been described as majestic and even regal, Canada geese are “pernicious poop machines,” as one website article referred to them in its introduction to “15 easy ways” to stop geese from nesting and feeding where they are not wanted.

Interestingly, not one of these suggested measures was said to be 100 percent effective. After all, if any single method was a sure-fire cure, there would have been no need for the other 14 suggestions.

The problem, really, isn’t that the answer doesn’t exist, but that it’s not the answer people want. The most effective way to keep geese from flocking around ponds would be cover much of the ground next to them with shrubbery.

That would eliminate the goose-grazing on these patches, but it also would block human access to much of the property.

Beyond converting these grounds into something more conducive to human use and the frequent gatherings of people that might ensue, there isn’t much anyone can do.

That, unfortunately, leaves the Environmental and Natural Assets Committee with the frustrating job of having to pursue the perfect solution, or at least that rare and elusive remedy that keeps everyone happy.



“Time to move on. The free buffet is about to end”

## Over \$600K in scholarships available

(March 24, 2022) More than \$600,000 in scholarships are available for area students through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

The foundation, which awarded scholarships to over 400 students last year, has recently opened applications on its website. Many of the scholarships having an April 1, deadline, and details are available within each application.

“The foundation’s expertise in scholarship management allows us to help our donors grow these opportunities for students,” said Community Foundation President Erica Joseph. “The impact of these scholarships is an investment in our future leaders, as well as our local community.”

The foundation, which holds more than 200 scholarship funds, has steadily increased the number of scholarships available each year. It has also seen an expansion in areas of scholarship focus, as well as scholarships for non-traditional students.

Joseph said that the foundation offers a wide variety of scholarships, each with their own unique criteria.

“We are seeing an increased interest in scholarships for non-traditional students and trade schools,” she said. “For instance, the Naleppa Family Healthcare Scholarship focuses on students who have already been accepted into a healthcare education program, such as a two-year nursing program, whereas the Beattie Healthcare Careers Scholarship is for students who have already begun their undergraduate study in a healthcare field.”

Some scholarships are based on the student’s prospective area of study, like The Richard and Patricia Hazel Minority Scholarship which is for students who are interested in pursuing a career in education, STEM, or nursing. However, not every scholarship is for graduating seniors or four-year college students.

“Scholarship funds at CFES are a valuable resource for people who want to help local students,” Joseph said. “They are created by individuals, families, or businesses that are passionate about encouraging an area of study, memorializing a loved one, or simply extending a helping hand, so there is a little something for everyone.”

For a full list of scholarships, criteria, and applications, visit [CFES.org/scholarships](http://CFES.org/scholarships).

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided more than \$94 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

CFES collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources. It is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy.

For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or [vkent@CFES.org](mailto:vkent@CFES.org).

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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# OP tennis event honors Rusko, March 24-26

(March 24, 2022)Tennis fans in Ocean Pines will have the opportunity to witness a special tennis event Thursday through Saturday.

The Severn School Varsity Boys Tennis Team will be training at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on Thursday and Friday before playing Worcester Prep in the second annual Paul Rusko Memorial Tennis Tournament at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Rusko, a Pennsylvania native who later retired to Ocean Pines, was the coordinator of physical education and athletics in Anne Arundel County for more than three decades. He later became an

active part of the Ocean Pines tennis community and formed the “Early Bird” group of players, known for starting very early in the morning.

Severn's team competes in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing body for private schools in the Baltimore area. Elevated to the MIAA A Conference last spring, Severn went undefeated throughout the season before losing in the conference tournament finals. Five of the Severn players were named to the All-Conference Team last year and four of them are returning for the 2022 season.

“Led by Anne Arundel County Player-

of-the-Year, Matthew McNair, Severn's team is composed of players whose talents will be on display when they practice at the Ocean Pines Racquet Club on Thursday and Friday, and when they play in the Paul Rusko Memorial Tennis Tournament on Saturday," Ocean Pines Racquet Center Head Tennis professional Terry Underkoffler said. "If you want to see some tremendous tennis and some extremely talented players, you are welcome to watch them practice and to attend the tournament on March 26 at 11 a.m."

Severn is coached by Bill Gilroy and Duane Gillen.

“Bill has a home in Ocean Pines and

is one of our tennis instructors in the summer,” Underkoffler said. “His grandson, Aiden, started playing tennis with the ‘Early Bird’ group led by Paul Rusko here in the Pines, and he is now in his junior at Severn. He is one of the returning All-Conference players for the Severn team, and he looks forward to practicing and playing on the courts where he first competed against the men of the ‘Early Bird’ group.”

Underkoffler and Ocean Pines Racquet Sports program coordinator Tim McMullen coach the Worcester Prep team, which won its conference championship last year.

# Remodeled Coastal Hospice reopens Friday

(March 24, 2022) Coastal Hospice will reopen the thrift shop in its entirety, while showcasing its new remodel, on Friday, March 25.

Its seasonal Brown Bag Sale will be available on both Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fill a bag with clothing for \$10.

In addition, National Spring Cleaning Week runs March 27 to April 3. The thrift shop is now accepting gently used items in good condition. Donations should be clean, safe and resalable. Support Coastal Hospice and receive a tax deductible donation.

ances, small: irons, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers, toaster ovens, etc.; men's and women's clothing: shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, sweaters, etc.; shoes and handbags; baby, boy's and girl's clothing; toys; dishes, pots, and pans; exercise equipment, small: resistance bands, weights, workout items, etc.; sports equipment: basketballs, fishing poles (no tackle), hockey gear, etc.; hand tools; lawn and garden tools; linens, towels and blankets; books; and clear glass items.

Donation hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

in the back of the store.

Coastal Hospice Thrift Shop is located in the Berlin Shopping Center, Rtoute 50, 10445 Old Ocean City Blvd, and all proceeds from sales support charity care at Stansell House, its hospice home for patients who can

no longer live independently.

To learn more about Coastal Hospice Thrift Shop, visit <https://www.coastalhospice.org/thrift-shop>.

Follow on Facebook, Instagram  
and TikTok @CoastalHospiceThrift

**TOWN OF BERLIN, MARYLAND NOTICE  
OF A PROPOSED  
REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE  
ORDINANCE 2022-03**

Public Hearing Monday, March 28, 2022, 7:00 PM.

The Town of Berlin of Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2022, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4%, from \$481,534,886 to \$499,291,425.

2. If the Town of Berlin maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8150 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4% resulting in \$144,740 of new real property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7860, the constant yield tax rate.

4. The Town of Berlin is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town of Berlin proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.8150 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$144,740 in additional property tax revenues.

Proposed real property tax rate will be introduced at 7 pm on March 14th at Town of Berlin, Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD 21811.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7 pm on March 28th at Town of Berlin, Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD 21811.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 410-641-2770 for further information.

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# Retiring Fire Marshal Jeff McMahon honored

(March 24, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners recently recognized the career accomplishments of Worcester County Fire Marshal Jeff McMahon, who will retire March 31.

McMahon joined Worcester County Government (WCG) on March 9, 1987. He played a pivotal role in transforming the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office (WCFMO) from a one-man shop into a team of highly-trained deputy fire marshals whose responsibilities include fire inspections and plan reviews, instructing fire safety awareness programs in schools and communities, investigating fires

and explosions, and responding to hazardous materials incidents.

"In his role leading the WCFMO, volunteering with area fire companies, and heading up hazardous materials responses, Jeff has made a number of noteworthy marks on public safety in Worcester County," Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said.

McMahon, who worked as a program director at WDMV radio in Pocomoke and also worked at WKHI,



Jeff McMahon

began his career with WCG in Emergency Services and was quickly promoted to the position of supervisor.

During that time, he played a key role in developing and maintaining the computer aided dispatch system and the original 911 addresses, which required measuring and adding a physical 911 address for every 50-foot section of roadway in the county.

When the WCFMO was separated from Emergency Services in 1994, McMahon was recruited to the position of assistant fire marshal. Eighteen months later, the commissioners appointed him to lead the young depart-

ment as the fire marshal.

Following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, he worked with local, state and federal partners to establish the 40-member Special Hazards Response Team. This team consists of county, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) professionals, and volunteers who are trained to respond to biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives.

He also succeeded in having the WCFMO selected to serve as a beta tester for the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fire Arms BATS (Basic Arson Tracking

See COMMISSIONERS Page 17

# Wor. Arts Council seeks entries for exhibit

(March 24, 2022) The Worcester County Arts Council invites all interested artists to participate in a juried art competition and exhibit to be presented during the month of April at the WCAC Gallery.

The exhibition is open to all artists (18 years old and older), professional or amateur with work in all media.

All work must be original and completed within the last three years. Entries will be judged by local artist Doris Glover.

The subject of the competition: "Down to Earth" is open to the artist's individual creative expression and interpretation.

Entries for the competition will be accepted from March 29-31 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Arts Council's Gallery, located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

Each artist must complete the Juried Exhibit Entry Form, available on the Arts Council's website, to be submitted with the artwork. For detailed

guidelines of the competition, visit [www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org)

Awards in this competition will be presented on April 8 during an open to the public reception.

For more information, contact curator@worcestercountyartscouncil.org.

The Worcester County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support, promote and encourage visual, performing, and literary arts in Worcester County.

As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community. The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by the grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.



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**11036 Worcester Hwy., Berlin, MD 21811**


**[TempleBatYam-oc.org](http://TempleBatYam-oc.org)**




**Phillip's Crab House 1956-2022**

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**JIM ADCOCK ART STUDIO**




# OPEN HOUSES



## March 24 - March 31

| DAY/TIME          | ADDRESS                                | BR/BA            | STYLE              | PRICE       | AGENCY/AGENT                               |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm | Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside      | 1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+ | Condos, Towns & SF | -           | Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate         |
| Sunday, 11am-1pm  | 7 Alton Point, Ocean Pines             | 4BR/3BA/HBA      | Single Family      | \$1,150,000 | Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty |
| Sunday, 12-2:30pm | Decatur Farm 135 Intrepid Lane, Berlin | 3BR/2.5BA        | Townhouse          | \$289,900   | Tony Matrona/Resort Real Estate            |

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# Calendar

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

## Thurs., March 24

### STORY TIME: ‘POM POM PANDA GETS THE GRUMPS’

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Find out why Pom Pom is so grumpy. Take. home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### STORY TIME ‘FLOWER GARDEN’

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### DECOUPAGE COASTERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Turn old fashioned kitchen tiles into beautiful decoupage coasters. All supplies provided. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) or call 410-641-0650.

### BEEKEEPING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. A real time glimpse into a live honey bee colony with Crystal Lehman, local Master Beekeeper. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events” or call 410-957-0878.

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 410-632-2600

### PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin. 6-8 p.m. This clinic is for those ages 5 years and older. Registration is required: [www.agh.care/vaccine](http://www.agh.care/vaccine).

### BEACH SINGLES

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

## Fri., March 25

### REACH THE BEACH NATIONALS: GRAND NATIONALS DII/DIII (ALL STAR)

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway. Cheerleading National Competition. Info: 877-322-2310, <https://www.varsity.com/acda/>.

### COASTAL HOSPICE THRIFT SHOP REOPENING WITH BROWN BAG SALE

Coastal Hospice Thrift Shop, 10445 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fill a bag off clothing for \$10. The thrift shop is accepting donations of gently used items in good condition. Donations are tax deductible. <https://www.coastal-hospice.org/thrift-shop>

### SURVIVAL SPANISH: ‘FOOD’

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2-3 p.m. Focusing on conversational Spanish. The fourth class will be all about food. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

## Sat., March 26

### REACH THE BEACH NATIONALS: GRAND NATIONALS DII/DIII (ALL STAR)

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Cheerleading National Competition. Info: 877-322-2310, <https://www.varsity.com/acda/>.

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, Whaleville. 7-10 a.m. Including 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.

### OCEAN CITY’S SPRING CLEAN UP

Free residential bulk pick-up in Ocean City, 7 a.m.-noon. Collecting large household items, such as furniture, appliances, bicycles, carpet, etc. Yard debris and shrubs also permitted. Place all items curbside. 410-524-0318.

### 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](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

### COASTAL HOSPICE THRIFT SHOP BROWN BAG SALE

Coastal Hospice Thrift Shop, 10445 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fill a bag off clothing for \$10. The thrift shop is accepting donations of gently used items in good condition. Donations are tax deductible. <https://www.coastal-hospice.org/thrift-shop>

### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Dr. Clara Small will share her tips on genealogy research sources and techniques. The event is free. Register: [germantownschool@gmail.com](mailto:germantownschool@gmail.com) or Karen Prengaman, 443-235-9803.

### PAUL RUSKO MEMORIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443

Manklin Creek Road, 11 a.m. The Severn School Varsity Boys Tennis Team will be playing Worcester Prep in the 2nd Annual Paul Rusko Memorial Tennis Tournament.

### PROJECT T(W)EEN: DISNEY™ IMAGINEERING IN A BOX

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Come find out what Disney Imagineers do for Walt Disney World and put your imagination to work. For ages 11 years and older. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### 11TH ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

Snow Hill’s Downtown District, 1-5 p.m. All-you-can-eat oysters, live music, bottomless beer, prizes and more. Tickets cost \$55 at [www.snowhiillchamber.com/annual-oyster-roast](http://www.snowhiillchamber.com/annual-oyster-roast). 443-944-6701

### BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 4-7 p.m. Cost is \$40/person or \$300/table of 8 and includes pit beef, oysters, hot dogs, baked beans, Cole slaw, cheese tray, dessert, draft beer. Music with DJ Mikey. Tickets at the post or call 410-289-3166.

### SOUND STORM RECORDS RIBBON CUTTING

Sound Storm Records, 14 Broad St., Berlin, 4 p.m. Owners, Brandon and Lauren, will offer used vinyl records as well as new turntables, speakers, headphones and other lifestyle accessories. 631-965-7614, [soundstormberlin@gmail.com](mailto:soundstormberlin@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:oppaddle2020@gmail.com) or 516-508-0313.

## Sun., March 27

### REACH THE BEACH NATIONALS: GRAND NATIONALS DII/DIII (ALL STAR)

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Cheerleading National Competition. Info: 877-322-2310, <https://www.varsity.com/acda/>.

## Mon., March 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](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

### WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

### MAKER MONDAY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2- p.m. The fully jointed bears will be hand-sewn and decorated over several weeks using a variety to materials, patterns and techniques. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) or 410-641-0650.

### WOMEN’S HISTORY IN OCEAN CITY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about Women’s History in Ocean City from the Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

### 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 29

### STORY TIME AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN - ‘SPRING SEASON’

Pocomoke Community Garden - Corner Sanctuary, 327 Clarke Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities all about the spring season at the Pocomoke Community Garden on the corner of Clarke and Willow streets. Weather permitting. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

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



# Calendar

Continued from Page 16

**ANIMAL CHARACTER DESIGN**

Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. Using basic shapes and cartooning techniques, learn to create a variety of expressive animals. No experience needed. Materials needed: paper, pencil and eraser. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org). 410-632-2600

**DELMARVA DANCING**

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Participants show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. [delmarvahand-dance@gmail.com](mailto:delmarvahand-dance@gmail.com), 410-208-1151

## Wed., March 30

**STORY TIME: 'WEATHER'**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts all about weather. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB**

Join Zoom to discuss "Nature's Friend: The Gwen Frostic Story," 3:30 p.m. Title available on Hoopla. For ages 8-11 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**COOKING BASICS FOR YOUNG CHEFS**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Learn about basic kitchen utensils, kitchen safety and how to make a few simple recipes. Registration required: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under "Events" or 410-957-0878. For ages 7-12 years.

**VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION: 'PRIDE' BY IBI ZOBOI**

Modern remix of Pride and Prejudice starring an Afro-Latina teenager living in Brooklyn, 5:30 p.m. Available on Hoopla ([hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)) in both ebook and audiobook. Registration: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org). 410-632-2600

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE**

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. Pray for peace in Ukraine and call for an end to this war. Pray for those who died, for those in harm's way and for the leaders of every nation to seek peace. [dean@htcanglican.org](mailto:dean@htcanglican.org), 352-216-1995

**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, [barcroos@gmail.com](mailto:barcroos@gmail.com)

# Berlin gives backyard buffer trees

(March 24, 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](mailto: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.

# Commissioners honor McMahon

Continued from Page 15

System).

McMahon spearheaded the development of the Fire Training Center in Newark, along with the 2006 replacement of its main classroom building, which now houses the special hazardous response equipment and serves as a training facility for fire, EMS, law enforcement, military and Worcester Technical High School students earning certification as fire fighters and emergency medical technicians.

He also authored the current policy requiring county fire marshals to be trained and certified as law enforcement officers, enabling the WCFMO to be officially recognized by the Maryland Police Training Commission as a law enforcement agency. This certification grants police authorities to deputy fire marshals when investigating fire and explosive-related crimes.

McMahon also cultivated close working relationships between the WCFMO and other departments and agencies, which resulted in the sharing of manpower and specialty resources as needed with the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office and with the 10 volunteer fire departments and all law enforcement agencies in Worcester County to investigate fires, particularly so when the origins are suspicious, involve fatalities, high-dollar losses, or other suspicious circumstances.

In addition to his service to WCG, McMahon was a paramedic for 24 years, served as vice president and president of the Maryland Fire and Explosive Investigators Association and sat on several National Fire Protection Association subcommittees.

He is a 41-year member and former assistant chief of the Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company as well as a current member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Upon his retirement, McMahon will pass the torch of leadership to incoming Fire Marshal Matt Owens.

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# Cuisine

## ‘Rundown’ grilled chicken and red beans

A fan of ironic opening lines, I find it a welcome sight to see the sun rising a little later this time of year. It means that the same fiery orb is setting a tad later as well. The days will start to get longer, the sun a little hotter, and our replenishment of vitamin D more readily at hand.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

I appreciate driving down the highways in our area and seeing the completely random patches of daffodils smattered around, wondering how they got there in the first place. They will soon be gone, with other flora in their stead knowing that they at least paved the way toward summer, pioneers in their own blossoming right.

It is hard to believe that most of the lawns were brown a mere two weeks ago, with few to no buds on the trees. Now you will find blossoms everywhere if you only stop to look around.

As the season approaches, I know that I should try to sneak one more trip in before things get too crazy. I may go solo, something I have not done in decades, but it may be good to just roam and get my head clear before the next step in my journey.

As my time at the college comes to an end, I am considering opening a culinary academy aimed at teaching anything from the basics to international cuisine to baking. That could be a lot of fun, as teaching is the best part of, well, teaching in the first place.

And one of my favorite types of food to study is that of the Caribbean. I have only been to the islands once in this hemisphere (a few times on the other side of the world but ironically not here), and to the Caribbean side of Central America, and, of course, Florida many times. The flavors of this swath of lush earth are at once delightful, simple, complex, invigorating and staggering in flavors, history, and healthy components.

It is easy to find heat from chilies (capsaicin is considered one of the healthiest things we can put in our bodies, and is a critical element of chili peppers), sweetness and richness from coconut milk, and, of course, the savory loveliness of the ubiquitous seafood. If you think about tropical weather, this sounds



just about right, or at least it does to me.

When the Town of Berlin sent out the email about Seacrets Radio’s May Day Play Day, they asked about food tents and I quickly jumped on offering some Jamaican Rundown, also known as ‘Rundun’. It is a delicious dish that has just about every flavor element under the sun: sweet, savory, salty, bitter. Traditionally made with saltfish, below you will find a variation on a theme. As much as I love saltfish, I wanted to play with this a little and find where I would end up.

The beauty of Rundown is that you can enrich it with seafood stock if serving it traditionally, chicken stock if you are topping it with chicken as you see here, or vegetable stock to keep it completely vegan. In a world in which it seems to be getting more difficult to find something satisfying and beautiful for our vegetarian clientele, Rundown fits the description perfectly. It is filling thanks to the coconut milk and satisfying all the way around.

Indeed, writing this definitely makes me realize that it is time to jump ship before the summer is fully upon us. Now to decide where to go

to get the most out of my culinary curiosity and quest for Rest.

### Rundown, Grilled Chicken & Red Beans

serves 6

- 3 Tbsp. EV olive oil
- 1 ea. Leeks, cleaned and thinly sliced
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 1 ea. Medium white onion, julienne
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 ea. Roma tomatoes, peeled and diced (seeds may stay in)
- 2 ea. Red or Orange bell peppers, julienne
- 1 c. Chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 scotch bonnet or 2 jalapeno, depending on your tolerance for heat
- 1 can black eyed peas or red beans
- 2 cans coconut milk
- 1 ea. Yellow squash, chunked
- 1 ea. Zucchini, chunked
- Salt & Pepper, to taste
- 12 ea. Sea scallops
- 12 ea. Chicken strips, marinated

1. Heat the oil and butter in a sauté pan large enough to fit all of the ingredients.

2. Add the leeks, shallot and onion and sauté until translucent, but do not burn.

3. Add the garlic, tomatoes and peppers and cook for another three minutes.

4. Add the chicken stock and reduce by a third.

5. Add the whole chili pepper, which you will pull out after cooking. If you are cooking for a group that is not a fan of pain, you may omit this. That is completely up to you.

6. Add the beans and coconut milk and reduce by a third.

7. Add the squash and zucchini and allow to cook until the sauce is at just the right consistency. In fancy cooking, we call it ‘nappé’, which means that when you run your finger on the back of a spoon covered in sauce, it will hold the line well and not run.

8. As long as the squash and zucchini are not overcooked, this can be kept warm for an hour or so, which gives you plenty of time to grill the chicken and sear the scallops.

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



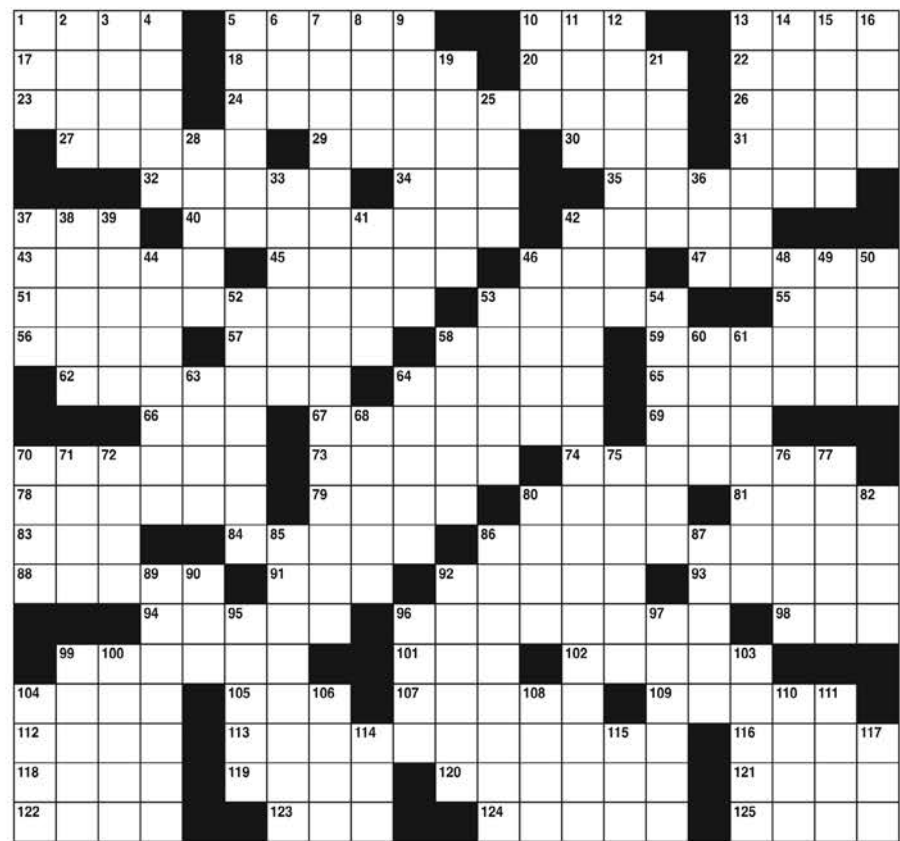
# Puzzles

## BODY LANGUAGE

BY CHRISTINA IVERSON AND KATIE HALE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Christina Iverson is a crossword constructor in Ames, Iowa. Katie Hale is a stay-at-home mom in London, England. They met online two years ago. This is Christina's 11th Times puzzle and Katie's fourth, and their second Sunday collaboration. They say that for a complex theme and tricky construction, as here, "It's helpful to bounce ideas back and forth ... and nice to have a partner to motivate you to get it right." — W.S.

- ACROSS**  
1 Almost  
5 Oven setting  
10 Portrayer of the boxer Clubber Lang in "Rocky III"  
13 In case  
17 When repeated, old-time call to listen  
18 Part of a prank  
20 Govt. organization with a two-syllable acronym  
22 Kind of clarinet  
23 Came to know, old-style  
24 It empties into the Bay of Bengal  
26 Radar spot  
27 Bringing in, as income  
29 "Keen!"  
30 With 12-Down, spend much more than a fair price  
31 Department-store department  
32 Lay \_\_\_\_ to  
34 Question that's not one of the five W's  
35 Big consideration for the expecting  
37 Ticket fig.  
40 Wisteria and honeysuckle  
42 Video game character in a hit 2020 film
- 43 Educator/writer \_\_\_\_ Johnson  
McDougald, first African American female principal in New York City public schools  
45 Belief of roughly 25 percent of the world's population  
46 Director Craven  
47 Downstairs  
51 Kept in  
53 Lets out  
55 Vape's lack  
56 Martini & Rossi product, familiarly  
57 Emmy-winning Ward  
58 Took down, in a way  
59 Fly around Africa  
62 Doughy dinner item  
64 Drug agent's seizure  
65 Deseret News reader, typically  
66 Did nothing  
67 Professor \_\_\_\_  
69 With 74-Across, gesture of approval  
70 On fire  
73 Champing at the bit  
74 See 69-Across  
78 One cutting down, so to speak  
79 What babies do faster than college students  
80 Feudal land  
81 O's, but not P's or Q's  
83 Petty  
84 Some posers  
86 Self-titled rock album of 1958  
88 Quaint contraction
- 91 Smoking spot, for short?  
92 Former baseball commissioner Bud  
93 Sound, e.g.  
94 Moves like muck  
96 I.T. help center, often  
98 Ending with bear or bull  
99 "Uncle!"  
101 Rocker Rose  
102 Heard in court  
104 Promotion  
105 Letters that might change your mind?  
107 Prepare, in a way, as eggs  
109 Irritable  
112 En voz \_\_\_\_ (aloud: Sp.)  
113 *Insincere*, as a remark  
116 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"  
118 Jaunty  
119 Counterpart of "adios"  
120 "Yes" or "No" follower  
121 Old Icelandic work  
122 Fivers  
123 Idiosyncrasy  
124 Greek performance venue  
125 Alternative to Wranglers
- 3 Loretta who sang "You Ain't Woman Enough (To Take My Man)"  
4 Cold climate cryptids  
5 "The \_\_\_\_ they are ..."  
6 Messenger \_\_\_\_  
7 *Walk around at a rest stop, say*  
8 "Bus Stop" playwright  
9 Be in store  
10 "Who, me?"  
11 Invitation letters  
12 See 30-Across  
13 Subjects of some tests  
14 Actress Burstyn  
15 What some insects and insults can do  
16 Primo  
19 Bit of bad weather, on a weather map  
21 Indo-\_\_\_\_ languages  
25 They're numbered in Microsoft Excel  
28 More agreeable  
33 Theodor \_\_\_\_ a.k.a. Dr. Seuss  
36 Will Smith/Tommy Lee Jones film franchise, for short  
37 Flat-earth-er?  
38 Like many a stuffed toy  
39 Aware of  
41 Word that, fittingly, contains all four different letters of APPEAL  
42 Question following a clever trick  
44 Shows scorn toward  
46 Take by force  
48 Wood strip



- 49 Peak in the "Odyssey"  
50 One of the five W's  
52 Arcane matters  
53 Panache  
54 Leave gobsmacked  
58 Scatter  
60 Sudden sharp pain  
61 Have seconds and thirds and fourths and ...  
63 Flatten  
64 Lilies with bell-shaped flowers
- 68 Rachel Zegler's role in 2021's "West Side Story"  
70 Allow entry  
71 Forehead mark on Hindu women  
72 City SW of York  
75 Safe bettor  
76 Instruments with endpins  
77 Some sources of leafy greens  
80 F on a gauge  
82 It's just not true!
- 85 Easy opportunity for a basket  
86 Vegas venue with an iconic fountain  
87 Who might be on the trail  
89 Candy bar fillings  
90 Emergency request  
92 Vikings' foes  
95 A goose egg  
96 One reporting to an underboss  
97 Nauseate  
99 Bankrupt
- 100 Bizarre  
103 One holding things together, perhaps  
104 "\_\_\_\_, Can You Hear Me?" (Oscar-nominated song from "Yentl")  
106 Sub station?  
108 Lemon or cheese product  
110 & 111 In cooperation  
114 Sea-\_\_\_\_ Airport  
115 Fair-hiring inits.  
117 Option for a range

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HARD - 50

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles







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## HELP WANTED

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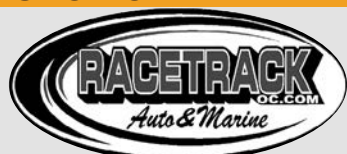
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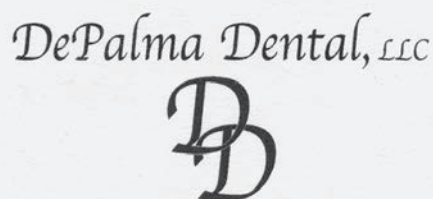
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