



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HALF-MAST

Whippy winds keep flags at half-mast on an overcast Sunday afternoon at the Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines.

Town Council reschedules tax hearing

Dept. heads say they have cut budget to bare bones

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) With expenditure requests outpacing projected revenues in its FY23 draft budget, the Berlin Town Council voted on Monday to delay a scheduled public hearing for real property tax rates until April 11.

During a first reading for the proposed FY23 tax rate on March 4, the recommended budget maintained the current tax rate of 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said the unaltered rate would generate an additional \$143,000 over the current year based on increased property assessments.

"It does show additional income by keeping the rate as current for FY22," he said.

See TOWN Page 7

Lakernick denied committee post

Directors cut off discussion of why former candidate was rejected for 2nd time

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) Lingering political tension from the Ocean Pines Board of Directors 2021 election was on display at last week's meeting, as the directors denied former candidate Stuart Lakernick a seat on a committee for the second time.

After recently being denied entry on the Strategic Planning Committee, two-time board candidate Lakernick hit the same resistance when applying for the [Elections] Search Committee.

Lakernick, who campaigned last



Stuart Lakernick

year alongside Director Rick Farr, missed winning one of two open seats after losing by 60 votes to incumbent Frank Daly.

Election totals remained shrouded in mystery after then-candidate Farr was disqualified in late June, with a subsequent lawsuit in Worcester Circuit Court generating a mandated ballot count in October.

Ultimately, Farr finished first with 1,629 votes, followed by Daly with 1,571, Lakernick with 1,511 and David Hardy with 941.

During the last Wednesday's meeting, a trio of applicants for the Search Committee were up for consideration.

While both Sherrie Clifford and Michelle Stewart were approved without contention, Lakernick was a different story.

After noting Search Committee Chair Tom Piatti supported Lakernick joining due to his outgoing nature, association President Collette Horn voiced a different opinion.

"I did not endorse this applicant as having the skills and attitudes that inspire confidence in the quality of advice to be given," she said.

Horn said the lack of approval was not tied to "political statements or statements made in public."

"It has to do with failure to follow the constraints on candidates when Mr. Lakernick was running for the board," she said.

See BOARD Page 7

Short-term rental rules win approval from Town Council

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) Following hours of commentary from supporters and opponents of rental regulations, the Berlin Town Council voted on Monday to create and impose new rules for short-term rentals as of July 1.

Mayor Zach Tyndall said the hot-button topic has been bandied about for several years.

"The intent is to maintain the character of the neighborhood," he said.

Tyndall said protecting health, safety and general welfare were additional goals for regulating rentals.

See BERLIN Page 6



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Ocean Pines officials are in the midst of updating lighting at the North Gate Bridge to include illumination on four corners and along the entrance pathway.

GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pines GM report covers both projects, current financials

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) Monthly financial figures and pending capital expenditures for lighting, pickleball courts, audio-visual equipment and golf carts were highlighted during General Manager John Viola's report to the Ocean Pines Board last Wednesday.

Viola opened his presentation to the board with an update on new lighting at the North Gate Bridge.

Viola said three bids were received for materials, with an estimated delivery time of 12 weeks.

Viola said the lighting installation would be done by Public Works crews for a labor cost between \$5,000-\$10,000.

Plans include double lights on poles for the bridge's four corners, along with six shorter light poles for each side of the entranceway.

The installation of new pickleball courts at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center continues to inch closer to fruition.

"You've heard me speak about it for over a year or longer," he said.

Viola said despite having sent requests for proposals to seven contractors, response has been limited.

"We did send out RFPs [but] not many responded, and they wanted to do the courts and fence work," he said.

Because of this lack of interest in doing the site work, the administration decided to have Public Works handle pre-construction tasks.

"We're putting together a game plan for us to do the site work that's needed," he said. "It would be a combination of our team and an outside company, which is the best of both."

Viola also reported the recent acquisition of audio-visual equipment for the Golf Clubhouse meeting room.

Mid South Audio has installed a hybrid meeting system for a final cost of roughly \$13,000, Viola reported.

"It allows for true virtual participation by membership during board meetings and town halls," he said.

Viola also told the board the system is portable and can be used in other locations. Additionally, Viola said the public relations and the information technology departments had inspected a budget hybrid meeting system for use in the Administration Building conference room.

"It will be installed in-house for less than \$1,000," he said. "It's really advanced."

On other fronts, Viola recommended trading in the association's current fleet of golf carts and buying new ones.

He said carts were last purchased in 2016 when 76 were bought at a

cost of \$369,000 after trade-in.

The current fleet is approaching the end of a seven-year depreciation schedule, which ends in 2023, and have also exhibited signs of wear on seats, panels and windshields.

Viola said newer generation golf carts would be more fuel-efficient with lower maintenance costs.

"Delivery for new carts takes up to 18 months," he said.

Costs for new carts are estimated at \$5,800 minus a \$2,000-\$2,500 trade-in for each old unit, for a total of roughly \$260,000.

"It's a better price than we got in 2016," he said.

Because of the extended period between purchase and delivery, Viola wants to buy the carts now.

"It would come in when the current golf carts are fully depreciated," he said.

Handing over the spotlight, Viola asked Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin to review a proposal to install street lights at the South Gate Pond.

"We're looking at ... putting in new pond lights," she said.

The added illumination would be intended for the walking path around the pond.

Martin said initial cost estimates for street lights range from \$700-\$4,400 with a pole and from \$165-\$1,175 without a pole.

In addition to researching prices online, Martin also identified a local vendor.

"One local company carries solar street lights," she said.

Martin said a quote from Fruitland-based Wire Works is forthcoming.

Turning to current budget figures, Director of Finance Steve Phillips reviewed February and year-to-date totals.

For February, the association was ahead of budget by \$34,000, based on a net operating loss of \$628,000 versus budget estimates of \$662,000.

Phillips noted the association has the highest percentage of amenity closures during February.

February revenue figures were about \$249,000, which is \$63,000 better than budget estimates of \$186,000.

By contrast, expenses for February were \$877,000, or \$29,000 less than budget estimates of \$848,000.

"This continues to add onto the trend that we've experienced thus far," he said.

Phillips reported year-to-date figures through February reflect a budget surplus of more than \$1.5 million, which includes revenues better than estimates by \$1.4 million and expenses less than estimates by \$108,000.



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OP Strategic Plan Committee previews board work session

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) Ahead of a board of directors work session slated for Tuesday, the Ocean Pines Strategic Planning Committee met last Thursday to prepare discussion points from survey data acquired in 2021.



Bernie McGorry
“We’ll walk through it today in preparation,” he said.

Committee Chair Bernie McGorry said the “informal” work session would be a hybrid event held virtual and in-person at the Golf Clubhouse meeting room.

“You come up with conclusions and expectations and, importantly, it almost leads you to what needs to be accomplished,” he said.

Situational analysis is used to reveal potential moves but not to establish goals. “It’s identifying, based on what we’ve learned here, we think this is what we should do,” he said.

McGorry said while board members have reviewed a wealth of survey data, other benchmarking done by the committee has yet to be shared.

“It’s heavily influenced by the survey,” he said.

McGorry said the work session would open with a recap of committee objectives, followed by soliciting board comment to ascertain possible surprises or omissions from survey results.

“Just to get the board talking,” he

said. The work session is also intended to brainstorm concepts for five-year goals and the development of a strategic plan.

“Then we could start to develop long-term goals,” he said.

Public comments will be welcomed during the work session.

Committee members are revisiting top conclusions drawn from survey results ahead of the board work session.

Among those reviewed again were that Ocean Pines offers better amenities with lower fees than comparable communities in the region.

“We should do our best to control expenses,” McGorry said.

Noting that Ocean Pines is the largest year-round community in Worcester County, the committee also emphasized the importance of leveraging voting power to ensure an equitable share of state and local resources.

Compared to countywide demographics, the survey also revealed Pines residents are typically older than average, with slightly higher income, education levels and a larger percentage of property owners.

“We should continue to embrace diversity and monitor demographics,” he said. “We have a lot of talent in Ocean Pines that we should continue to leverage.”


Survey respondents ranked safety as the top benefit of Ocean Pines living.

“Ocean Pines was ranked as the safest city in Maryland,” he said.

McGorry recommended continuing to stress this fact to educate the public.

“It’s the most important thing to people; we should be hammering them,” he said.

See PINES Page 4



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Business Briefs

Job Fair

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce will host its 35th annual job fair, Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Roland E Powell Convention Center on 41st Street.

Ocean City Chamber of Commerce will share space with the Town of Ocean City, which is also holding a job fair at the convention center.

Employers will be on-site from all over Worcester and Sussex counties. Seasonal and year-round positions are available, as well as possible employer-provided housing. Partners from various county organizations will also be available to assist with questions regarding insurance, social security to other inquiries.

For questions regarding the job fair, contact Heather LaFollette at 410-213-0144 x 133

Joins AGH


Wendy Corkran, CRNP, has joined Atlantic General Health System to provide primary care to the communities of southeastern Sussex County, Delaware.



Wendy Corkran

After providing patient care for more than 13 years as a registered nurse, Corkran earned her Master of Science in Nursing at Wilmington University in 2017 to become a family nurse practitioner.

Corkran practices alongside Dr. Ellen Rowe at Atlantic General Primary Care in West Fenwick, Delaware, and is currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, call 302-564-0004.



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Pines directors finalize referendum issues

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) Final language changes to several bylaws sections proposed for revision were approved by the Ocean Pines Board of Directors during its meeting last Wednesday. The last-minute revisions are part of a lengthy list of bylaws updates intended for a referendum vote by membership this spring. The issues covered last week all involved board candidate eligibility particulars, including an expanded definition of owner of record.

Association President Colette Horn said the revamped definition for bylaws section 5.02A would prohibit corporate entities, including limited liability corporations and partnerships, from gaining board seats.

Horn said if such an entity was listed as an owner of record on property deeds its ability to sponsor an individual for the board would be prohibited.

Director Rick Farr questioned the inclusion of LLCs.

“Several LLCs in our community are owned by a husband and wife,” he said.

Farr said a number of private homeowners use the LLC designation for tax advantages.

Horn said the majority of LLCs in Ocean Pines are operated as rentals, in

some instances short-term. Horn also stressed an “inherent conflict” in corporate versus private ownership in terms of community loyalties.



Rick Farr

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair Jim Trummel concurred with Horn.

“The principals are not directly responsible to the association,” he said. “That’s where the conflict of interest is.”

The proposed changes to owner of record in 5.02A also separates properties assigned to a trust, with both trustees and co-trustees qualified for board candidacy.

The board voted 6-0, with Farr abstaining, to approve the language revisions.

The board also reviewed changes to the board candidate registration application, which includes a number of detailed eligibility questions.

The recommended changes would require the association secretary to

“Corporate entities provide tax shelters on profits derived from the use of the property, not the value of the property, but its use to generate income,” she said. “That’s where the conflict lies.”

contact candidates to confirm applications were received and complete.

If an error occurs, the secretary would request the required information from the candidate in question. Omitted from an earlier draft was an option for the secretary to determine if an extension was needed if the requested data was unavailable prior to the June 1 submission deadline.

Lastly, the secretary would be tasked with notifying each candidate to verify qualification, with reasons for any denials, prior to turning the list of names over to the Elections Committee by June 1.

The proposed new candidate application form also includes “Attachment B” that delves into specifics, including when Pines property was purchased, as well as phone and email contact details.

Potential criminal history is also broached in the application attach-

ment, including a question about felony convictions in the last decade.

Additionally, the form also asks if the candidate is “currently under investigation by local, state or federal agencies for any alleged crime.”

The candidate application also solicits background information, including social clubs/organizations, past OPA advisory committee membership, along with education history and work background.

The OPA is preparing materials to mail homeowners referendum ballots for bylaw changes with a voting deadline anticipated this spring. Precise dates are soon to be announced.

To review the entire list of motions for proposed bylaw changes slated for forthcoming referendum questions visit <https://bit.ly/OPAmotions>.

Existing bylaws can be found by visiting <https://bit.ly/OPAbylaws>.

OP Board mulls social media policy, potential ethics rules

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) The consideration of a possible social media policy for the Ocean Pines Board of Directors ballooned into a discussion about ethics codes during the board meeting last Wednesday.

Director Doug Parks said in light of the multiple Pines-based social media platforms available, an official policy should be developed to ensure that communications from board members are consistent.

Parks said the goal would be avoiding confusion regarding the official association position on issues.

“This is different than posting information for events,” he said.

The intent is not to dismiss outside sources, but to clarify OPA positions.

Association President Colette Horn asked if there was “an ap-

petite” for creating the proposed policy due to previous board arrangements.

“We did make a consensus agreement that our personal postings on non-OPA websites would be factual information sharing,” she said.

Also offering resistance was Director Larry Perrone, who saw no merit in creating a policy.

“The board has agreed official statements would come out through the president,” he said.

Perrone said the board lacks the ability to control perceptions drawn from unofficial channels.

“I’m loath to start making procedures because a couple people are confused,” he said.

Parks doubled down, contending that an official social media policy could prove useful for future boards, even if the current body believes it’s not important.

“At least have it documented,” he said. “Call it guidance.”

Director Amy Peck suggested the
See DIRECTORS Page 5

Pines looks at long-term goals

Continued from Page 3

Other big-picture conclusions stemming from the survey include strong financial performance with association profitability for three years running, based in part on amenity revenues.

“Ocean Pines should continue financial performance, while communicating amenity profitability,” he said.

McGorry said the numerous association entertainment and recreation options are assets that can be managed

to generate income.

“We have but need to continue to communicate that amenities are contributing or breaking even,” he said.

In total the committee has 25 slides of data to review with the board, including major priorities for the near future, issues to address, along with conclusions and recommendations.

“We want the board to really challenge, engage and understand it,” he said.

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Spellman electronics competition underway

(March 31, 2022) Students from around the world are invited to share their innovative solutions as part of the 2022 Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition.

This competition engages students in identifying and solving real-world environmental challenges by creating innovative solutions.

The first-place winner will receive \$7,000 in prize money; \$5,000 for second place, and \$3,500 for third, while fourth through 10th places will each be given \$1,000.

Over \$22,000 in prize money will be awarded to the top student teams at the competition finals, held on Aug.11.

Each year students from over 40 countries participate. Registration for the competition is open through April 22; students must submit their papers by April 29. Ten finalist teams will be announced online on June 9.

“As we enter the second decade of the Clean Tech Competition, our world is continuing to face growing challenges to which we must find solutions. These young students will play a critical role in developing answers which will make an impact on our natural world. As the sponsor of the Spellman HV Clean Tech Competition, each year we are ever more impressed and inspired by the student competitors,” said Spellman HV President Dr. Loren Skeist.

“The submissions from high school students around the world continue to push boundaries and give us hope that we will overcome energy and environmental challenges we face today.”

Innovative ideas and solutions are necessary to promote sustainable energy use, preserve the planet, help resolve climate change and create healthier environments.

The program is hosted and managed by Rockville Centre, New York-based not-for-profit Center for Science, Teaching & Learning (CSTL), led by STEM Crusader and Advocate Dr. Ray Ann Havasy and sponsored by Hauppauge, Long Island-based Spellman HV Electronics, a leader in high voltage technology in the medical, industrial and scientific fields.

“The Clean Tech Competition continues to grow in its worldwide participation and competitiveness as a showcase for innovative ideas. We encourage students worldwide to share their knowledge, ideas and passions for making a difference and preserving our planet for future generations,” said Dr. Ray Ann Havasy, executive director of the Center for Science, Teaching

and Learning. “The Spellman HV Clean Tech Competition is a tremendous opportunity for young people to share their inventive projects with peers from different nations while enhancing and promoting the benefits and fruits of STEM education.”

For more information about CSTL or the 2022 Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition, visit the Clean Tech Competition website at www.cstl.org/cleantech or contact the administrator at 516-764-0045 or by email at cleantech@cstl.org.

Directors discuss rules of conduct

Continued from Page 4

policy could be incorporated under a larger umbrella.

“Time would be better served by developing a code for rules of conduct and a code of ethics,” she said.

Parks recalled that the directors voted last summer to rescind resolution B-08 that covered board member and officer ethics and conduct.

Originally approved in 2018, resolution B-08 was proposed by Horn and approved by a 5-1 vote with then-Director Slobodan Trendic opposed.

Last May, Director Frank Daly introduced a motion to rescind the resolution, which was passed on second reading by the board on June 16.

At the time, Daly characterized B-08 as the “poster child of unintended consequences.”

Perrone recommended avoiding prior mistakes.

“We’ve been down this road with the code of ethics,” he said. “B-08, while the intention was good, was a disaster.”

Perrone said one key problem was that B-08 lacked sufficient enforcement mechanisms.

“I think this is just creating problems where they don’t exist at this point,” he said.

Horn said Daly had previously recommended consulting with legal counsel to develop a revised version of B-08.

“I would like to consult with [Association Attorney] Jeremy Tucker,” she said. “The problem with B-08 was enforcement [because] no due process was clearly articulated.”

Horn said the issue would be revived in a future board meeting after conferring with Tucker.



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Berlin council passes short-term rental regs

Continued from Page 1

“We did work through a lot of the feedback we received in public listening sessions,” he said.

Council members last reviewed the issue during its meeting on Feb. 28.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the ordinance presented on Monday was largely unaltered from the most recent draft version.

“Generally, this is allowing short-term rentals of residential units in all residential districts (R-1-4) and where they are allowed on the second floor in the business district (B1-3),” he said.

In earlier deliberations, the council amended the ordinance to require that an assigned agent reside within 30 minutes of the rental’s location.

“We established the license requirement and the fee amount,” he said.

Engelhart said parking and occupancy limits were in accordance with town code.

Of particular note, Engelhart said a previous provision to require short-term rentals be an owner’s primary residence was later omitted.

Under the proposed ordinance, annual short-term rental’s licenses would run from July 1 to June 30 to mirror Berlin’s fiscal calendar.

“It can be renewed if in compli-

ance,” he said.

Annual license fees were proposed to be \$125, with a recurring \$600 fine for every 30 days an unlicensed rental operates.

Engelhart said repeated violations of noise or other town ordinances could result in license revocation.

The contentious issue attracted a capacity crowd to the Monday evening meeting, with a multitude of opposition voices airing reservations.

Resident Jay Walsh said the potential for a rapid influx of short-term rentals should be concerning to the community.

“The cost burden comes on the backs of our citizens,” he said. “Don’t let it drain resources.”

Based on prior rental experience, resident Tony Weeg also spoke out against the measure.

“Knowing that it’s a business and we don’t let businesses operate in our residential sections sort of makes it clear it’s an obtuse position for a business to be in,” he said.

Weeg, who also owns a condo unit in Ocean City, said recurring guest turnover is anticipated at the beach.

“That’s what OC is built for,” he said. “I hope that you can see the difference between Berlin and Ocean City.”

Weeg espoused support for reinstating the owner-occupied provision that had been deleted.

“That’s not why we bought into this amazing town,” he said.

Resident Laura Stearns, who lives across from a short-term rental, has witnessed abuses by transient guests.

“Week after week you just never know what you’re going to get,” she said.

Stearns said allowing short-term rentals in R-1 and R-2 districts without owners on site presents problems.

“When it’s not owner-occupied, that means it’s a business,” she said. “It’s people like me that have to live next to a business in the R-1 zone, that’s the problem.”

While hesitant to dictate property uses, Stearns said quality of life issues



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Following extensive public comments airing myriad concerns, Berlin Town Council approved a short-term rental ordinance by a split 3-2 vote on Monday.

are at risk.

“I moved here from Ocean City, where I lived next door to apartments that were constantly having parties,” she said. “If you allow it, it could be next door to you.”

Also providing a negative history with short-term rentals was resident Glenn Davis, who moved to Berlin from Bethany Beach.

Davis said he witnessed short-term renters abuse occupancy limits and ignore noise ordinances.

“They would leave at the end of the week with overflowing trash cans, just in time for the cycle to begin again and start all over,” he said.

Davis said a primary incentive for relocating his brood to Berlin was the sense of community.

“Rather than assisting investors with their rental business, we should be trying to attract families and first-time homeowners,” he said.

Resident Debbie Cook, who previously operated rentals in Ocean City, said those who favor the proposed rules do so because of their financial interests.

“You should also listen to those of us without a financial interest,” she said.

Cook said allowing short-term rentals in residential districts would eventually cost the town its charm.

“Just like Ocean City, you’re going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg,” she said.

Also referencing past rental experience was resident Ed Hammond.

“I have operated short-term rentals in another city for five years,” he said.

Hammond said focusing on the merits of individual renters misses the larger picture.

“The real issue here is the removal of housing stock from being a functional part of the community,” he said. “Once you get too many of these operations running you begin to gut the community.”

Hammond also stressed the need to levy fines large enough to be more than a cost of doing business for rental operators.

Resident Barb Stack, who joined the chorus of voices lobbying for an owner occupied provision, said roughly 80 percent of Berlin properties are located in R-1 or R-2 districts.

“Investment companies are buying property to make short-term rentals,” she said. “We’re going to lose our community.”

Berlin Planning Commission Vice-Chair Ron Cascio also voiced support for putting the owner occupied aspect back in the ordinance.

“Who are you here to represent is my question?” he said. “We’ll find out soon tonight, I hope.”

While slightly outnumbered, several short-term rental proponents also provided perspective.

Lindsey Parker, who has operated a short-term rental in Berlin for the last five years, estimated having 118 reservations during that time.

“The issue is complex,” she said.

Parker said in most cases short-term rentals prove beneficial for

See LICENSE Page 7



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Town depts. say spending cut to essentials

Continued from Page 1

On Monday, however, Tyndall noted the most recent draft budget reflected expenses outpacing revenues by roughly \$462,000

“That’s OK at this stage, but it does take some problem solving,” he said.

Looking ahead, Berlin has several budget work sessions slated for April, including one on the general fund on April 4, utility funds on April 11 and expenditures review on April 18.



Natalie Saleh

Budget introduction is slated for May 9 with adoption on May 23.

To address budget imbalances, Tyndall adopted a previous suggestion from Council member Jay Knerr to combine tax rate and budget adoption.

“Then we can set a tax rate and budget side by side,” he said. “Look-

ing at what those are revenues are, what the expenditures are and where we actually need to come in.

In the interim, Tyndall asked department heads to continue to scour spreadsheets for cost cuts.

“Go back, sharpen the pencils and see where we come in at,” he said.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh asked where those cuts might be found.

“Every single department head called me, assuring what they re-

quested was what they need to operate,” she said.

Saleh also cautioned that should the council fail to adopt a property tax rate on May 9, Berlin might miss a deadline for inclusion in Worcester County tax rolls.

“We got an email remainder yesterday,” she said.

Because of the time element, the council voted to reschedule the tax rate public hearing for April 11 at 7 p.m.

Board won’t assign Lakernick to committee

Continued from Page 1

Director Doug Parks, however, questioned Horn’s assertion.

“So, in this case you did have a set of criteria you used in order to determine this individual did not have the skills and attitude?” he asked.

Without permitting a response, Director Larry Perrone cited procedure to cut off discussion.

“Are you putting forth a motion?”

he asked Parks. “Then there’s no discussion needed.”

Parks rejected Perrone’s argument and reiterated his curiosity over Horn’s decision.

“When a topic comes up for discussion, whether it’s a motion or not, it can be discussed between the members of the board,” he said.

Pressed for a response, Horn said Lakernick was cited for breaking rules

prohibiting the distribution of candidate materials on association property during the previous election.

Parks declined to press further.

“I don’t know that that’s factual, but I’ll take your word,” he said.

Perrone backed up Horn’s assertion.

“It was reported to the Elections Committee,” he said.

Attending the meeting remotely, Farr attempted to speak but was not acknowledged by the chair.

“May I make comment?” he asked.

After a brief period of silence, Horn cut off the conversation.

“That subject is closed, and we’ve moved onto the next applicant,” she said.

License fees, requirements set for short-term rentals

Continued from Page 6

neighborhoods.

Another Berlin short-term rental operator, Jamie Parker, also lent support for the proposed rules.

Parker said from her experience the majority of renters are families with young children looking to avoid the busy beach resort.

Following public commentary, the council voted in favor of several amendments, including requiring

short-term rentals in R-1 and R-2 districts to be owner-occupied.

The council voted unanimously to increase the licensing fee from \$125 to \$200, while also setting a \$200 per day fine for violations with the potential for revocation if recurring.

The revised ordinance, which was approved on a split vote with council members Dean Burrell and Troy Purnell opposed, is slated to go into effect on or before July 1.

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Pocomoke English teacher earns top honor

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) A Pocomoke high School English teacher who takes pride in creating safe spaces for all students regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation was named the 2022 Worcester County Teacher of

the Year during a ceremony on Friday night.

Kristin Cashman earned the top honor after beating out 13 other nominees in the district.

"It's so incredibly humbling to represent the 700 plus teachers in the county," Cashman said on Tuesday

after letting the honor sink in for a few days. "Every single educator deserves this position. We put our heart and souls into what we do. I'm totally honored, but also humbled to represent Worcester County."

Friday's celebration took place at Worcester Technical High School where all 14 nominees were honored for their work and dedication to the students.

The ceremony, which is traditionally a black-tie and evening gown affair, was closed off to the public because of covid-19 preventative measures, though attendees were able to bring two guests. Cashman took her husband and a colleague and was thankful that she could get away with wearing a cocktail dress instead of a full-blown evening gown.

No matter what she wore to the event, it was Cashman's night to be honored.

"I am so proud of both Kristin and all of the incredible teachers we have honored this evening," Superintendent Lou Taylor said during the celebration. "Kristin will be a fantastic representative not only for her school, but our entire school system as she progresses to the state-level program. Her passionate advocacy for equality in education is to be commended."

Cashman's road to becoming the Teacher of the Year started well before she stepped foot in a classroom as an instructor nearly 23 years ago. In fact, it started when she was a pupil herself.

On Tuesday, Cashman reminisced about the days when she and her big sister, then Laura Cashman now Becker, converted full rooms of their childhood home into classrooms, with their parents' permission of course, and make-believed they were teachers. Both girls, as it turned out, became teachers when they grew up.

Cashman dove into the field of teaching in 1999 after graduating from Salisbury University. Her first job was in Pennsylvania, where she taught fourth and fifth graders.

She took a few years off to start a family and returned to the classroom

in 2007, this time in Wicomico County.

Now working as a high school English teacher in Worcester County, Cashman also works as an adjunct professor in the education department of her alma mater.

Cashman's ambition to become a teacher was to provide students with better experiences than she had growing up.

"I can count on one hand the positive impact of teachers on myself, and that's kind of worrisome," she said, explaining that she learned quite early what teaching was not.

Part of Cashman's strategy to providing better experiences involves being part of the school's equity team and creating a safe space for all who enter her classroom.

No matter a student's race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation, or identity, once they cross the threshold of her classroom, she says they become a family.

The space she creates is done so through healthy dialogue about historical texts like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail.

"Lessons like this are indicative of how Cashman values and amplifies student voice(s) as they connect with and explore different pieces of literature," a statement from the district read last week.

Expanding on the topic, Cashman said we all go through life with various lenses which are formed by experiences.

"One of the purposes of the equity team is to...work to identify the lenses, looking to not only identify the lenses but the strengths and considerations that may hinder us with the lenses we see through," she said. "It's courageous work. Sometimes there are uncomfortable conversations that must happen."

When the dialogue starts, either through the equity team or in the classroom, the students lead the discussion and learning occurs organically.

"It's personal development, personal enhancement," she said. "It's evolution of thoughts, ideas, and perception. It's nothing but positive. It gives me life when we have these discussions and reflect on ourselves."

Cashman is also the coordinator
See COUNTY Page 9

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Correction

In last week's report on Worcester County Teacher of the Year, the last name of Danielle DiMichele was misspelled. She was one of 14 of the county's public school educators up for the annual award. We apologize to Ms. DiMichele for the error.

County praises Cashman's method

Continued from Page 8
for the Worcester on Wheels Program – a mobile engagement and outreach program that won \$1 million in the state's competitive program to support innovative education solutions – as well as the Women Who Rise program which was developed to create a pipeline for future female educators.

Through WOW, Cashman can help bridge the gap between the school and the communities it serves by going into those neighborhoods and tutoring students.

The Pocomoke WOW is still working to obtain an RV, but once obtained, it will be outfitted with a classroom and WIFI. Until then, Cashman and others continue to set up temporary hotspots while providing out-of-classroom tutoring. The experience also allows both community members and teachers to share their worlds with one another for a better understanding.

“Our Worcester on Wheels program, even minus the wheels, is being very successful in bridging the gaps between the communities and the schools,” Cashman said. “Schools are the hub of the community.”

Pocomoke High School Principal Jenifer Rayne is one of many administrators Cashman credited for her success.

That success, she said, was due to the administrators having an open-door policy with a willingness to try

Worcester Schools works on solution for book concerns

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) During a school board meeting earlier this month, several Worcester County school system parents praised and lambasted the district for allowing a book containing descriptions of sexual encounters to be on the shelves of high schools, forcing officials to review the book and determine its future.

Worcester County is not the only district in the country undergoing such scrutiny for carrying the book, “All Boys Aren’t Blue,” written by George M. Johnson.

The New York Times bestseller that was published in 2020 gained high praise from the Velshi Banned Book Club, People Magazine, Buzzfeed, Teen Vogue, and Amazon, to name a few, and chronicles Johnson’s experiences growing up in Virginia and New Jersey as a gay black man.

A parent with children in the county school system and another parent with adult children no longer enrolled in the district expressed concerns about

See BOOK’S Page 10



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Kristin Cashman, center, was named Teacher of the Year for Worcester County last Friday. Also pictured are Pocomoke High School Principal Jenifer Rayne and Superintendent Lou Taylor.

different things in the classroom, allowing her to provide the best learning experience she can for her students.

“A champion for all her students and colleagues, Kristin ignites the entire building with energy and enthusiasm for this work,” Rayne said. “Every school, every county, and every state needs Kristin Cashman!”

The teacher of the year winner also said countless colleagues are also to be credited for her success, whether veterans or rookies in the field.

Cashman was one of four finalists named last week to be in contention for the Teacher of the Year title. The other finalists were Steven Deakyne of Stephen Decatur High School, Lindsay Harrington of Stephen Decatur Middle School, and Michael Levy of Worcester Technical High School.

Cashman was named the Teacher of the Year on Friday during a cere-

mony at Worcester Technical High School.

Like 23 other teachers across Maryland, she will submit several essays to the state over the next few months, cross her fingers, and hope she is selected to be a finalist in the state Teacher of the Year competition.

But the position is much more than just bragging rights.

“You have the ability as your county’s teacher of the year to interact with, on a monthly basis almost, with 23 other teachers of the year from across the state,” Cashman said. “Now you’re going to have somebody in each county of the state to say, ‘Hey, I heard you’re doing this. Tell me more about it because it seems super successful.’”

“I can’t wait to go out and share what’s happening in Worcester County with the other representatives from across the state,” she added.

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Book's racy content raises flag

Continued from Page 9
the book to district officials because of its content.

In Chapter 11, Johnson talks about a time when a family member molested him, and in Chapter 15, he writes about his first gay sexual encounter.

While the one parent with children in the district has options to pursue, the other may not have as many.

Like most things, the district has a process when a parent has concerns about a book or lesson that they deem inappropriate for their child.

Jennifer Sills, the school district's coordinator of library media and instruction for grades K-12, said last week that parents with concerns must first contact the principal of their child's school.

The concern, Sills said, could be that they do not want their child to use that piece of media. If the parent and principal do not come to a resolution in that first meeting, the parent can then submit a form to have the media reviewed, which would go to the principal.

From there, a review is done by a committee assembled by the principal and consists of a librarian, two teachers, a counselor, and an administrator.

During their analysis, each member is required to review the entire book before making a recommendation within 10 days of the request.

If the parent is not satisfied with the recommendation, the issue moves to Sills, the coordinator, who will review what happened previously and come up with her own recommendation.

If Sills' recommendation is not satisfactory to the parent, the issue goes to the superintendent, who will put together a district committee to review the material.

The district committee, Sills said, consists of a teacher at each level, a librarian, parents, and administrators, and they have 30 days to review the book, look over the previous recommendations, and report their own recommendation to the superintendent.

If the parent is still not satisfied after the district committee's recommendation, the issue is forwarded to the Worcester County Board of Education.

"It could take a good 2-3 months," Sills said, adding that she has never seen a review go all the way to the board level in the 20 years she has worked with the district. "It's almost always resolved at the school level."

The parent who filed the initial request has children in Stephen Decatur High School, where the book remains on the shelf.

In fact, each of the four high school libraries in the district has one copy of All Boys Aren't Blue on the shelf.

The district has roughly a combined 130,000 books in the libraries. At the high school level, smaller populated schools may have 6,000 books on the shelves while a larger populated school like Stephen Decatur has roughly 15,000 books.

For the books to make it onto the shelves, the librarians follow a strict and complex process.

The librarians scour through data and statistics about checkouts, books in the collections, the needs of the library, community interests, and curriculum needs to gear where purchases should be made in the coming years.

Another aspect of choosing books is based on suggestions, reviews, and awards from reputable organizations nationwide – organizations such as the American Association of School Librarians and Young Adult Library Services Association.

There is an understanding that fiction books have more reviews than non-fiction books, or books about colonial American times. As a result, librarians review what is said about the material and the recommended age group before sending it off to Sills and the principal for a final check.

"Obviously with books, you can't read the entire book," Sills said, especially with a couple hundred new books coming into the system each year. That is why the district relies on reviews, book lists, and age recommendations.

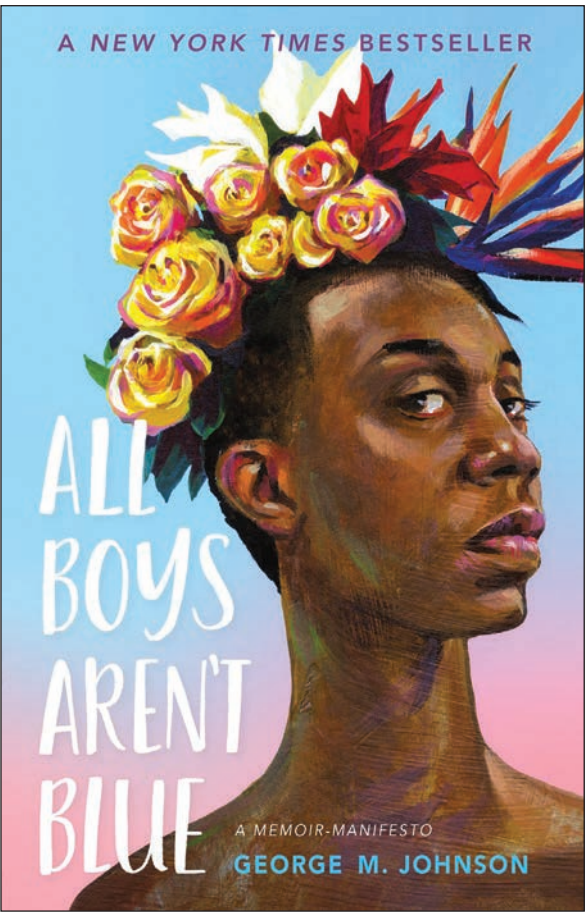
"With this book, it's very highly praised, well reviewed, and on awards lists," Sills added, regarding the book, All Boys Aren't Blue.

Books like Johnson's are becoming more common, compared to books that were on the school shelves 10 years ago.

Major publishers have been putting out books from authors with what are described as "authentic" voices, and the district has conformed by making sure all students, regardless of race, creed, or sex, are considered when adding to the selection of books.

In doing so, though, Sills said the district is doing its due diligence to make sure the process is followed.

Many people may not consider the Bible to be a



BOOK COVER COURTESY PUBLISHER FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX
"All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson, was recently criticized by parents in the Worcester County Public Schools for having sexually explicit material, though other parents in the district defended the book, which was written as a memoir by a queer black man. Despite the criticism, the school district has a review process when concerns are raised on particular media offered to the students, which is currently being followed.

controversial book. One parent during the school board meeting on March 15 read a passage out loud before announcing where it came from.

"There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses," she read, saying the verse came from Ezekiel 23:20 of the Bible.

In the case of the parent who filed the complaint, the district may come up with a solution to have librarians steer the child away from the book in question when they go to check out.

Sills said she tries to stay current with any chatter around book concerns in the community and in neighboring counties.

For instance, Somerset County Schools are reviewing five books currently and Wicomico County Schools recently removed All Boys Aren't Blue from its shelves.

Wicomico District officials did not respond to requests for comment this week.

All Boys Aren't Blue is not the first book to draw criticism locally and it certainly won't be the last. In early January, concerns were raised to the Worcester County School Board about a book called, "All American Boys," another book that was highly praised by library associations and major publications.

Despite the minor bumps in the road, Sills and the librarians across the district are staying true to the process and their mission.

"We want libraries to be safe and inclusive spaces that kids feel safe in," she said. "We work hard to have that vision of open spaces that celebrate diversity and empower our students while they are in school."

Shannon Mills, CRNP

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Three Worcester Prep students competed in the Mid Atlantic Junior Olympics March 17-20, in York, Pennsylvania. Pictured, from left, are Gabriella Damouni, Anna Mumford and Jude Damouni.

WPS swimmers earn medals at Junior Olympics in York, Pa.

(March 31, 2022) Three Worcester Prep students competed in the Mid Atlantic Junior Olympics March 17-20, in York, Pennsylvania.

Representing Mako Swim Club, Jude Damouni competed in the Boys' 13-14 division, Gabriella Damouni in the Girls' 11-12 division, and Anna Mumford participated in the Girls' 13-14 division.

Gabriella Damouni earned a silver medal in the 200-yard freestyle, and bronze medals in the 400-yard freestyle, 1,000-yard freestyle, and the 1,650-yard freestyle. She also qualified for the Senior Championship in the 1,650 free.

Mumford won a silver medal in 1,000-yard freestyle, and a bronze in the 1,650-yard freestyle. She also advanced to the Senior Championships, which was held March 24-27.

While Jude Damouni did not place, he did cut time in all competitions, including 33.33 seconds in the 1,650-yard freestyle and 20.65 seconds in the 1,000-yard free.

In December, 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.

As a result of their performance, 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 free to 1,650 free, and 100-yard backstroke.

A month later at the Friends Central Aquatics Distance Challenge, the girls, along with Jude, reached another milestone while they swam 1,650 yards.

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. Again, qualifying them for the Junior Olympics, this time with Jude by their side.

Anna is ranked 11th and Gabriella 58th nationally in their age group, and 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.



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Redistricting lawsuit delays county primaries

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) In a significant move for Worcester County, where the majority of the county commissioner elections will pit Republican incumbents against Republican challengers in the primary election, the state Court of Appeals has pushed that contest's dates from June 28 until July 19.

The filing deadline for those interested in running for county offices has also been pushed back from March 22 to April 15 at 9 p.m.

"Following the Court of Appeals' decision (two weeks ago) to move the primary election to July 19, the State Board of Elections has been working with the local boards of elections to ensure that Maryland voters have the opportunity to participate fully in the election process," Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator Linda Lamone said in a statement.

"We continue to work with the local boards to review any possible logistical issues resulting from the change to the election calendar, including the availability of early voting

centers and election polling places, recruitment of election judges for early voting and election day, and equipment allocation.

The deadline to register to vote in the primaries is now June 28 and the new deadline to request a mail-in ballot is July 12 for voters who want to receive their ballot by mail, according to the statement. Early voting takes place July 7-14, including over the weekend.

The statement didn't point to a reason for the delay, but on March 21 during the budget workshop held by the Worcester County Commissioners, Election Director Patricia Jackson said the delay is due to the legal battle over new legislative maps working their way through the state Court of Appeals. No redistricting work can begin until a decision is made, thus the court decided to delay the primary.

"That's a great time for an election in Ocean City," Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic deadpanned in response.

Furthermore, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City will be the only location for early voting in Worcester.

When Commissioner Josh Nordstrom bemoaned the fact that such a location, in July, is around an hour from Pocomoke, Jackson pointed out that voters will also have the opportunity

to vote by mail.

But even that option has voters angry, she said.

"It's (state) law that we have to mail mail-in ballots to all voters. We're getting some very interesting responses, pretty nasty responses from the voters," Jackson said. "But that's their choice. You can vote in person or you can vote early or you can vote by mail. We just have to mail an application to every voter from now on."

The decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals to push the primary election into July was so it could hear arguments this week in a case that alleges gerrymandering in a dozen or more legislative districts.

Following that, the court has the option of leaving the new district maps as they are, ordering new maps to be redrawn, or ordering the state to replace the current map with the one by Gov. Larry Hogan's citizen commission.

Regardless, county races will not be affected, and those eligible to vote in the Republican and Democratic primaries will see an interesting ballot come July and then in November.

On March 23, the Board of Elections had the following County Commissioner races listed on their online database:

In District 1, Caryn Abbott (R) will challenge incumbent Josh Nordstrom

See PRIMARIES Page 14

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MALLORY PANUSKA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Buckingham Elementary Pre-K students enjoy a mask-free classroom environment in early March.

WCPS not seeing any covid spikes post-mask mandate

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) The lifting of an indoor mask mandate on Feb. 28 has had no effect on the extremely low covid case numbers at Worcestear County’s public schools.

According to the district’s color-coded weekly covid dashboard that displays each school’s case status, the numbers have remained low with no outbreaks at any of the 14 schools for the last month.

“Our schools have reflected the community transmission rate,” said Lauren Williams, the coordinator of school health services for the Worcester County Board of Education of the reason behind the low numbers. “So when we see the community transmission go down, we see the same pattern in our schools.”

As of last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified the community transmission rate in Worcester County as low.

“I am pleased that we haven’t had

any increase with the masks coming off and also not surprised as the community transmissions are so low ...” Williams added. “That’s why people feel it’s okay to safely remove the masks when community transmission is so low.”

The district began tallying case numbers at the start of the school year on Sept. 7. Each week, the chart was peppered with green, yellow and orange classifications signifying various outbreak levels.

During one week at the end of September, one school was classified as red, meaning there was a classroom or cohort closure. The next week, the school transitioned to orange. No schools received red designations since, and none were ever fully shut down due to covid cases. For the week of March 21 through 25, the district reported no new covid cases at any of the schools. The week marked the fifth consecutive with all schools in the green.

See LAST Page 14

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SHOWING SUPPORT
A weekend of inclement weather and a shortened tournament did not stop the Ocean City fishing community from rallying together to support the second annual Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash, hosted by Sunset Marina and Sunset Grille to honor Bishop's memory, her love for Ocean City and passion for offshore fishing, while bringing local fishermen together to raise funds and awareness for Atlantic General Hospital and the John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Center. The 2021 tournament raised \$32,766, bringing contributions to almost \$70,000 in two short years.

Last cohort outbreak ended mid-February

Continued from Page 13

“Our last cohort outbreak closed in mid-February,” Williams said.

Masks were required for everyone inside county public schools except during meals and designated breaks since schools reopened after covid. Members of the state board of education superseded local control and issued the mandate just before the start of the 2021-22 school year, citing concerns about high virus transmission rates, potential variant spikes and a need to keep school open for in-

person learning.

The mandate remained until Feb. 22, when state board members decided the case and transmission rates were low enough to give masking choices back to individual county district officials.

On Feb. 25, members of state’s Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive & Legislative Review, or AELR, voted 17 to one to uphold the board’s recommendation, and masking became a district decision again.

Worcester County Pubic Schools

officials wasted no time lifting the mandate. On Feb. 28, Superintendent Lou Taylor announced that face coverings were no longer required in school facilities, but were still “strongly recommended” for students and staff members.

While many people decided to ditch the masks at that time, others opted to continue wearing them. In any case, Williams said district officials are happy to provide a choice.

“I think we observed ... there’s some people that feel comfortable continuing to wear their masks and others that took them off as soon as

they had the opportunity,” she said. “And we definitely want a safe and supportive environment for all of our students and staff so we encourage whatever choice our students and staff feel comfortable with.”

She added that district officials are staying in contact with state and local health department officials regarding transmission and case levels and will follow any guidance they provide.

“We have all along followed what those recommendations are and they have proven to be successful to this point with keeping schools safely open,” she said.

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Primaries now happening in July

Continued from Page 12

(D).

In District 3, Eric Fiori (R) will take on Thomas Gulyas (R) in the primary.

In District 4, a three-way, Republican primary race is shaping up between incumbent Ted Elder (R), Worcester County Fire Marshall Jeff McMahon (R) and former commissioner Virgil Shockley (R). McMahon is set to retire at the end of this month.

In District 5, Grant Helvey (R) will

challenge incumbent Chip Bertino (R) in the primary.

In District 6, Richard Addis (R) will challenge incumbent Jim Bunting (R) in the primary.

Commissioners Diana Purnell and Joe Mitrecic are running unopposed in Districts 2 and 7, respectively.

Vying for spots on the non-partisan Board of Education are:

In District 1, John Abbott will challenge incumbent Bill Buchanan.

In District 4, Jamie Marie Rice will challenge incumbent Bill Gordy.

In District 6, Katie Ann Addis will challenge incumbent Nate Passwaters.

In District 7, incumbent Todd Ferrante runs unopposed.

In other races, State’s Attorney Kris Heiser (R) is running unopposed, Jeffrey Buhrt (R) will challenge incumbent Sheriff Matt Crisafulli (R) in the primary, and Mike Diffendal (R) and Linda Hess (R) will challenge Orphans’ Court incumbent Judge Cheryl Jacobs (R) in the primary.

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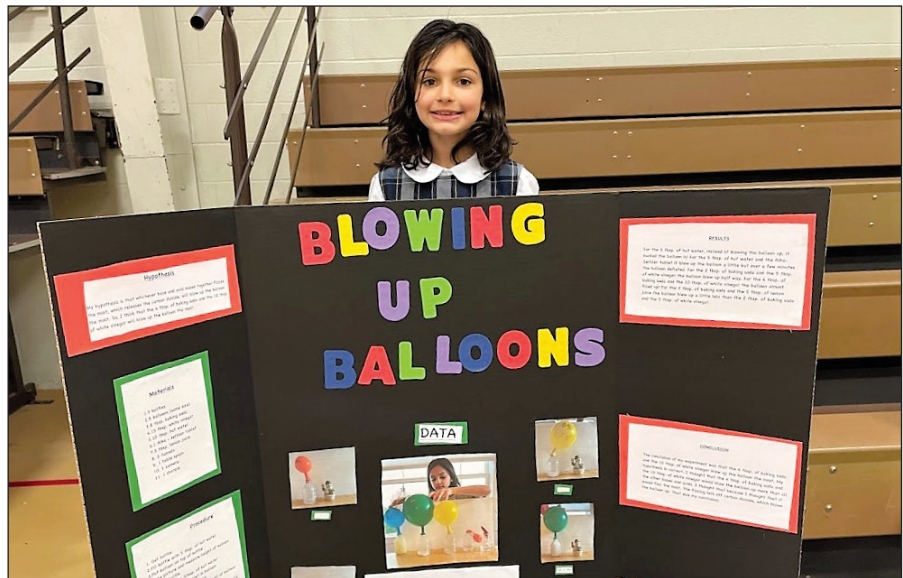
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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PLATFORM TENNIS

Ocean Pines Platform Players, Dave Tanner, Joe Jankowski, Russ Roberts, John Walter and Tony DiNicolas, cleared the snow from the paddle courts on Jan. 22 for weekend play. Platform tennis is an all-season sport. Watch for free Timeless Tennis, SPEC Tennis, and Friday Family Fun Night clinics, all coming in April.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

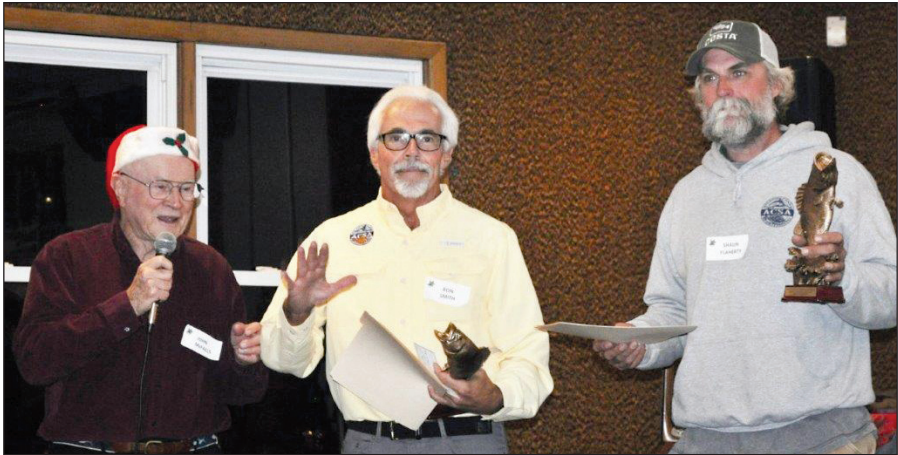
WPS SCIENCE FAIR

Worcester Preparatory School's third grade class presented a variety of projects during the Jan. 14 Science Fair. In preparation, each student wrote their own testable questions for a science experiment to show all the parts of the scientific method. After forming a hypothesis, they were required to design an experiment to collect data and draw conclusions based on their results. Tejal Pillai stands with her Science Fair experiment, Blowing Up Balloons.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented the Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation to Jeannie and Brittany Mariner. The Mariner's have restored the Showell-Mariner House, in keeping with the style of the 1858-59 era. The home is a show-piece with antiques, an interesting setting for the Windmill Creek Winery and Vineyard in Berlin. Pictured, from left, are General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Gail Weldin with Jennie and Brittany Mariner.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AWARDS

John McFalls, left, secretary of the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association, recently presented the Angler of the Year awards to Ron Smith (ocean) and Shaun Flaherty (bay).

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Critical Repair Programs

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Project EXHALE

Asthma and COPD Control Program

Project EXHALE is an asthma and COPD control partnership program. Tidal Health uses grant funding to identify, educate, and address asthma and respiratory triggers, or trigger producing conditions in eastern shore homes. Requests that come directly to Habitat Worcester and are related to asthma/COPD/EXHALE will be referred to Tidal Health for health assessment. All prospective applicants must also meet Habitat criteria for critical repairs.

Scope of Work: Roof

Veterans Build Initiative

Home Repairs for Veterans

Veteran homeowners applying for repairs to an owner-occupied home in Worcester county are eligible to apply for the Veterans Build Initiative. Qualified veterans will be asked to provide a copy of their DD214 form and applicants must meet Habitat criteria for critical repairs.

Scope of Work: handicap accessible ramps, modifications to bathrooms for accessibility, exterior housing repairs

A Brush with Kindness

Exterior Home Repairs

We participate in the national Habitat exterior repair program, A Brush With Kindness. Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County completes critical repairs and rehabs for existing Worcester County homeowners who are unable to complete the work themselves or obtain a conventional loan to do so.

Scope of Work: roofing, exterior painting, accessibility, weatherization and repair of other structural issues such as porch, stairs, siding and gutters, landscaping

Inquiries and applications are accepted during quarterly application rounds in January, April, July, and October.

Applicants for Critical Repair Programs:

- *Must own home
- *Must not have any judgments or liens against
- *Must have valid homeowner's insurance
- *Must meet min/max income qualifications and credit scores

County departments start FY23 budget talks

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 31, 2022) On March 21, the Worcester County Commissioners began the budget workshop process with the county's departments. Two weeks ago, the commissioners ruled that department heads should be the first ones to look at their respective

budget sheets and determine where savings could be achieved.

The decision was based on the need to eliminate the \$11 million shortfall between requests for money in next fiscal year's budget and the revenue the county expects to receive.

Some departments that stood out included:

Parks and Rec

The Parks Department, percentage-wise, requested one of the largest increases of the county's departments — 44.4 percent from about \$1.13 million to \$1.6 million, or \$499,564. Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados attributed much of the increase to new park development.

Parks's sister department, Recreation, went the exact opposite direction with listed savings of \$494,269, or 21.1 percent. Rados said that savings came in the form of \$500,000 from the Worcester County Recreation Center and \$71,984 from personnel salaries.

Sheriff's office and jail

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli asked for an increase of 8 percent over FY22, from \$9.45 million to \$10.2 million, or \$753,326. Noteworthy requested increases include \$198,615 in salary for additional personnel, \$493,883 for body-worn camera equipment, \$82,400 for software licensing and maintenance, \$35,600 for counseling services and \$44,000 in travel, training and expenses.

The Sheriff's Office is also asking for \$324,401 in "heavy equipment" but is weighed against a savings of approximately \$500,000 from last year's purchasing of new vehicles and public safety equipment.

Jail Warden Fulton Holland, on the other hand, requested less than

the FY22 actual budget by 0.3 percent. The biggest change for the jail funding is the fact that it won't be used to house ICE detainees anymore, freeing up a significant portion of funding.

Elections

Election Officer Patricia Jackson asked for \$130,084 over FY22 — or 10.6 percent more. \$64,684 is requested for voting machines and \$41,211 is requested for personnel salaries — neither of which are out of the ordinary in a midterm election cycle.

Emergency Services

Department of Emergency Services Directly Billy Birch posited a savings of \$170,471, or 4.4 percent for the county and attributed it to a mix and match of new needs and freed-up money that ultimately favored the county. On one hand, the department is asking for \$272,314 in supplies and materials but also suggests a savings of \$389,000 in capital equipment.

Health department

County Health Officer Becky Jones told the commissioners that the department has received "verbal information" that the state plans to fund the lion's share of the department's request for an increase of 5.7 percent, from \$5.67 million in FY22 to \$6 million in FY23, or \$323,000. Jones attributed the increase to "personnel."

Other natural resources

The county is looking at an increase of \$102,235, or 20 percent, from "Other Natural Resources." Most of the increase can be attributed to \$72,235 to address "major outbreaks" of spongy moths — formerly known as gypsy moths — over 3,000 acres in the county, Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said.

WOC service area

Department of Public Works Director Dallas Baker requested \$131,290 more than FY22 — or 9.1 percent — for West Ocean City water and wastewater services. Nearly every facet of this budget item had an increase attached to it, but the biggest was \$80,000 for capital equipment.

Miscellaneous

The Department of Public Works asked for a 38.4 percent increase of \$1.34 million in the solid waste division budge, with much of it attributed to "transfer from reserves."

The Office of Development, Review and Permitting asked for \$137,063, or 6.4 percent more than FY22. \$109,927 came from salaries for additional personnel.

Debt Service is asking for \$798,147, or 5.8 percent more than FY22, with all of the increase coming from capital improvement bond requests.

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Town of Berlin Public Notice



**TOWN OF BERLIN
NOTICE
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FOR RESOLUTION 2022-04**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Berlin Town Hall Council Chambers, 10 William Street, on Resolution 2022-04. The public is invited to attend and comment. A copy of the proposed Resolution is available for inspection in Town Hall, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Resolution 2022-04

Resolution of the Town of Berlin authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Town and Comcast of the Eastern Shore, LLC.

OCD-3/31/1t

Bikers Without Borders food drive slated for Saturday

(March 31, 2022) Join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Food Lion in Ocean Pines (11007 Manklin Creek Road) for the Fill-the-Truck Food Drive.

Members will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items, toiletries and monetary donations for local food banks.

Food banks receiving donations this month include, St. Mary's/ Holy Savior Church and St. Vincent de Paul Society (Ocean City), Sarah's Pantry and Community Church (Berlin), Delmarva's Homeless Helpers (Salisbury), Chincoteague Island Food Closet (Chincoteague, Virginia), and Shepherd's Office (Georgetown, Delaware).

The needed items include ready-to-eat and microwave-ready meals, single-serve cereals, shelf stable milk, breakfast and granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, individual snack packs, cases of bottled water, and microwave rice cups.

Additionally, baby/infant needs include, formula, diapers and wipes, and one of the recipients is able to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables.

See SATURDAY'S Page 18

Foundation supports Library Week

(March 31, 2022) The Worcester County Library Foundation, Inc. encourages all community members to visit their library in person or online to explore and access services and programs during National Library Week, April 3-9. Worcester County Library is a place to be inspired, learn new skills, discover more about the community, and connect with others.

The library offers a wide array of programs, classes and resources that are available in person or from the comfort of home, including childhood literacy programs, book clubs, lectures, and technology training.

National Library Week is a time to highlight the essential role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

The theme for this year's National Library Week is "Connect with Your Library," which promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas and classes, in addition to books. Most importantly, libraries also connect communities to each other.

Libraries of all types continue to go above and beyond to keep their communities connected by expanding resources

and embracing inclusion in their programming, resources and collections.

Libraries across the country are making a difference in people's lives by providing electronic learning resources like online homework help and wi-fi access for students and workers who may lack internet access at home. Worcester County Library is supporting the community with services such as job search assistance, wi-fi hot spot and laptop lending, genealogy and local history resources, and online language learning courses.

This National Library Week, the pub-

lic can show their appreciation for libraries by visiting in person or online, following them on social media and using the hashtag #NationalLibraryWeek. Community members can also show their support by joining the Worcester County Library Foundation.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April.

For more information, visit the library's website at www.WorcesterLibrary.org.

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Saturday's drive will benefit local area food banks

Continued from Page 17

Paper products, such as paper towels and toilet paper, and personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush and paste in regular or travel size, are also needed.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional food items to ensure well-rounded donations are provided to each organization. Beginning at 1 p.m., members of the Bikers Without Borders Foundations will begin escorted rides to the recipients to make the deliveries.

Bikers Without Borders Foundation is comprised of men and women that believe that giving back to the community is a civic duty. Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities which support local communities.

The foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in our communities.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation or email bikerwithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com.

Humane society bingo event, Sat.

(March 31, 2022) Worcester County Humane Society will hold its fifth annual "Wags and Whiskers" Thirty-One Bag, Cash and More Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, April 2, at the American Legion Post #166, on 24th Street in Ocean City.

Doors will open at noon. All proceeds benefit the homeless dogs and cats at the no-kill shelter.

When it's game time, participants will have multiple chances to win official Thirty-One bags, cash and other prizes. The bingo games will run from 1-4 p.m. Attendees must be 18 or older.

Advance tickets cost \$25 for 20 regular games for Thirty-One bags full of goodies and gift cards. There will be two special bingo games for an additional small fee.

There will also be an opportunity to participate in a Chinese auction, raffle boards and a candy bar game for additional items and prizes as well as food and beverages available for purchase.

"Whether a person comes alone or brings a group of friends, the event offers a fun atmosphere of fellowship for all," said Diana Snyder, event chair.

A limited number of tickets will be

available at the door the day of the event for \$30.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.worcestercountyhumesociety.networkforgood.org, at the Worcester County Humane Society Thrift Store, 12703 Sunset Avenue Units 5 & 6, or by calling Diana at 443-987-2870.

Worcester County Humane Society is private, nonprofit, no-kill animal shelter in Berlin that depends on donations and fundraisers to help care for the many cats and dogs who call the shelter home until their forever families are found.

Burton family dog dies during fire

(March 31, 2022) Multiple fire units responded Saturday for a house fire at 10016 Carey Road in Berlin that took the life of a beloved canine.

The fire also claimed the home and personal possessions of residents Julie and Jeffrey Burton, who operate Surfside Rooster in West Ocean City.

The Berlin Volunteer Fire Company was alerted to the fire at 10:29 a.m., with the first units on the scene reporting fire and smoke coming from the attic of the home.

A search of the residence resulted

in locating two family dogs, one of which perished as a result of the fire.

Firefighters navigated through smoke and flames to pull both pets from the structure. Resuscitation efforts revived Boh but could not save Ali, who suffered from smoke inhalation. No other injuries were reported.

Fire investigators determined the fire was accidental and apparently originated in a clothes dryer.

Berlin was assisted by Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Showell, Bishopville and Selbyville Volunteer Fire Depart-

ments.

As news of the tragedy spread, family friend Michael Agnew organized a GoFundMe page, which as of Wednesday had raised nearly \$2,000 of a \$10,000 goal.

To help the Burton family, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-give-one-of-ocs-best-a-hand?utm_campaign=p_cfshare-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&fbclid=IwAR34bFYJcQtKWSOpSC2r79bE5kLNedVsdXLR_TtAc2d5VB5elbW5YZDHys



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Opinion

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

Board majority silent, but its dislike is clear

Talk about transparency in government, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors was see-through last Wednesday when the majority’s animosity toward former board candidate Stewart Lakernick resulted in the abrupt rejection of his second bid to serve on a community committee.

Lakernick had sought a seat on the Search Committee this time, having been denied a spot on the Strategic Planning Committee earlier this year. But no. The board leadership wasn’t having it and then refused to discuss it.

Attempts by other board members to have association President Collette Horn and former president Larry Perrone explain their opposition to Lakernick’s appointment were quickly dismissed with no reason given.

Horn and Perrone simply didn’t want to talk about it and didn’t want anyone else talking about it either, as was evidenced by their blunt instrument approach to cutting off the conversation.

Horn might as well have said, “We just don’t like him, and that’s that,” when she refused to acknowledge board member Rick Farr’s request to speak.

“That subject is closed, and we’ve moved onto the next applicant,” she declared.

Well, so much for the collegial atmosphere and free exchange of ideas with this group.

Their real beef is not with Lakernick, but with his wife, former board member Esther Diller, whose legal difficulties became fodder for the local gossip cannon last year and whose anti-board activism so burned the incumbents, apparently, that the blisters have yet to heal.

The bigger problem, however, is that the main criticisms of that 2021 board majority, which was led by Perrone, was its proclivity for imperious behavior and its dismissiveness of challenges to its authority.

It doesn’t look as if things have changed, at least not when their explanation for Lakernick’s rejection is about the same as saying, “Because we said so. That’s why.”



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Book-banning concerns

Editor,

In response to the March 10 article on Superintendent Taylor, and after attending School Board meetings in January, February, March – I feel I must express my concerns and stand up for intellectual freedom.

I am very concerned when community members talk of banning books, because increasing exposure to a variety of literature enhances learning success.

Parents may control what their own children read, but don’t have the right to restrict what books are available to other people.

The National Coalition against Censorship tells us that “Even books or materials that some find objectionable may have educational value, and the decision about what to use in the classroom should be based on professional judgements and standards, not individual preferences or influenced by political rhetoric.”

Research and data shows the value of enriching students’ lives with high quality literature, diverse literature, books that teach new ideas and books that help them grow and understand.

The Association of School Librarians has issued a statement on censorship that is going on in school libraries – “It

is our responsibility to provide equitable access to diverse and inclusive material that is representative of social and racial justice and pursue truth.”

We are fortunate that here in Worcester County we have highly qualified school librarians selecting and maintaining our libraries and book lists. They have policies and procedures to “insure best practices” for every book.

Our Worcester County School libraries and teachers are committed to upholding the highest standards in providing information and resources. We don’t ban books – we honor books.

Debra Fisher-Reynolds
Retired teacher
Ocean Pines

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Visit us on the Web at www.baysideoc.com.

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Boating safety course held April 6-8

(March 31, 2022) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, virtually, April 6-8, from 6-9 p.m.

Boating is all about safety and understanding the rules of navigation. Certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary will again present the Maryland Safe Boating Course. All the required material is covered

along with time for questions.

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

and valid in all states.

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

For more information or to register, contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

Puzzles

EXES & NOS

BY BRAD WIEGMANN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Brad Wiegmann is a national security lawyer for the Department of Justice in Washington. He says this puzzle reminds him of an old Steven Wright line: "I almost had a psychic girlfriend — but she left me before we met." This is his third puzzle for The Times, all Sundays. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Band of supporters

5 Something absolutely necessary

10 "___ and Janis" (comic strip)

14 Oomph

17 Word from the French for "high wood"

18 Washed out

20 Dock

21 Something a winner may run into

22 "It's tough finding the right person. My first boyfriend was a perfectly nice atheist, but he ..."

24 Tour de France seasons

25 Side dish at a fish fry

26 Main component of Saturn's rings

27 Lena of "Enemies, a Love Story"

28 "So then I dated a fun couch potato, but he ..."

31 Nonstarters?

33 Toeing the line

34 Fútbol cheer

35 Italian wine region

36 "30 for 30" airt

39 The 1 in {1,2,3}: Abbr.

40 Lab vessel

42 Camphor, e.g.

45 One getting depressed during exams?

47 They're found near traps

48 "Then my friend set me up with a recluse, but he ..."

52 Comedian Mort

54 Classic Hawaiian folk song

55 Superman and others, for short

56 Book with a notable world premiere?

59 What middlemen do

60 Noisy beachgoer

62 Bun in a bamboo steamer

63 Internet encryption inits.

65 Binary

66 "I dated my rock climbing instructor for a while, but he just ..."

68 ___-Pacific

69 Not sparkling

71 Blast-furnace supply

72 Baloney

73 Bad signs for a bank robber

75 Academic journal with a Breakthrough of the Year award

77 U.K. track-star-turned-politician Sebastian

78 Mishmashes

79 Swindled

80 "Then I had a fling with a Pittsburgh Penguin, but I knew he ..."

83 Cuisine featuring som tam

86 Drill command

88 Feel another's pain

89 Cavalryman of old

91 Big ___ (Olympic snowboarding event)

92 Whimper

93 Starters, for short

97 Outback speedster

98 Keep rhythm, as a conductor might

101 Wisconsin town with a clothing namesake

104 "I was in a serious relationship with a hippie, but he ..."

106 Org. issuing vaccine standards starting in 2021

107 It may be part of a solution

108 Together, in music

109 Fading sea name

110 "Finally, I started seeing a charming magician, and he ..."

113 Pan, in part

114 Fun-size

115 Kind of thesis

116 Weekend warrior's woe

117 Happening offline, to a texter

118 Relaxation

119 Devotee of Haile Selassie, informally

120 Bit of kitchen waste

DOWN

1 Big name in pricey cigars

2 You can't say it doesn't count

3 Lizzie is one, in the "Cars" movies

4 Crossword solving option

5 Watchmaker since 2015

6 It lands on the White House's South Lawn

7 ___ Bator, Mongolia

8 On the ___

9 Fastened, in a way

10 Making change

11 Well past the freshness date, say

12 "My Fair Lady" composer

13 Actor/comedian who was a regular on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show"

14 Meathead

15 Military uniform feature

16 Bluish-gray shades

19 Scintilla

21 "Shameful!"

23 Alley-___

29 Possessive types?

30 Way to go: Abbr.

32 "You're so wrong about that!"

37 Lead-in to Cat

38 Something that all but three U.S. presidents have had while in office

41 "Time out" in the N.B.A.

43 What makes the short list?

44 Total jerk

45 Boxing highlight

46 Apply to

48 Jokesters

49 Some native Alaskans

50 Tile work

51 Leadership position

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17				18				19	20				21		
22				23					24				25		
26				27				28	29				30		
31			32					33						34	
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			42	43	44			45			46			47	
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83	84	85			86		87				88				
89				90			91			92				93	94
97				98		99			100			101	102	103	
104			105								106				107
108					109				110		111			112	
113					114				115					116	
117					118				119					120	

53 Bit of a chuckle

56 Rubberneck

57 "A house divided against ___ cannot stand"

58 Rubylike gem

60 Richard of "Chicago"

61 Native people for whom a state is named

62 When doubled, a candy

64 Quick with a clapback

66 So-called "Father of Liberalism"

67 Conflict taking a couple of seconds?

70 Soccer star Messi, to fans

73 Capital of Fiji

74 "How ___ Your Mother"

76 Beloved site for the Irish ... and French

77 Journalist who was the first woman to guest-host "Jeopardy!"

78 Hard stuff that jiggles

80 "We'll be in touch!" often

81 Dr. of 112-Down

82 Counterpart of full, in a way

83 Wise guys?

84 One might be smoke-filled

85 Not surprisingly

87 Big name in hot dogs

90 Face on a penny, familiarly

92 Strong suit

94 Regulate

95 Cupid's love

96 Mideast currency unit

99 Features of some halls

100 Mucky substances

102 Twin sister of He-Man

103 What, in multiple senses, might get tipped

105 Take place?

106 Redding who wrote "Respect"

111 Crispr material

112 See 81-Down

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HARD - 49

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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 31

STORY TIME ‘THINGS THAT FLY’
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

SHOW & SHARE: SOMETHING GREEN!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Show and share something green. It can be your favorite toy, shirt or even a photo. Share why you chose to bring it. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FEEL-GOOD MOVIE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Featuring monthly movies that prove the human spirit can prevail despite overwhelming odds. Check for details at www.worcesterlibrary.org or 410-208-4014.

STEM POWERED FUN SLIME TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. STEM fun and challenges for ages 7 years and older. Create slime with materials provided and conduct experiments about its chemical properties. 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

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Join us 55 plus at Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or BeachSingles.org

Fri., April 1

WSW’S MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE
Who is important in your life? Is your mom your hero? Want to celebrate her? Want to make a memory that will last a lifetime? Check out our Women Supporting Women’s Mother’s Day Raffle. Held April 1-28. Tickets \$25. 410-548-7880

SCHOOL’S OUT CAMP
Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Participants play various sports, games, make crafts and more. Choose 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Derek Jarmon, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2509 or djarmon@marylandscoast.org.

FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENINGS
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Free admission, beverages and hors d’oeuvres. Satellite galleries include Princess Royale and Coffee Beanery, both in Ocean City. Show is on display through April 30. www.artleague-fofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

Sat., April 2

FILL-THE-TRUCK FOOD DRIVE
Food Lion, 11007 Manklin Creek Road, Berlin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bikers Without Borders will be collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items, toiletries and monetary donations for local food banks. <https://www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation/>

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

2ND ANNUAL JOB FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Town of Ocean City is hiring for Recreation & Parks, Maintenance, Solid Waste, Police, Fire, Transportation, Beach Patrol, Public Works and Purchasing. www.oceancitymd.gov, 410-289-8822

CRAFTY SATURDAY: APRIL FOOLS! SILLY CRAFTS FOR SILLY FRIENDS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come make some hilarious crafts and do some silly activities. For ages 4 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOB FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Employers will be on-site from all over Worcester and Sussex counties. Seasonal and year-round positions available. Some with possible employee housing. Heather LaFollette, 410-213-0144, Ext. 133.

8TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN POCOMOKE SPRING FESTIVAL
Pocomoke City, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendors, car show, kids activities including fishing, bounce house, petting farm, juggling and more. Bring baskets for Easter Egg Loop. Meet the Easter Bunny (12-2

p.m.). downtownpocomoke.com.

DRIVE-THRU FRIED CHICKEN DINNER
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Four piece fried chicken (breast, wing, thigh, drumstick), string beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, Cole slaw, applesauce, roll and cupcake. Cost is \$14. Stay in car and use east driveway.

LOVE YOUR MAMA RIBBON CUTTING
Love Your Mama, LLC, 2 Stevenson Lane, Berlin, 12 p.m. Lizzie Ottenstein’s storefront provides an eclectic assortment of day-to-day goods made to replace everything from Tupperware to paper towels and beyond. <https://www.loveyourmamaoc.com>, 443-513-4190

5TH ANNUAL ‘WAGS AND WHISKERS’ THIRTY-ONE BAG, CASH AND MORE BINGO FUNDRAISER
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 1-4 p.m. Doors open at noon. Event goes must be 18 years and older. Tickets cost \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tickets: <https://worcestercountyhumanesociety.org/event/wags-whiskers-bingo/> or 443-987-2870.

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. oppad-dle2020@gmail.com or 516-508-0313.

Sun., April 3

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. 410-603-2761

Mon., April 4

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

AARP TAXAIDE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AARP Foundation Tax Aide is of-

fering 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.

MAKER MONDAY
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Fully jointed bears will be hand-sewn and decorated over several weeks (April 4, 11, 18, 25) using a variety of materials, patterns and techniques. Register: 410-641-0650 or www.worcesterlibrary.org.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will focus on selected poems from the anthology America’s Favorite Poems. 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.

ADULT SHOW AND TELL
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Join the group as they share their objects of interest and the tales that come with them. 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., April 5

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP
John H. ‘Jack’ Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 10-11 a.m. AGH and local worship centers work together to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

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

STORY TIME ‘BRUSH YOUR TEETH’
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts about having



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

FOOD COLLECTION
Every Wednesday in December, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City collected food in the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanians Carolyn Dryzga, Food Drive Chair Candy Foreman and Kitty Wrench sorting some of the non-perishable goods for Diakonia's pantry.



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Calendar

Continued from Page 21
healthy teeth and gums and what to expect when visiting the dentist. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC WITH GINNY ROSENKRANZ
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Each month is a different topic. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Babies under 2 years and caregivers join for songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING
Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. 410-603-2761

POETRY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 3:30-11:59 p.m. Explore different types of nontraditional poetry to celebrate National Poetry Month. For ages 10 years and older.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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

Wed., April 6

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via Zoom (12 p.m.) on the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Contact the Atlantic General Bariatrics Center for more information at 410-641-9568.

THE GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$8 for dine-in and take-out. Dine-in price includes a one time, re-order of breakfast. 410-289-9340, ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

STORY TIME: 'BUGS'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts all about bugs. For children 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, any Wednesday, to receive one-on-one guidance from library staff to strengthen your resume and help with your job search. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Providing discussion, education and a speaker on the topic of diabetes. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS BOOK CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Discussion and activities about the new hit book "Amari and the Night Brothers" by B.B. Alston. The book is available on Overdrive. For ages 10-14 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE
Held virtually from April 6-8, 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, CGAuxOC@gmail.com.

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

Cuisine

Fried green tomatoes, eggs and hollandaise

A bead of sweat rolls down my right temple. It is too damn early for this. The sun is still an hour from cracking the horizon, and I am tired, exhausted, but brunch must be served and it is an hour's drive away. I still have to pack the finishing touches.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

My pointer finger trembles with trepidation as I know the end result well before I click. I know what is about to happen, and worse, I can't do anything about it.

All I want to do is print some menus for this custom repast, but I know my printer won't work; it never does when I need it to. Unplug, plug back in. Restart everything. Run the troubleshooter. It is all in vain.

I feel like this weekly, if not daily, ritual reminds me that I am rarely in control of the little details of my life. There are larger powers at play, whether they be universal or technological, and I accept that.

But this is a very important brunch for clients and friends of mine in the most stunning kitchen and estate that I have worked in a great while. Alas, I jump ship as I realize that I will have to go without a printed menu today. Someday though, dearest printer, you will be mine. Yes, you will be mine.

It is time to hit the road and get the many moving parts of this buffet set up. At the end of the day, they will be happy. All from scratch, the food will make them happy, and it will speak for itself.

The printer battle will have to wait.

Eggs Kind-of Chesapeake

makes 8 portions

10 ea. Whole large eggs

8 ea. Fried green tomatoes (recipe follows)

Oil for frying (Recipe follows)

Shredded chicken & smoked turkey, as needed

6 oz. Lump crab meat

2 c. Garlic Kale (Recipe follows)

Hollandaise, as needed (recipe follows)

- Poach the eggs in salted water ahead of time, until just done and then shock in ice water.

- Remove from ice water and have



ready to dunk in hot water to reheat.

- Fry the breaded green tomatoes and set aside, keeping warm until ready to assemble.

- Heat a pan, and add the garlic kale, meats and crab meat, tossing gently to heat.

- When ready to assemble, arrange the fried tomato(es) on a plate or platter.

- Top with the kale mixture and one egg per tomato.

- Top with Hollandaise and serve immediately.

Fried Green Tomatoes

makes 10 tomatoes

2 ea. Large green tomatoes

4 eggs

1 c. Whole milk

3 c. Seasoned flour (your choice)

3 c. Fine panko bread crumbs

1/4 c. Dried parsley

2 Tbsp. Trimix (Salt, pepper, granulated garlic)

- In first bowl, combine eggs and milk

- In second bowl, place seasoned flour

- In third bowl, combine remaining ingredients

- Following the age-old tenets of the breading station, bread your fried green tomatoes. This can be done ahead of time, and they can be frozen. This helps them to maintain their shape and breading, and also keeps them from getting soggy.

- Fry in oil at 350F until golden brown

- Keep warm until ready to serve

Oil for Frying

makes about 2 gallons

6 qt. Vegetable shortening

2 qt. Lard

1 whole chicken

1 smoked turkey leg

2 sprigs rosemary

4 sprigs fresh thyme

4 Tbsp. Poultry seasoning

- There shall be no frying at this point, sinners. We are going to make a confit.

- Place everything in a pot large enough to hold everything.

- Slowly bring to a heat where you will see small bubbles rise and the chicken starting to cook.

- Maintain this for hours on end until the chicken is cooked and shreds easily.

- Remove the turkey and chicken and shred, setting aside meat in the icebox until needed.

- Cool the oil down, and ladle it from the top. There will be water from the chicken at the bottom and you do not want this! It will be a safety hazard as you heat up your fryer.

Garlic Kale

makes 1 qt.

3 Qt. Fresh kale, cleaned and stems removed

1/2 c. Garlic confit (you should know that from previous articles)

Salt & Pepper, as needed

- Heat the garlic confit in a pan, but do not bring it to smoking.

- Add the kale and cook until soft,

maybe 4-5 minutes.

- Season and set aside until service.

Hollandaise (cheater)

makes about 3 cups

2 ea. Farm fresh duck eggs, if you should be so lucky*

1/2pound whole unsalted butter, melted and at `130F

1/2 tsp. Chicken base (concentrate)

dash hot sauce

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Salt & Black pepper to taste

- Place the eggs in a blender and turn on a medium speed.

- Add the chicken base, hot sauce and lemon juice.

- Take your whole, melted butter, and slowly drizzle in to make your emulsion.

- Once the sauce in the blender stops spinning, or seizes up, you are done. You can thin with a dash of hot water if desired.

- Season and keep warm until service.

*Farm fresh eggs are recommended, but seriously, how often do you see those? It is recommended that you use shell-pasteurized eggs for this sauce. There are plenty of techniques available to research to get this done.

—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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