



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

UPHEAVAL

We Heart Berlin members are joined by elected town officials for the Tables at Burbage Park groundbreaking ceremony at the green patch along William Street on Saturday morning.

Furnace Town hits reopening goal

Recovery from vandalism requires major overhaul, but job gets done in time

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) After a tumultuous offseason underscored by the heart-breaking vandalism that the Furnace Town Historic Site in Snow Hill endured last September, its staff reopened its doors last weekend.

"We had a couple of schools come through. We had a couple of our artisans here. They demonstrated, which was great," Furnace Town Executive Director Claudia Nagle said. "We had a very good turnout for the first day. The first weekend went very well and I'm very pleased. The folks who did the work, Gillis Gilkerson (Contracting), I can't say enough about them because they worked hard to get it ready and done well."

The job still isn't done, however, as a few loose ends remain. Nagle said



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Program Director Elijah Miles-Wipf tends to the woodworkers shop at Furnace Town in Snow Hill. The site reopened for the 2022 season after an uncertain offseason following vandalism.

they're still waiting on floor materials for the visitor center's first floor, there's still a little work to be done in the church and some exterior damage

around the historic site still needs work.

But none of the remaining work
See FURNACE Page 7

OP Fire Dept. gets state aid for big project

Officials say South Station needs \$7 million rebuild

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) After securing \$1.35 million in state funding, Ocean Pines Fire Department officials are looking to rebuild the four-decade old South Station for approximately \$7 million, with the community on the hook for about half the tab.

Ocean Pines Fire Department President Dave Van Gasbeck said a feasibility study had been completed by Baltimore-based architectural firm Manns Woodward Studios, who inspected the site in June 2020.

"The need is real," he said.

See AFTER Page 6



D. Van Gasbeck



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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Purchasing the Black Eyed Susan has been fraught with obstacles from the very beginning. A new development could ultimately sink the venture altogether: an unforeseen \$600,000 repair bill.

Black eye: Riverboat woes continue to dog Snow Hill

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) The Black Eyed Susan riverboat is again out of commission.

Less than eight months after the much-anticipated 111-foot paddlewheel took its maiden voyage as the Town of Snow Hill's new marquee attraction, the United States Coast Guard has thrown a bucket of cold water on the town's 2022 ambitions.

"After initial conversations with the shipyard people and expecting a hefty bill between \$200,000 and \$300,000, once the Coast Guard finalized their inspection and the shipyard put their prices to it, to what would be required to comply with the inspection, it changed to just over \$600,000," Snow Hill Town Manager Rick Pollitt said. "Which of course is just an astronomical total and is causing a lot of concern about what we're going to do next."

The riverboat has been at Colonna's Shipyard in Norfolk undergoing the Coast Guard inspection since February.

The revelation blindsided the county seat community, according to the Black Eyed Susan leaseholder and operator Jim Washington.

"It came as a surprise to everyone," Washington said. "The town had spent I believe (\$5,000) for an inspector to go over the boat (and thoroughly inspect it), which is normally done before purchase."

The riverboat's purchase predates Pollitt's time with the town, but he said his understanding was that the pre-purchase inspection did not turn up the issues facing the town today. The town is trying to ascertain why today's problems were not reported after the pre-purchase inspection.

The riverboat was in the fourth of five years between more thorough Coast Guard inspections that require the riverboat to be raised out of the water and dry-docked. That is the inspection occur-

ring now.

The problems are multiple. Two of the more prominent areas of focus are the patchwork boat's hull and the structure of the paddlewheel.

Washington said the riverboat has more patch doublers — an additional plate welded to the original as a repair — than the Coast Guard allows for a riverboat, because rivers put more pressure on a boat than, say, a docile creek. The patches need to be removed and the hull needs to be totally repaired.

As for addressing the paddlewheel structure, Pollitt said its repair could total more than half of the overall price tag.

Those two issues are on top of others that the Coast Guard returned.

"There are some things that are on that big crazy number (of issues) list that we are trying to figure out, which need to be done this year," Washington said. "There was a small leak and we weren't sure if it was the air conditioning or not, which caused ceiling tiles to fall on the first deck."

None of the repairs have occurred yet but town and county officials have been in talks with elected officials, including U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D), about possible funding avenues.


A press release from the Town of Snow Hill said town officials hope the riverboat can be back in time for the summer season.

"We're looking at whatever kind of money the town can raise," Pollitt said. "We've got some ARPA money (left-over). We're also in conversations with our state and federal government agencies to see if there is anything there."

If the repairs are done, Washington added that they wouldn't take too long.

"From what I understand, if they pulled the trigger today, it's three to five weeks, something like that, to get every-

See RIVERBOAT Page 4



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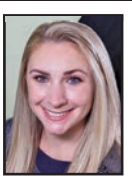
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








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







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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Fire Company President Dave Fitzgerald and Chief R.J. Rhode laid out the case to the mayor and Town Council regarding upcoming funding needs during a work session on Monday.

Berlin Fire Company seeks budget dollars to hire staff

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) Looking to address general cost increases and hire two additional staff, Berlin Fire Company leadership presented its FY23 budget request to the mayor and Town Council on Monday.

Berlin Fire President Dave Fitzgerald teamed with Fire Chief R.J. Rhode to complete the allocation requests. “We just finished last night,” he said.

The Fire Company budget request runs from July 1 through June 30, 2023.

Fitzgerald said approximately 45 percent of fire responses were within town limits last year.

In terms of revenue streams, Fitzgerald said donations and fundraising profits have increased from prior years.

“Our donations have increased

from what we’ve budgeted over the last several years,” he said. “The main fundraisers right now are the Friday night carry out dinner.”

Fitzgerald also noted Worcester County funding to compensate for out of area calls has remained steady.

“The county uses a tax-based formula, so it stays constant year to year,” he said.

On the expense side, utility costs are budgeted to jump by \$5,000.

“We heat with natural gas and propane,” he said.

Other price spikes have been noted for repairs and materials costs, which are anticipated to jump by 5-7 percent.

“For insurance we’re being told to estimate about a 6 percent increase,” he said.

The fire companies FY23 budget request also bumps up apparatus

See EMERGENCY Page 5



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Riverboat bill slaps Snow Hill

Continued from Page 3

thing done,” he said. “But if you’re talking \$600,000 in three to five weeks, that seems crazy to me. In Norfolk, we have no advocate down there (delegating what to do). You can’t go see the boat.”

“There are a lot of little angles with this boat, the way (repairs are being addressed). Norfolk inspectors are notoriously stricter than some other Coast Guard people because there are a lot of boats down there. Not that they put us in any difficult setting — it’s just that they’re known to be more strict down there.”

The town is still shopping around for better prices and Pollitt added there is no merit to some of the rumors going around — one of the more outlandish ones he heard being that the town plans to sink the riverboat to turn it into a fishing reef.

But the truth is these repairs may not happen at all.

“We’re not assuming that we’re going to be able to do it,” Pollitt said. “(We have to decide) what is reasonable to spend. At what point do you decide that’s just too much? That’s all part of the conversation and right now everything is on the table.”

Hopefully, Washington said, these latest difficulties won’t sink a venture that could have helped the area take a larger piece of the tourism pie in Worcester County.

“The lower Eastern Shore was looking for something that we could call our own and it would have been nice if it worked out — unlucky I guess,” he said. “If we had a couple of miles of white beach to have down here, maybe we’d share some of the fanfare Ocean City has. That’s really what it is. And Ocean City does it well and has for a long time. We’re the county seat and we thought we would have a reason to come here.”

OP Strategic Planning interprets survey data

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) Countering misguided perceptions about community association operations was the focus of an Ocean Pines Board of Directors work session last week with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Committee Chair Bernie McGorry opened the meeting last Tuesday at the Golf Clubhouse with the intention of defining the association's overall approach to countering the public misunderstandings and faulty assumptions revealed in the re-



John Viola

cent community survey.

"Strategic Planning is the process of determining the future of the organization and what resources will be needed to achieve ... goals," he said.

McGorry said businesses lacking such processes tend to flounder without a clear direction charted.

Looking at demographic data for Ocean Pines compared the entirety of



Larry Perrone

Worcester County, McGorry said the Pines has a higher percentage of white residents than the county on average (91 percent versus 79 percent) a higher population over the age of 65 (39 percent versus 27 percent) and a greater number of college graduates (35 percent versus 29 percent).

Ocean Pines also has a larger percentage of homeowners (88 percent versus a



Doug Parks

county average of 75 percent) and fewer renters (11 percent versus 25 percent).

McGorry also reviewed a breakdown of assessment allocations, which showed amenities accounting for a half-percent, compared to 29 percent for reserves and 25 percent for emergency services.

See PINES Page 9

Emergency services review FY23 requests

Continued from Page 4

maintenance costs by \$10,000.

"Fees have gone up," he said.

Rhodes said prices for fire protection gear is also on the rise.

"The company we deal with told us to budget a \$60-\$70 increase for next year," he said. "That's just for the coats and pants."

Rhodes said since placing a boot order last month prices have gone up by \$15 pair.

"Everything we have to have is going up in price," he said.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood asked if grant opportunities were being pursued.

Rhodes said grants are being sought for both air packs and other apparatus.

"We are actively seeking some grants," he said.

Turning to EMS services, Fitzgerald said about 57 percent of responses were within town limits last year.

In a similar vein as fire services, Fitzgerald said community donations have recently increased for EMS providers.

"We hope the public continues to support us," he said.

In hopes of providing better response times, fire officials are also looking to add two additional staff members to have four people on duty at all times.

"Right now four people are only there during the day," he said.

Fitzgerald said last year Worcester County increased funding totals by \$115,000 for additional staff, which they hope to repeat this year.

Based on salary increases, Fitzgerald estimated the same move would cost about \$125,00 inclusive of salary and benefits.

"It allows the public quicker service and more accurate responses," he said.

Fitzgerald said all staff are cross trained for both fire and medical responses.

Fire company officials are asking Berlin for roughly \$718,000 in funding for FY23.

Council member Jack Orris said the total funding included in the most

recent FY23 draft budget is about \$525,000.

"Your internal budgets are higher," he said.

Fitzgerald said funding levels have remained flat for several years.

"We have had to keep shifting more of the flat funding to EMS," he said. "Nothing is being purchased, it's all costs that are being passed onto us."

Berlin Fire officials made a similar budget request before the Worcester Commissioners last week.

"All our costs are going up," he said.

Fitzgerald also inquired with county leaders about future allocations of American Rescue Plan Funds

"The commissioners have publicly stated broadband and fire/EMS is what their intentions are," he said.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said the nearly \$300,000 higher ask could be cut in half without raising tax rates from an estimated \$143,000 in added revenues in FY23 based on higher property values.

"We see your numbers are coming in at roughly \$300,000 above what we gave last year," he said. "We un-

derstand that's been flat for a couple years."

Fitzgerald said without the presence of volunteer members personnel

costs would skyrocket.

"If we have to go to paid staff in the future that's going to be a bigger ask," he said.

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After 40 years, station needs to be rebuilt

Continued from Page 1

The slowly percolating project recently gained financial backing due to the efforts of Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) and Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C).

“In November, we met with political leaders to start discussing funding,” he said.

In January, Pines fire officials requested state bond issuance for \$300,000, which was subsequently cut in half after \$1.35 million was allocated for the job in Gov. Larry Hogan’s supplemental budget.

“The bond issue is still ongoing for \$150,000,” he said.

The Maryland General Assembly is scheduled to vote on bond requests later this week.

“Sen. Carozza and Del. Hartman worked extraordinarily hard to get

this money,” he said.

Van Gasbeck said both politicians were able to nudge Hogan to cough up significant funding.

“It wasn’t something we begged them to do” he said. “They did this on their own and went to the governor for supplemental.”

Manns Woodward officials are re-working cost estimates to be in line with current construction pricing. The overall project, which had been estimated at \$6.7 million, is now anticipated to reach \$7 million.

Ocean Pines Fire Chief Steve Grunewald said the next step is to explain the need for the project and its cost to residents.

Pines fire officials are prepared to pony up matching funds for the state allocation.

“We’re trying to match it out of our

savings,” Van Gasbeck said. “We’re going to get very close to that.”

While about \$3 million is now accounted for, a larger sum is still required.

“We’ll probably need \$4 million more,” he said.

Association officials are planning a town hall on the subject by late next month to lay out the case for issuing a referendum for funding.

“We’ll both be making part of that presentation,” he said. “Manns Woodward will be doing the actual nuts and bolts construction stuff.”

Assuming the plans clear initial hurdles, a referendum vote by association members would come next, as that approach is required for all spending requests that top the million dollar mark.

“Then all bets are off,” Van Gasbeck said.

Ultimately, funding footed by residents would be added to annual assessment fees over a 30-year period.

“It would be very difficult to think the community would not support that level of funding, when our state delegates and senators worked so hard to get the other part of funding,” he said.

Grunewald said plans call for renovating existing apparatus bay areas and rebuilding the larger structure.

“From the engine bay over is being rebuilt,” he said.

Van Gasbeck said construction plans include demolishing the existing building to erect a two-story structure, while also installing additional bay space for vehicles and expanding work areas.

“It is a renovation in the sense that we are retaining the existing three bays,” he said.

The expansion would allow the department to park its entire fleet of three ambulances under cover.

The South Station, which was built in 1981 and totaled 3,200 square feet, had an addition in 1985 that included three apparatus bays and support areas totaling 4,200 square feet. Lastly, in 1985 an additional 500 square feet was added to the site.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Remnants of mold inhabiting insulation inside a drop ceiling at the South Station in Ocean Pines.

Planned upgrades include replacing HVAC systems and adding a decontamination room.

At present, decontamination occurs at the North Station, which has laundry facilities for gear, three-compartment sinks, showers and separate toilets.

The inclusion of a decontamination area at the South Station would permit gear to be quickly cleaned after calls to hasten first responders’ turn-around time.

The project proposal includes adding a second-story, which would house training space and administrative offices, while also providing space for 10 bunk beds on the first floor.

“We currently have inadequate living quarters in comparison to other departments in the area,” he said.

Rebuilding plans would also increase space for the engineers work area and EMS supply closet.

“We really need double the amount of room to work in here,” Van Gasbeck said.

In addition to the EMS closet offering inadequate space for restocking supplies, roof leaks have caused mold growth inside the drop ceiling.

See OPFD Page 7



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Furnace Town recovers, but still needs work

Continued from Page 1

merited keeping the doors closed for the beginning of the 2022 season after having to reduce hours drastically at the tail-end of the 2021 season.

“It’s awesome (to be up and running again),” Nagle said. “People were wonderful. It just feels great. The community is who made it happen through volunteering, donations — to get it all together and be able to open on time. School tours are scheduled starting this Thursday and Friday through June. We’re very excited about all of that.”

“I can’t emphasize enough how much we owe to the community and volunteers for the support to make it possible.”

Last year, vandals, who are still at large, hit six buildings — the blacksmith shop, broom house, museum, church, woodworkers shop and visitor center — and stole \$250 from a cash register. A donation box was taken. The namesake furnace was not damaged.

Repairs included improvements to the historic site’s security system. The damage that occurred overnight between Sept. 21 and Sept 22 wasn’t discovered until the next morning. With the improvements, an alarm will go out immediately if the histor-

ical site is breached during its off-hours.

For the most part, it’s the same historic site as it was before last year’s incident. But Nagle said there are some new ideas in the works, such as putting a focus on programming and

looking at ways they can have lectures and demonstrations in their education room.

Otherwise, the staff is just happy to get back to their daily grind.

“We’ve got our events schedule ready to be posted. Some things will

be added; the anchors to the program are on there,” Nagle said. “We’re very excited about the fact we can reopen and have the weddings we had scheduled for over a year. We’re just getting back to business with a facility that’s safe and really done well.”

OPFD South Station needs rebuild

Continued from Page 6

“If you look at the insulation it’s black,” he said.

Gas heaters also need replacing.

“We had gas lines that literally fell out of the ceiling,” he said.

Despite the obvious flaws, fire officials say they are prepared to field community concerns.

“The first thing people will ask is, ‘why do we need it?’” he said.

Officials believe they have the right answers.

“The public will be able to understand what the money is going for, why we need it and what proximities mean,” he said.

On the latter point, Grunewald noted the South Station is centrally located in Ocean Pines.

“From right here we can get to anywhere in Ocean Pines within six

minutes,” he said. “Thirty seconds to a minute makes a huge difference.”

Van Gasbeck said the location is situated especially well for the “golden hour” principal adhered to by emergency responders.

“You have to get medical care or hospitalized in the golden hour,” he said.

The South Station’s strategic placement suits the objective due to its close proximity to medical services.

“We have a hospital that’s only about nine minutes from us by ambulance,” he said.

Grunewald said the locale is also crucial for timely fire responses, while noting neighboring units in Berlin or Showell would take a minimum of 15 minutes to arrive on site in the Pines.

“Instead of burning one house down, you burn a block, especially if it’s on the water with wind,” he said. “If someone with cardiac arrest goes down within 15 minutes, they have no chance of surviving.”

Looking ahead, Van Gasbeck said between the introduction of medical centers near Ocean Pines, housing construction in the vicinity and a planned sports complex nearby, call volumes are destined to continue trending upward.

“If you look at our calls, we’re getting an increase on call volume just on the medical centers,” he said.

Van Gasbeck said the building project seeks to address departmental needs for the next half century.

“We’re not planning for tomorrow, we’re planning that building for 50 years,” he said.

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Election Committee members tested a new scanner and reviewed ballot designs for the upcoming board contest during its meeting on Friday.

Pines Election Cmte. preps for pending board contest

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) In addition to testing new equipment and reviewing the ballot design, the Ocean Pines Election Committee last week produced candidate forum questions for this summer's board of directors election.

Three seats are open this year. They are now held by Director Larry Perrone, who was elected to a first term in 2019, and by Amy Peck and Josette Wheatley, both of whom were appointed last October to fill board vacancies.

Committee Chair Carol Ludwig unveiled the proposed ballot design for the election, while also noting the arrival of new scanner equipment during the groups' meeting last Friday.

Before testing the scanner equipment, Ludwig said the upgrade in the ballot-counting system would speed-up processing.

To further streamline procedures, association volunteers will assist with pre-scan sorting duties.

"We'll ask them to put the envelopes in section order so we can go through quickly," she said.

Ludwig said neighborhood sections are listed on the back of return envelopes, while also noting that duplicate ballots would be retained and remained sealed.

"It says duplicate on it," she said. "When someone asks for an extra ballot, when it's sent out, it gets marked duplicate."

After ballots are scanned, which is scheduled for Aug. 11, all records will be retained for a minimum of one year.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the election ballot design as presented.

Committee members also considered a trio of candidate questions ahead of a pair of election forums slated for June 22 and June 25.

Ludwig said candidates would provide responses before the election forums take place.

"They submit answers to the Public Relations and Marketing Department," she said. "Plus they get to make a 200-word statement of their own."

Last year's questions included naming two top priorities if seated, talents/skills candidates would pro-

See PINES Page 10



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Pines Strategic Plan Cmte. looks to decipher data

Continued from Page 5

McGorry said the top ranking issues of importance drawn from the survey were safety, maintenance of infrastructure and community aesthetics.

General Manager John Viola noted a gap in perception regarding infrastructure upkeep.

“Over last three years, we have done lots of infrastructure work,” he said.

Viola said prior administrations were focused more on keeping assessments from increasing.

“They would not spend money in the past on amenities where it could have been recouped,” he said. “That’s a mindset [but] it’s changed.”

Director Larry Perrone agreed the earlier focus was shortsighted.

“There’s been a group of people in Ocean Pines for 30 years that their main concern was keeping the assessments down,” he said. “They didn’t care what happened to the appearance of this community or the maintenance on the infrastructure.”

Perrone said assessments in that era were rarely raised for nearly a decade.

Perrone added that the association is classified as a not-for-profit entity, with amenities intended to be self-sufficient.

“The goal for each amenity is to break even, the goal is not to make a profit,” he said. “We are making a profit at this point and that’s bringing down our assessments.”

Committee member Becky Colt-Ferguson requested clarification about the association’s not-for-profit status.

“If Ocean Pines doesn’t make money, how do we survive without raising dues?” she asked.

“The way the community survives is through the assessments,” Perrone replied said. “If amenities are losing money, then we have to charge more on assessments.”

McGorry said an opportunity exists to explain to the public how the return on investment from amenities works.

“The public is not as aware as they should be on what the ROI gets them,” he said. “The profitability benefits each of us.”

Director Doug Parks stressed the importance of educating residents regarding amenities and overall operations.

“People that answered the survey are probably not the ones we need to target,” he said. “They’re the ones that are probably already listening and have some vested interest.”

Parks questioned what approaches could be taken to reach a wider demographic.

Association President Colette Horn recommended taking stronger “control of the narrative.”

“You open up these newspapers there’s a heck of a lot of negativity about Ocean Pines being published,” she said. “So, how do we flip that [because] a lot of it’s not factual.”

Committee members offered no response to her comment.

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County pinpoints new sports complex site by Decatur High

By Jack Chavez and Mallory Panuska
Staff Writers
(April 7, 2022) At long last, Worcester County is zeroing in on a property to purchase as a site for a sports complex, a project county officials hope will bring a new and steady revenue stream and economic boon to the community.

The parcel, 95.5-acres of farmland, sits west of and adjacent to Stephen Decatur High School, directly behind Tractor Supply Co. on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

“We looked at several different properties. We graded them and this one and the one on (Route) 589 had the highest grades,” County Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic said. “The one on 589 came with issues of traffic that we don’t think will be present at the spot we picked.”

In a statement released March 29, the county announced plans for a public hearing on April 19 at Stephen Decatur High School to discuss the potential purchase.

The county will use a portion of its FY23 general obligation bond funds, which total about \$11.2 million.

“The main purpose for the sports complex ... is to provide county resi-

dents and guests with more recreational programming and event opportunities by providing additional field space,” the statement read. “Conceptual plans for this project include multi-purpose fields, with restrooms, parking, and concessions for recreation and travel sports. Additional park amenities would include walking trails, ponds, and a playground.”

Added Mitrecic, “I’m excited for the people of Worcester County. It’ll be a huge benefit for everyone and it will certainly be an economic benefit for the county.”

The majority of Ocean City Council members are also backing the proposed land purchase for the complex.

At a work session on March 29, Mayor Rick Meehan read the contents of the news release announcing the upcoming public hearing, and asked his colleagues to support the efforts.

“What I would like to ask of the council, if you’re willing to do so, to go ahead and vote to support the purchase of this property and to support the bond issue and make it official that the Town of Ocean City supports this complex, supports the purchase of the property and it being part of the bond issue in FY23,” Meehan said.

The elected officials voted 6-1 to



IMAGE COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS

Worcester County announced that it intends to purchase 95 acres of farmland adjacent to Stephen Decatur High School to be turned into an athletic complex, a project that the county has had in its crosshairs for years. Supporters hope that it will be an economic boon for the area, while detractors fear it’ll be another burden on taxpayers.

support the request, with Council President Matt James opposed.

James explained that while he is in favor of construction of the complex, he did not believe he had enough information about the specific property and sale details to vote for it.

“I support a sports complex project, I just I would like to see more details,” he said. “We talked about it for three minutes just now. I know we talked about it for five years but I would like more details before I just blindly support it. That’s why I voted against it today.”

Council members also voted to support a request from City Manager

Terry McGean to direct the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to update an economic study previously performed for the complex, and complete a master plan and cost estimate for the project. He said the request will cost the town about \$50,000 and that approval would allow the state board to take it up at its next meeting set April 5.

Council members voted unanimously in favor of the request, which included a clause that the money will come out of the advertising department’s budget.

But not everyone is happy about the plans to move along with the complex.

See SPORTSPLEX Page 11

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Pines board election on horizon

Continued from Page 8
vide and ideas for budget improvements.

While consensus existed for the first two inquiries, the third point’s value was questioned.

Committee member Joseph Peloso suggested the budget question related more to past than current dynamics.

“It’s now being better managed,” he said.

“From a financial standpoint, we’re in very good shape,” board liai-

son Larry Perrone added.

Committee member Mary Anne Whitcomb suggested having the question focus on top concerns residents expressed in the recent homeowners’ survey.

“There’s a lot of issues,” she said. “Transparency of the board was one of them.”

The committee agreed to omit the budget question and based on a suggestion from Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis, opted to ask candidates what survey concerns stood out for them as priorities.

Ludwig noted the list of candidate questions was not exhaustive.

“We also have the forum to ask them questions,” she said.

The board election ballot submission deadline is Aug. 10 by 4 p.m.

Ballots will be counted and totals announced the following day, with the annual Homeowners’ Meeting set for Aug. 13.

The deadline for board candidate applications is May 10.

Applications can be obtained in person at the administration building or online by visiting

<https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/53744/OPA+Board+candidate+registration+form.pdf>.

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CRAFTER HIGHLIGHTED
The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines chose Charlie Davis as the April crafter of the month. Originally from the Glen Burnie area, Davis spent three years in the Vocational Technical Center in the Anne Arundel County school system, where he majored in cabinet making. After graduating, Davis worked for his father in a family-owned construction business building houses. During that time, he realized that woodworking would be a lifelong passion. Davis later saw an opportunity for a career change. He took a position with the federal government as a cabinet maker and held that role for three decades, until his retirement. Today, Davis continues his love of woodworking at the Ocean Pines Artisan Craft Store, where he makes crafts using a scroll saw, and wood-turning projects with a lathe. His work expresses themes of patriotism, support for the military, religious faith, and his love of the sea and animals. View Davis' projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gift shop is seeking new crafters who would like to sell their handmade crafts. For more information, contact shop managers Diane Denk at diannedenk@comcast.net or Kimberly Perrone at perrone4499@gmail.com.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Sportsplex could go by SDHS

Continued from Page 10
County Commissioners Jim Bunting and Chip Bertino, for instance, attempted to block multiple motions to move the project forward over the last year.
Reasoning against the plan has largely been skepticism that a complex will produce the cash flow that supporters envision, that it'll worsen existing traffic problems and that if the county pursues a complex, it should be built in the more economically challenged lower county.
Ocean City resident and former city councilmember Vince Gisriel pointed out in the past that one study concluded that the Mid-Atlantic region is oversaturated with such facilities. Thus, to be viable a project, one here would likely require a government

subsidy by as much as 25 percent.
Last week, however, Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) said there's hope in this year's session that a bill will pass that would give the MSA \$200 million to spend on new projects around the state, and that, in turn, could be used to help fund the complex.
Of course, the land off of Route 589 that Mitrecic alluded to also was once highly regarded by the county before that plan fell through. That experience demonstrates that while the county is again high on this property, it is not a done deal.
"Certainly, they're still out there," Mitrecic said when asked if there are other properties the county has looked at. "We're moving forward with the purchase of this one and certainly it's the preferred property."

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Commissioners continue budget proposals

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners continued the budget workshop process with the county’s departments on March 29. Last month, 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.

Departments included:
County administration
The county administration is asking for an additional \$103,788, or 9.9 percent more. Of that total, \$61,106 is earmarked under “County Commissioners” as “personnel services and salaries.”

Under “benefits and insurance,” the administration is asking for an additional \$2.8 million, or 12.6 percent more. The biggest increases come from \$2.1 million for cost of living allowance (COLA), \$268,121 for post-employment benefits, \$197,427 for property and liability insurance and \$182,705 for social security taxes.

Department of Public Works
DPW continued its requests for more funding for multiple projects. The Roads Division is asking for an additional \$1.1

million, or 30.9 percent more, with the biggest jumps related to new vehicles and equipment and blacktop county road improvement projects.

Under “maintenance” the department is asking for an additional \$117,891, or 8.3 percent more, largely for salary funds. Under “admin/central fuel and fleet” the department is asking for an additional \$473,478, or 90 percent more, largely for “capital equipment building improvements” as well as consulting services.

Conversely, the Mosquito Control Division is asking for \$71,007 less, or a 31 percent decrease, largely citing \$40,811 less in salaries and \$32,396 less for vehicles purchased in the previous budget cycle.

Fire
The Fire Marshal’s office is asking for an additional \$73,785, or 12.6 percent more, largely attributed to adding a deputy fire marshal and planned renovations of the office itself.

The fire marshal is also asking for an additional \$82,044, or 221.1 percent more, for the county fire training center in Newark, with virtually the entire increase coming from needed hazmat supplies and equipment.

The volunteer fire and ambulance departments are asking for an additional \$267,527, but just a 2.9 percent increase, largely due to requested grants to ambulance companies.

Grants to towns
Based on requests from Worcester’s municipal governments, the total request for FY23 is \$6.96 million, or \$739,776 more than FY22. About half the 11.8 percent increase is attributed to unrestricted grants and \$150,000 is attributed to road repair grant requests in Ocean Pines.

State’s Attorney
The State’s Attorney’s Office is asking for an additional \$856,388, or 48.6 percent more. Most of the increase is attributed to the expansion of State’s Attorney

Kristin Heiser’s office and equipment needed to handle data from the county and Ocean City body-worn camera initiatives. Heiser said her office has already hired two new attorneys and estimates she needs four more.

Miscellaneous
Under “other recreation and culture” the county administration is asking for an additional \$172,439, or 246.3 percent more, for various historic and cultural sites, including \$125,000 for the Ocean City Developmental Corporation and \$40,000 for Furnace Town Historic Site. The Office of Economic Development is asking for an additional \$76,198, or 20.8 percent more, largely attributed to consulting services and additional salary.

Auxer creates ‘Berlin Love Locks’ to mark memories

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) Hoping to spread positivity and warm memories, blown-glass artisan Jeff Auxer referenced visions from Italy to create “Berlin Love Locks,” a trio of large gate-like panels outside his studio and gallery on Jefferson Street.

“Love Locks,” a long popular romantic tradition for couples in Europe and elsewhere, are padlocks typically inscribed with initials and secured on fences along bridges at scenic locales worldwide.

Auxer was unfamiliar with the practice before traveling with his wife, Hilari, for a month-long jaunt across Italy in 2016.

“All over Italy there was bridges that had these locks on them,” he said.

Intrigued, Auxer said the memory

slowly bubbled into a concept he wanted to pursue to give a shot of love back to the town and its citizenry.

“I thought Berlin would be a very cool place to do a public art installation like this [and] with other negativity in the world, I thought now was an ideal time,” he said.

Berlin is a designated Arts and Entertainment District by the Maryland State Arts Council.

“It’s an art-friendly community,” he said.

Auxer designed and constructed the five-by-five foot metal panels inlaid with geometrical designs and mesh sections capable of supporting hundreds of locks.

“I welded a few panels together and put some mesh behind them for different size locks,” he said.

Nestled behind Jeffrey Auxer Designs, Berlin Love Locks is located across from Pop’s Kitchen By Denovo’s at 15 Gay St.

Auxer hopes the site grows into an attraction that offers a unique means to create Berlin memories.

“You can put a special message, initials or your families’ name on it,” he said.

Anyone can participate in the locked-down sentimentality.

“It’s something people can return to every year or whenever they visit,” he said. “If they’re local, when they drive by it will make them smile.”

Regardless of where home might be, Berlin Love Locks provides a common ground for securing a lifetime remembrance.

“It’s something that families, couples, individuals or visitors to the town could do for free essentially,” he said. “You have to buy a lock or bring one from your house.”

Auxer, who opened his studio in
See BERLIN Page 15

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The Ocean City Lioness Lions Club presented a check to Relay for Life for its upcoming event. Pictured, from left, are Club President Bev Tophers; Dawn Hodge, representing Relay for Life; and Vice President Donna Greenwood.

BABY BOUTIQUE

Santa came early to the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin after the Delmarvelous Stampers held a baby shower during its December meeting in order to restock the Baby Boutique at the center. Pictured are Stampers Joan Dori and Kris Barron making their special delivery.

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School board defends offer to contractors

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 7, 2022) The Worcester County Board of Education gave its FY23 budget proposal to the Worcester County Commissioners on March 29, with representatives from the Worcester County Bus Contractors Association in attendance.

Overall, the budget request totals \$3.98 million more than FY22, an increase of 4.1 percent. The increase is largely represented by the difference between requests for an increase of \$5.64 million for “personnel services” and \$503,296 for “maintenance and services” and a decrease of \$1.98 million for “interfund charges” and \$273,015 for “other charges.”

The bus contractors have spent the last few weeks rallying support among the commissioners to aid its pursuit of increasing contractor compensation far above what the board is offering for FY23. Their argument cites the ever-increasing costs associated with maintaining a school bus — the responsibility of the driver — and rising fuel costs.

The commissioners heard impassioned testimony from acting WCBCA secretary Lori Thompson during their March 15 meeting and on March 29, Vincent Tolbert, chief finance officer for Worcester County



Worcester County Public Schools Chief Finance Officer Vince Tolbert presents the Board of Education's FY23 budget to the County Commissioners last Tuesday. County school bus contractors also attended the meeting and offered rebuttals to claims the board has made in contract discussions.

Public Schools, shed light on the board's side of the negotiation.

“Their initial ask was \$1.5 million, which is about a 25 percent increase,” Tolbert said. “I said at the time that was a huge ask for one year and it probably would not happen. Our initial proposal was \$180,000, a 4 percent increase on mileage, hourly rates and PVA (per vehicle allotment). After having several more meetings with our bus contractor representatives ... the Board of Ed amended our proposal and increased it to \$247,876.”

Tolbert added that, based on those proposed rates, the average bus contract in FY23 would total \$76,080.

Contracts include five hours and 100 miles per day, plus the PVA and an administration fee. It does not include field trips, athletics, summer school or aftercare. The proposal amounts to about a 4.6 percent increase over FY22 contracts.

Further, Tolbert compared Worcester's rates with rates in Dorchester, Wicomico and Somerset counties and showed that Worcester contracts are anywhere from around \$8,500 or \$12,800 more lucrative.

“I think that shows our rates are very competitive and we're very fair with our bus contractors based on those comparisons,” Tolbert said.

Commissioner Ted Elder, himself a former bus contractor and president of the WCBCA, crunched some numbers that showed, regardless of the board's proposed increase for the contractors, the overall share of the budget it represents has consistently decreased over the last few years.

“I've got the 2019 budget here and (the contractors were) 6.04 percent of the budget in 2019,” Elder said. “In 2023, your proposal now is only 5.4 percent of the budget. For comparison, we have instructional salaries that increased 17 percent over that time. Administration costs have increased 18.5 percent. At the same time, transportation (which included the contractors) has only increased 13 percent. So there definitely is a problem and there's a reason the bus contractors have been here and we need to straighten that stuff out.”

Thompson, who was in attendance, came before the commissioners after Tolbert to offer feedback on the budget put forth, aiming especially at the PVA and comparison to

neighboring counties.

Thompson said that the \$300,000 PVA that the board demonstrated is inaccurate because it's based on a bus life of 15 years when in reality buses are in service on average for 12 years. The difference, when coupled with monthly bus loan payments which can total as much as \$2,000 per month, can equal as much as \$84,000 out of a contractor's pockets — before retirement investment.

“So the PVA isn't as beautiful as it seems,” Thompson told the commissioners. “And for us to sit here and (for the board to) act like we have blinders on and we're not listening, we're in a critical position and you guys are the ones who make or break this decision because I can promise you that next year and the year after that and the year after that, these guys are going to be coming to you asking for \$17 million, \$20 million, \$30 million because you've left — you've absolutely left — a program that has run in this county for years on the backs of these people who have worked 20, 30, 40 years to transport our students. You're willing to just turn a blind eye to it and not respond appropriately.”

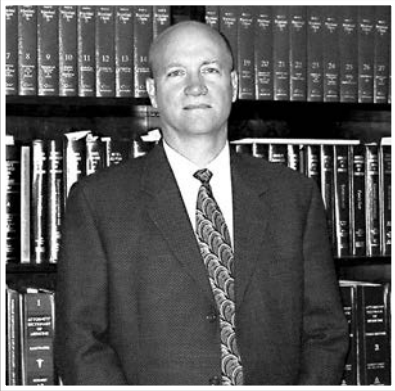
Thompson even invoked the concept of “ethical fading” in describing negotiations with the board thus far, a term that describes the action of an individual or organization failing to see the unethical impact of their choices.

“I don't mean to be disrespectful, but quite frankly, saying that we're better than Somerset or Wicomico is like saying we're the best horse in the glue factory. And that's the reality. If you let this go, you're saying that, too,” Thompson said.


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'Berlin Love Locks' art display

Continued from Page 12
2009, intends for the art installation to swell over the years.

"Since I own the building, it's not going anywhere and I'm not going to cut these locks off every year," he said. "I'm just going to let it go and if it turns into something, cool."

Recognizing that lock sites he marveled at in Italy grew in stature over multiple decades, Auxer intends to photograph the Berlin installation annually to chart progress.

"The panels took a while to make, but I have room for two more," he said. "I'm hoping at some point I can put more of them up."

Although the venture serves no direct benefit for business, Auxer wanted to channel a creative means to reciprocate the support provided by the Town of Berlin and Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells.

"It's something I could give back," he said. "I'll be open 13 years on April 9."

In addition to establishing a social media presence, with associated hash tags #berlinlovelocks #make-newmemories, Auxer also envisions Berlin Love Locks resonating with participants in his annual classes on creating hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments.

"We did over 1,500 of them in six weeks with two to three people on average per ornament," he said. "That's 3,000-5,000 people I brought to Berlin just to make ornaments."

Auxer also hopes to partner with nonprofit We Heart Berlin to create a lock-focused fundraiser for other ventures, such as the long-sought skate park or other community enrichment ideas.

"Whatever works for people," he said. "The idea was to just create something that would bring everyone together."

With more than 20 locks placed on site during the first week, Auxer hopes the location will have a significance that spans generations.

"If a couple puts a lock on there and in 20 years they come back to Berlin," he said. "Now they have a

child and they're like, 'Look what your mom and dad did 20 years ago.'"

Auxer said comparable to displays spotted earlier in Italy a "love lock" site was recently chanced upon during an excursion to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

While crossing a suspension bridge over the Shenandoah River, the couple were delighted to discover an array of steel-encased memories left by outdoor enthusiasts.

"We went up there and, sure enough, there was locks all over it," he said.

With the idyllic setting providing perhaps the final ounce of inspiration, Auxer recognized he would have to overcome the limitations of topography.

"We're lacking the bridge over the river part, so I had to make something," he said.



Early adopters are planting memories along "Berlin Love Locks," a trio of metal panels crafted by glass artisan Jeff Auxer located behind his studio on Jefferson Street across from Pop's Kitchen By Denovo's at 15 Gay St.

GREG ELLISON/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Ocean Pines holds Easter Market April 16

Holiday event offers fresh options from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Horse Park

(April 7, 2022) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will offer an egg-cellent selection of seasonal items during the annual Easter Market, Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

Market Manager David Bean said a highlight of the market this year will be Brightman Egg Farm.

“Brightman will offer colorful eggs from its flock of Easter Egger hens, which are a hybrid or mixed-breed combination of chickens carrying the blue-egg gene with ones that lay brown eggs,” Bean said. “Eggs from these birds may be any shade of blue or brown, or occasionally pink or pale yellow.”

Snyder’s Produce & Beautiful Things will feature potted Easter flowers and hanging baskets for the home and garden.

Additionally, country music artist Sarah Campbell will perform on the marketplace stage starting at 9 a.m., and the Poddar Brothers will twist and turn balloons into fun animal shapes for children.

Bean said many merchants will accept special orders at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, this Saturday, April 9, for pickup at the Easter Market.

The market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Women Supporting Women Ride for Awareness May 14

(April 7, 2022) Women Supporting Women is hosting its 18th annual Ride for Awareness on Saturday, May 14.

The ride will start at 10 a.m. at the Women Supporting Women Office, 1320 Belmont Ave, Ste 402, in Salisbury, and end at Berlin American Legion, Post #123 Boggs Disharoon, at 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd.

The first 100 registered riders will receive a commemorative event patch. Registration is \$25 for a single rider, and \$10 for additional passenger.

Sponsorships are still available. The deadline for event sponsorship

(\$300) is April 11. The lunch sponsorship costs \$100 and the deadline is April 15. The deadline for raffle sponsorship (\$50) is April 29.

For more information, contact Andie Hess, at events@womensupportingwomen.org or 410-548-7880.

The mission of Women Supporting Women is to provide awareness, education, and support to all those who are affected by breast cancer on Delmarva.

For more information about the ride, visit <http://womensupportingwomen.org/event/annual-pink-ribbon-bingo-2-2-4/>.

Ocean Pines presents free instruction for ‘Spec Tennis’

(April 7, 2022) The Spec Tennis Club of Ocean Pines invites new players to sign up for a free lesson clinic in April.

Clinics are scheduled Saturday, April 9 at 11 a.m. or Thursday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on 11443 Manklin Creek Road. All necessary equipment will be provided.

Organizer Karen Kaplan said Spec Tennis is a new and unique paddle sport played on smaller, fenced-in courts. Players use paddles and a low-compression tennis ball.

“This game is easy to learn and it’s

never too far to the ball. A shoulder-friendly underhand serve is used, and Spec is similar to tennis in scoring and strokes,” she said.

To register for one of the free lesson clinics, email Kaplan at oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

“Whether you’ve never played a racquet sport, used to play, or still play, reserve your spot in our free Spec Tennis lesson clinics,” she said. “This outdoor fun is for players of all abilities.”

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/spec-tennis.

County Arts Council seeking applicants for future events

(April 7, 2022) The Worcester County Arts Council is seeking applicants for local art events and projects to be held in Worcester County between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2022.

Organizations holding art projects and activities year-round or in both of the six-month periods (July 1 – Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 – June 30) may request grants.

The deadline for applications to be received is April 15.

The event or activity must be open

to the public. The applicant organization must be a nonprofit group, and the amount requested must be matched one-for-one by organization funds.

Grant application and guidelines are available on the Arts Council’s website at www.worcestercountycouncil.org.

During the fiscal year 2022, the Worcester County Arts Council has awarded \$46,906 in the Community Arts Development Grants program to

See CREATIVITY Page 17

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OP offers Red Cross lifeguard class

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

The course fee, which includes a two-year American Red Cross certificate for lifeguarding/first aid/CPR/AED, is \$200 for Ocean Pines swim members, \$250 for



Ocean Pines will hold an American Red Cross lifeguard certification class April 8-10 at the Sports Core Pool.

“As we head into the busy summer season, maintaining a crew of certi-

To register for the class or for more information, or to inquire about lifeguard positions in Ocean Pines, call 410-641-5255.

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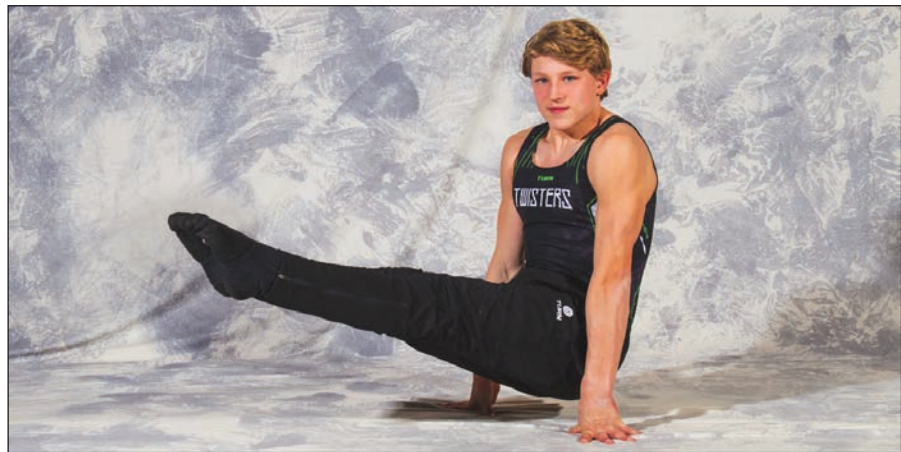
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Dylan Simons

Simons Level 10 Maryland champ on rings, high bar

(April 7, 2022) Worcester Preparatory School sophomore Dylan Simons became the Level 10 Maryland State champion on rings and high bar in gymnastics on March 20, and now he is set to compete at the Region 7 championships.

Representing Twisters Gymnastics in Berlin, Simons has been building strength in gymnastics since a young age. He currently spends six days a week – a total of 19 hours – in the gym practicing, while maintaining excellent grades and participating with the Worcester Prep cross country team in the fall and tennis team in the spring.

In addition to becoming the Level 10 Maryland State champ, he also placed second on floor and third all-around during the competition. Level 10 is the highest of the Junior Olympic program overseen by USA Gymnastics.

Simons will compete in regionals with the best from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The Region 7 Men’s Gymnastics Championships will be held in the Lou Gross Center at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, April 7-10. The champions from regionals will move on to compete nationally.

Calendar

Thurs., April 7

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

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

STORY TIME: LIBRARIAN’S CHOICE!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Celebrating National Library Week and reading “Lottie’s New Beach Towel” by Petra Mathers. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MERRY MAKERS - UPCYCLED DECOUPAGE CANS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. A creative craft of upcycling cans using the art of decoupage. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events” or 410-208-4014.

LUNCH & LEARN WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 12-1 p.m. The Beach to Bay Heritage Area to present “Pollinator Gardens and How to Attract More Visitors To Your Site.” Bring lunch; refreshments and snacks served. Reservations: info@beachesbaywaterways.org.

POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘CATCH 22’ BY JOSEPH HELLER
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Read about a bombardier whose own army keeps increasing the number of missions they must fly to be sent home. If not, he

will be in violation of Catch-22. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

CHAIR YOGA
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join yoga instructor Nicole Long as she stretches and de-stresses using a safe and gentle method. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

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

Fri., April 8

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘THE UNCOUPLING’ BY MEG WOLITZER
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. A high school production of the Aristophanes play “Lysistrata” has an unexpected effect on the women of Stellar Plains, New Jersey. Facilitated by Nancy Mitchell. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

IN 3D!
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:30 p.m. Join the group for a ‘50s alien invasion classic presented in 3D. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a 1-crab cake sandwich platter that includes green beans, baked potato

Continued on Page 21

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Saturday, 11am-1pm	7 Alton Point, Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA/2HBA	Single Family	\$1,150,000	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday, 11am-1pm	12496 Chestnut Circle, Princess Anne	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$169,900	PO2 Team/Hileman Realty
Saturday, 11am-1pm	5 Bennett Street, Selbyville, DE	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$300,000	PO2 Team/Hileman Realty
Saturday, 10am-1pm	2301 Philadelphia Avenue #408, OC	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$171,900	PO2 Team/Hileman Realty

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Opinion

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

Good narrative needs more open approach

Weary of the negative news stories that arise from time to time, some Ocean Pines Association leaders believe accentuating the positive can be achieved by exerting more control over the information that’s being reported.

In public relations circles, they call this “controlling the narrative,” which means telling the story the way you want it told while preventing others from telling it in a way that might not be as flattering. Generally speaking, it seldom works.

The effectiveness of this approach depends on the absence of controversy, a public that doesn’t ask too many questions, and an issuing organization whose good news message doesn’t insult the public’s intelligence by refusing to acknowledge that negative things sometimes do happen.

The desire to put the smile-filter on the flow of information, however, is hardly an idea exclusive to Ocean Pines. Nearly all businesses do it, as do governments, and both often employ information gatekeepers to prevent “nonauthorized” personnel from saying the “wrong” thing.

Theirs is an impossible job, since it requires these public information officers to gain and keep the trust of two competing interests: their employers and the people asking questions about them.

This isn’t to say that their jobs can’t be made easier or that creating a better narrative is impossible. Here’s how:

- Say it first. If it’s bad or controversial news, get it out there warts and all before someone else does and you have to go on the defensive. Take the heat, move on, build trust.
- No stonewalling. Not talking about something won’t stop others from talking about it, or, worse, speculating about it and concluding that something even more disturbing is happening.
- Openness counters skepticism. The more people know, the less likely they are to think you’re up to something. Suspicion generates open speculation, which can be ruinous.
- Actions speak louder than words. What you do, not what you say, drives the conversation, so do the right thing. You’ll have much less explaining to do.



“Last year at this time we purchased his new pacemaker and failed to check off the AutoRenewal box.”

Letters

Supports Lakernick joining committee

Editor,

After reading the Opinion titled “Board majority silent, but its dislike is clear” I wanted to share my perspective on the subject.

As a former member of the OPA board and the association’s secretary, I understand how important it is to have a clear knowledge of the OPA governing documents.

The handling of Stuart Lakernick application for the Search Committee didn’t follow OPA Resolution C-01, Committee General Policy.

The fact that his name appeared on the March 23 agenda under Appointments clearly indicated this was a business topic for the board to address.

The board should have formally voted on his application. Director Doug Parks correctly questioned why Stuart’s appointment was declined since he met required qualification.

In Resolution C-01, paragraph 4, Committee Assignments, Terms, and Miscellaneous Procedures, the relevant sentence is in

bold and it clearly only requires recommendation by the committee chairperson.

The president is not mentioned. Specifically 4.e. Filling Vacancies states: Should any vacancy exist, the chairperson of the committee will request the letter and application from the Ocean Pines Administration office of all those who are interested in serving on that particular committee.

The chairperson will interview the prospective candidate(s) and submit the letters and application with recommendations to the board.

The board will review the applications recommended for appointment to a committee by the committee chairperson and vote either to accept or reject the candidate for a position on the committee.

The same Resolution C-01, 4.b., Qualifications for Committee Membership, only lists one qualification and it states: Members shall be eligible to vote. Clearly Stuart meets the required qualification per the subject resolution.

Furthermore, OPA By-laws, Section 6.06, Duties, states that one of the president’s duties shall include “ensuring orders and resolutions of the board are carried out.”

OPA By-laws require the Search Committee to be appointed by Feb. 1. March 23 meeting provided the board with the opportunity to fully constitute that committee and finally, after being almost two months late, comply with the OPA By-laws. Instead, the board decided not to.

I am very disappointed the board didn’t vote on Stuart’s appointment. We should all be concerned with the way some board members decided to handle this situation. For what is worth Stuart Lakernick certainly has my vote.

Slobodan Trendic
Ocean Pines

Banning books thwarts students

Editor,

In response to the article, “Worcester Schools Work on Solutions for Book Concerns,” Bayside Gazette March 31, the same citizens, it should be noted, complain

Continued on Page 22

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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Puzzles

I'M STILL STANDING
BY AUGUST LEE-KOVACH / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

August Lee-Kovach is a freshman at Concord-Carlisle High School, in Concord, Mass. He started solving crosswords with his family when he was 9. Someone would read the clues aloud and anyone could call out answers. He started constructing puzzles by himself when he was 11. This is his third Times puzzle, starting last October, and his first Sunday. At 14 years 11 months, August is the youngest known person ever to have a Sunday crossword in the paper. - W.S.

ACROSS

1 Swears (to)

8 L.A. region

13 Motto meaning "to the stars"

20 Place with carts

21 Square

22 What oil may do in fright temperatures

23 1990s-2000s Volkswagen seven-seater

24 Things

25 Overseas land measure

26 Not needing a thing

27 "____ home"

29 Siri uses it

30 Halliwell a.k.a. Ginger Spice

31 Dino friend of Buzz Lightyear

32 "____ it ironic?"

34 Storm

37 What an up arrow might mean

39 Green-light

41 Approximately 5.5 million tons of it was used to build [see circled letters]

43 Bellini opera that takes place in Gaul

46 A = B, B = C, ergo A = C, e.g.

48 Purchase plan

50 Sneaker, in British lingo

51 See 5-Down

55 Committed to memory

56 Western Hemisphere grp.

57 Gunslinger's cry

59 Former Japanese P.M. Shinzo ____

60 Country between Ghana and Benin

61 Word repeatedly said while plucking petals

62 Clipped

63 Opposing vote from a horse?

64 Blue ribbon or gold star

66 Yarn

68 Make secret, in a way

71 A chance to dream

74 It's often played for

75 Website with an "Everything Else" category

76 Some small batteries

78 C sharp equivalent

80 Mexican poet Juana ____ de la Cruz

81 Sass

82 U.F.a.C. fighting style

83 Radio host John

84 Head, in slang

85 Play group

87 Frequent victim of an April fool

90 Creep

93 Municipal facility: Abbr.

94 Kind of bar

96 Waterfall feature

98 One forced into a force

100 One-act Oscar Wilde play

101 Burial ____

103 Fútbol cry

104 "You no-good dog," e.g.

105 Spoils

106 ____ bean

108 Some December purchases

109 They're stored in pollen grains

111 Villainous "Star Trek" collective

113 Like some chicken cutlets

116 Element named after a German river

120 "Ugh!"

121 Prehistoric Southwest culture

122 Little squirt

123 Sign of success

124 Trendy

125 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

12 Sleeve fillers

13 Not just smart

14 Active sorts

15 See 5-Down

16 Pepper's rank: Abbr.

17 High-arching shots, in basketball lingo

18 Like a T206 Honus Wagner baseball card

19 Lion in the "Madagascar" movies

28 Most massive dwarf planet in the solar system

30 Pass it on

33 Singers' star turns

35 Contents of some belts, informally

36 Reason for an R rating

38 It comes before one

39 Regarding

40 Harp-shaped constellation

41 Turkish money

42 Provide resources for

44 [Big kiss, dahling!]

45 Pay (up)

47 ____ and the Pacemakers (1960s pop group)

49 They reflected rank in old Rome

52 "Ooh-la-la!"

53 It gives you a lift

54 2003 #1 Outkast hit

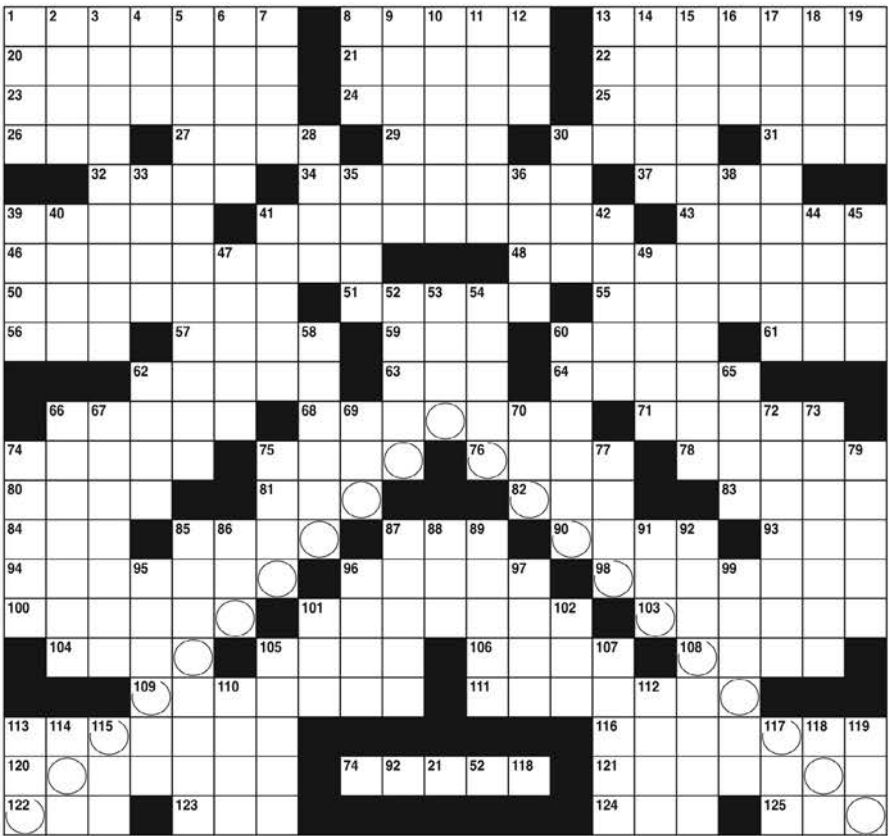
58 Tad

60 Mat made of soft rush

62 You might take them out for a spin

65 Artful

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



- 66 Mujeres con esposos

67 Outdoor game for kindergartners

69 Time out?

70 "The Office" role played by Jenna Fischer

72 College voter, perhaps

73 Light shades

74 With 101-Across, where this puzzle's enclosed answer is located

75 Disney's ____ of Arendelle
- 77 Smooth, in a way

79 Number of 101-Acrosses in [see circled letters]

85 Workmates, e.g.

86 Pale ____

87 Tiffs

88 Sleeve filler

89 Brewer Frederick

91 ____-Magnon

92 Like a book with a bookmark in the middle, say
- 95 Chewy confection

96 Oxford, e.g.

97 Michelle of "Crazy Rich Asians"

99 Fakes

101 Hotel offering

102 New York town that's home to Playland amusement park

105 Caused

107 The "A" of James A. Garfield
- 110 So-called "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics

112 "This does not look good!"

113 Fell for it

114 Pi follower

115 "People who love to ____ are always the best people": Julia Child

117 Writer Fleming

118 Weapon in "The Terminator"

119 Actress Farrow

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 48

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 18
and Cole slaw, \$24 for a 2-crab cake sandwich platter and \$10 for a crab cake sandwich. Bake table. Carryout only.

AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION CLASS
Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5-9 p.m. Held April 8 from 5-9 p.m. and April 9-10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Must be age 15 or older. Cost is \$200 for OP swim members, \$250 for OP residents and \$275 for nonresidents. Register: 410-641-5255.

ANNUAL CASH BINGO
Bishopville Volunteer Fire, 10709 Bishopville Road, 5:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Doors open at 5 p.m., early birds begin at 5:45 p.m. and regular games at 7 p.m. Food and beverages available for purchase. Tickets: 619-922-9950.

Sat., April 9

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.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Featuring flounder fishing videos and discussions by flounder fishermen Budd Heim and Frank Tortella. Allison Barton from the Worcester County Development Center seeks support for fishing program. 410-641-7662

PROJECT T(W)EEN: TEAM BUILDING & LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Come and play some great team building games and learn some new skills. For children 11 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FREE SPEC TENNIS LESSON CLINIC
Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 11 a.m. This paddle sport is played on a fenced court 1/3 the size of a tennis court. All abilities welcome and equipment is provided. Ladies, mens and co-ed groups. Reserve your spot: oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

FREE 'SPEC TENNIS' LESSONS
Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 11 a.m. Spec Tennis combines elements of tennis, paddle (platform) tennis, and pickleball. Equipment will be provided. For players of all abilities. Register: Karen Kaplan, oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

EASTERN SHORE EASTER KEG HUNT
Hopper's Tap House, 1400 S. Salisbury

Blvd., Salisbury, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets \$125. The 2022 Annual Eastern Shore Easter Keg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 9th 2022 and sprawl across the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware. 443-373-3455

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

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

Sun., April 10

BISHOP TO VISIT ON PALM SUNDAY
St. Paul's by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., 10 a.m. The Palm Sunday liturgy will feature The Right Reverend Santosh Marray, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton, a Procession of the Palms and a reception to follow the service. All are welcome. 410-289-3453

ITALIAN FEAST
Shenanigan's Irish Pub, 309 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 4-7:30 p.m. Featuring authentic Italian fare, homemade pasta and sauces. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 8 years and younger. Benefits The Downtown Association Committee of OCDC. events@ocdc.org, 703-731-6515

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., April 11

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

LITTLE LEARNERS PROGRAM COLLABORATION
Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10:30 a.m. Children will learn about local history and wildlife in partnership with the Ocean City Library and the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum (includes special guests). www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy

lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157.

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

Tues., April 12

CLAY DAY
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Mix, mold, cut, roll, pat, stamp and sculpt your own creations. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'FROGS'
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

TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: THE BIRDS AND THE BEES AND THE FLOWERS AND THE TREES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3-4:30 p.m. Join the group for a Spring themed trivia contest. Prizes awarded to the top three teams and refreshments. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

DIY INSTRUMENTS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Come celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month. Make your own maracas, tambourine and guitar from household materials. For ages 6-12 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

JACKIE ROBINSON AND HIS PRESIDENTS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. Held in-person and via Zoom. Listen as Dr. Dean Kotlowski discusses political endorsements and civil rights advocacy. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING
American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 7:30 p.m. Capt. Ron Callas will be speaking and sharing tips on fishing offshore, followed by a Q&A. Guests are welcome. smitty3894@aol.com

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING
Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

Wed., April 13

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via Zoom 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.

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

OCEAN CITY BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY' BY ERIK LARSON
Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 2 p.m. Michael Hayes facilitates this book about the story of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the story of H. H. Holmes, a criminal figure. 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

GARDEN VARIETY
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Topics will include growing your own berries and small fruits, herbs, tomatoes and peppers. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or 410-957-0878.

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL®
OC Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. It's the Hilarious Celebration of Women and The Change. The laughter-filled 90-minute production gets audience members out of their seats and singing along. <https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com>

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

ONGOING EVENTS

WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING DINNER MEETING
Held at the Pocomoke Community Center on Market Street on May 6. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Ray Thompson will speak on the early history of Worcester County. Dinner includes chicken and dumplings with all the fixings. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased by sending a check to Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, MD 21863. The deadline for reservations is April 29. Open to the public.

Letters

Continued from Page 19
at Board of Ed meetings each month without remaining to witness the process and discussion of solutions.

As covered in the article, Jennifer Sills, Coordinator of Library Media and Instruction, presented to the Board of Ed and others the detailed process and procedures for choosing and reviewing books in our schools. This process seems thorough and fair.

Books are a portal to different life experiences and reading encourages empathy and social-emotional development. In the 1982 Supreme Court ruling *Board of Education v. Pico*, Justice William Brennan wrote that taking books off the library shelves violate students First Amendment right, adding that “Local school boards may not remove books from

school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books.”

Forty-six of the Radcliff Publishing Group’s “Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century” are frequently challenged. Banning these books would deprive students of essential cultural and historical knowledge, as well as differing points of view.

Librarians and teachers across the Worcester County School district and throughout Maryland follow the professional guidelines and standards set forth by Maryland State Department of Education: Equity and Excellence.

They “work hard to provide materials that celebrate diversity, challenge thinking and empower... students to grow and learn while they are in school.”

In our diverse society, students de-

serve the opportunity to be affirmed and enlightened by books in their curriculum and those they may choose from libraries. Banning materials that make adults uncomfortable thwarts that opportunity.

Linda Linzey
Retired Public School Teacher
Berlin

Bikers Without Borders food drive successful

Editor,

The Bikers Without Borders Foundation was overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support from the community at the second annual Food Drive, held April 2 at Food Lion, Ocean Pines.

Food and monetary donations were received from many local residents as well as several friends of the foundation living on the western shore.

The organizations supported by this event include: St. Mary’s/ Holy Savior Church and St. Vincent de Paul Society (Ocean City), Sarah’s Pantry & Community Church (Berlin), Delmarva’s Homeless Helpers (Salisbury), Chincoteague Island Food Closet (Accomack, Virginia), and Shepherd’s Office (Georgetown, Delaware).

A motorcycle escort assisted BWOB members with the deliveries to each of the recipients.

BWOB was proud to partner with Food Lion in Ocean Pines as well as the Northern Division who donated gift cards which were distributed to the Shepherd’s Office and Chincoteague Island Food Closet, which provide healthy meals to the surrounding community.

Additional appreciation is extended to the Food Lion in Selbyville for donating boxes for the event, Ocean 98.1 for hosting us on the morning show as well as 47abc - WMDT News for their interview.

In addition to approximately \$6,000 in food collections, \$2,300 in monetary donations were used to fulfill the wish lists of the organizations.

BWOB will be holding a monthly meeting on April 21 at 6 p.m. at the Powellville Fire Department (5085 Powellville Road); all meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The next event hosted by BWOB is the Bikers for Autism ride on April 23 supporting the Autistic Support Group of Worcester County; registration begins at 9 a.m. at Wicomico and S. Baltimore street, an escorted ride will begin at 11 a.m., and the day will conclude with a block party at The Cork Bar and Bearded Clam with buffet and live music by The Chest Pains.

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, first responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in our communities.

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

Kathy Winte, Lacey Egerton, and
Anne Marie Pollack
BWOB Food Drive Committee



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We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.

Cuisine

Burgers topped with Kimchi, Korean mayo

I love the fact that my chefs (one in each restaurant) get the chance to play with their food. I prefer to allow them to shine and reflect themselves in the specials.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

As this business is nothing if not based on consistency, I have to maintain certain recipes and procedures on the standard menu. I then hand the specials over to them.

For the most part, this has been a good strategy, as it gives them at least a semblance of expression.

As much as I would love to have two completely differing venues, there are enough similarities that prevent me from changing everything up. In the hospitality industry, that is critical; consistency is key.

With the remodel in Pittsville soon to be underway, we are still working toward our super-secret boozy lounge in Berlin.

The time is close to begin that project, but Rome wasn't built in a day, as the old codgers like to say. Patience, Paul, I must remind myself. Patience. All in due time.

For now, I will relish in some of the creations of my chefs, and this one was a spectacular burger made by Chef Paulie D.

I cannot take credit for it, and truth be told, I wasn't sure how I initially felt about kimchi being placed on a burger. However, after one bite, I was moved. I was in love.

Years ago on a school field trip to the New York Food Show, my former employer George and I ate at a Korean restaurant in midtown.

As we sat down, the table was filled with little bowls of dried anchovies, cured vegetables and assorted goods. We sampled everything, some good and some not quite to our taste, and then when the mains came, they were accompanied by rice and kimchi.

This was my first foray into home-made kimchi, as embarrassing as that is for a chef to admit. The complexity of flavors is what I still remember, and I set out to make a good one.

That Monday, back at school, I followed a recipe judiciously with the class, we jarred it up, and after a month we tried it. It was acceptable, but we pushed forward, and would sample it once a month.

The development wasstunning



and that is when I started to realize how perfect kimchi can be. And so it is always in my repertoire, especially when teaching.

And now it will be in your arsenal. Make it, live it and bring it to life, and put it on things you never thought possible. You will not regret it.

Kimchi Burger

makes 4 burgers
24 oz. Freshly ground burger, or 4
6-oz patties

Trimix (refresher recipe follows)
4 ea. Brioche burger buns
Butter, as needed
1/2 c. Korean Mayo (recipe follows)
4 c. Homemade Kimchi (recipe follows)

• Grill burgers to a temperature of your liking. This can be made with thick burgers or with smash burgers.

• Melt the butter in a pan and toast the buns on the inside. This is imperative, as I can't imagine serving a

burger on an untoasted bun. Only sinners do that.

• Spread top and bottom bun with mayonnaise and place the burger on the bottom bun.

• Do not add the kimchi until the burger is being served, as it is cold (just think of the cold lettuce, tomato and onion on your joe-sixpack burger).

• When it is go-time, add the kimchi and serve.

Trimix

Makes 1 pint
1 c. Kosher salt
1/2 c. Granulated Garlic
1/2 c. Coarse black pepper
• Combine all ingredients well and store in an airtight container.

Korean Mayo

makes about 1 cup
2/3 c. Mayonnaise (Duke's or Kew-

pie)
2 Tbsp. Korean chili powder
2 Tbsp. Gochujang (pepper paste)
Juice of 1 lime
dash sesame oil
• Combine all ingredients well ahead of time and allow the flavors to marry.
• Store in the icebox until ready to use.

Homemade Kimchi

Makes a lot. Don't worry, it lasts forever and honestly, gets better with time

1 head Napa cabbage, cut into 2-inch squares
2 c. Kosher salt
2 carrots, sliced or julienne
2 cucumbers, sliced
2 bell peppers (red or orange), cut into chunks
6 cloves fresh garlic, smashed
2 inches fresh ginger, peeled and thinly sliced
8 scallions, root removed and cut into 2" lengths
1/4 c. Fish sauce
3 Tbsp. Red miso
1 c. Gochujang
1/2 c. Korean red chili flakes
Watermelon radish or other radish, thinly sliced
2 Tbsp. Sugar
• Liberally salt the cabbage in a large bin that allows you to turn regularly.

• As the salt is hygroscopic, it will leach moisture out of the cabbage, leaving you with a nice pile of pre-pickled pickled cabbage. This can take 3-6 hours.

• Once you are convinced that enough water has been yanked from your cabbage, rinse thoroughly to get as much salt out as possible. Rinse the bin and place the cabbage back in it.

• Combine the rest of the ingredients, mixing well and rubbing the concoction over everything in the bin.

• Pack this into a glass container, making sure to pour any juices that have accumulated.

• Top the jar and place on the counter for 24 hours.

• Give a stir and place in the refrigerator indefinitely. This will get better with time, and the flavor development is out of this world.

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

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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

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Ocean Resorts Golf Club, 10655 Cathell Rd., Berlin, MD.
Telephone inquiries will not be accepted

Now Hiring
Administrative Assistant / Front Desk
Part-Time, seasonal
Must be able to work day shifts and weekends, this is a seasonal position.
Excellent people skills and Microsoft skills are a must!
The position starts April 15th and runs through October 1st.
Location: Ocean City, 67th Street
Please send resume: Olivia.smith@casinc.biz
Salary: \$13.00 - \$13.50 per hour

Worcester County Health Department
OFFICE SECRETARY II - Full Time, State Benefits. This position provides secretarial support for the Reproductive Health program within the Nursing Department. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, considerable organizing and filing of both electronic and paper documents, scheduling, and drafting correspondence, compiling and summarizing data into concise form, billing for services, preparation of technical and confidential reports, as well as taking and typing meeting minutes. Background check required.
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