

Berlin police plead for help from council

Tearful chief says better pay needed to keep personnel

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) Monday's meeting of the Berlin Mayor and Town Council ended with impassioned speeches from multiple people in the Berlin law enforcement community asking the town to take the retention of officers and competitive pay and benefits more seriously.



Arnold Downing

Former Berlin police officer and resident J.B. Bunting kicked off the topic, followed by fellow former officer and resident Michael Hickman, Christina Bireley, the spouse of a police officer, and Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing.

Downing called it a "simple thing" See CHIEF Page 4



PHOTO COURTESY SAMANTHA WIDGEON

UNDER CONTROL

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department successfully conducted a controlled burn of the Seasons Plaza early Saturday morning. The department had been using the building to hold training sessions since April and used the fire as an opportunity for live training, inviting neighboring agencies to do so as well. The property is the future site of a Royal Farms, which granted the agency the rights to use the property for training.

Berlin wins Travelers' Choice award

Town gets acknowledgment again as positive reviews pile up on travel website

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) Another day, another award for the Town of Berlin.

Last week, Tripadvisor selected the cozy community as a recipient for the 2022 Travelers' Choice award, the second time in four years Berlin has won the honor.

"It feels like a great accomplishment for such a small town," said Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, who manages the town's Main Street Program. "Everyone should take credit

See BERLIN Page 2



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Town of Berlin received yet another award this month when it was named as one of Tripadvisor's Traveler's Choice award recipients, which goes to the destinations considered in their top 10 percent.

OP youth killed in hit-and-run on Grays Corner

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal pedestrian hit-and-run crash that claimed the life of a 14-year-old boy Monday night.

Gavin Knupp, of Ocean Pines, was pronounced deceased by hospital personnel at Atlantic General Hospital, according to a press release.

The preliminary investigation indicates that at approximately 10:45 p.m., Knupp was walking on Grays Corner Road

See 14-YEAR-OLD Page 2



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14-year-old dies in hit-and-run

Continued from Page 1

when he was struck and killed by a vehicle traveling east.

Knupp was crossing the road to return to a vehicle when he was struck, according to the investigation. That vehicle fled the scene and did not return.

Attempts are being made to identify the car via camera footage. Some information about the vehicle is known and has been shared with surrounding law enforcement, according to police.

Based on evidence at the scene and the ongoing investigation, troopers believe the vehicle that struck and killed Knupp was a dark color Mercedes, likely a 2011 or 2012.

They believe the Mercedes sustained damage to the driver's left side mirror and headlight.

Anyone who witnessed this crash, or who may have information about the suspect vehicle, is urged to contact Maryland State Police at the Berlin Barracks at 410-641-3101, or Cpl. Kevin Moore of the Maryland State Police Crash Team at 410-819-4721.

"Last night our earth stopped and our hearts shattered. Tiffany, Ray and Summer Knupp will never be the same. They lost their son, and brother," read a statement on a GoFundMe website set up for the family. "Gavin Knupp, a sweet, funny, bright, 14-year-old boy, was taken in a senseless hit and run. This was never supposed to happen.

To visit the fundraiser site, visit <https://gofund.me/c875eod6>.

Berlin wins 2nd travel site award

Continued from Page 1

for that — and especially the business owners."

"When people visit or they're eating out here, they're shopping here as well and the way the business owners treat everyone who comes to Berlin is why we received this award."

Awards are nothing new for Berlin anymore. Just this spring travel platform Trips to Discover named it Maryland's Most Charming Small Town.

Most famously, Berlin was named Budget Travel's "Coolest Small Town in America" in 2014.

Tripadvisor's Travelers' Choice awards are given to the top 10 percent attractions worldwide. According to Tripadvisor's website, to be eligible for an award, a property, business, destination or point of interest must have been listed on Tripadvisor for at least 12 months and must receive a threshold number of reviews within the evaluation period of that award, and must maintain or exceed a minimum "bubble" rating on the website.

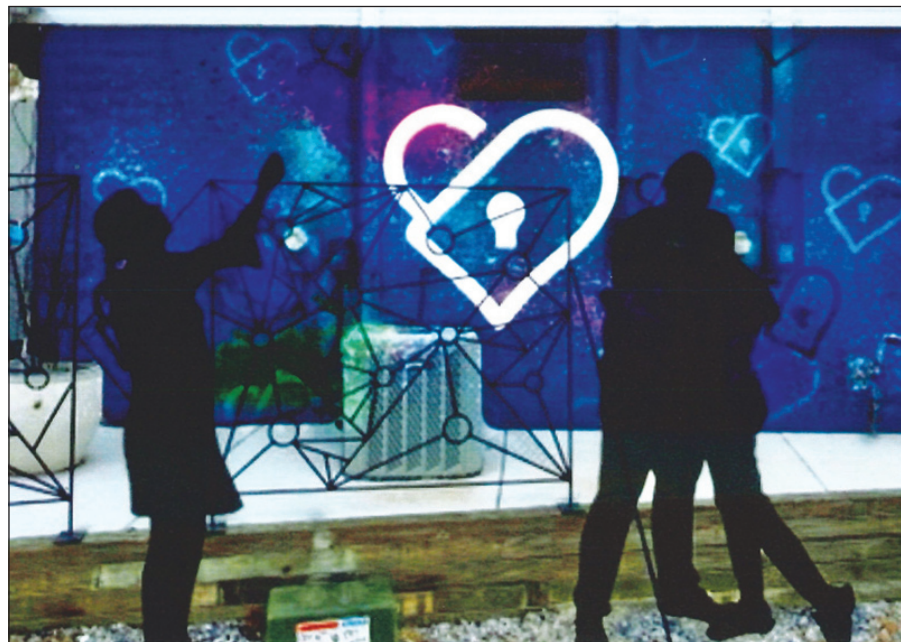


PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN
The Berlin Historic District Commission approved the painting of a mural on the side of Jeff Auxer Designs at 19 Jefferson Street, which will complement the lock art structure in front of it.

HDC approves new mural on side of Jeffrey Auxer Designs

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The Berlin Historic District Commission approved a mural on the side of glassblower Jeff Auxer’s storefront at 19 Jefferson Street during its meeting on July 6.

Auxer, whose store is named Jeff Auxer Designs, said he wishes to capitalize on the popularity of photographable backgrounds, especially with the fence on the property that people can put locks on, which gives them “something to do.”

“It’s been a pretty good turnout,” Auxer said. “But the background is terrible.”

The background he referred to contains electric meters and a gas meter — equipment he didn’t consider to be very photogenic.

“The idea is to make something back there that looks a little nicer and to give Berlin some more exposure as well,” he said.

The mural itself is simple, he said, envisioning an array of colors painted on the wall with the love locks logo. He said he’d be careful with the public-property gas and electric meters, making sure to not paint over anything that makes them hard to read.

“This was my idea,” Auxer said. “This was something (I thought) would be just a background image, but if people do take pictures and post them, they’re not looking at the ugliness of the building now.”

The only pushback he received from the board — if it could even be called that since it preceded an unanimous vote — came from commission member Mary Moore, who questioned if the current look needed a makeover, as one could say it had “gritty urban” appeal.

“You want to see (the lock display) and I’m distracted because of all the other stuff. You have art, you need

space around it to grab it,” she said. “It’s distracting to my eye, which is an artistic eye when you have all these other elements in there. I’m trying to think, for you, any ideas that we can come up with together.”

Before coming around to the vote, Moore suggested a gray color that could camouflage the utility equipment.

Commission chair Norman Bunting saw it differently.

“The lock thing, I had no idea that’s what that was. I think it’s a neat, cool idea,” Bunting said. “As you’re looking at the design here, they’re locks, Mary. That looks unique into backing up what you did there.”

Committee member Laura Stern said Auxer’s building is artistic, and, after all, the town is trying to make that area into an “art street.”

“In that sense, I think it would fit,” she said.

“At first I did feel it was kind of like, as Mary was saying, that gritty urban feeling when I first saw it. But then I thought, this is an arts street where we are promoting the arts and your building is every kind of quirky arts kind of (thing) and it does kind of go with that.”

Auxer reiterated that his intention was simple and straightforward.

“I just want people to be able to take pictures in front of it and not be ashamed of the picture or trying to find an angle that’s not terrible looking,” he said.

Meanwhile, the commission pushed Mandala Pie’s signage decision up from August to July to accommodate its opening in a couple of weeks and unanimously approved the sign that owner Caitlin LaComb presented.

The Historic District Commission next meets on Aug. 3.

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Chief, former officers beg town for better pay, benefits

Continued from Page 1
— if this is to be a priority, action must be taken soon.

“When you go ahead and say that we have people moving (on), the fact is they got better than what they got here,” Downing said through tears. “And I’m proud. But I want them to be here and be the next chief of police. No one has ever retired from this agency.

“Think about that and think about it again. It’s ridiculous. I will retire. I decided to stay here. At the sheriff’s office, put an application in my box, come. At Ocean City three years the same, ‘Come back to us.’ They want our best. And they’re coming for every one of us. They’d love to take the dog, and they’ve done that before. They’d love to take the detective and they surely don’t stay for the dollars.”

Bunting brought up Downing, especially, and a question he asked him early in his Berlin days.

Bunting explained that when he was hired in 2006, he told Downing, when asked where he sees himself in five years, it was to still be on the Berlin force. But he has since had to move on for better pay. Despite everyone wanting to work for Downing, having a great police station and state-of-the-art equipment, officers have to go.

“I would love to be able to afford to still work here,” Bunting said. “You guys need to do something.”

He, as well as others, made a plea for adding the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, which the department currently does not offer to its officers.

It’s led to an exodus.
“If I’m not mistaken, since 2005 there have been 19 officers hired. Of those 19, six remain,” said Hickman. “Berlin has always been a stepping stone for larger agencies and I’d like to see that culture change.”

Hickman added that it’s an issue that requires urgency in its resolution because Berlin doesn’t simply hire officers off the street and put them in uniform the next day.

“Every time you put someone in the academy, you’re eight months away from having a viable officer performing patrol function on the street.

Eight months. Six in the academy and two (spent) in field training,” he said.

“In my opinion, this is a critical issue. We aren’t that much different than Delmar. You have to think about that. What happened there (the 2021 death of Delmar Cpl. Keith Heacock) could very, very easily happen here in Berlin.”

Bireley piggybacked off of Hickman’s attention to the violence that local police departments have experienced in recent times, saying that she could not live with herself if she knew she didn’t try to influence change in Berlin in the aftermath of any scenario in which a Berlin officer is injured or killed.

“Many times (my husband) and the other officers are forced to work alone at night due to the staffing shortage,” she said. “Working alone not only exposes officers to greater risk but also presents a safety issue to all residents of Berlin.”

“How can Berlin expect to not only hire but retain certified police officers (without better pay and benefits) ... May I ask with all the growth and annexation Berlin has had over the last 25 years, how does this make sense?”

Downing reminded the mayor and council that a well-staffed, engaged police force accentuates all the strong aspects of a community.

“You’re not going to have good schools. You’re not going to have a good business community. You’re not going have anyone wanting to be here or live here if they don’t feel safe,” he said. “The mantra is, play in Ocean City, work wherever you want to, but the bottom line is people want to live in Berlin. They want to be here.”

In response, Mayor Zack Tyndall thanked those who spoke and assured them that the council is looking at fixes for the situation.

One such quick fix could be redirecting \$100,000 from the town’s reserve fund to police officer retention.

“It’s going to take all of us,” said Councilman Dean Burrell. “I’m talking this council and the folks who you represent sitting up here getting things done. All of us.”

Added Tyndall, “Because none of us want to see anything else bad happen to any of our officers. We’ll (work) on that.”



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Berlin approves minority and women-owned business plan

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The minority and women business plan for FY23, which requires the town to make “good-faith efforts” to recruit enterprises owned or majority-owned by women or minorities, was unanimously approved by the Berlin Town Council on Monday.



Ivy Wells

Institution of the plan allows these businesses to receive state and federal funds through the town.

“This is something Ivy needs to have in place for a grant that she’s going after,” said Town Administrator Mary Bohlen. Essentially, it’s something we’ve done in the past when we were able to make use of quad grant funds. It simply states that the town will make every effort to hire businesses that are minority- or women-owned enterprises.”

Councilmember Dean Burrell asked if a report has to be made to

any entity regarding the town’s progress in its efforts, and Community and Economic Development Director Ivy Wells said she did not believe there was such a requirement.

“What this specifically is meant for is the strategic demolition grant that we have already received,” she said. “Anything from the state over \$250,000 needs to make sure that we have this in place.”

Bohlen added that, however, if the federal or state governments did a full monitoring and audit of the grant, they would need to have documentation.

When asked by Councilmember Shaneka Nichols how long this program has been around, Bohlen said it has existed in various forms for some time. In the past, it was more specific to Community Block Development Grant funding but changes to its language were made to make it more generic, but it still generally fits the same requirements.

Councilmember Jack Orris asked if there was a U.S. veteran clause anywhere in the plan, and Bohlen replied that such a condition could be made.

Decatur Park improvements moved to top of town wish list

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) An all-new Stephen Decatur Park got bumped up to the top of the Berlin Parks Commission’s priority list during its July 5 meeting.



Mary Bohlen

Mayor Zack Tyndall stopped by the meeting to support the project.

“We brought this up a year ago almost, looking at the playground equipment and hopefully pursuing a grant application for an inclusive playground that would span multiple ages at (the park),” he said.

Tyndall brought up the recent independent report that found the park equipment to be in a state of deterioration by and large and needed to be replaced.

He estimated that a total renovation would cost a little more than \$1 million.

The plan still needs to be fleshed out concerning funding, but Tyndall said it would be prudent to enlist the help of the Maryland Department of

Natural Resources so the renovations would not just refrain from destroying any vegetation but possibly enhance it.

No preliminary designs have been discussed but Tyndall did bring concept art showing what a new park could look like.

“(We could) preserve the natural beauty of Stephen Decatur Park but also add something where all ages and abilities can play,” he said.

He also brought up fishing, adding the pond at the park is in no condition for fishing at this moment.


Town administrator Mary Bohlen concurred.

“If you were to cast a line in there now you’d catch everything under the sun except a fish,” she said.

Meanwhile, the commission approved a table-tennis library at the soon-to-be table tennis park located at Burbage Park on William Street.

The library will look much the same as a free lending library stand — one of which may also be coming to the park, according to the commission — and offer equipment for table tennis that interested parties may not possess themselves.

The Planning Commission next meets on Aug. 2.



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So far, no issues with short-term ordinance

New law put into place in Berlin on July 1 with scant pushback from landlords

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) Nearly two weeks into the implementation of Berlin's short-term rental ordinance, everything seems to be running smoothly, according to Planning Director Dave Engelhart.

"The only thing is I still get people



Dave Engelhart

in the R-1 and R-2 (zones) who don't like the fact it has to be their permanent residence," Engelhart said. "That's still unpopular with those people. For the people who want to own a second home and have it not be a primary residence, there's no real avenue for them to (obtain) a short-term rental license, so that's the pushback."

Engelhart said that he wanted to see the ordinance pushed back to January to let already-made reservations go through, but an 11th-hour debate between members of the Town Council two weeks ago did nothing to stop the July 1 implementation.

"It would have been a way to let operators have time to figure out what they were going to do — go back to renting their homes on a long-term basis as a regular rental, sell it, whatever they're going to do. It would've

just given them some breathing room," Engelhart said.

Engelhart added that currently, his department is sifting through short-term rental applications and that no drastic change is imminent now with the implementation in place.

"We've been working on this going on three years now," he said. "We're moving along."

So what exactly does the short-term rental ordinance do?

"It is the intent of this section and the regulations stated ... to maintain the character of residential neighborhoods in the Town of Berlin and to protect the health, safety and general welfare of residents while allowing short term (sic) rentals to exist under certain conditions and circumstances," the ordinance states.

Most critical to many, the ordinance stipulates that owners of short-term rentals must make the property their permanent residence, which the ordinance defines as a property in which a property owner lives for an aggregate of at least 180 days annually. The ordinance goes on to state that "the dwelling unit (must carry) the official designation as the owners' principal residence in accordance with the criteria governing the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation Homestead Tax Credit Program."

According to the code, "short term (sic) residential rental" is defined as "the use of all or any part of a dwelling unit to provide accommodations, not to exceed 28 consecutive days, to guests for sleeping or lodging purposes in exchange for monetary remuneration, including accommodations facilitated by an internet hosting platform. A bed and breakfast is not included in this definition."

Short-term rentals are allowed in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, B-1, B-2, and B-3 districts and are subject to the licensing requirements and regulations of those zoning areas.

The ordinance stipulates that property owners of would-be short-term rentals must apply for such and pay an application fee of \$350. The annual licenses are issued upon payment of a \$200 annual fee. Licenses must be applied for every year. A property manager is to be available around the clock, seven days a week, and within 30 miles of the property. A floor plan with emergency exits marked are to be displayed inside the property.

Those who rent out a short-term living space without a license will be subject to a reoccurring \$600 fine. Violations are enforced by the Planning Director or house inspector pursuant to the town charter. All other violations come with a \$100 penalty. Repeat or continuing violations come at a cost of \$200 per day and could result in license revocation, which could last for the remaining licensing year plus an extra year.

Berlin looking into Verizon service

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The Town of Berlin is looking into recently shoddy Verizon mobile phone reception that has hindered town employees' abilities to communicate.

"Verizon has had a substantial drop in service in the municipal limits," Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "There have been a lot of people impacted. I've been in discussion with their government affairs person to figure out



Mayor Z. Tyndall

an improvement in service."

Tyndall added that they're just trying to make the wireless network behemoth aware of the issue.

The Town of Berlin operates on cell phone communication, Tyndall added, and many staff members use Verizon.

One of the main issues has been

dropped calls when someone isn't on WIFI, he said.

"It does have an impact on the work we're doing," Tyndall said. "It's anything from, I may have a good spot or a bad spot — bad spots are much, much worse than good spots. The reason I choose Verizon is that their coverage is very good around our area. Reliability has never been a problem with Verizon."

A representative for Verizon could not be reached for this story.

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Residents get final say on purchase of sports facility land

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The fate of the not-yet-planned sports complex off Route 50 in Berlin, just north of Stephen Decatur High School, is teetering on a pin as efforts to put county government's purchase of the proposed 95.6-acre property for \$7.15 million to a public vote were a success this week.

Slobodan Trendic, a spokesman for a group billing itself as the People for Fiscal Responsibility Committee announced on July 6 that the petition to put the purchase of the property to a countywide vote garnered 5,093 valid signatures, or 599 more than required.



Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting were accused last Tuesday of being against the development of the proposed sports complex on Route 50 by Commissioner Joe Mitrecic. The discussion, while heated at times, started out as being about the potential of a referendum on the November ballot to approve or deny bonding for the facility, though it has since been discovered that bonds cannot be used to purchase the property.

"As a result of the petitioners' efforts, all registered voters in Worcester County will be given the opportunity to vote on Bill 22-8 related to the funding of the sports complex project," Trendic said in a

press release. "We would like to thank the more than 70 volunteers throughout the entire county who worked hard to help us gather the required signatures. We also wish to thank the Worcester County voters

who supported our efforts by signing the petition."

On April 19, the Worcester County Commissioners voted to purchase the tract and planned to have the money
See BOND Page 8



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Bond money cannot be used to purchase sportsplex land

Continued from Page 7
come out of the \$11.2 million in bonds earmarked for financing a portion of the costs associated with designing, engineering, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a potential sports complex.

But during a commissioners meeting on July 5, Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young told the commissioners the bond could not be used to purchase the property, even if the purchase is approved.

He said he originally thought the money could be used for that purpose, but after reviewing the capital improvement plan, property of that nature must be purchased with grant money.

Since bond money can't be used, Young said the county must find a new source of funds. That revelation led Commissioner Chip Bertino, who has opposed this project from the outset, to move to cancel the contract. Commissioner Jim Bunting, who was similarly opposed, seconded the motion.

Sports complex advocate Commissioner Joe Mitrecic, however, suggested the board continue to work on finding funding until September. If all roads lead to dead ends, he said the contract could be abandoned at any time.

He also criticized how the People for Fiscal Responsibility Committee obtained the required signatures, saying they would approach people in store parking lots and ask if they wanted to sign a petition against the sports complex. The person may not have been against the sports complex, but the petitioner was not transparent about what the petition was about, according to Mitrecic.

He also said the measure will probably fail on the ballot.

"You're against this, you've been against it from day one," Mitrecic told Bertino and Bunting. "Say you're against it...tell them flat out, 'I don't want the sports complex.'"

Bertino, Bunting, and Commissioner Ted Elder voted against the purchase of the property back in

April.
Bertino said the question is specific to the bond issue, then asked Mitrecic if most people do not want to spend the money to issue the bond to pay for the sportsplex if he would extrapolate from that.

Mitrecic said if that happens, he will extrapolate that their taxes are not going to go up.

Though he said he is not against the sports complex totally, Bunting said he would rather let a private entity come in. Unfortunately, he added, you cannot find a soul who wants to do that.

Commissioner Diana Purnell, whose district encompasses a large portion of the county's Black community, had been relatively quiet for the meeting, told Bertino and Bunting that the way signatures were collected during the Memorial Day parade on Flower Street was "disgusting."

She described people wearing cardboard placards on their back, walking through the parade grounds, talking to the residents about the sportsplex, and saying the taxes will go up.

"A lot of them didn't even know what they were talking about," Purnell said. "The whole thing was that taxes would go up...the taxes aren't going to go up."

Purnell said during her eight years as a commissioner, she has supported situations in other districts but when she needs support for her own community, she cannot get it.

"I am really ticked," she said of people going into the community that never asks for money to pay for something that benefits it. "That to me is disgraceful. I would never do that to one of you."

Elder said he spoke to people on Flower Street who were concerned about the ingress and egress from the development, saying there was too much traffic there already.

He also said for Purnell to cast aspersions is wrong and that he votes on what he believes is for the good of the county.

"The people I talked to around that area ... the ones I talked to did not want the sports complex," Elder said.

Still, Purnell said she has supported projects like sewers on Lewis Road, and while she did not want to bring race into the discussion, she asked what the problem was with putting things in a black community.

Bertino wanted to clear the record and say his motion was to cancel the contract for the selected location, not stop or suspend the pursuit of a sports complex.

After hearing enough, Mitrecic told the other commissioners the discussion went too far before finishing with his two cents on Vince Gisriel, a
See VOTE Page 10

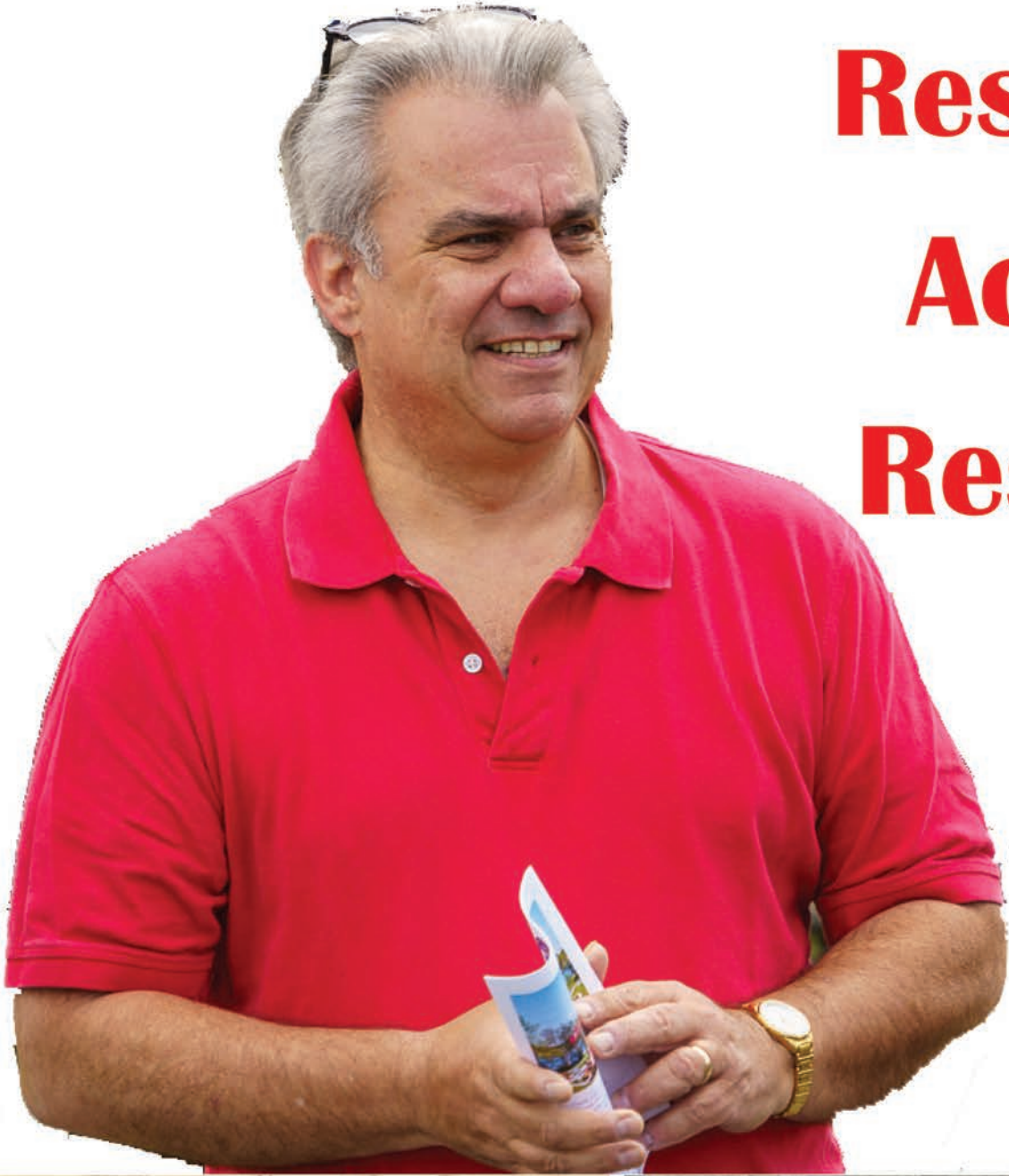


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Authority: Bertino for Commissioner; Susan Bertino, Treasurer



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Communications building to get replaced for over \$600K

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) A Worcester County-owned building in Snow Hill that houses communications equipment is in critical condition and in a unanimous vote on July 5, the commissioners agreed to lock in a bid to replace the structure at a cost one-third more than budgeted.

The county has been concerned about the building for several years because of its condition and survivability.

Director of Emergency Services Billy Birch said a request for bids to replace the building, located near the Snow Hill water tank, produced just one bidder in the amount of \$610,236.

The county budgeted \$400,000 for the project, and there is an estimated \$75,000 worth of work outside of the scope of the bid that will be required.

Because of the lack of availability of materials, Birch and his team have not aggressively tried to get hard quotes. It could also take at least a year to move forward with this project because of the time it would take to obtain the materials.

Birch asked the commissioners

how to proceed. Right now, he said, the generator is in bad condition, and even though they can find ways to “kick the can down the road,” costs of materials are not expected to come down anytime soon.

Commission Chip Bertino said it was a wonder the building has not come down yet because of its condition, which is why the building is going to be replaced.

Buildings that house communication equipment like network servers and storage drives are intended to be made of steel reinforced concrete and be able to survive a Category 5 hurricane.

The buildings also must be immune to lightning strikes and have an antenna on top designed to take 100 strikes a year without having any down time.

If the building were to go offline at any point, Birch said, it would have a significant impact on the county.

Approving the request for proposals (RFP) would mean the rates get locked in. The RFP also includes costs associated with removing the old building.

When put to a vote, the commissioners unanimously agreed to accept the RFP.



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Authority: Jeff McMahon For Commissioner Jennifer Johnson, Treasurer

Isle of Wight will be closed July 20

Vote to pull out of contract fails

(July 14, 2022) The Isle of Wight Center, located at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 90 and St. Martins Neck Road, will be closed for one day on July 20, to replace the facility’s HVAC units.

Individuals seeking to transact business with the Worcester County Treasurer’s Office may do so at the Worcester County Government Center, located at One W. Market Street in Snow Hill, or online at <http://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/treasurers-office>.

Continued from Page 8

member of the committee who served on the Ocean City Council with the Mitrecic.

Gisriel, Mitrecic said, is one of the two most prepared councilmen who ever served as a city councilman in Ocean City. He read everything, made lots of notes, and had some of the same traits as members of the county commissioners.

But, Mitrecic added, Gisriel never brought one economic development idea to the table. Instead, his plan was to “cut, cut, cut.”

“Until they allow the county to start printing money, people in Worcester will see it as an added tax,” Mitrecic said.

While the commissioner said he thinks the sportsplex is a winner, he said he understands others don’t.

Mitrecic then told the other commissioners if they want to be against the sportsplex, at least bring an idea to the table to increase economic development.

“It’s not going to get easier,” he said. “Bring it forward, any idea, bring it forward.”

When Bertino’s move to cancel the contract was put to a vote, it failed 3-4, with Bunting and Elder voting in favor of the measure.

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County seeks out projects to apply new grant toward

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The Tri-County Council, consisting of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties, could receive up to \$10 million for economic development projects by September, but first the counties must determine whether they want to work together.



Worcester County Director of Tourism and Economic Development Melanie Pursel told the commissioners last week that she was looking for guidance on how to proceed with the request for funds, which must be tied to actual projects.

The money, Pursel explained, could go toward one large project or a bunch of smaller projects. The county could try to ask for all \$10 million on its own, which Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young advised against, or it could ask for a third, or \$3.2 million.

All three counties could also go in on one project that affects the entire region, like the Salisbury Airport, as well.

If Worcester asks for the \$3.2 million, Pursel said, it could go toward offsetting taxpayer dollars with the sportsplex, installing fiber optic cable
See GRANT Page 12

County looking for volunteers to serve on civilian boards

(July 14, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners are seeking interest from area residents to serve on three new civilian boards being implemented under the Maryland Police Accountability Act. These include the Police Accountability Board, Administrative Charging Committee, and Trial Board.

Effective July, the Maryland Police Accountability Act will replace the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights as the system for police discipline. The new act replaces the mostly internal discipline system under LEOBR with a multi-tiered system of external civilian boards.

The Police Accountability Board will consist of seven members to serve as the overall governing body of the system.

The Charging Committee will consist of five members who will review complaints and investigations of po-
See COUNTY Page 12

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“We’re going to make a decision on the fifth if it takes us all damn day,” Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said.



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County agrees to split \$8.7 million on internet and EMS

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners came up with a plan for nearly \$8.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that incorporates helping the fire and EMS services in the county and getting broadband to rural areas.



Weston Young

The commissioners held a work session on July 5 to figure out how to use the ARPA funds, just two weeks after holding a public hearing on the matter.

During the public hearing, many residents asked that the money be used for getting fast and reliable internet to neglected rural areas. The issue came to light during the pandemic, when students were forced to do schoolwork from home using an internet connection.

Some families without a high-speed internet connection were able to set up hotspots while others were forced to go into the nearest municipality or a friend's place to connect.

County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said the board previously voted to give money to fire and EMS for one-time capital improvement projects and the rest to broadband.

But to move forward, Young needed to know how much to give fire and EMS. Once that amount is determined, he said, county staff will reach out to the three most active internet providers in the area.

Young added that he believes all three companies, including Talkie and Choptank, will be agreeable to a match that allows the funds to go further.

In total, the county has \$8,667,000 to divvy out.

Co. Commissioner Briefs

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners discussed several items on July 5, including a body camera grant request, recreation center solar panels, the Airbnb tax, and public works department purchases.

Body camera grant

One of the items on the agenda was for the commissioners to approve a grant request to help pay for the body camera program the Worcester County Sheriff's Office was

Continued on Page 15

Commissioner Jim Bunting moved to have \$1.5 million go to fire and EMS, which would be subject to determining uses. The remaining \$7,167,000, Bunting added, will go to broadband.

Young said the county fire and EMS came to the commissioners with a list of \$4.6 million in unmet needs, and the understanding was they would provide a list and pick the projects because they are the experts in their field. The list was not before the commissioners on Tuesday.


The money given to fire and EMS also must go toward expenses and not salaries, and the money would be split however the leadership at each department seems fit.

"They have a big list for us, as has been discussed," Young said.

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said he supported giving money to broadband, but also meeting fire and EMS halfway on what they requested, or \$2.3 million.

"If someone is having a heart attack, all the internet in the world isn't going to help them," he said.

When it came to a vote, Bunting's measure of giving fire and EMS \$1.5 million with the rest going to broadband passed, 6-1. Mitrecic was the lone nay vote.



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Worcester Co. Schools receives \$6.5M grant

State awards district funds to accelerate learning and create sustainable changes

By Greg Wehner
Staff Writer

(July 14, 2022) Worcester County Public Schools was awarded just over \$6.5 million of the \$169 million in grant money given to local education agencies across Maryland to help reimagine the state’s education system for the future.

The \$169 million is intended to accelerate learning while preparing for long-term, transformational, and sustainable change in school communities. The program also generated \$25 million in local investment, according to a press release, to help supplement department awards that will help build sustainability for the Maryland Leads grant programs and activities.

Worcester County received \$6,751,246 from the Maryland Leads Grant program.

The money will be divided among six grant strategy areas, including Grow Your Own, Staff Support and Retention, and the Science of Reading.

Grow Your Own, or GYO, is expected to get \$930,300, which will go toward two efforts. One aims to encourage and support students with as-



PHOTO COURTESY WCPS

The state awarded \$169 million in grant funds to school districts across Maryland to help accelerate learning while preparing for long-term and sustainable changes in school communities. Of the \$169 million, Worcester County Public Schools received just over \$6.5 million, which will go toward six different grant strategy areas.

pirations to enter the education profession and the second supports the transition of teachers of color into administrative or supervisory roles.

The district will put \$467,987 toward staff support and retention, particularly a leadership development program and a program that helps teachers seeking National Board Certification.

Efforts to create a comprehensive literacy plan while identifying high-quality, content-rich instructional materials will see a boost of \$1,627,300. The money will also go toward providing training to teachers on the science of teaching reading.

Just under \$1.5 million of the funds will help the district investigate ways to reimagine the use of time. This includes paying for a school schedule audit by an external consultant, and \$1,137,291 will help create a pipeline of tutors by using its local university partners.

Since a pipeline is not yet in place, the money will help to create a model capable of providing progress monitoring and feedback for assessments.

The strategy has three main initiatives: creating a tutoring management platform, online contractual tutoring, and face-to-face tutoring.

The school district also budgeted

\$1,568,695 to help transform neighborhoods through schools. Grant funding will be used to “jumpstart” efforts in Pocomoke and Snow Hill.

The two communities experience economic challenges, according to the district, and for the first time ever the district received Concentration of Poverty, or COP, funds for Pocomoke Elementary School, Pocomoke Middle School, and Cedar Chapel Special School in Snow Hill, for FY23.

In total, the program will use \$1,270,728 from the Maryland Leads Grant program and \$297,967 from COP to help enable the pilot program in both Snow Hill and Pocomoke.

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Lardner president of Davis, Bowen & Friedel

(July 14, 2022) The board of directors of Davis, Bowen & Friedel has announced that Ring W. Lardner, P.E., has been named president of the firm, effective July 1.

With more than 19 years of experience with the firm, having served as an associate for five years and as principal for more than seven, Lardner is set to lead the firm in this newly appointed role following a planned transition that was initiated a year ago.

He will oversee over 100 employees throughout all three of the firm's office locations in Milford, Delaware,



Ring Lardner

and Salisbury and Easton, Maryland.

"I am honored to take the next steps with the firm. After almost two decades at DBF, I am grateful for and welcome the opportunity to lead this organization of truly dedicated and talented professionals," said Lardner.

Serving as one of six principals, Lardner has managed both the municipal and site department out of the Milford, Delaware office.

As a retired lieutenant colonel of the Delaware Army National Guard, Lardner has harnessed his leadership, and his long-range and strategic planning skills to maximize opportunities for the firm, a statement from the firm said.

Lardner is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in engineering technology. He holds a professional engineering license in both the State of Delaware and Maryland and serves on the board of trustees for the Sussex County Land Trust, which is dedi-

cated to protecting natural, cultural, agricultural, and recreational resources through land preservation, stewardship, and education.

"I am confident he will serve the firm and our clientele as president exceptionally well, and I am pleased too that he, along with an outstanding ownership team, will carry forward the ideals of an established organization that started nearly 40 years ago," said Michael R. Wigley, who had been president before Lardner's appointment. He will retire in December.

County Commissioners Briefs

Continued from Page 13

required to put in place, but an amount was not provided.

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked when the amount would be available, and Lt. Robert Trautman said he did not know.

Trautman said there was a potential to get \$379,000, which would go back into the general fund.

The item was put to a separate vote and approved unanimously.

Solar panels

The Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill was outfitted

with solar panels in 2013, and the agreement is up for renewal.

When the agreement was signed, a rate was locked in although it does not cover the entire cost of the recreation center energy used.

Instead, the county gets a market energy credit that is sold to others to offset when energy quotas are not met.

The energy is a commodity that is traded as a renewable energy credit.

Ultimately, it offsets the energy bill by about \$500-\$600 per month.

Public Works tractor

Dallas Baker, the county director of public works requested permission to purchase a John Deer tractor and boom to cut back ditches for approximately \$219,000.

In addition to the tractor, Baker also asked the commissioners to enter a lease for a skid steer for \$22,000.

The department budgeted \$262,000 for these purchases, and Baker said there should be just over \$20,000 leftover.

Both purchases received unanimous approval from the commissioners.

Airbnb tax collection

County Attorney Roscoe Leslie told the commissioners the room tax was strengthened a couple months ago to encourage online platforms like Airbnb to collect the tax.

Airbnb is onboard with the tax, according to Leslie, and wanted to finalize the agreement with a memo.

Bertino asked if other businesses would come forward with an agreement, which Leslie said was a possibility, but many companies just remit and pay.

"Airbnb just likes to formalize things," he said.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Cory Harrington of Seaborn Seafood displays an opah and swordfish. The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is launching a new program titled, “Voices of the Coastal Bays.” Local fishing companies – Skilligalee Seafood, Martin Fish Co., and Seaborn Seafood – have partnered with MCBP for this project.

MCBP launches ‘Voices of the Coastal Bays’ program

(July 14, 2022) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is launching a new program titled “Voices of the Coastal Bays, Monday” July 18 beginning at 5:30 at the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum located on the Boardwalk at 813 S. Atlantic Avenue.

Voices of the Coastal Bays is a fisheries heritage project and consists of three components.

The first component of the project is a virtual, interactive timeline that takes the user through the history of commercial fishing in Ocean City and how the West Ocean City Harbor came to be.

This timeline features historic archived photographs donated by the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, quotes from fishermen of the past and present, and photographs captured by local photographer, Zach Garmoe, of the present-day commercial fishing industry.

The second component of this project provided local fishermen and women a platform to share their stories and highlight the local seafood businesses that keep the legacy of the

West OC Harbor alive. Three local fishing companies partnered for this project - Skilligalee Seafood, Martin Fish Co., and Seaborn Seafood.

The third component of the program is a Smart Seafood Guide for Ocean City.

This guide covers the seafood caught locally in Ocean City and the months they are in season to encourage more informed and localized seafood choices. This guide will be available at the launch and will also be featured on the Maryland Coastal Bays Program’s website and at area businesses.

For more information, contact Cailyn Joseph at cjoseph@md-coastalbays.org.

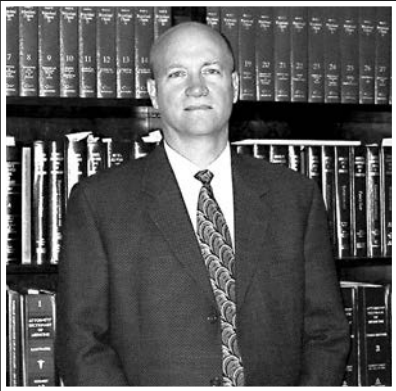
Funding for this project came from a mini grant from Beach to Bay Heritage.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit National Estuary Program dedicated to protecting the bays behind Ocean City and Assateague Island and their watersheds.


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Chesapeake Health Care held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 22, to celebrate the opening of its newest medical facility located at 9958 N. Main Street in Berlin. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Chesapeake Health facility opens

(July 14, 2022) Chesapeake Health Care held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 22, to celebrate the opening of its newest medical facility located at 9958 N. Main Street in Berlin.

Among the guests in attendance were Maryland State Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Berlin Mayor Zack and Dwight Miller and Palmer Gillis from Gillis Gilkerson.

There was a show of support from the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, as well as the CHC board and

staff members, local business leaders, and friends and neighbors.

Crush & Crab, a local restaurant in Berlin, provided food for the event.

“Thank you for welcoming us into the Berlin community,” said Brian Holland, CEO of Chesapeake Health Care. “Seeing each of you there and having so much support from the public made the event successful and memorable. We are looking forward to serving your adult medicine, pediatric, and mental health needs of the community.”

Founded in 1994, Chesapeake Health Care is a multidisciplinary healthcare practice serving Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties in Maryland.

More than 100 providers are on staff to offer healthcare to the region’s patients in Adult and family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, urogynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, mental health, dental, and pharmacy. Health care is extended to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, and insured.

A sliding fee scale program is available to assist eligible patients with healthcare payments.

Library offering expungement clinic

(July 14, 2022) The Worcester County Library is offering a free expungement clinic in partnership with Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Services on July 18 from 4-6 p.m. at the Pocomoke branch, 301 Market Street.

The event will give those who qualify the opportunity to expunge their criminal record in the state of Maryland with the assistance of an attorney.

Clients must qualify for services by meeting income, case type and geo-

graphic guidelines.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and to bring with them the following: income information for all members of their household; the value of their house and car (if either are owned); and the amounts in checking, savings, and/or investment accounts.

Once the required forms are complete, a paralegal and an attorney will guide clients through the expungement process.

“The library has held several expungement clinics at our Ocean City branch and we are pleased to bring this program to the southern end of the county,” said Adult Program Manager Elena Coelho.

Space in the clinic is limited to 12 individuals. Register at WorcesterLibrary.org under “Events,” or call for assistance.

For more information on this free expungement clinic, contact Coelho at 443-783-6164 or ecoelho@worcesteryl.org, or call the Pocomoke Library branch at 410-957-0878.



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AGH SUPPORT

During its annual celebration in April, the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary presented a check for \$25,000 to the AGH Foundation's annual appeal. Pictured, from left, are Kim Justice, AGH co-interim president and CEO; Richard Buccheri, Auxiliary treasurer; Jackie Choate, Auxiliary secretary; Cynthia Roman, outgoing Auxiliary president; Greg Shockley, chair of the AGH Board of Trustees; Sally Dowling, co-interim president and CEO; Steve Green, chair of the AGH Foundation; and Ann Hamilton, Incoming Auxiliary president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECOGNITION

During its annual celebration in April, the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary honored the continued dedication and volunteer service of its members. Pictured, from left, are Kathleen Loetz, 21 years of service; Joyce Brittan, volunteer coordinator and award presenter; and Nicholas and Jane Bartolomeo, 22 years of service. Not Pictured: Lorena Christian, 21 years of service; B.J. Cohen, 21 years of service.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SPRUCING UP

Earth Day was celebrated at Worcester Preparatory School on April 22. In preparation of the event, the Environment Club built bird houses, and the Lower School students painted them. For a small donation of \$2, students were able to dress out of uniform and instead wear earth tones. All donations will help support the Environment, Garden and Recycling clubs. Pictured are Garden Club members who spruced up the garden.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EARTH DAY

Earth Day was celebrated at Worcester Preparatory School on April 22. In preparation of the event, the Environment Club built bird houses, and the Lower School students painted them. For a small donation of \$2, students were able to dress out of uniform and instead wear earth tones. All donations will help support the Environment, Garden and Recycling clubs. Junior Kathy Zhang takes a moment to smell the flowers on Earth Day.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DRESS MINISTRY

Local seamstresses from Dress Ministry (formerly Pillowcase Ministry) recently met at Snow Hill Library with Tom and Beverly Brumbley of Evangelistic World Outreach, EWO, for an update on their Haitian ministry. EWO has served the people of Haiti since 1972. Dress Ministry supplies dresses, shirts, sleep mats, shower kits, dignity bags, and backpacks to EWO. For more information email Barbara Entwistle, project director, at bentwistle47@gmail.com or contact the Brumbleys at delmasgent@yahoo.com.

Snapshots



INDUCTION
Worcester Preparatory School students inducted into the National Art Honor Society during a ceremony in the Guerrieri Library on April 14, in front, from left, are Lily Baeurle, Aria Islam, Ava Wilsey, Sophia Spadaro, Jenna Hess and Anna McDonald; middle, Jordan Willey, Riley Schoch, Tim Hebert, Jeffrey Hamer, Jack Gardner, Cole Myers, Cayden Wallace and Rory Pugh; and in back, WPS history teacher Madelyn Beebe, middle school and upper school art teacher George Zaiser, Assistant Head of School and Head of Upper School Mike Grosso, Head of School Dr. John McDonald and technology teacher Nancy Raskauskas. Not pictured are inducted students: Jett Odachowski and Thalia Vasilikos.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



OFFICERS HONORED
Four Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapters on the Eastern Shore recently honored their respective members serving as officers of the Maryland State Society DAR during a combined tea at the Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury. General Perry Benson Chapter honored State Treasurer Libby Hinson, Great Choptank Parish Chapter honored State Registrar Sue Brenchley, Samuel Chase Chapter honored State Curator Lee Ellen Griffith, and General Levin Winder Chapter honored State Editor Pat Arata. The officers were installed in July 2021 and serve a term of three years. Pictured, from left, are General Perry Benson Chapter Regent Jerry Seiler, Hinson, Brenchley, Great Choptank Parish Chapter Regent Robin Herman, Maryland DAR State Regent Mernie Crane, Griffith, Samuel Chase Chapter Regent Marion Robinette, Arata and General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Gail Weldin.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST
Elizabeth "Lizy" Maratea, a certified cannabis coach and mindful movement instructor for Full Spectrum Compassionate Coaching, was the guest speaker during the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's May 4 meeting. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.
PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



TOUR AND TEA
Worcester County Garden Club recently toured member Jan King's garden that was popping out in spring color. Members were invited inside following the tour for tea before proceeding with a business meeting.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opinion

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

Primary election recommendations

The 2022 primary elections for the Democratic Party and Republican Party taking place next Tuesday will offer voters a ballot bursting with candidates.

Some contests in this preliminary round are not contests at all, since the candidates face no competition and will, barring some bizarre circumstance, take office after the general election in November.

In this group are District 7 County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic, State's Attorney Kris Heiser, Clerk of Court Susan Braniecki, Register of Wills Terri Westcott, and Delegate Wayne Hartman. Congratulations.

As for the nonpartisan Worcester County School Board election, suffice to say that the county's public schools are some of the best, if not the best, in the state. There's no need for change here, hence we back incumbents Bill Gordy and Nate Passwaters, who face competition, while Todd Ferrante is running unopposed.

Another election where no change is needed is for the office of sheriff, where the job done in the last four years by Republican Matthew Crisafulli entitles him to four more.

The county commissioner contests are more complicated, with Districts 3 and 4 each giving Republican voters four candidates to consider. But first, here are our recommendations in the less crowded races in Districts 2, 5 and 6. The incumbents — Democrat Diana Purnell (Dist. 2), Republican Chip Bertino (Dist. 5) and Republican Madison "Jim" Bunting (Dist. 6) have represented their constituencies well. They should receive the nod from voters in their parties.

In the all-Republican contest in District 4, it must be said that Ted Elder also has represented the wishes of his constituents, but we believe it's time to give someone else the opportunity. That someone would be the county's former chief fire marshal Jeff McMahon, who backs responsible development, farm and environmental preservation and maintaining a top-tier school system.

The wide-open Republican contest in District 3 is the toughest call. Numerous good people are running in this district, but because it includes rural areas, a big part of Berlin and rapidly growing West Ocean City, the job will require philosophical flexibility with an eye on the future. In this instance, we recommend Shawn Kotwica for the job.

Most important, however, is that voters show their support for our democratic institutions by going to the polls on Tuesday. Vote for whomever you prefer, but vote.



Paint Worcester County sign-up open

Arts Council initiative scheduled for Sept., for all adult painters

(July 14, 2022) The Worcester County Arts Council announces the opening of artists' registration for the Paint Worcester County, Plein Air event to be held Sept. 19-23.

Local and regional artists will paint outdoors at their leisure at any chosen location in Worcester County and compete for attractive cash prizes in this annual plein air competition.

Registration is open to experienced and novice painters, 18 years or older, and is limited to 50 artists.

Registration, event schedule, and artists' guidelines are available on the Arts Council's website,

www.worcestercount-yartscouncil.org. Deadline to register is Aug. 31.

Artwork in this competition will be judged by local artist Barbara Scheihing.

Visitors will have an opportunity to watch the artists as they set up their easels around Worcester County and paint the picturesque scenes.

Visitors are also invited to attend a free "Wet Paint" sale and exhibit, featuring work created during this event, on Friday, Sept. 23, from 1:30-5 p.m. at the Berlin library located at 13 Harrison Avenue. All artwork will be available for sale, and the event is open to the public.

The selection of artwork will continue to be on display at the Berlin Library Gallery until Dec. 31.

For more information,

contact the Arts Council at 410-641-0809.

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

As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community.

The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842

Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

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Anglers hosting annual youth contest

(July 14, 2022) The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host the annual Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday, July 16, at the South Gate Pond at Veterans Park in Ocean Pines.

Registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. with the contest from 9-10:30 a.m. Youths

should bring their own fishing rod and reel. Bait is provided. No cost to participate.

Contest age groups are: 4-7, 8-11, 12-16. A trophy will be awarded for the biggest fish in each age group with special awards for the top three.

Grand prize awards will be a Mike Vitak custom rod and reel and a fishing trip

aboard the Angler.

Children younger than age 4 can fish but will not be eligible for a trophy.

All registrants will receive a prize compliments of the Anglers Club and the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club.

For information, call John McFalls at 610-505-1697.

Email Letters To The Editor to editor@baysidegazette.com.
For questions, call 410-723-6397.

Conservation groups offering tour of habitat

(July 14, 2022) A consortium of conservation organizations and agencies is offering a tour on Monday, July 18, of its waterfowl habitat creation project in the coastal bays.

The product of a partnership between Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Maryland DNR, Maryland Coastal Bays Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project entails rafts that provide a safe nesting site for Common Terns, a species that have undergone serious declines due to sea level rise.

This was the first seabird nesting raft ever attempted in the Mid-Atlantic. Despite a slow start, a total of 20 nesting pairs by mid-summer has given hope to the team.

This event is limited to 30 attendees with limited seats remaining. Tickets are \$35. Register at [lowershorelandtrust.org/bird-conservation-series](https://www.lowershorelandtrust.org/bird-conservation-series).

On Tuesday, July 26, a free virtual presentation by leaders on bird conservation has been scheduled so residents and visitors can learn how birds are driving conservation funding and what more can be done.

With birding is a growing activity

here and around the word, the presentation will explore what this increasing interest means for bird conservation?

Serving on a panel about the economics of bird conservation are Sara Barker from Cornell Lab of Ornithology Center for Avian Population Studies, Jim Rapp, Community Conservation Consulting and Delmarva Birding Weekends and David Satterfield from Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Jared Parks from Lower Shore Land Trust will highlight how birds have the power to amplify conservation, stewardship and community outreach.

Register for free, or donate, at <https://www.lowershorelandtrust.org/bird-conservation-series>

Women’s Club of OP donates \$3K to 12 local organizations

(July 14, 2022) The Women’s Club of Ocean Pines awarded \$2,990 in community donations to 12 organizations for 2022.

Receiving donations were: 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program, Coastal Hospice, Delmarva Chorus, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Outreach, Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Stories Love Music, Town Cats, US Kennels, Women Supporting Women, Worcester County Veterans Memorial, and Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services.

Sponsorship of scholarships and community donations are achievable through a successful fundraising year by members.

The donations are limited to organizations that promote the welfare and interests of the residents of Ocean Pines.



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www.baysideoc.com

THU, JULY 14 6-10PM

BEACH BANDITS

FRI, JULY 15 6-10PM

KONO NATION

SAT, JULY 16 6-10PM

THE FUNSTERS

SUN, JULY 17 6-10PM

ROCKAHOLICS

THU, JULY 21 6-10PM

NELLY'S ECHO

FRI, JULY 22 6-10PM

MIKE HINES & THE LOOK

SAT, JULY 23 6-10PM

JADED LOVE

SUN, JULY 24 6-10PM

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Cuisine

Chicken, scallops with cauliflower puree

So, there's a lot going on here. As I prepare to fly out to Las Vegas for a competition (a career milestone should I prove successful), I go through my notes again and again. With only two more weeks left for preparation, I suddenly realize that it is time to get moving.



By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

I wake up nervous pretty much every day, and quite honestly cannot wait for this chapter to be over with. The prep on this project has been massive, and only time will tell what will happen. As my team and I just took over the food and beverage service at the OC Marlin Club, I have enough on my plate, but the gods don't care about timing. It's do or die time.

The competition is for the National Chef Educator of the Year award through the ACF (American Culinary Federation).

The prep work includes a multi-tabbed lesson plan and many practice rounds. Having completed about 60 percent of the plan, and trying to get the club up and running at the level of my restaurants, my head is swimming. But, God hates a coward so away I go.

The class that I decided to mimic is American Regional Cuisine, one of my favorites to teach. The region is none other than "Foods of the Chesapeake." It only seems natural. The lesson discusses various foods and cultures across the shore to our beautiful ocean.

Naturally I had to choose chicken, the ubiquitous protein represented by the local landscape speckled with chicken houses.

For a choice of a second protein, I went back and forth between oysters and scallops, the former being a bay shellfish and the latter being an ocean shellfish. I settled on scallops in order to represent the ocean, which plays a critical part in our ecosystem as it meets up with the Chesapeake.

All in all, I am quite pleased with the dish. There are a lot of components, and I know I'll catch grief from some readers on yet another too-tailed recipe. But that's alright.

It's a great dish and there are many little nuances and techniques you might learn going through it. And at the end of the day, isn't it all about perpetual learning?



Seared Airline Breast of Chicken

serves 2

1 ea. 2-3# Whole chicken
3 c. Brine (recipe follows)
Seasoning blend
Clarified butter, as needed

- Fabricate the chicken by removing the wishbone and then the breasts. Keep chilled while you make the preparations below.

- Reserve the other meat on the bird for other purposes. The carcass will be used to make a rich broth, which will then be reduced for the demi (see below).

- Place the breasts in a bowl and cover with the brine. Refrigerate for three hours.

- Remove from the brine and pat dry, setting aside (chilled) until ready for service.

- Season the breasts and heat the oil to just below smoking. Sear the breast and either turn the heat down to finish in the pan or place them in the oven to finish.

Cauliflower Puree

Makes about 1 1/2 quart

1/2 head cauliflower, core removed
1 1/2 c. Chicken stock
1 1/2 c. Heavy cream
Trimix, as needed

- Cut the cauliflower into small pieces, and place in a lidded sauce pan with stock and cream.

- Bring to a low boil, turn down and simmer, covered, for about 30 minutes, or until it is completely tender.

- Run a stick blender through the pan, or blend in a Vitamix until smooth.

- Season and keep warm until service.

Eastern Shore Greens

Serves 2

3 c. Fresh greens (kale, collards or Swiss chard)

Clarified butter, as needed

2 Tbsp. Good quality white wine

6 ea. Confit garlic cloves

Salt & Pepper, as needed

- Combine everything except for the garlic and bring up to a high heat.

- Cook quickly and once the greens are cooked but not olive drab, remove from heat and add the garlic cloves.

- Season and keep warm until service.

Scallops

serves 2

4 ea. Large U10 dry sea scallops, cleaned of side muscle

Salt & Pepper, to taste

Oil for pan searing

- Pat scallops dry and keep them chilled while preparing other food.

- Heat a pan and oil the pan.

- Sear the scallops until nice and golden brown before turning.

- Once you turn them, remove

from heat and allow the pan to finish the job.

Lemon Beurre Blanc

Makes about 1 1/2 quart

1/2 c. Dry white wine

1/4 c. Heavy cream (40% is ideal)

1/2c. Cold butter, cut into cubes

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Salt and pepper, as needed

- Reduce the wine by half and add the cream.

- Reduce this until it becomes thick and yellow.

- Remove from the heat, and add the butter chunks one at a time until it is incorporated.

- Once all the butter is incorporated, add the lemon juice and season to taste.

Garlic Confit

makes about 1 pt.

2 c. Fresh garlic cloves

Olive oil, to cover

- Cover the cloves with the oil and place on a low heat and let it go for hours, until soft. Do not let it fry, as that defeats the purpose.

- When tender, remove and cool. You now have garlic oil and tender, sweet cloves to use across the menu.

— Paul Suplee is the owner of boxcar40, boxcar on main, boxcar crafted events and sportfish catering.
www.boxcarrestaurants.com

Softball tourney descends on shore

Nearly 350 girls' teams travel to area for Eastern National Championships

(July 14, 2022) Over the next three weeks, nearly 350 girls softball teams will make their way to the lower Eastern Shore for the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Eastern National Championships.

The 2022 Eastern National competition marks the 16th year of the event on the shore.

Teams will travel from 14 states and Canada to compete in this year's championships.

The Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex in Salisbury provides the main fields of play for the tournament. Other fields tentatively scheduled for use in Wicomico County include East Wicomico Little League, Mason-Dixon Sports Complex and Winter-Place Park.

In Worcester County, games are scheduled at Showell Park and John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill.

In Ocean City, games will be played at Northside Park on 125th Street.

The Eastern National is divided into three tournament weeks:

Week 1: July 12-17 - 10U Open, 12U Open

Week 2: July 19-24 - 14U Open, 14U B

Week 3: July 25-30 - 16U Open, 18U Open, 18U B

Tournament games are open to the public with no admission fee charged.

Opening ceremonies were slated to take place on Tuesday for week one teams on the Caroline Street stage, located just off the Boardwalk downtown. The opening ceremonies for week two participants are scheduled for Tuesday, July 19 beginning 3:45 p.m.

Week three teams opted for an

extra game instead of an opening ceremony.

For more information on the Eastern National, visit www.WicoSports.org. In accordance with USSSA national guidelines, schedules will be released at the beginning of each tournament week, and will be posted to the USSSA website.

The tournament is a major economic driver for the area. This year's estimated economic impact is \$19 million.

The growth of the tournament is due in part to the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Sports Alliance (MAASA), a formal sports marketing partnership between Wicomico and Worcester counties and the Town of Ocean City.

MAASA was formed in 2014 to accommodate the growth of the Eastern National, which had expanded beyond Wicomico County's borders.

Friends of Pines Library sponsor annual book sale

Thousands to choose from in more than 30 categories

(July 14, 2022) The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library will sponsor its annual book sale at the Ocean Pines Library, July 22, 23 and 25.

This event is open to the public and is scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, July 19-21, 1-4 pm - Specials Room Sneak Preview. Features rare, signed, vintage, first edition, small press, collectibles, odd and special interest books and ephemera priced individually

- Friday, July 22, 6-8 p.m. - FOPL members only sale. Join FOPL for \$5 and get first access to this year's books on sale.

- Saturday, July 23, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - General sale with all books, audio and DVD's priced 50 cents to \$2.

- Monday, July 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - General sale continues with all books sold at half price, including the Specials Room.

This popular, annual book sale offers over 20,000 books that have been donated throughout the year by patrons, community members and businesses.

Books will be available in over 30 categories including fiction, non-fiction, biography, history, religion, art, music, science, animals, children's, cookbooks, gardening, home school education, foreign language, poetry, classics, science fiction, westerns, and many others.

There will also be a large selection of CDs, DVDs and audio books and special sets.

All book sales are cash or check only – no credit cards will be accepted. All monies go to benefit the Ocean Pines Library and its resources, programs and events.

The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library is a certified 501, c3 non-profit organization that exists solely to support the library.

MDH launches new loan products

Initiative meant to address issues caused by 'housing crunch' and affordability

(July 14, 2022) Amidst the worsening housing crunch and declining affordability, The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Mortgage Program has announced the launch of new loan products to provide more flexible options of down payment and closing cost assistance.

The Maryland Mortgage Program has been the state's flagship homeownership program for over 40 years, and, for the past three years, has averaged over \$1 billion in home loan reservations, helping about 4,000 Marylanders get into their dream home each year.

"In this challenging housing climate, when interest rates are increasing and affordable housing inventory

is low, the state of Maryland is always looking for innovative offerings to make homeownership affordable," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "Our Maryland Mortgage Program is nationally recognized for a diversified product line, and we are constantly evaluating new products that give Marylanders the best option for homeownership."

The Fiscal Year 2023 new products and enhancements include:

- Base down payment assistance will be increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

- SmartBuy, which offers student debt relief to homebuyers, will provide an extra down payment assistance option of a 4 percent loan.

SmartBuy borrowers can choose between \$6,000 or a 4 percent down payment and closing cost assistance loan in addition to student debt relief up to \$30,000.

- HomeStart is a new loan product

for borrowers with income below 50 percent AMI to assist them with a 6 percent down payment and closing cost assistance loan.

- HomeAbility, for homebuyers with disabilities, to provide increased funding and a flexible loan structure.

In addition to the newly launched loan products, the Maryland Mortgage Program offers a variety of mortgage products specifically tailored to make homeownership affordable and sustainable, including flexible government and conventional loans that come with various levels and forms of down payment and closing cost assistance and attractive interest rates for both first-time and repeat homebuyers, conventional refinancing and even student debt relief.

To learn more and find out more about these products, is right for you, visit mmp.maryland.gov and contact a participating lender.



OPEN HOUSES



July 14 - July 21

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Saturday, 11am-2pm	13400 Coastal Hwy. #404, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$254,900	PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday, 11am-1pm	11500 Coastal Hwy. #1701, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$644,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday, 10am-1pm	506 32nd St. #3, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$369,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday, 2-5pm	506 32nd St. #3, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$369,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday, 2-5pm	6226 Knoll Hill Dr., Berlin	4BR/4BA	Single Family	\$1,065,000	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday, 10am-1pm	6226 Knoll Hill Dr., Berlin	4BR/4BA	Single Family	\$1,065,000	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty

Puzzles

EXPANSION PACK

BY TOM MCCOY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Tom McCoy, of Wexford, Pa., recently defended his doctoral dissertation in cognitive science at Johns Hopkins University. The subject was how language is represented in artificial-intelligence systems and what that tells us about language in humans. This fall he'll begin a postdoc program at Princeton. This is Tom's 35th Times crossword; the first was in 2013. — W.S.

Seven clues in this puzzle relate to their answers in a manner for you to discover. Standard clues for these answers appear here in mixed order: Accounting total • Communicating (with) • Leg cramp • Peyton, to Eli Manning • Showing gratitude • Unlikely election winner • Where golfers practice short strokes

ACROSS
1 Host of the 1952 Winter Olympics
5 Not suited (for)
10 Beatles song with an exclamation mark in its title
14 Wild thing
19 Demeter's mother, in myth
20 Singer/songwriter Jones
21 Abbr. on a "works cited" list
22 Kemper of "The Office"
23 Direct path
25 Lot of land, say
26 Director Frank
27 Sea plea
28 Dole (out)
29 "Sheesh!"
32 Like some cheese ... or some movies
34 Toothsome
35 "Anything you suggest is fine"
36 Rathskeller decoration
38 Anthropologist's adjective
40 Small bits of dough
41 Color of the Owl and Pussycat's boat

44 Connecting words in logic
45 Baby's cry
48 _____ Mysteries (children's series starting with "The Absent Author")
49 Champing at the bit
50 Biologist E. O. Wilson's focus
51 "Alas!"
52 Wimple wearer
53 With 54-Across, commonly believed misconception
54 See 53-Across
56 Panache
57 Go for a spin
59 Symbol of Middle America
60 Emotionally disinvest oneself
61 _____ long-horned beetle
63 Something avoided during awkward situations
66 Firing offense?
67 Isolated hill
68 They're shared between partners, one hopes
69 Extremely mean
71 Theater employee
72 Into pieces
73 Fictional Mr. or real Dr.
75 Popular flooring wood
78 "Ready for _____ ... ?"

79 Once more
80 Fair part
81 Cocktail made with ginger beer
82 Command to a dog
83 Gets busy
84 Fish with a prehensile tail
87 Symbols of wave functions
88 One of the Furies of Greek myth
89 "Them's fightin' words!"
90 Quickly
93 Suggest, with "of"
94 Excoriate
97 "Oh, that's so nice of you to say!"
99 Disney+ competitor
100 Fool
103 Revise
104 Chill
105 Mad Hatter's social event
108 9 a.m. service
109 Command-Z, on a Mac
110 Falcon's home
111 Harness part
112 Fragrant compound
113 Space heater?
114 Back, in a way
115 Online crafts market

3 "Enough dillydallying!"
4 Kind of milk
5 Like some expectations
6 Nick of "48 Hrs."
7 The yolk's on them
8 _____ Malcolm, Jeff Goldblum's role in "Jurassic Park"
9 Alternative to this and that
10 Enters
11 "And so on and so forth"
12 Big Bird?
13 Ordinary citizen
14 Looks good on
15 Overjoys
16 A as in Agamemnon
17 Fathers
18 Lachrymose
24 Resident of a Mideast sultanate
30 Thin thoroughfare
31 Melon parts
33 Brand that comes in short sleeves
36 Go across
37 Nobelist Desmond
39 Syntactician's drawing
40 Transitioning phrase
42 Approach
43 Flits here and there
44 Shenanigan
45 Question to someone who looks impossibly young

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19				20					21				22					
23			24						25				26					
27				28				29	30				31					
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97							98					99				100	101	102
103							104			105	106					107		
108							109			110						111		
112							113			114						115		

46 Broseph
47 Animal aptly found in "feather one's nest"
50 Vibe
51 Give a heads-up
53 The _____ things in life
54 Principle
55 Doesn't keep
56 Chemist's container
58 Is really down on
59 Really come down
61 Neighbors

62 Food often served with gari (pickled ginger)
64 Backs of necks
65 Frustrating device in an arcade
70 Hurting
73 Kind
74 Dressage for a horseback rider?
76 Plus
77 Perceptive, as an eye
79 Getting top marks on
80 Betray

81 Woolgatherer?
83 Into pieces
84 Cacophony
85 Mild expletive
86 Ask for money, informally
87 Pioneer of the Minneapolis sound
88 Poet Gorman who wrote "The Hill We Climb"
90 Banded rock
91 Keeps a watch on?
92 Stave off

93 Quaint contraction
95 Unusual object
96 Last name of the Boxcar Children, in children's literature
98 Consequently
101 Big name in elevators
102 Manhattan address abbr.
106 Part of a giggle
107 "Sweet Dreams (____ Made of This)" (Eurythmics hit)

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 34

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

AGH gets grant for SAFE program

Foundation shows support for hospital's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner initiative

(July 14, 2022) Atlantic General Hospital recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to support its Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program.

Atlantic General's certified SAFE nurses assist victims of sexual assault by providing an initial sexual assault exam, along with helping to facilitate follow-up care as needed.

These SAFE nurses are also the point of contact when other colleagues "red flag" a patient they are concerned may be an abuse victim.

SAFE nurses consistently attend special trainings and meetings to maintain their high level of competency within their field, and to better coordinate care within the community. While sexual assault is the primary focus of the program, the SAFE



Atlantic General Hospital recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to support its Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program. Pictured, from left, are Andi West-McCabe, director of emergency services; SAFE Nurse Sarah Esh, RN, FNE A/P; SAFE Nurse Nettie Widgeon, BSN, RN, FNE A/P; Erica Joseph, president, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

nurses are also trained to collect evidence and photo documentation for elder and domestic abuse victims.

The grant provided by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

will supply Atlantic General with the resources needed to train more SAFE certified nurses who play a vital role in the health and well-being of those who have been victims of abuse.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Lower Shore CASA offering training for volunteer advocates

Free, online courses begin Aug. 1 for adults over 21

(July 14, 2022) The Lower Shore CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program, which serves children in the child welfare system in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, is offering free training beginning Aug. 1 for volunteer advocates.

The format is self-paced online learning supplemented with virtual training sessions.

According to Lower Shore CASA Director Jerrona Smith, the only qualifications to be a volunteer advocate are to have a desire to serve children in need and be 21 years of age.

"The recent expansion of Lower Shore CASA gives us the opportunity to serve many more abused and neglected children," Smith said. "To make sure they end up in a safe and permanent home, we need caring volunteers to advocate for them."

A CASA volunteer is a caring adult appointed by the court to get to know the child and advocate for his or her best interests.

This volunteer offers another perspective to that of the professionals helping the child, such as a social worker, attorney or therapist.

Before Lower Shore CASA expanded into Somerset and Wicomico counties effective July 1, each year approximately 45 CASAs advocated for approximately 65 vulnerable children in Worcester County alone.

To learn more about how to make a difference in the lives of children who have been removed from homes for their own safety and to apply to become a volunteer, visit Lower-ShoreCASA.org or call 443-782-3585.

Deadline July 22 to provide input

Worcester completes 2022 draft of Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

(July 14, 2022) Worcester County Environmental Programs (WCEP), in collaboration with Worcester County Recreation and Parks, has completed a draft of the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) and is seeking public input.

Worcester County Government strives to provide citizens with quality parks and facilities, as well as a variety of recreation programs for all ages, including after school activities,

adult recreation, fitness and aquatics, summer camps, and special events. The LPPRP was last updated in 2017.

The LPPRP acts as a countywide master plan for land preservation, park acquisition and facility development. It also serves as a guide for land conservation and parks and recreation planning, park development, program improvements, and related decision-making in Worcester County.

"An important aspect of the plan is evaluation of demand for parks and recreational facilities, WCEP Planner V Katherine Munson said. "As part of the plan development process the

county conducted an online citizen survey and hosted two listening sessions to receive citizen comments. The results of this outreach are presented in the plan, and citizen feedback is also incorporated into the plan."

Before the county formally adopts the 2022 LPPRP, the public is invited to review and comment on the draft plan during a 60-day review period from May 24 to July 22. Comments may be e-mailed to kmunson@co.worcester.md.us.

A public hearing will be scheduled to take place after the review period closes, at which time comments from the public will also be received.

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County seeking nominations for Volunteer Spirit Awards

(July, 14 2022) To honor volunteers whose contributions help improve the quality of life locally, Worcester County residents are invited to nominate individuals, organizations and businesses for the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards.

The nomination period is open July 1 to Sept. 2, at 11:59 p.m.

“As we continue to serve our community during this pandemic, there are many outstanding residents, groups, faith-based, businesses and nonprofits who are still working tirelessly to support the many needs in Worcester County,” Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley said. “We have grown stronger and more resilient thanks to the efforts of those who continue to come together to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. We want to honor this exceptional display of selflessness over the past year.”

Volunteer Spirit nominations will be accepted for each of the following eight categories: individual, group/team, emerging leader, faith-based, nonprofit volunteer program, local business, veteran, and lifetime achievement.

Nominees should reside in and represent the volunteer spirit of Worcester County.

Nomination forms are found online at www.worcestervolunteer.org. Once there, click on “News.” Nomination forms will also be available at the Human Resources Office, Room 1301, in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Brinkley at 410-632-0090 or kbrinkley@co.worcester.md.us.

To highlight the outstanding services of the volunteers, the Worcester County Commissioners will be presenting award winners at the Oct. 18 meeting.

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

Calendar

Thurs., July 14

COASTAL HABITATS
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Learn all about coastal habitat and meet some unique creatures in our area. Presented by the Chincoteague Bay Field Station. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT JOB FAIR
Worcester County Human Resources, 1 W. Market St., Third Floor Training Room, Snow Hill, noon to 3 p.m. Meet with professionals from Human Resources and other departments to discuss career options. Computers will be available for submitting applications on-site. <https://worcesterhr.co.worcester.md.us/>.

COASTAL HABITATS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn all about coastal habitat and meet some unique creatures in our area. Presented by the Chincoteague Bay Field Station.

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

FAMILY BEACH GAMES
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Free event. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Weather permitting. 410-250-0125, www.oceancitymd.gov.

CONCERT IN THE PARK
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 7 p.m. Featuring “Live and Dangerous.” Free and open to the public. Pack a picnic and lawn chair. Downtown-Pocomoke.com, Instagram: @pocomoke_downtown, Facebook: City of Pocomoke.

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring Teenage Rust (classic rock). Admission is free, while beverages including beer, are available for purchase. Bring seating. OCDC, 410-289-7739, www.ocdc.org

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

Fri., July 15

BEACH MOVIE & YARD GAMES
27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8 p.m. Featuring “Clifford the Big Red Dog.” Also, entertainment and yard games like corn hole, ladder ball, spike ball, large connect four and more. Weather permitting. 410-250-0125, www.oceancitymd.gov

Sat., July 16

FREE KIDS CRAFTS AT THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
Saturdays through Sept. 3 - Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th Street, 11 a.m. Each week provides a different project to complete. www.artleagueofoceancity.org

ART HANSEN MEMORIAL YOUTH FISHING CONTEST
South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9-10:30 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Continued on Page 27

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Calendar

Continued from Page 26
Bring own fishing rod and reel. Bait is provided. For ages 4-16 years. Trophies awarded. Free event. All registrants will receive a prize. John McFalls, 610-505-1697

WALK WITH A DOC
Atlantic Hotel, 2 S. Main St., Berlin, 9 a.m. G.W. Smith, PA-C will be leading the walk. Alyce Marzola, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9268

CRAFTY SATURDAY: HOMES FOR OCEAN FRIENDS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Using recycled materials, make some crafts to represent the homes our ocean friends live in. Be prepared to get messy. For c children ages 4 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

10TH ANNUAL OCEAN GAMES: RACING FOR BRAIN TRAUMA AWARENESS
Caroline St. and beach, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m. Featuring 3- and 9-mile open water swims. Nine-mile starts at 10 a.m. at Caroline Street or 146th Street. Three-mile starts at noon at 94th Street or 46th Street. www.oceangamesus.org

TABLE TOP GAMES
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop by to enjoy Scrabble, I Spy, Battleship and more. Bring a favorite game or grab one from the library’s collection. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OCEAN TRIVIA
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop in to test your knowledge of the ocean. Take our self-guided quiz to learn new facts and earn a prize. For ages 6 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories, cool props and live animals from Assateague Island National Seashore. A different adventure each week. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BOOK SIGNING WITH ROBERT CRAIG
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 3 p.m. Craig is the son and namesake of Captain Robert S. Craig, who headed the Ocean City Beach Patrol from 1946-1987. The younger Craig served from 1960-1965 and his son served in 1999.

CHICKEN BARBEQUE DINNER
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 5 p.m. Sides: baked beans, green beans,

Mac-n-cheese, oven potatoes, salad, roll and drink. Indoor dining and take-out. Baked goods available. Pre-orders recommended: bethany21811@gmail.com, 410-641-2186.

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

FREE PLATFORM TENNIS LESSONS
Saturdays - Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 9:30 a.m. All abilities welcome and equipment will be provided. oppad-dle2020@gmail.com or 516-508-0313.

Sun., July 17

STARPOWER NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m. World championship competition for dancers who qualified at regionals held across the U.S. Schedule: www.starpowertalent.com. 301-870-9550, info@starpowertalent.com.

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL CAPTAIN ARBIN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
Meet on the inlet beach at the Rock Jetty at 9:30 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the celebration moves to the Lifesaving Station Museum, where a display of Captain Arbin’s 50 years is featured.

SUNDAES IN THE PARK & FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Music by The Stickers “County Rock.” Free activities and entertainment for kids. Ice cream available for purchase. Bring picnic and beach chairs. Fireworks may or may not occur. 410-250-0125

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

FREE TOURS AT THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
Sundays through Sept. 3 - Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th Street, 1 p.m. Learn about exhibiting artists as well as the programs and activities at the Art League. www.artleagueofoceancity.org

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET
Sundays - Main St., Pitt St., Commerce St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Live music. TheBerlinFarmersMarket.com

Mon., July 18

STARPOWER NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m. World championship competition

for dancers who qualified at regionals held across the U.S. Schedule: www.starpowertalent.com. 301-870-9550, info@starpowertalent.com.

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

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Take a break from the heat and catch a recent movie you might have missed in theaters. Free movie. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4-6 p.m. The event will give those who quality the opportunity to expunge their criminal record in the state of Maryland with the assistance of an attorney. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 443-783-6164

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

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY
Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Grab your beach chair, blanket and friends and head downtown for an evening of interactive entertainment. Featuring BK & Chrissy “Radio Ocean City.” 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326

BEACH MOVIE & YARD GAMES
27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 8 p.m. Featuring “PAW Patrol: The Movie.” Also, entertainment and yard games like corn hole, ladder ball, spike ball, large connect four and more. Weather permitting. Free. 410-250-0125, www.oceancitymd.gov

DRONE SHOW ON THE BEACH
Downtown Ocean City beach, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., 9:30 p.m. Come experience Ocean City’s drone show located downtown on the beach on Monday evenings. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326

DELMARVA WOMEN’S A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

VOICES OF THE COASTAL BAYS
Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S.

Atlantic Ave., 5:30 p.m. This program is a fisheries heritage project featuring historic archived photographs and quotes from fishermen of past and present. A Smart Seafood Guide will be available. cjoseph@mdcoastalbay.org

Tues., July 19

STARPOWER NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m. World championship competition for dancers who qualified at regionals held across the U.S. Schedule: www.starpowertalent.com. 301-870-9550, info@starpowertalent.com

OUTDOOR WATER GAMES
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Water games in the library’s back yard. Bring a towel. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ANNUAL BOOK SALE SNEAK PREVIEW
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m. Specials Room Sneak Preview. The special room features rare, signed, vintage, 1st edition, small press, collectibles, odd and special interest books and ephemera. www.worcesterlibrary.org

SALTY SPECIES WITH THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
Discover the native creatures hidden below sea level off the coast of Maryland, 2 p.m. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

LIVE MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY!: THE FOLK VILLAINS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Folk music played by the 2021 Best Youth Band of the Berlin Fiddlers Convention. Also an introduction of some cool folk/bluegrass instruments. www.worcesterlibrary.org

PARKINSON’S SUPPORT GROUP
The Macky & Pam Stansell House Coastal Hospice, 1500 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 3:15-4 p.m. Discussions, mutual support, education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Reserve: Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org.

OC KNITTING CLUB
Tuesdays - Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.

SENSORY STORY TIME
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Stories and song for children ages 3-7 years who have multi-sensory needs or

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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

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Classifieds 410-723-6397

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Ocean City Florist now hiring
PT Floral Designer.
2-3 days a week. Experience necessary. Call 410-250-1636 or apply within.

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PT Delivery Driver. GPS knowledge a plus. Company vehicle provided. Clean driving record required.
410-250-1636

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WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Worcester Preparatory School is located in beautiful Berlin, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The school is an independent, coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK-12. We are seeking an experienced and motivated **Upper School English Teacher** for the 2022-2023 school year.

This vibrant individual will have a strong education background and be capable of teaching the highest levels of high school English. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in English, successful classroom experience, and the ability to participate in other areas of school life are requirements for this position. Advanced Placement experience and advanced degree would be desirable.

Interested candidates should mail or email resume with cover letter to: **Linda Watson, Director of Human Resources,**
508 South Main Street, Berlin, MD 21811 or lwatson@worcesterprep.org

WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL seeks an experienced

FULL-TIME MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

This position reports to the Head of Middle School.

Candidates for this position should possess a BS degree in Mathematics, with the demonstrated ability to teach Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry at the above referenced level. Previous experience teaching middle school students is desirable. State certification is not required. Candidates with the experience and interest to coach are desirable.

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Berlin, just fifteen minutes from the Ocean City beaches, Worcester Preparatory School is a co-ed independent day school of over 500 students in grades pre-K - 12. The school has comprehensive facilities on a 45-acre campus just a mile from the vibrant town center in Berlin. Governed by an independent board of trustees, WPS was founded in 1970 and enjoyed rapid growth in the decades that followed. It is the premier independent school on the Eastern Shore, drawing students from Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware, some traveling over an hour to reach campus. All graduates matriculate to four-year colleges or universities, many among the most selective in the nation.

WPS strives to keep its curriculum relevant to the dynamic world of the 21st Century, while remaining true to its values as a traditional college prep school. WPS is accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS) and an NAIS member.

In the spirit of "bricks & mortar do not a school make", WPS's greatest strength is the tremendous passion the educators, students, parents, friends and trustees have for the school. It is a wonderful school and community in which to work and a great opportunity for new faculty.

Worcester Preparatory School is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

Compensation and benefits are competitive with other area private schools and are adjusted based on experience level and credentials.

Interested persons should send a letter of interest, employment application, resume, and educational philosophy (if available) to **Linda Watson, Director of Human Resources,** at lwatson@worcesterprep.org.

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Apply: Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a confidential Town of Berlin application for employment, a resume, and three professional references to the Town's Human Resources Director at kjensen@berlinmd.gov. Applications can be found at www.berlinmd.gov or can be picked up at 10 William Street Berlin, MD 21811 or by calling 410-641-2770. EOE/M/F/V/D.



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Calendar

Continued from Page 27
who are on the autism spectrum.
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FAMILY BEACH GAMES
27th Street Beach, Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. Games include sand castle contests, tug-of-war, relays and more. Free event. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Weather permitting. 410-250-0125, www.oceancitymd.gov

QUARTER AUCTION
Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal, 10001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include one paddle. Additional paddles cost \$2 each or three for \$5. Food also available for purchase. Tickets: Jackie, 443-735-4275.

DELMARVA DANCING
Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s, '60s, '70s and more. A \$5 donation benefits Veterans and local charities. All are welcome. Charlie, 410-465-0445

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY
Tuesdays - Worcester County Berlin Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, 3:30-4:30 p.m. A weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. Use the south side door and knock hard. Patty Lockett, 410-289-4725

Wed., July 20

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meet the third and fourth Wednesday of each month for surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatrics Center, 410-641-9568.

STARPOWER NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m. World championship competition for dancers who qualified at regionals held across the U.S. Schedule: www.starpowertalent.com. 301-870-9550, info@starpowertalent.com.

STORY TIME ON THE BEACH
Caroline St. and beach, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11:30 a.m. Sun, sand and stories with the Ocean City Beach Patrol. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Beach Patrol's

headquarters on Tabot Street.
www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ANNUAL BOOK SALE SNEAK PREVIEW
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m. Specials Room Sneak Preview. The specials room features rare, signed, vintage, 1st edition, small press, collectibles, odd and special interest books and ephemera. www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, bgline@atlanticgeneral.org.

FARM TO LIBRARY: COOKING DEMONSTRATION
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4-6 p.m. Health eating cooking demonstration and sam-

ples, featuring in-season ingredients. Also free health screenings and general health education. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

SEA GLASS ART
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. The C Glass Sisters will teach on how to make a sea turtle. All supplies included. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

BEACH MOVIE & YARD GAMES
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 p.m. Featuring "Sing 2." Also, entertainment and yard games like corn hole, ladder ball, spike ball, large connect four and more. Weather permitting. Free event. 410-250-0125, www.oceancitymd.gov

ONGOING EVENTS

SHEPHERD'S CROOK BEGINS NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE IN JULY
Beginning in July and continuing through Labor Day, Shepherd's Crook will be closed on Saturdays. The food pantry will be open every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon.

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