



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE LANDIS SR.

Zoning code change aids silo project

Burley Oak Brewery says it will reduce delivery traffic

By Gee Williams
Contributing Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The construction of a grain silo at the Burley Oak Brewery took another step forward last Wednesday when the Berlin Planning Commission approved a zoning code amendment to allow that use in the brewery's B-2 Shopping District on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

By a vote of 6-1 the planning commission approval enables Bryan Brushmiller, the brewery's owner, to seek site plan approval for a proposed grain silo on the site.

Site plan approval is determined by the planning commission. The approved code amendment allows for a special exception to the town code for a grain silo to be used as a part of a brewery operation, but at no taller than 35-feet in height.

Representing the brewery at the planning commission were attorney
See SILO Page 5

TOYS AND COATS

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City has been collecting toys and coats each Wednesday in November for those in need. The final day to donate is Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. until noon. Drop off toys and coats to Kiwanis members at the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot. See article on page 19.

Skate park unnamed for now, board says

Directors say they're being threatened during debate of memorial for Knupp

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors is pointing to the "temperature" in the community as to why it will not consider renaming the local skate park in memory of 14-year-old Gavin Knupp at this time.

There were no fireworks at the regular board meeting on Saturday,

where Doug Parks gave that explanation at the beginning of the meeting in a prepared statement. But plenty of association members were present to voice either support or opposition to the decision.

Just days before the meeting, the association officials announced that residential identification cards would be required to attend the meeting, a move made in anticipation of non-Pines residents attempting to crash it.

Instead, the mostly full room was slightly tense at times, but never out of order. A handful of picketers, who

See 'TEMPERATURE' Page 6



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin youth Corbin Hartman, foreground, skates at the Ocean Pines Skate Park. Hartman, who said Gavin Knupp was "my best friend," is one of many who'd like to see the park renamed for him.



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OP Golf Committee Briefs

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Ocean Pines Golf Committee discussed several items during its Thursday meeting.

Sand Dawgs

The committee heard an update from the progress of the Sand Dawgs, a group of golfers who regularly assist with golf course maintenance, committee chair Frank Brown said. Each member is assigned a hole on the course and tends to it. The committee is starting to consider the annual Spring Clean Up, which typically occurs around the beginning of April, to prepare the course for the next summer season.

Course update

Director of Golf Maintenance Justin Hartshorne updated the committee on the state of the course, which he said was in very good shape. Brown said he agreed with the assessment and that dead tree removal is scheduled for this winter.

"There are areas where some sod is needed," Brown said. "We redid the golf cart path along (hole) 18. Some of the area along the new cart path needed to be sodden, which we will do."

New pro

A discussion with the new golf professional for the course, Bob Beckelman, centered on new inventory to be delivered to the pro shop, which should be in the works shortly. Smith said there will be an after-Thanksgiving pro shop sale where they'll encourage patrons to buy gear for the upcoming holidays.

Programs, practice

Smith said that there will be new programs and lessons in the spring. He also mentioned two practice areas — one new and the resurrection of an old one that existed years ago at the far end of the driving range.

"We're just setting up a good relationship between the committee and members of the club," Brown said.

"We're really happy about that."

Donations and awards

Members council president Bill Bevis updated the committee on scholarships and other awards. The club gave away \$10,500, mostly from funds raised from the Taylor Bank Tournament and individual sponsors.

"He also mentioned we had a Toys for Tots campaign, sponsored by the (US) Marine (Corps)," Brown said. "We got 75 brand-new toys for the campaign."

The club also sponsored a summer "gold" camp with \$1,000 put toward the camp intended to help youths who couldn't quite afford the camp and buy equipment, Brown said.

New Term

Both the Ocean Pines Men and Women associations talked about the new-term schedule that will be set up soon. Women's Association President Ann Shockley said her group is pleased to have more participation this year than in the past and hopes to have even more as the club continues to advertise more.

Communications

Committee member Bob Long talked about some items he's been concerned with concerning communications. Beckelman favors increasing communications between the various groups of the golf club, which will help get messages out to association members, Brown said.

Membership

The advisory committee supports the idea of more varied types of membership, Brown said. The committee talked to Beckelman about promoting the idea of other kinds of memberships. Not just "yes or no" membership, Brown said, but also afternoon, 30-round, junior, family, and many other types of memberships that the club doesn't currently offer, intending to promote the club and get more people involved.



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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Pines GM report covers hires, OPVFD funding, survey results

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola gave the following updates in his monthly GM report on Saturday:

Fire workgroup

The work group headed by Viola and members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department are going over proposals for fundraisers to either renovate or replace the South Station firehouse. Viola asked and received an extended window to look everything over.

The group issued requests for proposals in September to several firms and individuals. They received the proposals in October.

"We need a little more time to evaluate," Viola said. "This is not a show stopper — it's really a good thing. We heard some good things at the end and we just need a little more time (to look through it)."

Viola asked for 30 more days but said he didn't think it'd necessarily take that long.

Surveys

Participation numbers are in several committee surveys including golf (191 responses), racquet sports (229 responses), recreation and parks (300 responses) and aquatics (259

responses).

Golf garnered the highest satisfaction rating at 4.03 out of 5, followed by recreation and parks (3.99 out of 5), aquatics (3.76 out of 5) and racquet sports (3.25 out of 5).

Hiring

Viola mentioned multiple open positions within the association including two police recruits, teenage lifeguards to go along with the two lifeguards and swim instructors that were recently hired, and one part-time and three full-time positions at the Public Works Department.

"Aquatics, lifeguards, it's a national situation and I hope it turns around in the next year," Viola said.

Viola also mentioned that the increased salaries and take-home squad cars have been a help for the police department.

North Gate Bridge

Last month, Viola talks about raised flower boxes and having the old guard shack taken down. The shack is gone now and the boxes are underway. The total cost of the project is less than \$5,000 and should finish next month. It'll require seasonal upkeep.

"We've done some good stuff," Viola said

The outside wall trim will probably be completed in the spring for a price likely between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The Northside Pond foundation project is going to the Budget and Finance Committee, but Viola is estimating it'll cost around \$8,000 and could be done by the spring.

Roads

Three miles of roadway were either just paved or will be soon, including Barnacle Court, Beach Court, Birdnest Drive, Fosse Grange, Garrett Drive, Ivanhoe Court, Liberty Bell Court, Little John Court, Moonshell Drive, Rabbit Run Lane, Surfers Way, Watergreen Lane and Willow Way.

The paving began on Nov. 17 estimated to complete in the next couple of weeks and was for about

See GM Page 7



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Silo at brewery could reduce delivery traffic

Continued from Page 1
Mark Cropper and Adam Davis, chief of Burley Oak operations.

Davis told Berlin Planning Commission members that currently the brewery receives about 19 to 20 pallets of wheat grain by truck weekly. Davis said that with a silo, grain deliveries would be reduced to about 12 times a year and only during normal business hours.

The brewery chief of operations also said the grain silo deliveries would be a safer for workers than the current arrangement.

“There would be less potential for injuries to workers, a decrease in recycling demand and fewer truck deliveries of grain,” Davis said. “He added that advantages in having a silo would be less on-site brewery visibility, noise and odor and less cost of goods for the brewery.”

Newt Chandler, a planning commission member, asked if only dry grain would be delivered, to which Davis said yes. Chandler then asked if any gas or motors would be on the site to operate the grain silo.

Davis responded that only an electric motor inside the brewery would be needed to move grain from the silo to the back-house location of the beer brewing operations.

Davis explained that there were two options for the location of the grain silo. One would be in the back corner of the brewery property and the second was in the front part of the main building.

Cosby said he would, “prefer to see something more aesthetic proposed for the silo.”

He noted the brewery should be able to put its name on the silo, but not in neon lights.

Town attorney David Gaskill explained that if the later site approval is passed, then the planning commission, “will have the say on any signage on the site.”

Gaskill said a grain silo is not a permitted use anywhere in the town and the text amendment before the planning commission was necessary before the project could be approved.

He explained that the next steps in the town approval process was for the brewery to receive a special exception for a conditional use on the property.

Gaskill also said the very large and tall Perdue Farms grain storage elevators that have been nearby in the same neighborhood for the past several decades are, “about to go.”

The grain storage property was recently sold to Carmella Solito and her husband, owners of the nearby Berlin Activities Depot.

Chandler said he is concerned with the industrial look of the proposed grain silo. The silo being proposed for the brewery is planned to be 31.5 feet tall, or 3.5 feet under the height limit.

A discussion then ensued about what would be the proper dimensions



A zoning code amendment was approved by the Berlin Planning Commission on Nov. 16, a significant step forward for the owner of Burley Oak Brewery, which is planning to construct a grain silo on the grounds.

of the grain silo in that location. Some members said a shorter and wider silo should be considered while others were fine with the proposed
See ZONING Page 7

Town of Berlin Public Notice



NOTICE of a Public Hearing of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin, MD

Pursuant to the Code of the town of Berlin, MD Section 108-215, “Procedure for Change”,

The Berlin Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing during its meeting to be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Mayor and Council Chambers, second floor, of the Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD to consider Ordinance No. 2022-08, a Text Amendment requested by the Burley Oak Brewing Company to Section 108-163(b)(8) of the Town Code.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

“In the B-2 Shopping District or B-3 General Business District a Special Exception to allow a grain silo to be utilized as part of a brewery operation, but not exceeding thirty-five (35) feet in height”.

The Berlin Planning Commission passed a motion to recommend the Text Amendment by a 6-1 affirmative vote to the Berlin Mayor and Council at its most recent meeting held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

David H. Engelhart
Planning Director
Town of Berlin, MD
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‘Temperature’ ends skate park naming talks

Continued from Page 1
were not outside before the meeting, were spotted toward the end of it. They left before the actual meeting ended.

“Regardless of how some people feel about the matter, major decisions affecting the association must include consideration for how the overall community will be affected, rather than a subset of the membership,” Parks stated at the beginning of the meeting.

He also added that residents have reached out to specifically oppose the renaming.

The other deciding factor he listed was the “business contractual relationship” the association has with the Matt Ortt Companies. There is no consideration for changing that relationship or the end date of the contract, Parks said, though he did not expand on that comment.

Those who have followed the mostly one-sided online dialog revolving around the fallout from the hit-and-run crash that took the 14-year-old Knupp’s life — especially in the “Do it for Gavin - Justice For Gavin” Facebook group — may be surprised to learn that there is opposition to the bid to rename the park, but more than a couple residents showed up to oppose it and further



Ocean Pines resident Kim Gorsuch addresses the OPA directors at the regular board meeting on Saturday in support of renaming the skate park in honor of Gavin Knupp. She implored the directors to recognize the opposition to renaming it but to “do it anyway.”

scold the actions of some supporters.

“There’s not one single person that I know who doesn’t want justice for Gavin,” said resident Mark Thomas. “That said, there are a few people in every group that are bad. I’m all for people supporting (this cause) but when you become angry and attack people, that’s wrong to me.”

Thomas went on to defend MOC owner Matt Ortt, saying he “made a mistake and apologized.”

“If it’s good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for me,” Thomas said.

On the other hand, some residents lambasted the identification requirement, the legality of which many in the community have questioned.

“Under Maryland law, you did not have the right to ask for that. We’ll have a discussion about it,” said resident and former director Josette Wheatley. “We lost a very important part of our community — a child ... The fact is our children look at us as leaders. We are here to (lift) each other up as a community so our children can end up as good people in our society.

“Renaming a (skate) park is nothing, truly nothing.”

Another resident characterized those boycotting Matt Ortt-led amenities as “this group of bullies.”

“It’s ludicrous,” resident Steve Ransdell said. “Many people in the Pines and people out of state are trying to tell us how to run our business.”

“It’s like lunch money with a bully. If you give it to him one day what does he do the next? He comes back. I do recognize and sympathize wholeheartedly with the loss of a child but you don’t get what you want by de-

manding, threatening, bullying, cursing, doxxing and stalking people who (want to) wait for the evidence (to materialize).”

Resident Kathy Vail acknowledged the opposition to the skate park but said that it shouldn’t stop the directors from doing the right thing.

“(Renaming this park) will help our children. I hear you want to take your time and there’s a party on both sides,” she said. “As leaders, your responsibility is to do what’s morally right. You’ll always have people disagree with what you say. At this point, the community and membership are asking you to stand up and name something — if they can name a whole Ben’s Red Swings in Salisbury, we can name an existing skate park the ‘Gavin Knupp Skate Park,’ OK? You will continue to have people disagree and I’m asking you to take your leadership, understand some won’t agree, and do it anyway.”

After residents spoke, the directors responded.

Director Colette Horn recalled her shock when she learned that the meeting with Gavin’s mother, Tiffany, apparently did not go the way she thought it did.

See DIRECTORS Page 7

FORMER BERLIN MAYOR RELEASES NEW BOOK

A new book has been published about Berlin’s transformation into a successful destination community. It is written by Berlin’s former Mayor Gee Williams. The book titled, *Turn Your Town Around*, will be released in downtown Berlin on ‘Shop Local Saturday’ November 26th at The Greyhound An Indie Bookstore, at 9 South Main Street. Author Gee Williams will sign copies of this new book from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don’t miss this opportunity to buy a signed copy of the book as a holiday gift or for your enjoyment.

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GM report updates drainage

Continued from Page 4

\$363,000.

Ocean Pines' contractor Miles Moffit is painting arrows, crosswalks and stop bars right now at a cost of less than \$5,000. It should finish in the next two or three weeks.

Drainage

Several secondary pipes are either completed or will be soon: Water's Edge Pipe was completed in September at \$8,850, the clubhouse pipe was completed in October at the same cost, Sandyhook and Pinehurst

pipes were completed for \$12,236 and the Birdsnest pipe, estimated at \$15,000, will be completed late fall or early winter. The Beaconhill pipe, which should cost \$13,676, is in progress with the concrete completed and the blacktop scheduled to be completed next week.

Racquet Sports

Over at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, a flagpole with lights was installed in September for \$2,500 and HVAC upgrades were completed last week for \$6,500.

Directors allegedly threatened

Continued from Page 6

"I have to say I was gobsmacked when someone sent me a social media posting in which I was told to kindly — pardon my French it's not my French it's Mrs. Knupp's French — shove this award up my ass," Horn said.

Director Stuart Lakernick pointed out that the home addresses and phone numbers of the directors and General Manager John Viola were taken offline after threats were allegedly made.

"We're volunteers, folks," Lakernick said. "We're you. How would you like it?"

Director Monica Rakowski said the anger voiced inside and outside of

the community has led to members asking if the amenities were even safe to attend, which garnered some laughter from some in the crowd.

Parks minced no words in saying what he thinks Tiffany Knupp should have done after she rejected the association's offer of a yearly award in Gavin's honor instead of the skate park.

"She could have come back directly to (us) and said 'thanks but no thanks,'" Parks said. "She didn't even have to be polite. But we find out on social media — not only (did she think) it was a bad idea but there were some things in there that weren't appropriate."

Zoning allows for silo project

Continued from Page 5

height and width.

Cosby said he preferred that the grain silo have a wood exterior. Commission member Ron Cascio said his biggest concern was with any sign on the silo.

Chandler added, "I am concerned with the industrial appearance of the proposed grain site to which Cosby responded that, "the warehouse look has become industrial chic in recent years," in recent years.

Brewery attorney Cropper exexplained that the dimensions of the silo were not at issue in the planning

commission meeting, just the wording of the proposed text amendment.

Cropper said there would be two more chances for the public to express opinions on the proposed silo after the planning commission meeting. One will be when the project goes before the Berlin Zoning Appeals Board and the other will be when it goes before the mayor and council at their Dec. 12 meeting.

The planning commission then approved the proposed text amendment by a vote of 6-1, with commission member Chandler voting against it.

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OPA supports pedestrian and biking access in community

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Saturday agreed to submit a letter of endorsement in support of the efforts by the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition with the Route 90 expansion project.

The letter would go to the Maryland State Highway Administration as well as state and local representatives.

Coalition chair Patti Stevens gave a presentation to the directors that broke down what the group would like to see done and where Ocean Pines stands currently in its access to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Stevens said that the focus of the project is to create safe places to walk and bike, thus increasing Ocean Pines' walkability rating, which currently stands at "car-dependent."

She added, there's a "dearth of separated trails" in the area.

"We're trying to think about big-picture connections that will enhance likability and walkability," Stevens said.

"Almost all errands require a car (in Ocean Pines)."

She also said that the AARP has the Pines community livability score at just 50 out of 100.

There are positive impacts for more places to walk and bike safely, including a "tremendous" economic impact, which has been seen elsewhere in the county, Stevens said.

Director Steve Jacobs asked her if other nearby communities are "aggressively moving on this," prompting Stevens to reply that they are and held up the South Point Association as an example.

"We have to put money aside (for this)," Stevens said. "I'm not talking huge millions of dollars. (Certain firms) can come in, with access, and do this now."

There should be state and federal funds available, she added.

Another example Stevens gave was

a grant that the county just received to install a separate trail along Route 611 between Route 50 and Assateague Island.

OPA President Doug Parks threw his support behind the idea later in the meeting, when the board voted on the letter.

"I think it's important that we as the Ocean Pines Association reach out to all of the folks involved in that project," he said. "We want to make sure they know we're interested in the proceedings, the project and moving forward."

Parks suggested that the board send SHA a list of what it wants — especially widening the Route 90 underpass, which doesn't have enough clearance to allow for fire trucks. Furthermore, a shared-use path alongside Route 90 would be useless to the community if there was no way for bicyclists and pedestrians to get "up onto there" from Ocean Parkway.


Director Colette Horn focused on other points from Stevens's presentation concerning what the OPA needs to do on its end.

"I don't want our support to stop with this letter," Horn said. "I'd like us to really take to heart the power that we have as a community to promote biking and pedestrian safety and connecting our community to others that already have things in place."

Responding to Parks, who asked her what a work group that she suggested earlier in her presentation would do, Stevens said such a group could provide examples of how other community bike and pedestrian processes work.

"I would say, yes, it should be bigger than just the Route 90 issue," Stevens said. "I think making this community more walkable and bikeable and friendly is something that's been requested for a long time."

A public comment period is currently open on the SHA website, which closes on Nov. 30.



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Oceans East project in Berlin adding eight housing units

By Gee Williams
Contributing Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) Oceans East was granted approval to add eight housing units to its Phase II design at the Nov. 16 Berlin Planning Commission meeting.

Brock Parker, land planner for the Oceans East development on Sea Hawk Road, said the main goal of the change was to enhance the symmetry and design of the project.

"I like the way the new design frames the look of the project," Parker said.

He noted the changes do not affect the amount of land area for the second phase of Oceans East.

"The new pond will be larger than the one originally proposed and would become the central focal point of Oceans East," Parker said.

The changes result in a net increase of four housing units from what had previously been planned. The revisions call for 12 more apartment buildings growing from 36 units to 48. And four fewer townhouse units resulting in a reduction from 22 to 18.

Oceans East has 164 units in the completed construction of Phase 1 and would be adding an additional 142 units in Phase 2 of the project. Parker said the total number of units for all phases

would not reach 700 units.

The planning commission was also asked to approve a revision to the shape and size of the large stormwater pond that is central to Phase 2. Parker said the newly proposed pond would be larger and at a different angle than the one originally planned.

In this phase of the project, all of the townhouses are located above garages for motor vehicles.

"This next section will set the tone of the entire Oceans East project," Parker added.

The Berlin Planning Commission approved the proposed revisions with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

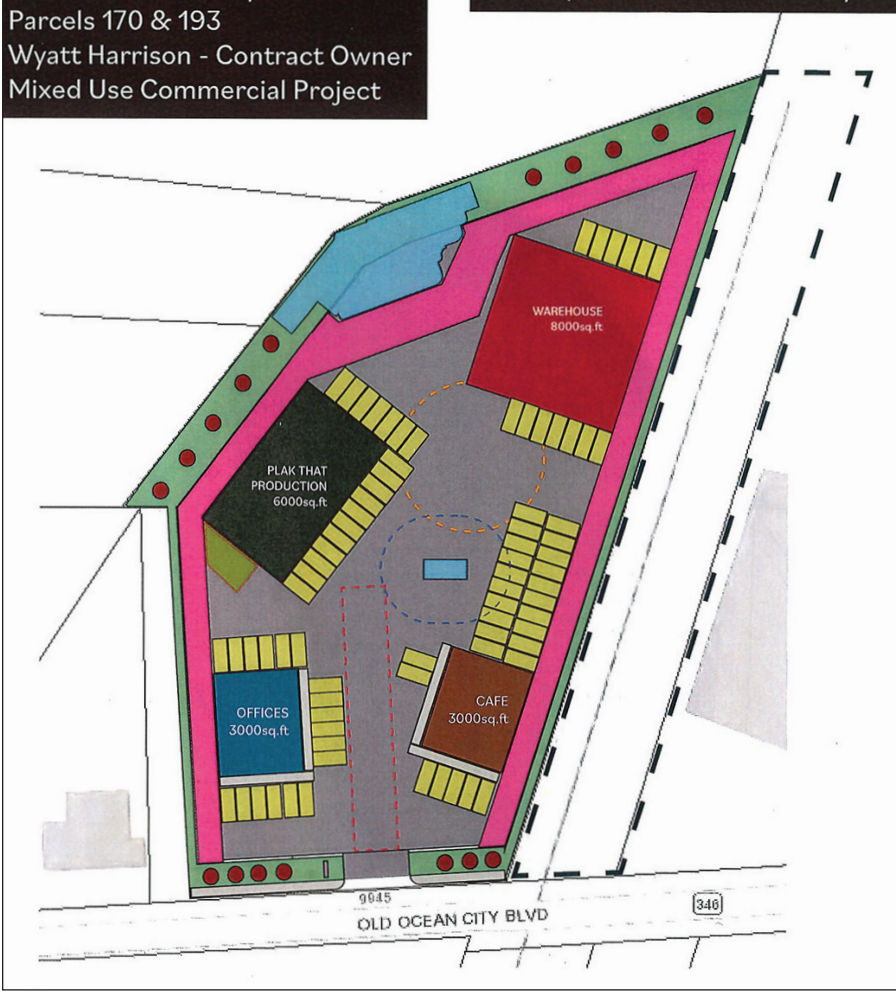
Plak That Conceptual Plan

During its final agenda item the Planning Commission learned about a preliminary plan for a new project on an empty lot at 9933 Old Ocean City Blvd. located immediately west of the railroad tracks and adjacent to the former Tyson property on the north side of the street.

Wyatt Harrison, the owner of Plak That, which prints photos on planked wood, now located in West Ocean City, appeared before the Planning Commission to seek only their views on his intended use of the two-acre Berlin property.

9933 Old Ocean City Blvd
Parcels 170 & 193
Wyatt Harrison - Contract Owner
Mixed Use Commercial Project

Conceptual Site Plan - Overlay V3



RENDERING COURTESY BERLIN PLANNING COMMISSION

Plak That unveiled plans for a store front to the Berlin Planning Commission on Nov. 16. The shop is planned for an unused lot on Old Ocean City Boulevard.

He has an option to buy the undeveloped land and shared his vision for the site as a multi-building mixed use commercial project. It is zoned as a B-2 Shopping District.

Harrison said his plan includes retail and office space for his business plus a production area for Plak That with a couple of apartments above the offices.

In addition, he proposes separate buildings for some rentable warehouse space and potentially a café. He presented the planning commission with a packet of information that included some proposed layouts and parking for the site.

Planning commission members were directed by Harrison to look at version three of the conceptual site plan for the property.

"I want to create something that is aesthetically pleasing. In the front build-

ings, along Ocean City Boulevard," he said.

Harrison explained he wants those buildings to be built with a wood exterior. The production and warehouse buildings in the back of the property would have painted metal exteriors similar to the Berlin Depot across the street, but in a different color.

Harrison said he is also considering building above street level apartments to rent above the two buildings nearest the street which is route MD 346. The number of apartments would depend on the space needed for parking.

He also described landscaping that includes sidewalks that he plans for the front of the property.

As his presentation was for informational purposes only, the Berlin Planning Commission took no action on the concept before they adjourned the meeting.

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Aquatics Committee discuss possible ‘OP-palooza’ event

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Ocean Pines Aquatics Committee is brainstorming ideas for a special event that will promote all that the association has to offer.

Committee chair Ellen Hench described the effort as one of her pet projects, saying it’s something that could benefit the community in light of current events in Ocean Pines — a way to lift the OPA’s reputation.

“It would be timely for us to have an event to bring people together in a community-pride-type of event and at the same time we can showcase our wonderful amenities and perhaps bring on reluctant people to sign up or even renew avid members of golf, swim, et cetera,” Hench said.

She listed potential targets such as those who may have dropped off the membership roster and those who just haven’t gotten around to exploring all the community has to offer.

“I just thought it’s time for us to have some sort of ‘lollapalooza’ Ocean Pines ... event to bring people together to provide opportunities (for members) ... to see firsthand what’s available to them. It would also be a showcase for people who own property,” she continued. “There are a lot of different benefits.”

Hench did stress, however, that these ideas are just in the planning stages and said that nothing concrete is imminent.

“We’re (expressing) our thoughts to other committees and asking for their input and we will be asking (the Ocean Pines marketing team) for their input as well,” Hench said. “(Ocean Pines General Manager) John Viola said it sounds like a decent idea. But certainly, we have to be cognizant of the cost versus the benefit. That’s what we’re trying to establish (these parameters), to see what

it’ll take.”
Some of the committees she mentioned are the Recreation and Parks, Golf and Racquet Sports committees, as well as reaching out to the Matt Ortt Companies, which handle the association’s food and beverage amenities.

Again stressing that nothing is firmly established, Hench allowed herself to speculate on what the event could look like.

“Being a former actor with the Ocean Pines Players, if you ask me, it’s a very different thing than asking someone else,” Hench said. “With me, you’ve got bands going, drinks, food, you name it — fun, fun, fun — games and all sorts of different activities. (There could be) kiosks designated to different amenities, maybe some videos and demonstrations going on, live demonstrations with golf.”

“But there’s no money associated with (this project) at this stage. It’s just us talking.”

After this discussion, the committee mulled the benefits of perhaps broadcasting their meetings live online, which could be a benefit to committee members who struggle to attend live and also give association members a look inside the committee.

The committee is also looking into family memberships regarding the association’s pools.

Hench said there are some perceived feelings of inequity when it comes to what constitutes a family — a two-person household or perhaps a family with two parents and multiple children for example.

“We’re just looking at different options to level the playing field a little bit, exploring and brainstorming different ideas,” she said.

Currently, there are no more scheduled meetings of the Aquatics Committee in 2022.



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Church and Nordstrom say goodbye

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners said goodbye to two of their own at the end of their meeting last Tuesday, as former commissioners Bud Church and Josh Nordstrom move into retirement and onto the next chapter in life, respectively.



Josh Nordstrom

“I’d like to thank all of my fellow commissioners for allowing me to be a part of your team,” Church said. “It’s been an experience. The 20 years have gone by much quicker than I ever thought they would. I have mixed emotions about leaving but I have to say ... I say this a little reluctantly, but (my wife) said, ‘If you run again I’m going to make you a soprano.’ I decided not to run again ... and my replacement is here and he’s going to be an excellent replacement for the county commissioners. I’m looking forward to it.”

Church added that he and his wife are looking forward to planning some trips.

“I’m looking forward to retirement and I’m going to miss you, so thank you,” he concluded.

Commissioner Diana Purnell, who



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Retiring Worcester County Commissioner Bud Church, right, receives a plaque from Commissioner Joe Mitrecic for his 20 years of service.

has known Church and his family for decades, commented on how the departing commissioner and the late local activist and former commissioner Jim Purnell, were like “two peas in a pod.”

“Bud, I appreciate the notes you’ve written me, the things that you’ve said and I appreciate your stance on situations because you are a businessman in this community and you have been here a long, long time,” Purnell said. “Worcester County benefitted from your 20 years in service to this county. I appreciate that.”

Commissioner Joe Mitrecic thanked Church for his service, saying that he has done “way beyond his share” for the county.

“I probably will miss him making motions to adjourn the meeting before it starts,” Mitrecic joked. “I certainly appreciate his service to the county, both on the school board and as a commissioner. His dedication to the county with the people here is unmatched. I will say that. Thank you very much.”

Nordstrom thanked his constituents, his colleagues and all the staff that helped him along during his four years on the commissioner panel.

“It’s a real learning curve with this job and a lot of folks who have been here before were a very big help (to me),” he said. “I want to thank the commissioners for all of the times we’ve been here, whether we were in agreement or adversarial at times. You are all worthy and certainly, I have enjoyed at times working with all of you. It’s been a rewarding experience and a learning experience and I think that I’m a better person now than I was four years ago, certainly more educated.

“These last four years have been some of the most interesting and tumultuous times both personally and professionally. I will look back on this time and have some reflections on what we were able to accomplish and

See CHURCH Page 13

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Berlin Holiday happenings this year

(Nov. 24, 2022) Downtown Berlin on Main Street will offer a variety of holiday happenings beginning this Friday and continuing through New Year's Eve. Following are the events with descriptions, dates and times.

*** Ice sculptures & tree lighting**

Holiday events begin with the "Ice Ice Berlin" and Tree Lighting on Friday from 5-9 p.m. The Ice Sculptures are sponsored by local businesses.

The 37 ice sculptures will be placed in front of the sponsoring businesses.

At 5:45 p.m., Seaside Dance Academy students will perform in front of the Atlantic Hotel and at 6 p.m.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall will light the large Christmas tree in front of the hotel. The evening is free to attend and includes free parking and leashed pets are also welcome. Berlin shops will also be open late.

*** Berlin Christmas parade**

Thursday, Dec. 1
Berlin's annual Christmas Parade will begin at 7 p.m. at The Berlin Welcome Center, then run north to the Berlin Fire Company.

There will be over 80 floats, dancers, firetrucks, Santa and more. Berlin's even is billed as the largest holiday parade on the Eastern Shore.

The parade judging stand will be located on West/Baker Street near the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum. The emcee will be Big Al Reno.

*** Free carriage rides**



Buckingham Presbyterian's float entry for Berlin's 50th annual Christmas parade in 2021 featured wide-eyed children accompanied by the Grinch. The 2022 parade will take place on Dec. 1.

Another annual Berlin holiday tradition is free horse-and-carriage rides, which will be available on Main Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11 and Dec. 17 and 18.

*** Meet Santa – December**

Saturdays & Sundays
Santa Claus will be in Berlin to hear children's holiday wishes at the Kringle Cottage located at the Taylor House Museum on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26; and both Saturday and Sunday on Dec. 3 and 4; Dec. 10 and 11 and Dec. 17 & 18.

*** Merry Marketplace**

Saturdays, (Nov. 26 through Dec. 24)

The Merry Marketplace is located at the Berlin Commons on Jefferson Street and will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, and Dec. 24.

*** New Year's Eve ball drops**

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See PLENTY Page 15



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Church, Nordstrom moving on

Continued from Page 12
how things changed for me after these last four years. And I tell you, I can't wait to see what's next. So, thank you all so much."

Nordstrom added after the meeting that the road ahead of him is wide open. He didn't rule out serving Worcester County or the Pocomoke region again in the future, nor did he rule out pursuing goals away from the Eastern Shore.

At the meeting, Purnell told Nord-

strom that she'd miss him.

"I appreciate the time you put in on the southern end, the ideals you had, how you wanted to make everything work together for the county as a whole," Purnell said. "You've been really industrious. You've picked up two masters and you worked that through. So thank you for your time, your boldness and wherever you go please stay in touch because I know you're going to be out there doing well, so thank you so much."

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Pocomoke City will host large Christmas parade this Mon.

(Nov. 24, 2022) The City of Pocomoke is set to host one of Maryland's largest nighttime Christmas parades on Monday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

Decorations have been hung on light poles all along the parade route, and a huge star has been hung on the flagpole in downtown Pocomoke. Homeowners all along Market Street will have their homes decorated for this annual extravaganza.

This year's event will again feature many decorated floats representing churches, schools, civic clubs, and commercial organizations. High school bands from across the region will entertain the crowd with a host of holiday selections.

Also featured will be marching units, fire companies and beauty queens, with Santa Claus riding in his place of honor at the rear of the parade.

All entries will be vying for trophies and cash prizes in many different categories.

Professional judges, including the Atlantic States Judges Association, will select the winners. Awards will be sent out following the parade, and a list of winners will be posted at www.pocomokechristmasparade.com.

The parade will begin at the corner of Market and 14th Streets. It will then travel north on Market Street past the reviewing stand that will be located at Clarke Avenue and Market. The parade will disband at the Pocomoke River. Santa Claus is expected to arrive downtown no later than 9:30 p.m.

Although the downtown area is the preferred viewing location for most of the expected over 2,000 spectators, spots all along Market Street offer good vantage points to view the event, organizers said. Parking is at a premium in the downtown area, and spectators are urged to arrive early.

Parking will be prohibited along Market Street starting at 5 p.m. Market Street from Old Virginia Road to 14th Street will be closed at 4:30 p.m. for parade staging. The remainder of Market Street will be closed at 6 p.m. Parking in Cypress Park will not be permitted after 5 p.m. as the band buses will use this area for parking.

Officers from the Pocomoke City Police Department will be assisted by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Ocean City Police including their mounted patrol, Worcester County Fire Police,

See CHRISTMAS Page 15



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‘Light Up the Pines’ outdoor decorating contest returns

(Nov. 24, 2022) Ocean Pines residents and property owners interested in adding holiday cheer to the community are invited to participate in this year’s “Light Up the Pines” outdoor decorating program.

Those who register with the program will be featured on an online Google map, which will include locations of the decorated properties.

Participants will also be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 bill credits donated by Choptank Electric Cooperative, which sponsors the program. Additionally, the first 25 registered participants will receive a goody bag, also courtesy of Choptank Electric.

“Choptank Electric Cooperative is pleased to be part of the holiday spirit in Ocean Pines with the ‘Light Up the Pines’ event,” said Valerie Connelly, vice president of government affairs and public relations. “We hope our members enjoy bringing holiday fun to the neighborhood!”

Christmas parade happening Mon.

Continued from Page 14

members of the ROTC and other departments to provide traffic and crowd control.

This Pocomoke event has been an Eastern Shore tradition since the early 1970s. A

In case of inclement weather, the parade will be postponed until Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. For more information about the parade, go to pocomokechristmasparade.com or the Facebook page, Pocomoke Christmas Parade.

Plenty of holiday activity in Berlin

Continued from Page 13

and The Berlin Main Street Program, New Year’s Eve in Berlin will welcome in 2023 with two celebrations and ball drops. Each celebration will begin with laser light shows, one at 5:15 p.m. and the second at 11 p.m.

For little kids: Laser show at 5:15 p.m. and the New Year’s ball drops at 6 p.m.

Big Kids: There will be live music as DJs Big Al Reno and Schwab lead the crowd to dance 2022 away while a laser show brings the New Year’s ball down at midnight.

Live music will be provided from 6:30-9:30 p.m. followed by a dance party on Main Street from 10 p.m. until midnight. The traditional New Year’s ball drop will be at midnight.

Beginning Nov. 21, households interested in participating should submit a name, address and phone number via email to info@ocean-pines.org or by calling 410-641-7717 ext. 3014. Participants are also asked, if possible, to submit a photo of their lighted home for a special holiday video.

The initial deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 9, although residents may continue to sign up after this date and through the holiday season to have their homes included on the online map.

The map of participating homes may be viewed at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1M7GQDNnB4iSocR4zvIRzFTldLK2bLPc&usp=sharing> or via the link on the home page at ocean-pines.org.

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MALLORY PANUSKA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kevin Smith, executive director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, discusses the annual Coastal Bays report card score and State of the Bays Report data to attendees at the unveiling of the information on Nov. 14 at the Ocean City Marlin Club.



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STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT TO HANDLE ALL SITUATIONS

Coastal Bays earn another C+ on annual report card

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Nov. 24, 2022) The health of the local inland bodies of water is neither improving nor declining, according to the latest Maryland Coastal Bays report card, but efforts are underway to change the trajectory for the better as the effects of climate change zero in.

For the second consecutive year, the five bays behind Ocean City and Assateague Island scored a C+ on the annual report. Members of the coastal bays program presented the latest data, along with plans to improve the score, to a roomful of community members and stakeholders on Nov. 14 at the Ocean City Marlin Club.

Kevin Smith, the executive director of the coastal bays program, called the C+ rating “OK” during the reveal, but indicated that a lot more work needs done to improve the overall score.

The report is determined by water quality indicators nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll A, and dissolved oxygen; and biotic indicators seagrass and hard clams.

The bays’ total phosphorus scores improved since the last assessment, which created a slightly higher overall bay health score. Seagrass levels, however, ranged from poor to very poor.

According to data collected last October, the overall seagrass acreage decreased slightly in 2021. The report said the underwater plants, which are important to hazard mitigation because of their high rates of carbon storage, are struggling across the region because of factors that include high water temperatures and poor water clarity.

Coastal Bays program officials also presented the State of the Bays Report, which is issued every five years. The assessment shows longer-term trends and identifies emerging threats to the health of the bays. The theme for this year was “Building Resiliency.”

Smith explained that the theme indicates stronger efforts need to be made to improve the health of the bays.

“Things aren’t terrible but they could be better and it’s going to take the collective efforts of all of us to get there,” Smith said in the organization’s latest newsletter. “That means improving stormwater treatment, improving sewage and septic discharges, reducing nutrient inflow and enhancing our natural features like marshes, forests and streams.”

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SPECIAL OFFER

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Former Berlin mayor's new book hitting stores this Sat.

By Stewart Dobson
Editor

(Nov. 24, 2022) Having been a reporter and editor for many years, Gee Williams' soon-to-be released book, "Turn Your Town Around," benefits from a newswriter's appreciation for extensive research, solid fact-checking and clear writing.

That's what readers will find, along with the observations of someone who has spent all but his college years in the town where he was born and raised and went on to become its mayor for 12 years.

As Williams says in the book's preface, "My purpose in writing this book is to help you find ways to turn your town into a joyful and prosperous place for you to live and others to visit."

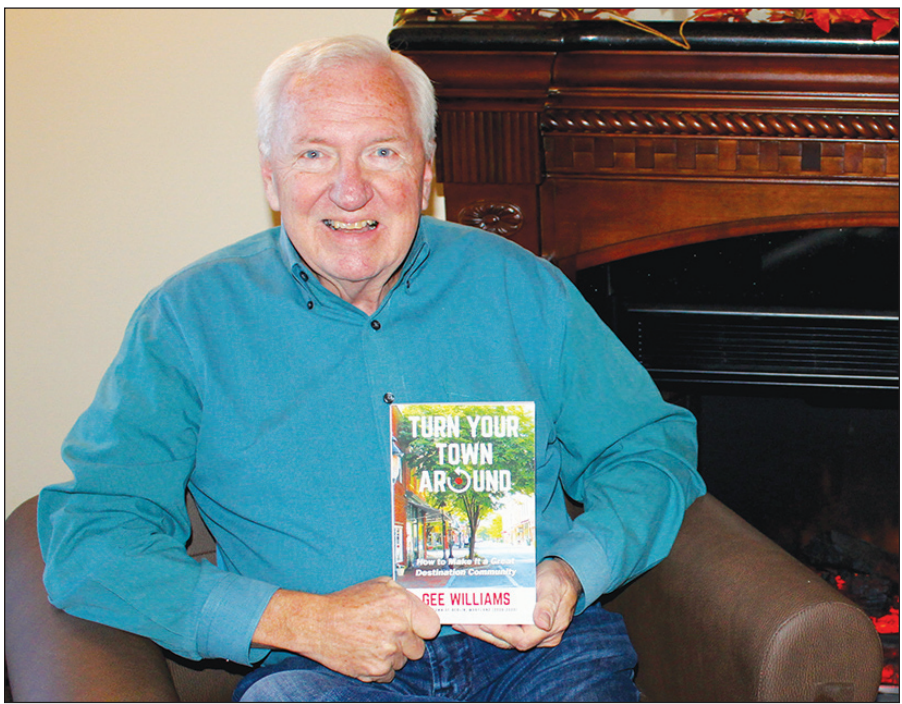
And he would know how it's done, considering that during his time in office the town added 50 businesses without losing its small-town flavor and charm. Maintaining that attractiveness while instituting changes

that led to economic improvement are the key elements of the book's message, which local residents in communities trying to rediscover their vitality should find instructional.

The 12-chapter, 178-page volume recounts what the people of the town did beginning in the 1970s, when community leaders acknowledged that Berlin was facing bleak circumstances, and how the follow-through unfolded in more recent years.

As Williams says, this is both a history and how-to book, with the former documenting who helped the town transform itself and the latter explaining how they did it.

"Turn Your Town Around" will be released to the public at The Greyhound bookstore in Berlin this Saturday, with Williams signing copies of from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The book, which carries a price of \$22.99, is also available online at turnyourtownaround.net.



LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Former Berlin Mayor Gee Williams will see his new book, "Turn Your Town Around," hit stores on Saturday, the same day he'll be signing copies at The Greyhound bookstore in Berlin.

Business Briefs

Affiliation

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty welcomes the following agents that have recently affiliated with its coastal offices in Ocean Pines, Ocean City and West Ocean City.



Greg Erdie



Kim Collins

Greg Erdie - With over 38 years of full-time sales experience, Erdie has become a HouseSOLD word in Worcester County and is licensed in Maryland and Delaware.

Kim Collins - "I've been selling real estate here on the shore for over 20 years. I live here and I know the market, the buildings,

the communities here in Worcester County. I give 110 percent to my clients. I'm relentless, responsive, resourceful and professional with a friendly warm manner."



Jo Ann Brandt

Jo Ann Brandt - "Real estate is my passion and it allows me to utilize my business acumen, negotiating skills and professionalism to guide my clients through their largest financial investment of home-buying and home-selling. I look forward to assisting you in Maryland and Delaware."

Award honors

Hudson Behavioral Health Director of Admissions Shiela Pullen, LPN was
Continued on Page 18

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Business Briefs

Continued from Page 17
honored with the Unsung Hero Award at the recent Tuerk Conference on Mental Health and Addiction Treatment.

The conference, hosted by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), took place in mid-September in Baltimore.



Shiela Pullen

Pullen oversees the admissions department and staff, and is the first face incoming patients see when they come to Hudson.

Her behind-the-scenes work includes creating a warm and welcoming environment for new admissions and

implementing a rigorous physical and mental screening to ensure patients receive the best care.

“Shiela is an integral part of our team and has served our organization for more than two decades, and I’m thrilled that she is being recognized with this award from NCADD,” said Leslie Brown, CEO of Hudson Behavioral Health. “She is dedicated to doing everything possible to make sure patients feel safe, welcome and understood when they arrive at our facility for admissions.”

Pullen started her career at Hudson Behavioral Health in 1998 as a licensed practical nurse and has served as the director of admissions since 2000.

Worcester County gov. hours for this Thanksgiving holiday

(Nov. 24, 2022) Worcester County Government (WCG) offices, including the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) and all five branch libraries, will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for Thanksgiving Day and American Indian Heritage Day.

In addition, the libraries and WCRC will be closed Saturday, Nov. 26.

The central landfill in Newark and the Berlin and Pocomoke Homeowner Convenience Centers (HOCC) will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24.

The Snow Hill HOCC remains closed for renovations. Standard hours of operation at these facilities will resume Friday, Nov. 25.

The libraries, WCRC, and all other WCG offices will resume standard business hours on Monday, Nov. 28.

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Last collection day Nov. 30 for Kiwanis coat, toy drives

By Lisa Capitelli
Managing Editor

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City has been collecting toys and coats each Wednesday in November for those in need.

“Coats are overwhelming for ladies, but adult men and children are needed,” said David J. Landis Sr., public relations committee and chair of the Kiwanis toy drive. “Toys are slower than in past years ... We get toys for younger kids, but items for older children are very rare.”

The final day to donate is Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. until noon. Drop off toys and coats to Kiwanis members at the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot.

Coats will go to St. Peter’s

Lutheran Church in Ocean City, Diakonia in West Ocean City, Joseph House of Salisbury, HALO (Hope & Life Outreach) in Snow Hill, and Worcester County Youth & Family Counseling Services of Berlin, which will distribute them as well.

Toys will be delivered to Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity).

The Toy Drive started in 2012, according to Landis. The Coat Drive began via a challenge from another Kiwanis Club in Millsboro, Delaware, in 2016.

The Ocean Pines-Ocean City club kept the drive going after it won the challenge, Landis said.

For more information, contact Landis at djlandissr@gmail.com or 410-641-7330.



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Opinion

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

We must count our everyday blessings

Why should we celebrate Thanksgiving when things don't seem to be going our way? Just look at the cost of Thanksgiving dinner alone: that's gone way up over last year because of everything that's been going wrong ever since the pandemic struck two years ago.

Shipping costs have increased, fuel expenses have risen, feed and fertilizer prices have soared and the cost of labor, when workers can be found at all, has gone up as well. The result, according to the Farm Bureau Federation: a meal ticket of \$64.05 this year over an average of \$53.31 last year for a classic Thanksgiving dinner for 10. That's a 20 percent increase.

Why in the world would we take a moment out of our day to praise inflation, not to mention the many other upsetting circumstances that have been plaguing us for some time now: the ever-present political nastiness, extreme weather, more virus warnings, and terrible events in other parts of the world that don't seem quite as far away as they used to be.

Why? Because celebrating Thanksgiving is about appreciating the things we have rather than the things we want, a good portion of which are not as important as the gifts we tend to overlook.

For at least one day of the year, we need to stop concentrating on the highlight reels of the past year and acknowledge our everyday blessings, whether they might be good friends who pick us up when we're down, supportive family members who help us when we need it, or even pets that adore us even on our orneriest days.

These are things that count, just as we should be thankful that we live where we do, somewhat tucked away in an area that others aspire to visit and live.

The flowers will come up in the spring, the ocean will continue to meet the beach, and life will go on. We should be thankful we're allowed to be part of that and raise a toast to all the unappreciated things that, if we think about it, we'll rediscover.



Giving Tues. to have 124 nonprofits

(Nov. 24, 2022) The Lower Shore's Giving Tuesday event will feature a record-breaking 124 nonprofits during the 24-hour online giving event.

Held each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, this year's event falls on Nov. 29, but donors can begin scheduling their gifts now.

The local campaign, known as The Shore Gives More, is hosted by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and assists nonprofits serving Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties with fundraising efforts.

The online donation portal features an easy way for donors to quickly learn about the individual nonprofits and make as many or as few donations as they like in one easy online checkout.

"The campaign has grown greatly in just seven years. In 2015 the local campaign started with 23 nonprofits and raised just under \$7,500, but by 2021 it grew to \$300,000 raised for 120 area nonprofits in a single day," said Community Foundation President Erica Joseph. "This year marks the

largest number of nonprofits to participate in the campaign."

Donors can rest easy knowing that the gifts they make will go to the charities of their choice and will also make a local impact.

The campaign carefully vets each participating organization to ensure current tax-exempt status and service to the Lower Shore area.

"The generosity of our local community is what enables area nonprofits to increase their impact on the Lower Eastern Shore," Joseph said. "Each gift made to a nonprofit on Giving Tuesday makes a difference for the area we call home."

Nonprofits are given access to online fundraising platforms, marketing campaigns, and incentive prizes.

Software purchased by the Community Foundation allows donors to schedule their gifts in advance of the event and allows supporters the option of donating to multiple nonprofits at once.

The Community Foundation provides the services at no-cost to the nonprofits. Nonprofits cover standard credit card processing fees.

"The campaign is truly a collaborative effort," Joseph said. "Each nonprofit works hard to make their fundraising goals a reality, and months of preparations are put in before the big day. Our primary sponsors, Shore United Bank and 47 ABC, provide invaluable support which allows the event to be a success."

To learn more about the Shore Gives More Giving Tuesday campaign visit www.ShoreGivesMore.org.

As leaders, grant makers, and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided \$100 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

It collaborates with individuals, families, and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthen local nonprofits through grants and resources.

BAYSIDE

GAZETTE

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KIWANIS CLUB
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City sponsors Kiwanis Clubs in five schools in Worcester County under the Student Leadership Program of Kiwanis International. Worcester County Superintendent of Schools, Louis Taylor, right, was the guest speaker during the club's Oct. 26 meeting. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.

Worcester County Arts Council silent auction underway

(Nov. 24, 2022) In efforts to raise funds to support the Arts Scholarship program for local students, the Worcester County Arts Council is hosting a silent auction featuring a variety of original artwork, donated by local artists.

All auction items are on display at the Worcester County Arts Council's Gallery and are available for bidding until Dec. 11.

Auction artwork may be purchased at "Buy Now" prices.

Winners will be notified on Dec. 12.

The gallery, located at 6 Jefferson Street, is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Auction items may also be viewed and purchased on Friday, Nov. 25, from 5-8 p.m. during the "Ice, Ice Berlin & Tree Lighting" celebration.

In June of 2022, the Arts Council awarded a total of \$10,000 to five Worcester County students in support of their artistic goals.

For more information about the Arts Scholarship program, visit www.worcestercountyartscouncil.org.

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

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

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

Calendar

Thurs., Nov. 24

5TH ANNUAL THANKSKITTEN
Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 8:30-11 a.m. 2.5 mile fun run/walk to support Town Cats. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 13 years and older and free to those 12 years and younger. Register: <https://cfacrossfit.redpodium.com/thankskitten>. 443-944-2226

FREE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
Berlin First Baptist Church, 613 William St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Including turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and desserts. Dine in or carry out. To volunteer, reserve a meal or have one delivered, call 410-641-4306.

43RD ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER
Ocean City Baptist Church, 102 N. Division St., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Anyone looking for a good home cooked meal this Thanksgiving Day is invited to dinner. RSVP: OCBaptist.com or 410-289-4054, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delivery available to shut-ins.

Fri., Nov. 25

40TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring more than 120 vendors, food court, children's activities and face painting. Admission cost is \$3 for the weekend and free to those 12 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

ICE ICE BERLIN & TREE LIGHTING
Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 5-9 p.m. Featuring 30+ lighted ice sculptures, Seaside Dance Academy performance at 5:45 p.m., tree lighting at 6 p.m., horse drawn carriage rides, OC Pipes & Drums performances and Santa. BerlinMainStreet.com.

CANDLELIGHT TOURS - HOLIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 5-7 p.m. The self-guided, candlelight tour will give participants a glimpse of life in the past. Support the museum with a purchase of hot chocolate for sale in front of Taylor Bank. www.Taylor-HouseMuseum.org

Sat., Nov. 26

40TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring more than 120 vendors, food court, children's activities and face painting. Admission cost is \$3 for the weekend and free to those 12 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

MERRY MARKETPLACE IN BRRRLIN
The Buzz Meadery, 21 Jefferson St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sip and shop. Many of the Berlin Farmers Market vendors will be participating in Merry Marketplace at The Berlin Commons Buzz Meadery on Jefferson Street.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND BOOK SIGNING
Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 1-3 p.m. Museum tours, children's activities, holiday refreshments and a book signing with Al (Hondo) Handy. His book, "Defying Expectations: Family, Sports & Recreation," will be for sale.

Continued on Page 23

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Cuisine

Bone-in filet, bearnaise and bone marrow

Steak and Bearnaise. Has there ever been a more appropriate pairing? Indeed, yes there has, and I fell in love again last weekend.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

A couple weeks ago I made mention of having the privilege of tasting a 21-year-old Chardonnay, and it was magical.

It was stunning, and none of us quite understood what was happening that made this even possible.

It was a 1973 Heitz Chardonnay from Martha's Vineyard and we tried it in 1994 as a sampling to the servers and cooks at Citronelle from none other than Robert Parker himself.

We were much more fortunate than we gave ourselves credit for back then. We tasted some priceless wines. Were they mere sips?

Absolutely, but it was about as fascinating then as it is now watching researchers figure out how to bend light.

I obviously have never forgotten that story. It was a life-changing event for me and was probably the one moment that pushed me to learn more about wine: much more.

Last weekend, I took a much-needed trip to Atlantic City (yes, I realize that sentence can be utterly confusing and very concerning to many). I needed to get away.

As we had visited the newly remodeled Golden Nugget in Vegas this summer, and the food at Vic & Anthony's Steakhouse was second to none, I followed suit and stayed at one of AC's stalwart institutions, the Golden Nugget.

While not as posh as their Vegas counterpart, the room was lovely, they had the same Landry's Brand restaurants, and they had craps tables.

My first day there, I was sure to get there half an hour before opening and grab a seat at the bar. As I pored through the wine list, my soul leapt from my body when I saw a Heitz Cabernet.

I quickly looked it up and it was highly rated, so I ordered it. It came out, I perused the label and it read 'Napa Valley'.

This is after I had shared my tale with the bartender and the couple next to me who had joined the conversation.



The bartender said "Oh, that's the Napa Heitz. The Martha's Vineyard Heitz is the next one down."

And while I will not share the price of the Napa Valley Cab – the one I ended up ordering – I can assure you that I was not about to spend \$350 on my originally preferred bottle, so I passed.

Still perfectly paired with a bone-in filet with bearnaise and bone marrow (yes, bone marrow), it was an angelic pairing, the tannins cutting through the exceptionally fatty dish.

It was the perfect introduction to my weekend melee.

And my dear friend Atlantic City, you are in my sights again. I'll see you soon.

Bone-in Filet, Bearnaise, Bone Marrow

serves 2

2 1 lb. Bone-in filet

Trimix, as needed

Clarified butter, as needed

2 sprigs rosemary

1/2 c. Bearnaise (recipe follows)

2 canoes of bone marrow

• Season filets well on all sides.

• Heat a high-carbon or good quality frypan until it is smoking hot.

• Add the clarified butter and once melted and hot, carefully add the steaks.

• Cook for about four minutes on the first side, or until you have a commendable crust.

• Turn and do the other side the same favor.

• Here, you can either keep turning and basting, or as I like to do, place the rosemary sprigs in the pan and place in a 400F oven and cook until it is to the temperature of your liking. Make sure to give yourself at least 15 minutes to rest the steak before serving.

• For the marrow, turn the broiler on, and season the marrow canoes.

• Broil until the marrow is cooked through.

• Remove and make sure to save the drippings to drizzle on top of the steak.

• Serve the steak with the marrow in the canoe and Bearnaise on the side. It is proper etiquette to allow the guest to do the scraping and pouring. That is one of the guilty pleasures of this dish.

Bearnaise

makes about 3 cups

1/2 c. Champagne vinegar

1 ea. Small shallot, diced

1 Tbsp. Tarragon

2 whole pasteurized eggs (see notes)

2 c. Melted butter, whole

Salt & Pepper as needed

Lemon juice as needed

dash of hot sauce

1. Combine the vinegar, shallot and tarragon and simmer until reduce to about 2 tablespoons. Strain and set aside

2. Melt butter and heat to 135F.

3. Place the eggs and reduction in the blender.

4. Cover and turn on high for a few seconds.

5. Remove the lid or plunger and slowly drizzle the butter in until you get to the bottom layer of water and solids. The sauce will start to thicken quickly. If too thick, add lemon juice and continue. If it continues to be too thick, a touch of hot water will loosen it.

6. Add the hot sauce and season to taste. Keep it warm and use quickly as it will solidify if it cools too much.

*For pasteurizing whole shell eggs, jump into the sous vide game if you're not already playing.

You can buy an immersion circulator at Aldi on occasion, and they are only about forty bucks! Anova is another good brand, and Chef Steps has a nice one as well, albeit pricier.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for pasteurizing the eggs.

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 21
410-641-0638

MEET SANTA
Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet Santa at Kringle Kottage located on Main Street and West Street on the grounds of the Calvin B. Taylor Museum. BerlinMain-Street.com.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

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

Sun., Nov. 27

40TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPERS FAIR
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring more than 120 vendors, food court, children’s activities and face painting. Admission cost is \$3 for the weekend and free to those 12 and younger. 410-723-8605, mcollins@oceancitymd.gov

ST. PAUL’S BY-THE-SEA WELCOMES DEACON ALISHA KING
St. Paul’s by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 10-11:30 a.m. Reverend Alisha King, a vocational deacon for the Diocese of Easton, will be coming to St. Paul’s by-the-Sea beginning the First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 27. www.stpaulsbythesea.org

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

Mon., Nov. 28

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR 30TH ANNUAL SANTA’S OPEN CHARITY EVENT
‘Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, Ocean Pines. To be held on Dec. 10. Support BBBSES. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child between 6-17 years. Sponsorships and team spots: www.shorebiglittle.org/events, golf4kids@shorebiglittle.org, 410-543-2447

HOBBIES CLUB ‘CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP’
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1p.m. Wrapping up the program and sending participants home with great resources and tools to continue their creative writing journey. For ages 6 years and older.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital - Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. T.O.P.S. is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Champion, 410-641-0157

50TH ANNUAL POCOMOKE CHRISTMAS PARADE
Market Street & 14th Street, Pocomoke City, 7-9:30 p.m. Beginning at Market and 14th streets, the parade will travel north on Market Street to the Pocomoke River. Rain date is Nov. 29. pocomokechristmasparade.com or Facebook Pocomoke Christmas Parade

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

Tues., Nov. 29

WSW 2ND ANNUAL DELICIOUS DECEMBER
Women Supporting Women, 1320 Belmont Ave., Salisbury. 2nd Annual Delicious December online auction to coincide with Shore Gives More Giving Tuesday. To raise funds for WSW. https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?auctionId=341698745, 410-548-7880

ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY ‘GIVING TUESDAY’
Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. Free coffee, baked goods and tours, 9:30-11 a.m.; create greeting cards, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; create ornaments, 1-5 p.m.; and “Wine and Design,” 4-6 p.m. ShoreGivesMore.org/ArtLeagueofOceanCity

GIVING TUESDAY WITH THE MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM
Ocean Downs Casino Poseidon Pub, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Learn about coastal bay programs, make an online donation and a raffle for a watercolor by Grace McFarren: www.mdcoastalbays.org. Ocean Downs is providing each attendee with a \$10 voucher for slots.

STORY TIME ‘SHAPES’
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Sto-

ries, songs and fun. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME ‘SHEEP’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger-plays. A take-home activity will be included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OC KNITTING GROUP
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Bring whatever project you are working on. The group welcomes drop-ins and new members. They are making winter accessories that are available at the library for those in need. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-524-1818

BEACH HEROES-OC
Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page “Beach Heroes-OC” for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

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 Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE
Tuesdays - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

Wed., Nov. 30

HAIRSPRAY
Roland E. Powell Convention Center - Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$85, \$75 and \$65. Tickets: https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com/upcoming-events/hairspray.

STORY TIME ‘NOCTURNAL ANIMALS’
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30

a.m. Learn about nocturnal animals with stories, songs and a craft. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

KIWANIS COAT & TOY DRIVE
Ocean Pines Community Center Parking Lot, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m.-noon. Coats may be new or gently used and toys, new and unwrapped. Coats are for local charities to distribute and toys for Worcester G.O.L.D. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City.

PAGE TO SCREEN BOOK CLUB
Held via Zoom, 1 p.m.. Featuring “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” by Jeff Kinney. The book is available at the library and on Libby and Hoopla. Recommended for ages 7-11 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR OCEAN CITY COLD WEATHER SHELTER
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1 p.m. The shelter is in need of volunteers. If it is on your heart to help or to learn more: Jason Long, ocmdcoldweathershelter@gmail.com, 443-513-1563.

TWEEN CRAFT ‘CLOTHESPIN PHOTO HOLDERS’
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Make a wood photo holder and use the Instax camera to take some pictures. For ages 9-12 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ONGOING EVENTS

MOTORCOACH TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY
On Dec. 10, spend time in New York City on-your-own from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cost of transportation is \$120. A deposit of \$60 is due at booking with remaining due by Dec. 2. Book a seat: www.playmarylandscoast.org. Info: Tyler Keiser, 410-632-244, Ext. 2505 or tkeiser@marylandscoast.org.

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, through Dec. 31. An expanded walking tour through thousands of sparkling holiday lights. Also featuring hot chocolate, photos with Santa, gift shop and a 50-foot Christmas tree. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults and free to children 11 years and younger. Event is weather permitting. Pets are welcome on Wednesdays. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326

WINTER TRAIN GARDEN
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, through Jan. 15, 2023. Interact with buttons that activate accessories and sounds and participate in a scavenger hunt. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COLLISION COURSES
BY SAMUEL A DONALDSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS			
1 Sell, as bicycles?	48 It might be stuck on the chopping block	96 Like a very heavy sleeper	9 Swear word
7 Coups in journalism	50 Rise, as a steed might	99 Precisely	10 Garnish for a Gibson cocktail
13 What might prompt a run for Congress?	52 Politico Cheney	102 It's "rarely pure and never simple," per Oscar Wilde	11 Jurors, to a defendant
19 Arctic jacket	54 Color-wheel options	103 Bit of hairstyling	12 Word with food, clothes or entertainment
20 Hairspray brand since the 1950s	55 Old yellers?	106 Mop's partner, in a brand name	13 Quick escapes
21 Big name in pain relief	57 Animal with a prominent proboscis	107 Measures up to	14 Cry of perfection from a carpenter?
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23 More in need of practice	62 Lab-engineered fare, facetiously ... or a hint to the six crossings of shaded squares	113 Pipes up	16 Retort to "No, you're not able"
24 24 horas from now	67 Totenberg of NPR	116 Pinkerton who founded the Pinkerton detective agency	17 Has for supper
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28 One not getting in too deep	71 Qom home	120 Mesopotamian metropolis	31 Tesla but not Edison
29 Chinese zodiac animal	72 Lenovo competitor	121 Thinks up	34 Vast quantity
30 Tiny amount of time: Abbr.	73 Bountiful harvests for farmers ... or another hint to the crossings of shaded squares	122 Experience sharer	35 Smart ____
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	91 Target of an annual shot	5 Makes some deep cuts in	51 Seat of Utah County
	93 Worker who makes a ton of dough	6 Barely squeeze (by)	53 Most off the wall
	94 Terse affirmation	7 Unlawful occupant	56 Alphabet ____
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75 They start in the corners		101 Fit in	119 Source of big green eggs

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CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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

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Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sunday, 12-3pm	10901 Emory Dr., Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$649,900	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday, 12-3pm	14 Southwind Ct., Berlin	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$559,000	Greg Erdie/Berkshire Hathaway
Saturday, 10am-12pm	305 S. Heron Gull Ct., Ocean City	6BR/6BA/2HBA	Single Family	\$2,399,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday, 11am-1pm	305 S. Heron Gull Ct., Ocean City	6BR/6BA/2HBA	Single Family	\$2,399,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday, 1-3pm	10800 Navy Page Ln. #407, Berlin	3BR/2BA/1HBA	Condo	\$449,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty

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