



# AGH computer network hijacked

### Ransomware attack locks hospital out of system, but critical work proceeds

**By Mallory Panuska**

Staff Writer

**By Stewart Dobson**

Editor

(Feb. 2, 2023) Atlantic General Hospital officials and federal authorities are still investigating the source and severity of a cybersecurity attack that seized control of the hospital's computer network Sunday, and continues to hold it for ransom.

"Atlantic General Hospital is experiencing a ransomware event within our network," Toni Keiser, the hospital's vice president of public relations, said in an email Monday afternoon.

"We are working diligently to investigate the source of this disruption, confirm its impact on our systems, and to restore full functionality to our systems as soon as possible. The incident has caused network outage issues with limited patient interruption."

A ransomware attack is when hackers plant encrypted files in a computer system that lock out the network's owner. The perpetrators then demand payment for the keys to unlock the encryptions.

Keiser said in another email on Tuesday that information technology personnel alerted hospital administrators to the issue early Sunday morning. She said officials have been "working around the clock" since to restore the system.

In the meantime, the hospital has employed "downtime procedures," which means staff are using other means to handle information that is not dependent on the central computer system.

Keiser said AGH department heads and administrators are following plans to care for patients safely and maintain hospital operations using non-network practices.

The focus of the procedures is "to ensure patient safety and continuity of care when clinical systems are impaired or completely unavailable," she said.

Keiser also said that hospital personnel are doing whatever they can to protect the privacy and security of all information within the system, which includes patient records. And that as-

sumes they have anything to do, as federal cybersecurity officials say a ransomware attack does not always compromise sensitive data.

According to the Federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, the goal of ransomware attacks is to strike quickly, take over a system, collect a ransom to re-open it and move on to the next target. A data breach, however, can be a separate event that takes more time because accessing the information in a system involves more than gaining entry. It means getting to files through more layers of security and, in the case of sensitive information, cracking the encryptions that protect those files.

Even while the network is down, the hospital's emergency room is still open. See EMERGENCY Page 7



## Committee worries about loss of trees

### ... and geese keep tearing up shoreline around pond

**By Cindy Hoffman**

Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Environment and Natural Assets Committee met on Jan. 25 with a full roster of projects to pursue for the year.

"It has been brought to our attention that too many healthy trees are being removed in our community," Committee Chair Sharon Santacroce said. "We hope to educate residents as to the important role trees play in our environment as well as take a close look at the permitting process."

Some residents have cut down all of their trees, even healthy ones. Many new home sites are clear-cut in preparation for construction, a process some members of the committee did not believe occurred his-

See MATERIAL Page 6

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Environment and Natural Assets Committee is looking at ways to address erosion and the growing goose population at the South Pond.



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# Berlin starts discussion on intentions for future growth

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The only constant in Berlin over the last few years is everything is changing, or at least that's how it seems with the amount of development, revitalization and annexing the town has seen.

To that end, Berlin Planning Director Dave Engelhart approached the Planning Commission during its Jan. 18 meeting with a request from Mayor Zack Tyndall that they comment on what it would like to see in a possibly revamped comprehensive plan.

"The mayor wanted me to discuss with you this year's budget," Engelhart said. "We have a small amount of money set aside for a municipal

growth discussion facilitated by an outside group or person to talk about where we're going. Are we going to keep expanding? Are we going to have an urban growth boundary? (We're talking) about elements of our comprehensive plan."

Engelhart said that the town "has someone we're talking to already" that can give a speech or presentation about comparable small towns that could speak to how things moving forward could look "in 10, 20, 30, 40 years."

The request coincides with Worcester County taking a look at its own comprehensive plan, which would allow the town to approach the county with new ideas, Engelhart said.

"This would dovetail with that pretty well ... so we can get our two cents in with the county," he said.

"But this isn't solely for that. This is more ... any new development especially commercial or retail, we've had several annexations and the public, unless it's kind of a no-brainer, the public (opinion is split with half) understanding that we maybe need some growth to keep our tax base up and keep paying for the budget items that the town seems to need going up every year."

Engelhart added that the funds for this are mostly leftover American Rescue Plan money distributed during the pandemic.

Commission chair Chris Denny said he doesn't want to see money spent just to spend it.

"It's like the parking (study)," he said. "It was a grant, we spend \$25,000 to go around and draw where our parking spaces are and then you need another \$75,000 to finish a parking study. (But) you (could) get five people to walk around

and figure it out ourselves. I just don't want to be taking money to beat the same thing to death. We had all that public input and it wasn't very well-attended for a few of them. Correct me if I'm wrong. That's what I'm saying ... I'm sure there are other uses."

Commission member Matt Stoehr cautioned that with rapid growth, it'd be imperative to look at similar towns and see where they possibly made mistakes.

"You look at Berlin right now, we're going to have two breweries, a distillery, we're adding restaurants, we're adding housing. We're growing fast.... I'm sure other towns grow at a similar rate and certain things they planned great with, but there are probably certain things I bet you they wish they could do over," he said.

Stoehr added that he'd like to see towns with comparable tax rates, pointing out that Snow Hill is similarly sized but its tax rate is higher than Berlin's, though he conceded its property values are lower than Berlin's.

"We sure do complain here in Berlin about our tax rates," Stoehr said. "I know that our property values are higher but our tax rates are a lot lower than other areas in Caroline County, Worcester County, Wicomico, etc., Somerset."

Stoehr also brought up "the utility" issue, pointing out that more development will need to be met with more infrastructure, and the town needs to know what it can provide.

"Expansion of the system is already underway," Engelhart said in response. "We've been doing that for about two years. Now it's not the physical expansion but the design and work that we need to do that's already begun."

He added that an increase in the town's capacity is being analyzed.

"We know that's coming," he said.

**'You look at Berlin right now, we're going to have two breweries, a distillery, we're adding restaurants, we're adding housing. We're growing fast.'**  
Commission member Matt Stoehr

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department is launching a capital campaign to build a new station that will bring it up to code and provide safer conditions for emergency responders.

## Time for new Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Dept. house

By Cindy Hoffman  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) In 2022, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (OPVFD) responded to 345 fire and 1,888 EMS calls. The department serves approximately 6,000 homes and numerous businesses along 79 miles of roadways.

The firefighters and EMS staff serving Ocean Pines and the surrounding area do what they must to keep the community safe and they do it from a fire station that has been in operation since 1981.

But despite updates in 1985 and

1987, the South Station Fire House, it is in desperate need of either a full makeover or replacement, according to fire department officials.

“The building does not comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and county building codes due to its age,” said OPVFD President Dave Van Gasbeck.

Storage and safety are two major issues at the fire house. There is not enough room for all of their trucks, with some being parked outside. Because fire truck pumps will freeze if they are stored outside, other emergency vehicles must be left in the parking lot.

Firefighting equipment is currently stored in the apparatus bay, along with the fire trucks. Van Gasbeck says the bays are not equipped with a proper ventilation system, which means that all of the firefighting gear is subject to exhaust, fumes and humidity. The gear is also not protected from UV rays, which are one of the leading causes of gear deterioration.

According to a report by Manns Woodward Studios, the station should have a dedicated decontamination room and decon toilet off the bay, which would prevent potentially hazardous materials from entering other areas of the fire house.

This would also allow for cleaning of equipment on site, saving downtime between calls and cleanings. The current situation means that firefighters are consistently exposed to the “off-gassing” gear.

“Off-gassing” means the toxic fumes and gases that are produced by the mix of chemicals that accumulate on firefighting gear at the scene of an incident and are then released back at the station.

A report released in January by the International Association of Fire Fighters reveals that occupational cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters. Not only is a decontamination room important for firefighting gear, but it’s also crit-

See NEW FIRE Page 5

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# New fire house proposed in OP

Continued from Page 5

ical to the health of the firefighters and other emergency responders.

A small room attached to the bays provides open storage for medical supplies, which should be more secured. Sheds behind the station house provide additional storage for more seasonal equipment. Other equipment is stored in mechanical and electrical closets.

Another issue is that doors throughout the building swing in inconsistent directions. One door to a bathroom swings out into the path of response from the training and administration offices, which could lead to a collision as members respond to an emergency call. This adds obstacles to a crowded response path, costing time.

Van Gasbeck says the station also has issues with mold as the small kitchen floods during heavy rains, and the oldest section of the building has sunk two inches.

Volunteer firefighters overnight at the fire station. The sleeping conditions are basic. One bunk room is available with no separation between men and women. It is located between the day room and the kitchen, two rooms that are heavily utilized, with little acoustical separation. Van Gasbeck believes a separate quiet area for sleeping and studying would be more accommodating for volunteers, especially those with day jobs or who are going to school.

It is hoped that the capital campaign for a new station will be complete in 12 months. The design and location have not yet been determined.

"Fundraising is the big push now," said Van Gasbeck. He wants to have a large percentage of the money in the door before awarding the contract and breaking ground later this year.

They have already received a grant for \$1.35 million from the state of Maryland and \$350,000 in bonds authorized from the state and have \$1 million in savings.

Stacey Wisener and Valerie Mann have been brought on to do the fundraising. Wisener, who lives in Salisbury, has raised money for the Delmarva Discovery Center and Museum and the Salisbury Zoo. Mann, who lives in Fruitland, has extensive experience in grant writing for cities, counties, law enforcement agencies and fire departments.

Weisner says, "We get paid if we do well, we get a percentage [of the money raised], so there is no risk to the community."

Wisener says, "Fundraising is a contact sport. This will take time and effort. She will be contacting businesses in the area and identifying key stakeholders."



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
Storage is an issue at the Ocean Pines South Station. Gear is stored in the Apparatus Bay along with the trucks. A new fire station would provide a decontamination room for gear.

"This is an investment in the community," said Wisener. "We are marketing a dire need. When I toured the fire station, the need was quite obvious."

She said members of the community can help, especially those who have benefited from the fire department or EMS services, by sharing stories of their experience with Ocean Pines first responders. And residents and businesses can help by donating to support the fundraising campaign.

"I don't think it is a difficult sell," said Weisner. "People understand the need for it. When you drive by, you might not be sure what the need is, but when you go inside it is painfully obvious."

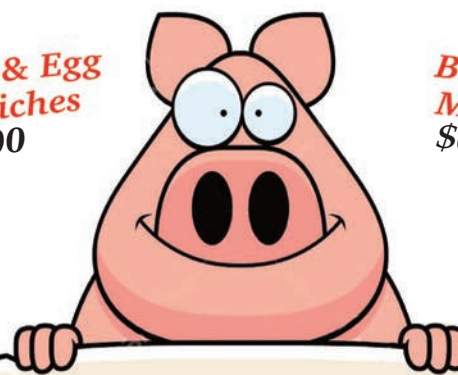
Weisner said she is eager to come out and talk to local community groups and engage them in the fundraising effort.

She can be reached at staceyweisner@yahoo.com.

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# Material could block goose steps

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torically.

According to the Ocean Pines website, the objective of the Compliance, Permits and Inspections Department (CPI) is to preserve the natural beauty and setting of Ocean Pines and to prevent indiscriminate clearing of property, removal of trees, and earth moving. Permits are required for the removal of any tree six inches in diameter or larger. According to the permit application, a permit can be rejected because a tree is "live" or "appears healthy."

Committee member Tim Peck will be looking into the permit process for tree removal in Ocean Pines. The committee hopes to understand and become involved in the process of tree removal.

Where there are trees, there are leaves. Leaf disposal is a task that most Ocean Pines residents are familiar with. The committee is concerned that many residents use plastic bags to collect and dispose of their leaves. According to a study on the Degradation Rates of Plastics in the Environment, it can take up to 1,000 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill.

Unfortunately, they don't break down completely. Instead, they photodegrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute

the environment. The committee plans to explore this issue further at their February meeting.

The committee also discussed the issue of residents blowing leaves and grass clippings into the canal. While people may think there is no harm in doing this, when yard waste, grass clippings, and leaves are put in the canals, they begin to decompose and use up the critical, life-giving oxygen in the water.

According to a Green Street article published by the committee in 2021, "The water can also become unsightly and release a foul odor. Yard waste can "super-fertilize" the water and lead to algae blooms and fish kills. Over time, that area of water may become a hypoxia zone (a place where no other organisms can survive because of extremely low dissolved oxygen levels)."

There was also a discussion about using fertilizer on lawns, which leeches right into the waterways. The committee discussed ways to educate residents on these various issues.

One way that residents who live on the canals can help with the environment is to grow oysters. Karen Baldwin, the newly elected member of the committee, is an oyster farmer. Baldwin said, "Oysters do a great job of taking impurities out of the water. If we could get every full time [canal] resi-

dent to raise oysters, it would make a huge difference."

Protectors of the St. Martin River and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program are working in partnership with residents to raise oysters in the area and create an oyster reef off the coast of Isle of Wight.

The Marine Committee has been engaged with both organizations, so Santacroce hopes to work with that committee to encourage oyster gardening in Ocean Pines.

Other ways that residents can help protect the environment include simple acts like picking up trash. Member Pat Garcia raised the idea of promoting "plogging," the Swedish fitness trend of running while picking up litter. Santacroce and other committee members said they bring a bag with them when they walk around the ponds to collect litter. Garcia said, "It's an easy thing to do and can help with our plastic pollution."

The biggest issue addressed during the meeting was the issue of the resident duck and goose population.

Although Ocean Pines residents are familiar with the local goose population, nonresidents might not be aware of these regular travelers on the roads. Last August, a few of the local geese were run over by a car and a local mom and her kids witnessed it. The committee is exploring opportunities to place signs at frequent crossings so that drivers are aware of the geese. Weighted sandwich boards are being priced out and the committee requested funding in the 2023 budget for these signs.

While the committee members want to make sure the ducks and geese are safe, they are concerned about the expanding population of geese. To that end, they invited John Phelps, senior business development consultant and environmental scientist at SOLitude Lake Management to talk to them about the use of a material called SOX, an interlocking fabric material that can be installed around a pond perimeter to stop erosion.

The material can be punctured for plants. Aquatic plants can also be planted in the littoral zone (the shallow shoreline) in front of the SOX perimeter. The goal of using SOX is to ease erosion issues around the south pond and build up a thick buffer of plants to keep geese from nesting there.

Representatives from the Anglers Club came to hear the presentation and request that fish habitat be protected if this project moves forward. Ocean Pines Association Chair Doug Parks and Director Steve Jacobs also listened to the presentation. The committee asked for funds in the 2023 budget for erosion control and vegetation buffer zone around the south pond. Phelps visited the pond with Santacroce after the meeting and is preparing cost estimates for the most eroded areas.

The Environment Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month and welcomes guests.



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# Berlin Fire Co. issues quarterly fire report

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Berlin Fire Company gave its final 2022 quarterly report — Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 — to the Mayor and Town Council during its meeting on Jan. 23.

There were 39 in-town fire and rescue calls, accounting for 43 percent of all calls. There were 51 out-of-town calls or roughly 57 percent of the calls. The total of 90 calls is down nine from the previous year's quarter.

The busiest days in order were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The busiest time of day in order were the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There were eight instances of simultaneous calls or calls that came in while the fire company was still working on a previous call.

The response time averages 4.05 minutes, well below the average county time of six minutes.

The fire company logged 688.79 emergency response hours and 1,059.25 hours for training, meetings, fundraisers, collateral duties, et cetera.

Annual donations during the quarter were \$30,710, which is about \$1,100 less than the prior year. The fire company raised \$1,000 from Friday night dinners but suspended the weekly event because of product costs, availability and volunteer staffing.



FILE PHOTO

The Berlin Fire Company's final quarterly report of 2022 featured 90 total calls, down from 99 from the last quarter of 2021.

Utility costs and building expense were slightly over budget. Vehicle fuel and maintenance expense came in on budget.

Capital items purchased included \$2 million to replace fire engines that were 15, 23 and 33 years old and a rescue vehicle that was 22 years old.

Ropes and hydraulic equipment were also purchased.

On the emergency medical services side, there were 313 in-town EMS call responses or about 63 percent of all calls. There were 182 out-of-town calls. Total calls for the quarter were up by eight calls over the last year's quarter.

There were 245 in-town transports and 68 non-transports. Out-of-town

transports tallied 97 and 87 for non-transports.

The busiest days, in order, were Friday, Thursday and Saturday.

The busiest times of day were the hours of 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. followed by 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The response time showed a marked improvement over last year, reducing from 1.18 minutes to 1.07

minutes. The number includes second-run, night time and third-run calls "that may be full volunteer response from home," according to the report.

The annual drive saw a \$4,000 revenue increase, capital funds came in at \$300 and invoices saw a \$3,000 increase due to call volume and a new billing company.

## Emergency room still receiving

Continued from Page 1

receiving and treating patients, Keiser said, and elective surgeries and other outpatient services are continuing. The Atlantic General Health System offices also remain open to care for acute patients. Personnel are still treating patients as well in the John H. "Jack" Burbage Regional Cancer Center, pulmonary function center, wound and endoscopy centers, and the facility's behavioral health crisis center.

The hospital outpatient walk-in laboratory will be closed as the network issue is addressed, and patients scheduled for imaging will be contacted to reschedule their appointments until further notice.

Although ransomware attacks have not historically occurred in this area, a little over a year ago cyber-criminals took over the Maryland Department of Health network and held it hostage. The strike was one of more than 3,000 such attacks that occurred nationwide over the past two years, according to the security agency.

Agency officials, members of the FBI and others have publicly said the threat of these attacks has grown considerably since the pandemic, as criminals deploy malicious software — "phishing" — in fake emails and

spam, and gain access to systems through connections that many people use to wire in to their office servers while working from home.

Hospital officials have not indicated whether a ransom demand has been made or whether they plan to pay if one exists.

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FILE PHOTO

After receiving a \$600,000 price tag to get the Black Eyed Susan riverboat seaworthy last year, the town has designed to sell the 149-passenger, 111-foot paddlewheel boat.

# Snow Hill selling Black Eyed Susan riverboat

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The fate of Snow Hill's woebegone Black Eyed Susan riverboat has yet to be decided, but one thing is certain — it won't be an anchor around the necks of the town's taxpayers much longer.

At a town hall meeting last month, Snow Hill Mayor Mike Pruitt and the Town Council unanimously voted to authorize Pruitt to look into selling

the 149-passenger, 111-foot paddlewheel boat.

"We're looking at a 'right away' time frame (for selling the boat)," said Town Manager Rick Pollitt last week. "Ideally, we'd sell it before the end of this fiscal year (at the end of June) so we don't have a budget item for this moving forward."

The first job on the list, Pollitt said, will be to identify someone in the boating industry to establish the

riverboat's value.

"One of the things we may have missed when we acquired it is no one had experience in acquiring, preparing and maintaining a riverboat and likewise we don't have experience in selling one either," he said. "I want to find someone who can coach us through the process."

Despite all the troubles that have befallen the town since purchasing the riverboat in 2020 — the latest was a \$600,000 price tag for repairs ordered last spring by the US Coast Guard — there is still hope that someone can turn the vessel into an attraction for the lower Eastern Shore.

"Any new owner will have to restore it to Coast Guard (passenger vessel) standards," Pollitt said. "We just didn't have (\$600,000 to spend on it). They would have to get it seaworthy. From there we'd talk about if they wanted to leave it here (or) if

they wanted to move it somewhere else. That would be their option."

Pollitt said that the town is aware of two interested parties, one of which is Pocomoke-based and wants to raise money to purchase and restore the boat. The other has loftier plans — possibly connecting the railroad between Berlin and Snow Hill to the riverboat on the Pocomoke River for a type of rail-to-river excursion.

"We've got both of those interests. I don't know if anything will come of it but that's the sort of thing I'd like love to see take place to save the boat," Pollitt said.

"Properly funded and properly maintained, I think the Black Eyed Susan could be an economic engine and a real tourist draw for the area. It's just not something that the taxpayers of Snow Hill can afford to carry."

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## Business Briefs

### Promotion

Reid Tingle, president and CEO of Bank of Ocean City along with the board of directors, announce the promotion of Joseph Dembowski to the position of assistant



J. Dembowski

vice president.

Dembowski joined Bank of Ocean City in 2016 as a customer service associate and quickly moved into the BSA Department, where he was named the assistant BSA compliance officer.

Dembowski is currently the co-BSA compliance officer and has earned the certifications of CAMS (Certified Anti-

Continued on Page 9

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## Business Briefs

Continued from Page 8

Money Laundering Specialist), CBAP (Certified BSA/AML Professional) and CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner).

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from East Carolina University, College of Business.

Bank of Ocean City is a locally-owned, independent community bank. Established in 1916 and headquartered in West Ocean City, the bank has five offices; two in Ocean City, one in Ocean Pines, one in Berlin and the Delaware branch located in Fenwick Island.

### Joins TidalHealth

TidalHealth welcomes Samah Ramadan-Nassar, PA-C, to TidalHealth Gastroenterology in Ocean Pines.

Ramadan-Nassar earned her Physician Assistant degree from Towson University in 2014 and her master's degree in chemical and life sciences from the University of Maryland College Park in 2008.

She has experience as a physician assistant in gastroenterology, hospitalist, urgent care and emergency department settings.

Ramadan-Nassar is a member of

the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Maryland Association of Physician Assistants. She is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and the American Gastroenterological Association.

When she is not treating patients, Ramadan-Nassar enjoys reading and spending time with her husband and three children.

A physician referral is required. Those interested in scheduling an appointment should contact their primary care physician.

### Anniversary

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Throughout the year, the firm will be sharing the story of Becker Morgan Group through various channels – LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and [www.beckermorgan.com](http://www.beckermorgan.com).



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# Berlin Chamber hands out annual awards

## Top partner, volunteer, idea and new business honored during commerce ceremony

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Berlin Chamber of Commerce handed out four awards at its annual Installation Dinner at 410 Social last Thursday.

Winners included Garrett Neeb for "Volunteer of the Year," Jun & Juice for "Emerging Business," D3Corp earned "Chamber Partner" and the decision to televise the annual Berlin Bathtub Races earned WBOC and Delmarva Sports Network the "Bright Idea" award.

"There is a lot of work that goes into making Berlin what it is," Chamber Executive Director Ryan Nellans said. "Some of it is big and showy and glamorous and some of it is knuckles-down, day-in and day-out work. But all of it makes where we live better, whether all at once or a little at a time. Improving the quality of life for everyone here is going to contribute immensely to the community here."

The chamber's board of directors elected the winners this year, but Nellans said they're tossing around the idea of having the general membership vote next year.

"We're trying to get (our members) more involved going forward," he said.

The evening included cocktails, dinner and words from guest speaker and artist Patrick Henry, owner of Henry Fine Arts.

"We're excited," said Megan Hines, who owns Jun & Juice with her husband, Brett. "We just opened



PHOTO COURTESY MEGAN HINES  
Megan and Brett Hines, owners of Jun & Juice in Berlin, pose with the "Emerging Business" award they received from the Berlin Chamber of Commerce last week.

in July and we're so excited to be well-received by the community. We weren't sure how good of a market there'd be — rural place, a lot people grow ingredients themselves. But we've had a tremendous amount of support ... We really love it and we're grateful for the support so far.

Speaking of the volunteer work for which he was recognized, Neeb stressed that the contributions he was able to make are thanks to the support he had.

A highlight of his work was the cottage he built for Santa's yearly visits.

"The biggest thing is it's nice to be recognized for this but it's important to point out that I make things look very easy because I have a team of people behind me," he said. "Whether it's (Berlin Economic and Community Development Administrative Assistant) Alison Early and the Town of Berlin or my family helping with the Santa House (or something else), there's always a good group of people to help support the town."

John Gehrig, president of D3Corp said his company and the chamber have made good partners for 15 years.

"We're always happy to help, support local business. They are the voice of business in Berlin," Gehrig



PHOTO COURTESY GARRETT NEEB  
Garrett Neeb poses with his "Volunteer of the Year" award that he received from the Berlin Chamber of Commerce during its annual installation dinner on Thursday. The chamber also handed out awards for best partner, new business and idea.

said. "(We're) just grateful to be part of their team. And of course the team at D3, I thank them, because ... they're the ones who take care of them and work with everyone over at the Berlin Chamber

And we're just happy to be part of the team that makes Berlin business go."

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# Upscale resale featured in Ocean Pines shop

Amy Romeo offers high end furniture and home goods for shoppers at Amy's Attic

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) Amy's Attic is not your typical secondhand store — it's upscale resale. This store has lots of merchandise that turns over each week. If you don't get it today, it might not be there tomorrow.

"I want to normalize buying second hand," said Amy Romeo is the owner of Amy's Attic. "I hope I can take the stigma out of buying something used. These items can have a whole new life, sometimes with another purpose."

Romeo sells quality furniture and home goods at reasonable prices. Her collection includes many of her own items. She said you can come to her store for good furniture, dressers, buffets, lamps, pictures and home goods. She also loves vintage glass and sells some of her collection in the store.

She even refurbishes some older pieces of furniture. "I like to give things a second chance," Romeo said.

She only takes real wood furniture. No pressboard for her. Her husband, Bill Romeo chimed in, "The reality is, the older furniture was built to last.

Amy does a good job of updating and modernizing it."

She has a couple of bedside tables in the back that are getting a nice beachy makeover with some chalk paint.

"I like to bring furniture back to life," she said.

Next week she is going to Reading to shop. She likes to purchase floor models in furniture stores. She also shops online and finds items at estate sales. Shoppers will find new, old, and refurbished furniture.

During a visit to her store on a Saturday, customers were eyeing a number of beautiful table lamps, a nice tan wicker bedroom set, a gorgeous queen-sized green velvet tufted headboard, two brand new fabric covered coffee table ottomans and a pristine couch. She also had some great beach decor.

Romeo has a lot of ideas for her store.

"People are so friendly here. I love the relationships I am starting," she said.

She might put a little sitting area in the shop; maybe find another space just for furniture restoration. She likes to chat with people about their own projects and share tips.

"If you are looking for something, come by and let me know, we will put it in a wish book and let you know if



Amy Romeo recently opened Amy's Attic in Ocean Pines to provide customers with unique finds in furniture — old and new — and housewares.

CINDY HOFFMAN/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

we find it," Romeo said.

Romeo said her customers will attest to the low prices she charges, and that they are better than Goodwill at times.

She opened three weeks ago in Pines Plaza Shopping Center at 11070 Cathell Road, Unit 7, behind the

Royal Farms being built on Racetrack Road. She says she is getting word out about her shop through Facebook and Instagram. Check out the Amy's Attic Facebook page for the latest items in the store at [www.facebook.com/AmysAtticUpscaleResale](http://www.facebook.com/AmysAtticUpscaleResale)



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## Community Briefs

### Dean's List

Of the approximately 52 percent of Belmont University's 7,100 undergraduate students who qualified for the fall Dean's List, Alexander Jett of Ocean City, made the listed.

Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours at the Nashville, Tennessee school and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Gideon Plamondon of Berlin, was one of more than 1,250 SUNY Oneonta students who earned Dean's List honors for the fall semester. Plamondon is studying Music Industry at the New York school.

To qualify, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Gracie Mitchell, of Snow Hill, a Markets, Innovation & Design student at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania,

earned Dean's List honors for the fall semester.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive recognition.

Worcester County residents earning spots on the Susquehanna University Dean's List for the fall semester are: Claire Williams of Berlin, Nicole Spangler of Pocomoke City and Hailey Bowden of Snow Hill.

The dean's list recognizes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or higher out of a possible 4.0 for the semester at the Pennsylvania school. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

James Madison University of Virginia announced that the following students from Worcester County made the Dean's List for the fall semester: Taylor Barrett of Ocean City, majoring in Elementary Education - BS; and Corinne Krasner of Berlin, majoring in Musical Theatre - BA.

## Choptank Cooperative taking applications for D.C. youth trip

(Feb. 2, 2023) Choptank Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for its Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 19-23.

All high school juniors and seniors who are Choptank Electric members are encouraged to apply for participation in this national leadership experience.

"Students will have the opportunity to meet their U.S. representatives and senators, explore the museums and monuments in our Nation's Capital, learn about rural electric, and network with students from around the country," said Katie Luckett, manager of Marketing, Communications and Education. "This trip inspired me as a high school junior to study communications and come back to my community to serve our cooperative's members, making a local impact with the understanding of the support we receive from Washington, D.C."

Five students will be selected to attend Youth Tour from high schools in the nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Selection is based on the content of a completed application, essay, and

video. Parents/guardians of all applicants must be members of Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Youth Tour is hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Choptank Electric Cooperative will coordinate and chaperone its selected students during the entire trip.

All completed applications must be submitted by Feb. 17 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [choptankelectric.coop/youth-tour](http://choptankelectric.coop/youth-tour) or contact Luckett at [katiel@choptankelectric.coop](mailto:katiel@choptankelectric.coop) or 410-479-8678.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution co-op located on Maryland's Eastern Shore serving over 55,000 members.

For more information about Choptank Electric Cooperative, visit [choptankelectric.coop](http://choptankelectric.coop) or call its Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001.

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### GARDENING TALK

Local gardener Carol Cross was the guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on Jan. 4. She and her husband, Shawn, own Cross Farms LLC in Berlin, which does hydroponic and conventional ground farming. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.

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# Lower Shore Trust searching for land steward applications

By **Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is looking for nature and wildlife lovers who want to become land stewards. And you don't have to have any land to do it.

"The LSLT has 135 conservation easements across the Eastern Shore, covering more than 23,000 acres of land," Kate Patton, executive director of the Lower Shore Land Trust, said.

A conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and conservation agency, or land trust, which ensures that a property will not be developed beyond an agreed upon limit, or perhaps not at all.

The land remains in private ownership while the trust assures that the terms of the agreement are forever. Conservation easements can be tailored to the needs and desires of a property owner. Landowners can continue to farm, harvest timber and hunt as well as reserve building rights for future use.

It is the responsibility of the land trust to visit each site once a year and that is a lot for a small staff to manage. So, the land trust hosts a training for volunteers every year who want to become land stewards.

This year's training is Feb. 11, with

an advanced training for experienced stewards on March 1 and a field training on March 3 and 4.

Once trained, volunteers visit the easements, meet with landowners and promote best practices. They meet with the staff before the visit and learn about the property. The trust provides continuing educational materials and training to the landowner. Volunteers are trained to complete the specific reporting that is required for each easement. All volunteers are joined by staff or another experienced volunteer on the visit.

Patton said people can choose whether they want to visit a few properties or many.

"This is a great way to get out and see some nice properties," Patton said. "One of my favorite properties has old growth beech trees. A lot of birders are in our group. The landowners love to hear what birds are on their property."

"Once people start volunteering for this program, they pretty much stick around," she said. "We have about 15 people a year."

To sign up for the Land Stewardship Trainings, visit <https://lower-shore-land-trust.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/in-house-stewardship-training-registration>.

# Boat safety classes next week

(Feb. 2, 2023) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Basic Boating Safety Course, virtually, Feb. 7-9, from 6-9 p.m.

The first class of 2023 will be held virtually, making it possible for anyone to attend from anywhere.

The course is taught by the same US Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors as the in-person class.

All the required material is covered along with time for questions.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland

Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland.

Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

The cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email [CGAUXOC@Gmail.com](mailto:CGAUXOC@Gmail.com).

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

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# Snapshots



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## EXERCISE TEAM

Shape Ups, the popular Ocean Pines exercise team of over 80 members, works out Monday, Wednesday and Friday, September until June at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The leadership team of Tom Dempsey, Barbara Harman, Marion McCurdy, Karen Megary and Judy Neustadt re-vitalized the long existing program with new exercise routines, a published calendar of specific classes, schedules and reminders. There is a \$20 membership fee. Email [shape\\_ups@yahoo.com](mailto:shape_ups@yahoo.com) for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS, SR.

## NEW MEMBER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City welcomed new member John Hulit on Dec. 14. Membership Chair Lynne McAllorum inducted him. He was sponsored by Lyle Dillon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County announces its 2023 board of directors, sworn in at their December luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Debi Koczen-Doyle, board member at-large; Susan Buyer, vice president; Debra Fisher-Reynolds and Mary Anne Whitcomb, co-presidents; Dana Barney, recording secretary; Sue Challis, corresponding secretary/newsletter; and Maggie Miller, treasurer. Not pictured: Rosie Bean and Becky Simonds, board members at-large. The group was sworn in by Past President Susan Hubbard.



## CLUB EVENT

The Worcester County Garden Club held a luncheon and workshop on Dec. 12 at Stevenson United Methodist Church Hall during which members brought assorted greenery and flowers to make holiday decorations.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Snapshots



## SCHOOL SUPPORT

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing (center, back) presented the annual check of \$500 to the Showell Elementary School Kiwanis K-Kids Club on Dec. 9. Kiwanis supports the youth club program for the school year. The students learn about community service during after school meetings with their teacher advisor Evy Collins. Also pictured is Principal Ryan Cowder.

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## QUILTERS

Quilters by the Sea Guild Volunteer Day on Jan. 4 was dedicated to the request made by Maggie Miller of Coastal Hospice, who asked if the group would be willing to make clothing protectors for their clients. Thirty-two Guild members and eight others made 175 clothing protectors. Pictured, from left, are Robin Mower, QBS vice president; Miller, Coastal Hospice volunteer coordinator; and Stephanie Dilworth, QBS Volunteer Day chair.



## COLLEGE PREP

The College Counseling Department, together with the Alumni Association at Worcester Prep, started a new tradition with a College Age Alumni Luncheon & College Fair on Jan. 4. The event provided an opportunity for current juniors and seniors to ask recent Worcester Prep graduates about their experience with the college application process, choosing the right school and college life. Pictured, in front, from left, are Vickie Garner (WPS director of College Counseling), Grace Baeurle '22 (University of North Carolina, Wilmington), Hannah Merritt '19 (University of Delaware), Brooke Phillips '22 (Penn State University) and Olivia Bescak '17 (Salisbury University '21, New York University - MA candidate); center, Summer Walker '21 (Duke University), Meredith Cummings '21 (New York University), Isabel Abboud '19 (University of Redlands), Owen Tunis '19 (Virginia Tech) and Devin Wallace '20 (Furman University); and in back, Joseph Schwartz '21 (Duke University), Frank Carter '20 (United States Naval Academy), Anderssen Taylor '22 (University of Maryland, College Park) and TJ Bescak '21 (Arizona State University).

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GUEST SPEAKER

Ashlie Kozlowski, outreach coordinator for Assateague Island Alliance, right, was the guest speaker at a recent Worcester County Garden Club meeting. Members were provided with an overview of coastal ecology on the Eastern Shore and the importance of protecting and preserving Assateague Island National Seashore for current and future generations. She is pictured with WCGC President Deborah Young.



## MOANA PERFORMED

Close to 980 guests attended the Ocean Pines Children's Theater's presentation of "Disney's Moana, Jr., The Musical" in the Performing Arts Center, inside the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street, during its two-day run, Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7.

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# Artwork by local high school students featured by WCAC

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Worcester County Arts Council is presenting throughout February an exhibit of entries submitted by local high school students for the annual art competition sponsored by the Berlin-Ocean City Optimist Club.

The goal of this competition is to encourage, recognize, and honor the artistic expression of talented art students in Worcester County as well as to emphasize the importance and support of quality art programs.

The competition offers \$1,350 in cash prizes to the student artists.

The selection of artwork entered for this contest will be judged by artist and former educator, Sandy Glassman.

Monetary awards and ribbons will be presented to students on Friday, Feb. 10.

Visitors to the exhibit will have an opportunity to vote for the "People's

Choice" award. Voting will begin on Feb. 1 and end on Feb. 9.

The exhibit will be on display from Feb. 1-27.

The gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Designated by the Maryland State Arts Council as leading 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.

# Mediacom extends deadline for scholarship applications

(Feb. 2, 2023) Mediacom Communications is extending the application deadline for its scholarship program, Mediacom World Class Scholars.

In its 22nd consecutive year, the program will award \$1,000 World Class Scholarships to 60 high school seniors planning to obtain further education.

Scholarship applications must be submitted by Feb. 28.

The deadline was extended from an earlier date and high school seniors are encouraged to apply.

Mediacom's World Class Scholar-

ship applications are available online at [mediacomworldclass.com](http://mediacomworldclass.com).

Applicants do not have to be Mediacom customers but must live in areas where Mediacom's fiber-rich broadband network delivers Gigabit-speed internet service.

Recipients will be selected from the 22 states where Mediacom's residential customers reside.

A complete list of communities in Mediacom service areas is included with the online application.

Inquiries may be sent to [scholarship@mediacomcc.com](mailto:scholarship@mediacomcc.com).

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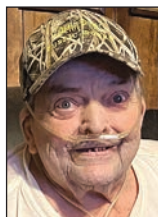




# Allan Baker appreciated for picking up trash

Health issues sidelined him for now, but he hopes to be back in action soon in OP

(Feb. 2, 2023) For the last two years, Allan Baker did a job in Ocean Pines that few have seen but many appreciate. Baker starts work at 5 a.m., three days a week, and drives the entire length of Ocean Parkway to pick up trash.



Allan Baker

He also visits each of the community parks to empty the trash cans. Often, he fills his Ford Ranger pickup truck bed with trash five times.

Recently, Baker has been sidelined because of health issues, but he hopes to return to work soon.

A quintessential Eastern Shore native, Baker was born in the area, grew up in Whaleyville and lives living in nearby Bishopville.

He was one of the original "salt-water cowboys," who helped to run the pony penning operation in Chincoteague, Virginia.

"I was raised on a farm, and I always had horses," he said. "When I was eight years old, I was picking crops with a horse with a walking

cultivator," he said. "The horse pulled the cultivator, and you would walk behind it and harvest these peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers."

Baker met his wife, Shirley, while riding a horse in Chincoteague.

"She denies it now, but she hollered at me!" he said with a laugh. "I was riding down the street after penning the ponies on a Wednesday, and she hollered at me, 'Hey, you good lookin' thing, you!'"

"I rode down the road about a mile and told a friend of mine, 'I'm going to go back and find that girl,'" Baker continued. "She was walking across the road to the carnival ground, and I said, 'Do you want to go for a ride?'"

She did, and the couple have been inseparable ever since.

"If we make it to Jan. 25, we'll be married 60 years," Baker said.

For several decades, Baker operated one of the poultry trucks that are ubiquitous on the Eastern Shore.

"I had a crew of men, and we went to the farms and loaded up chickens in the trucks that you see running up and down the road," he said.

He started working for a company based in Pennsylvania in 1958, and later worked for Allen Family Food for 25 years.

Being a native and long-time res-

ident, Baker remembers when Ocean Pines was little more than a wilderness of hunting grounds, where deer and ducks were prevalent.

"All of us hunted on the opposite side of the St. Martins River," he said. "There used to be an island that we had three duck blinds on, and we'd take a boat out there."

"For me, too much has changed in my lifetime, but I've met a lot of nice people down there," he added.

Baker had been retired for several years when he took a job with Ocean Pines Public Works.

"I was an old man, and I just got tired of sitting around the house," he said.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells has known Baker for many years. Even before he started working for Ocean Pines, Wells said Baker was known for zipping off the road to pick up trash wherever he saw it.

"When I first hired him, he said, 'If I'd have known I could get paid for this kind of stuff, I would have started years ago!'" Wells said.

Baker said he starts work early each day for both practical and safety reasons.

"It's easier to start before the traffic gets bad, especially if you're picking up trash in the middle of the road," he said. "Being old and stiff, I

don't move real fast."

He's found many strange things along the roadside, including wallets and cell phones that he turned in to Ocean Pines Police. He's also found hunting knives and, once, a large electrical box testing unit accidentally left behind by a local cable company.

One discarded item that stands out was an Old Navy gift card found lying next to an old Coke can.

"I pulled over to get the can and thought I may as well pick up whatever this is too, and I looked at it and figured somebody probably just used it and threw it out," he said.

Unable to find out who the card belonged to, Baker took it home and Shirley later called the store and found there was still some money left on it. So, she spent it on the granddaughter for Christmas," he said.

Baker is a lifelong dog lover and currently owns a German shepherd named Sarge, who came from a rescue shelter in Pennsylvania. Most days, Sarge can be found sitting next to Baker on the couch, watching TV or playing with toys.

"He was two-and-a-half years old when we got him, and you couldn't have picked out a better dog," Baker said.

See BAKER Page 21



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# Opinion

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

## AGH deserves break as cybercrime victim

Atlantic General Hospital should not be blamed for becoming the latest victim of the surge in ransomware attacks on thousands of businesses, agencies and hospitals in this country over the last two years.

In 2022 alone, 250 U.S. health care institutions were extorted for ransom in exchange for the key to unlock their hijacked networks.

So severe is this problem that the FBI, which has jurisdiction over these crimes, has more than 800 specially trained agents in the field ready to arrive at a victim's doorstep on short notice.

That's according to FBI testimony during congressional cybercrime hearings last March, so it's certain that federal agents are working with AGH as well.

Although it's only natural that people will complain about canceled appointments and inconveniences, and perhaps blame AGH for this problem, the fact is cybercrime is reaching pandemic proportions itself. Moreover, the physical size or location of an institution has nothing to do with it.

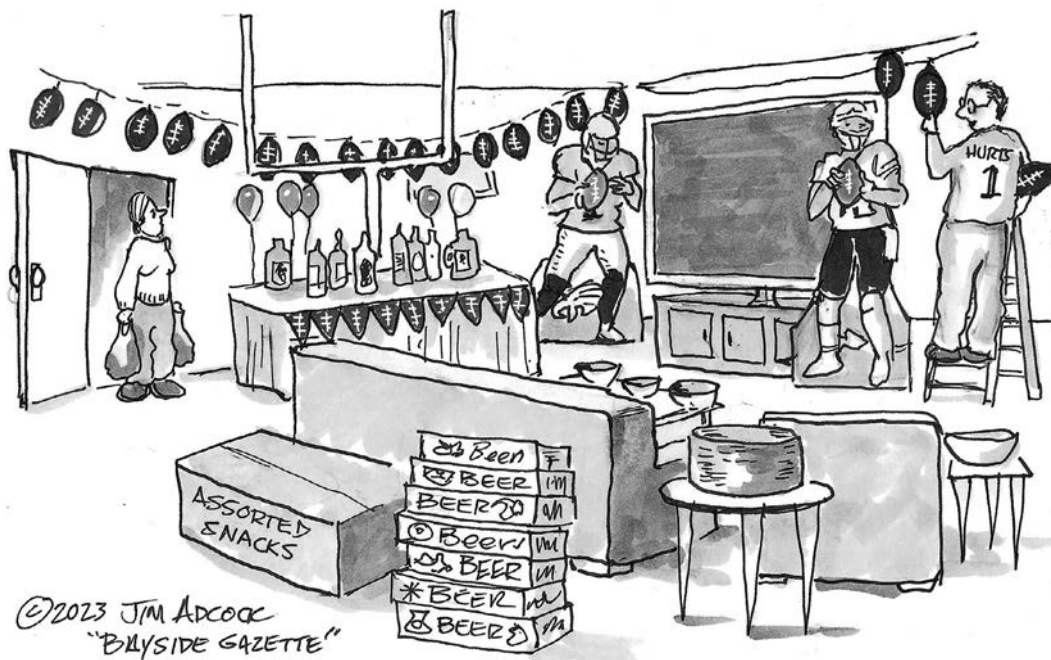
In late 2021, for instance, the Maryland Department of Health was held hostage by ransomware, and last year it happened to one of the largest hospital groups in the country, CommonSpiritHealth, which has 140 hospitals. Pennsylvania hospitals also have been particularly hard-hit since 2020.

This isn't because of lax security protocols or some in-house failure. It's because cybercriminals have become increasingly sophisticated. This is especially so when they engage in "phishing," which is when an email or text appears to be legitimate but, once opened, gives bad actors access to an otherwise secure network.

People who complain that they can't get more information from AGH officials should also realize that these officials are locked out of their own system, so neither they nor the FBI can assess what damage, if any, that's being done.

Aided by FBI and other federal resources, AGH is undoubtedly doing its best to get the situation resolved while also continuing to function.

So get it out of your head that this is a local problem. It isn't. It's international economic terrorism. All it takes is opening the wrong email made to look like it's from someone you know ... except it isn't.



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"Is it too soon to decorate for the Super Bowl?"

## AARP volunteers providing tax help

(Feb. 2, 2023) The following is a communication from the AARP Foundation:

AARP Tax Aide volunteers have been training for the current tax season and are ready to take appointments.

This year, the program will return to in-person tax preparation where community members can bring their tax records and have their federal and state taxes prepared in a single sitting.

The AARP program is for those with regular wages, retirement income, interest,

dividends, capital gains, non-employment income, and most other common tax situations.

This free tax preparation service is available to most everyone, but focuses on seniors and those with lower incomes. Those who make more than six figures, or have rental income/depreciation or multiple brokerage statements or special tax situations, may be better served by a paid preparer.

Those wishing to have their taxes done should call 443-373-2667 to make an

appointment.

Tax Aide volunteers serve the Ocean Pines area on Mondays at the library starting in early February. Volunteers are in Ocean City on Saturdays, in Salisbury on Tuesdays, and in Pocomoke on Fridays.

AARP membership is not required.

Clients are asked to make sure they have all current tax documents and related information with them and sorted prior to their appointment. A copy of the previous year's return is also helpful.

## Scholarships available for students

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore recently established the Lower Shore Scholarship Fund to assist local students attending area colleges.

The new scholarship fund is unique in that gifts made by donors to the fund may qualify for the Endow Maryland Tax Credit.

The Lower Shore Scholarship Fund provides a new opportunity for donors to support scholarships locally.

Each year, Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and University of Maryland Eastern

Shore will receive equal grants from the Community Foundation to support students who are residents of the tri-county region.

Each school will be empowered to prioritize recipient selection to meet emerging student and workforce needs.

The Endow Maryland Tax Credit Program rewards donors who make charitable gifts to qualifying funds at their local community foundation, including gifts to the Lower Shore Scholarship Fund.

Contributions of \$500 or more to the Community

Foundation of the Eastern Shore under the Endow Maryland program qualify for a 25 percent tax credit on their state taxes.

"Education is the key to growing a stronger community," said Erica Joseph, Community Foundation president.

"We hope these tax credits will help donors maximize their gifts while empowering our next generation of leaders."

To learn more about the Endow Maryland Tax Credit program and the qualifying funds visit CFES.org/endowmd.

# BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

**EDITOR** ..... Stewart Dobson  
**MANAGING EDITOR** ..... Lisa Capitelli  
**STAFF WRITERS** ..... Jack Chavez, Mallory Panuska,  
.....Cindy Hoffman  
**ACCOUNT MANAGERS** ..... Mary Cooper, Vicki Shrier  
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**SENIOR DESIGNER** ..... Susan Parks  
**GRAPHIC ARTIST** ..... Kelly Brown  
**PUBLISHER** ..... Christine Brown  
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PHOTO COURTESY TOMMY VACH

The Ocean City Surf Club launched a Kids In Need Education Scholarship Campaign. It is challenging area businesses to donate and create a \$100,000 scholarship for an economically disadvantaged student in the area to achieve their dreams through a college or trade school education. Pictured, from left, are OC Surf Club Secretary Kevan Thomson, Sandy Deeley, Deeley Insurance Group President Laura Bren, OC Surf Club President Tommy Vach and OC Surf Instructor Bill Thomson.

# Ocean City Surf Club starts scholarship fund for youth

(Feb. 2, 2023) The Ocean City Surf Club, a local, 501c3 nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, has launched a Kids In Need Education Scholarship Campaign for a local student to afford a college or trade school education.

The club is challenging area businesses to donate and create a \$100,000 scholarship for an economically disadvantaged student in the area to achieve their dreams through a college or trade school education.

OCSC is reaching out to corporations, businesses and/or individuals to be part of Kids In Need, by making a donation to fund this campaign.

OCSC invites potential donors to take a closer look at the impact the

organization has had on the children in the community through scholarships, youth mentoring and environmental programs. It is dedicated in its efforts to provide financial assistance to those who need it most.

The Ocean City Surf Club's goal is to make sure local students have financial access to a world-class education. Join the Deeley Insurance Group and RJB LAW, LLC as "Kids In Need" Education Scholarship donors helping to make local students college dreams a reality.

To learn more about this campaign or to make a donation in any amount, contact the Ocean City Surf Club at [info@ocsurfclub.org](mailto:info@ocsurfclub.org).



PHOTO COURTESY TOMMY VACH

Pictured, from left, are Rich and Lauren Brueckner of RJB Law, OC Surf Club President Tommy Vach and OC Surf Club Vice President Rusty Ruszin.

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# Cuisine

## Recipe features 'soup for flu-ridden soul'

Good Lord, can we please get rid of this disease-plagued era?

While COVID is finally weaning itself from the teat of most populations (I'm glad that we are not experiencing the patient crisis that some other nations are finally facing as we did in 2020), it is back with gusto but in a much milder form for most.

To top it off, I can't tell you how many people I know who have fallen out from the flu and this random stomach bug over the last two months. It's literally insane. A good friend has a sizable real estate practice in town, and over half of his office was out a couple weeks ago for one of the three aforementioned ailments. When is it going to stop?

Returning from Austin with one of my kids recently, we did so with the realization that we had the same or similar illness. Yet, he tested positive for COVID and I was negative the whole way through. I still stayed home (I didn't complain much) as prescribed and we worked our way through the mildest form of the virus that we had seen. On a side note, I either have never had COVID or I had it in October 2019, which is the most likely thing.

I was sick as a dog then, with all of the symptoms but, of course, I tested negative for everything, as they were not detecting it at that point. That's the only reason I can give to reconcile the fact that I have "never" had it despite the literal thousands of people I have been around since then, between both restaurants, teaching and catering. There's just no way.

That is not to say that I won't get it, or that I am immune. I'm just curious as to how I have never had it, technically.

But getting away from this tangent, what are we to do when we are stuck at home with any of the many ailments afflicting us at present? Well, first we rest. Second we binge watch Netflix or any other streaming service (how did we ever survive before?) and we eat copious amounts of soup if our bodies allow us.

For obvious reasons, I would suggest that you stay away from cream-based soups (just the thought of that



makes me cringe) and stick with the broths.

Broths can be used for so many delicious, filling, and satiating soups. Think minestrone, chicken & rice, chicken vegetable, pho broth all by itself or this simple Asian-influenced tonic. The list is endless and tiring to think of, but you get the idea.

There have been books written on the nutritive and recuperative benefits of chicken soup, and I am a firm believer. Find one that works for you and let it rip. And the greatest part is that most will freeze for future use quite nicely.

So, until this latest run of illnesses run their course, learn to master chicken soup. Heal yourself and your soul, and get back out there to rule the world.

### Soup for the Flu-ridden Soul

Makes about 3 quarts

2 qt. Homemade chicken broth (recipe follows)

1/4 ee. White onion, shaved

1/4 c. finely julienne carrot

2 scallion greens, chopped

2 cloves smashed garlic

2 whole eggs per bowl

Salt & Pepper to taste

2 Tbsp. Bachan's™ Japanese BBQ

sauce

1. Heat chicken broth to a simmer. If the flavors are not very intense, you could start with 4 quarts and reduce to 3. If it is homemade (and it should be in this case), not only will the flavors concentrate, but the proteins will increase by volume making it more nourishing.

2. Add onions, carrot, scallions and garlic.

3. Add the eggs, 2 at a time to poach, removing once the whites have set and the yolks are still runny. Keep warm until ready to serve.

4. When eggs are done, add the Japanese BBQ sauce (Hawaiian BBQ sauce is a variation on a theme).

5. Reheat the eggs if necessary and split the soup as needed. Make sure to give all the sickos an even share of vegetables, and then top each bowl with two eggs.

6. Serve and let the poor bastards go back to bed or laze on the couch to watch movies.

### Chicken Broth

Makes about 1 gallon-ish

1 whole chicken with neck or leftover bones and meat from rotisserie chicken (my favorite)

1 large carrot, peeled and large chunks

2 pieces celery, large chunks  
1 whole yellow onion, cut into 4 pieces

2 bay leaves

1 Tbsp. Black peppercorns

1 tsp. Dry thyme

stems from 1 bunch parsley whites from the scallions you cut earlier

1. Place everything in a stock pot large enough to hold.

2. Top with water, covering the highest part by 2 inches.

3. Don't pay attention to the common notion that this only takes three hours to complete. Follow closely.

4. If using a whole chicken, you can remove at 2-3 hours and pick the meat and reserve for later. If you are using a rotisserie, let it fly.

5. Replace back in the water and cook overnight or at least six hours at a low simmer. Make sure that there is the tiniest amount of rolling convection.

6. When done, strain and use the broth or refrigerate.

7. Cool the leftover garbage enough to place in the trash can.

— Paul Suplee is the owner of boxcar40, boxcar on main, boxcar crafted events and sportfish catering.  
[www.boxcarrestaurants.com](http://www.boxcarrestaurants.com)

# Baker missed by dogs, residents

Continued from Page 17

Baker has made his affinity for dogs a part of his daily routine in Ocean Pines.

"I like to take them treats on my route, and I've met quite a few dogs down there," he said.

Wells said Baker is beloved by both pet owners and the pets themselves.

"When his truck pulls up, the dogs will come running to him to get the treats every time he comes," Wells said. "They really love to see him. They know the truck and, every time he's out picking up trash, they'll stop and say 'hi' and he'll give a treat to their dogs."

One dog owner, Georgia Hughes, even put Baker on her Christmas card list. Her "maltipoo" Skippy, is Baker's biggest fan.

"Skippy just loves Bubba - we always call him Bubba. You wouldn't find a kinder man," Hughes said.

She said Baker would often be in the neighborhood at 6:30 a.m., and Skippy would look for him.

"As soon as he saw him on the other side of the parkway, he'd be raring to go," she said. "Bubba always had handful of treats for Skippy. I would tell Bubba, 'Just one more' and he would give him five. I'd tell Skippy, 'Bubba just can't count!'"

"They just had a nice friendship, and Skippy misses him," she continued. "He's a wonderful man. We miss him and we love him, and we hope he gets better."

As for people, Baker joked that he has a way of getting the measure of those who live in Ocean Pines.

"If you say 'I'm from Ocean Pines,' you're pretty decent. But if you say, 'I'm from The Pines' - you'd better look out for them!" he said. "But I've met a lot of nice people here."

Baker last worked in July, before suffering a series of health-related setbacks. He hopes to return to work soon.

"Ocean Pines is a nice place and I'd like to get back to it," he said. "All those guys [at Public Works] really helped me out a lot."

Those assists have come easy for the public works crew because Baker does his job so well.

"We used to get calls all the time about trash in the parks or trash on the Parkway, but after he started, we never got complaints anymore," Wells said. "He picks up, on average, probably 20-25 trash bags full of trash, three days a week."

Public Works Manager Nobie Violante said it's one of the more unsung jobs in all of Ocean Pines.

"Most people don't know who empties those cans at the parks and how much effort goes into keeping Ocean Pines looking like that," Violante said. "He really does a great job for us."

# Obituary

**ROBERT M. ALLEN**  
Ocean Pines

Robert M. Allen, 87, of Ocean Pines, Maryland, passed away peacefully on Jan. 27, 2023.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn (nee Eaton), and his brother, Raymond M Allen.

He is also survived by his daughters, Cynthia Russell and Mary Hill, and her husband, Frederick, their daughter, Michelle (Stephanny), and son, Brian (Elizabeth), and Carol Clark and her husband, Michael, their daughters, Sara, Kelly and Emily; stepchildren, Mari Hillmann and her husband, Paul and their sons, Jake (Amber) and Henry; three great-grandchildren, Mark Van Dusen, his daughter, Crystal (Matt) and his son, Lee; two great-grandchildren, Christine Grant (Ed Janco), her sons, Michael and Matthew.

He was predeceased by his parents, J. Clarence and Elizabeth Morris Allen; his stepmother, and aunt, Ethel Morris Allen.

Bob was born in Neptune, New Jersey, and grew up in Wall Township and was a graduate of Manasquan High School Class of 1953. He also

graduated with a degree in Agricultural Industries from the State University of New York, Farmingdale, New York.

At the time of his retirement, he was the Milk Plant superintendent at Johanna Farms, Flemington, New Jersey, where he had worked for 15 years.

Upon his retirement, Bob became very successful selling real estate, winning awards as top sales agent and producer several times at Long and Foster.

Bob was personable and friendly and went out of his way for others.

He enjoyed fishing, boating, gardening and square dancing.

A viewing will be held at O'Brien Funeral Home, 2028 NJ-35 Wall Township, New Jersey, 07719 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, followed by a prayer service at 11:30 a.m. Burial will take place at Greenwood Cemetery, Brielle.


In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105 or online at <https://www.stjude.org>.



Robert M. Allen

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# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Feb. 2

### CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

### STEM THURSDAYS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Use your creativity and build using one of the library's STEM building kits. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME: ONCE UPON A TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. It's Fairy Tale February. Join the group for a fun, classic fairy tale. Stick around after for a fun craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MERRY MAKERS - DIY WITH CORKS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Make something with corks. Pinterest has lots of good ideas. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### POCOMOKE BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'LONG WAY DOWN' BY JASON RAYNOLDS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Books are available at the Pocomoke circulation desk. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Celebrate Black History with special crafts inspired by Black art. For ages 8 years and older. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ZUMBA FOR ALL

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. Registration required: 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.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](mailto:BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., Feb. 3

### 12TH ANNUAL DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A vendor show to promote the fiber industry through vendors, classes and appreciation of the art. Admission cost is \$3 per day or \$5

for the weekend. [www.woolandfiber.com](http://www.woolandfiber.com)

### CHESS/TAFL CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9:30 a.m. Come to the library and bring your boards. Also, learn the exciting game of Hnefatafl, an old strategy game. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BABY TIME: CLASSIC STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Classic story time. Stay after to socialize with other families. For children ages 2 years and younger. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join the group for a short structured activity and then socialize and play with other homeschool families. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH TEA & MOVIE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-3:30 p.m. Drop by for some tea and a movie that celebrates Black History Month. Movie details and required registration: 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FREE FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTIONS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Featuring openings for six new exhibitions using various mediums. Satellite galleries include the Coffee Beanery, 94th Street and The Princess Royale lobby, 91st Street. [OCart.org](http://OCart.org), 410-524-9433

## Sat., Feb. 4

### 12TH ANNUAL DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A vendor show to promote the fiber industry through vendors, classes and appreciation of the art. Admission cost is \$3 per day or \$5 for the weekend. [www.woolandfiber.com](http://www.woolandfiber.com)

### EASTERN SHORE SHOWDOWN - VOLLEYBALL

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Two-day volleyball tournament. Spectator admission cost is \$25. Tickets must be purchased online. Scheduling and info: <https://webuildyouplay.com/tournaments/>. 410-202-8849, [info@webuildyouplay.com](mailto:info@webuildyouplay.com)

### TOWN OF OCEAN CITY ANNUAL JOB FAIR

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 9-11 a.m. Seeking candidates in every discipline from public safety to camp counselors to bus drivers, lifeguards and more. Bring resumes and dress to impress. 410-289-8822, [www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov)

### GENEALOGY HELP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch,

307 N. Washington St., 10 a.m.-noon. Local history librarian will be on hand to help participants find their roots. By appointment only: 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### AARP TAX-AIDE TAX PREPARATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Tax Preparation and Efile. IRS Certified tax counselors will prepare and efile your tax return. Appointment only. Please call 443-373-2667 or go online [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) for an appointment.

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Vegetables, beverages and dessert included. Carry outs and baked table available. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children. Those 5 years and younger, eat free. 443-614-9898

### FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays until Feb. 25 - 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.

## Sun., Feb. 5

### 12TH ANNUAL DELMARVA WOOL AND FIBER EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. A vendor show to promote the fiber industry through vendors, classes and appreciation of the art. Admission cost is \$3 per day. [www.woolandfiber.com](http://www.woolandfiber.com)

### EASTERN SHORE SHOWDOWN - VOLLEYBALL

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Two-day volleyball tournament. Spectator admission cost is \$25. Tickets must be purchased online. Scheduling and info: <https://webuildyouplay.com/tournaments/>. 410-202-8849, [info@webuildyouplay.com](mailto:info@webuildyouplay.com)

### SERVICE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal, 10001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m. The church will hold a single service followed by a pancake breakfast. 410-723-1973, <https://holyspiritoc.org>

### 9TH ANNUAL 'BEST WINGS ON THE SHORE' CONTEST

Crooked Hammock Brewery, 36707 Crooked Hammock Way, Lewes, 12-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 at the door and includes a judge's ballot, allowing for unlimited tastings. Children 9 years and younger admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Ocean 98

"Cash for College" Fund. [ocean98.com](http://ocean98.com)

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., Feb. 6

### AARP TAX-AIDE TAX PREPARATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Tax Preparation and Efile. 443-373-2667

### STORY TIME 'CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories celebrating Black History Month. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will focus on the short story "The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane. The group meets twice a month to discuss classic and modern selections. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SMALL SOCIETY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Friends have been working to create a business from the ground up, so now it's time to see it in action. For all ages. Jake Nail, [jnail@worcestlibrary.org](mailto:jnail@worcestlibrary.org), 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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

### BLACK HISTORY ON THE EASTERN SHORE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Cindy Byrd, Director and Curator at the Purnell Museum, will speak about the history and accomplishments of Black people on the Shore. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SONGWRITERS WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song you are working on to this open collaborative led by Mikel Campbell. All genres welcome. Talk through composition issues with other songwriters. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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.

Continued on Page 25

# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Call **410-723-6397**  
by Monday 5 p.m.



Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

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### HELP WANTED

### HELP WANTED

### HELP WANTED

### HELP WANTED

### HELP WANTED



**TOWN OF OCEAN CITY**  
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## JOB FAIR

### Departments Hiring:

- Beach Patrol • Construction
- Convention Center • Police
- Emergency Communications
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- Recreation & Parks • Solid Waste
- Transportation & more!

Date: Sat. Feb. 4, 2023  
Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

Join us at: Northside Park  
200 125th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842

**Assateague Pointe Gate Attendant**  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 1 a.m. to 9 a.m., year-round, part-time, Berlin, MD  
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### Worcester County Health Department

**AGENCY BUDGET SPECIALIST I** - Full Time, State Benefits. This position is responsible for the preparation and coordination of budgets by reviewing program requests for format, fund limitations and compliance with requirements and timelines. This position will also monitor and approve expenditures by analyzing budgetary priorities and constraints. Background check required.

APPLY ONLINE at [www.jobapscloud.com/md](http://www.jobapscloud.com/md) by February 13, 2023.

*We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request by calling 410-632-1100 ext. 1221.*



**Town of Berlin**  
Employment Opportunities  
Various Departments



**Current Open Positions:** Police Officers, Police Communications Officers, Sanitation General Laborer and Stormwater Laborer, Water Resources Distribution and Collection Technician. Training opportunities available.

**We are seeking motivated individuals to come work for the Town of Berlin. Overview of employee benefits:** Members of the Maryland State Retirement System, a competitive health benefits package including a health reimbursement account, employer-paid life insurance, 100% tuition reimbursement, vacation accruals based on tenure, 12 sick days per year, 15 paid holidays per year, and two personal days per year!

**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](mailto:kjensen@berlinmd.gov). Applications can be found at [www.berlinmd.gov](http://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**

## ADVERTISING SALESPERSON



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### Good Income, Good Benefits, Good Company

Ocean City Today, the newspaper of record for the Ocean City resort area, and the Bayside Gazette need a top account executive to handle established accounts.

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This is not a high-pressure sales situation, but is a relationship-building opportunity that helps customers do better in the marketplace.

Salary, plus commission, health insurance program and 401K. Vacation time, sick time too. *(Please don't expect vacation time in the summer... no one gets that during peak season).*

Apply to **Stewart Dobson** or **Christine Brown** at:  
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City  
or email [sdobson@oceancitytoday.net](mailto:sdobson@oceancitytoday.net);  
[cbrown@oceancitytoday.net](mailto:cbrown@oceancitytoday.net)  
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**Seacrets**  
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Candidates for this position should possess a BS degree in Mathematics, with the demonstrated ability to teach Algebra at the above referenced level. Previous experience teaching middle and upper 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 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 travelling over an hour to reach campus. All graduates matriculate to four-year colleges or universities, many among the most selective in the nation.  
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](mailto:lwatson@worcesterprep.org).

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Use Happy Jack® Skin Balm® on cats & dogs to treat hot spots & skin allergies without steroids! At Tractor Supply® ([www.fleabeacon.com](http://www.fleabeacon.com)).

**VEHICLES WANTED**  
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[www.baysideoc.com](http://www.baysideoc.com) ~ [www.oceancitytoday.com](http://www.oceancitytoday.com)

# Calendar

Continued from Page 23

## Tues., Feb. 7

**STORY TIME 'REPTILES'**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650

**PARACHUTE GAMES**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for parachute games. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**OC KNITTING GROUP**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818

**MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC WITH GINNY ROSENKRANZ**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014

**BABY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other

families. For children 2 years and younger. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE 1619 PROJECT**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Also held via Zoom. UMD Professor, Dr. Richard Bell, talks about this Project from a special edition of "The New York Times' Magazine" Registration required: 443-783-6164, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org).

**MARYLAND BASIC BOATING SAFETY COURSE**

Held virtually, Feb. 7-9, 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$20. Those passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, [CGAUXOC@gmail.com](mailto:CGAUXOC@gmail.com).

**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.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**

**Tuesdays** - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://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](http://TangobytheBeach.com).

## Wed., Feb. 8

**BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP**

Held via Zoom, on the first and second Wednesdays of each month, for non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatrics Center, 410-641-9568.

**CREATIVE KIDS CORNER**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Come create a winter craft at the library or take it to go. Most supplies included. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818

**SUPER BOWL SNACKS**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. What Chef Charles is making is a secret, but won't

be the usual nachos or bean dip. Ample tastings and recipes provided. 410-208-4014

**LOVE BUG CRAFT**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:30 p.m. Get crafty and make your on Love Bug, just in time for Valentine's Day. For ages 11 years and older. 410-524-1818

**'DEFYING EXPECTATIONS' WITH SU ALUMNUS AL 'HONDO' HANDY**

Salisbury University - Blackwell Hall, 1101 Camden Ave., Salisbury, 6 p.m. Author of the memoir "Defying Expectations," Al "Hondo" Handy, recounts his experience integrating into a predominately white high school and going on to win a state basketball championship.

**CHARITY B.I.N.G.O. FOR A CAUSE**

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6-8 p.m. Five bingo games total, \$2 per bingo card and 50/50 raffles all night. The theme is "The Love Boat." Come dressed in cruise attire to win contest. Benefits ACT. [outreach@actforbays.org](mailto:outreach@actforbays.org), 443-856-9309

**KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**

**Wednesdays** - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are off-site and will be updated monthly. Guests are welcome. [www.kiwanisofpoc.org](http://www.kiwanisofpoc.org)

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| Saturday, 11am-1pm | 15 Burley Street, Berlin             | 3BR/3BA          | Single Family      | \$699,900 | PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate       |
| Saturday, 11am-1pm | 104 127th St. #337, Ocean City       | 1BR/1BA          | Condo              | \$239,900 | PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate       |
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