

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



JUNE 29, 2023

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FREE

OP CANDIDATE FORUM

Board candidates face annual quiz before full house

Four hopefuls keep it calm, deliberate and thoughtful

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) It was standing room only at the Ocean Pines candidate forum on Wednesday night, as heavy rain and winds did not prevent residents from coming out to hear the viewpoints of the four candidates vying for three seats on the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors.

Tom Piatti, the chair of the Election Advisory Committee reminded the audience that the two top vote-getters this year's election will serve a full three-year term on the board, and the third-place finisher will serve out the remainder of Frank Daly's term, following his resignation from the board to move to Florida.

The four candidates — John Latham, Jerry Murphy, Elaine Brady and Jeff Heavner — provided opening remarks, outlining their backgrounds and why they are running.

Residents submitted 14 questions for the candidates in advance to the elections committee. The topics included public use of the boat ramps, digital signs, congestion, yard maintenance, budget questions and the debate over a roundabout at the north entrance.

In addition, audience members had a chance to ask questions of the candidates.

In his opening comments, Latham remarked that he would have a servant leadership style.

Murphy voiced his desire to serve the community that has served him so well over the nearly 50 years he has owned property in Ocean Pines. He was the builder of the infamous round houses.

Brady would be a legacy board member, as her father served on the board in the 1990s. She has a multi-generational perspective on the com-

See CANDIDATES Page 4



CINDY HOFFMAN/DC/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOUR OF THE TOWN

Mayor Zack Tyndall talks with Comptroller Brooke Lierman during a walking tour of Berlin on Monday. They were joined by members of the Berlin Council. See story on page 13.

Independence festivities abound in Worcester Co.

Fans of fireworks will have four shows to choose from

By **Jack Chavez**
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) Whether you want to celebrate among the throngs of tourists or find something more local-focused, there are plenty of options for you and your family this July 4.

Berlin

The Town of Berlin will be holding its annual fireworks celebration at Heron Park on Monday, July 3, giving anyone who can't get their fill of

fireworks in just one day a chance to fit in other July 4 activities. The fireworks will start at dusk — roughly 9:15 p.m. — at the park located at 10009 Old Ocean City Road.

The town is still accepting sponsors for the event. Those interested can find more information on the Town of Berlin's official Facebook page.

Ocean Pines

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will host a nearly four-hour celebration at Veterans Memorial Park off Route 589 and

See BERLIN Page 3

Heron Park's future awaits final decision

Town still undecided on ways to develop 17-acre property

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) The continuing discussion of what to do with Heron Park resumed at the Berlin mayor and Town Council meeting Monday night, with officials still debating how to proceed with the development of a portion of it.

The former Tyson chicken processing plant land and buildings were purchased in 2016 by the town of Berlin for \$2.5 million and has been used as park land since then. The town currently owes \$2.3 million on the property.

The town requested proposals for the property last year and received responses from Palmer Gillis of Coastal Ventures Properties LLC and another for a mixed use development of 78 homes. The council agreed that the latter not the best fit for the property, according to Mayor Zack Tyndall.

The offer is for 17 acres of the property. Forty four acres will remain untouched.

A subcommittee of the council has been exploring options for the property. The members are Mayor Tyndall, Councilmembers Jack Orris and Jay Knerr, Town Administrator Mary Bohlen and Town Attorney David Gaskill.

Gillis offered the town \$1.5 million for three parcels with an additional \$200,000 earmarked for rails and trails and an amphitheater. His proposal included partial demolition of the existing structure. The discussion during the meeting ranged from an amphitheater and skate park to a garden center on the premises.

"We have two goals in mind. Bring forth a project to enhance the town. The problem is the second goal, to retire the debt on this property," said

See HERON Page 7



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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A child climbs on a makeshift rock-climbing wall during the 2022 Ocean Pines Fourth of July celebration at Veterans Memorial Park. This year's holiday event, which will feature activities including carnival games, dry slides and a bounce house for children, is set from 5-8:45 p.m., Tuesday, at the park.

Berlin lights fuse Monday, with OP, OC shows Tuesday

Continued from Page 1
Cathell Road on Tuesday, July 4.

The event will kick off at 5 p.m. and is expected to wrap up at 8:45 p.m., with fireworks lighting off at roughly 9:15 p.m. The evening will include carnival games, dry slides and a bounce house for children. Also on hand will be live music, food and drink vendors.

Children's wristbands are \$10 and give admission to all slides and bounce houses, but general admission is free and open to the public.

Parking will be available near the Ocean Pines Library and Taylor Bank. Police will close Ocean Parkway from Manklin Creek Road to Offshore Lane about 30 minutes before the fireworks.

Ocean City

The marquee Worcester County locale is offering two simultaneous fireworks displays on Tuesday, July 4. One display will occur at Northside Park at 125th Street and the other will occur on the south end of the Boardwalk with parking available at the

inlet parking lot.

Both fireworks displays will begin at 9:30 p.m.

At Northside Park, festivities will commence at 8 p.m. with DJ musical entertainment. The soccer field and walking path on the northwest side of the park will be closed from viewing due to safety precautions.

On the Boardwalk, the U.S. Army band Downrange will perform onstage at Caroline Street at 7 p.m., followed by DJ music. The celebrations are free to attend, but parking will increase to \$5 per hour at the inlet parking lot. In-town bus services will be available from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. and the West Ocean City Park and Ride to Dorchester Street and St. Louis Avenue route will be available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Snow Hill

For those experiencing fireworks withdrawals after the big shows are said and done, the Town of Snow Hill will offer a free fireworks display and celebration on Friday, July 7 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sturgis Park off Route 12 by the Pocomoke River.

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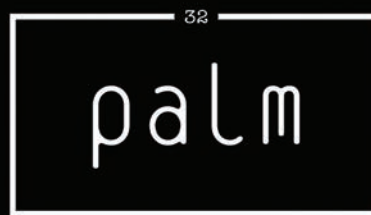
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Candidates forum in Pines produces no big surprises

Continued from Page 1

munity, as her grandson was raised in Ocean Pines and just graduated from Stephen Decatur High School this year.

She noted that she spent her career working for community newspapers. [She is the former owner of the Bayside Gazette].

“I found it is such a terrific way for myself and others to connect to the communities in which we live and to know what’s going on because the decisions that are made at this level affect our everyday lives,” Brady said.

Heavner said, “What do you get when you elect me to the board? I stand for kindness, I stand for unity, I stand for integrity, I stand for conviction. I am an independent thinker.”

The first question to Latham concerned the cost of decking projects and whether he would choose pressure-treated wood that would be cheaper up front, but would need maintenance, or use maintenance-free composite decking, which would cost more up front.

Latham’s noted his background in procurement and said, “I would look at the total cost of all those options. I would map all the options out. It’s a pay me now, pay me later situation.”

Latham was also asked his opinion on a possible roundabout at the north side entrance to Route. 589.

“I have seen roundabouts work,” Latham said, adding that he would need to understand a little bit more about before passing judgment.

“A roundabout, does it fit?” he asked. “I am not quite sure that I have enough data to say that I think that would work. If it helps for us to be safe and the geese are in good shape, I would be okay with it.”

He noted that it would have to fiscally make sense as well.

Latham also responded to a question about rundown properties. He said compliance comes at a cost, noting that Ocean Pines currently only has 1.5 employees to take care of compliance. He supported tougher action.

“We can’t allow places to run into disrepair,” he said.

A question asked of all the candidates was whether they had any current amenities memberships. Latham said he just purchased a couples swim membership and goes to the Yacht Club regularly. When his kids were younger, he had the pool membership, he said.

Murphy was asked whether he would support efforts to limit access to some conveniences to OPA residents and guests only or charge a fee, particularly for commercial users. “I would not be opposed to outsiders paying a fee to use our marinas or



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Jerry Murphy speaks to the audience at the OPA candidate forum on Wednesday. Other candidates, from left are John Latham, Jerry Murphy, Elaine Brady, Jeff Heavner.

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Circumspect answers at forum

boat docks," Murphy said.

He suggested further discussion with the Marine Advisory Committee would be needed.

"All options are on the table. I don't think a slide card would work at this point. The expense could outweigh the benefit."

Murphy then answered a question about raising assessments to maintain and enhance the community. He said that he would raise assessments as a last resort. He noted that the southside fire department will be an expensive undertaking.

"We should exhaust all other methods including local, state and federal grants," he said.

A member of the audience asked Murphy what might be done about the urban sprawl that seems to be creeping into the area. The resident was nostalgic about the early days of Ocean Pines when it was more of a seasonal community.

"You can't do much to stop urban sprawl, but we can work with the county to make sure the infrastructure supports this number of people," Murphy replied.

Regarding rundown properties, Murphy said the board should look at enforcement and fines that are not under a secondary homeowners' association.

Murphy does not currently have

any memberships to amenities in Ocean Pines. In the past, he was a member of the golf and beach clubs. He visits all the amenities and supports them. He currently pays per use.

Brady was asked to identify specific decisions or actions of the current board that she agreed with and those she would have handled differently and how she would do that.

While she could not identify specific decisions, she said she had no problem with the decisions our current board has been making.

"We are not all always going to agree, but we need to be willing to listen," she said. "Listen to the community. Listen to each other in order to come to some sort of reasonable decisions on the issues."

One question was posed to Brady concerned electronic signs, specifically replacing the North Gate sign as a first step. Brady had been on the Communications Advisory Committee in the past and was well-acquainted with the issue.

She said she knew that there were concerns from some community members about light intrusion from an electronic sign, but that the committee had identified signs that would be black with white lettering which would not emit too much

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"I live in constant fear that I'll fall."
"I can't sleep, my hands and feet tingle all night."

What do all of these people have in common? They suffer from **peripheral neuropathy**. It's estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have peripheral neuropathy. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed because of its wide array of symptoms.

Dr. Cynthia Salmond of Coastal Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine in Berlin shares this belief. "I've been treating neuropathy, in all its various forms, for over four years and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They see one of my ads, or hear the testimonial of another patient and say to themselves, "Hey, I feel the same thing."

Frankie M. of Annapolis testified to this. "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious - I just kept thinking, 'I would give anything just to walk again'. My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed." Fortunately, Frankie would eventually see Dr. Salmond on the news and how she offers a real solution at Coastal AIM. "I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope."

"Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie's. They've been everywhere else. They've been told there's no hope," shares Liz, a Patient Care Technician at

Coastal AIM. "It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I'm always so happy when they walk through our door."

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a grim reality; Western Medicine declares there is no solution while most alternative therapies carry large price tags and offer little to no resolution. Which is why Dr. Salmond and the staff at Coastal AIM pride themselves on being the 'last resort with the best results'.

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves and this damage is commonly caused by the lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. A lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients; the nerves then begin to degenerate and die which causes pain ranging from discomfort to debilitation. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving patients suffering from crippling balance issues. "In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Dr. Salmond, "This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread."

So how exactly is Dr. Salmond able to reverse the effects of this degenerative condition? "Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years which helps to get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy. This is technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite recovery and healing."

"I just can't say enough about Coastal AIM," Frankie shared through tears of joy. My husband and I moved here almost three years ago and he's gone to the beach almost everyday. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. Yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week, we're making plans for a weekend music festival. I am truly living life these days."

According to Frankie's test results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is "on par with the majority of our patients," shares Liz. "But more important than those test results is the joy she's expressed being here and hearing about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great!"

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Dr. Salmond has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation where a sensory exam is performed. This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred. She says, "This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I'm familiar with medical miracles, but I know the limits as a practitioner and the limits of this medicine."

When it comes to treating peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or 'pins and needles' or you've been recently diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, it's important to know there are options.

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Heron Park possibilities will be topic of public meetings

Continued from Page 1
Councilmember Jay Knerr.

“At the end of day, I would like to see us take a reset, work with the community and come up with something that is a win-win for everyone; a nice project and retire the debt. We need to slow down and take a reset,” Knerr said.

Tyndall suggested there were two options: sell the property to Coastal Ventures or keep the property and demolish the building themselves.

“We needed to get the site ready for development,” Tyndall said.

The town has a grant of \$500,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the demolition of the building. Members of the council and Gillis suggested that the cost could be much more than that.

If the cost exceeded the \$500,000, the mayor stated the rest of the costs would come from the town. “At the end of the day, we don’t want to leave the grant untouched.”

Speaking during the public comment phase of the meeting, Gillis said if he purchased the property, he

would be responsible for a cost overrun if the demolition exceeded the \$500,000 grant. He also noted that his company would be responsible for any environmental clean-up of the property due to the waste from the chicken plant.

“Heron Park was purchased to give the town control over what went there. We lived with a chicken plant.

We wanted to make sure that what went there had the support of the community,” Councilman Dean Burrell said.


“Palmer, you have done a splendid job with what you had to work with,” Burrell continued. “We failed to give you the direction from our community. That is our own fault. We failed to bring folks into the room. For that, I apologize.”

In the end the council voted to take a pause on a decision to give them time to host two to three public meetings in August on the project and provide the proposal from Coastal Ventures to the Planning Commission and the Parks Commissions for their opinions. They also agreed to extend the contract with Coastal Ventures until the end of the year.


“We needed to get the site ready for development.”

Mayor Zack Tyndall

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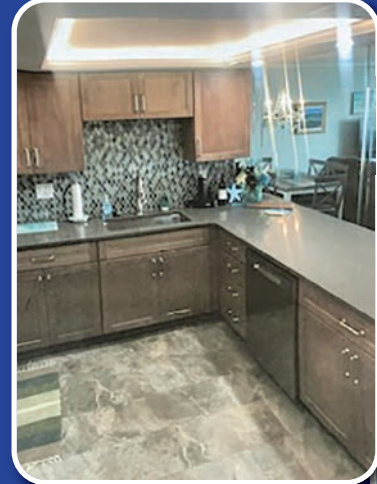
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Candidates present credentials

Continued from Page 5
 light.

“Right now, we have staff that have to go out every week, lift those heavy signs, change all the letters,” she said, adding, “all of the signs are different from the north to the south. Depending on what gate you come out of, you may never get certain pieces of information, or updated information,” Brady said.

She noted that with electronic signs, changes can be made easily.

When asked about run-down properties, Brady replied that she lives in a division of Ocean Pines that has a secondary HOA that imposes fines for violations. The homes in her association are very well kept, she said. She also thought that reasonable fines work and they should be considered for the entire community.

Brady does not currently belong to any amenities, but she uses the Yacht Club and the Beach Club. She did think that the board should be familiar with the amenities and their wants and needs. She hoped that now that she is retired, she will have more time to spend at the amenities.

Heavner was asked about the role of advisory committees in support of the board of directors.

“Our committees are one of the most valuable assets that we have. We ought to listen to what these committees advise the board on,” Heavner said.

He also endorsed more of a presence from the committees at board meetings.

“I would love to see the chairs of these committees report to the board during regular board meetings on regular updates on just the very big issues they are working on,” Heavner said.

He added that he thought this would encourage a bigger turnout at board meetings and would support transparency.

Heavner also was asked about the role of the board liaison to the advisory committees.

“The job of the liaison is to make sure the committee understands the issue they are working on,” he said. “By no means should the liaison drive

the decision-making process. They should be the liaison bouncing information from the committee back to the board, but they should not intervene in the thinking process of the committee.”

As for the matter of run-down properties, Heavner said the board would have to take a hard look at how to address the problem an economic way. He said he supported make the properties that aren’t well-maintained an issue of the Architectural Review Committee.

One resident asked how capital decisions and priorities are made.

“We have a strategic plan which is well laid out on capital projects. We have to keep investing to be a premiere resort community,” Heavner said.

Heavner does not belong to any amenities, but he used to belong to the Beach Club and visits the Yacht Club and the pools occasionally.

In closing statements, Heavner said he fell in love with this place [Ocean Pines] overnight. “It’s the best decision I ever made.”

Brady noted her background, owning the Bayside Gazette and said, “I want to continue to connect with the community now that I am retired. I’ve been following the issues for a long time.”

She also suggested the OPA connect with the county economic development department to help shape development outside the community.

Murphy emphasized the many amenities that make Ocean Pines unique.

“We are one of a kind.”

He noted that as the community grows, there will be many issues it will need to address, including the firehouse, drainage, property values, and other issues and reiterated the experience he could bring to the board.

Latham noted that he had spent months going through documents, resolutions and the strategic plan. He also told the audience that he took an HOA Board of Directors leadership class.

He highlighted the need for the
 See VOTER Page 9

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Farm easements preserve 375 acres in county

(June 29, 2023) The Maryland Board of Public Works approved 38 new Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundation easements, two of which are in Worcester County, during a June 21 meeting.

The easements will permanently preserve a total nearly 4,100 acres of prime farmland in Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester counties, for an investment of more than \$19 million.

In Worcester County specifically, a total nearly 375 acres among two farms were preserved for more than \$941,700 in easement acquisition costs.

"Maryland's beauty and heritage are woven into its 2 million acres of farmland and preserving this precious land is crucial to sustaining the state's agriculture industry," Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks said in a news release. "I am grateful for and thank all the farmers who volunteered to sell preservation easements through the preservation program."

The Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundation was established in 1977 as part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The foundation buys agricultural preservation easements from willing farmers to forever protect prime farmland and woodland.

To view a list of the Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundation easements broken down by county, visit the foundation's website at mda.maryland.gov. The release said the newly-approved easements will help the state meet the Chesapeake Bay goal of conserving and preserving over 1 million acres of productive agricultural land by 2030.

Voter eligibility deadline July 6

Continued from Page 8 board to be a "single source of truth" in times when there is so much misinformation in the community.

To view a video of the forum, visit: <https://youtube.be/xYGgsfGYmiA>.


Important upcoming election dates are:

- Voter eligibility deadline – Wednesday, July 6
- Ballots mailed – Week of July 11.
- Ballot deadline – Tuesday, Aug. 8 by 4 p.m.
- Ballots counted and vote totals announced – Thursday, Aug. 10.
- Annual Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 12.




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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall and his administrative assistant Sara Gorfinkel hosted their first Meet the Mayor at On Common Grounds on Thursday.

Zack Tyndall offers 'Meet the Mayor' events in Berlin

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) Residents getting a breakfast sandwich or a cup of coffee at On Common Grounds on Thursday had the opportunity to visit with Berlin's Mayor Zack Tyndall.

He hosted "Meet the Mayor" as an opportunity to visit with residents on a more casual basis and set up shop that morning to talk to residents about issues related to the town.

"The town meetings can be intimidating, although we try to make sure everyone feels welcome," Tyndall said.

Residents chatted with Tyndall about electric utilities and general issues related to living in Berlin.

Many people noted the charm of Berlin and how friendly everyone is in town, said Tyndall.

Sara Gorfinkel, the mayor's new administrative assistant, joined him for coffee. Gorfinkel and Tyndall plan to host "Meet the Mayor" at various locations and times in town, including the library, parks, and other businesses.

"We will go where the people are," Tyndall said.

Fire Department and council struggle to agree on contract

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) The Berlin mayor and council got into a fiery debate with the Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald during the council mayor meeting on Monday night.

What was on the table was dis-

cussed in the last council meeting; the town says it does not have the funding the fire company is requesting to cover an entire year's contract.

Fitzgerald countered that the company has cut its budget back severely, including not buying equipment the company needs.

"We are already over budget because our dryer blew up," he said.

Fitzgerald suggested the town sign a contract for services with the company through Jan. 31 and the company will bill the town on a per diem based on the value of services rendered beyond that date.

"This gives us time to see if you can find the funds to provide fair compensation to the fire company," he said.

"We could have candid money discussions, but the perception is you come over here and blow us a lot of smoke and expect us to deal with it. I don't get a good feeling on where your spending is and what you need," said Councilman Dean Burrell asked.

Joe Moore, the attorney for the fire department suggested the town pay for an audit of the fire department.

"We believe we have budgeted fairly for expenses," Fitzgerald said. "We are asking you to reimburse us for the fair cost of providing those services."

After an extensive debate, the council agreed to increase the contract for the fire company to \$200,000 for operating expenses in the upcoming fiscal year. Additional funding was provided by reallocating ARPA funding that was designated for capital expenses.

"The concern is if we don't receive a grant we will have to go back to the town to ask them to reestablish capital funding," Fitzgerald said.

This 12 month contract for fire and rescue services for the town still needs to be approved by the members of the fire company.



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Due Date: Friday, July 7, 2023
Time: 10:00 AM EST

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Qualified contractors are encouraged to visit the Town of Berlin website at berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/ or contact Public Works Director, James Charles at 410-641-4001 or jcharles@berlinmd.gov for the official RFP. EEO.

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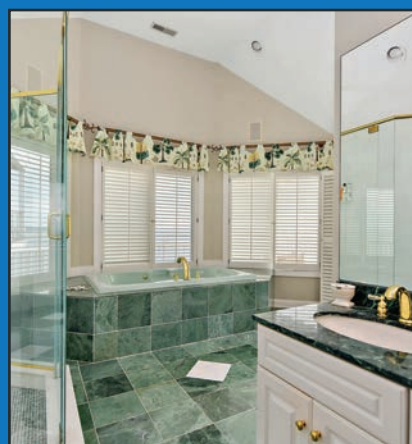
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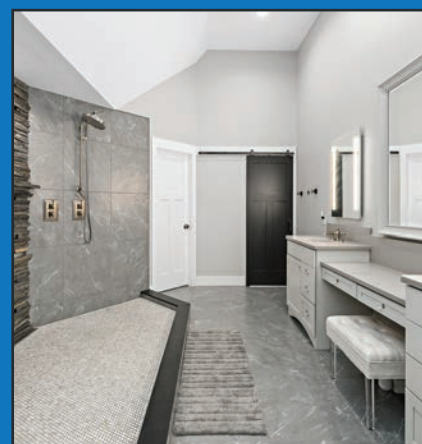
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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A lifeguard keeps an eye on swimmers at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club pool.

Committee looks for ways to enhance OP pool experience

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) Ocean Pines recently introduced a new couples membership to the community pools and it has paid off. Funds from membership have increased from \$249,460 last May to \$270,780 in May 2023.

“While we saw a reduction in the number of family members, enough couples signed up, which brought in more money,” Gary Miller, the chair of the Aquatics Advisory Committee said.

This was just one of the suggestions by the Aquatics Advisory Committee that has come to fruition.

During its June committee meeting, the members continued to look at ways the pool experience in Ocean Pines can be improved. Ocean Pines has five pools with one indoor pool open year-round.

The committee recently requested moving some of the indoor pool classes to the outdoor pools during the summer, but that was rejected because of the lifeguard shortage.

The committee discussed options for higher pool fees for short-term

renters. Currently, short-term renters pay the same price as residents.

They also discussed the lifeguard shortage and considered various options for recruiting and retaining guards, including recruiting bonuses, and after-hours events for the guards.

One of the problems is that people don't think of lifeguarding as a career path, said Steve Ransdell, a member of the committee. He suggested connecting guards to other public safety career fields such as police, EMT, fire, and Beach Patrol to show that it is a job that can lead to a career.

One option they considered was outsourcing the guards. But Nancy Radke, a former lifeguard and member of the committee, said she did not recommend this because Ocean Pines should have control of the skill level of those hired.

They also discussed ideas for benefits for swim club members, including twilight swims, discounts on guest passes and being able to go to the front of the line on busy days.

The committee will be developing an end-of-year report for the board that will include recommendations for next year.

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Comptroller Brooke Lierman visits with Innkeeper Maya Tomasello at The Inn Berlin during a walking tour of the town Monday.

Comptroller visits business owners in Berlin with mayor

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman took time out of the Maryland Municipal League conference in Ocean City to visit Mayor Zach Tyndall and get a tour of Berlin on Monday.

Lierman, who is from Baltimore City, had never visited Berlin before, so when Tyndall offered to give her a tour of Berlin, she took him up on it.

The tour started at the Mermaid Museum, owned by Alyssa Maloof, one of

many women-owned businesses in town. Lierman was welcomed by a few local mermaids and perused the collection of mermaid myth, art, and memorabilia.

Next, Tyndall took her to Main Street, where a stretch of storefront has been under construction. Chris Larmore, the project manager, greeted Lierman and Tyndall and invited them in to see the construction.

Larmore said the property consists of 10,000 square feet and will include four

See MAYOR Page 14



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Berlin considers speed cameras

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) The Berlin Town council conducted a first reading of an ordinance this week that would provide for the use of speed cameras in designated school zones.

A school zone is a half-mile radius around a public or private school. The speed zone would operate between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. Streets would be determined by the council.

Mayor Zack Tyndall announced that

a public meeting will be held on the speed cameras in school zones on at 7 p.m., July 10.

The council also authorized annual contracts for vendors in Fiscal Year 2024. The only discussion related was a request by Councilman Jay Knerr to consider issuing a request for proposals for IT services for the next fiscal year.

The council also approved amendments to the employee handbook that included compensation, hours of attendance and grievance procedures. Tyndall

said the town is exploring buying 65 cell phones for staff and council. He said the Office of the Attorney General recommended the purchase.

In other business, with the use of marijuana becoming legal in Maryland Saturday, the mayor and council see no need to rush into the discussion of how the town should deal with its proliferation in the community.

Instead, town officials want to see what other communities are doing before deciding how to react.

Mayor hosts walking tour of Berlin

Continued from Page 13
store fronts and nine apartments on the second floor. The business space has already been fully rented.

Larmore said tax credits helped with the project, which is owned by Blue Water Development.

"The commercial properties should be complete by the end of next week," Larmore said.

The next stop was the Island Creamery, where Tyndall and Lierman sampled what some people consider the best ice cream in the country.

This fact will be confirmed when USA Today releases the results of their

survey on July 7. Island Creamery has been constantly running at first or second place throughout the contest.

Lierman had the chance to meet Jen Sorrell, a member of the family that owns Island Creamery. Sorrell manages the Berlin and Salisbury stores.

Their final stop was The Inn Berlin on Harrison Avenue. Innkeeper Maya Tomasello greeted Lierman and Tyndall and gave them a tour of the centuries old house, now a bed and breakfast.

Tomasello was happy to meet Lierman. "I send her a [tax] check every month. She should see the small businesses that make up the state of Mary-

land."
"I feel like I am back in Cape Cod," Lierman said.

Tomasello talked to Lierman about her gluten-free kitchen.

"Her business drives a different type of commerce to Berlin," Tyndall said.

While the inn caters only to guests currently, Tomasello hopes to open up one night a week for public dining in the future.

At the end of the tour, Lierman said she was here to help local businesses.

"It's important to build relationships. That way they feel like they can ask for help when they need it," she said.



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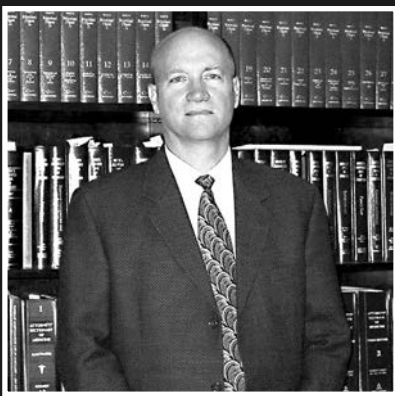
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Germantown School grows history

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) Barbara Parnell remembers butterflies in the fall. The entire area was filled with butterflies, she recalled from her student days at Germantown School in the 1950s.

The two-room school house on Trappe Road was built in 1923 by the Rosenwald Foundation Rural School Building Program as part of a public/private partnership made possible by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald (part-owner of Sears Roebuck). It was one of 11 "colored schools" built in Worcester County and 5,000 across the south.

Back when students walked through those doors, the two acres of land the school sat on had an orchard and a garden with medicinal and edible plants. The school is now bringing these memories back to life.

It is happening one plant and one grant at a time.

Last year, the Lower Shore Land Trust planted a migration garden in the back corner of the property to attract the butterflies and other pollinators that Parnell remembered so fondly.

"We hope to create a place for all people," said Karen Prengaman, a board member with the Germantown School.

The longer term vision is to create a walkable garden that mimics what the student's experienced when they went to school. They have planted apple and peach trees. Sassafras and mulberry trees were already growing on the property.

The gardens will be filled with native plants that the students remember were foraged and used for food and medicinals, including onions, which were used for headaches and infections, and wild horseradish.

Other plants such as thyme, rosemary and lamb's ear, which was used for bandages and to stop bleeding, were brought over from Europe. Because many of the students remember their parents using these plants, they will also be included in the garden.

Prengaman has interviewed many of the former students to tap their memories. Most are 80 plus years old. "We must preserve history before this generation is gone."

"This is not my story to tell, it's their story," said Prengaman. She went to Salisbury University for her masters in English and got engaged with the school when she was doing a project on African American Schools.

Prengaman says Germantown was an under-resourced school. "Theirs is a bootstraps story."

The history of this community is one of doing with what you have, Prengaman said. "They focused on building the life that they wanted."

Back when Germantown School was built, many African American schools were connected with a local



PHOTO COURTESY KAREN PRENGAMAN

Board member Barbara Parnell shows off the pollinator garden, planted by the Lower Shore Land Trust at the Germantown School in Berlin. The school is recreating the gardens and orchard that once graced the property.

church and Germantown was no exception. New Bethel United Methodist Church, just down the street, was established in 1855, and is the oldest African American church in the county and part of the Germantown School community.

"Bringing back the Germantown School is part of bringing the culture

back and the role the school played in the community," Prengaman said.

The school provided education for children in grades one through seven until 1962. Years later, the board of education sold the building to the County Highway Association and it was reconfigured into a garage.

See GARDENS Page 16

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OC celebrity golf tournament planned for fall

(June 29, 2023) On the heels of the three-day Oceans Calling Festival this fall, Ocean City tourism officials are hosting a celebrity-packed golf tournament hosted by golf pro and veteran broadcaster David Feherty.

The inaugural Ocean City Celebrity GoTournament is set for Monday, Oct. 2, at The Links at Lighthouse Sound, one day after Oceans Calling, slated Sept. 20-Oct. 1, wraps up on the beach and inlet lot downtown.

According to a news release, teams of four plus one celebrity will play 18 holes at The Links at Lighthouse Sound course. Feherty, who serves as Ocean City's official golf ambassador, will emcee the event as an extension to his two-year partnership with the town.

The tournament will include a long drive, closest to the pin, putting contests, Hole in One and more, plus swag

bags, club fittings, and Manufacturer's "Demo Days."

"In addition to an incredible music lineup on our award-winning boardwalk and beach with Ocean's Calling, extending the festivities with our first celebrity golf tournament will allow our visitors to also experience our incredible golf scene," Tom Perlozzo, the city's director of tourism and business development, said in the release. "We're excited to have a host like David Feherty for the tournament, along with several participants including Oceans Calling's performers and sport celebrities to build anticipation for an amazing day on the course."

Oceans Calling performers O.A.R., The Lumineers and Noah Kahan are scheduled to appear at the tournament, among others from the entertainment and professional sports industries.

"Ocean City is one of the fastest growing golf destinations on the east coast and the place to go for championship golf," Feherty said in the release. "I look forward to collaborating with Ocean City to host this exciting tournament and share with other avid golfers why this coastal town is one of my favorite golf destinations."

The day of the tournament schedule includes breakfast, a pre-tournament meeting and drawing, an awards ceremony and happy hour. Space is limited.

Teams of four are encouraged to sign up today to save their spot at oceancitycelebritygolf.com.

Fundraising efforts are focused on the Ulman Foundation and Believe in Tomorrow's House by Sea, which has a mission is to create a community of support for young adults and their loved ones impacted by cancer.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the Ocean city Celebrity Golf Tournament is encouraged to reach out to the tourism department.

Gardens part of school's story

Continued from Page 15

The building was returned to the community in 2002. Through more grants the building was restored to its original design. Much of the building had to be replaced, including the floors and the entire front, which had been replaced with garage doors. It is now a replica of what the students remember.

Once restored, many of the former students brought items back that were original to the school, including the old school desks, one of the two stoves that kept the school warm in the winters, and books.

They have even received a hectograph. While not the original one used at the school, the school had one, which used stamp pads and ink to create worksheets and other materials for the students. Hectographs were the predecessor to the mimeograph.

Much of the effort to return the Germantown School to its original state is possible due to the work of people like Parnell and Prengaman, and grants.

In 2022, the Maryland Historical Trust selected the Germantown School Community Heritage Center to

receive a matching trust grant. The project, Worcester County Voices: Early 20th Century African American Education, will provide school visitors with 20 indoor and outdoor stations exploring the educational experiences of the students through their own voices.

The indoor exhibits are being developed and will include the history of the school and other rotating exhibits.

A matching grant from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program will help pay for the healing gardens that will host medicinal plants, a coloring book, and interpretive signs related to pollination and plant identifiers. The funding is part of an effort by the Environmental Protection Agency to invest in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities.

The school is already back to playing a central role in the community. It hosts lecture series, field trips and fun days for schools, music and other community events.

The efforts at the Germantown School are all possible thanks to volunteers and donations. To learn more visit <https://thegermantownschool.org/>

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Special July 4 Pines farmers market set for this Saturday

(June 29, 2023) The Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market is set to host a special Fourth of July market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 1, at White Horse Park.

The holiday marketplace promises an array of offerings including fresh produce, local seafood, children's activities, live music and more.

In a recent news release, Market Manager David Bean shared news of the arrival of local sweet corn, peaches, cherries, blueberries, summer and zucchini squash, green beans and cucumbers. As the temperatures rise, early varieties of tomatoes may also make an appearance just in time for Independence Day celebrations. Patrons can also indulge in a variety of delectable baked goods, with gluten-free options available, such as pies, Danishes and breads.

For seafood enthusiasts, Roger Dize Seafood will have live crabs available for purchase while supplies last. To ensure availability or make pre-orders, customers can call or text 443-235-4887 or visit rogerdize-

seafood.com.

The special Kid's Market Zone will feature character actor Kristen Coleman as Willow the Elf. Willow will captivate children with free demonstrations on making bird feeders.

Poppytail Art will also offer face painting, and local author Courtney Clucas will delight young readers with two story times featuring her beloved "Tommy, Jeffy, and Lizard" series at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Children are encouraged to bring their own blankets or chairs for seating.

Adding to the lively atmosphere, live music will be performed by Logan Oluvic, delivering a repertoire ranging from timeless Carly Simon classics to the latest hits. DJ Mikey will take the stage at the Memorial Pavilion, spinning music and accommodating requests.

The Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday at White Horse Park.

For more information, visit ocean-pines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Worcester County offices slated to be closed July 4

(June 29, 2023) Worcester County government offices, including all five branch libraries, recreation and parks, the central landfill, and homeowner convenience centers, will be closed Tuesday, July 4.

All county offices will resume

standard hours of operation on Wednesday, July 5.

County staff members wish one and all a safe and happy Independence Day holiday. For more information on the county's hours of operation, visit co.worcester.md.us.

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Love Letters offers whimsical gifts, fashion nestled in forest

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 29, 2023) People who are looking for quirky gifts, unique jewelry, antiques and fashion for the home or clothing, and love a little adventure, Love Letters is it.

Shop owner Brandi Mellinger has settled into this unusual shop on the grounds of Mariner's Country Down at 11341 Sinepuxent Road in Berlin.

For those who are unfamiliar with this 600-acre property, it is light years away from the beach culture, with its sprawling forest and rustic buildings nestled among moss, trees, ponds and creeks. Small toads hop around the grounds, along with a community of cats and some very happy dogs.

Mellinger has two dogs, Oliver and Kingsley, who joyfully run the property with one or two other canine friends. She said she is happy to put them away if visitors are not charmed by their presence.

Visiting Love Letters should not be a quick stop. Visitors driving onto the property will see beautiful flowers and trees, old and quirky farming equipment, fountains, and wooden bridges over creeks. Her shop is the one labeled Country Store with the bay windows featuring many of her own crafted items.

Mellinger creates artistic mugs with outlandish, inspiring, or whimsical sayings and art. She also designs T-shirts, pillowcases, bags, and hats. Fifty percent of the inventory is personally designed by Mellinger. Other items include candles, jewelry, cards, sunglasses, and clothing.

"I am trying to make it [the shop] retro-vintage style," Mellinger said.

She also happens to love antiques. "I think I was born in the wrong

era," she said.

She does custom orders too. She specializes in modern calligraphy and custom signage.

She opened her shop in Mariner's Country Down this month. Prior to that, she was working out of her house, with a heat press, mug press and shirt press. The presses run at 400 degrees. With business booming, it was time to move out of the house.

"I needed space to expand, workshop space and storage. Having a spot for retail made sense," said Mellinger, who discovered Mariner's Country Down years ago.

"It's so magical. I vowed I would get married here one day."

While the wedding did not happen, when she went searching for a site to move her business, she reached out to Reggie Mariner, the owner of the property.

She met him at a house he was building.

"He told me to pull up a bucket," said Mellinger.

"I told him what I was looking for and we went back and forth. He pulled out a carpenter's pencil and mapped it out in the sand.

"We talked numbers and I pulled out my phone. He was drawing on the house, running the numbers. It took me 10 seconds; it took him 10 minutes."

They came to an agreement and she started moving into the little country store on the property the next day.

This day would not have happened without Mellinger's grandfather.

Mellinger has not always been a small business owner. She was the managing editor at Ocean City Today about 10 years ago and created unique mugs on the side. Her grand-



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Sunday 3-5pm	349 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	4BR/3.5BA	Residential	\$724,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	40 Moonshell Drive, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Residential	\$749,500	Sandra Dougan/BHHS/PenFed Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	1210 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5 BA	Residential	\$455,000	Sandra Dougan/BHHS/PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	307-B 13th St #1 Royal Palms, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Townhome	\$399,000	Team Bouse/ReMax Advantage Realty





CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Brandi Mellinger, the proprietor of Love Letters, just opened her first shop at Mariner's Country Down in Berlin.

Forest charm close to beach

father who, along with her grandmother, raised her, told her he wanted to invest in her business.

"My grandfather bought my first mug press," Mellinger said.

When she met with Mariner, he reminded her of her grandfather.

"If they would have met, they would have been best friends."

The day she met with Mariner was also her grandfather's birthday.

"This was my destiny all along."

Love Letters is the only shop open full time at Mariner's Country Down. It's open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tues-

day through Saturday. There are other special artisans on the property, including Goat Plum Tree Farm, which offers mushroom foraging classes on the property and Randy Hofman, who has established an orchard on the site.

To check out Mellinger's shop and her evolving collection, visit <https://lovelettersoc.com>

Mariner's Country Down is available for events, including weddings. Visit its website at <https://www.marinerscountry-down.com>.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Players, from left, Jim Ulman, Donna Pasqualino, Dorothy Leslie and Patrick Lehnerd will perform July 2 at Windmill Creek Vineyards and Winery in Berlin.

Ocean Pines Players expand offerings with singing events

(June 29, 2023) The Ocean Pines Players is expanding offerings in the local community.

After 49 years of providing local live theater and musical revues, the theater troupe is branching out with singing engagements, with the first show set for this weekend.

Whereas the popular sell-out performance last November of "A Grand Night for Singing" at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club was a Players production, new collaborations with entertain-

ment venues are underway.

The fat show is set from noon to 3 p.m., July 2, at Windmill Creek Vineyards and Winery at 11206 Worcester Hwy in Berlin. As with most winery events, admission is free, bring a chair and buy refreshments there.

The quartet (Patrick Lehnerd, Dorothy Leslie, Donna Pasqualino, Jim Ulman) will present standards and easy listening favorites. Each singer stands out in solo work, but
See OP Page 21

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Northrop Grumman donates to Berlin's Unstoppable Joy

(June 29, 2023) Berlin-based Unstoppable Joy recently received a donation of \$500 from Northrop Grumman, recognizing the outstanding commitment to volunteerism by Ambassador Scott Murphy.

The contribution, according to a news release, will play a vital role in funding the essential self-care services and healing bags provided by Unstoppable Joy to individuals battling cancer and their dedicated caregivers.

The support from Northrop Grumman and the dedication of Ambassador Scott Murphy are invaluable assets to Unstoppable Joy's mission of spreading hope and joy to those affected by cancer, the release said. The \$500 donation will directly contribute to providing natural and positive self-care services, ensuring that cancer warriors and their caregivers receive the support they need throughout their challenging journey.

Founder of Unstoppable Joy, Tonya Agostino, expressed her heartfelt gratitude.

"We are incredibly grateful to Ambassador Scott Murphy as well as Northrop Grumman for their unwavering support," Agostino said. "Their generosity will make a profound difference in the lives of those facing

cancer, enabling us to offer vital self-care resources and empowering them with the strength to persevere."

Unstoppable Joy is dedicated to providing comprehensive support and uplifting services to individuals fighting cancer, regardless of the type they are battling. Through initiatives like healing bags and self-care services, the organization aims to enhance the well-being and resilience of cancer warriors and their caregivers

OP Players add singing to roster

Continued from Page 20
the duets and ensemble numbers are where silken harmonies are enjoyed. A second performance is scheduled for the same time slot on Sunday, Sept. 10.

To learn more or become involved in future productions, visit the website at oceanpinesplayers.org or [Facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers](https://www.facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers), email info@oceanpinesplayers.org or mail P.O. Box 1566, Berlin, MD 21811.

The Ocean Pines Players is a 501(C) (3) nonprofit organization.



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Members of the Drawbridge Diners pose during an ice cream social on June 3 in the cul de sac on Drawbridge Road in Ocean Pines. Despite chilly, windy weather, 34 neighbors attended to enjoy the ice cream delights.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

THANKS FOR SERVICE

Morris Semiatin, a 97-year-old local WWII veteran who made headlines for his birthday celebrations the past couple of years, poses with Lt. Col. Timothy Heck, joint historian with the Marines Base in Quantico, Virginia, during a recent visit to where he lives at Gull Creek Senior Living Home in Berlin. Annette Amerman, also a Marines historian, left, and Bob Broderick with the Marines First State Detachment were also present. Semiatin talked with his visitors about his time in Jima during WWII.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Wayne Littleton, the director of Randy's Crew, presents a donation check to Pocomoke Middle School staff during the organization's recent Mexican Fiesta in your Backyard fundraiser. Randy's Crew is a fundraising organization that benefits the Worcester County Humane Society and Town Cats, a local organization dedicated to the welfare of homeless cats.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

RAFFLE

Kiwanis member Mark Page, left, and Lottery Raffle co-chair Tom Southwell at the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City's lottery raffle booth on June 10 at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market. The group sells raffle tickets for \$20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday at the market. Winners are based on the daily Evening Maryland Pick 3 drawing. Proceeds help support the club's scholarships and youth programs. One ticket offers 365 chances to win up to \$250.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City President Bob Wolfing and Cedar Chapel Special School Principal Belinda Gulyas pose after the organization's meeting on June 7. Gulyas was the guest speaker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIP

Stephen Decatur High School Senior Ellie Johnson accepts a \$1,000 scholarship from Worcester County Garden Club member Jennifer Compston at a recent seniors awards ceremony. The club grants a scholarship to a senior each year in horticulture, botany, or agricultural, ecological, or environmental studies. Johnson has chosen an environmental science major.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIPS

Worcester County students were recently awarded scholarships to pursue their arts and arts-related majors in college totaling \$5,500 from the Worcester County Arts Council. Pictured, from left, are Savannah Chisholm, who will be majoring in visual arts/graphic illustration; Keeley Catrino, majoring in literary arts and visual arts; and Kayla Halbig, a visual arts/graphic arts major. Not pictured: Cayden Wallace, who will major in performing arts and digital arts.



BANK AWARD

Taylor Bank Loan and Business Development Officer Cory Walsh, left, presents a \$1,000 scholarship to Pocomoke High School senior Ethan Scott. Scott was one of three 2023 graduates in the bank's service area — which encompasses Worcester, Sussex and Accomack counties in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia — who received awards from the bank to help fund continuing education expenses. Scott plans to study business management in college.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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TORCH RUN

Worcester Prep juniors Madilyn Nechay and Ava Conaway were eager to meet members of the Ocean City Police Department's Mounted Unit as they visited campus during the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 6.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep fourth graders motivated participants of the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, chanting words of encouragement as they made their way through campus during the June 6 event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep kindergartners were the first to welcome the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run participants during the June 6 event.

Opinion

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

Happy Fourth of July

We're still here despite our past craziness

The Fourth of July is when we celebrate our freedom to pursue our lives and happiness however we choose and to disagree with the ruling authority.

Right? It doesn't seem that way at times, as adherents to various political philosophies battle over whose version of freedom will be imposed on us. And make no mistake, that is exactly what's been happening, as advocates of these schools of thought grow ever more extreme in their pursuit of the ability to tell us what to do.

But take heart — it's been far worse than this and we survived. Toward the end of George Washington's presidency, for instance, his opposition, the Democratic-Republicans, accused him of "debauching" the country.

His successor, John Adams, followed up by going along with the Federalist congress in 1798, when it eliminated many rights and liberties to protect its "good government" from "treasonous" opponents.

And then there was President Andrew Jackson, the first president to drain the swamp, so to speak, by firing the corrupt appointees of his predecessor, John Quincy Adams, and replacing them with his even more corrupt appointees.

Not counting the Civil War, which obviously is in a category of its own, the 1800s saw some of the worst political outrages in the country's history. These included, according to Politico, "awlings," which entailed campaigners stabbing people with awls so they couldn't vote for the opposition.

Add to that, three presidential assassinations in that period, the arrest and torture of women protesters during the suffrage movement in the early 1900s, the overwhelming violence experienced during the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s and the riots and brawls of the Vietnam war protests and suddenly the ugliness of the last few years looks pretty tame.

In fact, on this Fourth of July, we should celebrate having survived all these crises so that we can continue to argue today. We've never achieved that more perfect union, but we are free to continue working on it.



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Arts Council awards \$23K in grants

(June 29, 2023) The Worcester County Arts Council recently awarded \$22,700 through the Community Arts Development Grants program for local nonprofit art projects and events.

The groups will complete the work during the six-month grant cycle, which begins July 1.

Grant projects are evaluated based on the overall quality of cultural excellence, community outreach and public impact, and financial/administrative merit.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Worcester County Arts Council

awarded \$43,158 to local nonprofit organizations through this program which is funded and supported by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The following is a list of organizations and projects the Community Arts Development Grant is funding for the current grant period:

- Art League of Ocean City: Monthly Art Exhibits
- Art League of Ocean City: OC Film Fest Award
- Art League of Ocean City: Youth Plein Air
- Berlin Heritage Foundation: Year Community

Events

- Community Church at Ocean Pines: Community Choral Workshop and Concert
- Downtown Snow Hill, Inc.: Maryland's Coast Building Mural
- Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra: 2023 Fall Concerts
- Pine Tones Chorus: A "Jazzy" Christmas
- Town of Berlin-Berlin Arts and Entertainment: Octoberfest Live Music
- Town of Berlin-Berlin Main Street: Farmers Market Live Music

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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County seeking input for comp plan

(June 29, 2023) Worcester County Government officials are beginning a 10-year update to the county's comprehensive plan, and community members are invited to participate in a survey to provide input about the path of future growth.

The survey is available at surveyMonkey.com/r/WorCoCPSurvey.

"The Comprehensive Plan is the playbook for how

WCG will set land use policy for the next decade, and updates to this plan are based on public feedback," Development Review and Permitting Director Jennifer Keener said in a news release. "So, it is our goal for all who live in the community to have a voice in this process."

The survey is open to Worcester County residents and non-resident property owners, including students.

It takes just 10 to 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed from any smart phone, tablet, or computer with internet access.

"We are asking everyone to share this information as well to assure as much community input in the process as possible," Keener said.

For more information about the Worcester County Comprehensive Plan, visit co.worcester.md.us/comprehensive-plan.

Worcester Developmental Center celebrates 50 years

(June 29, 2023) For 50 years, the Worcester County Developmental Center has helped local people with intellectual disabilities find meaningful employment, gain independence, and increase their self-worth.

WCDC's headquarters is in Newark, Maryland, and the center also operates seven group homes in Ocean Pines.

Executive Director Jack Ferry, an Ocean Pines homeowner, said the center first opened in September 1973.

"The center was started by families who saw that there was nothing for their adult children after they got out of school," Ferry said. "At the time, there really wasn't anything in Worcester County for individuals with disabilities, and they needed activities for them to do."

Fifty years ago, WCDC had nine clients. Today, it has about 85.

"There also were no residential homes at that time, and now we have

14 operating homes throughout Worcester County, and one more that will be opening within the next couple of months in Ocean Pines," Ferry said.

Ferry said clients are referred to WCDC by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, a state agency that oversees and licenses the center, and provides funding.

All the clients have intellectual disabilities, and many also have secondary issues including physical disabilities and other medical issues.

The original WCDC building in Newark burned down in 2007. Ferry said it was a blessing in disguise that fortunately happened on a day when no clients were in the building.

"It was an in-service day, so there were no clients and only a couple of staff there, and luckily nobody got hurt. At that time, it was an 87-year-old single-story schoolhouse that was

See WCDC Page 26



PHOTO COURTESY SMOKER'S BBQ PIT VIA FACEBOOK

The aftermath of a lightning strike and fire at Smoker's BBQ Pit at 9711 Stephen Decatur Hwy is seen on the morning of June 27. According to a Facebook post, the restaurant is "closed until further notice" following the incident.

Lightning strike, fire force closure of West OC bbq joint

(June 29, 2023) A lightning strike and subsequent fire earlier this week has shut down Smoker's BBQ Pit off Route 611 for the foreseeable future.

"It is with a heavy heart that we share with all you that the building was struck by lightning last night and caused a massive fire," a Facebook post issued around 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, said.

"The fire has destroyed the whole inside and part of the side building," the post continued. "We are deeply saddened by this unfortunate incident from Mother Nature."

Nearly 200 responses, mostly expressing sympathy, disappointment and well wishes, followed.

The Smoker's post also said the restaurant is closed "until further notice," but that it is not a total loss.

"We need time to rebuild and come back better than ever! We will see you soon," the post said.

Members of the Ocean City Fire

Department, according to another Facebook post, responded just before 4:15 a.m., June 26, to the blaze. Other Worcester County firefighters responded as well.



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WCDC evolved over decades

Continued from Page 25

crumbling,” Ferry said. “So, they were able to build a brand-new center and today we’re able to do so much more because of that.”

Ferry started working for WCDC in 2008 and became the executive director in 2014. He’s aided by a staff of 144 and supported by state and federal Medicaid programs.

He said the clients are so successful “because of our hard-working, dedicated, talented staff.”

Those workers, he added, also help boost the local economy.

“Last year, our budget was \$6.3 million. That’s all-new dollars that we’re bringing into Worcester County, and about 80 percent of our funding goes into staff salaries,” Ferry said. “That’s money that our staff are using to buy groceries and rent homes or pay mortgages and things like that. So, we’re bringing a significant amount of money into the county.”

About a decade ago, the center was a vital part of the resort industry, with clients helping to run a linen laundry service that served many Ocean Pines restaurants and hotels. A lawn-care service was also utilized by many in the Ocean Pines community, and clients also worked for a catering service through WCDC.

More stringent federal guidelines shuttered those programs around 2016. Ferry admitted it was a difficult transition.

“When we sold our laundry equipment and I watched it going out the building, I had tears in my eyes, because that was such a tremendous program,” he said. “Not only were we able to hire our clients, but we had so much business that we worked with the Worcester County Schools, with their special ed department and their summer school, and we even hired some of their students. We also hired clients from other agencies, so we had a lot of people involved.”

Now, WCDC operates in part as a center for the arts.

“When we found out we weren’t going to be successful in fighting the federal changes, we sat down and we thought about what we were going to do next,” Ferry said. “The work we had been doing was significant, and it was also something that set us apart. We had a variety of jobs where we could train clients to have them work and earn a paycheck.

“We were looking for two things. One, what’s going to be best for our clients and, two, what’s going to set us apart and keep us a little bit different, so that we stand out so that we can attract more people and grow,” he added.

Ferry said almost all clients struggle to communicate in one way or another. Some have physical limitations and others have intellectual difficulties.

“We tried to think about nonverbal

ways for our clients to communicate. And we said, through the arts, everybody can do that,” he said. “We looked into it a little bit and decided that’s what we’re going to do. So, we become a center for the arts and the clients are having a great time.”

WCDC partnered with the Art League of Ocean City, with clients able to visit for classes, or attend remotely through online programs like Zoom.

“That’s been a nice relationship,” Ferry said.

While Ferry is unhappy that some of the center’s prior programs are no longer viable, he said the timing was extremely fortuitous.

“I think it was a case of God watching over our clients, but also you kind of make your own luck,” Ferry said. “When covid hit, it was very fortunate that we were becoming a center for the arts. If we had still been doing work at the center, all of that would have been gone.

“Because of the change in focus, we were able to keep our doors open and provide support for the clients,” he continued. “Our staff would pack up two weeks’ worth of art supplies, drop them off at the client’s houses, and we would do Zoom lessons with them either through the Art League or through our staff here. So, we actually did OK during covid because we were able to keep our clients very active and engaged because we had made those changes.”

Along with helping clients learn how to communicate better through the arts, Ferry said jobs programs continue to be a major focus of the center.

“Our goal is to help everybody get a job in the community who wants a job,” he said. “We have a job coach who will help them find a job, and then follow along with them to make sure they’re able to do that job properly.”

Ferry said working for WCDC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life, and that feeling is shared by many of his staff.

“When we have an in-service day and the clients aren’t here, everybody just feels like something is missing. You really miss their life and their vitality, their energy, their enthusiasm,” Ferry said.

“I’ve been in this field for 30 years now, and they teach me more every day than I’ve taught any of them in 30 years. They’re just the best people in the world,” he continued. “They love to learn, they love to be active, they love to be engaged. And it just really is a joy and a pleasure to be able to work with them.

“I always like tell our new staff, ‘You’re gonna have the best job in the world. And you know why? You’re gonna be able to go home at night and get a good night’s sleep because what you did today made somebody

See WCDC Page 27

Lifeguard-turned-author holds books signings

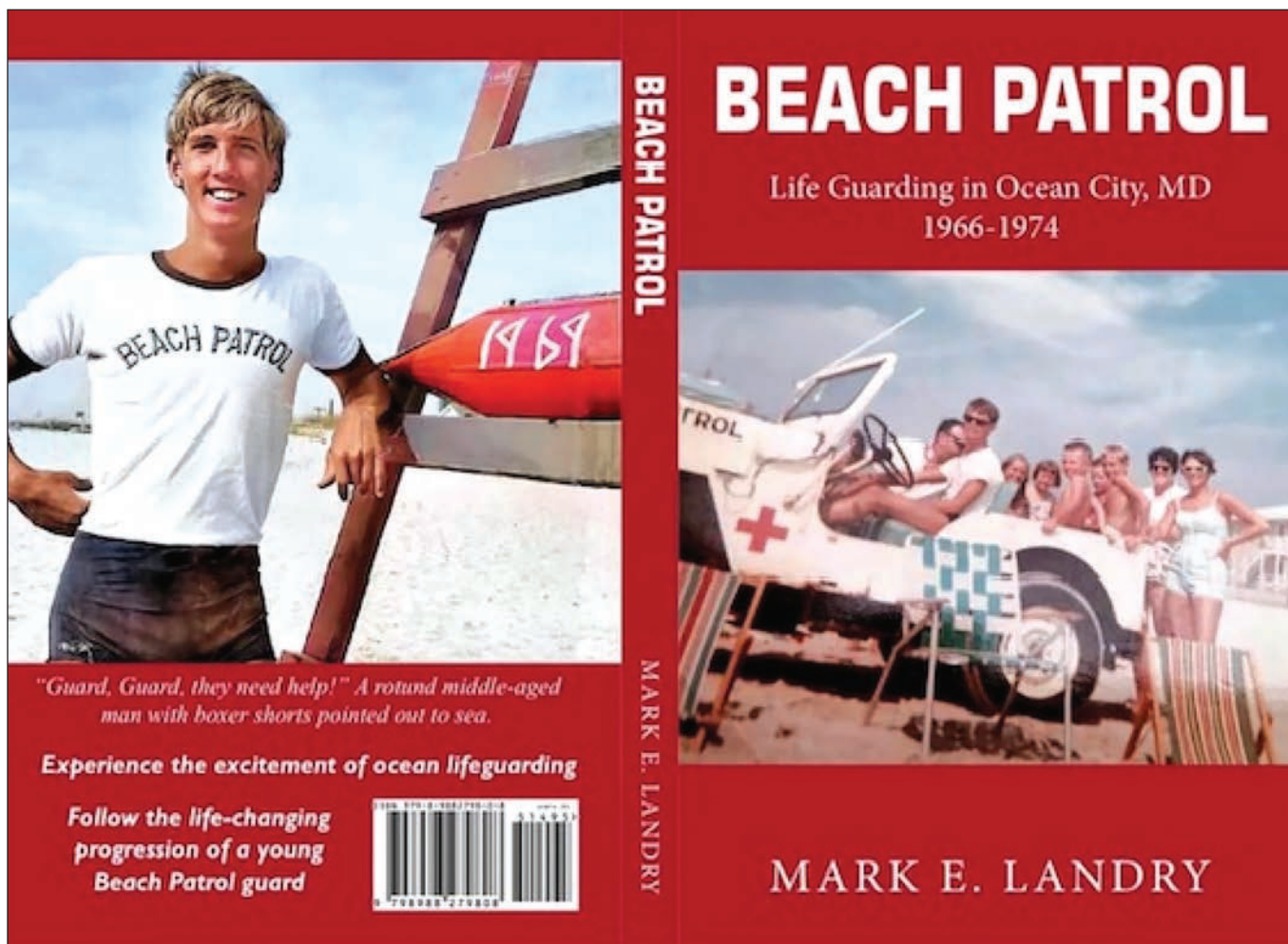
(June 29, 2023) Re-live the Ocean City experience from the '50s to the '70s.

Mark Landry, author of "Beach Patrol: Lifeguarding in Ocean City, MD 1966-1974," spent summers growing up in unincorporated north Ocean City.

In 1965, Ocean City expanded to the Delaware line, increasing the need for guard services. Landry responded and served through high school, college, and medical school.

He will present his perspective of that time capsule, share stories from his recent book, and sign purchased copies at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 6, at the Ocean Pines Library; at 9 a.m., Friday, July 7, and at the Ocean City Library at 100th Street and Coastal Highway. He will also be signing books at 11 a.m., July 6, at Pam's Hallmark Store on U.S. Route 50; and at 1 p.m., July 7, at the Buzzed Word bookstore at 118th Street and Coastal Highway in uptown Ocean City.

The book is available to buy on the Books a Million, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon websites. The 220-page paperback is \$14.95. Landry is also promoting a 60-page eBook for \$4.95. It is available through Kindle, Amazon and Nook.



Longtime Ocean City lifeguard Mark Landry's book, cover shown, is available for to buy online in paperback form or via eBook. Landry will be holding signings in July in Ocean Pines and Ocean City.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WCDC improves lives through art

Continued from Page 26
else's life better," Ferry said. "I can't think of a better job than making somebody else's life better, and helping somebody who appreciates it and somebody who just needs that little bit of help."

Ferry said the Worcester County Developmental Center is always in need of financial support, as well as local businesses and nonprofits to partner with.

"If people have businesses that they think can work with us, we're always looking for new opportunities for our clients," he said. "Any way that we can get them involved in the community is a plus. We're also hoping to restart our volunteer programs where our clients would go out and volunteer in the community very soon."

For more information or to donate, visit www.wcdservices.org or email ferry@wcdservices.org.

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Looking for a Local Event?
Check out
Our Calendar Pages
In the
OCToday and Bayside Gazette

Cuisine

Mac & cheese: 'comfort food at its finest'

It is the wee hours of the morning, and I am staring out the window at my backyard.

I love my little chunk of paradise, the banana palms in full swing with a couple of them already feet taller than I am.

Not for nothing, I will miss it when we finally sell this house and move out.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

After seven years, it is time to sell the palace and downsize to an abode that is more fitting for our family.

As most of the young ones have moved out, the house has become way too big and the natural adjustment of middle-aged shuffling is in play.

I go to the refrigerator to get some ice for my morning water, and find out that the whole unit, a very good one that is only a couple years old, has gone belly up.

The refrigerator cabinet is warm and the entire freezer is thawed. I am devastated, as I have so much meat in the freezer drawer. Or rather, I did.

I sigh as I turn a heavy-duty moving box into a disposal bin for all that money that is now going to be sitting in the dump. Better safe than sorry.

What a glorious morning this is, and I chortle as I think about the old saying "when it rains, it pours" and that certainly seems to be the case at the moment.

With one restaurant closing and new changes on the horizon for my flagship, I find myself in need of comfort food, and I need it fast.

Nary a dish can rival a good Macaroni & Cheese on a comfort food day. Good on its own, it is only elevated when you top it off with lobster, crab, pulled pork, smoked brisket, bacon or grilled chicken (just to name a few and of course if you're not a meat eater, roasted or grilled vegetables are always a suitable addition).

The sky is the limit when it comes to how you are going to adorn your cheesy pasta creation.

I sit here with the weight of my tiny world on my shoulders, grateful to at least have the support of a beautiful woman and laugh as I try to wisely figure out my next step. I already know that the next couple of months are going to be arduous to say the least.

But I also know that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and one day



I will look back and laugh at all of this, just in a much smaller house.

I will take some of the banana palms with me, as they do transplant readily, and no matter where I land, I will have my little tropical jungle established in no time.

Over the years, I have given hundreds of offshoots away, and others' gardens have bloomed in their own right. As I write this, I think that I should use some of the leaves for next week's article.

Fascinating little plants that do not yield any actual bananas (they are a hybrid), when you cut into them they have that distinctive banana smell. But I digress. That is something for another day.

For now, I think it is time to fire up the range and make a nice batch of Mac & Cheese; comfort food at its finest. And no, it is not too early. It's never too early to cook a fleeting smile on your face.

Mac & Cheese

serves about 8 people

1 lb. Elbow macaroni, cooked and set aside

1/2 c. Flour

1/2 c. Unsalted butter

3 c. Whole milk

1 c. Heavy cream

2 c. White cheddar, shredded

2 c. Cheddar, shredded

1 c. Gruyere cheese, shredded

1 c. Parmesan, shredded

Trimix (our old standby), to taste
breadcrumbs and/or bacon bits for garnish (optional)

1. The macaroni can be cooked until al dente, meaning that it will still have a little bit of a bite to it. Don't forget that you can bake this, so you do not want it mushy or overcooked at this point

2. In a large casserole or pan, cook the flour and butter on a medium heat until it starts to color and smell like hazelnuts. This will add a nice layer of richness to the finished dish

3. Slowly add the milk and cream (both cold) while whisking vigorously so as to incorporate the roux that you just made

4. After the sauce has thickened

(congratulations, you are well on your way to making a basic Sauce Bechamel), slowly add the cheeses setting aside a little of each one to use to top the dish just before baking

5. Season your mac & cheese with the trimix (if you forgot its 2 parts Kosher salt, 1 part granulated garlic and 1 part coarse black pepper) and place in a baking pan or keep in the casserole for the last step

6. Top with the remaining cheese and breadcrumbs and/or bacon bits and bake at 375F until golden on top. This is optional, and honestly sometimes I do this step and other times I do not when I make this at home. It depends on how we are feeling that day

7. Serve piping hot and if it does dry out (pasta has the tendency to soak up any of the moisture in the dish), simply add some cream or milk to moisten it.

Paul Suplee is the owner of the boxcar restaurants and is also Senior Lecturer of Culinary Arts at UMES. boxcarrestaurants.com

OP Women's Club supports students and community

(June 29, 2023) The Women's Club of Ocean Pines recently awarded more than \$10,000 in annual scholarships and community donations.

The club, active since 1974 and boasting more than 100 members, offers local women an outlet both to socialize and give back to their community, according to a news release.

To raise money, the club each year hosts game parties, fashion shows, bake sales, restaurant of the month dinners, garage sales, and other social events.

Students receiving scholarships this year were:

- Julia Carlson, Stephen Decatur High School — \$1,500
- Cadence Hughes, Stephen Decatur High School — \$1,500
- Cayden Wallace, Worcester Preparatory School — \$1,500
- Rina Dirickson, Stephen Decatur High School — \$3,000

Dirickson was the recipient of the Gloria Moyer Memorial Scholarship, which honors Moyer her as a vital member of the organization as a former officer, editor and leader.

"We were so pleased to award this scholarship in Gloria's memory to Rina Dirickson as a talented young woman who demonstrates, like Gloria, leadership skills," club member Diane McGraw said in the release.

Other community donations this year were:

- Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department — \$700
- Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks — \$700
- 4 Steps Therapeutic Riding Program — \$250
- Coastal Hospice — \$200
- Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation — \$200
- Sarah's Pantry — \$200
- Delmarva Chorus — \$200
- Stories Love Music — \$150
- Women Supporting Women — \$150
- U.S. Kennels — \$150
- Town Cats — \$100

McGraw said the nonprofit organizations were awarded community donations to benefit Ocean Pines residents and upon the recommendations from members.

The Women's Club is always looking for new members, as well as new donors. Members meet on the first Thursday of each month, except for July and August. Annual dues are \$10.

For anyone interested, contact Club President Karin Benton at 610-730-6706, or email karinhessbenton@gmail.com.

Calendar

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

Thurs., June 29

OMAZING YOGA ADVENTURE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stretch and move your body, learn breathing techniques and relax, while having fun and being silly. Wear comfy clothes. For ages 6-9 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Quiet place to meet new friends and play some chess. Bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OMAZING YOGA ADVENTURE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Stretch and move your body, learn breathing techniques and relax, while having fun and being silly. Wear comfy clothes. For ages 6-9 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books you have read and want to share. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA

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

ROMANCE BOOK CLUB: 'SORRY, BRO'

The Buzzed Word, 11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Join the Ocean City Library with The Buzzed Word for an evening of queer romance and wine. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577.

Fri., June 30

3RD ANNUAL POLLINATOR GARDEN TOUR'S PLEIN AIR ARTISTS' RECEPTION

Bishop's Stock Fine Art, Craft & Wine, 202 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 5-7 p.m. Plein air artists from the garden tour will be in attendance and their paintings will be available for viewing and sale. The public is invited. Proceeds benefit the Lower Shore Land Trust. 443-234-5587

Sat., July 1

6TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM CHALLENGE REGISTRATION JULY 1-22

Create a short film in or about Ocean City. Must be shot between July 1-31. For all the rules and to register: ocmd-filmfestival.com. oceancityfilmfestival@gmail.com

TINKER TIME: LETTER WRITING STATION

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop in anytime and visit the letter writing station and pen a note to a friend. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories and cool props from Assateague Island National Seashore. Children and their families are invited. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STEM SATURDAYS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Join in any time during the day to use your creativity and build using one of the STEM building kits. For all ages. 410-524-1818, 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 writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650

CRAFTY SATURDAY: RED, WHITE AND BLUE!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come and make some fun crafts to celebrate the Fourth of July. Get ready for a mess. For ages 4 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHILDREN'S CRAFTS IN THE COURTYARD

Art League of Ocean City - Courtyard, 502 94th St., Ocean City. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Engage in hands-on activities from painting to paper crafts and beyond. In case of inclement weather, classes will be held inside. Held every Saturday until Labor Day. artleagueofoceancity.org

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., July 2

OCEAN PINES PLAYERS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery, 11206 Worcester Highway, Berlin, 12-3 p.m. OPP Singers (Patrick Leonard, Dorothy Leslie, Donna Pasqualino and Jim Ulman) will present standards and easy listening favorites. Admission is free. Bring a chair. <https://oceanpines-players.org>

JULY 4TH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Seaside Christian Academy, 12637 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free live concert, food, games and family fun. Stop by for a patriotic picnic and the future West OC Youth & Sports Complex Project reveal.

SUNDAES IN THE PARK & FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Music by Chris Sacks Band "Tropicana Rock," activities for children and fireworks. Ice cream and beverages for sale. Free event. Bring your picnic basket and beach chairs.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., July 3

FULL MOON PADDLE

Pocomoke River Canoe Company, 2 River St., Snow Hill. A great evening paddle on the summer's first full moon. Open until 9 p.m. Call 410-632-3971 to reserve a canoe, kayak or paddle board.

RED, WHITE, AND ROO

Barn Hill Preserve of Delaware, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, Del., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets include access to the Kangaroo Walkabout, special animal ambassador encounters, music by Endless Ember and outdoor games. Food vendors onsite. Cost is \$20. www.ocean.com

STORY TIME: UNICORNS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. An extra fun summer story time filled with stories, songs and crafts for those who love all things rainbows and unicorns. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE: SUMMER READING EDITION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Watch movies related to this year's summer reading theme. Snacks provided. For ages 8 years and older. 410-208-

Continued on Page 31

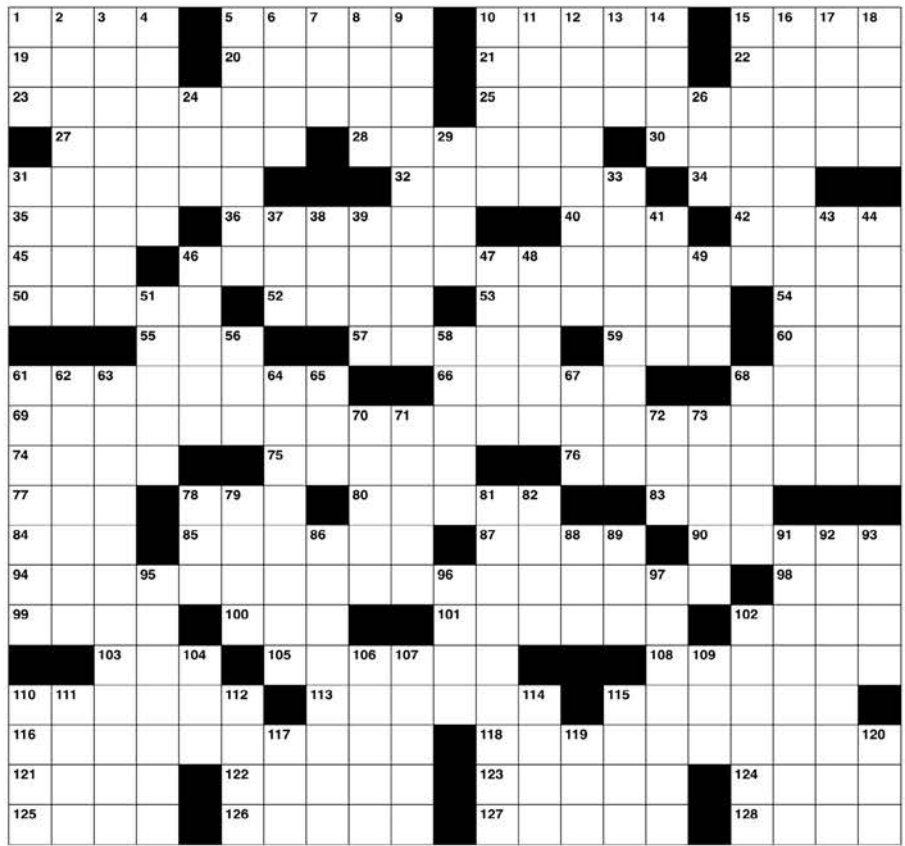
Puzzles

MYTWO CENTS

BY JOE DIPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Joe DiPietro owns the bar "one star" in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. Its website self-deprecatingly calls it "a dingy hole" "on a deadish street" (but it gets 4.5 stars on Yelp). This is Joe's 137th crossword for The Times since 1995. He began it after seeing 46-Across on a food package and thinking, Hmm. Joe says, "I will never not love coming up with theme ideas and filling grids." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lamented, in a way
 - 5 Citi Field mascot
 - 10 Ray in warm waters
 - 15 Scotland's ____ of Arran
 - 19 "OMG!" quaintly
 - 20 "What's the ____?"
 - 21 Be of service to
 - 22 Its capital is Ndjamena
 - 23 "It's obvious the actors aren't doing these stunts"
 - 25 "Hares and rabbits are really the same animal, some say"
 - 27 Rick's last name in "Casablanca"
 - 28 Fight
 - 30 Natives of the Negev
 - 31 Total kvetch
 - 32 Actor Ray
 - 34 Take (down)
 - 35 Sound effect when the Stooges whapped each other
 - 36 Having serial success
 - 40 "Y," as in Yucatán
 - 42 Overture follower
 - 45 Bid's counterpart in stock trading
 - 46 "Waiter, you can hold off bringing the coffee till the end of the meal"
 - 50 Make difficult to find
 - 52 Wide-eyed
 - 53 11th-century founder of Scholasticism
- DOWN**
- 1 Joined tightly
 - 2 "I" lift?
 - 3 Crooner in the Canadian Music Hall of Fame
 - 4 Financial institution that lends its name to a Boston arena
 - 5 Court figure with a renowned temper
 - 6 Merit
 - 7 Big Apple subway inits.
 - 8 Clothing designer Marc
 - 9 It's said to be taken upon marriage
 - 10 Cartoon Mr. who squints
 - 11 "Stop!" nautically
 - 12 They hold people's handles
 - 13 Draw
 - 14 Secondary characters, in gamerspeak
 - 15 Skimmer over a frozen lake
 - 16 Fail electrically
 - 17 Pianist Downes
 - 18 "Scooping since 1928" sloganeer
 - 24 What many people do on their dating profiles
 - 26 Journey to Mecca
 - 29 Internet speed-test signal
 - 31 M.I.T. Sloan degrees
 - 33 Resident of Westwood, Brentwood or Hollywood
 - 37 Controversial org. that filed for bankruptcy in 2021
 - 38 Part of G.P.A.: Abbr.
 - 39 Nonstop jokester
 - 41 Place to talk turkey, maybe
 - 43 Glinda's reassurance to Dorothy on whether her dog can also return to Kansas
 - 44 See 67-Down
 - 46 The Iron ____, pro-wrestling Hall of Famer from Iran
 - 47 Capital on the Willamette River
 - 48 Take weapons from
 - 49 Sch. in Dallas
 - 51 Reads, in a way
 - 56 Lines of dedication
 - 58 Impassive
 - 61 Somewhat off
 - 62 Kid's buoyancy aid
 - 63 Developed and finished naturally
 - 64 One of the Leewards
 - 65 Resource mined in Minecraft
 - 67 With 44-Down, not subject to change
 - 68 Ring-shaped reef
 - 70 Physicist Schrödinger
 - 71 Including on an email thread
 - 72 Dennis's sister on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
 - 73 Had dinner at home
 - 78 Big diamond?
 - 79 Strong link
 - 81 Curve cutter for carpenters
 - 82 Passionate
 - 86 What might get pumped up for a race
 - 88 Prefix with cycle
 - 89 It's mine in Italy
 - 91 Prominent figure in the O.J. Simpson murder trial
 - 92 Vehicle with lower emissions
 - 93 Goes (for)
 - 95 What you can't make a silk purse out of, proverbially
 - 96 More than binge-watch, maybe
 - 97 In the limelight, say
 - 102 Had a cow
 - 104 Corn Belt state: Abbr.
 - 106 Four-time gold medalist in the 1936 Olympics
 - 107 Features of some bookstores
 - 109 Keeper of the peas?
 - 110 ____ rock
 - 111 Infiltrator
 - 112 Small valley
 - 114 Stretched-out yarn?
 - 115 Certain email folder
 - 117 John for Cleese
 - 119 PX clientele
 - 120 Beef alternative in burgers
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 63 Developed and finished naturally
- 64 One of the Leewards
- 65 Resource mined in Minecraft
- 67 With 44-Down, not subject to change
- 68 Ring-shaped reef
- 70 Physicist Schrödinger
- 71 Including on an email thread
- 72 Dennis's sister on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
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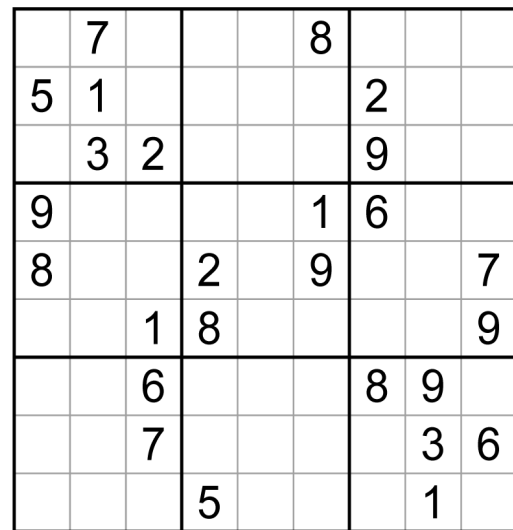
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© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 84

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



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Calendar

Continued from Page 29
4014, 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

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.

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

Mondays - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

Tues., July 4

11TH ANNUAL FREEDOM 5K

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m. All ages. Pre-register (\$40) online at runsignup.com until July 1. Wear USA-inspired attire for the Best Dressed contest. T-shirts for all pre-registered runner. Day of race registration (\$45) 7:15 am.

ANNUAL HOT DOG EATING CONTEST

Fish Tales Bar and Grill, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City, 2 p.m. This amateur competition is open to anyone over the age of 18 years. To register, visit the Bahia Marina Tackle Shop or Fish Tales before noon on July 4. Cost is \$10. www.ocfishtales.com

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 5-9:45 p.m. Carnival games, dry slides, bounce houses, live music and food and drink vendors. Fireworks at 9:15 p.m. Parking available near the OP library. Rain date: July 5. 410-641-7052, www.oceanpines.org

OC JULY 4TH FIREWORKS - DOWNTOWN

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6:30-10 p.m. The U.S. Army Band Downrange on the Caroline St. Stage at 7 p.m. DJ Kurt Dance Music and Patriotic Music at 8:15 p.m. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket. www.ococean.com

OC JULY 4TH FIREWORKS - UPTOWN

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 8-10 p.m. DJ Knappy and Gizmo from 8-9:30 p.m. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket. www.ococean.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



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WATCH FOR CROSSING

Geese, ducks and drivers of passing cars seem to be reading the new crosswalk signs in Ocean Pines.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

Wed., July 5

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

SINGALONG WITH SAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Sing along with musician Sam Edgington as he shares kid's songs in some fantastically fun and interactive ways. For ages 2-8 years. 410-524-1818,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org

FAMILY GAME DAY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Bring a game from home or play one of the library's games. For all ages. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. An evening of high adventure, fantasy and magic with the world's most famous tabletop roleplaying game. All experience levels welcome. For adults and teens. Registration requested: 410-632-3495.

FREE CONCERT

Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7:45-9 p.m. Free concert featuring The U.S. Army Band Downrange performing selections of rock, pop, country, R&B and inspirational patriotic arrangements. Bring your own seating. www.ococean.com

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays through Aug. 25 - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly on the website and

Facebook. Guests are welcome. www.kiwanisofpoc.org

ONGOING EVENTS

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS

OC Life-Saving Station Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, July 3-Aug. 25. Held Monday through Saturday, 10-10:30 a.m. Mondays feature History of Our Surfmens; Tuesdays, Beach Safety; Wednesdays, Knot Tying; Thursdays, All About Sharks; Fridays, Land, Sky, & Sea; Saturdays, Aquarium Feeding. www.ocmuseum.org

ALL TOGETHER NOW: COMMUNITY JOURNALING PROJECT

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during the month of July. Contribute your ideas, sketches, drawings of favorite memories. Read through pages already filled out to learn about others through their writing and art. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CREATIVE KIDS CORNER

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, all day, every day in July. Come grab an art kit to create at the library or take it with you. Most supplies included. For all ages. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GOTTA CATCH'EM ALL SCAVENGER HUNT!

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, all day, July 3-14. Pick up your Pokedex and scavenger hunt instructions from the library and see how many Pokemon you can find hidden throughout the library. Find them all for a free goodie bag. For ages 5 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Classified

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

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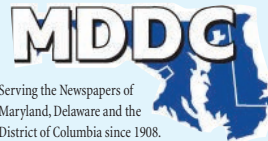
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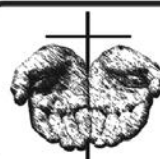
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