



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Showell Elementary was just one of the many impressive floats that headed down Main Street in Berlin on Thursday as part of the annual Christmas Parade. See more photos on page 15.

Speed cams approved for Flower Street

Seahawk Road also found to have excessive speeding

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) The Berlin Police Department will proceed with the installation of speed cameras on Flower Street and Seahawk Road after a speed zone study by RedSpeed USA showed that more than a few motorists go well over the speed limits on those roads.

When vehicle speed was tracked on Flower Street, Seahawk Road, Franklin Avenue, West Street, Williams Street, and S. Main Street, the 10000 block of Flower Street saw the worst violations. These included 179 drivers going over 15 miles or more above the speed limit.

The 400 block of Flower Street had 84 drivers going 15 miles or more above the speed limit. No local school zone signs are in place in either stretch of Flower Street.

Seahawk Road also had a large
See BERLIN Page 4

Pines fire department gets new leadership

Veteran members Widgeon, Enste get nod to serve as chief, president respectively

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) Firefighting has been a lifelong commitment for the new chief and president of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief Joey Widgeon and President Joe Enste were elected to their new positions last week during the fire department's annual elections.

Chief Widgeon, 32, started with the Showell Fire Department as a cadet when he was 14 years old. He is

now an honorary member of Showell. He moved to Ocean Pines and joined the OPVFD in 2014.

President Enste, 35, joined the OPVFD as a cadet in 2003 at age 15 because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks two years earlier.

"I remember, as a high school freshman, seeing all of the news coverage and feeling like I wished there was something I could be doing to

See NEW Page 4

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pines Fire Chief Joey Widgeon and President Joe Enste were elected to their positions during the volunteer fire department's annual elections last week.




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New south side fire station priority

Continued from Page 1 help.”

Widgeon's twin brother, Jacob, is the chief of the Showell Fire Department. His wife and mother are members of the auxiliary. Enste's wife is also a member of the auxiliary.

“Our family has always been into it [firefighting]. We all jumped into it in high school,” Widgeon said.

Enste's young son, Tripp, is already invested in the department's operations.

“He loves to talk shop when I get back from a call, asking what fire truck we took, did I drive it or what was my job, and was anyone hurt.”

As president, Enste will oversee the fire department's board of directors and will collaborate with the chief and administration. As chief, Widgeon will oversee operations. Both are volunteers with full-time jobs.

Widgeon had been assistant chief for seven years, so he said it was a natural step. Also during the election, former Chief Steve Grunewald was voted 1st assistant chief and former President Dave Van Gasbeck is now vice president. Van Gasbeck nominated Enste to be the new president.

This brings a younger generation to the top of the management of the OPVFD.

Enste said he will focus on new ideas for recruitment, fundraising and retention.

“To provide the best service, we have to have the best people. There are more great people out there,” Enste said. He said the department will start to do more marketing for membership.

“We want great people to join,” he said.

He noted that there many opportunities for people to do different things with the fire department and that it's not all fighting fires. The department always needs help from people with a wide range of skill sets, such as grant writing, construction, marketing and public relations.

“Come and talk to us,” Enste said.

He also said he enjoys and appreciates the social aspect of being involved in the fire department.

“There are several of us with young kids and families and we have a great support system.”

During the Berlin parade, members brought their families with them.

“It's not unusual on a drill night that the wives will bring food and drinks.”

“When someone joins the fire service, it's not just the individual who joins, it's the entire family. We

make it as social with our families and can be, Enste said.

“We're ready and wanting to welcome you into our department. We provide all the training and gear for free. No experience is necessary and no matter your background, we have opportunities for everyone.”

A new south side fire house has been a priority for a number of years now. Due to the transition in leadership, the new team is looking at the various options and will share details in the coming months.

The department has a government grant that needs to be spent by 2029, but Enste said he is not eager to rush the process.

Currently, OPVFD has two fundraising programs going. It recently sent a direct mail piece to residents and it has launched a fundraiser to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the department, with proceeds going to help build the new fire station. Donors can purchase a personalized brick for the firehouse by visiting bricksrus.com/donorsite/opvfd

Berlin Police chief wants limit of 25 mph road in town

Continued from Page 1

number of speeders with 108 going 15 miles or more over the speed limit.

“We might even have discussions with the county, in reference to the speed limit [on Flower Street], Police Chief Arnold Downing said.

The chief said he would like to see Flower Street have a 25 mph speed limit, not a 30 mph on the county part of the road, and 25 mph in the town of Berlin.

Certain areas, such as West Street where speeding is not prevalent but running stop signs is, will have to use other means for enforcement, according to Downing.

“We can always come back and study these locations at a later date,” Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

“When you see these numbers, Councilmember Shaneka Nichols referring to the Flower Street and Seahawk Road results, “this thing [speed cameras] right here, this is a win.”

Ocean Downs Casino had highest bump in proceeds

(Dec. 14, 2023) While most of the state's six casinos reported low and mostly declining numbers for the month of November, Ocean Downs was an outlier, with a 7 percent increase in revenues from 2022.

According to a news release from Maryland Lottery and Gaming, the local casino reported the highest bump in proceeds from table games and slots than any of its counterparts.

Overall, the six casinos combined to generate more than \$157.7 million for the month, which was an overall 3.5 percent, or more than \$5.6 million, de-

crease from last year.

Ocean Downs' total came out to over \$7 million from the 844 slot machine and 19 table games as the casino off of Route 589.

The release said the only other casinos that reported positive numbers in comparison to November of last year were Live! Casino and Hotel Maryland in Arundel Mills with a 1.6 percent increase, and Hollywood Casino in Perryville with a small, 0.1 percent bump.

Other casinos saw declines ranging from 6.5 percent at Rocky Gap in Allegany County to 10.6 percent at Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City.



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Ocean Pines chief continues efforts to attract new recruits

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) In the continuing effort to recruit candidates to the Ocean Pines Police Department, Chief Tim Robinson has been met with challenges and successes.

Currently, he has one officer coming on board in December and another who will go through the academy starting in January. If all goes well, that candidate will graduate in June and join the Ocean Pines force next summer.

The officer arriving in December is no stranger to Robinson, who taught him in his first class at the Police Academy in Salisbury. Robinson will be the one pinning a badge on him on graduation day, Dec. 18.

Even with this success, Robinson said he is still struggling to recruit and said recruitment is a challenge everywhere.

In a report released this year, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the “country face[s] an historic crisis in recruiting and retaining qualified candidates.”

Robinson said the department gets numerous applications, but the process for becoming a sworn officer is extensive. An applicant must pass a written, oral and physical fitness test. These are followed by a criminal background check, psychological evaluation, a polygraph to verify the applicant’s background and a medical exam.

It’s only after a candidate passes all of these tests that a conditional offer of employment can be made and the applicant be accepted into the Police Academy at Wor-Wic Community College.

“A good candidate can have their pick of law enforcement jobs,” Robinson said.

The academy has classes every six months. Robinson hopes that within



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Chief Tim Robinson joined the Ocean Pines Police Department in August. Since then, he has been focused on recruitment.

18 months of his start date with Ocean Pines, he will be in good shape with staffing.

Fortunately, Ocean Pines is ranked as one of the safest places to live in the country, according to the New Home Source, National Council for Home Safety and Security and Safe-wise.

“It’s our job to keep it that way,” Robinson said.

Beyond recruitment, he is working on updating department policies and has hired Lexipol, a company that develops comprehensive, continuously updated policies for public safety agencies.

He has also obtained government grants to update the Ocean Pines Police website, which he plans to make more transparent, interactive and accessible for the public.

For information on recruitment, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/police-departments



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CINDY HOFFMAN/OCEAN CITY TODAY

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, (R-38) and delegates Charles Otto (R-38A) and Wayne Hartman (R-38C) provided a briefing on the upcoming General Assembly session in Annapolis to Mayor Zack Tyndall and the council members on Monday night.

Officials brief council on legislative session

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Delegates Charles Otto and Wayne Hartman came before the Berlin Council and Mayor Zack Tyndall Monday night to share their views on the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Carozza said that one of her main priorities in the next session will be public safety and crime, and in that vein has prefiled a bipartisan public safety bill to address violent and juvenile crime. She expects to receive an early hearing.

Her legislation will provide exceptions to allow law enforcement to

question juveniles when a crime is violent or involves a firearm. That practice is currently not allowed.

She also noted that Gov. Wes Moore said this will be a tough budget year, which will affect state highway and transportation projects.

“We will do everything we can to hold our own on these funds. The top of our list is to work to ensure that our shore receives its fair share of its dollars,” Carozza said.

There will be an 8 percent reduction in transportation across the board according to Hartman.

He saw nothing that will affect Worcester County, but has his staff reviewing the information again to make sure.

On education and the state’s Blueprint for Education plan, Carozza hopes to get some revisions to the plan

now that it is in the implementation phase. She said some of the funds from this program could be freed up for transportation and housing and give local school systems more flexibility.

The blueprint has a goal of 45 percent of graduating seniors engaged in youth apprenticeships or industry-related credentials. The plan has an ambitious goal to enroll 60,000 youth and adults into apprenticeships by 2030.

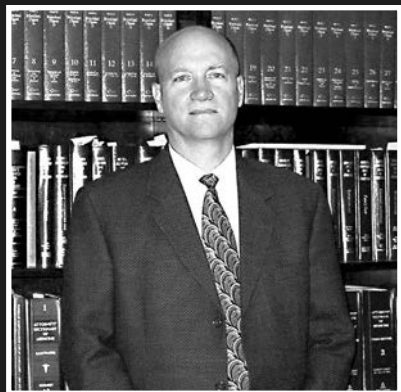
Hartman was recently appointed to the Maryland Tourism Development Budget Board, which manages a budget of \$12 million annually. There are 25 destination markets that receive about \$10 million for marketing and advertising. He said he will keep the town posted as he learns more.

The entire delegation was supportive of the replacement of Buckingham Elementary and reversing the Inter-
See STRONG Page 8

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2023 Tidewater 198CC Adventure Shark Skin - Yamaha F150

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2023 Tidewater 232CC Adventure White/Sahara - F250

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Yamaha F250XB SeaStar Tilt Steering Raw Water Wash Down Dual Battery Switch Deluxe Leaning Post JL MM50 w/ 6 JL M3 Speakers Chrome Waterline Load Rite Trailer



2023 Tidewater 2300 Carolina Bay - Oyster - F250

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Black Power Pole Black Powdercoat Deluxe Drop Bolster Black Powdercoat T-Top Hydraulic Jack Plate Digital Shift Dual Battery Switch Raw Water Wash Down JL MM50 with 6 Speakers Load Rite Trailer



2023 Tidewater 256CC Adventure White - Twin F150

Was: \$142210 Now: \$128835

Yamaha F150XCA Digital Twins SeaStar Tilt Steering Power Assist Dual Battery Switch Fresh Water Shower Raw Water Washdown Fold Down Rear Seat JL MM50 w/ 6 Speakers Load Rite Trailer



2024 Tidewater 210CC Adventure Shallow Green - LF150

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Yamaha LF150 with Digital Controls and Push Button Start Shallow Green Hull with White/Black Interior SeaStar Tilt Steering NMEA 2K ECHOMAP UHD 94sv JL MM50 w/ 6 Speakers Raw Water Wash Down Trim Tabs Dual Battery Switch Fold Down Rear Seat Deluxe Drop Bolster PC Leaning Post Load Rite Trailer



2024 Tidewater 220CC Adventure Oyster - F200

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Yamaha F200 Oyster Hull with White/Black Interior SeaStar Tilt Steering NMEA 2K ECHOMAP UHD 94sv JL MM50 w/ 6 Speakers Raw Water Wash Down Trim Tabs Dual Battery Switch Fold Down Rear Seat Deluxe Drop Bolster PC Leaning Post Load Rite Trailer



2024 Tidewater 220CC Adventure Vapor - F200

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Black Dash with Digital Gauges SeaStar Hydraulic Steering NMEA 2K Aerated Livewell Deluxe PC Leaning Post Dual Battery Switch Raw Water Wash Down Trim Tabs JLMM50 w/ 6 Speakers Load Rite Trailer



2024 Tidewater 282CC Adventure Bluewater - Whisper Gray - F250 Twins

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Berlin audit reports healthy town finances

Municipality and utilities on solid ground according to review by PKS and Co.

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) The accounting firm PKS and Company presented the results of its draft audit for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Town of Berlin on Monday night at the mayor and council meeting.

The results of its examination indicate that the current total assets for the entire Town of Berlin are valued at \$68.5 million with total liabilities at \$17.5 million. The total net for fiscal 2023 is \$47 million.

Total revenues for the town were \$8.7 million.

The town receives 51 percent of its general fund revenues from property taxes, 21 percent intergovernmental revenues and the rest from other revenue, including licenses and permits, impact fees, service charges and other taxes.

General fund revenues increased \$1 million over the prior year, according to the audit, and total expenditures were \$6.6 million.

The town continues to put public safety first in its expenditures, with 39 percent dedicated to public safety, 23 percent general govern-

ment, 17 percent public works, 9 percent capital outlay, 7 percent planning and development, 4 percent debt service and 1 percent to recreation and parks.

General fund expenditures increased from the prior year by \$467,000. The increase is a combination of increased outlays for public safety, public works, and capital expenditures.

At the end of the year, the general fund had a fund balance of \$9.9 million.

An unassigned fund balance of \$3 million is the amount set aside for future purposes and is available for emergencies. The unassigned fund balance represents six months of operating expenses. Total unrestricted fund balances were \$8.3 million and represents 15.4 months of operating expenses.

The Town of Berlin operates four utilities and accounts for their activities in separate enterprise funds, which are accounts independent of the general fund. The utilities are electric, water, sewer, and stormwater.

For the year ended June 30, the funds had an increase in net position of \$3 million (prior to contributions). Capital contributions from special connection fees were \$430,000 for the year resulting in

an increase in net position of \$3.5 million.

The Electric Fund had an operating income of \$811,000 compared to an operating income of \$317,000 last year. Its net position as of June 30, 2023 was \$5.6 million, an increase of \$682,000.

Service charges increased 9 percent from last year.

Operating expenses increased from last year by 1 percent primarily because of personnel costs.

The Water Fund had an operating loss of \$48,000 and a total increase in net position (before special connection fees) of \$1.2 million compared to a net decrease last year of \$64,215.

The water fund received a federal ARPA, or American Recovery Plan Act, grant of \$1.1 million during the year.

Service charge revenues increased by 5 percent and operating expenses increased by 6 percent. Expenses increased primarily due to changes in supplies and operating expenses.

The Sewer Fund had an operating income of \$747,000 and a total increase in net position (before special connection fees) of \$957,000 compared to an increase in net position last year of \$578,000.

Special connection fees of \$258,000 increased the overall change in net position to \$1.2 million. Operating revenues increased 19 percent and operating expenses increased \$197,000 due to increases in personnel, supplies and operating, repairs and maintenance, and general overhead expenses.

The Stormwater Fund had an operating income of \$10,000 compared to a loss in the prior year of \$88,995.

Actual revenues exceeded the amount budgeted by \$366,000 due to favorable variances in taxes, licenses and permits, service charges, and earnings on investments. Actual expenditures were less than the amount budgeted by \$1.9 million.

Strong support for Buckingham

Continued from Page 6

agency Commission on School Construction's initial denial of the Worcester County Board of Education's funding request.

"We are putting together good factual information and making the case as it is a simple case of fairness," Carozza said. Ocean City Elementary was built in 2005 and Showell Elementary in 2018 under the same adjacent school formula.

"We based our plans on a formula and you don't change the rules in the middle of the game. It's a matter of fairness. Buckingham students and the whole Buckingham community deserve its own replacement school. The

facts are on our side. We just have to make the case," she said.

Added Hartman, "Worcester County is one of the highest rated school systems. We have room to make our case. We are on top of this."

A hearing on the appeal is scheduled for Thursday.

All representatives were supportive of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety efforts. The town received design funds but was not successful in obtaining construction funds through the M-DOT Bikeways for Rails to Trails. Mayor Zack Tyndall is looking at other bipartisan infrastructure funding and asked for help from the representatives for exploring other options.



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Berlin Briefs

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) The following actions took place at Monday night's meeting of the Berlin mayor and Town Council.

Stormwater upgrade

A motion was passed to provide up to an additional \$100,000 to the stormwater management upgrade on Pine, Franklin and Nelson streets due to infrastructure issues and needs discovered once construction was underway. This includes a new fire hydrant and the location of fiber optics under the road.

Materials that were already ordered for the project will be used for other town projects. The goal is to also provide new sidewalks on Pine Street.

Berlin Fire Company

The mayor and council decided to hold off making a decision on a request from the fire company to distribute a \$136,000 balance from the American Rescue Funds to the company to pay on a loan for an engine and rescue equipment.

This payment will allow the fire company to reduce the term of its loan by approximately one year and save approximately \$10,000 of inter-

est. The mayor and council have a quarterly meeting scheduled with the fire company next week, so the decision was made to wait until their January meeting to address this issue and allow time for a discussion.

Town parking

Councilman Jay Knerr asked the council to consider options for providing additional parking in the town. He said there is an option for 100-150 parking spaces in town, although he did not share the location.

Mayor Zack Tyndall advised that a formal letter should be sent to the mayor's office outlining the parking option and that would trigger an executive session. He identified cost as

an issue and said the council would have to look at ways to pay for this.

LEOPS funding

A motion was passed by the council acknowledging the request of the Local Development Committee to phase out the planned use of casino revenue in the town's general fund budget for the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, or LEOPS, over future years.

A current multi-year plan was approved by committee, but there was concern on the part of its members about the town relying on casino funds solely for LEOPS.

Councilmembers Jay Knerr and Jack Orris pushed to provide a new-

multi-year plan by the end of Fiscal Year 2025 instead of waiting until the end of 2026 to submit the next multi-year plan, which will begin in fiscal 2027, as required.

Council member Steve Green suggested changing the language of the motion to say the mayor and council are committed to submitting an updated multi-year plan by the end of fiscal 2025 for fiscal years 2027-29, which was approved unanimously.

Energy assistance fund

The town will match donations for the fund again this year. Donations can be mailed to the town hall and a notice will be on the town website at berlinmd.gov.

Salvation Army's angel tree efforts

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 14, 2023) It's that time of the year, when the bell ringers are out in front of the stores collecting for the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army of the Lower Eastern Shore raises funds and provides services for Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

Capt. Angel and Lt. Shawn Sim-

mons became the new leaders of the Lower Eastern Shore Salvation Army five months ago.

"The social work aspect of our ministry is important to me," Capt. Simmons said.

Currently, the husband and wife team are in the middle of their Angel Tree program.

In Worcester County, 250 children will receive gifts from the Angel Tree

program, including toys, clothes, shoes and sometimes a jacket.

They also receive a food box with a chicken and a Christmas meal for them and their family.

While the Salvation Army coined the Angel Tree program, many other charities have used the name for their own holiday gift giving programs.

Capt. Simmons hopes to identify
See TRI-COUNTY Page 10



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines angel tree on display in the lobby of the town's administration building.

Ocean Pines Administration looking for Angel Tree gifts

Local family needs items for single mother with five children in range of ages

(Dec. 14, 2023) The Ocean Pines Administration team is asking the community to help support a local family in need during the holiday season.

Michelle Lane-Ross, the administrative assistant to the general manager's office, said she worked with the Berlin Crisis Center to identify a single mother with five children.

Staff then set up an angel tree in the administration building lobby decorated with ornaments that represent items requested by the family. To participate, stop by, pick an ornament from the tree, and return new, wrapped items by Dec. 20.

Requested items are:

- Size 2X shirts
- Size 36x32 jeans or XL sweats
- Bed set for a queen bed
- Anything for a PlayStation 5
- Music

13-year-old boy:

- Size 12 men's shoes
- Size XL shirts
- Size large pants
- Basketball stuff
- Washington Commanders football stuff

12-year-old boy:

- Size 11 men's shoes
- Size large shirts
- Size medium pants
- Xbox stuff
- Basketball gear/stuff

8-year-old girl:

- Size 9 women's shoes
- Size medium shirts
- Size medium pants
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Fake nails set
- Baby doll clothes
- Games
- Coloring books

16-year-old girl:

- Size 8 women's shoes
- Size small shirts and pants
- Hair clips
- Camo hunting stuff
- Soft and fuzzy blankets

15-year-old boy:

- Size 15 men's shoes

For more information, contact Lane-Ross at mross@oceanpines.org.



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Tri-county resources provided

Continued from Page 9

more sites for the Angel Tree program throughout the three counties. For any organization or businesses interested in participating in the program next year, contact salisburyMD@uss.salvationarmy.org.

The Salvation Army uses paid workers and volunteers to help with the bell ringing kettle collection each year. This year, three paid workers came through that program from Worcester County.

“Seniors and others who do not work throughout the year, get extra money for Christmas time through

the program,” she said.

Simmons hopes to raise \$125,000 from the “kettle program” this year to support their programs.

For families that need help with utility or rental assistance or clothing vouchers to the Salvation Army Thrift Store, contact 410-749-3077.

The Salvation Army hosts summer camp and sports programs.

There is also a mobile food pantry that travels throughout the three counties every third Monday. For locations, visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/salarmyl esmd>



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Sat & Sun, 11am-3pm	Harbor Court, 12801 Memory Lane	3-6BR/3.5-6.5 BA	Residential	-	Kathleen M. Clark/Monogram Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	603 St. Louis Ave., OC	2BR/2BA & Efficiency	Multi-Unit Property	\$599,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	7704 Coastal Hwy., #102, Ocean City.	1BR/1BA	Condominium	\$310,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	1 66th Street, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condominium	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	12131 Pimlico Lane, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Residential	\$699,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate





SUBMITTED PHOTO/OCEAN CITY TODAY

EXPLORING TRUCKS

Worcester Prep pre-K students Isabel Betz, Olivia Nieli and Reagan Whitlock climb aboard a Berlin utility vehicle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/OCEAN CITY TODAY

Pre-K student Cayman Wang tests the horn on one of Berlin's utility vehicles.



SUBMITTED/OCEAN CITY TODAY

FOUNDATION DONATION

From left, Jason Curtin, Salisbury University's vice president of advancement and executive director of the SU Foundation.; Ashley Stern, foundation chair; John Petito, Delmarva Power external affairs manager; and Marcus Beal, Delmarva Power Bay Region vice president, pose together for a photo. Delmarva Power recently donation \$5,000 to the university's foundation through the company's annual scholarship golf tournament.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



(Left) Kids young and old enjoyed a train garden, set up at the Ocean Pines North Side Fire Station on Nov. 30 after the tree lighting in White Horse Park. (Right) Two elves, Walker and Lauren Lengenfelder, dressed up to see the tree lighting and train garden.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

TOY AND COAT DRIVE

Toys, books, bicycles and more donated to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's annual toy and coat drive are pictured. Through the month of November, Kiwanis Club members collected items for the drive and delivered them to local charities.



GIFTS FOR SENIORS

A tree in the Ocean Pines community center is surrounded by gifts from local residents to seniors, a program sponsored by the OPA and Home Instead.

CINDY HOFFMAN/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WINTER CLOTHING DONATION

Members of the Worcester Preparatory School's Student Government Association joined the Teal Bay Mitzvah Team of Ocean Pines in October to collect winter clothing items for local charities, which were then donated to Diakonia, Worcester County GOLD, Hope and Life Outreach and Shepherd's Nook. Pictured, from left, are student government association advisors Madelyn Beebe and Paul Cryca, Teal Bay Mitzvah members Cyndy Spicknall and Margit Novack, Student Government Association President Claire Windrow and Head of School John McDonald.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS

OYSTER EXCHANGE

Volunteers for the Maryland Coastal Bays' annual oyster exchange transfer oysters from cages to buckets. This year, the group's 38 volunteers grew an estimated 6,800 oysters in cages. All oysters grown in the program are used to increase habitat and improve water quality in the coastal bays.

Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

GRINCH BREAKFAST

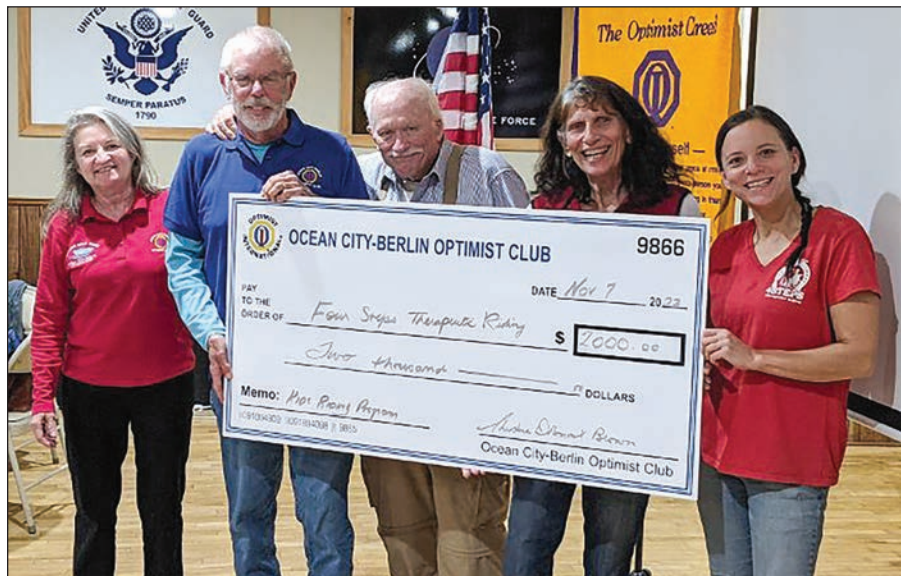
Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently made pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs for attendees of the Ocean Pines Department of Parks and Recreation Breakfast with the Grinch event. Pictured, from left, at the breakfast are Kiwanis members Dave Landis, playing Buddy the Elf; Ed Ahlquist dressed as the Grinch.; Barbara Peletier and Mike Castoro.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOOD DRIVE

Nurse Professionals Home Care Owner Anita Battista and Registered Nurse Beckie Graham organize donations for this year's annual food drive for Sarah's Pantry in Ocean Pines. In February, the Ocean City organization will begin its 23rd year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOUR STEPS DONATION

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently donated \$2,000 to the Four Steps Therapeutic Riding Program. Pictured, from left with the check, are Optimist President Christina Dolomount-Brown, member Don Fentress, and Richard Warren, Sandy Winters and Maribeth Kulynycz representing Four Steps.



ADORNED TREE

Five Worcester County Garden Club members traveled to Annapolis recently and placed a holiday tree decorated with ornaments that members made during a workshop last year. After viewing the tree, the First Lady presented a certificate of appreciation from the Office of the Governor to the club. Pictured, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore presents a certificate to Worcester County Garden Club President Suzy Young as garden club members Jan King, Joanne Kirby, Mary Ellen Jefferson, and Pat Arata pose behind them.

PHOTO COURTESY JOE ANDRUCYK



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CHECK FOR VISION

OC Lions President Greg Cathell presents a \$1,000 check to District Gov. Kathy Crockett for the Lions Vision Research Foundation. The foundation is a joint effort by the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, Lions Club International and multiple District 22 Lions to provide treatment of low vision disorders.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OFFICER GRADUATION

Newly graduated officers of the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center pictured, from left, are Patricia Abrams, Karen Jones, Justin Newsome and William Taylor. The graduates were among a total of 33 jail and correctional officers from Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester and Talbot counties to complete in the 117th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury.

Shop with a Cop



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

An officer swears in children as junior troopers before they boarded a bus to shop for Christmas presents at Walmart as part of the CRICKET Center's annual Shop with a Cop program on Saturday.



Officer Revell showed Terrance Bratten how to salute during the Shop with a Cop event. CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Children and police officers converged in Walmart on Saturday for the CRICKET Center's Shop with a Cop event.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

An officer gives his partner a thumbs up during the Shop with a Cop event.



An officer helps his partner for the day picks out a lollipop after shopping at Walmart during the CRICKET Center's Shop with a Cop event. CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Officers pose with children in front of a Christmas tree after shopping at Walmart during the Shop with a Cop event.

Berlin Christmas Parade



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Seacrest's Distilling of Ocean City rolled out numerous barrels with their float for the Berlin Christmas Parade on Thursday.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Frontier Town's Old West Sweet Shop was filled with charm, with giant lollipops and a gumdrop trimmed gingerbread house.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

(Above) Stephen Decatur High School marched down Main Street in Berlin as part of the Christmas Parade. (Left) Motorcycles, historic cars and trucks joined in on the fun during the parade.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Most Blessed Sacrament's float included a manger. Students dressed as shepherds and angels sang Christmas carols as the float proceeded down Main Street.



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Literacy teams to improve reading in schools

(Dec. 14, 2023) Members of the Maryland Accountability & Implementation Board have taken steps to improve literacy levels of third graders in all 24 state school districts, including Worcester County.

According to a news release, the state board recently approved a joint proposal with the Maryland State Board of Education to create teams of literacy professionals to evaluate reading instruction in the school districts and work directly with local officials to accelerate reading development of young children. Members of the state board approved the plan on Nov. 9.

“This effort to improve early literacy instruction will improve the learning experiences of Maryland’s youngest students and prepare them for success at every step in their learning journey,” Clarence C. Crawford, president of the Maryland State Board of Education, said in a news release.

Board Chair Isiah “Ike” Leggett emphasized the importance of reading as an essential life skill.

“Research has documented that students who aren’t reading proficiently by third grade struggle to catch up,” he said in the release. “These [professionals] will ensure that all Maryland’s school districts are using the best instructional prac-



Buckingham Elementary School students have lunch on the first day of school for the 2023-24 academic year in September.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

tices and are preparing teachers who will ensure students are reading proficiently by third grade to be on the path to college and career readiness.”

The professionals will work in

groups of two to conduct thorough reviews of school districts’ literacy plans and observe classroom instruction by:

- Observing teaching and learning

in schools and evaluating whether instruction is consistent with the principles of the science of reading.

• Assessing whether reading instruction is implemented consistently across school districts.

• Supporting teachers, literacy coaches and district leaders to help them ensure that high-quality literacy instruction is available for every student.

• Building school districts’ capacity to offer high-quality literacy training to improve teachers’ classroom effectiveness.

The release said the professionals will collaborate with district leaders, principals and teachers to create strategies to improve literacy plans. They will also provide recommendations to improve literacy instruction and student outcomes.

The literacy professionals will begin their work in early 2024 and complete it by the end of the 2023-24 school year.



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Opinion

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

Letter from the Editor

Just so there's no misunderstanding ...

When it comes to social media, it is one aspect of our current technology that I have never used and don't want to use, since I blame it for many of the ills of society.

It is, in my view, more of an anti-social media because it allows cowardly critics, busybodies and mean, vindictive people of otherwise little significance to attack people's characters, spread falsehoods and start trouble where none existed.

Unfortunately, these forums invite abuse because questionable contributors of spurious material can add it anonymously and because fact-checking craziness is an impossible job. This is especially so for part-time administrators who have more important work to do.

That said, an incident involving our Bayside Gazette Facebook page this past week is my fault, because, in essence, I don't care about its existence and therefore did not see to its maintenance.

Numerous people with past ties to this paper retained administrative privileges until earlier this week, and one of them or an associate of one of them using that individual's credentials, blocked a critic of the Ocean Pines status quo from access to our Facebook page.

To put it bluntly, this could be written off as petty BS, except that it threatens the credibility of the Bayside Gazette, which we have worked hard to develop and maintain. Our job is to report Ocean Pines news, not to be a part of it, and by dragging us unknowingly into this ridiculousness, this individual, either purposely or inadvertently, has attempted to damage our reputation as well.

We don't take kindly to that. But neither are we going to engage in guessing who's responsible by listing everyone who remained on the administrator list long after their departures, all because of my own lack of involvement.

I apologize for that, and promise to do better, even though I still contend that social media postings, while adhering to the principle of free speech, frequently fail to acknowledge the equally important principles of responsibility and personal accountability.

Stewart Dobson
Editor

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

Safety tips: use caution after dark

Night-time walking can be dangerous with no sidewalks in OP

As the sun rises and sets earlier during the wintertime, many Ocean Pines residents are now walking their dogs or just taking a walk in the total darkness. Because of those conditions, pedestrians who wear dark clothing can be difficult for motorists to see.

Members of the Ocean Pines Police are asking nighttime walkers to carry a flashlight and wear light-colored clothing or a reflective vest.

Below are some additional safety tips for pedestrians and dog walkers during these darker, colder months:

• **Visibility is Key:** Make sure both you and your furry friend are visible to others. Use reflective gear, such as a reflective leash, collar or vest for your dog, and wear reflective clothing or accessories yourself. A glowing collar or a light clipped to your dog's leash can make it much easier for passing vehicles to spot you.

• **Stick to Familiar Paths:** Nighttime can change the appearance of familiar routes. Choose well-lit paths and roads you know well to avoid unexpected hazards. If that's not possible, carry a flashlight or consider a headlamp for hands-free illumination.

• **Stay Alert:** Keep an eye out for potential dangers. While your dog might be exploring with enthusiasm, be wary of stray objects, open grates or uneven pavement. Stay attentive to your surroundings, including other pedestrians or animals that might cause distress to your pet.

• **Mind Your Timing:** Plan your walks during early evening hours when visibility is better and there's still some natural light. If you have to go out later, stay vigilant and consider shorter routes. Remember, the quieter it is, the more aware you need to be.

• **Training Matters:** Make sure your dog responds to basic commands like "heel" and "stay" to maintain control in unexpected situations. Leash manners are crucial, especially in low-light conditions.

• **Buddy System:** Consider walking with a friend or in a group. This adds a layer of safety, and it can also make the experience more enjoyable.

With these tips in mind, enjoy your nighttime strolls knowing you've taken necessary precautions. A little preparation ensures your walks remain a pleasant ritual, even after the sun has gone down for the day.

New Year brings annual First Day Hike

DNR provides many opportunities across state to get outdoors

(Dec. 14, 2023) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites all Marylanders to take a First Day Hike — the annual tradition for a fun, healthy way to welcome the new year.

According to a news release from the DNR, Maryland State Parks will be offering first weekend hike opportunities across the state from Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks that encourages all 50 states to offer outdoor hiking opportunities to kick off the year.

"First Day Hikes are a great way to start the New Year off on the right foot...or boot," Maryland Park Service Director Angela Cren-

shaw said in the release. "Maryland State Parks are offering a variety of opportunities all over the state to get out and hike to celebrate the start to 2024. Bring some water, a snack, and hike in the New Year on your public lands. I look forward to seeing you on the trail!"

For 2024, Maryland State Parks will offer more than 60 hikes across 40 state parks. As in previous years, there are two types of hikes available:

• **Ranger-led hikes** — Accompanied hikes that include interpretation by one or more park rangers, have specific start times, and often require advance registration.

• **Self-guided hikes** — Hikes available throughout the weekend, on well-marked trails. Park staff and volunteers may be available to help hikers get started but will not join them on the trail.

With nearly 50 ranger-led hikes and 15 self-guided hike options through the weekend, there is a wide variety of outdoor adventures and experiences for every level of hiker and walker throughout the state.

On the Eastern Shore, the release said hikers can bring binoculars for a guided First Day Bird Walk or bring their own horse for a New Year's Day Ride at Tuckahoe State Park; close out the first day of 2024 with a First Sunset Hike at Janes Island State Park; or gather up the whole family for the First Day Family Hike along the beach at Assateague State Park.

The hikes across the state provide unique access to Maryland's cultural, historic and natural resources and treasures, along with opportunities for education and stewardship, the release said. Many hikes are pet-friendly
See START Page 19

Alarming declines in shorebirds due to habitat losses

Sediment management plan necessary for region

(Dec. 14, 2023) Representatives from a host of federal, state and Worcester County agencies and non-profits recently met to discuss management of sediment within the coastal bays.

According to a news release from Maryland Coastal Bays, marsh loss from internal flooding and shoreline erosion, as well as island loss are of great concern to agency officials. The habitats are important for birds, such as saltmarsh sparrows, blackrails, common terns, black skimmers and royal terns, which have seen "alarming population declines," the release said.

In other areas, shoaling and impassable channels are problems. The release said the ultimate goal is to produce a sediment management plan that will better manage the bottom sand resources by linking habitat needs with dredging needs. Meetings with contractors, landowners and the general public will be held to get their view points.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS
Reedy Island near 52nd Street near Macky's Bayside Bar and Grill in Ocean City shows internal flooding and shoreline erosion that environmental agency officials are concerned about for the ability of laughing gulls and royal terns to nest.

Start new year off on right foot

Continued from Page 18
and "I Hiked" stickers will be available at select locations while supplies last.

Along with scheduled hikes, all of Maryland's state parks, state forests, and wildlife management areas will be open to all for trekking hundreds of miles of trails. Hikers should check

the DNR website for information about public lands near them.

After taking part in a First Day Hike or visiting a state park, hikers are asked to complete an online survey, which can be accessed on the DNR's website, to track their hikes and how many miles they covered.

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Cuisine

Delicious sweets and gym memberships

Reprint from Dec. 22, 2022

As you may well have gathered, I like my cakes and baked goods in the



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

wintertime. The holidays are a time of splurging, indulging, being frivolous and otherwise making unsound dietary choices. Perhaps this is why so many people choose health as a new year's resolution and

may very well be why so many people get their gym memberships then.

"I'm going to get in the best shape of my life. 2023 is going to be my year!"

"No it's not, Carol, but you go right ahead and get that gym membership that you'll use for a month, and then ... nothing."

And, this coming from a guy who has done that more than a couple times in his miserable, middle-aged life. I was smarter this year, as I purchased my gym membership a month ago. Just try to stop me, 2023. Just try. Ah yes, the cleverness of me, as Mr. Pan was known to proclaim.

Already feeling the decline in gym attendance, I am at least pleased that I'm averaging four days a week for now. Who knows? Maybe this time it will stick. The thing is, I enjoy going to the gym, as long as it's not in a group setting. That, I finally did figure out for myself. I am much better off just going solo and working my way through the various workouts. No timer, no one pressuring me to do this exercise or that, and otherwise just going through the well-calculated motions.

And hey, it's been a month and I haven't pulled a muscle or damaged a joint yet, so I have that going for me. Is there a piece of wood around here that I can knock on?

I digress and we once again must circle around to baked goods at Christmastime. I'm a sucker for Swedish Heirlooms, Yule logs, Rosettes, Cristoli, you name it. And a good cake certainly has its place at my table.

The kids and I have not made a New York or Chicago trip in a few years, but both cities are well-regaled in their Christmas splendor as part of their effort to spread Christmas joy (and to encourage retail shopping, let's be honest here) this time of year. Of course, as much as it saddens me,



New York has become a bit of a trash mountain over recent years, even more so than in years past. Hopefully, they find a happy medium in waste removal.

But Chicago... oh, Chicago... with her cleanliness and incredibly unique infrastructure, is a city all in its own, with a subterranean world where most of the trash resides before being relocated to the dump.

Walking around Chicago this time of year is amazing, with the German Christmas Market, plenty of fantastic restaurants to choose from, and, of course, the bakeries. And I have to go on a tangent here, because there is something so special about big cities and small European towns alike, when it comes to bakeries.

There is nothing quite like walking into a bakery at 7 a.m. and rejoicing in the sights and smells. At once, our senses are bombarded with the sweet and savory offerings of the day, our eyes tantalized by these bake goods in the typically brightly lit room.

It is a feeling that I have gotten since I was much younger when I would walk into the Donut Shack in Severna Park. That was always a treat

for us after church or on a random Saturday helping Dad do chores. There is just a certain feeling that one gets from such an experience.

I felt this a few years ago at the Magnolia Bakery in Chicago, as my daughter introduced us all to their famous icebox cake. It is a deceptively simple recipe to make, and quite frankly, it can be one that doesn't make any sense to you until you try it.

You may want to call this "soggy cookie cake," but once you make this and let it sit long enough, I think you'll appreciate the introduction. Oh, and have a cot handy for the sugar crash.

You will need it, and you will need your rest as you get ready to start up at the gym, again.

Chicago Icebox Cake

makes one large cake

3-4 boxes Nabisco Famous Chocolate Wafers

1 qt. Heavy whipping cream

1/4 c. Granulated sugar

1 tsp. Pure vanilla extract

1. For whipped cream, combine cream, sugar and vanilla and whip

until soft peaks. You do not want stiff peaks here, but just enough so it holds its form and is nice and creamy.

2. Grab a large round mold for our cake, ensuring that it has a flat bottom.

3. Smear a small amount of cream on the bottom of the mold.

4. Line the bottom with wafers, and then cover any gaps with more wafers on top.

5. Top with a thin layer of the whipped cream.

6. Repeat the process until the wafers and cream are gone.

7. Loosely wrap and place in refrigerator for at least overnight. This is where the science happens. In case you hadn't guessed yet, the moisture from the whipped cream will make the wafers – dare I say it – soggy as they seep up the cream's liquid, and it becomes one of the most unique cakes you'll ever have. And yes, this is a bit on the sweet side, but what 20-minute, no-bake cake wouldn't be?

Paul Suplee is the owner of Boxcar40 in Pittsville and senior lecturer of culinary arts at UMES.

Berlin celebrates Municipal Gov. Wk. with activities

(Dec. 14, 2023) This month, The Town of Berlin celebrated Municipal Government Works Month, an initiative of the Maryland Municipal League.

According to a news release, employees met with some of the youngest community members to share the work they do for the town every day.

Town officials also distributed coloring books to all Pre-K students at Worcester Preparatory and Buckingham Elementary schools. Coloring books were also made available at the visitors center.

The town also celebrated veterans by participating in Operation Green Light. Crews from the electric department changed lamp post lights, lights at Town Hall, and lights in the trees to the color green from Nov. 6-12 to show our veterans in the community that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

Md. sports betting revenues highest ever for November

(Dec. 14, 2023) Maryland's 13 retail and 12 mobile sportsbooks donated nearly \$3.2 million to state education for the month of November, and the total handle surpassed all other months to date since sports betting was launched two years ago.

Per state law, a total 15 percent of all revenue from state sportsbooks is donated to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

According to a news from Maryland Lottery and Gaming, November's statewide sports betting handle, which includes a physical sportsbook at Ocean Downs off of Route 611, was more than \$550.7 million. The total was the highest single-month total reported to date, surpassing last December's more than \$497 million.

The release said mobile wagering accounted for nearly 97 percent, or over \$533.2 million, of the total in November. The contribution to the blueprint program from mobile wagering equaled a little more than \$3 million, while physical sportsbooks donated \$147,020.

Obituary

KRISTOPHER JAY MENDENHALL
Ocean Pines

After struggling valiantly with a long illness, Kristopher Jay Mendenhall passed into eternal peace in Ocean Pines on Dec. 7. He was 66.

Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Kris moved with his family to Selbyville, Delaware, at age 12 and attended Indian River High School where he was very active in the music program.



K. Mendenhall

Kris joined the U.S. Air Force in 1977 and served as an airplane mechanic, mostly in Okinawa, until 1984. Upon returning to the US, he fell in love with Florida, ultimately making his home in the Tampa Bay area, though he maintained strong ties to Delmarva.

Working primarily as a district retail sales manager for most of his career, Kris also parlayed his love of plants into a second career in landscape management.

Kris was also a talented musician with a beautiful tenor singing voice. In addition to performing at many churches, private events, and other venues across Florida, he was also an in-demand back-up singer, including for such talents as Amy Grant and Gloria Estefan. When he wasn't mak-

ing music on stage, he was often designing and running the sound systems that made other performers sound their best.

Kris was a man of profound Christian faith. He also had an extraordinary ability to connect and bond with anybody immediately and to maintain those connections for life. Kris made it his business to be there if anyone needed help. He had a huge and generous heart and was also quick to raise money or volunteer for many worthy causes, both sacred and secular (and was the absolute best holiday Santa ever).

In 2001, a family situation introduced him to Give Kids the World Village, a magical "town" in Kissimmee, Florida, just for critically ill children. Kris immediately signed up to volunteer for one week (or more) every year and never stopped promoting their wonderful work.

Kris is survived by his wife, Melissa; son Joshua Lamm and daughter-in-law Jackie Lamm;

grandson Nathan Lamm; sisters Karen Adcock and Kippy Murtaugh; brother Kerry Mendenhall; sister-in-law Kim Mendenhall; brother-in-law Harry Murtaugh; niece Tina Kahn and her family; sister-in-law Melody Alicea and her family; and father-in-law Donald Lippiatte; as well as his faithful service dog, Molly.

Kris wished to be cremated and his ashes will reside in the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Kris's local friends and family at the Community Church of Ocean Pines at 11 a.m. on Jan. 13. There will also be a Celebration of Life in Florida with details to be announced.

In lieu of condolences, donations in Kris's name can be made to Give Kids the World Village.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Avenue in Berlin. To send condolences to the family, visit easternshorecremation.com.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost \$50 per week for Print and Online Publications.

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Puzzles

FREESTYLING

BY TRACY BENNETT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

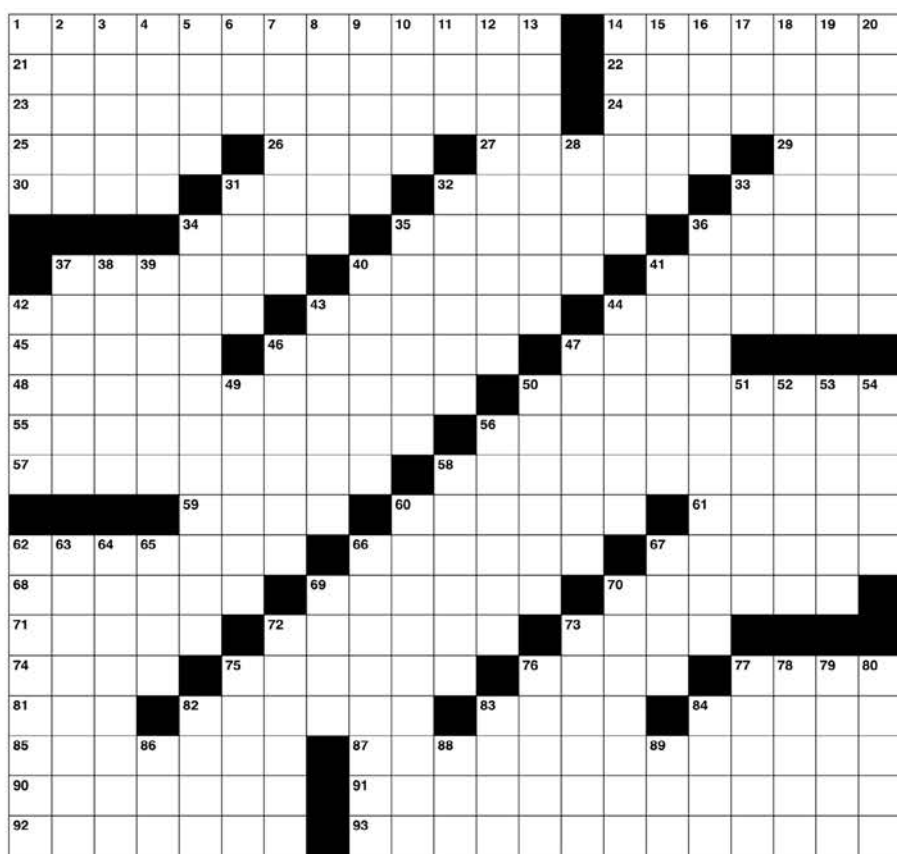
Tracy Bennett is a digital-puzzle editor for The Times. She manages Wordle and helps with the crossword. In this themeless puzzle, she took a bold grid pattern with lots of white squares and in each corner positioned a marquee answer — “something new or that had an appealing sound or cluing potential.” Then she built out from there. F.Y.I., those starting points were 23-, 48-, 50- and 87-Across. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Sarcastic response to an unsurprising development
- 12 Wrapped around
- 13 Mark who was the world's highest-paid actor in 2017
- 14 Military trainees
- 15 Turkish money
- 16 Port city in Algeria
- 17 Badger
- 18 Having equal angles
- 19 Like some golf courses
- 20 They may need fillings
- 28 Snooze
- 31 Who said, “Football is not about one or two or three star players”
- 32 Rough fabric with a loose weave
- 33 Investigators: Abbr.
- 34 Leave hurriedly, in quaint usage
- 35 Capital on the island of Luzon
- 36 Passage from one party to another
- 37 “Va-va-voom!”
- 38 It cuts the cheese (but not the mustard)
- 39 Got some shut-eye?
- 40 Pulitzer-winning poet Gary
- 41 Rang, as a bell
- 42 Use a divining rod
- 43 Like some decals
- 44 Compulsory payments of old
- 46 List of ranked favorites
- 21 Gold-rush camp that became a state capital
- 22 Carrier out of Kuala Lumpur
- 23 Hormone-therapy product
- 24 They're seen on the flags of Bhutan and Wales
- 25 Alexanders I-III
- 26 Legal claim
- 27 Retailer headquartered in Freeport, Maine
- 29 “___ Up Offa That Thing” (1976 hit)
- 30 “Will be,” in Spanish
- 31 Map out
- 32 The Stepford wives in “The Stepford Wives,” it seems
- 33 Host city of the 2022 FIFA World Cup
- 34 ___ Vogue
- 35 Acronymic devices in atomic clocks and radio telescopes
- 36 Part of a woodworking joint
- 37 ___ the Lucky Rabbit, character in early Disney shorts
- 40 Much sketch comedy
- 41 “Media impressions,” “influencer marketing,” etc., informally
- 42 Emulate
- 43 Diamond division
- 44 Sore spots for kids?
- 45 QB-protecting group
- 46 Difficult
- 47 San ___, capital founded in 1521
- 48 Super-sillyous?
- 50 Apocalyptic scene
- 55 What nocturnal polysomnography may detect
- 56 Mainstay of a sci-fi defense system
- 57 Canal inspector
- 58 Most serious, in law
- 59 It's a question of timing
- 60 Metric weight units
- 61 Actor Wilson of “The Office”
- 62 Month that goes by fast?
- 66 “Jeepers!”
- 67 Stops over in France?
- 68 Billionaires and such
- 69 Badly injured
- 70 Elegant and refined
- 71 See 81-Across
- 72 Given the name
- 73 Peacock show?
- 74 What a token may resemble
- 75 Pleased as punch
- 76 Abandon without warning
- 77 Figure in the Hindu trinity
- 81 With 71-Across, participant in some fertility treatments
- 82 Picks to win
- 83 “The Handmaid's Tale” aier
- 84 First Nations group of the Great Lakes region
- 85 “Let's Make a Deal” option
- 87 Prompt from the chronically forgetful
- 90 Accessibility concern
- 91 Walk in place?
- 92 Leafs
- 93 Set of books with maps, perhaps

DOWN

- 1 Stimulates
- 2 “Siddhartha” author
- 3 Where sacrifices may be made
- 4 Planet Earth
- 5 Actress Mireille ___ of TV's “Hanna” and “Lucky Hank”
- 6 Trail behind
- 7 Made scents?
- 8 Lasting for an immeasurable time span
- 9 How legal papers may be signed
- 10 Die-hard fan, in modern lingo
- 11 Turner of American history



- 47 Purchase at a sports stadium
- 49 Seasonal Russian cottages
- 50 Intruded, with “in”
- 51 Items usually sold in boxes of 25
- 52 Mountaintop homes
- 53 Enough to go around
- 54 Utopias
- 56 Played the rat
- 58 Outsmarted, in a way
- 60 Period from 1945 to 1953
- 62 Evergreen tree with fragrant bark
- 63 Indian dish of potatoes and cauliflower
- 64 Putt-putt
- 65 Loads
- 66 “Carmina Burana” composer
- 67 Landed
- 69 Units of RAM, for short
- 70 Character defamation
- 72 Family emblems
- 73 They're found beside exclamation marks on keyboards
- 75 Inking
- 76 Coup group
- 77 Sweet stuff in asparagus (if you read it backward)?
- 78 Many a Shiite
- 79 It may be raised in an argument
- 80 Auntie ___ (pretzel chain)
- 82 Pasta-recipe instruction
- 83 Inking
- 84 Largest of the lagomorphs
- 86 Flag thrower, informally
- 88 Time to get back to work: Abbr.
- 89 Otherworldly sorts, for short

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HARD - 60

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

BAES	ARCADIA	SBARRO
RUNT	TOOSOON	BEANIES
EDDY	BAITING	BELLYFAT
WELLEARNED	ITSALLALIE	
SNEERY	CROC	AMUSEERR
SIN	DHS	HOMETURF
DISCOBRA	LICIT	PILLOW
ARLO	LOC	ANKLES
MUON	UNHITCH	ROTC
ELI	AREIN	HAI
SENDS	DN	IMDB
COPE	GAIL	EAT
ATHEIST	SNL	ABABA
SHOREUP	TALLYHO	HERE
TIPPI	BILOXI	BIB
INSONG	NOTIP	UTAHUTES
ICOSAGON	AMI	ESC
OVA	HAITI	GASP
SANDALTRANS	SKIP	FRAGES
ANTENNAS	ICANNOT	EZRA
KEISTER	MONOCLE	YEET
ASSIST	SWATHES	SSTS

Nonprofits able to apply for historic preservation help

(Dec. 14, 2023) The Maryland Historical Trust, a division of the Maryland Department of Planning, is accepting applications now for Fiscal Year 2024 financial assistance under the trust's Historic Preservation Loan Program.

According to a news release, the purpose of the capital program is to assist and encourage efforts to acquire and preserve historic properties. A maximum of \$300,000 is available for fiscal 2024.

Eligible applicants for loans include nonprofit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for program loans when seeking funds for a preservation or development project that serves a high public purpose.

For example, applicants must demonstrate an inability to obtain private financing.

Eligible loan projects include acquisition, refinancing, rehabilitation or restoration of historic properties. Loan terms are up to 20 years. A preservation easement must be conveyed to the trust on any assisted property. Loan application and loan closing fees are required.

Certain nonprofits are also eligible to apply for a non-repayable transfer of funds from the program. This component of the program is new for fiscal 2024 and is only available to a "qualified cooperating nonprofit organization," meaning a nonprofit organization that is based in the state, operates statewide, and has demonstrated experience rehabilitating historic structures, managing preservation funds and holding preservation easements.

Eligible costs under the transfer program are limited to the acquisition of historic properties or interests in historic properties for resale or lease; the rehabilitation or restoration of historic properties for resale or lease; providing loans to other nonprofit organizations, political subdivisions and business entities to acquire, rehabilitate, restore, or refinance historic properties; providing loans to individuals to rehabilitate or restore National Historic Landmarks; and certain administrative costs and programmatic expenses.

Applications for either a loan or a transfer are due by Jan. 15.

Interested potential applicants should contact Barbara Fisher, the trust's capital grants and loans administrator, at 410-697-9574 or barbara.fisher@maryland.gov for assistance in determining project eligibility and additional guidance.

Copies of the loan program guidelines and application, as well as the transfer application, are available at: mht.maryland.gov/loans.shtml

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., Dec. 14

STORY TIME: 'MOST MARSHMALLOWS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. A fun, marshmallow-filled story time. Stick around after for a fun craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HOLIDAY MUSIC TRIVIA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Test your knowledge with some questions about favorite holiday jingles. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HERBAL HOLIDAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn about the therapeutic properties of common holiday herbs and how to blend them. Receive a ginger cookie lip balm and custom blend a Mulling Spice packet. Registration required: 410-957-0878.

DIY KEYCHAINS AND MAGNETS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 4 p.m. Make your own keychains and magnets using Shrinky Dink. For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ROMANCE BOOK CLUB: 'THE PRICE OF SALT' BY PATRICIA HIGHSMITH

The Buzzed Word, 11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. An afternoon of Queer Romance and wine. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. 302-436-9577, BeachSingles.org.

Fri., Dec. 15

MAHJONG CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a fun morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'EVERY HEART A DOORWAY' BY SEANAN MCGUIRE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Copies

of the book are available at the Berlin Library circulation desk. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Sat., Dec. 16

CREATIVE KIDS CRAFT TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop by anytime during the day to get crafty and create some wintry art. For all ages. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. An Atlantic General medical expert will hold a brief discussion, then lead the group for a morning walk. Wal-Mart gift card for the first 10 arrivals. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268

CORNHOLE ON THE COAST

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Opens at 10 a.m. BYOP - \$100/team plus Paypal fee - pool play, then double elimination - guaranteed 6 games. Must pay via Paypal through Scoreholio app. oldlinestatecornhole@yahoo.com, 410-456-4962

3RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Willards Lions Community Center, Hearn Street, 4 p.m. Craft and food vendors ready for shoppers. Stop by after the parade to warm up with hot chocolate and meet Santa for pictures. Parade starts at 6 p.m. Rain date is Dec. 17. weastsidecc@gmail.com

6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Parade Route: Richland Road up Richardson Street to 346 to Main Street back to Richland Road. Parade begins at 6 p.m. Santa pictures at Willards Lions Club after the parade. Rain date is Dec. 17. weastsidecc@gmail.com

FILM NIGHT & SHOWCASE

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 7 p.m. Highlighting local filmmakers and films produced in part by the Art League. Q&A with filmmakers after the showing. Suggested donation is \$5. 410-524-9433, megan@artleagueofoceancity.org

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., Dec. 17

CORNHOLE ON THE COAST

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bu-

reau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Opens at 9 a.m. Singles - \$50/person plus Paypal fee- double elimination - guaranteed 2 games. Must pay via Paypal through Scoreholio app. oldlinestatecornhole@yahoo.com, Jim, 410-456-4962

'BLUE HOLIDAY' SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 4 p.m. Community Interfaith "Blue Holiday" Service of Remembrance, Hope and Light. Open to all those navigating through the holidays dealing with various kinds of grief and loss.

ON YOUR FEET!

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 7 p.m. Musical featuring the story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan. Tickets cost \$55-\$75. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5517596/on-your-feet-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Dec. 18

STORY TIME: 'COOKIES'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for scrumptious story time full of stories, games and crafts about cookies. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Featuring "Philosophy and Knowledge" by Bertrand Russell. The group meets twice a month to discuss selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SMALL SOCIETY: OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. This group has worked hard to create their own businesses and now it's time to enjoy a farmer's market-style program. All ages welcome, families are encouraged. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HERBAL HOLIDAY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Learn about the therapeutic properties and how to blend holiday herbs. Attendees will receive a Ginger Cookie Lip Balm and can custom blend a

Calendar

Continued from Page 23

Mulling Spice packet. Registration required: 410-957-0878.

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 Champion, 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., Dec. 19

STORY TIME: 'HOLIDAY FUN'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

BLOCK PARTY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Babies, toddlers and preschoolers join in to play with blocks and other toys while socializing with other families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1-4 p.m. Visit this one-stop shop for agencies and services that assist with homelessness, financial insecurity and other various needs. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIY CLAY ORNAMENTS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Join in as the group makes their own ornaments out of air dry clay. For ages 6-12 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round.

Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

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.

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

Wed., Dec. 20

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Held the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568.

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of strategy that dates back 5,000 years to Mesopotamia and Persia. All skill levels welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with new-to-you puzzles. All puzzles must be complete and in their original box. Don't have a puzzle to exchange, that's ok too. 410-641-0650.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

PHOTO TRANSFER TO WOOD

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Local artist John Lampieri teaches the process of photo transferring. Images provided or bring a 5x7 photo. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

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

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 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.kiwanisofopoc.org

ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Dance background not required. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

ONGOING EVENTS

BOOKS BEHIND BARS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during December. Donate books to the Books Behind Bars drive, which helps promote education and enrichment in local facilities. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TEEN STEAM STATION

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., during December. Drop-in for fun STEAM challenges. Create jewelry using binary code, construct a flying glider, design your own city out of recycled material and more. Challenges will change each week. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Bus departs Dec. 15 from Snow Hill at 5:30 a.m. and Berlin at 6 a.m.; returning at approximately midnight. Spend the day exploring New York City on your own. Enjoy the holiday spirit of the city. Cost is \$100 per person. Register: https://worcesterrecandparks.org/programs/motorcoach or www.playmarylandscoast.org. Info: Kyle Jarmon, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2519, kjarmon@marylandscoast.org

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, Nov. 16-Dec. 31, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Admission cost is \$6 for adults and free to children 11 years and younger. Take the walking tour through thousands of sparkling holiday lights and many animated light displays located along a paved park paths. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa, try a family craft, visit the gift shop and see the 50-foot Christmas tree. There will be a Winterfest Express tram ride with multiple "trolley" stops to assist guests in making their way around the 58 acre Northside Park. Pets are welcome on Wednesday evenings. Purchase tickets: https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest/.

HOLIDAY TRAIN GARDEN DISPLAY

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Wednesdays through Sundays, Nov. 16-Dec. 31, 5:30-9 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted to benefit Ocean City Beach Patrol. https://www.ococean.com/events/annual-events-festivals/winterfest-holidays/

OC LIBRARY WINTER TRAIN GARDEN

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Nov. 15-Jan. 5. Free event. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. www.worcesterlibrary.org, oceancity@worcesterlibrary.org, 410-524-1818

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA

Meets the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. A social organization of men and women of Polish or Slavic descent.

KIWANIS 2024 "LOTTERY RAFFLE" TICKETS ON SALE

Every Saturday at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20. A ticket is good for all 365 days of 2024 drawings of the Maryland evening "Pick 3" drawing. There are 17 Special Dates that pay up to \$250. See www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

'SAVE OUR STORIES'

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is asking community members to send in their accounts as to how COVID-19 has impacted them. The submissions can be a specific experience, direct answers to the prompt questions, or a combination. No story is too long or too short. To submit, visit www.ocmuseum.org. Info: Christine@ocmuseum.org.

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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by Monday 5 p.m.

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



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The Town of Snow Hill is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Maintenance Tech II with Public Works. Required experience: able to lift to 80 lbs.; operate heavy equipment; and general maintenance duties, including garbage and recycling collection. Maryland Class B CDL Drivers License required. The Town of Snow Hill offers a full benefit package including the State Retirement Program.

Interested applicants may submit a resume with cover letter or Town application to: Town of Snow Hill, Attn: Public Works Supervisor Position, P.O. Box 348, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863 or via e-mail to csullivan@snowhillmd.com. Applications are available online at www.snowhillmd.com or at Town Hall.

Resumes and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Snow Hill is an equal opportunity employer.

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- Standard walker with wheels (1065292)



Bath Bench

- Standard bench with out backrest (1065293)
- Standard bench with backrest (1065294)



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