



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

'TIS THE SEASON

The "Season Greetings" banners hanging from the light posts at the north gate entrance to Ocean Pines are part of a larger effort this year to install more holiday decorations around the community. The banners have been well received and General Manager John Viola plans to produce seasonal banners and amenity banners to be displayed year 'round.

IAC still saying maybe on Buckingham funds

A 'no' on first round doesn't mean 'no,' as legislature has yet to set state budget

By Hunter Hine
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) Maryland's Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) didn't allocate any state funding to Buckingham Elementary's replacement project in the agency's preliminary 2025 capital improvement plan budget, but this could change once the budget is finalized in May.

At a meeting over Zoom last Thursday, the IAC approved staff recommendations for preliminary allocations and planning approvals for the 75 percent authorization round of their 2025 capital improvement plan after hearing testimony from the leaders of several education agencies in Maryland.

Superintendent of Worcester County Schools Lou Taylor, State

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) and County Commissioner President Chip Bertino testified for Buckingham's construction funding.

Worcester County schools requested a total of \$3,566,500 in state funding for 2025, most of which was to pay for roof projects at Pocomoke and Snow Hill Middle Schools. Of that total, \$513,000 was meant to go toward design services for the Buckingham replacement.

This preliminary IAC budget allocates only \$1.9 million to the Snow Hill Middle School's roof project. Buckingham design services and the Pocomoke roof project were marked for no state funding, for now.

The 75 percent allocation round is "very preliminary" and "incomplete," maybe even more so than in past years, said Alex Donahue, executive director of the IAC. Last year the state funding target increased by several hundred million dollars between the 75 percent round and final budget ap-

See SCHOOL Page 8

Worcester Chamber adds clarification to its name

In light of criticism, board eliminates confusion over organization's home base

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) The newly named Worcester Chamber of Commerce has modified its new logo and name and will now be known as the Worcester Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines.

The decision was made during a board meeting last Friday.

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce announced its name change at the beginning of December. The announcement drew consider-

able backlash from the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors and other chambers of commerce in the area.

"It warms my heart. Our intention was never to leave Ocean Pines behind," Donna Frankowski, vice chair of the Worcester County Chamber and a local real estate agent in Ocean Pines.

The chamber initiated discussions of a name change in May, according to Kerrie Bunting, the president and CEO of the chamber, who said her group invited every county commissioner, representatives of Worcester County Economic Development and Tourism and every chamber of com-

See CHAMBER Page 8



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OPA budget, finances look healthy at end of November

By **Cindy Hoffman**

Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) Finances continue to look healthy for the Ocean Pines Association, according to data presented to the Ocean Pines Board of Directors Saturday.

The preliminary “flash” numbers for November have a net revenue of \$358,000, \$68,000 over budget. The expenses were \$1.073 million, \$44,000 less than budgeted. For the month of November, the OPA is favorable by \$137,000.

Golf and maintenance continue to be economic drivers, General Manager John Viola reported.

Other amenities are also generating more money than projected, including aquatics, the Clubhouse Grill and the Yacht Club.

“It was a good month across the board,” Viola said.

Money saved in police is due to some open positions, although “We are budgeting to get to a full staff,” Viola said.

The department has been pursuing grants for various projects. Chief Tim Robinson recently received a grant for updating the website.

“While we are in a cash burn situation at this time of year, we are doing very well,” Director Stewart Lakernick said.

“I am coming forward asking for a lot of cash, and you are right, it’s all

going to be covered. It will be covered in the next budget and everything,” Viola said.

Director Monica Rakowski delivered the Treasurer’s Report.

As of Nov. 30, 2023, the association had approximately \$16.8 million in cash. Cash increased by \$800,000 from the same time period last year. Cash decreased \$600,000 from October 2023.

Investments include \$11.3 million in CDAR’s, \$50,000 in interest income recognized for the month and the remaining \$5.5 million is in insured cash sweep, Treasury bills, money market and other operating accounts diversified between two local banks.

Viola provided dates for the FY 24-25 budget review. The Budget and Finance Committee will review the proposed budget Jan. 3 and 4; the board will review Jan. 11 and 12 and a town hall has tentatively been scheduled for Feb. 7.

The budget is expected to include robust bulkhead, drainage and road programs. Statutory wage increases, the 401K police enhancement program, medical costs and liability insurance increases will also be reflected in the budget, according to Viola.

“We don’t just budget for this year, we do look forward over the next two, three, four years and have a plan in place,” Viola said.

Ocean Pines Briefs

By **Cindy Hoffman**

Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) The following issues were discussed during the Ocean Pines Board of Directors meeting on Saturday:

Walking trails

The Robin Hood bike and walking trail is being enhanced by the Public Works Department, with trails being mulched, and tree roots removed.

Five signs have been ordered to be placed on walking paths that cross over streets notifying motorists of bike and pedestrian crossings.

The roads are also being striped at King Richard, Castle, Camelot and Robin Hood for safety purposes.

Ocean Pines Kickoff

The spring event is scheduled for April 20, from 3-7 p.m. at White Horse Park. The event will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the many amenities, activities, clubs and businesses in the community.

Food and beverage trucks, music, games and interactive displays will be available.

Berlin New Year’s events set

(Dec. 21, 2023) The Town of Berlin will be hosting two New Year’s Eve ball drop events next week to ring in 2024.

The first will be geared toward kids from 5-6:30 p.m., Dec. 31, and the second will be for adults from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Dec 31 and Jan. 1.

The first ball will drop at 6 p.m. and the second at midnight on the corner of Pitts and Main streets downtown.

The adults celebration starts at 10 and will feature music from DJ Big Al Reno & Schwab on the stage and music when the ball drops at midnight.



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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors discuss major projects at the monthly meeting Saturday. The directors approved of expenses for a new golf irrigation system, expansion of the Yacht Club tiki bar, an electronic sign and upgrades to the Racquet Club building.

OPA Board votes to fund several priority projects

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on Saturday voted unanimously to approve spending for priority projects, including the irrigation system for the golf course, the first of four electronic signs, renovations to the racquet sports building, the tiki bar at the yacht club, a pavilion at the veterans memorial and card readers for beach club bathrooms.

The board authorized spending \$934,000 on a new irrigation system for the golf course. The current irrigation system is between 30 and 50 years old, according to General Manager John Viola. If the cost had been greater than \$1 million, the board would have been required to put the decision to referendum by the residents.

Phase One of the project will include pump stations at fairways one and nine plus the range. The bulk of the work will occur between November 2024 and March 2025.

See OPA Page 6

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2022 Sylvan S-3 CRS DC

Was: \$115455 Now: \$89900

Yamaha F300 SPX Performance Package Wake Tower with Arch Speakers Black Rails, Deck Trim & Frame Simrad G07 Power Assist Steering RGB Lighting Package Lighted Cupholders LED Underdeck Lighting Underwater Lighting Mood Lights Sea Weave Flooring Black Painted Tubes Extended Deck with Swim Ladder \$107755



2023 Tidewater 198CC Adventure Shark Skin - Yamaha F150

Was: \$63445 Now: \$56870

Yamaha F150 Baystar Tilt Steering Bow and Cockpit Bolsters Bow Cushion PC Leaning Post w/ Backrest Dual Battery Switch JL MM50 w/ 6 Speakers Raw Water Wash Down Load Rite Trailer



2023 Tidewater 232CC Adventure White/Sahara - F250

Was: \$96150 Now: \$86440

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

Was: \$99750 Now: \$89770

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

\$77125

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

\$87950

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

\$88450

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

\$199510

YAMAHA F250 TWINS Whisper Gray Hull with White/Black Interior NMEA 2K Black Powdercoat Fiberglass Leaning Post with Sink GEM Deluxe Hybrid Outriggers Fresh Water Shower JLMM105 with 6 Speakers JL 10" Amp Dual Battery Switch China Head Raw Water Wash Down Windlass 3-Bank Charger Load Rite Trailer



2023 Sylvan Mirage 820 LZ Silver/Blue - VF90

Was: \$38860 Now: \$34375

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2023 Sylvan Mirage 8522 CLZ Wave Blue - F150

Was: \$65425 Now: \$56360

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2023 Sylvan L3 DLZ Bar - Burgundy - VF250

Was: \$86360 Now: \$74390

Power Bimini Seastar Hydraulic Steering Dual Battery Switch Gray Sea Weave Flooring Two-Tone Gray Interior High Back Helm Seat Gray Lounger Bar Extended Deck JL MM50 Radio Audio Plus 225 Speakers AP225 Rear Facing Speakers Mood Lights Underdeck Lights



2023 Sylvan L5 CLZ DH Wave Blue - F250

Was: \$83660 Now: \$74965

Wave Blue with Gray/Black Accents SPX PR25 Performance Package Power Bimini Dual Battery Switch Seastar Hydraulic Steering Extended Deck Gray Seawave Flooring Hi-Back Two-Tone Helm Chair Lighted Cupholders Babbito Underdeck Lights JL MM50 Radio with Speakers Mood Lights



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY GREENERY

Members of the Worcester County Garden Club pose with holiday arrangements they made during a workshop on Dec. 11 at Stevenson United Methodist Church Hall. The members brought assorted greenery and flowers to make arrangements for their homes.

OPA board approves racquet club renovation

Continued from Page 4

For the sign project, the board agreed to spend \$22,000 on the first of four electronic signs to replace the lettered signs that appear throughout the community. Three bids were received from a request for proposals that went out to contractors in November.

The first sign will be placed at the north gate bridge and will fit within the current sign structure. Viola estimated it will take six to eight weeks to install the sign.

Director Steve Jacobs asked if it was possible to negotiate a cheaper price for the additional signs. Viola replied that he would negotiate with Phillips Signs in that regard, but added that the price of the first sign was very reasonable.

Renovating the racquet sports building will focus on the bathrooms, pro shop, office and storage at a cost of \$140,000. The Whayland Company and Public Works Department staff will complete the project. Viola

said he hopes permitting will start for the project in January or February.

Over at the Yacht Club, the tiki bar at will be expanded before Memorial Day at a cost of \$197,500. The expansion will provide 24 square feet of additional bar space and is expected to enhance the customer experience. This will provide 20 additional feet on both the pool and patio side of the bar. Public Works Department staff and an outside contractor will do the work. Additional bartenders will be

hired for next season.

In approving the expenditure of \$50,000, the board agreed to match the Worcester County Veterans Memorial payment of \$50,000 to build a new gazebo on the grounds of the memorial. The gazebo, which will be similar to the one at White Horse Park, will be owned by the association.

Lastly, the board agreed to spend \$5,430 for card readers for the beach club bathrooms.



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the menu

SOUP + SALAD

Cream of Crab | 10

sweet crab meat • touch of sherry • cream • old bay

Eastern Shore Oyster Stew | 10

cream • mirepoix • butter • potatoes • local oysters

French Onion | 8

classically braised white onion • rich beef broth
garlic french bread • gruyere cheese

Lobster & Sweet Potato Bisque | 12

maine cold water lobster • sweet potato
seafood stock • cream

Twisted Caesar | 11

chopped romaine • shaved brussels • julienned kale • romano cheese • crostini • zesty caesar

Nuts & Berries Salad | 11

blueberries & strawberries • candied walnuts • red onion • tomato • goat cheese • berry champagne vinaigrette

Black & Bleu Arugula Salad | 11

crumbled buttermilk bleu cheese • blackberries • almonds • red onion • white balsamic vinaigrette

Grilled Broccoli Salad | 11

warm grape tomatoes • grilled broccoli • roasted red peppers • raisins • chopped pistachios
wild grains • smoked bacon vinaigrette

APPETIZERS

Memphis Oysters Rockefeller | 14

flash fried local oysters • sautéed red onion & baby spinach • pulled pork • sweet BBQ drizzle

Smoked Salmon Carpaccio | 14

pastrami seasoned • whole grain aioli • edible flower confetti • pickled red onion
caper berries • everything bagel chips

Shrimp Cocktail | 13

U12 jumbo domestic shrimp • cocktail sauce • old bay • lemon

Filet Skewers | 15

skewered Creekstone filet mignon • sweet thai glazed • red chili aioli

Chef's Cheese Plate | 13

chef's selection of assorted cheeses • accoutrements • crostini • house jam

Jerk Chicken Wings | 16

house marinated chicken wings • red onion • bell peppers • honey mustard balsamic glaze drizzle

ENTREES

Chilean Sea Bass | 31

oven roasted • sautéed baby spinach • basil pesto risotto

Crab Cakes | 26 SINGLE 42 DOUBLE

broiled • plantain chips • mango habanero & avocado relish • black beans • wild rice & quinoa

Scallops | 32

caramelized U10s • sautéed baby spinach • smoked bacon risotto

Prime New York Strip | 34

seasoned & grilled • maître d'hôtel butter • smashed baked potato • grilled asparagus • frizzled onions

Dry Aged Filet Mignon | 34

bacon fat seared & roasted • bleu cheese butter • whipped yukon gold potatoes
grilled asparagus • red zinfandel onions

Rack of Lamb | 32

everything bagel seasoned • roasted fingerling potatoes • grilled broccoli • aji verde sauce

Pork Ribeye Black Eyed Peas | 28

seasoned & grilled • hoppin' john & seasoned kale saute • jasmine rice

Peruvian Chicken | 28

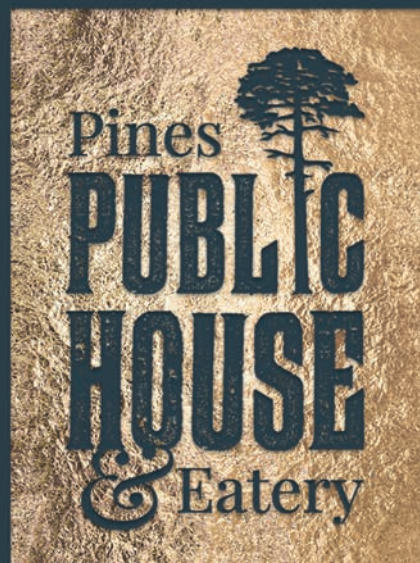
peruvian seasoned airline chicken breast • balsamic vegetable saute of red onion,
brussels, grape tomatoes & roasted red peppers • seasoned potatoes

Brown Ale Shrimp | 28

sautéed jumbo gulf shrimp • rude boy brown ale BBQ sauce • seasoned kale saute • white cheddar grits

Surf & Turf Mixed Grill | 31

seasoned & roasted filet mignon tips • jumbo shrimp • mediterranean rice
artichokes, tomatoes, red onion & bell peppers • crumbled feta & balsamic glaze



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The newly named Worcester County Chamber of Commerce added "in Ocean Pines" after backlash from many on the name change.

Chamber adds 'in Ocean Pines'

Continued from Page 1

merce to a meeting in Pocomoke to discuss the name change.

"We are marrying the customers with the businesses. We've been operating on the countywide scope for the past five years, so this name change really just goes with that," Bunting said.

"No matter what our name is, our support is the same, our dedication is the same. We are here to support our community," Bunting said.

Worcester Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines will host an open house at the Delmarva Discovery Museum in Pocomoke on Jan 23 from 5-7 p.m.

School funding agency says Buckingham still has shot

Continued from Page 1
proval, he said.

"We really have little idea at this point about the total amount of funding we'll be working with," Donahue said.

The IAC won't know its complete budget until the General Assembly passes budget bills in the legislative session that begins in January, and IAC staff do expect a clearer picture of their funding by late that month, Donahue said.

The 90 percent budget authorization comes in March as the legislature winds up its business, and the final approval comes in May.

The IAC graded the Buckingham Elementary replacement project's funding status as a "C," which means "deferred and not currently eligible for planning or funding approval pending IAC review or unresolved [local education agency] issues, according to WCPS facilities manager Joe Price.

Between now and May, Buckingham and other projects with a C rating at this juncture could become eligible for state funding, said Arabia Davis, funding programs manager at the IAC.

Many of the projects received a C grade because of data-gathering challenges for variables of each project that the IAC uses to determine funding eligibility. One of the unknown variables holding back some C-rated projects is Pre-K enrollment, which has a new estimation procedure, Davis said.

"Getting to this set of preliminary recommendations has accordingly been challenging, and there are a significant number of projects that are not receiving allocations in this round that may very well receive funding recommendations in the upcoming 90 percent and 100 percent rounds," Davis said.

In October, the IAC received 306 funding requests from all 24 of Maryland's local education agencies and the Maryland School for the blind, which totaled \$985 million. All the capital improvement project submissions in-

clude requests for planning approval, design services, design funding, construction funding and more, Davis said.

At this 75 percent phase of the IAC's allocation process, staff have recommended funding just \$210 million of the requests. IAC staff estimate that the full and final IAC budget, which will be approved in May, will be \$280 million.

"This is a CIP record in terms of the scale of the requests and their complexity within the context of limited state resources," Donahue said. "Just 10 weeks later, we are here to take a first cut at placing some expected state capital dollars on to those projects whose eligibility appears to be relatively clear."

In January 2022, the IAC voted to freeze the amount of funding that the agency allocates to each local school system for 2024 and 2025 at the same amount of funding that each one received in 2023.

"This amount ... is based upon the proportional 10-year average from FY 2013 to FY 2022 and other appropriate factors. This freeze prevents the use of other funding sources from impacting an LEA's (local education agencies) 10-year average. This freeze also allows the IAC, LEAs, and stakeholders time to develop an appropriate methodology to develop future annual funding targets," according to a 2022 memo about the funding freeze.

The funding freeze made Worcester County eligible for just 0.89 percent of the total IAC funding.

Montgomery County was locked in at the highest percentage of available funding, which was 14.75 percent. Most of the rest of the state's local education agencies were set at funding proportions ranging from 0.68 percent to 6.45 percent. Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County were set at around 9-12 percent of the total state budget.

At the meeting, Bertino said that Worcester County only received .37 See CAROZZA Page 9

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Republic Services contract renewed for another term

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) Trash, recycling and leaves will continue to be picked up by Republic Services in Ocean Pines for another three years.

Republic Services was not the lowest bid, but came close, according to General Manager John Viola. Thought was given to changing from a twice to once a week collection, but there was no financial benefit to do so.

With a new contract will come new trash cans for residents at no additional cost. The trash cans will allow the use of an electronic arm to pick up and dump the trash, making it safer for sanitation workers. Those who continue to put out trash in bags or other containers will still

have their trash picked up but residents are encouraged to use the new bins.

In addition to the current service, Republic will schedule five additional leaf pickups throughout the year. This will not replace the pickups done by Ocean Pines.

The cost of the service could go up 15 percent during the life of the three year-contract, which would amount to about \$4 in cost for each resident.

"I don't think it is a bad deal," Viola said.

Residents are reminded that leaves raked to the street will not be picked up by Ocean Pines or Republic. All leaves must be bagged for pickup. Violations will be issued to those who rake their leaves to the road.

Delmarva Blood Bank giving away holiday socks to donors

(Dec. 21, 2023) In celebration of the holiday season, the Blood Bank of Delmarva is giving away festive holiday socks to every presenting donor from Dec. 21-Jan. 2.

The promotion is available to all donors who present at any of the region's donor centers and mobile blood drives, while supplies last.

According to a news release, the month of December is always a difficult time for the blood supply, as school breaks, family vacations and holiday travel all contribute to making donations less of a priority. Hospitals and patients rely upon a steady flow of volunteer donors to receive life-saving blood donations, but the

past two years have brought chronic blood shortages nationwide. The Blood Bank of Delmarva reported a 27 percent decrease in youth donors since before the pandemic.

Blood donors can give every 56 days, and platelet donors can give twice a month. The Food and Drug Administration recently lifted eligibility restrictions for individuals who lived in Europe during certain periods of time.

To view current eligibility guidelines, visit delmarvablood.org and click on "Donate Blood."

To make an appointment, donors can call 1-888-8-BLOOD-8 or visit delmarvablood.org.

Carozza: no combined schools

Continued from Page 8

percent, or \$14.8 million, of the about \$4 billion in school construction funds the state has distributed over the past decade.

"Approving this \$5.8 million request for Buckingham Elementary School would increase this percentage to only one half of one percent — a small investment from the state that will reap incalculable dividends for the families of our community and the state as a whole," Bertino said.

Worcester County would ask the state for about \$5.8 million for the total replacement project. The county has preliminarily allocated \$50 million for the Buckingham project in its 2025-2029 capital improvement plan, he said.

Carozza said that the funding request for Buckingham would comprise only 0.3 percent of Maryland's total school construction funding dispersal.

"We are basing our appeal on facts, figures and fairness for our Buckingham Elementary students and community," Carozza said.

Carozza also said that when the IAC previously decided not to fund Buckingham's replacement, it based its decision on the determination that there were 641 seats available at Showell and Ocean City Elementary Schools. When the IAC funded Showell's replacement a few years ago, Buckingham wasn't

considered an "adjacent school," she said.

Donahue said that construction funding requests from all school systems are evaluated on the same formula that analyzes a school's eligible enrollment as well as the capacity for students at that school and at nearby schools.

The IAC uses a state-rated capacity calculator that's meant to keep funding equitable across different school systems, and the rules of this analysis haven't changed for many years, Donahue said.

"What is different with this year as compared with past years in which previous projects were evaluated is that the IAC now has the capacity to fully implement these rules to a degree which they may not have been consistently implemented in previous years," Donahue said.

Carozza also said that an idea floated by the IAC to combine Buckingham Elementary and Berlin Intermediate into one new building is not do-able.

Edward Kasemeyer, chairperson of the IAC, said that Donahue has a "more comprehensive concept" of the combined Buckingham and Berlin Intermediate building idea. Donahue plans to present the concept to Worcester County leaders in the future, Kasemeyer said.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

(Above) Volunteers with the Ocean Pines Facebook group Get Involved wrapped gifts for seniors who are alone this holiday season. The gifts will be distributed by Worcester County GOLD. (Left) Santa poses for a picture with Kathy McDaniel, Katie Conforti, Colby Phillips and Tracy Tilghman during the Josh Alton Christmas celebration at the Yacht Club on Saturday. The event brought people together to donate gifts and necessities to children at the Diakonia shelter in West Ocean City.

Ocean Pines groups gather to spread joy over holidays

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) The Ocean Pines Yacht Club was bubbling over with Christmas spirit on Saturday as volunteers gathered to provide gifts for those in need.

In the morning, the Ocean Pines Get Involved Facebook group joined Worcester GOLD to brighten up the holiday for seniors who are home alone this holiday season. Volunteers packed and wrapped 33 gift boxes full of blankets, games, cards, snacks and Food Lion gift cards.

That evening, Ocean Pines resident Santa Helper, Colby Phillips, hosted a holiday gathering to provide 16 children at Diakonia, a shelter in West Ocean City, with presents and other necessities.

The event was held at the Yacht Club patio. Santa made a special appearance, thanks to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Attendees brought gifts for the children, as well as necessities, and enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate and music.

The event was held to honor the memory of Josh Alton, a teen from Ocean Pines who lost his battle with cancer in 2022. His favorite holiday was Christmas and Phillips helped provide a special Christmas in July for him before he passed.

“Josh loved the reason for the season and we all got to see the love, giving and kindness first-hand Saturday evening,” Phillips said.

More than 30 gifts were collected as well as scarves, gloves and coloring books for the Diakonia shelter.



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Housing development proposed for Berlin

Planning commission considering townhouses, duplexes and amenities

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) Karbyte Enterprises LLC went before the Berlin Planning Commission again last Tuesday to discuss its proposed plan for a housing development at the intersection of Route 113 and Germantown Road in Berlin.

Two plans were presented, one with 15 townhouses and 35 duplexes and the other with 64 townhouses. This is a big change from the previous plan presented in June by Karbyte, which was a mix of retail, townhomes, condos and villas.

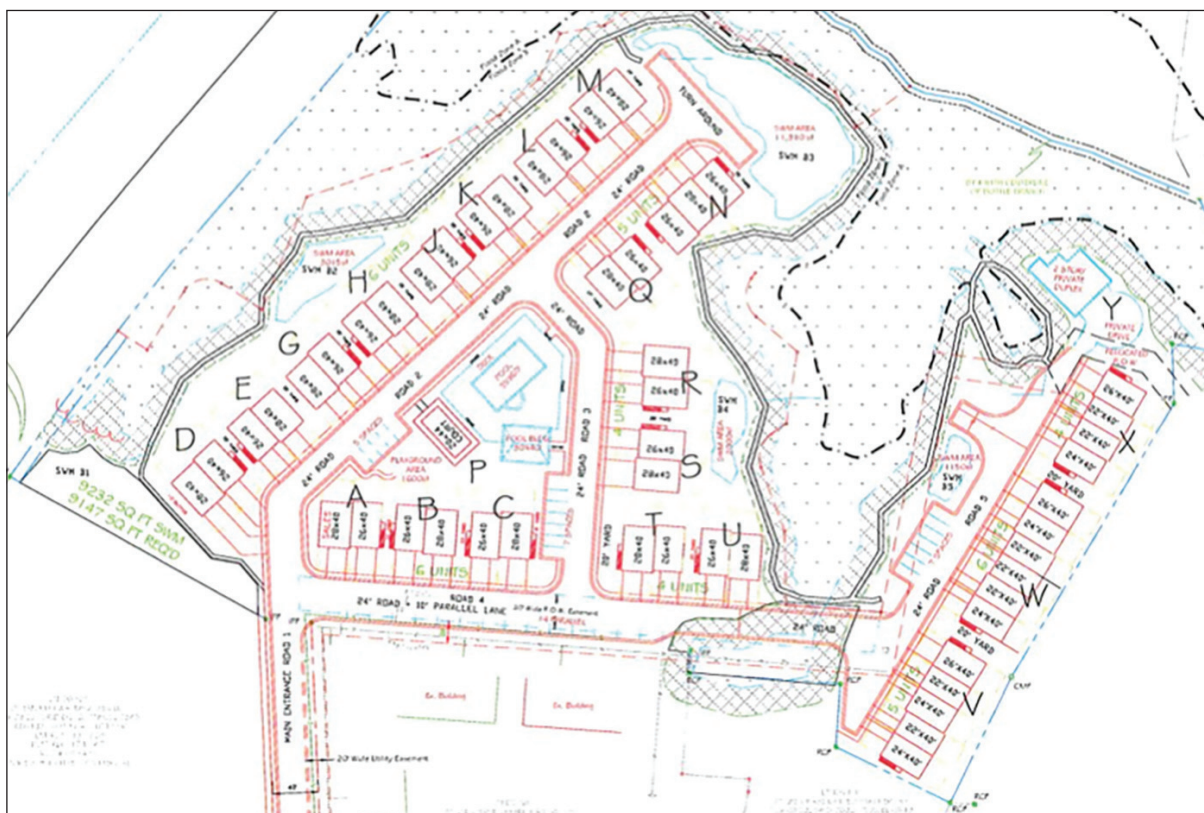
The commission reacted favorably to the mix of townhouses and duplexes. Based on the previous input from the commission, the developer included amenities, such as a pool, a sport court, a playground area and a mulched walking path around the development.

The smallest unit proposed is 2,100 square feet and the largest is 3,200. The units are projected to sell between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

There are several steps Karbyte needs to take before this project can move forward.

The lot has split zoning for residential and B1 business, so rezoning is required to develop the site for homes, according to Dave Engelhart, the planning director for the Town of Berlin.

Karbyte will have to ask the Planning Commission to rezone the lot to all residential. A public hearing is required and if the commission agrees to rezone the property, it will then go to the mayor



PLANS BY KARBYTE ENTERPRISES

Karbyte Enterprises proposes a mix of townhouses and duplexes at the intersection of Route 113 and Germantown Road in Berlin.

and Town Council to approve or deny.

The site plan will also need to be approved by the commission.

There is an extensive forest conservation easement on the property as well, according to the at-

torney for the applicant, Mark Cropper of the law firm Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy and Almand in Ocean City.

“It’s a complicated piece of property,” Engelhart said.

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Calvert Co. man sentenced 25 years for sexual assault

(Dec. 21, 2023) On Dec. 15, Alvin Lee Redmon Jr., 29 of Lusby, was sentenced to serve 25 years in the Division of Corrections stemming from conviction on a charge of sexual abuse of a minor in Worcester County.



Alvin Redmon Jr.

According to a news release from the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, a jury found Redmon guilty in July after a two-day trial in Worcester County Circuit Court. Judge Beau Oglesby imposed the maximum sentence allowed by law.

The charges stem from a complaint of sexual abuse which the victim originally reported to authorities in Calvert County in November of 2021. Further investigation revealed that the abuse had occurred over the course of several years and in multiple jurisdictions, including Ocean

City. Redmon was the boyfriend of the victim's mother at the time of the reported abuse in Ocean City and the victim was 15 years old.

In the release, Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser praised the collaborative efforts of Ocean City Police Department and all multi-disciplinary partners at the CRICKET Center who assisted in this investigation, and thanked Assistant State's Attorney Mary-Ann Burkhart who prosecuted the case.

The mission of the CRICKET Center is to create a community response in which abusers are held accountable and children and families experience hope and healing. The multidisciplinary team is made up of law enforcement officers, child protective service personnel, prosecutors, advocates, mental health therapists and medical personnel.

To learn more, or to report suspected child abuse, contact 410-641-0097.



PHOTO COURTESY KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES-OCEAN CITY

RECOGNITION

The December Kiwanian Of The Month, Dave J. Landis Jr., and Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing pose for a photo after Landis received the award. Landis serves on the public relations committee and regularly submits press releases to local newspapers. He also co-chairs the club's annual lottery fundraiser.

Car crash in Snow Hill area claims life of county woman

(Dec. 21, 2023) A single-vehicle crash last weekend near Snow Hill claimed the life of a 20-year-old Worcester County woman and injured two others.

According to a news release from the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, just before 4:15 a.m., Dec. 16, a 2010 Jeep Wrangler driven by Wyatt Lowman, 19, of Salisbury, left Saint Lukes Road between Route 12 and Cardinal Lane in Worcester County for an unknown reason and struck a ditch and utility pole.

After first responders arrived, Lowman was flown to University of Maryland Shock Trauma by Maryland State Police Aviation, where he was reported to be in stable condi-

tion. The release said a passenger in the vehicle, Allison Milburn, 20, of Stockton, was pronounced dead on scene.

The release said a third passenger was transported by ambulance to Tidal Health.

Firefighters from the Snow Hill and Salisbury departments, and police from and Snow Hill, Ocean City and Berlin also responded to the scene.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Unit assumed the investigation.

Anyone with information related to this crash is asked to contact DFC Chris Parr at 410-632-1111 ext. 6021 or cparr@co.worcester.md.us

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RELIABLE & LOCAL NEWS

Wawa complex could be coming to Berlin

Plans for convenience store at Route 50, Main Street reviewed by planning com.

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 21, 2023) The Berlin Planning Commission last Wednesday tabled a decision on changes to a pre-approved site plan for a convenience store and hotel at the intersection of Route 50 and Main Street.

The original plan, dubbed Athena Plaza, included a 7-Eleven and Fairfield Inn.

The partial revision to the approved plan replaces the 7-Eleven with a 6,000 square-foot Wawa convenience store and gas station. Since there were significant changes to the development plan for the convenience store, the commission needs to approve this new plan.

Based on the proposal, the front of the Wawa would face Route 50, with a trash enclosure facing Main Street. The developer said the placement of the trash enclosure was for easy access for trash collection.

The plan calls for two signs along Route 50, with one identifying Wawa and gas prices, and the second identifying the Athena Plaza along with the hotel and the Wawa.

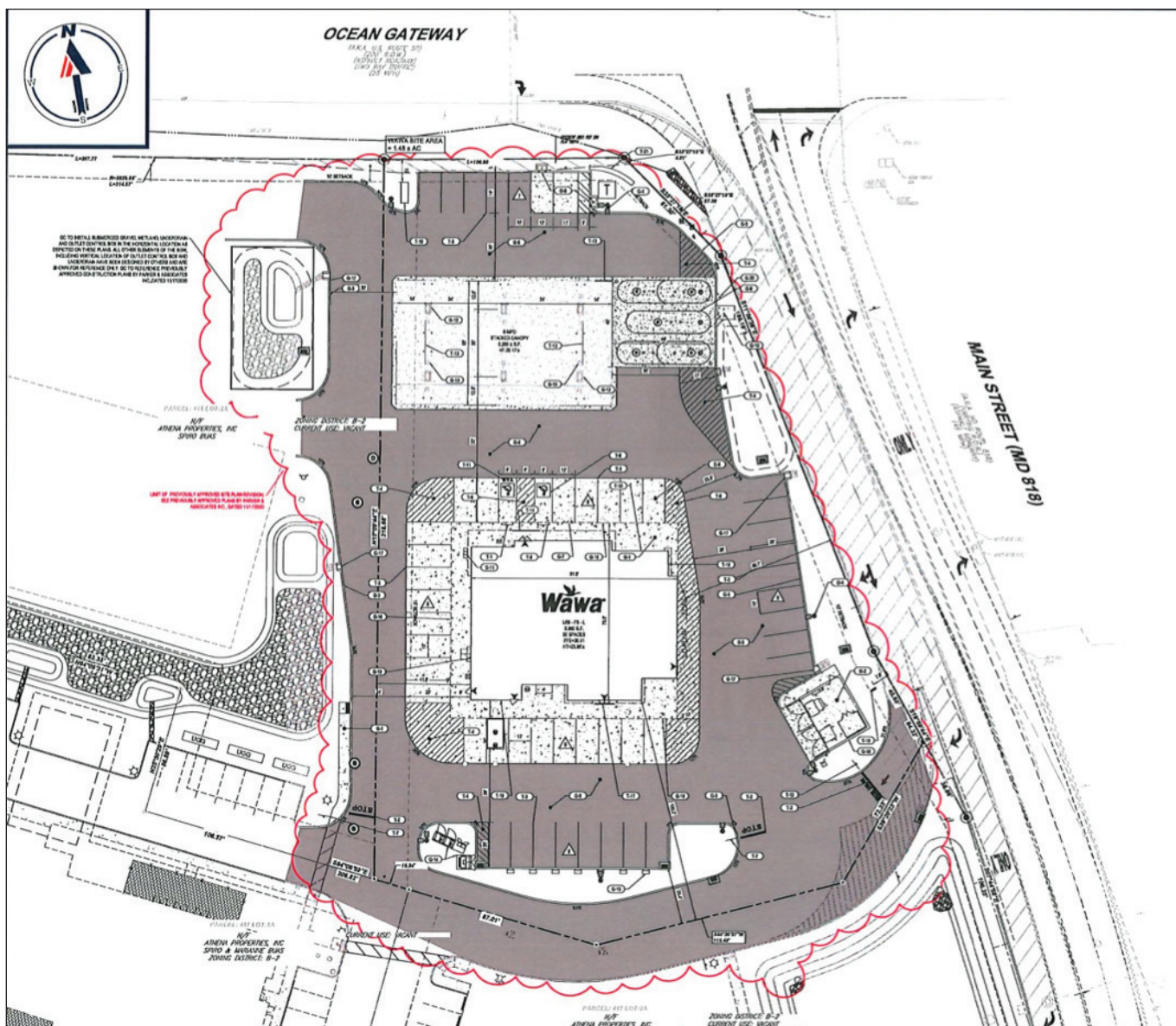
The larger of the two signs would be 23 feet 7 inches tall. Building codes allow for the sign to be 25 feet tall.

Commission members asked for a smaller and shorter sign, and possibly just one sign instead of two.

With the traffic entrance to the proposed Wawa on Main Street, the commission had concerns about the safety of people walking to the Wawa from the doctors' offices across the street. Sidewalks are not part of the proposal.

"I have a major concern of increased cars on that road. I feel like we are dancing with the devil if we say let's do this," Commissioner Matt Stoehr said.

"Convenience stores are not a destination. We are not creating more traffic. Convenience stores are ac-



A Wawa could be part of the Athena Plaza proposed for the intersection of Route 50 and Berlin's Main Street. But concerns are being raised by the Planning Commission on signage and location of dumpsters on Main Street.

cessing the traffic that is already out there," developer Fred Whittig replied.

"This is a nightmare traffic situation," Commissioner Ron Cascio said. "People coming off the highway with no idea of how difficult that intersection is will make it so much worse."

"It's not unreasonable to get an updated traffic study," Chairman Chris Denny said. He noted that the original study was done during the

covid-19 epidemic, when traffic in the area was considerably less.

While there was clear support for Wawa by the commission, the decision was tabled until the commission could look further into the impacts on traffic, and the developer could come back with alternative options for the location of the trash off of Main Street and bring back different options for the facade and signage.

"It's our Main Street, it's our en-

trance to town," Ron Costa said. "We want something that looks like Berlin, not any other place in the country."

This is not an unusual request. Members noted that the design of the Wawa in Wildwood N.J. reflects the historic "doo-wop" roots of that community.

"Give us a building that is special," member Pete Cosby said.

"We'll see what we can do," Whittig replied.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Operation We Care, working with American Legion Post 166, recently rallied more than 50 volunteers to prepare 226 care packages for U.S. troops deployed overseas. Addison, left, and Delaney McDaniel, granddaughters of Operation We Care Co-Founder Marie Gilmore, stop for a photo while carrying packages.



Volunteers with Operation We Care show off some of the items going into care packages for U.S. troops deployed overseas.



Operation We Care co-Founders, from left, Jeff and Diane Merritt, and Marie Gilmore pose for a photo during the event.

Operation We Care, Legion work together to aid troops

(Dec. 21, 2023) Operation We Care, working with American Legion Post 166, recently rallied more than 50 volunteers to prepare 226 care packages for U.S. troops deployed overseas.

According to a news release, the event, held at the American Legion Post in Ocean City on Dec. 10, included several members of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

Memorial Foundation President and event chairperson Marie Gilmore said in the release that the care packages were filled with personal hygiene essentials, snacks, food items and messages from home for the holidays.

“The turnout was overwhelming and included members of our own

Ocean Pines Board of Directors, John Latham and Jeff Heavner,” Gilmore said. “I was very happy to have the support of our OPA Board members and I look forward to continuing this relationship between Ocean Pines and Post 166. It was a truly heartening show of support for our troops!”

Gilmore said Veterans Memorial Foundation Board members Sharyn O’Hare, Ken Ingram and Kyle Hastings also helped pack boxes.

“Thank you to all who joined us,” Gilmore said. “Your support ensures that our deployed troops know they are remembered, appreciated and loved – especially during this holiday season.”

For more information on the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, visit alpost166.org.

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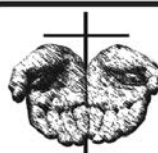


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The interim officers of the new Post 166 Leathernecks unit pose for a photo after they were named to their positions at a meeting on Oct. 1. Pictured, from left, are Treasurer Harry Kolodner, Commander Bob Broderick, Vice Commander Don Coffin and Adjutant Ed Pinto.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Post 166 Leathernecks join Legion to support veterans

(Dec. 21, 2023) Local Marines and Navy Corpsman, along with a supporting cadre of associated members, have joined with the American Legion Synepuxent Post 166 in Ocean City to form a new unit, the Leathernecks of Post 166.

"The veteran community here in Ocean City Maryland has long been impressed with the contributions and commitment to community service our local marines have provided," Post Commander Tom Wengert said in a news release. "We look forward to the addition of the Leathernecks to our Post's family."

Bob Broderick, Past commandant of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corp League, worked with the post's leadership to form the group con-

tingent of Marine and Navy veterans. He convened the first organizational meeting Oct. 1, at which interim officers were appointed.

They were Broderick as commander, Don Coffin as vice commander, Ed Pinto as adjutant, and Harry Kolodner as treasurer.

"Over the years, local Marines have made considerable contributions through fundraising that supports veteran charities and local civic projects throughout Ocean City and the local area," Broderick said in the release. "With the resources and partnership of American Legion Post 166, the Marines plan to recruit new members to our Post home who can share in the pride for the work we do supporting veterans, their families, and the local community."

Lower Shore Land Trust volunteers and staff wade through marsh water at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County.

PHOTO COURTESY
DAGNY LEONARD



Land Trust seeks input on bird conservation projects

(Dec. 21, 2023) Marshes for Tomorrow is a Lower Shore Land Trust-run project that aims to identify, protect, and restore at least 25,000 acres of the most important tidal salt marsh habitat in Maryland for saltmarsh sparrows and strengthen resiliency along coastal communities.

Land Trust staff asked community members in a news release to help with the success of the project by providing input about the best locations to con-

centrate conservation and restoration efforts for birds and people.

The schedule for the first round of meetings is as follows:

- 4:30-6 p.m.; Jan. 19; Delmarva Discovery Center, Pocomoke
- 2-3:30 p.m.; Jan. 20; Princess Anne Library, Princess Anne
- 5:30-7 p.m.; Jan. 25; Berlin Public Library
- 2-3:30 p.m.; Jan. 27; Harriett Tubman Museum, Cambridge

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Holiday Bazaar



On Dec. 2, Worcester Preparatory School held its annual Holiday Bazaar in the Brent Thompson Field House. Siblings Charlize, Estelle, Jude and Gabriella Damouni pose with Santa.



Worcester Prep moms Amanda Netting, Wendy Labin and Helen Damouni take a break to pose for a picture while volunteering during the bazaar.



WPS first grader Romie Crevecoeur shares her Christmas list with Santa.



Worcester Prep moms, from left, Shawn Mize and Chelsea Rafinski pose with eighth graders Ellie Phillips, Rani Yonker, Carolina Labin and Nora Gorfinkel at the bakery.



Brittingham Farms owner Laura Brittingham poses at her vendor booth filled with distilled lavender oil, soaps, candles and more.



Santa shares a candy cane with a WPS kindergartner.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CHANUKAH

Mayor Zack Tyndall lights the first candle on the menorah, as Rabbi Noam Cohen, Chabad of the Eastern Shore, Ivy Wells and Sara Gorfinkel look on, during the first Chanukah celebration in the town of Berlin. The event took place at the Inn Berlin on Thursday.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A menorah was placed on the grounds of Inn Berlin in preparation for the first official Chanukah celebration in the Town of Berlin.



HOLIDAY SWAGS

Members of the Ocean Pines Garden Club pose with swags and wreaths they recently created to decorate neighborhood entrances throughout local neighborhoods.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SWORN IN

Al Soto, commandant of the First State Detachment, administers the oath of office to Jonathan Pearl, the new junior vice commandant of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League, at the group's most recent membership meeting. Pearl retired as a colonel after 33 years as a Marine Corps aviator, flying a variety of aircraft.



WARM DONATIONS

Christmas quilts that members of the Quilters by the Sea Guild in Ocean Pines recently assembled are pictured own display. The quilts were made for children and families in need and donated to Diakonia, The Cricket Center and Believe in Tomorrow.

PHOTO COURTESY JACQUI SANTANGELO

'The Festival of Spirit'



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep's pre-K through fifth grade students kicked off the holiday season for families and friends with the lower school's annual holiday program, "The Festival of Spirit." First- and fifth-graders smile together at the end of the performance.



Fifth-grader Sloane Smith sings "The First Noel" with her classmates, who also played roles in the nativity scene, Camille Leslie, Soloman Prosser, Colton Duffie, Serena Jaoude, Darius Jones and Barrett Brittingham.



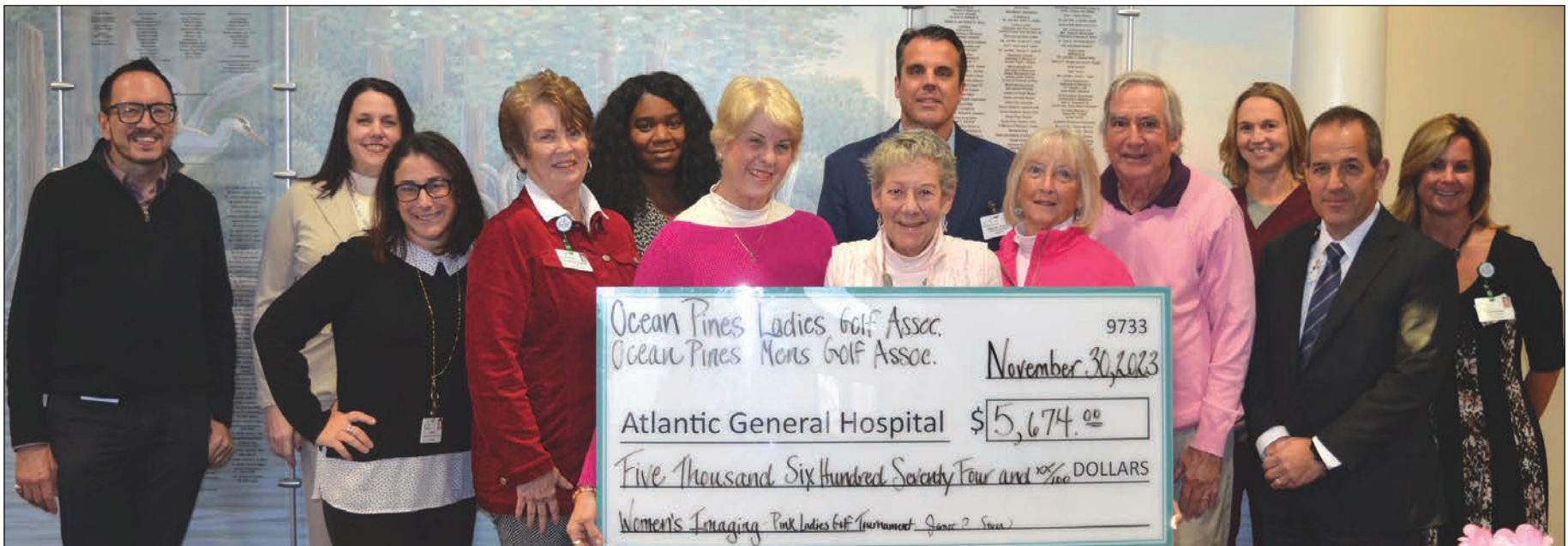
Fifth-grader Eli Parker as Santa sings "Mister Santa" with his classmates during the holiday performance.



Holiday shoppers Olivia Mason, Tejal Pillai, Madelyn Bobenko and Arden Mulford help others to remember the true meaning of Christmas.



First grade students make their debut as angels in the performance.



SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Ladies Golf Association and Ocean Pines Men's Golf Association present the annual Pink Lady Tournament proceeds to Atlantic General Hospital staff.

Pink Lady Tournament donates to hospital

Benefit provided to women who cannot afford cancer care and mammograms

\$5,674 for Atlantic General Women's Imaging and the Eunice Q. Sorin Women's Diagnostic Center at Atlantic General Hospital.

lated care for local individuals who are unable to afford them. Over the past 12 years, the tournament has raised more than \$18,000 for critical screening services.

lated healthcare accessible to women in our community who face financial barriers," Chanelle Lake, director of the John H. 'Jack' Burbage Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, said in the release.

(Dec. 21, 2023) The 12th Annual Ocean Pines Pink Lady Tournament, hosted by the Ocean Pines Ladies and Men's golf associations, recently raised

According to a news release, the funds raised during the tournament, held at the Ocean Pines Golf Club on Oct. 18, will help pay for and provide mammograms and other cancer-re-

"The Pink Lady Tournament stands as a beacon of support for the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation, dedicated to making mammograms and re-

This year, for the first time in its history, the tournament was open to the public and featured a field of 67 players.



SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Toys for Tots

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently donated \$3,000 to Toys for Tots. Pictured, from left, Dena Holloway from Toys for Tots accepts the check from Christina Dolomount-Brown, of the Optimist Club.

Christmas Eve Services

10:00am
 Christmas Carols, Special Music, Christmas Eve Meditation by Rev. George Patterson

4:00 pm
 Christmas Carols, Special Music, Christmas Eve Meditation by Rev. George Patterson
 Candle Lighting accompanied by soloist singing "O Holy Night."
 Masks optional

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Opinion

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



From all of us to all of you

The staff of Ocean City Today and Bayside Gazette wish the best for everyone this holiday season. We wish for total harmony at family dinners, that people will put aside their differences for at least a day, and that everyone will commit to spreading cheer and good will whenever the opportunity arises. Enjoy the holidays.

- Taylor Sloan ♦ Kelly Brown
- Christine Brown ♦ Jane Leibowitz
- Mary Cooper ♦ Vicki Shrier
- Renée Kelly ♦ Susan Parks
- Hunter Hine ♦ Mallory Panuska
- Cindy Hoffman ♦ Tara Fischer
- Gini Tufts ♦ Stewart Dobson

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

Winter storm season preparations

A message from the OP Police and Public Works departments

As the impending winter storm season approaches, Ocean Pines Police and Public Works are asking residents to refrain from parking vehicles on the roads when snowfall is predicted.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said moving cars and trucks off the road, especially on side streets, will make it much easier for snowplows to do their job.

"This makes it easier for us to maneuver the equipment through the already narrow roads and eliminates any damage that could occur to your vehicle," Wells said.

Residents are advised to stock up on essential supplies ahead of any major storm. That includes nonperishable food, water, batteries and necessary medications any time when there may be power outages or impassible roads because of severe weather. It's also a good idea to have extra blankets and warm clothing available in cases when significantly low temperatures could occur.

If there is a power outage, staying warm becomes a priority. Use an alternative heat source like a fireplace or a properly ventilated generator, and make sure that mobile devices are charged so you can continue to communicate with loved ones.

When the snow begins to fall, clearing walkways and driveways can help prevent slips and falls, while using salt or sand can help melt any ice and provide better traction.

Also, don't forget your pets! Make sure to limit their exposure to the elements. Pets, just like people, are prone to frostbite when temperatures drop below freezing.

If there are severe storm conditions, check in on elderly neighbors if you're able, or call the Ocean Pines Police Department at 410-641-7747 if there is a concern.

If you do have to go out on the road, always keep a safe distance between vehicles. Watching for lower speed limits and slowing down on icy roads can significantly reduce the risk of accidents.

Most of all, stay informed. Visit weather.gov for the latest alerts in your area. A winter weather "advisory" means be aware, a "watch" means be prepared, and a "warning" means take action against an approaching storm.

Closings related to the Ocean Pines Association will be posted on oceanpines.org.

A little preparation can go a long way in keeping you, your family and your home safe this winter.

Sen. Carozza recognized for efforts

Senator recognized for strong advocacy of local government

(Dec. 14, 2023) The Maryland Association of Counties recently presented Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) with a Legislative Recognition Award at the annual MACo Winter Conference Awards Banquet held in Cambridge.

According to a news release, the award recognizes Carozza as a strong advocate in supporting local government.

"I am humbled and grateful to be the recipient of MACo's legislative award, and am proud to be a staunch advocate for local flexibility and decision making for our local governments," Carozza said in the release.

"I will continue to work with MACo and local elected leaders in each of the three



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

From left, Worcester County Commissioner Diana Purnell, Sen., Mary Beth Carozza, Commissioner President Chip Bertino and Commissioner Eric Fiori pose together for a photo after Carozza received this year's MACo Legislative Recognition Award during a banquet in Cambridge.

counties that I represent and across the State of Maryland to advance policies local authority and flexibility."

MACo is the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy organization for the elected officials and governments of all 24 Maryland counties.

The organization's mem-

bership consists of county elected officials and representatives from the counties and Baltimore City, and members determine the organization's policy and positions on executive and legislative proposals through an elected Board of Directors and a volunteer Legislative Committee.

Governor's Challenge event set Dec. 26-30

(Dec. 21, 2023) More than 100 Division I basketball recruits and multiple nationally ranked players will be showcasing their skills during the 41st Governors Challenge next week.

The tournament is set Dec. 26-30 at the Wicomico Civic Center and surrounding locations.

According to a news release, this year's format will consist of five divisions: the Elite Showcase, Boys Brackets, Moolah Girls Bracket, Boys Shore Showcase and Moolah Girls Shore Showcase.

A total of 114 teams will travel from 11 states and Canada, including nationally ranked programs with hundreds of college and professional prospects.

The event will also feature more than just games.

Student-athletes will compete in the Aetna All-Star Experience, which begins at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 27 and 29.

Both nights include the Skills Challenge and Three Point Contests. The crowd-favorite Slam Dunk Contest will take place Dec. 29.

Just before Friday's contests, recipients of the Butch Waller Scholarship will be recognized on the court. The scholarship honors regional basketball legend Butch Waller, who the release said has impacted the lives of athletes and families for over 50 years.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Teams compete at the Wicomico Civic Center during the 2019 Governors Challenge. This year's event will take place Dec. 26-30.

Daily admission is \$15, and tournament passes (valid for all days of the tournament) are \$50.

Daily admission for kids ages 3-11 is \$8, and tournament passes for kids are \$25. Kids ages 2 and under

are admitted free. A limited number of weeklong courtside passes (\$100) and daily VIP passes (\$75) are available for the Wicomico Civic Center location.

Students can participate in Stu-

dent Sections and compete in a variety of halftime competitions for prizes.

To buy tickets, view schedules or learn more, visit GovernorsChallenge.org.



Coloring Contest Winners

Thank you to all the wonderful artists for participating in the Newspaper Coloring Contest. Below are the winners.

Merry Christmas!



Winner Ages 3-6

Winner Ages 7-11

Winner Ages 12 & Up



Kayden Blasko
Age: 6



Faylinn Haslip
Age: 10



Ana Rodriguez
Age: 16



SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr presents Stephen Decatur High School Football Coach Jake Coleman and members of the varsity team with a commendation recognizing the Seahawks' state title win and undefeated season at the monthly board meeting last Saturday.

OP board recognizes Decatur football team

(Dec. 21, 2023) Members of the Ocean Pines Association Board presented a plaque and commendation at their monthly meeting on Dec. 16 to the Stephen Decatur High School Football team for winning the franchise's first-ever state championship on Nov. 30.

The SDHS Seahawks finished the season a perfect 14-0, capping off the campaign with a 21-13 win over the Huntingtown Hurricanes to capture the MPSSAA 2A Football State Championship title.

OPA President Rick Farr presented the commendation at the meeting. Seahawks Head Football Coach Jake Coleman said in a news release that it was an honor to be recognized. He added that "an undefeated season is great," but equally impressive was the resilience shown by his team over their last two games.

Coleman reflected on the 2022 season that ended with a 40-33 loss to Milford Mill Academy, despite having the lead with just 42 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

"That, I think, told us a lot about ourselves," he said in the release. "We took what we learned ... and what we needed to do, and then we ap-

proached it for the next 365 days to make those improvements."

The team met Milford Mill again later in the season, on Nov. 24. This time, Decatur prevailed 35-34.

"We found ourselves behind after having an early lead. And these guys stuck together, they fought it out, and they ended up defeating the defending state champion," Coleman said. "That victory right there just says so much about the group of guys and their commitment to each other, their

passion and love for each other."

A week later, the Seahawks faced off against the Huntingtown Hurricanes for the state championship.

"We had our share of calls that didn't go our way, but these guys never wavered. They stuck together. They are true champions," Coleman said. After the title game, Coleman said he talked to his team about what it means to be "a true champion."

"We love that you guys recognize us ... but we want to be humble in

these moments and be thankful and be grateful, and we want to conduct ourselves so that we continue to honor you and the community."

Coleman also thanked members of the community for donating to a Go Fund Me that raised more than \$20,000 for state championship rings for all the players and coaches.

"We just appreciate all of your support ... it's been amazing," he said. "And now we're going to try and go back-to-back!"

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Appts needed for individual assessments of
precious items.

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. 21

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME 'MUSHROOM LULLABY'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME: 'THE GINGERBREAD BABY'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Help Mr. Jake catch the Gingerbread Baby. Join in for fun, interactive story time. Stick around after for a fun surprise. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by a Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registration requested: 410-208-4014.

MOBILE MENTOR

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Providing one-on-one assistance for those who want to make the most of their tablet or mobile device. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIY CLAY ORNAMENTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Make your own ornament out of air dry clay. For ages 6-12 years. 410-208-4014, 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. 22

HOMESCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING FOR TEENS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. A creative writing program to help students with vocabulary, imaginative thinking, literary knowledge and social enrichment. Geared for upper elementary to middle school, but all are welcome.

MAKE & TAKE: CHRISTMAS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke

Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop by the library and make a Christmas ornament. While supplies last. For ages 8 years and older. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Santa needs your help. Make crafts, write him letters and do some fun activities. For children of all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Sat., Dec. 23

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. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 6 p.m. There will be no morning service on the 24th. 410-289-9340

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Dec. 25

NOEL CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

St. Paul's by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A safe, loving place to gather whether you are hungry for food or companionship. All are welcome.

Tues., Dec. 26

MAKE & TAKE: KWANZAA

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop by the library and make a Kwanzaa craft. While supplies last. For ages 8 years and older. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Socialize with friends and play with a variety of toys and games. For ages 2-5 years.

410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE PLAY DAY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Make some new friends though play and improve language and motor skill development. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, 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

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. 27

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come by for a time just for you and your teeny tiny. Stay after to socialize with other families. For children under 2 years and their caregivers. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Catch a recent movie you may have missed in theaters. Free event. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. The goal of the support group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@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.kiwanisofpoc.org

ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS

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

ONGOING EVENTS

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@worcestlibrary.org, 410-524-1818

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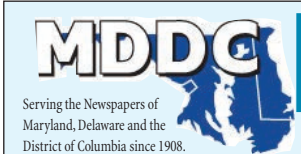
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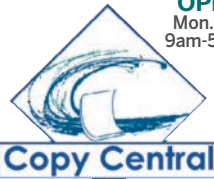
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