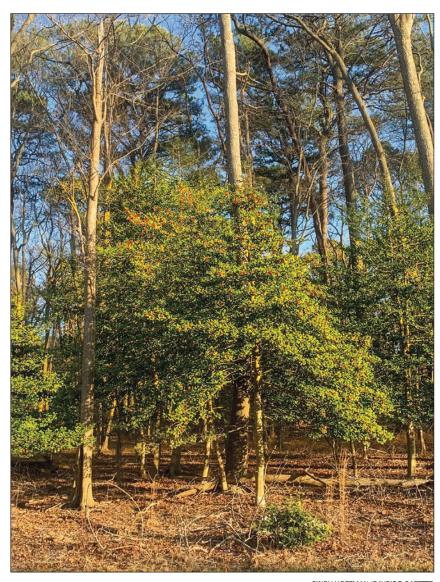
BAYSIDE & GAZETTE

JANUARY 11, 2024

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY• OCEAN PINES

FRFF



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Protected: Holly trees and other native plants, such as magnolia, bayberry and laurel, cannot be taken down without specific permission.

Native trees, plants must be protected, encouraged

Committee seeks to keep local species thriving part of Ocean Pines' woods

By Cindy Hoffman

Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) Trees are part of the natural beauty of Ocean Pines. But as the community ages, so do the trees.

The OPA Environment and Nat-

ural Assets Advisory Committee is encouraging the planting of new trees both in public areas and on residential lots.

"Ocean Pines is getting to an age where many trees are reaching their age limit. They are dying and they are getting cut down. We are losing our tree habitat," said Tim Peck, the chair environment committee.

See PLANT Page 3

Assessments decline in projected budget

Golf shows revenue gains as OP plan expects \$2M increase in total income

By Cindy Hoffman

Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) Most Ocean Pines residents can expect another decrease in lot assessments in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

The proposed non-waterfront lot assessment drops from \$886 to \$850, while waterfront lots remain steady at \$1465, in the proposed budget reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee last Wednesday.

The income projections are up over last year's budget and total expenditures are higher than the last budget, yet the assessment decreased \$36, General Manager John Viola said.

Total revenues were budgeted at \$16.5 million in FY23-24. In FY 24-25, revenues in the proposed budget are \$18.5 million.

"Golf is the economic engine driving this budget. But it's across the

board. Let me make that clear," Viola said.

Reserves are expected to stay above \$7 million. Currently, OPA reserves are 25.7 percent of fully funded, with that number trending up over the next five years, based on budget projections.

Viola told the committee that preparation for the budget was a "bottom up process" with department heads that lasted three months. They looked at last year's budget and compared it with the forecast to determine the proposed budget.

Highlights of the proposed FY24-25 budget:

Finance: There is no increase in the number of full-time employees, but some positions have been reallocated. Proposed salary increases averaged 4 percent with 1 percent for promotions. Viola expects the range to be between 2-6 percent.

Public Relations and Marketing: Proposed revenue of \$65,000, down from \$66,000 budgeted previously. Total expenses proposed at \$86,000,

See OPA Page 14

Yum! Restaurant Week in Berlin

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) As the holidays end and winter sets in, Berlin establishments have created special menus for their Restaurant Week

Approximately 15 eateries are participating this year, including The Globe, On What Grounds, Rayne's Reef Soda Fountain and Grill, Blacksmith, The Sterling Tavern, 410 Social, and The Atlantic Hotel Bistro Bar.

According to Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells, Cam Bunting of Bunting Realty approached the town five years ago with the See RESTAURANT Page 4





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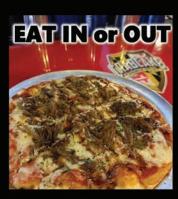
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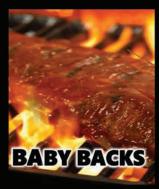
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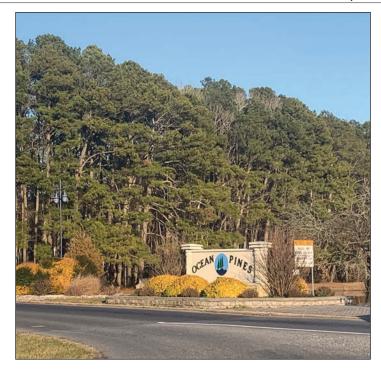
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Ocean Pines is known for its forested landscape. The **Environment** and Natural Assets Advisory Committee is concerned about excessive cutting of trees destroving existing habitats and the community character. CINDY HOFFMAN/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Plant trees in common areas

Continued from Page 1

The committee recently submitted recommendations in its annual report to the board of directors to plant trees in the common areas, including White Horse Park.

One free source of seedlings is Maryland DNR. Through a program called "Nuts about Acorns," the state works with volunteers to collect nuts and acorns from native trees to replenish the state's nursery. It also gives away "backyard buffer tree bundles" to Worcester County residents. Twenty seedlings are included in each bundle and varieties vary from year to year. To take advantage of this program, visit berlinmd.gov/bybtrees2022/

Beyond reforestation, the environment committee is also interested in preserving the current native trees in Ocean Pines.

The Ocean Pines Compliance, Permits and Inspections Department states that its objective "is to preserve the natural beauty and setting of Ocean Pines and to prevent indiscriminate clearing of property, removal of trees, and earth moving.'

tree states that a tree must be dead or dying, diseased, rotting, storm-dam-

aged, dangerous, within 10 feet of a foundation, within three feet of a driveway or could damage a bulkhead.

In its annual report to the board, the committee noted "there appeared to be some lack of control of tree cutting as intended by established Ocean Pines guidelines where new building lots in all areas of Ocean Pines were commonly clear-cut of trees and tree cutting around existing homes seemed to be increasing at a rate much higher than several years ago."

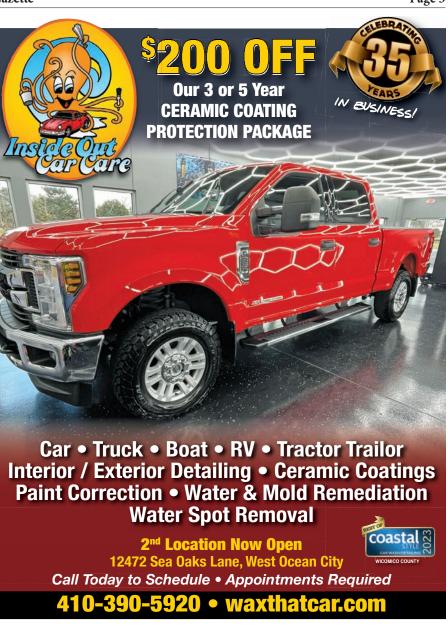
The committee has encouraged association officials to keep the cutting under control, according to Peck. The committee has not received detailed feedback on this issue.

The Architectural Review Committee guidelines state that native magnolia, holly, bayberry and laurel are protected plants. Permits for removal of these species may be approved if they are diseased, dangerous or impair vision for driving.

The county regulates critical areas where homes are within 100 feet of a waterway. These landowners have to put down a deposit, and that gets reting practice on their lot.



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Restaurant Week in Berlin: great deals on great meals

Continued from Page 1

idea of sponsoring a week where restaurants cater their special dishes to locals. It also encourages guests to dine at their favorite spots, often crowded during the summer and holidays and try new places at a discounted price.

"A lot of unique restaurants have opened. January, typically a slow month, is a perfect time for locals to try them," Wells said. "The establishments are 100 percent in. They are excited to figure out what will be on their menus. It keeps getting bigger and better every year."

A contest to win a \$400 gift card to be used at any participating Berlin restaurant and \$100 cash donated by Bunting is organized to incentivize diners. Patrons must eat at three places and stamp their cards to enter.

For locals looking for a morning or an afternoon pick-me-up deal, On What Grounds offers a breakfast sandwich and any beverage of any size for \$7.99 or \$2 off any upgraded drink. These include specialty coffees, like the winter spice and Aztec mocha lattes.

The Globe has lunch and dinner options. Afternoon diners will be welcomed with \$10 specials, and those

who wish to wait until the evening can expect to pay \$30 for three courses.

A soup or salad will start the meal, followed by either prime rib, a crabcake, or an Indian dish, and finished with a sweet treat by Baked Desserts Café

"We're looking forward to it. Hopefully, a lot of people come out," owner Jon Lane said.

Similarly, Blacksmith has two menus. Their two courses for the \$22 lunch special starts with butternut squash bisque with balsamic, tomato and artichoke soup with lemon, shrimp bisque with sherry, or a Caesar salad with house croutons.

To follow, patrons can choose the crispy rockfish with hand-cut chips, a jumbo lump or vegan crabcake sandwich on local brioche, a shrimp po' boy on a local baguette, or the crispy chicken sandwich on local brioche. They will also offer three dinner courses for \$33. Some dishes include shrimp goat cheese wontons, and crispy pork belly bao buns.

410 Social is excited to participate in its second Restaurant Week. To celebrate, the menu includes two courses for \$22. Customers will choose scampi crostini or burrata, a



PHOTO COURTESY BLACKSMITH BERLIN

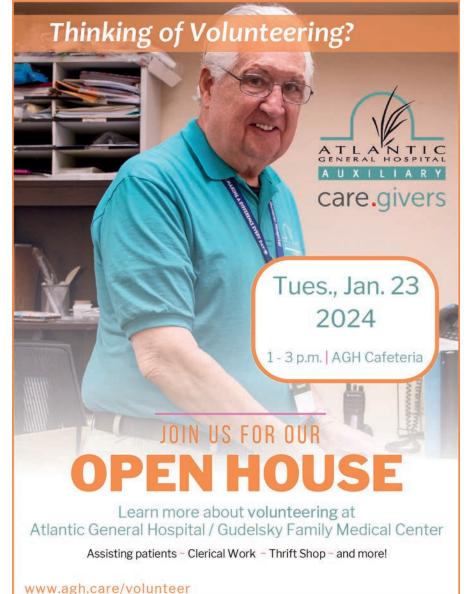
Blacksmith Berlin's menu for Berlin Restaurant Week, which runs Jan. 12-18.

WAR CO

410-style- smashed burger, a tuna express wrap, or blackened tacos.

"We wanted to have some lighter options because we plan to switch to heavier winter menu items in the coming weeks," 410 Social owner Marcos Lopez said. "It's also great because it gives guests the chance to try something they might be apprehensive about."

Restaurant Week takes place from Jan. 12 through Jan. 18. Additional menus can be found on the establishments' Facebook pages and the Berlin Welcome Center window on 14th South Main Street, where guests vying for the gift card and cash prize can pick up and deliver their stamped cards. The drop box will be open twenty-four-seven.







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Dr. Rachel Pomycala, Au.D., CCC-A

Replacement of water meters in Berlin underway

By Cindy Hoffman

Staff Writer

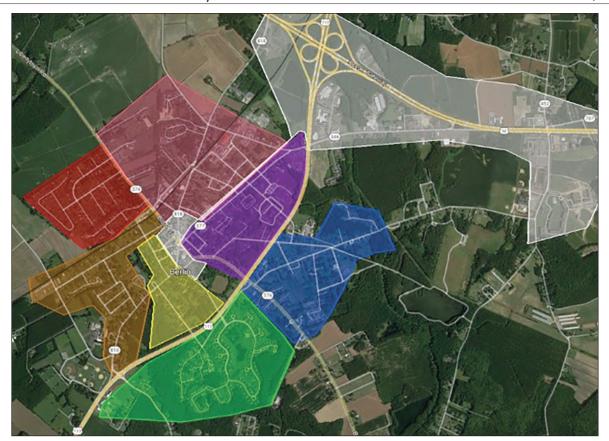
(Jan. 11, 2024) Public Works crews have started to replace water meters in Berlin with a new Smart Water Meter that will wirelessly transmit water use data. The data will improve the accuracy of water meter billing, according to town officials.

Crews will replace meters during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Meters at bigger businesses and schools might be changed out later in the night or on weekends. The process for a residence takes 15-30 minutes. The team is averaging about 10 minutes a meter this week, according to Jimmy Charles, the town's director of Public Works.

The meter replacement has started this week in Decatur Farms. Workers will knock on the door before they shut off the water, Charles said. After the meter is replaced, they will put a door hanger at each residence alerting them to the replacement and providing instructions.

Residents are encouraged to flush the water system for 5 to 10 minutes to clear any sediment or discoloration in the water line.

In order to help speed up the re-



The Town of Berlin is in the process of replacing water meters. The crew is currently working in the green area and will move clockwise through the other areas. PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN

placement effort, residents are asked to clear plants, mulch and trees away from the meters. If the area is not cleared, plantings will be removed by the crew

By town code, residents are responsible for keeping meters unobstructed, according to Mary Bohlen, the town administrator.

Keeping the meters clear of plant-

ings also helps if there is an emergency and the water needs to be shut off.

The meter replacement timeline is on the bills. Charles reported during the council meeting that his department cans replace about 10-15 meters a day.

There is no change in the billing structure, according to Mayor Zack

Tyndall. "The only thing you may experience, if you have an older meter, it may not be capturing all of the use. If there is a change, residents can call for a re-read, we offer that service. But that probably is your actual usage," he said.

Within 60-90 days, most of the meters will have been changed, Charles said.





Trees also protect local wildlife

Continued from Page 3

"Our committee has observed that typically, they [the new plantings] are not native, they are more ornamental, which defeats the purpose of preserving the natural tree habitat in Ocean Pines," Peck said.

"Modifying the tree-cutting practice from practices followed several years ago is a significant change to the legacy of Ocean Pines and long-term vision of our community that was established over 50 years ago," the committee said in its annual report.

"The excessive cutting of trees destroys existing habitats, significantly contributes to conditions of flooding in OP, and degrades runoff into OP canals. Considering that current patterns of rainfall include increasing high rainfall storm events, the removal of trees and increasing paved areas will exponentially increase flooding in OP. The long-term impacts of this problem will translate to very high infrastructure costs due to flooding damage and mitigation efforts. In addition, water quality in the canals will decline.'

Trees also protect local wildlife. In its annual report, the committee expressed concern for the impact of tree cutting on the east side of the South Pond, "essentially evicting turtles from their landing.'

The committee requested a log be

placed in the water in that area to restore this habitat. Using logs from trees that are being cut down by the Public Works Department would save money, Peck said.

Also regarding the South Gate Pond, the committee has been researching options for controlling the geese population.

The committee has recommended egg addling at this pond. Addling, or shaking the eggs, is a common process used to stop the development of the egg, but a permit is needed to do so.

The committee has recommended habitat changes around the pond to deter geese from nesting. Geese will not nest in tall vegetation around the shoreline due to fears of hidden pred-

"Because of the nature of the land use around the pond, there has to be a combination of actions," Peck said.

The issue can be more complicated at the South Pond, where people like to fish, according to Peck. If OPA implements these recommendation, it will not eliminate the goose population but will help control it.

The environment committee plans to be at the OPA Expo Day on April 20 to talk to residents about the many projects the committee is working on and educate them on environmental preservation.



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The 6 p.m. ball drop on New Year's Eve, pictured here, was a great success, but the midnight ball drop had limited attendance, leading the mayor and council to decide to cancel the midnight event

Midnight ball drop dropped in Berlin due to low turnout

By Cindy Hoffman

Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) While the crowds were large for the 6 p.m. New Year's Eve ball drop in Berlin, they petered out for the midnight event, leaving the mayor and council to decide to drop the ball drop at midnight from New Year's Eve 2024 events.

There were about 200 people at the midnight event, reported Council Member Jay Knerr, who said he expected closer to 1,000 attendees.

The 6 p.m. family event was scheduled to coincide with new year's in Berlin, Germany.

The kid's ball drop was wonderful and it has grown. This year, it was the busiest it has ever been. A lot of locals. even without kids, were there. Businesses were busy, families did shopping and dinner before and after," Ivy Wells, the director for economic and community development, said.

"Restaurants were doing amazing until about 8 p.m. That was when the crowd died down.'

Some of the bars, such as Sisters, were not open for New Year's Eve. Others, such as Burley Oak and the Globe hosted their own events and were crowded all night.

Town officials estimate that staffing the two events costs about \$6,000, suggesting that cutting back to just one ball drop would cut the bill roughly in half.

This is one of the more expensive events given the overtime costs and length of events," Mayor Zack Tyndall said. Town employees start working

See COUNCIL Page 12



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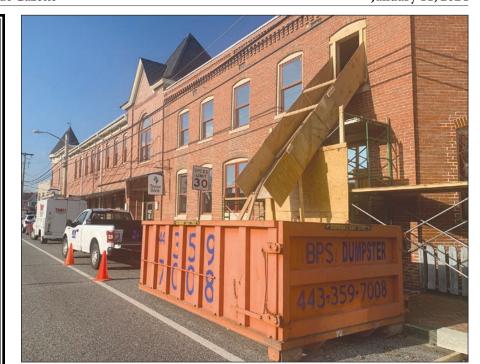


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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Taylor Bank has a dumpster on Broad Street to collect debris from construction projects in the building, including the replacement of the ATM machine.

Berlin Briefs

By Cindy Hoffman Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) The Berlin Historic Committee and the mayor and council discussed and approved the following matters at their meetings this week.

South Main Street

The Berlin Historic Commission approved the replacement of a metal awning that was damaged by a delivery truck in October at 7 South Main Street.

The current awning is an olive green, and the new awning is expected to be a similar color.

Chamber Awards Dinner

The mayor and council approved a special event, one-day permit application for the chamber awards dinner to be held at the Berlin Fire Company Headquarters on Jan. 18.

William St. Pump Station

The Town of Berlin acknowledged final acceptance and start of the twoyear warranty for the William Street Pump Station Upgrade Project, effective Dec. 8.

The completion date of the twoyear warranty is set for Dec. 8, 2025. A warranty inspection will be performed in November 2025 prior to the warranty completion date.

Taylor Bank

Work on the Taylor Bank building has begun.

The bank will be replacing the ATM on Main Street to make it more accessible and visible to customers and law enforcement. A dumpster with a wooden plywood sheet has been placed on Broad Street and will be there for the duration of the project.

Fire Company

The Berlin Council approved \$136,980 in American Rescue Funds to be distributed to the Berlin Fire Company to pay on a loan for two pieces of equipment.

The payment will allow the company to reduce the term of the loan by about one year and save about \$10,000 in interest.





PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCESE

A group of turkeys flock together in a field in Maryland.

Winter turkey season slated Jan. 18-20 across Maryland

(Jan. 11, 2024) Maryland hunters who did not harvest a turkey during the fall will have another chance during the winter season, which runs statewide from Jan. 18-20.

Hunting hours are from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

"The winter season provides a great opportunity for hunters to enjoy the outdoors during a time of year when hunting seasons are winding down," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said in a news release. "The winter season offers hunters a unique opportunity to get one last hunt in before spring."

During the winter turkey season, hunters may only use shotguns loaded with No. 4 shot or smaller, crossbows, vertical bows, or airguns that shoot arrows or bolts.

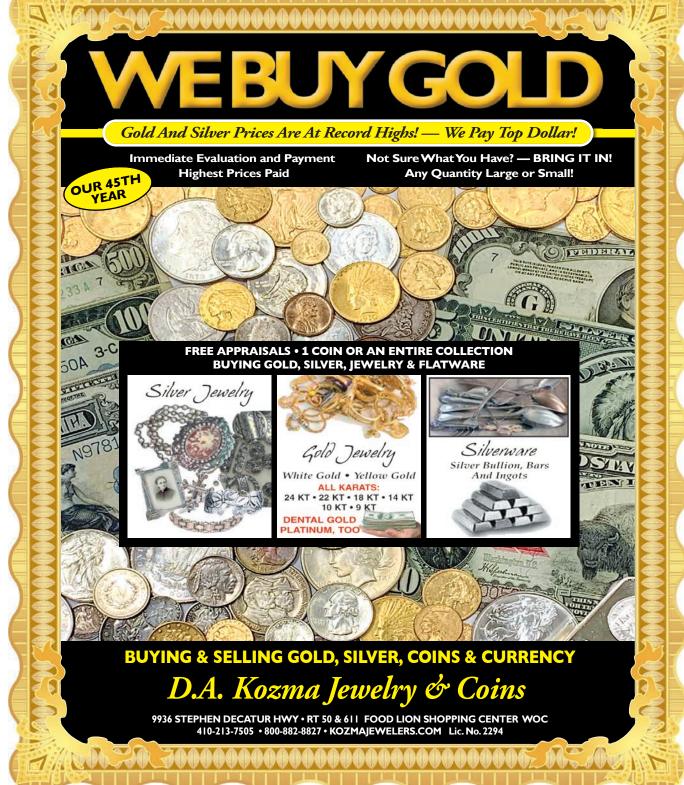
Hunters are reminded that it is illegal to hunt turkeys with bait. Successful hunters are required to check in their harvest by phone at 888-800-0121, online, or through the department's mobile app.





The Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping provides information about winter turkey hunting, including season open dates and regulations.





Two rescued from cold pond in Ocean Pines

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department retrieve men from dangerous waters

(Jane. 11, 2024) Just after midnight last Saturday, members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department were called out in below freezing temperatures to the South Gate Pond near Mankin Creek Road for a

According to a news release from the department, a 911 caller said they heard someone yelling and found "a male of unknown age in the pond."

When responders arrived at the pond, the release said they heard yelling and moved to the tax/drainage ditch below Headliners Salon, where they found two men in knee high water restricted by thick layers of mud and sediment. One of the men was the 911 caller and told the responders he was trying to rescue the other man in the pond.

As the responders worked on their rescue plan, the release said the man who went in the pond first rolled face first into the water. A responder "immediately entered the water and was able to keep the victim's head out of the water until fellow responders were able to scale the bank and extricate both victims," the release said.

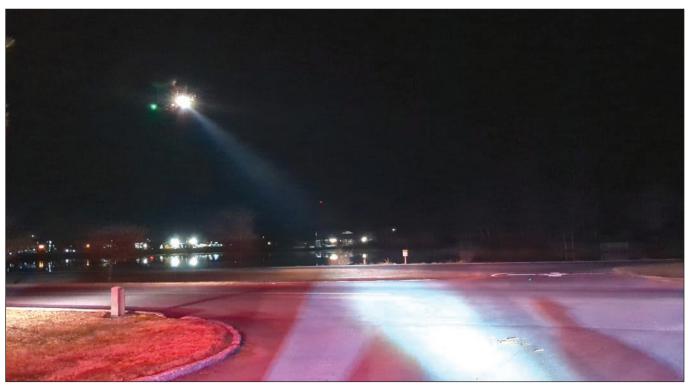


PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lights from emergency vehicles illuminate the South Gate Pond near Manklin Creek Road in Ocean Pines during the early morning hours of Jan. 6. Members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department responded to the area just after midnight last Saturday for a water rescue.

Because of the unknown reasons the first man was in the water, and potential for hypothermia and other medical issues, the Maryland State Police Trooper 4 helicopter flew him to shock trauma for treatment. The other two people who were in the water were given warm blankets, but refused any further treatment.

The release said the incident was "very serious," as a drowning can occur in as little as a few inches of

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water. The below freezing temperatures made the situation dangerous for the people in the water and the emergency officials who responded.



Continued from Page 8

at noon and many don't leave until after midnight.

'The humanity of it is a little tough," Council member Steve Green remarked about the long hours for town employees.

Other towns also saw a decrease of about 50 percent in attendance, Wells

"There is a lot of competition on New Year's Eve," Council Member Jack Orris said.

Wells suggested the 6 p.m. ball drop be rebranded for next year to





Berlin Council supports fund request for sports complex

By Cindy Hoffman

Staff Writer

(Jan. 11, 2024) The Berlin Town Council voted to have Mayor Zack Tyndall send a letter to Secretary Helene Grady of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management supporting Ocean City's request for \$1.2 million in state funding to perform a site assessment, preliminary design and cost estimates for a youth sports complex.

The cost of the first stage of the project is estimated at \$1.5 million and Ocean City is set to contribute \$300,000 to help fund the balance.

'The Maryland Stadium Authority recently completed an economic feasibility study for a sports complex in Worcester County," the letter stated. "The study indicated that a sports complex near Ocean City with 8-10

multipurpose tournament quality outdoor fields and an indoor facility with 10 basketball courts/20 volleyball courts would create 720-860 new Maryland jobs. Additionally, the study showed that a facility of this size could produce \$80-\$95 million in state economic impact and \$7-\$8 million in state tax revenue."

The facility is expected to cost in the range of \$150 million.

Tyndall and council members Steve Green and Shaneka Nichols represent Berlin on a 31-member task force for the proposed a sports com-

"The Town of Berlin believes a regional sports complex of this size will contribute positively to the local and state economy and further leverage Worcester County as a tourism destination in Maryland," the letter said.

Baltimore man sentenced to 12 yrs. for robbery in OC

(Jan. 11, 2024) An 18-year-old Baltimore man is set to spend 12 years in prison after conviction on armed robbery charges stemming from a 2022

incident in Ocean

According to a news release from County Worcester State's Attorney Kris Heiser, Davarn M. Leach was sentenced in mid-December to Davarn Leach

20 years in prison,



with all but 12 years suspended and three years supervised probation required upon release.

The news release said Leach was convicted of an armed robbery charge in relation to a call for service made to the Ocean City Police Department on Nov. 18, 2022.

Officers responded to Dorchester Street downtown, where a man said he had been standing near his vehicle when he was attacked by a group of three males, one of whom was reportedly Leach. One of the males pulled a handgun, reportedly pointed it at the man's head, and struck him with it while demanding money, car keys and a cell phone. The release said the males then stole the vehicle and "other items" and drove away.

The man who was attacked was taken to the hospital for treatment of a laceration he reportedly suffered during the incident.

Officers found the stolen vehicle leaving town and reported it to fellow law enforcement officials. The release said the vehicle eventually crashed in Cambridge and when officers arrived they discovered Leach was a passenger. They found stolen items as well as a handgun, which was also reported stolen, on Leach and arrested him on the armed robbery charge.



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Appetizers

BLUE MOON BUMBLE BAKE

baked black, red, and blue berries, whipped chèvre, hot honey, toasted almonds, and mint with toasted moon bread 19

UPTOWN GIRL BAKED OYSTERS

four archer salt oysters, garlic herb compound butter, prosciutto, shaved parmesan, arugula 15

BACON WRAPPED SCALLOPS

four bacon wrapped sea scallops, herb butter brushed, arugula, balsamic glaze 24

CAJUN LOBSTER BAKE

cold water lobster, garlic herb cheese bake, toasted moon bread 19

Entrées

YELLOW-FIN TUNA STEAK

blackened, thai boom-boom sauce, teriyaki, wakamai seaweed salad, house starch and veggie 34

FILET MIGNON

8 oz center cut, house seasoned, topped with butter and poached alaskan snow crab, served with asparagus, mashed potatoes and a winter tarragon béarnaise 59

HALIBUT FILLET

herb butter, roasted red beet and foraged mushroom risotto 39

Dessert

"TO OUR MOON"

strawberry stack, crème brulée, strawberries in chocolate, made shareable 24

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Golf continues to be the economic engine driving the Ocean Pines budget.

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors approved funding for the expansion of the tiki bar at the Yacht Club. Matt Ortt projects that the expansion cost will be pay for itself in three years.

OPA draft budget expects additional revenue

Continued from Page 1

up from \$77,000 previously. The proposed budget includes a \$14,000 increase to promote banquets and weddings, per a request from the Matt Ortt Company.

General Maintenance: Proposed expense of \$710,000, which is about a 5 percent increase to the total budget based on cost increases for vehicles, maintenance and materials.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells highlighted some of the work his team is doing at the beach club, including replacing some flooring and bar tops. Viola said more work is being done in house and with some outside contractors. Wells noted that a lot of the facilities are newer now, so they don't need as much maintenance at this point.

Public Works: Total proposed revenues are \$120,000, up from \$95,000 previously. Total operating costs come in about the same at \$1.8 million. Wells reported that he is close to fully staffed. Drainage repair and maintenance is budgeted at \$175,000. Roads and bridge repairs and maintenance is budgeted at \$100,000.

Bulkheads: Total revenue projected to be \$1.17 million with expenses at \$1.17 million. There has been no increase in bulkhead assessments for the past several years. Contracting has been negotiated before the year starts and materials were purchased in advance to get the best prices. The plan remains to replace about 2,100 linear feet each year. Dredging costs are proposed at \$50,000. OPA submits 20 lot applications a year and there is a two-year waiting period for dredging permits.

Marina: Total revenue projected to be \$1.2 million, close to what was budgeted previously. Expenses are proposed at \$181,000, up from \$155,000. Capt. Ron Fisher recommended a 15 percent increase in slip fees, which he said would still leave the marina charging less than everybody else. The current charge is \$85 a foot, which would increase to \$104. That compares to \$140 a foot at competing marinas, he said. Fisher reported that there are about 100 boats on the waiting list currently, with 87 slips.

Police: Proposed revenue for FY24-25 is \$605,000, with \$550,000 coming from country grants. Operating costs are projected to be \$2.23 million, up from \$2 million previously. Chief Tim Robinson hired LEXAPOL for \$25,000 with a \$6,700 subscription fee annually to write policies and procedures for the department.

LEXAPOL works nationwide to evaluate and develop the best practices and policies and fine-tune them for local departments. Robinson is planning for a new website funded by a grant for this year.

The pill drop-off box in the police lobby is emptied for \$50 a week for proper disposal of medications. The department's body cam contract is \$30,000 a year. Robinson is focused on applying for grants to help with funding. He has proposed to raise \$53,000 in grants next year from the state, as compared to \$3,400 received in FY24...

There will be no increase in fulltime employees, as the department is reallocating resources. A new parttime employee has been hired to manage the property room, evidence and reporting system.

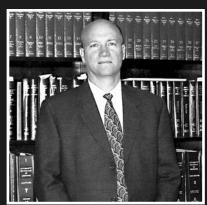
Overtime is proposed at \$65,000, but the chief expects that to go down as recruitment increases. He is trying to attract recently retired officers. His goal is to hire three to four recruits who can go into the academy in July and be working by the end of the year.

The department does not have LEOPS (Law Enforcement Officers Pension System), but a retirement

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Reserve fund budget anticipates increase

fund/equivalent has been proposed at \$216,000. Take-home cars are a big benefit for officers and the chief said if a pay scale is implemented, "that will speak volumes for the people who are here."

Fire: The Fire Department's request remains close to flat for Ocean Pines at \$987,000. Apparatus maintenance is proposed at \$98,000, a \$28,000 increase from last year due the age of the equipment. Total revenue is proposed at \$1.7 million, up from \$1.5 million previously.

The department is not short-staffed, it's operating with four full-time personnel and a fifth person part time. President Joe Enste is working on recruitment with some of the high schools for volunteers. First Assistant Chief Steve Grunewald reported they are constantly getting new members now. He said he does not expect the department to need to be a fully paid department in the future. Call volume is continuously going up due to the older age of Ocean Pines residents.

Rec and Parks: Total revenues are proposed as \$520,000, up from \$415,000 previously. Total operating costs are proposed at \$975,000, up from \$898,000 budgeted previously. The department will be bringing back more classes, special events and bus trips for the spring and all of next year, including the Vienna Boys Choir, which is expected to make money with sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. Viola said the community center building needs to be evaluated, as it limits the revenue the association can bring in. This is just in the evaluation stages.

Golf: Proposed revenue of \$1.7 million, up from \$1.66 million previously. Total expenses proposed at \$472,000, down from \$493,000 previously. The membership fees will be increased \$100, which is still the lowest around by hundreds of dollars. The assistant golf benefited the golf budget by \$9,000 last year. The driving range is always packed now and making money like it never did before, according to Viola.

Racquet Sports: Revenue is proposed at \$153,000, up from \$103,500

previously. Pickleball is the revenue driver of the three sports, with membership trending up: \$74,000, up from \$48,000 in the previous budget. There was a \$19,000 loss in platform and \$57,000 loss in tennis.

Operating costs are proposed at \$78,000, up from \$54,900 previously. The Racquet Sports Director, Tim Johnson and Viola are looking at the parking issue at the facility. Johnson is doing more community outreach, meeting with local PE teachers to teach them how to run racquet clubs, instructional videos, and he is considering setting up nets at the farmers market. He is also looking at starting a racquet sports camp.

Aquatics: Revenue is proposed at \$1 million, up from \$941,000 previously. Total operating costs are proposed at \$1.06 million, up slightly from \$1.03 million previously. Director Michelle Hitchens has proposed reopening the swim and racquet bar to increase revenue. She has numerous lifeguards coming back next session and does not expect to have a shortage. The Budget and Finance Committee suggested raising rates on membership to do more to cover costs and will consider making a recommendation.

Beach parking: Proposed revenue is \$649,000, up from \$570,000 previously. Total operating costs are proposed at \$64,000, up from \$60,000 previously. It was proposed that the parking rate be raised from \$215 to \$240, weekly rate raised from \$150 to \$175 and daily from \$45 to \$70. Beach parking makes money every year, according to Viola. A card reader will be installed for the bathrooms at \$5400.

Clubhouse Grill: Total revenue is proposed at \$537,000, up from \$506,000 previously. Operating costs are proposed at \$292,000, up from \$257,000 previously.

Beach Club: The Beach Club is one of the most profitable locations as far as net profit goes according to Matt Ortt. He proposed a revenue of \$623,000, up from \$594,000 previously. Total operating costs are proposed at \$290,000 up slightly from

\$276,000 previously.

Yacht Club: Revenue is proposed at \$3.3 million, about the same as last year. Total operating costs are proposed at \$2 million, again about the same as last year. Matt Ortt Company has 19 weddings on the books with a goal of 20 by this month. He believes the tiki bar expansion will increase revenue and will pay for itself in three years.

Reserve Funds: The audited balance of the reserve fund was \$6.6 million on April 30, 2023. It is expected to increase to \$7.1 million by April 30,

2025. Viola wants to see the DMA reserve at 30 percent in the next two years.

The capital expenses are projected at \$1.5 million. Some of the higher priced items include the golf course irrigation at \$850,000, renovations of the driving range and building for lessons; \$84,000 for electronic signs, restoring the splash pad at the swim and racquet club pool for \$40,000.

The Ocean Pines Board is scheduled to review the proposed budget during a public meeting on Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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JANUARY

1/5 MERCURY AGENDA 7-10
1/12 ON THE EDGE 7-10
1/19 THE ROGUE CITIZENS 7-10
1/20 NEIL HELGESON 7-10
1/21 JAARED AROSEMENA 4-7
1/26 ENDLESS EMBERS 7-10
1/27 FIRST CLASS DUO 7-10



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Page 16 Bayside Gazette January 11, 2024

Snapshots



Submitted Photos/Bayside Gazett

FOOD DRIVE

On Dec. 14, Worcester Prep upper school students gathered to sort and divide donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items that they began collecting in mid-November during the annual Student Government Association drive for distribution to local nonprofit groups. Faculty and students with the donations.





Freshman Gavin Mann and junior Danielle Carr organize canned goods.



 ${\sf SGA}$ President Claire Windrow stops to smile while helping sort canned goods and other non-perishable food items.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

KIWANIS SPEAKER

Worcester County Developmental Center Executive Director Stephanie James and Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean Clty President Bob Wolfing pose together after the group's weekly meeting on Dec. 13. James was the guest speaker at the meeting.

Snapshots



WPS GIVES TO DIAKONIA

Worcester
Preparatory School
first graders pose for
a photo with Santa
during the school's
gift-giving drive for
Diakonia before
Christmas. WPS preK through fifth
graders participated
in the drive and
donated hundreds of
gifts to the homeless
shelter in West
Ocean City, which
provides emergency
and transitional
housing, food
services and
counseling.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/ OCEAN CITY TODAY



Students greet Santa before donating their gifts.



First-grade students hug Santa after giving their toy donations to Diakonia.



Second grade students pose for a photo with Santa.

Opinion

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

Affordable housing needs attention too

As the Town of Berlin joins Ocean City's pursuit of a major sports complex in northern Worcester County, it also needs to help provide an answer to the continuously overlooked question of where the employees of a sports complex and its service providers will live.

Although this athletic facility is not expected to employ a huge number of people, it remains that whomever it does employ would join hundreds of other current and prospective employees, managers and owners who can't find anyhousing that will fit their budgets.

Although home prices have begun to taper off in the county, they are still far beyond the reach of even middle-income families because of the spike in prices over the last five years.

In 2019, the median sales price of a house or condo here was \$255,250, according to Maryland Association Realtors statistics. This past November, that price was \$409,990.

That's an increase of \$154,740, or almost \$31,000 a year, a rate of escalation so great that it's ludicrous to think that local employers could adjust their payrolls accordingly.

This affordable housing crisis isn't anyone's fault. Sellers are entitled to every dollar they can get for their properties, owners are entitled to collect what the market will bear in rent, and Realtors are only the facilitators of these transactions and work hard for their commissions.

The problem is this area's high level of desirability to buyers from elsewhere with greater financial resources. This is something that happens all over the country, where a great lifestyle beckons to affluent buyers and investors at prices that, in comparison to home prices where they live, are reasonable to them.

But knowing what the situation is doesn't answer the question. The only way to do that is to dig into this situation and search for a solution with just as much vigor as any effort underway to boost economic growth.

A sports complex task force? Sure. But an affordable housing task force is needed as well.

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

Crucial safety measures for drivers

OP Police Dept. advises on preventing thefts, wrecks in winter

As the winter season blankets Ocean Pines with frosty mornings and chilly evenings, the Ocean Pines Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our residents – and that includes safeguarding your vehicles.

With the drop in temperatures, we want to highlight two crucial safety measures: preventing car theft and ensuring optimal visibility while driving.

Leaving your vehicle unattended or unlocked and running to warm-up may seem like a convenient way to combat the cold, but it also poses a significant risk. Opportunistic thieves are keenly aware of this habit, making unattended cars a prime target for theft.

With the engine running and the driver away, it can take mere moments for an individual with ill intentions to seize the opportunity and drive off with your vehicle. Always remain with your car while it's running — this simple act can significantly reduce the risk of car theft, and help keep you and your property safe.

Also of concern this time of year is the natural frost or snow buildup on your windshield and side windows that can obstruct the driver's view. Impaired visibility not only endangers your safety, but also threatens other drivers and pedestrians on the road.

Before you drive, take a few extra minutes to thoroughly clear your windshield, side windows, and mirrors of any frost, ice, or snow. Use an ice scraper, defroster, or de-icer to make sure you have a clear and unobstructed view.

At the Ocean Pines Police Department, our aim is to ensure your safety and security year-round.

We encourage everyone to take these precautionary steps to protect themselves and their vehicles during the winter season.

Remember, a few extra minutes spent focusing on your vehicle's safety can help prevent a world of inconvenience and potential danger. Let's work together to keep Ocean Pines safe and secure for all.

AGH Penguin Swim raises \$100,000

Costume winners, top fundraisers and sponsors recognized

(Jan. 11, 2024) The annual Atlantic General Hospital Penguin Swim fundraiser on Jan. 1 raised a total more than \$100,000 for the local healthcare facility.

According to a news release from the hospital, more than 900 people participated in the swim, which was held on the beach in front of the Princess Royale on 91st Street.

Participants raised more than \$100,000 and donations can still be made online at aghpenguinswim.org.

The release said officials wanted to thank the event sponsors, who are listed as follows:

Legacy Sponsor for 30 Consecutive Years as Title Sponsor: "The Emperor Penguin" Bull on the Beach & Crab Alley.

Glacier Sponsors: AGH Auxiliary; D3; Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort; WRDE Coast TV.

Iceberg Sponsors: AGH Medical Staff; Bluewater; Clear Channel Outdoor; Duffie Boatworks, LLC; Hardwire LLC; Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 486; WMDT 47abc.

Igloo Sponsors: Chris Parypa Photography; Chesapeake Employers Insurance; Matt Ortt Companies, LLC; Ocean City Elks Lodge; Wilmington University.

Icicle Sponsors: American Legion - Synepuxent #166 **Post** Auxiliary; Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.; Bank of Ocean City; Bill Corey and Stewart Title; Community Title Network & Ridgway Law Group; Courtyard by Marriott; Dunkin Donuts; Guerrieri Family Foundation; Hi Tide Dispensary; Kirby's Pub; Long Life Treated Wood, Inc.; Monte Carlo Group; Ocean City Surf Club; Ocean Pines Association; The Original Greene Turtle; Park Place Jewelers; Red Sun Custom Apparel, Inc.; Sally Dowling M.D.; Shore Therapy Solutions; The Shrimp Boat; TPG Hotels & Resorts; Worcester Tech School.

Snowflake Sponsors: Celtic RnR Tours, Inc.; Dee-Group; lev Insurance Fisher's Popcorn Delaware, Inc.; The Harrison Group; Ish Boutique; Jolly Roger Amusement Park; The Kite Loft; Kyle Satterfield; M.R. Ducks; Mark and Kathy Drew; Max Hutsell; Nick's Mini Golf; O.C. Seacrets, Inc; Ocean 13; Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 Ladies Auxiliary; Pancho & Lefty's; Peter Buas for Ocean City Council; Talbot Street Watersports; The Dispatch; Town Cats, Inc; DJ Street; the Mad Fairy

The top fundraisers were also listed:

Individual Youth 18 & Under

Leila Attia - \$1,007 Delaney Whittington - \$105 Dezzy Wegrzyn - \$100 **Individual Adult**

James King - \$1,275

See MORE Page 19

More than 900 took the plunge

Continued from Page 18
Matthew Lynch - \$700
Ed Fratantuono - \$250
Youth/Family Team
Team Believe - \$3,325
Owrey's Owls - \$1,590
Ice Ice Kirby - \$1,500
Community Group Team
OC Ravens Roost #44* -

\$9,842.99 License to Chill - \$2,325 Atlantic Club Beach Warriors - \$1,350

*The Ravens Roost team has contributed more than \$170,000 to the AGH Penguin Swim over the last 15

Business Team

Bull on the Beach* - \$25,828 Charles Brown Glass - \$510 The Dispatch - \$190

*The Bull on the Beach team has contributed more than \$700,000 to the AGH Penguin Swim since it started.

Special recognition were also give to the oldest penguin, Nelya Kuvshinova, 83; youngest penguin, Laura Beasley, 9 months; and the penguin who traveled the furthest, Ashley Humphreys, from Boulder Creek, California.



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Dozens of swimmers run toward the cold ocean on New Years Day during Atlantic General Hospital's annual Penguin Swim fundraiser. Hospital officials reported that the event raised more then \$100,000 for the facility.

There was also a costume contest with winners in the following categories:

Best Youth Costume Madison Pecover as "Cow" Best Adult Costume Butch Lorditch as "Mad Hatter" Best Couple Costume Christy and Randy Nevel as "Barbie & Ken"

Best Group Costume

Isaiah and Malani Williams as "Maui & Moana"

"Blingiest" Costume sponsored by Park Place Jewelers

Frosty Friends as "Blingy Theme"

Stockton fire co. receives federal DNR forest grant

Funds cover 50 percent of eligible projects, purchases

(Jan. 11, 2024) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service awarded Volunteer Fire Assistance grants to 52 volunteer fire departments across the the state, including one in Worcester County, to enhance wildland fire protection in rural communities.

The funds totaled \$149,325 in 2023 in match funding for \$390,502 in total project costs, according to a news release. In Worcester County, one department, the Stockton Volunteer Fire Company, received a \$1,322 grant.

Generally, the grants cover 50 percent of project costs, with maximum grant awards of \$3,500 per department. The money is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Wildland firefighting projects and purchases that receive awards include personal protective equipment, fire hoses and related equipment, power tools such as chainsaws or leaf blowers, fire engines and pumping units, utility and all-terrain vehicles, and certain types of training, the release said





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Local historian and Salisbury University History Professor Clara Small gives a discussion on African American military service. Small is set to present the discussion on Jan. 13 at the Germantown School in Berlin.

Talk set on African **Amer. military Sat.**

(Jan., 11, 2024) On Jan. 13, local historian and Salisbury University History Professor Clara Small will join the Germantown School in celebrating Martin Luther King Weekend with her discussion on African American military service.

The discussion will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Germantown School at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin.

The event is free, but registration is recommended. To register, germantownschool@gmail.com or call 410-641-0638.

According to a news release, African Americans have served in every war, conflict, and military crisis the country has been involved in even before it was the United States of America.

Small's discussion will touch on details of African Americans' service, including their time in the French and Indian Wars as slaves, free Blacks and indentured servants through the American Revolution, Civil War and Spanish American War, as well as wars and conflicts of the 20th century to the present. African American servicemen also helped bring order to the Wild West, working as firefighters, and peacekeepers, and were some of the country's first aviators.

Living landscapes presentation Fri. at OC Golf Club

(Jan. 11, 2024) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Lower Shore Land Trust are hosting a speaker event on Friday highlighting the importance of landscaping as a livable outdoor space.

According to a news release, Rick Darke will present "Elevating the Nature of Living Landscapes," Friday, Jan. 12, at the Ocean City Golf Club at 11401 Country Club Drive in Berlin. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m and the presentation will run from 5-6:30, with a Q&A to follow.

The release said Darke will cover "the importance of landscapes being a livable outdoor space, where people can gather, relax, and explore, and how best to accomplish that goal.

Darke heads RICK DARKE LLC, a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm focused on the conservation, design, and management of living landscapes. Darke's work is grounded in an observational ethic that blends art, ecology, and cultural geography.

Registration is required for the event, as seating is limited. To regis-See ATTENDEES Page 21

OPA website under construction until early next month

(Jan. 11, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association website, oceanpines.org, is undergoing upgrades that began on Jan. 6 and will continue until roughly Feb. 5.

During that time, new materials may not be posted to the site.

Association staff plans to continue posting news updates to the news page (oceanpines.org/web/pages/ opa-news), but there may be a blackout of updates to committee pages, the website calendar, amenity pages, and some other areas until the upgrades are completed.



Frankford Chapel 43 Thatcher Street Frankford, DE 302.732.9000

Long Neck Chapel 32013 Long Neck Road Millsboro, DE

302.945.9000

Ocean View Chapel 38040 Muddy Neck Road Ocean View, DE

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OPEN HOUSES

January 11 - 18







DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT	
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate	
Saturday 10am-Noon	121 81st St. Unit 706, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$815,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Saturday 1-3pm	36939 Creekhaven Drive, Selbyville	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$835,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Saturday 10am-1pm	1 66th Street, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Saturday 11am-1pm	07 Convention Center Dr. 101B, Ocean Cit	y 2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900 I	Kevin & Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Saturday 11am-2pm	201 S. Heron Drive #5G, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$409,900	Kevin & Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty	
Sunday 11am-1pm	1 66th Street, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty	

Obituary

CHARLES "CHUCK" B. RAU

Rarlin

Charles "Chuck" B. Rau was born On Aug. 10, 1949, in Baltimore, and passed away suddenly on Dec. 29,

2023.



"Chuck" Rau

His parents were Charles "Buck" and Mary Norma Rau. He grew up in Parkville with his parents, younger brother John and grandmother Lillian.

He loved playing games and sports of any kind but basketball was his favorite. He would continue playing and watching games and sports his entire life. He attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Elementary School and Parkville Junior and Senior high schools. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Baltimore.

Chuck had numerous jobs during high school and college and often shared many great stories about them. Upon college graduation he joined the U.S. Army Reserves and started a 34-year civilian career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he made many close friends. He took great pride in his work and was always ready for his next challenge. He had lots of anecdotes and great memories from his career.

Chuck and his wife of 52 years, Linda, married while he was still in college and built a wonderful life together. They had three sons to whom he was devoted. He loved every aspect of fatherhood, even mid-night feedings. He spent as much time as he could with his sons, playing, coaching and watching all their games and activities. He was an active volunteer, coaching them in soccer, a game he learned for them, baseball and basketball.

After they were grown and began having their own children he knew it was time to retire and spend more time with his family. His retirement was filled with softball, basketball, poker, boating, crabbing, playing with his dog Ginger, and spending time with his family. He was completely in love with and proud of each of his seven grand-children.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife Linda, children Greg (Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania), Brian (Pasadena) and Chuck Rau (Fredericksburg, Virginia); daughters-in-law Kate, Becky and Sarah Rau; and seven perfect grand-children; Avery, Thomas, Morgan, Kayla, Lily-Ann, William and Autumn. He is also survived by his brother John and Edna Rau of Marion, South Carolina.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

A funeral mass will be held at 11:30 a.m., Jan. 12, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11211 Beauchamp Rd. in Berlin.

Library hosting ed prog. on aging

Creative Aging with Care series set through Jan. and Feb. for caregivers, others

(Jan. 11, 2024) Caregivers and older adults are invited to attend the Worcester County Library's Creative Aging with Care series in January and February.

According to a news release, creative aging is the theory that having opportunities for inspired expression promotes social engagement for older adults, helping them remain integral parts of their societies and communities.

"Creative Aging with Care provides an opportunity for older adults

and caregivers to come together to share art and stories. We are offering artistic workshops and classes and caregiver support through humor and discussion," Adult Services Coordinator Elena Coelho said in the release. "We also appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Worcester County Commission on Aging to highlight their services. This initiative aligns with our goals to promote community engagement, lifelong learning, and inclusivity."

The project was funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Maryland State Library Agency.

For more information about Creative Aging with Care programs,

please contact Elena Coelho at 443-783-6164 or ecoelho@worcesterlibrary.org. Information is also available at worcesterlibrary.org under "Events."

South Point boat ramp closed thru March for rehab

(Jan. 11, 2024) The county boat ramp at South Point at the end of South Point Road off Route 611 in Berlin, will be closed for the next couple of months rehabilitation work.

The boat ramp is tentatively set to reopen March 1.

The two-month project will include replacing the bulkhead. Funding was provided through a Waterway Improvement Grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and assigned designated funds from Worcester County.

For more information about the project, contact Worcester County Parks Superintendent Jacob Stephens at 410-632-2144.

Attendees can register online

Continued from Page 20

ter, VISIT docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQ LSe9E4QA-9HQhHEeQYc930XC-cLOG2000ELwAYyS_vO284Tbzow/viewform. Attendees can also register through the coastal bays website.

On the night of the event, light refreshments will be served, and the clubhouse bar and restaurant will be open for cash purchases. The event is free to attend, but the coastal banks program and land trust are accepting donations to continue hosting similar events in the future.

For more information, email MCBP Education Coordinator Liz Wist at lwist@mdcoastalbays.org.



Your Online Community: www.baysideoc.com

27

30

68

113

119

122

Puzzles

IT'S GOING DOWN BY MATT LINZER AND RAFAEL MUSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Matt Linzer, of San Francisco, is a former professional ballet and contemporary dancer who now works in graphic design and art.
Rafael Musa, also of San Francisco, is a software engineer at Airbnb. This is Matt's second puzzle for The Times, Rafa's ninth. After Matt solved Rafa's Pride-themed puzzle in the paper last June, he reached out for help in developing this one's theme. - W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 "That guy?"
- 4 Not in gear
- 8 Soccer kickoff?
- 11 Cheese used in spanakopita
- 15 Antidiscrimination measure of 1990, in
- brief
- 16 Signified
- 18 "Hang loose" hand sign
- 21 Sonicare competitor
- 23 Before midnight: Sloth, e.g.
- 25 Before midnight: One with major influence
- 27 Like about 60 percent of the world's population
- 28 Sloth, e.g.
- 29 When to see the 86-Down
- 30 Blanche's sister in "A Streetcar Named Desire' 32 Reality star Theresa
- of "Long Island Medium"
- 34 Blond or brown quaff
- _ Lingus
- 36 After midnight: Ointments infused with cottonwood or calendula, e.g.
- 38 Fleece
- 40 After midnight: Journey's "Open Arms" and Guns N' Roses' "November Rain." e.g.
- 42 See 71-Down

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles nytimes.com/cr (\$39.95 a year).

- 45 TikTok post, informally
- 46 Prepared, as a report
- 49 Actress Lindsay
- 52 Chai, for one
- 55 Cedar Rapids college
- 56 "Despicable Me" supervillain
- 58 Hookup that might
- get kinky?
- 59 Big acronym in purifying filters
- 60 "What hath ____ to do with sleep?": Milton
- 62 Before midnight: Devices with warm water and massaging rollers
- 64 Kind of rock ... or where to see it
- 66 Bygone Palm smartphone
- _(Caribbean 67 Saint nation)
- 68 Before midnight: Some household expenses
- 70 Branch offices, e.g.
- 75 Journalist Couric 76 Wagering sites that closed in N.Y.C. in
- 2010, in brief 77 After midnight: Event for Cowboys or Broncos
- 78 "Can't win 'em all"
- 82 Some adobe abodes
- 83 Clarified-butter variety
- 84 Fourth ingredient in a classic threeingredient sandwich
- 85 After midnight: Synchronized swimming
- 86 Forbid
- Surpass

- 90 Run up, as debts
- 92 Mexican shawls
- 95 Beam
- 96 Ice-cream name
- Spring (2010s protests)
- 99 Drag queen and TV personality Bianca _ Rio
- 100 Potter's pal at Hogwarts
- 103 ESE or NNW
- 105 Conjunction used in logic
- 107 Eddie Bauer competitor
- 109 After midnight: Totally lose it
- 113 "Ack! All these options sound great!"
- 116 Middle name for musician Sean Lennon
- 118 Unacquainted with
- 119 Where to see the 86-Down
- 120 Star sign?
- 122 Final image in a preschooler's book, maybe 123 Toledan title
- 124 Japanese crispy cutlet
- 125 Vexation
- 126 Rapid transit?
- 127 Pranks with rolls, informally

2 Latin expression

abbreviated

For Like New & Used Cars & Trucks

RACETRACK AUTO SALES

that's almost always

128 Bring (in) 129 Start to make fiction fact?

1 Laughs

- DOWN
- 87 Before midnight:

- 3 Condo-organizing Kondo
 - 4 Romantic profession
 - 5 App coder, for short 6 Home to the Wat Xieng
 - Thong temple
 - 7 Physicist Fermi
 - 8 College athletics channel
 - 9 Device placed under
 - a tongue 10 Snore, idiomatically
 - 11 "Seriously?" 12 Greek god whose name is an anagram of a flower
 - 13 Try
 - 14 Aspirin alternative
 - 17 Sublet offerer
 - 19 It's got all the answers
 - 20 BART part
- Rabbit
 - 24 Event for Cinderella
 - 26 Foot part 31 Fighting
- 33 Title roles for Norman
 - Bates and Patrick Bateman 37 Phishing targets 39 Evacuation survival
- pack
- 41 Qatar's capital 42 "Balderdash!"
- 43 Word with space or
- 44 Lab tube with a bulb
- 47 Mary Jane 48 Computer circuitry
- components 50 Wildfire debris
- 51 Duck Hunt console,
- 53 Sugar source
- 54 Transported, as some emergency goods
- 57 Gas, e.g.: Abbr.

- 61 Cosmetic goop 62 Bike-ride mishaps
- 63 Great time
- 65 Holy chambers in Judaism
- 69 Wad (up)
- 70 "Same for us!"
- 71 With 42-Across, "Lust for Life" singer
- 72 Chevy S.U.V. 73 Make edits to
- 74 Like some dives or
 - jams
- 78 "I didn't need to know all that!" 79 Largest ethnic group of China
- 80 Bart Simpson
- catchphrase
- 81 Go all over
- 82 A mushroom's is called
- a pileus 86 End-of-December tradition depicted five times in this
- puzzle 88 Umpire's call
- 89 Giving a once-over 91 Subjects to a tirade 93 Hinging (on)

120

124

- 94 Form of algae also
- known as rockweed
- 98 Physiques, for short 101 Like most award shows
- 102 Belgian river in a W.W. I battle
- 103 Spacey sort
- 104 Less welcoming
- 106 Nonelective courses: Abbr.
- 108 Brewskis 110 "The father of
- American literature." per Faulkner 111 Geek Squad

110

125

- specialist, informally
- 112 TV and radio host Andy 114 Brand owned by
- Hasbro
- 115 Pool accessory 117 Mathematician
- Neugebauer 121 Spanish bear

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 56

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.

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

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week's puzzles 9 4 3 5 1 8

Answers to last

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

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., Jan. 11

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

STORY TIME: 'IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for this classic by Laura Numeroff. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SCI-FI MOVIE TRIVIA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Test your knowledge on some sci-fi classics. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

COMMUNITY FOR LIFE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. The Worcester Commission on Aging will discuss this state program for people ages 60 years and older who may need assistance in areas such as home maintenance and transportation. 410-957-

STEAM DREAMERS: SNOW STORM IN JAR

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Make your very own snow storms and hypothesize. how this craft works. For ages 6-12 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join licensed, certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

JIU JITSU SELF DEFENSE BASICS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Learn an array of basic self-defense scenarios utilizing Jiu Jitsu. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

A TRIBUTE TO HARRIET TUBMAN

Headquarters Live, Salisbury, 6-8 p.m. An evening of poetry hosted by Poet Laureate Nancy Mitchell. Free admission. Light refreshments. All ages welcome.

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND

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

Fri., Jan. 12

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: DREAMS AND DETERMINATION - MLK WEEKEND **DREAMFEST 2024**

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 8 a.m. Keynote speaker is Gregory D. Gadson. Also featuring the Morgan State University Choir. Tickets cost \$50. https://www.etix.com

WHO'S BAD: THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL **JACKSON EXPERIENCE - MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST 2024**

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. A power packed tribute to Michael Jackson. Tickets cost \$45 and \$55. https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/6097173 3/whos-badthe-ultimate-michael-jackson-experience-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-cente

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and finger plays. For ages 0-2 years and their caregivers. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAHJONG CLUB

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

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join in for STEAM activities and socialize with other homeschool families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'LOVE IN DEFIANCE OF PAIN' EDITED BY ALI KINSELLA, ET AL.

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean Pines Library circulation desk. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FRIDAY MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Celebrate Elvis Presley during his birthday week. 410-957-0878,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a one-crab cake sandwich platter, \$24 for a two-crab cake sandwich platter and \$10 for a crab cake sandwich. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake sale

Sat., Jan. 13

7TH ANNUAL DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring great handcrafted artwork from regional artisans, all gathered in one location. This is Ocean City's juried festival of all art types. Admission is \$4 per day.

www.delmarvaartexpo.com, 443-235-

MARSHALL CHARLOFF & THE PURPLE XPERIENCE - MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. A 5-piece Prince tribute band. Tickets cost \$45 and \$55.

https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/855474 81/marshall-charloff-the-purple-xperience-ocean-city-oc-performing-artscenter

BULL & OYSTER ROAST

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 3-6 p.m. Menu includes pit beef, pit ham, oysters, oyster stew, Cole slaw, potato salad, desserts, draft beer and soda. Cost is \$55 each or Table of 8 for \$400. Only 200 tickets available. 301-289-3166

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Donna McElroy from the Ocean Pines Marine Activities Committee will speak about upcoming plans and projects. Also, updates on fishing tournaments and charter fishing opportunities. All welcome.

VETERAN VOICES: AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY SERVICE

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Dr. Clara Small will discuss the African American military service and the local heroes who have served us all. Free event but registration is recommended: germantownschool@gmail.com, 410-641-0638.

CRAFTY SATURDAY: CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. How do our friends around the world celebrate the new year? Join in for a fun day of crafts. All ages welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BRUNCHY BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. January's theme is "Judge the Book by Its Cover." Light refreshments and casual discussion. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WINTER BIRDING 101

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Delmarva Birding talks about spotting our feathered friends during the cold season. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PAWS FOR READING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Join Piper, a Portuguese Water Dog, who would love to hear your stories. Read to Piper and make a craft. For ages 5 years and older. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DREAMFEST EVENTS AT THE ART LEAGUE **OF OCEAN CITY**

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebration of MLK Weekend with events to inspire you. Complimentary light food and drinks. Free and open to the public. Schedule: https://artleagueofoceancity.org/events /category/event/list/, 410-524-9433

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., Jan. 14

7TH ANNUAL DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring great handcrafted artwork from regional artisans, all gathered in one location. This is Ocean City's juried festival of all art types. Admission is \$4 per day. www.delmarvaartexpo.com, 443-235-2926

TAKE 6 - MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST 2024

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. This award winning a cappella group performs gospel, jazz, R&B and pop. Tickets cost \$45 and \$55. https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/820686 17/take-6-ocean-city-oc-performingarts-center

ANNUAL USHER DAY

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 10203 Germantown Road, Berlin. 10:30 a.m. Guest Preacher: Rev. Eloise Henry Gordy, Choir and Congregation, Zoar United Methodist Church, Selbyville, Delaware 19944, Rev. Lucille Nichols, Host Pastor.

DREAMFEST EVENTS AT THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebration of MLK Weekend with events to inspire you.

Continued on Page 24

GREET

Calendar

Continued from Page 23 Complimentary light food and drinks. Free and open to the public. Schedule: https://artleagueofoceancity.org/events/category/event/list/. 410-524-9433

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Jan. 15

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Social time at 9:30 a.m., meeting and speaker at 10 a.m. Laura Wilson-Gentry will address "Political Polls: What We Need to Know." www.dwcmd.org

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., Jan. 16

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research followed by Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information, if you can. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME: 'BEARS'

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

STORY TIME: SNOW

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

STORY TIME: 'LIONS'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. 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. Do you love to knit or crochet? 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 play with blocks and other toys while socializing with other families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group will focus on "Anthropology and the Abnormal" by Ruth Benedict. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ASSATEAGUE COASTAL TRUST SIP & SCIENCE SERIES

Taphouse W. Bar and Grille, 12513 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This interactive workshop is designed to educate participants about the importance of composting. Cost is \$15. Prizes and raffles. Register: http://tinyurl.com/3hmcrt5d.

SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song to share with other players and writers in a welcoming and encouraging space. Originals encouraged. Listeners welcome. Hosted by Mike Campbell. 410-641-0650,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

'SHARED VISIONS' READING

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Meet the artists and writers of this year's "Shared Visions" collaboration. Hear readings of the poetry and prose that inspired the artwork on display. Free event.

 $art league of ocean city. org, \, 410\text{-}524\text{-}9433$

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

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

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., Jan. 17

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

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

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn through exploration, curiosity and creativity during the sensory stay and play. Squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several stations. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818

TAPE TRANSFERS

Snow Hill 5oplus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. All supplies provided, however you can bring in your own photo copies of pictures or magazines. Images just need to be less than 2 inches. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2-4 p.m. Mike Ivankovich will introduce you, via Zoom, to "What Determines Value" and reveal what your antiques, collectibles and treasurers are worth today. Registration required: 410-641-0650.

SHOULD I KEEP THE BOOKS I FOUND IN MOM'S ATTIC?

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Jim Meckley will discuss book collecting and resources and share general knowledge about those books in mom's attic or grandpa's woodshed. 410-208-4014, 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

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Real news headlines and details contain two details the are true and one if false. Can you deduce which is false? Present two truths and a lie about yourself. For ages 8 years and older. 410-957-0878

TIDES & VINE TRIVIA NIGHT

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Test your knowledge as a team or on your own for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate.

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 5 oplus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Dance background not required. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

ONGOING EVENTS

TEEN STEAM STATION

Berlin Library, 13 Harrison Avenue, during January. Drop in to create jewelry using binary code, construct a flying glider, design your own city out of recycled material and much more. Challenges will change each week. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650

TINY ART CONTEST (BLUE THEME)

Through January and held at all Worcester County library branches. Pick up a Take & Make Kit from Jan. 2-13. Submit your creation by Jan. 16 for judging. The first place winner from each branch will win an art kit. For ages 6-12 years and 12-18 years.

GERMANTOWN SCHOOL VETERAN EXHIBIT

The Germantown School Veteran Exhibit will run through Jan. 17. The school is located at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin. The exhibit is open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 410-641-0638.

Classified

MARKETPLACE

Call 410-723-6397

by Monday 5 p.m.

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







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Apply in person or online at

HELP WANTED

AUTOMOTIVE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Large Automotive Center with Tire and Service center plus Auto/Marine Parts & Retail, is now hiring for:

- Service & Parts Associates (will train) **Technicians**

Locations in Ocean Pines, Clarksville & Long Neck Great Pay & Benefits Call: 302-344-9846

Pool -General Maintenance.
Outdoor work, lifting heavy

objects. Mechanical, basic pool pump & motors, CPO a plus / not required.
Able to pass CPO test. Summer includes weekends & long hours; working alone or with others

410-289-4902 ask for Suzanne

RENTALS

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call **610-459-5857** or email resume to

Gherker@comcast.net & Gherker@herkerinc.com

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

RENTALS

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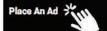


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