



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SEASONAL VISITOR

A crafty resident created a miniature snow man on top of the mailboxes on Sundial Circle to greet people as they picked up their mail on Monday.

Berlin residents offer input on town's future

Parking availability remains major concern shared by many at planning meeting

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2024) Berlin residents had the opportunity to offer observations and ask questions at a strategic planning meeting hosted by the Salisbury University Business Economic and Community Outreach Network last Wednesday at the Berlin Library.

With the Town Council present, residents hit on subjects such as their discontentment with parking, electric bills, stormwater drainage, and the lack of child-focused summer and afterschool activities.

"The parking needs improvement," said Jim Meckley, who moved to the area eight years ago. "I don't like to point to just the merchants, but if I walk out there right now, I can count about five or six people who are parked at the same place they've been for the last 20 years, and it's blocked right in front of their store. I think

that's a problem."

Resident Gus Glikas added that some streets are too narrow to support parking on both sides and cited Walnut Hill as an example. He maintained that fire and rescue vehicles have difficulty accessing the road.

Berlin officials held a closed meeting on Jan. 8 to address the parking situation and are considering buying property for that purpose. Even though the details of such an acquisition are confidential for now, residents have expressed their approval.

"I think it's a great solution, I think it's a no-brainer," business owner Emily Vocke told WBOC. "I don't see how we can grow or even maintain the way we are now."

The possibility of paid parking also came up in during the session, with the audience expressing its approval, even though implementing metered parking is only a suggestion at this point. Free lots would still be available near Stephen Decatur Park.

As for the cost of the town's electric service, Cam Bunting of Bunting
See STORMWATER Page 3

Noncontroversial OP budget works way through process

Board wary of increasing slip fees up to 15 percent in draft document proposal

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2024) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors met last Thursday to review the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 24-25, and it continues to appear that most Ocean Pines residents will see another decrease in their lot assessments this year.

The board heard from General Manager John Viola and his financial

team as well as directors of the various departments during discussions of various price increases, capital expenses and priorities.

In the proposed budget, marina boat slip fees would increase 15 percent, but Directors Jeff Heavener and John Learner both agreed that would be too steep. Another way to increase revenue might be to add boat slips, Director Steve Jacobs suggested.

During the public comment period, resident Don Walski suggested that dockmaster Ron Fisher look at
See DRAFT Page 4

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A wayfinding sign directs drivers and pedestrians to attractions in and around Main Street in downtown Berlin.

Stormwater concerns expressed

Continued from Page 1

Realty argued that Berlin residents pay the highest rates in the county.

As the chair of the Local Development Committee, which oversees the distribution of the local shares of Ocean Downs' gambling proceeds, she suggested that the town uses the casino money to lower the fees charged to residents. "It's been my driving goal. We're paying too much."

Stormwater was also mentioned, and while it was acknowledged that it is more of a county issue, some residents believe the town must begin to look at the problem itself with more urgency. September saw a storm that drowned the town in 14 inches of rain, making travel on Burley and Flower Street almost impossible.

Audience member Patricia Dufendach emphasized that Berlin is a flood zone and that stormwater damages buildings, plantings, and emergency vehicle access. "It is a huge deficiency. We've had our 100-year flood, but I don't think it will be 100 years before we see it again. If we want it dealt with, we must do it ourselves," she said.

Another priority for the town's residents is attracting and sustaining younger families. One way they hope to accomplish this is with child-

friendly activities. While Berlin is a thriving community with boutiques, restaurants, and bars, it lacks skate parks, a pool, and a YMCA, supporters of that effort said.

According to Bunting, there are discussions of developing a community center on Flower Street, and Dufendach, a member of the parks commission, backed the idea of business-sponsored events such as basketball or pickleball tournaments.

Meckley urged the council to increase the police presence and to reduce the speed limit near Seaside Dance Academy to improve safety there.

"People speed down the narrow road," he said. "A kid could step off that curb and get plowed. With more police patrolling this area and others, it's a win-win situation."

Despite Berlin's challenges, meeting attendees reiterated their overall satisfaction with the town.

"We have great stores and restaurants," Meckley said. "We have a town that gets along and has lots of activities. We have a hospital. We have plenty of doctors. There's a great school district. We have a local government that cares about us. We're lucky."

"We live in a bubble, and that's why we're here," Meckley said.



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The OPA proposed budget includes funding to rehab the building beyond the driving range to provide space for lessons during the winter, storage and office space.

Draft budget focuses on improved amenities

Continued from Page 1

other residential marinas for price comparisons and not OC Fishing Center, which accommodates larger fishing vessels.

The marina boat slip fees have not been increased in three to four years.

Fisher said he had proposed a five percent increase last year, but the board turned that down. Since then, he told the board, insurance and labor costs have gone up.

“It’s an amenity and probably the best price in town,” Viola said, adding

that any price change is a board decision at this point.

Increased costs, including credit card fees, are having an effect on the marina and other amenities. Board Director Stuart Lackernick suggested they switch to Square to process credit cards. He said he has done that with his business and it has saved him a great deal of money. Viola said they would look into it. During public comments, resident Sherrie Clifford suggested a minimum charge of \$10 for credit cards to encourage the use of cash and save on credit card fees.

Elsewhere in the budget, aquatics prices and the proposal to reopen the snack bar at the swim and racquet club triggered extensive discussion. There is currently a \$75,000 deficit in the aquatics program.

No increase in daily or weekly fees have been proposed this year. The board discussed a nominal increase in the rate to cover the deficit and avoid larger increases later. There was also discussion about increasing nonresident rates, which amounts to 10 percent of users.

Linda Martin clarified that outside food would be allowed at the pool if they open the snack bar at the swim and racquet club. Opening the snack bar is not expected to be a revenue enhancer, but to improve the customer experience.

During public comments, Clifford also said lifeguards should be paid more than \$15 an hour, since that is the current minimum wage.

A three percent increase in beach parking has been proposed. A typo on the budget documents caused some confusion in that regard, as the increase for day parking is proposed at \$50, not \$75.

The Rec and Parks Department will be raising fees across the board,

including charges for the dog park, farmers market, leagues, classes and camps.

There was discussion on the flooring in the community center gymnasium. A committee is being assembled to look at the entire building and make recommendations, Viola said. There was also talk of providing a few ADA compliant playground pieces in Bainbridge Park and creating a fully inclusive playground in another location.

The racquet sports are looking towards a banner year, according to Director Tim Johnson. He expects to run more programs and tournaments this year. He is working with local schools to get junior programs off the ground.

There was debate on the membership rate for Pickleball, with the board wondering if the fee should increase due to its popularity. Johnson had said some people think that might thin the herd and address the issue of overcrowding. There was also the suggestion that the courts at the swim and racquet club be turned into Pickleball courts. Options are being considered but Pickleball players like to gather together at the racquet complex, according to Johnson.

There is a softer market for the other racquet sports, apparently, so there was concern about raising those fees.

Fencing is an issue at the complex, with people jumping over the current fences to play on the courts for free. Viola is looking at pricing for fencing similar to the golf course wrought iron fencing.

Renovations of the current building will provide everything needed for the employees and the community, including more bathrooms, a pro shop, storage, and office space,

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Fencing like the wrought iron fencing used around the golf course is being considered for the racquet club to keep people from jumping the current fence to play for free.

Golf course drives new revenue

according to Johnson.

The revenue king for Ocean Pines is the golf course. The installation of the new irrigation system will be a four- to five-year process. Justin Hartsborne, the director of golf maintenance, said he is not too concerned about the impact on golfers. The work will be conducted from November through March each year with minimal disruption to the course, he said.

“We will just close the hole we are working on,” Justin said, adding that the course has a 19th hole, so this will allow golfers to play 18 holes, even with one hole closed.

The big driver for revenue is the package play, resident play and membership.

There are plans to enhance the building at the end of the driving range to provide lessons during the winter, storage and office space. It is expected that this renovation will be complete before the summer.

Matt Ortt joined the board for a discussion of the beach, yacht and golf club venues.

He believes he has a 95 percent chance of hitting his numbers for all of these venues.

He reported seeing an influx of banquets and he is pushing smaller banquets to the clubhouse. He is also getting substantial money back with rebate programs with vendors, by consolidating orders for all three venues. This keeps costs down and the rebates come in March, during the off season, he said.

He did caution that the holiday season was a little down for most area venues. People are watching their spending these days, Ortt said.

“I am trying to give you numbers with certainty. Our goal is to always exceed these numbers,” he said.

The proposed budget includes \$1.5 million on capital expenses. The ma-

majority of that is for the golf course, including \$850,000 for the irrigation project, \$20,000 for driving range renovations, and additional funding for vehicles for the golf course.

The police department is requesting two Ford Explorers for \$110,000.

The aquatics department has requested \$40,000 to renovate the splash pad at the Swim and Racquet pool. Director Elaine Brady wondered if the costs were worth that amount and whether it would be better to put in a kiddie pool. It would cost more than \$100,000 for a new kiddie pool, according to Viola. Other cost items included pool furniture repair and replacement, sand filters at the swim and racquet club and other miscellaneous items.

Two other larger items were the electric signs at \$84,000 and a new heat pump at the community center for \$58,000

The board will vote on the budget at its Feb. 17 board meeting. Prior to that, it will host a town hall meeting to hear comments from residents on the budget.

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Residents weigh in on comprehensive plan

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission held another listening session last Wednesday night to hear residents' opinions on updating the comprehensive plan for the town.

The commission is responsible for updating the plan, which was last done in 2010. This plan, which is required by state law to be updated in 10-year increments, analyzes potential growth, infrastructure, housing, and other issues and the associated impacts through the year 2030. The plan's purpose is to guide land use and development.

During the meeting, the commission members heard from residents about stormwater, trees and forest cover, affordable housing, connectivity, inclusivity, and sidewalks.

Council member Jack Orris asked the commission to include stormwater management in the updated comprehensive plan and listed numerous problem areas, including Burley, Broad, West and Abby streets.

"We don't deal with stormwater management. It's out of our realm of expertise," Matt Stoehr, the vice chair of the commission said.

"We can be more proscriptive," Dave Englehart, planning director for the Town of Berlin said. But the effort

would have to be funded.

Commission member Ron Cascio agreed that it was a topic that needed more discussion and thought.

Some residents spoke out about the importance of protecting and planting trees in the town.

"I have seen us lose our forest cover in this town," said Joan Maloof, who has lived in Berlin for six years and is the founder of the Old Growth Forest Network. She recommended that the town consider having an open space commission, and suggested it was possible to get grant funding.

She also suggested that Berlin have a tree ordinance that could require property owners to protect certain types or sizes of trees.

Pete Cosby suggested that they plant "monumental trees" along the roadways, especially on Flower Street, to make the roads seem "more people sized."

"Flower Street could be made into a truly beautiful boulevard," Cosby said.

Maloof has written five books on trees and is a professor emeritus at Salisbury University. She volunteered to lead an open space commission, with Cascio suggesting she should be used as a resource.

Tony Weeg advocated for walkabil-



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

During the public meeting with the Planning Commission, Pete Cosby suggested planting monumental trees along the roadways, especially Flower Street, to make the roads seem more "people sized."

ity in the town, connecting both the east and west sides of town. When discussion of a bridge over Route 113 came up, Weeg and others in the audience did not think that was the answer to the issue.

"We should not let 113 divide us," Diana Purnell said.

Purnell pushed for inclusivity, and asked the commission to include Flower Street in its plan update.

"Flower Street needs as much attention as Berlin proper. We are one historic town, one really neat historic place," Purnell said.

As is the case throughout the area, affordable housing has been a big topic of conversation in Berlin, with not much movement on the subject. Adjacent dwelling units were an option that resident Marie Velong suggested.

Cosby liked the idea of "Fonzie" apartments, as he called them, referring to the apartment above a garage at the Cunningham's home where the

Fonz resided on the 1970s hit show "Happy Days." He suggested they might be a way to solve some of the housing problems.

"We come up real short on affordable housing," Gabe Purnell said. He suggested the commission consider increasing R3 zoning in the town to allow for more affordable housing. R3 housing allows for high density housing, such as apartment buildings and condominiums.

He said that people are telling him that rent is getting out of hand. But when Cosby suggested the town could consider rent controls and/or price controls on the sale of houses, members of the audience were not supportive.

The Planning Commission will continue to host public meetings on the comprehensive plan on the fourth Wednesday of every month for the next six months. Regular meetings will still be on the second Wednesday of each month.

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Joan Maloff stands in her front yard with a native sycamore she planted. She is advocating for a tree ordinance to protect the trees in the Town of Berlin and an open spaces committee to help identify and protect open spaces in and around the town.

Trees and open spaces would benefit from focus in Berlin

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2023) Berlin has a vibrant downtown, historic architecture and a friendly atmosphere, but what it also has are some outstanding tree specimens.

One is the big magnolia on South Main Street and the bald cypress at the Burbage Funeral Home. The town is also home to the Dr. Mary Humphreys Arboretum on the property of the Calvin B. Taylor Museum, which was dedicated in 2022 because of its magnolias, silver, red and sugar maples, sycamores, scarlet oaks and tulip trees.

Even so, there is no organized effort to encourage the planting of native trees or the protection of the monumental trees around town, beyond the Humphrey's Arboretum.

A tree ordinance and an open space commission could help the town promote native trees and consider protecting open spaces in and around town, according to Joan Maloof, a resident of Berlin and the founder of the Old Growth Forest Network. Maloof has authored five books on trees and is a professor emeritus at Salisbury University, where she taught environmental studies.

Maloof provided these suggestions at the Planning Commission meeting last week, during a discussion about the comprehensive plan for the town.

She cited numerous examples of regulations to protect trees, including those in Ocean Pines and said she wants to work with a committee to see what would work in Berlin.

Currently, the town has nothing on the books to prevent anyone from cutting down trees in town, including the most majestic ones. She said the biggest threats to these trees is if a property changes hands and a new owner does not want to care for a tree.

A tree ordinance does not need to be just punitive, she said, but could help to protect trees and encourage the planting of more trees in town. She contends that fines could be used to provide support and advice to residents with these significant trees.

Maloff also pushed for the creation of an open spaces committee that could look at a map to identify important green spaces left and consider how these can be preserved.

Some of this land could be outside of the town boundaries, which would require the committee to convince property owners to cooperate.

"Once you identify a parcel, the committee could work with the landowner through Program Open Space, easements or land trusts," Maloff said.

"If you never identify the land, you never take the first steps."

Heron Park provides some open space, but there is only a small strip of forest along the railroad tracks, according to Maloff.

Maloff said she hoped to hear from others who might be interested in being involved in developing a draft tree ordinance or engaging in an open space committee. Interested residents can contact her at joan@old-growthforest.net.

"I love trees and I love this town," Maloff said.



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This magnificent magnolia is on a residential property on Main Street in Berlin. It's one of several monumental trees in town.



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OP Rec and Parks monitors trails, parks and playgrounds

Committee regularly scouts amenities to ensure safety and access for community

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2024) The Rec and Parks Advisory Committee's monitoring and reporting on the conditions of the parks and other recreational amenities of Ocean Pines continues to lead to their improvement.

Thanks to their efforts in 2023, the Swim and Racquet Club Trail has been improved as well as the Robin Hood trails, with mulching and signs. They also revised the OPA Adopt-a-Park Program and provided guidelines that were posted on the OPA website.

Their efforts are not just focused on land. They also lobbied successfully for an accessible kayak launch in Pintail Park. That launch was installed in September, along with kayak racks.

Ocean Pines has many walking trails, parks and playgrounds for young and old. To ensure that they remain enjoyable, committee members take monthly walks to evaluate various trails and parks and develop

reports regarding safety concerns and maintenance requirements. This also gives them an opportunity to clean the trails of litter and other issues that could affect walkers or bikers.

The committee made multiple recommendations to the board for this coming fiscal year, including the addition of outdoor fitness equipment, ADA compliant playground equipment, and refurbishing the gymnasium floor.

These priorities did not make it into the proposed budget this FY24-25, but that does not mean they are not important, Director Jeff Heavner, of the OPA board and liaison to the Rec and Parks Advisory Committee said. Just that other priorities, such as the golf course irrigation system took priority this year.

General Manager John Viola said that he wanted to look at more than just the gymnasium floor in the community center and would be creating a committee to look at the whole building and make recommendations for the next fiscal year budget.

The committee also recommended a safety and connectivity study for Ocean Pines.

This study would look at ways to connect Ocean Pines to the busi-



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Signs mark the Robin Hood Trail in Ocean Pines, thanks to the recommendations of the Rec and Park Advisory Committee.

nesses on Route 589 and possibly Route 90 and make it safer to bike and walk between North and South gates and to area schools and parks, said committee member Patti Stevens, who is also a commissioner for the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue & Infrastructure Needs.

"This community should focus on providing safety for our walkers, bikers and runners," Heavner said.

The committee is also considering ways to use the underutilized tennis courts at the Swim and Racquet Club.

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors receives annual reports from each of its advisory committees. The recommendations from those reports are taken into consideration as the budget is developed.

"We [the OPA board] value their input very much," Heavner said.

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Communication committee finding ways to promote OP

Season Kickoff and Expo, electronic signs, contests get messages to residents

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 19, 2024) Being a part of the communications advisory committee in Ocean Pines is not just about communications, according to its members, who believe it's also about getting people involved in the community.

That's why the committee is heavily involved in the planning of the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff and Expo, set for April 20 at White Horse Park.

Ocean Pines gains about 600 new residents every year, according to Linda Yurche, the chair of the communications committee.

"There are many new people who have moved to Ocean Pines in the past few years who don't know what OP has to offer," Yurche said.

She knows this from personal experience. She moved to the community full time during COVID. "We had wonderful neighbors but did not get involved right away."

Ocean Pines Day is designed to give residents, both new and long-timers, a chance to learn more about the many ways to get involved and have fun in Ocean Pines.

"We have a list of 61 clubs and organizations that serve Ocean Pines residents, from the Pine Tones Chorus to corn hole league. This will be a great time to get everyone together and taste what OP has to offer."

Yurche said she hopes that the event will introduce people to the many ways they can be involved in the community.

"You don't have to run for the board to contribute and have a say and get involved," Yurche said.

There are many advisory committees that people can join, and the communications advisory committee, which is currently recruiting for two members, is just one of them.

Last year, the committee was deeply involved in educating people about the Ocean Pines board elections. It sponsored a sign contest to encourage people to vote. Yurche said the committee may do that again, although they kept the signs from last year to reuse.

The committee encouraged people to attend the annual meeting, which must have a quorum to validate the elections and conduct business. She said a few years ago, committee members had to go to the golf club restaurant and onto the greens to recruit people to reach a quorum. They did not have to do that last year.

One of the big projects they accomplished was to get board approval

to install the first electronic sign in Ocean Pines, at the north side entrance. There was a big debate over the sign as, residents were concerned it might be too bright and commercial looking.

Yurche thinks people will like the sign once it is installed and see that it was done with aesthetics in mind. She also believes that it will allow for Ocean Pines to quickly update residents on schedule changes. In addition, it will free up Public Works to do other more necessary work instead of spending time changing sign messages by hand. Additional signs are in the budget for Fiscal Year 24-25, which the board will vote on in February.

Bd. of Supervisors of Elections needs one new member

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 18, 2023) The Town of Berlin is looking for a new member for its Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Members of the election board do everything "from soup to nuts with the elections," Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. The members accept candidate filings, create the ballot, run the elections on that day, count the ballots and announce the results. The town administrator certifies the results.

In the last few years, the members have also recruited volunteers for election day to provide additional assistance at the polls.

The Berlin Police Department is responsible for enforcing electioneering prohibitions.

The next elections are scheduled for Oct. 1, when the office of the mayor and Districts two and three council seats will be on the ballot.

Elections are held in person, but See VOLUNTEER Page 10



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Rodeo, monster trucks event set

Wicomico Civic Center in Salisbury hosts both shows annually on Jan. weekends

(Jan. 18, 2024) Bucking broncos and massive trucks are set to take over the Wicomico Civic Center in Salisbury the next two weekends.

According to a news release, the venue hosts the Lone Star Rodeo and No Limits Monster Trucks & Thrill Show every January.

"These events are staples in our winter entertainment schedule," Chelsey Jones, the manager of the Wicomico Civic Center, said in a news release. "Families look forward to the rodeo and monster trucks each year, and we are thrilled to welcome them back."

The rodeo is set for this Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19 and 20, and the monster truck event is set for next weekend, Jan. 26 and 27.

Rodeo events include bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, team roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and bull riding. The release said kids 10 and younger are encouraged to come early and participate in the best dressed cowboy/cowgirl contest and gold rush. Kid's events kick off at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30.

The No Limits Monster Trucks & Thrill Show will feature wheelie contests, two wheel contests and a freestyle event. For an extra fee, attendees can ride in a real monster truck through the arena. Those who want to race their own vehicles can pre-register for Tuff Truck races (for licensed drivers ages 18 and older) and kid's Power Wheels races (ages 3-9). Call 940-683-4742 for more information.

Tickets for both events are available at WicomicoCivicCenter.org, by phone at 410-548-4911, or in person at the box office.



A bronco tries to buck off a rider during a past Lone Star Rodeo event at the Wicomico Civic Center in Salisbury. This year's event is set Jan. 19 and 20.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

One man killed, another injured in Bishopville wreck

(Jan. 18, 2024) One man is dead and another injured after a single-vehicle crash last Friday into a tree in Bishopville.

According to a news release from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to report of a crash at 13300 block of Selby Road in Bishopville around 10:30 p.m., Jan. 12.

An initial investigation revealed that a vehicle left the road during inclement weather and crashed into a tree. The release said the vehicle sustained "extensive damage" and first responders pronounced the passenger, Nicholas Charles Schewe, deceased on scene. The driver, Liam Sturm, was injured and taken to TidalHealth.

The Ocean City Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit and the Worcester County State's Attorney Office assisted the sheriff's office reconstruction unit with the investigation, which was still open earlier this week. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Deputy First Class Kenneth Reed at 410-632-1111 ext. 6017 or at kreed@co.worcester.md.us.

Volunteer needed for election work

Continued from Page 9

residents can vote an absentee ballot and do not need an excuse for doing so.

Currently the town has four members of the Board of Supervisors: Gina Velong, chair (May 26), Tony Bowen (May 26), Linda Bowen (May 26), Betty Tustin (June 26). Members serve a four-year term.

The town election board is not responsible for state or federal elections

or the voter rolls, which are managed by the Worcester Board of Elections. If a resident of Berlin registers to vote in the county, that person will automatically be registered in the Town of Berlin, according to Bohlen.

This year will be a busy year with elections, as there will be primaries in Maryland on May 14, the Berlin municipal elections on Oct. 1 and the general elections on Nov. 5.

The town election board only man-

ages the Oct. 1 municipal elections and not the primaries or the general elections.

This is one of the less time consuming committees to serve on in Berlin, with only a few meetings and one long day on election day, said Bohlen.

For those interested in being considered for the Board of Supervisors for the Elections, visit berlinmd.gov/mayor/become-involved.



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Ribbon cutting set Jan. 25 for new AGH facility in Pines

(Jan. 18, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital and Health System is holding a grand opening and ribbon cutting for the new Gudelsky Family Medical Center from 3-5 p.m., Jan. 25.

The nearly 50,000 square-foot facility on Racetrack Road in Ocean Pines is the new home of Atlantic General Diabetes and Endocrinology Center, Atlantic General Primary Care, Atlantic General Pediatrics, Atlantic General Gastroenterology and

a second location of Atlantic General Outpatient Center, which offers walk-in lab and X-ray services. Another AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy location will also open in the facility in the spring.

Community members are invited to celebrate the opening of the new healthcare facility alongside the Gudelsky family, local chamber of commerce members and elected officials. Refreshments and tours will be available and no RSVP is necessary.

AGH Auxiliary hosting open house Jan. 23 for volunteers

(Jan. 18, 2024) Members of the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary recently announced that they will be hosting an open house for people interested in volunteering at the hospital.

The event, set 1-3 p.m., Jan. 23, in the hospital's cafeteria, will feature information about available volunteering opportunities.

A news release said the auxiliary needs volunteers to help in all areas

of the hospital and health system, including the new Gudelsky Family Medical Center and AGH Thrift Shop. Volunteers greet visitors, run errands for staff, process and sort mail, visit patients, work at the information desk, help with administrative tasks, staff the thrift shop and more.

For more information, and to apply online, visit atlanticgeneral.org/volunteer. No RSVP is necessary.

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Reflecting on local Kiwanis club's 43 years

(Jan. 18, 2024) For decades, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City have made their mark through volunteer work and charitable giving.

According to a submitted news piece, globally, Kiwanians are a dedicated service organization of men and women who share the challenge of community and world improvement. Formed in 1915, the nonprofit group reported more than 7,000 adult clubs and 8,300 youth clubs in 85 nations and geographic areas, with over 600,000 active members.

Locally, the Kiwanis clubs has been active since 1980. The nonprofit sponsors five youth leadership programs throughout Worcester County Schools and engages in fundraising activities that generate roughly \$40,000 each year for local programs and people in need.

On any given day, Kiwanis members can be seen collecting clothing donations for local shelters, cooking breakfast for Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks events, or raising money for scholarships.

David Landis, the area marketing and media chairperson, first became involved in the Kiwanis in 2004. He previously worked in marketing and sales in the Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia areas and



FILE PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City made pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs for attendees of the Ocean Pines Department of Parks and Recreation Breakfast with the Grinch event last month. Kiwanis members pose at the breakfast with Kiwanians Dave Landis playing Buddy the Elf and Ed Ahlquist dressed as the Grinch.

moved to Ocean Pines upon his retirement in 2003.

"To me, it's all about service, and the main thing that interested me from the start was helping kids," he said. "We have advisors that go to all these different school clubs, and they

go to their meetings, help them to see how we do community service, and try to give them examples so that they're ready for something like that when they get older. And we can do that all the way from elementary school up through high school."

Education is also a part of regular Kiwanis Club meetings.

Landis said they often have guest speakers and representatives from groups including the Worcester County Developmental Center, Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Guests help educate club members on local programs that benefit the community, and their organizations generally become the beneficiaries of Kiwanis charitable giving.

Club members are actively involved in community fundraising and engagement throughout the year, but Landis said the Kiwanians are especially active during the holiday season.

In November, Kiwanis membership collected more than 300 coats for local charities during a five-week donation drive at the Ocean Pines Community Center. A related toy drive helped gather three SUV loads for Worcester G.O.L.D., a nonprofit that provides emergency financial assistance and basic needs for Worcester County residents living with low incomes.

The club also pitched in during the recreation and park department's annual Breakfast with the Grinch event on Dec. 2, cooking pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausages.

"We all love to volunteer for community stuff. It's just fun," Landis said, adding that he's been mixing pancakes for the Kiwanis since 2004. "They put me on it right away, and they complimented me the first time I ever did it that it never ran out."

Throughout the year, there are also regular clothing and canned good drives, blood drives, and concessions for countless events. Kiwanis

See GROUP Page 13

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Obituary

Group always seeking volunteers

SHARON LYNN DOETSCH
Berlin

Sharon Lynn Doetsch of Berlin, passed away on Dec. 27, 2023, after a long battle with illness. She was 75.



Sharon Doetsch

She was born on April 28, 1948, in Meridan, Connecticut. She grew up in Connecticut and attended public schools, graduating from high school with the class of 1966.

After graduating, she received her beauticians license and began her first job as a hairstylist. At the age of 20, she moved to Maryland and was married to James Giordano, with whom she had two sons. In 1986, she married George Doetsch.

She went on to work in a variety of positions, including retail associate, waitress and interior designer. She was incredibly talented at design and had a keen eye for detail. She designed the windows for storefronts and kept a beautiful home. She enjoyed drawing and traveling every chance she got. She and George got to see the world together. They divorced in 1999.

Sharon also enjoyed cooking, baking, painting, arts and crafts, and was an avid book reader, often staying up late into the night with her latest read.

She will be remembered as an artist who loved animals, especially her miniature poodle, Pepper.

She is survived by her previous husbands, James Giordano Sr. and George Doetsch, Jr.; her sons, Jim Giordano and John Giordano; sister Cathy; brothers John and Michael; and her beloved dog, Pepper.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens at 200 E. Pedonia Road in Timonium. A reception will be held after the service at Michael's Café at 2119 York Road in Timonium.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at fhfuneralhome.com.

Continued from Page 12
nis members cook hamburgers and hotdogs during events like Bay Day, and the weekly Concerts in the Park series each summer, with proceeds going toward scholarships and other charitable endeavors.

Keeping up with those activities requires the help of many volunteers, which Landis said can sometimes be an issue. He said the local Kiwanis previously had as many as 135 members, but now there are just over 50.

"If we lose people that moved or passed away, we might replace them with new people, so our numbers have been fairly steady. But finding good volunteers has been a problem for groups all over the Eastern Shore," he said.

Landis encouraged anyone who might be interested in joining the club to stop by one of the regular meetings.

"We're generally pretty quiet from January through March, so it's a great time to stop by, learn about the club and see if you're interested in getting involved," he said.

For those interested in pitching in, Landis said the rewards are great.

"It's a lot of satisfaction, and it's a good feeling of having done some good in this community," he said. "And I'm really proud to say that this community is very supportive of us. We couldn't do what we do without them. We can offer raffle tickets, make pancakes and hotdogs, and bring our cars out to collect donations, but it's up to the community to respond – and they always do."

Landis said an Ocean Pines woman came by during the coat and toy drives and stopped for a few minutes to talk. Her husband recently passed away and she wanted to donate some of his things, and she also brought a cash donation.

"She said, 'I really love what your club does,' and I told her, if you're looking for something to do, why don't you come by after the New Year to one of our meetings?" Landis said. "I'll tell anyone, come and see what we're all about, and there's no obliga-



FILE PHOTO COURTESY DAVIS LANDIS SR.

From left, Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City Kiwanians Jan and Bob Wolfing with Worcester Youth & Family Services Executive Director Jennifer Leggour pose for a photo at the club's annual luau fundraiser last year at the Sunset Grille in West Ocean City.

tion. Give it a chance and see if it's for you."

He said the club has been around for 43 years and hopefully will be around a lot longer.

"But it's going to take membership to keep us alive and we would really appreciate people just checking us out and seeing if it's a fit for them," Landis said.

The Kiwanis Club meets at 8 a.m., every Wednesday, in the Ocean Pines

Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and coffee and donuts are available. Members pay \$3 toward food, and a 50/50 raffle is available for an additional \$3. Attendance is free for prospective new members.

For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, visit kiwanisofopoc.org or www.facebook.com/servingthechildrenoftheworld.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GOLFING FOR CHARITY

(Right) Ocean City Elks Lodge 2645 Trustee Randy Banbury and Susan Caldwell, PDDGER and esteemed leading knight, pose for a photo during the Bill Thompson Clothing For Kids Golf Tournament at Eagles Landing Golf Course on Dec. 2. The yearly event raised over \$9,000 for the cause. (Left) From left, golfing foursome Gary Reinhold, Nick Schauman, Danny Batchelor, and Tim Grothe are presented 50/50 winnings by Eagles Landing Golf Pro Danny Stearman at the event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

KIWANIS CERTIFICATE

Norbert Violante, left, poses with Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing and a recognition certificate and reward from the club at a recent meeting. Violante helps the Kiwanis club by setting up the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center for the group's weekly meetings.

OPA HONORS STAFF

Five Ocean Pines employees pose together at the annual staff holiday party after members of the Ocean Pines Association recognized them for a combined 70 years of service. The employees that were honored are Ventre Moore, five years; Steve Phillips, five years; Jonathan Brown, 10 years; Kenneth "Butch" Kennedy, 20 years; and Kevin Goldberg, 30 years



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FISHING AWARDS

From left, John McFalls, secretary of the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association, Brian Reynolds, 2023 Ocean Angler of the Year, and Shaun Flaherty, 2023 Bay Angler of the Year, pose with their winnings recently at the organization's annual year-end banquet.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ONLY POSITIVE STORIES

Hunter and Dylan Simons, Founders of Only Positive Stories Inc. and students at Worcester Preparatory School, pose with Tish Ottey, the founder of Hope4Recovery and Home4Hope Therapeutic Solutions, and a pile of Christmas gifts the Simons' shopped for and wrapped for the organizations to give to men in local recovery housing.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MARINE EDUCATION

At the Polish American Club of Delmarva's January meeting, Zeal Goolesby from the MERR Institute hosted a presentation about marine education, research and rehabilitation. (Left) Goolesby gives a presentation about marine education, research and rehabilitation at the meeting. (Right) Steve Lesniewski, the vice president of the Polish American Club of Delmarva, poses with Goolesby during the meeting.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CHURCH DECORATION

From left, Worcester County Garden Club members Marlene Mumford, Cristie Ammann, Jan Owens, Pat Bell, Mary Ellen Jefferson and Joan LaHayne pose outside of St. Martin's Church in Showell after decorating it for the holidays last month,



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

ACAPELLA PERFORMANCE

From left, Kiwanian Pat Lehnerd, Dorothy Shelton, Kiwanian Jim Ulman, and Donna Pasqualino, who make up the acapella quartet The Local Vocals of Ocean Pines, perform holiday tunes during a meeting last month of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Ocean Pines Anglers Club member John McFalls, center, poses with fellow club members and a plaque he recently received for 28 years of service, including the last five as board administrator, with the group.



HONORING 'HONDO'

Al "Hondo" Handy poses with a Certificate of Appreciation from Katrina Purnell, the program chairperson for the Tri-County MLK Coalition, at the 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet Celebration at the Wicomico Civic Center. Handy, who was one of the first Black students to attend Stephen Decatur High, has created a local legacy that includes overcoming major challenges, inspiring youths, and excelling at work, sports and academics. Handy played on SDHS' 1970 championship basketball team, worked for the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department for more than 40 years, published a book and earned countless awards and accolades for his accomplishments.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opinion

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

Berlin should protect its trees, but carefully

I think that I shall never see.

A poem lovely as a tree ...

So wrote American poet Joyce Kilmer in February 1913, as he reportedly looked out the window at his wooded lawn.

This poem, which has been criticized as too simple and has been parodied endlessly, has regained some of its significance in recent years, as the public has become more aware of how trees define a town's or area's image.

Berlin without trees, for instance, might as well be a dot on a map of the treeless Texas Panhandle. And yet, government control of trees on private property remains controversial, which could be why the Berlin mayor and council aren't likely to rush to adopt a tree ordinance as suggested by resident Joan Maloof at last week's planning commission discussion of the comprehensive plan.

She isn't wrong when she argues that the town would lose a vital part of its personality were certain notable specimens to be cut down or bulldozed to make way for new projects. At the same time, however, some property owners would resent this government intrusion on their property rights.

Of course, government already has considerable control over property through zoning, environmental and even architectural regulations. But people have become accustomed to those kinds of restrictions, while a strict tree-protection ordinance would be something different.

Maloof is also correct, however, when she points out that Ocean Pines and Ocean City have tree protection regulations, even though Ocean City's ordinance did not come about without quite a bit of argument.

The key in establishing some kind of protection for trees is not to be ridiculously restrictive, where a big bush brushing against a house can't be taken out by the homeowner without government permission.

Realistically, one way to approach protecting "heritage" specimens would be to institute some kind of quid pro quo program for property owners who have their trees listed as such with the town. No one can complain about that.

OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

Dive into fun: Friday Family Night

OP Sports Core Pool hosts music, games, food, wholesome fun

Mark your calendars and get to make a splash, as the Ocean Pines Aquatics Department hosts Family Fun Night at the Sports Core Pool from 5-8 p.m., Feb. 3.

This aquatic extravaganza promises a trifecta of entertainment featuring music, games and food, perfectly curated for families seeking a night of wholesome fun.

Admission is \$4 for swim members, \$6 for residents, and \$8 for non-residents, while non-swimmers can attend for just \$2. Cash or card payments are accepted.

The pool will close normal operations at 4:30 p.m. Door will open for the event starting at 5 p.m. No reservations are needed. The event is first come, first served.

The Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool is the only year-round pool in the community. The pool and the facility are heated during the winter, and all Ocean Pines amenities are always open to the public.

Additional winter aquatics programs include:

• **Early Bird Lap Swim:** 6-7:50 a.m.; Monday through Friday; Jan. 29 through March 15. Thirty classes over six weeks of

lap swimming – or free swim in the deep end – are included. The cost is free for swim members, \$65 for residents, \$78 for nonresidents, or \$8 for daily drop-ins.

• **Wet Works I & II:** 9:30-10:20 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Jan. 29 through March 15. Enjoy a lively water exercise class and total body workout designed to build core strength and improve balance and flexibility. The cost is \$44 for swim members, \$54 for residents, or \$61 for nonresidents. Daily drop-in fees are \$6 for swim members, \$7 for residents, and \$8 for nonresidents.

• **Adult Aqua Boot Camp:** 6-6:45 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Jan. 29 through March 15. Eighteen classes over six weeks are included. Each workout features weight resistance training and cardio from a retired Army instructor. The cost is \$60 for swim members, \$70 for residents, or \$86 for nonresidents. Daily drop-in fees are \$6 for swim members, \$7 for residents, and \$8 for nonresidents.

For more information, or to register for Ocean Pines Aquatics classes and programs, call 410-641-5255.

Best month ever for sports betting

Revenue calculated in Dec. in Maryland broke record totals

(Jan. 18, 2024) December 2023 was the best month to date for Maryland's sports wagering market, which generated more than \$6.482 million in contributions to the state from a handle of nearly \$600 million.

Each sportsbook contributes 15 percent of its taxable win to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

According to a news release, the contributions from the state's 13 retail, which includes Ocean Downs Casino off Route 611, and 12 mobile sportsbooks topped the \$5.8 million total generated during October. The December handle surpassed the previous mark of more than \$550.7 million in November.

The release said mobile handle accounted for 96.7

percent of the total in December at more than \$541.6. Mobile wagering delivered \$6.166 million in contributions to the state during December, while retail sportsbooks contributed \$316,369.

After a referendum in 2020, Maryland officially launched retail sports betting at brick and mortar casinos across the state in December 2022.

Sports wagering data is tracked and reported based on the state's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. During the first six months of Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 through December 2023), sports wagering contributed nearly \$24.6 million to the state.

The 12 months of calendar year 2023 produced more than \$46.16 million in contributions to the state from sports wagering.

"The numbers we're seeing over the last six to 12 months reflect the matura-

tion of the market," Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director John Martin said in the release. "Initial projections were that sports wagering would generate \$25 million to \$30 million annually for the state as the market was ramping up. We've now had more than a year of mobile wagering, and we expect the annual contribution to settle in at more than \$40 million."

A detailed summary of each sportsbook's December results, including handle, hold percentage, prizes paid, promotional play, taxable win, and contribution to the state, along with a summary of statewide handle and hold by sport is available for download at mdgaming.com.

We invite you to share your opinion, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Congressional hearing on offshore wind set Sat. in OC

U.S. Rep. Andy Harris and other GOP congressmen hosting forum with 'experts'

(Jan. 19, 2024) U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, (MD-01), is hosting a public hearing at 2 p.m. this Saturday in Ocean City on the effects offshore wind industrialization is having on marine life, the environment, and the economy.

The purpose of the hearing is to gauge public testimony from professionals in industries affected by offshore wind, followed by questions from three members of Congress whose districts would be impacted by the effects of proposed projects. A news release said the hearing, which will be held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center on 40th Street in Ocean City, will be conducted as a normal congressional hearing, including "expert" testimony and questioning.

Harris will be joined by U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02), and U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04).

The release said witnesses will be professionals considered "experts" in the fishing industry, environmental and energy policy, the economic impacts of offshore wind, and the local impacts of offshore wind. The individuals were not named.

The release said other witnesses from US Wind, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, were also invited.

The event is open to the public and anyone who wants to attend can RSVP at harris.house.gov/offshore-wind-hearing-rsvp.

The release said plenty of seating is available and doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees are not allowed to distribute promotional materials in the hearing room.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Boats drive into slips in the bay. The next Maryland safe boating course will be held virtually Feb. 6-8.

Md. safe boating course set Feb. 6-8, virtual only platform

(Jan. 18, 2024) The first Maryland safe boating class of 2024 will be held virtually next month.

The three-day course is set from 6-9 p.m. each day, Feb. 6-8.

The course is taught by US Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors. All required material is covered in the interactive setting, with time for questions and student participation.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972, must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state.

People who attend the class and pass the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate, which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to "USCGAUX 12-05" and mailed to: USCGAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811

Payment through PayPal is also accepted.

For more information, or to register, contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

Ocean Downs Casino reports first revenue drop in months

Numbers for December up slightly overall in Md., but local totals down from '22

(Jan. 18, 2024) While overall revenues from Maryland's six casinos was up slightly in December compared to totals from a year ago, Ocean Downs saw its first decrease in months.

According to figures from Maryland Lottery and Gaming, the local casino reported revenues of a little more than \$7 million last month, which was \$195,623, or 2.7 percent, less than December 2022.

Statewide, more than \$165.6 million in revenues from slot machines and table games was reported this

December, an increase of nearly \$455,000, or 0.3 percent from 2022.

Casino gaming contributions totaled nearly \$70.2 million, an increase of more than \$500,000, or 0.7 percent.

Contributions to the Education Trust Fund, which by statute receives money from state gambling revenues, totaled over \$50.6 million, up \$2,141 from 2022.

Ocean Downs joined two other casinos, Horseshoe in Baltimore and Rocky Gap in Allegany County, that reported losses for the month. Maryland's three other casinos — MGM National Harbor, Maryland Live! In Arundel Mills and Hollywood in Perryville — generated more money this December than last.



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OPEN HOUSES

January 18 - 25



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
Sat & Sun, Noon-4pm	Harbor Court, 12801 Memory Lane	3-6BR/3.5-6.5 BA	Single Family	From \$849,900	Kathleen M. Clark/Monogram Realty
Sat & Sun 12:30-2:30pm	36939 Creekhaven Drive, Selbyville	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$835,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	121 81st St. Unit 706, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$815,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-Noon	1 66th Street, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	4201 Coastal Hwy. #608 Ocean City	2 BR/2BA	Condo	\$399,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	12131 Pimlico Lane, Berlin	3 BR/2BA	Single Family	\$699,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	29378 Andrew Jackson Dr., Millsboro, DE	4 BR/2BA	Single Family	\$639,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	14 Sundial Circle, Ocean Pines	3 BR/2BA	Single Family	\$479,900	Cindy Poremski/ BHHS PenFed Realty



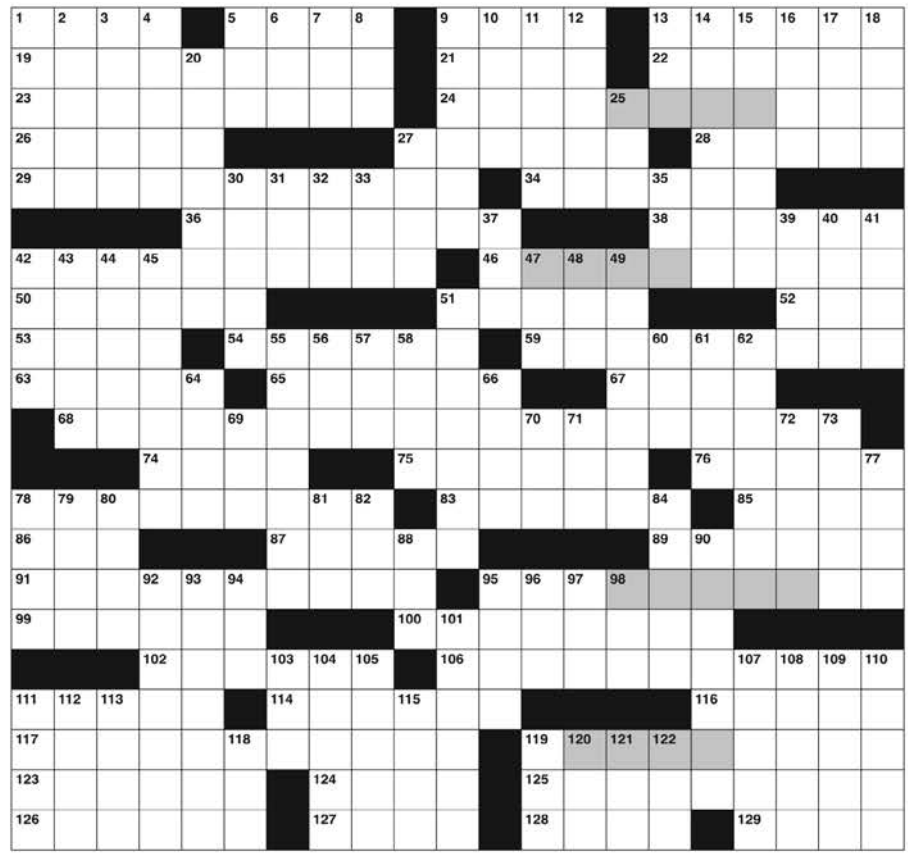
Puzzles

GIMME A SECOND!

BY MICHAEL SCHLOSSBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Michael Schlossberg is an internist in Bend, Ore., who has been making crosswords for The Times since 2020. He got the idea for this one after seeing 68-Across as a title at his local bookstore. Although themeless puzzles are Mike's favorites to solve, he says he doesn't construct them "because I get decision paralysis — they're too much of a blank canvas. I need to have a theme set to build around." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Old man"
 - 5 "Yikes!"
 - 9 Childproof-bottle contents, for short
 - 13 Purchase at a cannabis dispensary
 - 19 "Sounds 'bout right to me"
 - 21 False _____
 - 22 Fine parchment
 - 23 It might be pressed before work
 - 24 It might be pressed before work
 - 26 Post concerned with etiquette
 - 27 "Capeesh?"
 - 28 Up-and-down, as a relationship
 - 29 Internet harvesting tool
 - 34 "On Photography" author Susan
 - 36 1918-2004 Fenway Park phenomenon, familiarly
 - 38 Nothing-doing?
 - 42 They're home to spinners
 - 46 They're home to spinners
 - 50 Luxury fashion label
 - 51 1990s workout fad
 - 52 "The Racer's Edge" sloganeer
 - 53 Says, informally
- DOWN**
- 54 Bay Area gallery, for short
 - 59 Late winter/early spring, weatherwise
 - 63 "_____ and the Night Visitors" (opera)
 - 65 Fragrant bloomers
 - 67 Animal that becomes a plant if spelled backward
 - 68 Bandleader's urging _____ or an alternative title for this puzzle
 - 74 New _____
 - 75 Guides
 - 76 Athleisure portmanteau
 - 78 Certain beach top
 - 83 Snooty
 - 85 Many a Yemeni
 - 86 Piece de resistance?
 - 87 Tourney round
 - 89 Some goofs
 - 91 One sailing through long passages
 - 95 One sailing through long passages
 - 99 Ready and waiting
 - 100 Gadgets for truckers
 - 102 Porterhouse alternatives
 - 106 Inspiration for many a lottery pick
 - 111 Shame, e.g.
 - 114 The yoke's on them
 - 116 Chuck _____, TV director/producer who's known as the King of Sitcoms
 - 117 Target of many a viral marketing campaign
 - 119 Target of many a viral marketing campaign
 - 123 Lead role in 1978's "La Cage aux Folles"
 - 124 Kind of terrier
 - 125 Exclamation after a rescue
 - 126 Warm coat
 - 127 Dash
 - 128 Measurable impact, so to speak
 - 129 Bad news for an investor
- DOWN**
- 1 Spoke (up)
 - 2 Petrichor, n.: The pleasant _____ of rainfall on dry soil
 - 3 Bird also known as a lapwing
 - 4 150-mile-per-hour train
 - 5 Dawn figure, in myth
 - 6 Bovid named for the sound it makes
 - 7 "_____ was saying ..."
 - 8 Part of an ellipsis
 - 9 Skinflints
 - 10 Novelist Ferber
 - 11 Subject of a subway announcement
 - 12 Remedy for a blink-and-you-missed-it moment
 - 13 First lady?
 - 14 Start of a classic request for advice
 - 15 Bad reasoning
 - 16 Rap's _____ Chyna
 - 17 Hang in the shadows
 - 18 TV award
 - 20 Actress Ritter of "Jessica Jones"
 - 25 Serene, informally
 - 27 For the lady
 - 30 Country singer Stapleton
 - 31 Remote-button abbr.
 - 32 Hotshot
 - 33 Place for a porter
 - 35 Clip-on, for one
 - 37 Superfund grp.
 - 39 Bit of slander
 - 40 Titan who gave birth on Delos
 - 41 Disney subsidiary
 - 42 Story that isn't a quick read
 - 43 BOGO, e.g.
 - 44 Words after a verbal gaffe
 - 45 Accessory for a ride-share vehicle
 - 47 _____ cycle
 - 48 "Aladdin" sidekick
 - 49 Amazing woman, slangily
 - 51 "Agricola" author
 - 55 Petal pusher?
 - 56 Peace, in Russian
 - 57 Stadium cheer
 - 58 Big mouths
 - 60 "Told you so!"
 - 61 Ursine : bears :: anguilliform : _____
 - 62 Dakota tribe
 - 64 Staying power
 - 66 Part of a process
 - 69 "I've seen better"
 - 70 Cool, back in the day
 - 71 "Good" day: Abbr.
 - 72 Santa-tracking org.
 - 73 Really annoy, with "on"
 - 77 Lift type
 - 78 Just ... all right
 - 79 Info in a party invitation
 - 80 Apple variety
 - 81 Stephen of "Michael Collins"
 - 82 "Eww! Enough!"
 - 84 Bittern, e.g.
 - 88 Bimonthly business magazine
 - 90 Election-night news
 - 92 Plant that may be mistaken for a dandelion
 - 93 Landlocked province
 - 94 Grp. once led by Arafat
 - 95 Kind of lily
 - 96 Hoover, for one, in brief
 - 97 "No idea," in a text
 - 98 Like Ikea furniture assembly, for short
 - 101 Sports jacket
 - 103 "As if!"
 - 104 Live and breathe
 - 105 Feed
 - 107 Storybook ending?
 - 108 "Nice job!"
 - 109 People of western New York
 - 110 Sunders
 - 111 Tourist mecca in southern Asia
 - 112 "Never _____ Kissed" (1999 Drew Barrymore film)
 - 113 Part of A.D.
 - 115 Singer with the album "Watermark"
 - 118 Hunky-dory
 - 119 Email-chain abbr.
 - 120 Min Jin _____, author of the 2017 best seller "Pachinko"
 - 121 You can dispense with this
 - 122 Complete collection



- 72 Santa-tracking org.
- 73 Really annoy, with "on"
- 77 Lift type
- 78 Just ... all right
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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 55

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

H	I	M	I	D	L	E	E	S	S	F	E	T	A						
A	D	A	M	E	A	N	T	S	H	A	K	A	O	R	A	L	B		
H	E	R	B	I	V	O	R	E	P	O	R	E	B	R	O	K	E	R	
A	S	I	A	N	S	I	N	E	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V	E			
S	T	E	L	L	A	C	A	P	U	T	O	A	L	E	A	E	R		
L	O	T	I	O	N	S	R	O	B	L	A	D	S						
P	O	P	V	I	D	T	Y	P	E	D	U	P	L	O	H	A	N		
S	P	I	C	E	T	E	A	C	O	E	G	R	U	H	O	S	E		
H	E	P	A	N	I	G	H	T	F	O	O	T	B	A	T	H	S		
A	R	E	N	A	T	R	E	O	L	F	O	C	I	A					
W	A	T	E	R	B	I	L	L	S	S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E	S
K	A	T	I	E	O	T	B	S	L	G	A	M	E						
T	H	A	T	S	L	I	F	E	C	A	S	A	S	G	H	E	E		
M	A	Y	O	L	E	T	B	A	R	G	O	B	E	Y	O	N	D		
I	N	C	U	R	S	E	R	A	P	E	S	R	A	Y	E	D			
A	R	A	B	D	E	L	W	E	A	S	L	E	Y						
D	I	R	N	O	R	L	L	B	E	A	N	L	I	S	T	I	C		
I	C	A	N	T	D	E	C	I	D	E	O	N	O	N	E	W	T	O	
T	I	M	E	S	S	Q	U	A	R	E	A	R	E						
Z	E	B	R	A	S	E	N	O	R	K	A	T	S	U	I	R	E		
R	A	F	T							T	P	S	L	O	O	P	N	O	N

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. 18

JOE GATTO'S NIGHT OF COMEDY

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Joe Gatto, comedian, actor and producer, is best known for "Impractical Jokers." Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/30609874/joe-gattos-night-of-comedy-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME 'EARLY ONE MORNING'

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

STORY TIME: WINTER CLOTHES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for story time all about what keeps us warm during the winter. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MOBILE MENTOR

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

THE JOY OF OWNING A SMALL BUSINESS IN RETIREMENT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Mike Healy, owner and Tour Director of Celtic RnR Tours, will present how to start your own travel business in retirement. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. Register: 410-641-7052.

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.

ZUMBA

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

Fri., Jan. 19

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

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR MOTHER IS A WITCH' BY RIVKA GALCHEN

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Berlin Library circulation desk. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Puerto Real's Upstairs Bar, 104 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Held every third Friday. Free entry. 443-234-5145, puertorealtacos&cantina, www.puertorealtacos.com

BINGO FOR BABIES

Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30 p.m. All profits go to "BINGO For Babies" for the Grace Center. Play every game for a base price of \$25. Cash prizes awarded. Jackpot game is worth \$1,000. Doors open at 5 p.m. Refreshments available.

Sat., Jan. 20

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

Visit Atlantic General Hospital's Facebook page at 9 a.m. to watch a brief health topic discussion. Then go for a walk and share a selfie on social media using #WalkedWithAGH. 410-641-9268.

OP PLATFORM SEASON OPEN PLAY

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 9:30 a.m. Every Saturday through January. For new players to meet and play with veteran players and director. Tim Johnson, 410-641-7228

SING-A-LONG WITH SAM

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Sing along with Sam Eddington as he shares traditional kids songs in some fantastically fun and interactive ways. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DEFYING EXPECTATIONS WITH AL 'HONDO' HANDY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Al

"Hondo" Handy will talk about his book and career as one of Worcester County's greatest coaches. Books will be available for purchase and signing. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., Jan. 21

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Jan. 22

STORY TIME: 'BEARS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and a craft about hibernating bears. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health & psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., Jan. 23

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Atlantic General Hospital's Cafeteria, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. 1-3 p.m. Volunteers run errands for staff, process and sort mail, work at the information desk, help with administrative tasks, Thrift Shop and more. Apply online: www.atlanticgeneral.org/volunteer.

CLAY AND PLAY

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

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

STEAM DREAMERS: SNOW STORM IN JAR

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Make your every own snow storms and hypothesize how this craft works. For ages 6-12 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

Wed., Jan. 24

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 19

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Stop by and interact with the many resource vendors from our community. Visit all table for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to Food Lion. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GRANDPARENT'S CLASS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This program reviews current guidance, including Infant Safe Sleep, Car Seat Safety Basics, and Infant Nutrition. Pre-register by calling 410-632-1100, Ext. 1126.

MEMOIR WRITING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Gail Samis, retired literature and writing professor, teaches how to write your story. 410-641-0650, 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

CHARITY BINGO NIGHT

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Cards will sell for \$2 each to win some amazing prizes. Cash only. Benefiting the Grace Center for Material and Women's Health.

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

THANK A VETERAN WITH A VALENTINE CARD

Cards and candy will be delivered by Copy Central staff. Please address cards to: "A Veteran." Homemade cards are appreciated. No postage necessary. No youth cards. Drop off locations in Ocean Pines: Shamrock Realty Group, Copy Central, Ocean Pines Library and Ocean

Pines Community Center. Deadlines is Feb. 2. Sponsored by Caring for America.

2024 JUST WALK CHALLENGE

Get the most miles of physical activity between Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 and be crowned the Just Walk Worcester Champion of 2024. Sign-up for Just Walk Worcester and report your monthly miles: <https://justwalkworcester.org/>. 410-632-1100, Ext. 1110

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.

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus

Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitaly-oceancity.com

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA

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

KIWANIS 2024 "LOTTERY RAFFLE" TICKETS ON SALE

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

'SAVE OUR STORIES'

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



New Home Build

APPLICATION ROUND OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 31

Habitat Worcester is building a 3BR 2 BA Home in Bishopville!

- Accepting inquiries for our Build Program January 17th - January 31st only
- Begin by reviewing the eligibility guidelines on our website to make sure you meet the preliminary requirements before inquiring
- If you meet the requirements email: families@habitatworcester.org to schedule a preliminary interview by January 31st.
- Applicants who move into the full application round and supply all required documentation in a timely manner will be given first consideration

See if you qualify at habitatworcester.org, then send an email to families@habitatworcester.org to begin your application by January 31!



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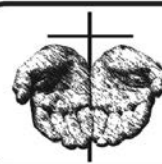
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Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

RENTALS

RENTALS

DONATIONS



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is Hiring Program Coordinator

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of the waters and landscape surrounding Maryland's Coastal Bays. As one of 28 National Estuary Programs throughout the country, MCBP relies on a broad partnership of individuals, organizations and agencies, representing numerous stakeholders

and interested parties. Through its programs, staff and partners, MCBP undertakes collaborative restoration, research, monitoring and education.

About the Position: The Program Coordinator is a regular full-time position whose responsibility is to coordinate with partner organizations to further the implementation and reporting of the MCBP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). This position will also support efforts for program development, grant acquisition and some outreach activities. MCBP is interested in interviewing individuals with broad watershed science experience and the technical skills required for planning, writing and implementing activities pertaining to watershed management, public outreach, and development.

The ideal candidate has a firm understanding of watershed ecology, from both the land and bays perspective, and has a well-developed understanding of the science that drives good resource management. The Program Coordinator develops operational plans for CCMP objectives and tracks and reports their progress. This position has significant grant writing and grant administration responsibilities and may oversee contractors and/or an employee.

Compensation: Salary is dependent upon experience. This position is eligible for enrollment in an employee funded 403b retirement plan and health care programs. The position will receive holiday, vacation, personal and sick leave.

To Apply: Please submit a cover letter stating your qualifications and interest along with a resume. These documents must be submitted digitally. References will be required upon request.

Please Send Applications To: admin@mdcoastalbays.org

All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, genetic information and marital or familial status.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is an equal opportunity employer.

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
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Classifieds
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www.baysideoc.com
www.oceancitytoday.com
~~~~~  
Classifieds Deadline is 5pm Monday

**YR Rental WOC 1BD/1BA,** 1 den unfurnished - 3rd floor unit above antique woodwork - big sundeck with lots of privacy - all hardwood floor and unique woodwork, laundry facility on second floor below unit, \$1450 + utilities, pets extra, deposit required.  
**John, 410-726-0075,**  
[jsollins111@comcast.net](mailto:jsollins111@comcast.net)

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**410-456-0272**

**WOC - YR Rental - 5BR,** 3.5BA, 3600 sq. ft. on pond. \$2950/month and one months security plus utilities. **Contact Lou,**  
**410-713-0065.**

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**Seeking To Rent.** Long term, year-round, unfurnished, 2BR/2BA, ground floor. Ocean City/Ocean Pines area. Great references. **410-726-0169**

### ROOMMATES

**Seeking Roommate to share home Bayview Estates, Selbyville, De.** 5.7 miles to beach. \$850/month, all inclusive. Private bedroom, shared bath, kitchen, living areas, outdoor space, W/D, with community pool.  
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**Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) and [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)**

**Do you have an old bicycle not being used?** It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. **Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.**

### AUCTIONS

**The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com. Ocean City Mini Storage.**

Units to be auctioned: B28-B42-B89-O27-O51-O56-O151-O175-O165-O164-S6-S32-S35-S188-S189-S747-S785-S211. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

**Date: Friday, January 26th, 2024**  
**Time: 10:00 am**

**This will be an online auction. Please go to [Lockerfox.com](http://Lockerfox.com) and register.**

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions regarding the online auction.

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**410-723-6397**  
**By Monday,**  
**5 p.m.**

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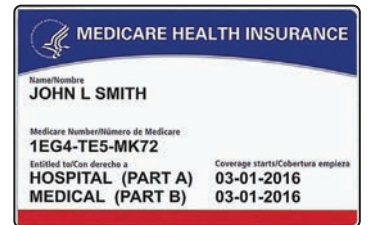


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