



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### FREE SEATING

A light blanket of snow covers the golf course in Ocean Pines after a dusting last week. The recent frigid weather allowed the frosting to remain for days, but climbing temperatures eventually cleared the area.

## Berlin picks demo work contractor

Heron Park low bid comes in well below grant amount

By Charlene Sharpe  
Contributing Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Demolition work at Heron Park in Berlin is expected to start within 30 days following selection of a contractor this week.

The Berlin Town Council on Monday accepted a \$112,715 bid from JNT Enterprises for the demolition of three sections of the former processing plant at Heron Park. Company representatives are also expected to provide the town with a price for demolishing even more of the old building. Elected officials want to clear as much of the site as they can with the town's \$500,000 strategic demolition grant.

**'We're not trying to be difficult we're just trying to fully expend the grant.'**

— Mayor Zack Tyndall

"We're not trying to be difficult we're just trying to fully expend the grant," Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

Earlier this month, the town received two bids in response to a request for proposals (RFP) for the demolition of the middle section of the old processing building. The town asked for prices on tearing down sections one and two of the structure, the portions in the worst condition, as well as prices for adding in section three. Including alternates, Reynolds Excavating bid \$452,500 and JNT Enterprises bid \$112,715.

Officials acknowledged the disparity in bids this week. Justin Miller of JNT Enterprises said he could only speak for the proposal he'd submitted.

"We cut you a fair price," he said. "That's what we were going for."

See PARK Page 7

## Strategic plan talks reveal fears

East Berlin residents say pressure to sell continues to rise in neighborhoods

By Cindy Hoffman  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) The bitter cold outside last Wednesday night did not dissuade dozens of residents from venturing out to talk about the Town of Berlin's strategic plan at St. Paul's Church on Flower Street.

More than 40 people spoke about affordable housing, traffic, gentrification and other long-term issues during a town hall meeting hosted by Salisbury University's BEACON, the

group hired to support the town in updating its strategic plan.

BEACON'S John Hickman walked residents through a typical analysis of the town's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, with the audience agreeing that strengths included a strong community spirit, the historic neighborhoods, arts and free entertainment, the low crime rate, parks and schools. They also highlighted diversity and the compassion neighbors have for each other.

Residents also said they appreciated that they personally know their local elected officials and town employees. In that regard, council members Shaneka Nichols, Jack Orris,

Steve Green, and Jay Knerr and Police Chief Arnold Downing attended the meeting.

As for weaknesses, residents highlighted their belief that there are "two Berlins" (one Black and one White) divided by Route 113, or, as one woman called it, the "segregation highway."

Even so, some East Berlin residents said they feared gentrification of their neighborhoods.

"Gentrification' is a heavy word. It carries heavy implications." Gabe Purnell said.

Numerous residents confirmed that people have come to their doors and

See SAFETY Page 4

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# OPA numbers favorable for December, revenues strong

Golf, Public Works and Rec and Parks perform well, reserve balance healthy

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola provided an update on the association's financials at the January board meeting on Saturday.

For the month of December, the budget was favorable by \$121,000. Revenue came in at \$39,000 more than budgeted and expenses came in favorable by \$82,000.

Golf was favorable by \$37,000, Public Works by \$24,000 and Rec and Parks by \$19,000.

Viola reported that the association's workforce is fully staffed except for positions in the police department. He anticipates being fully staffed with lifeguards for the summer as well.

"The bottom line is we are doing well, and a lot of it is revenue," Viola said.

Year-to-date numbers showed OPA operating in the black by \$833,000, with revenue \$732,000 ahead of budget projections and expenses coming in \$101,000 less than projected.

"There has been a lot of repurpose and reallocation of expenses and the proof of that is all the things everybody is getting done," Viola said.

The reserve balance as of Dec. 2023 is \$8.7 million. Viola forecasted \$7 million in reserves by April 30.

Delivering the treasurer's report, Director Monica Rakowski said the association had approximately \$15.7 million in cash as of Dec. 31, 2023. Cash increased about \$600,000 from the same time period last year. Cash decreased about \$1.1 million from Nov. 2023.

The association has \$11.3 million invested in CDAR's, with \$53,000 in interest income recognized for the month. The remaining \$4.4 million is in insured cash sweep, treasury bills, money market and other operating accounts, diversified between two local banks.

## Ocean Pines Briefs

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Members of the Ocean Pines Association approved and discussed the following matters at their regular monthly meeting last Saturday:

### Latham joins Vet board

Association Director John Latham has been appointed to the board of directors for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

Latham is a United States Marine Corps veteran and serves as secretary of the association's board of directors.

### OPA budget town hall

A review and discussion of the FY25 OPA budget will be held at 11 a.m., Feb. 7, at the clubhouse meet-

ing room.

General Manager John Viola will host the meeting, and homeowners are invited to attend and ask questions about the budget.

Residents can join the meeting remotely.

The meeting will also be recorded and posted to the Ocean Pines website, oceanpines.org.

To view the proposed budget, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/finance.

### OP Kickoff Expo approved

The board approved the inaugural event, which will highlight activities, clubs and businesses in the community. It is set for 3-7 p.m., April 20, at White Horse Park. The event is expected to be revenue neutral.



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### Correction

A story about the Ocean Pines budget process in the Jan. 18, 2023, edition incorrectly attributed quotes by Amy Peck to Sherrie Clifford.

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RELIABLE & LOCAL NEWS



# Safety crossing Route 113 resident concern

Continued from Page 1

asked to buy their homes or have received offers regularly in the mail. That has left them wondering if there is an effort to push out anyone below a certain income level, these residents said.

Council member Nichols replied that she felt threatened and violated by these aggressive tactics and told residents they should tell these people to cease and desist.

"One mega mansion and you are done," Purnell said.

Residents agreed that affordable housing and local businesses should be encouraged on the east side of Berlin.

One man noted that there were several businesses on the east side in the 1980s, but those have all disappeared and the planning commission nixed the latest mixed use development proposal.

That developer, Karbyte Enterprises LLC, came back to the commission with a revised proposal for a housing development at the intersection of Route 113 and Germantown Road that omitted the mixed use and proposed townhouses. The prices, however, were in the \$400,000 range, which residents agreed were beyond their means.

East Berlin residents also expressed frustration with the tax rate



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Residents turned out last Wednesday to discuss the strategic plan for the Town of Berlin. Concerns ranged from gentrification to taxes and sidewalks.

and did not feel that they were getting the services they expect for the money they pay. Some felt their tax money was going to the promotion of local businesses in the downtown area and not to support their community.

Joining east and west Berlin was a priority for residents. There was agreement that the town needed some sort of safe walkway or bridge that could allow bikers and walkers to

safely cross Route 113 to connect the two communities.

Other areas of concern mentioned during the conversation included the need to address the stormwater problems throughout town and the need for more sidewalks and trails.

But it was affordability of housing and commercial development that dominated the discussion. One resident suggested that the town should define what affordable housing is and

others suggested a small commercial district in East Berlin. Another resident, noting that many residents in East Berlin are older and on fixed incomes, suggested that the tax rate be reduced for these citizens.

BEACON has conducted surveys and hosted two town halls to gather opinions from residents for the strategic plan, which will guide spending and policy decisions for the next three to five years.

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## Pedestrian safety tops list of transportation priorities

By Charlene Sharpe  
Contributing Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Various projects aimed at increasing pedestrian safety highlight the Town of Berlin's annual transportation priority list.

On Monday, the Town Council approved a letter that will be sent to the Worcester County Commissioners outlining the projects municipal officials would like to see as transportation priorities. Officials are requesting sidewalks on Route 346, crosswalks in various locations and a pedestrian bridge over Route 113.

"I think it's important to continue to stress the needs," Councilman Steve Green said.

Mayor Zack Tyndall presented the council this week with the draft of a letter to the commissioners listing the town's transportation priorities so that they could be included in Worcester County's State Transportation Priorities in 2024. The letter outlines the need for a pedestrian bridge over Route 113, a traffic signal at Route 50 and Route 818, sidewalks on Route 346 (Old Ocean City Boulevard), safety improvements at the Route 818 and Route 346 intersection and crosswalks in multiple locations.

"The creation of Route 113 divided the Town of Berlin," the letter reads. "Residents who live west of Route 113 have access to the town's only grocery store, healthcare providers, Town Hall and Worcester County library without having to cross a major highway. However, the residents who live east of Route 113 lack safe access to these vital services."

Councilman Jay Knerr asked if a crossing timer could be included in the crosswalk requested for the intersection at Route 346 and Route 113. Police Chief Arnold Downing said Maryland State Highway Administration officials were already planning on doing one there.

Green pointed out the list was similar to the one submitted last year.

"I think it's good to beat the same drum," he said.

Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols said she'd like to see sidewalks in front of the police station on Decatur Street. Tyndall responded that the list only addressed requests being made for state roads.

"The letter before us ... it's our request as far as state projects," he said.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the letter, which will now be sent to the commissioners.



# OPA general manager gives report to board

Construction at Yacht Club, racquet sports, and South Gate Pond top priorities

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola provided updates to the board of directors on the priority projects in the community at its January meeting on Saturday.

- **Yacht Club Tiki Bar:** Viola said this a top priority. The electrical, plumbing and interior site plans were done by Vista Design and will be sent to the county along with the construction company information. The project is expected to be completed by Memorial Day, according to Viola.

- **Budget Fiscal Year 24/25:** The OPA board has sent the general manager changes to the budget based on its discussions. The board will vote on the budget at the Feb. 17 board meeting. The budget has a lower property assessment, increased spending, increased reserves, and a strong balance sheet, said Viola, who wants to make sure to stay on track for the next three to five years.

- **Racquet Sports Building Renovation:** Vista will start drawings for the center and discussions have taken place with the contractor. There was water damage to the building during the recent heavy rains. This was addressed by Public Works, but permanent repairs will be made during the renovation.

- **Pavilion at Veterans Memorial:** Preliminary drawings are in development and dialogue has started with the contractor.

- **South Gate Pond:** A soft shoreline project will install grasses and native flowers around the pond. The project will start on the Route 589 side, where there is the most erosion, according to Viola. Efforts to protect turtles in the pond will also be a part of the project. Fishing access will remain at the pond.

A federal grant for up to \$150,000 has been secured, with \$50,000 for design and \$100,000 for plantings. OPA will submit invoices for reimbursement. The plan has been sent to EPA and Maryland Coastal Bays Program will assist in the development of an RFP. "There will be additional costs in future phases, but we believe there will be additional funding available for those phases," Viola said.

- **Seasonal banners:** Because of the positive feedback by residents to the



General Manager John Viola provided updates to the board during the Saturday board meeting. From left, Bruce Bright, legal counsel for OPA, Viola and Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin.

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

holiday banners, new banners are being designed to promote OPA amenities and highlight the seasons and holidays.

- **Reserve Study:** A reserve study by an outside contractor will be conducted by January 2025, as required by law. The association has been selected as a beta tester for the DMA navigator portal for updates to the study. The association will get a break in the cost for being a beta tester. The goal is to have 30 percent in reserves, which equals about \$7 million. Previously, the board approved 23-28 percent as the goal, which has been met.

- **Dog Park:** Agility equipment has been placed at the park. There was a request by Patti Stevens to move the gazebo at the Veterans Memorial Park to the Dog Park so there is shelter for people who bring their dogs on rainy days. Viola said the garden club has requested the gazebo as well, so

Public Works may build one for the dog park.

- **Maintenance:** Public works has been conducting maintenance at the beach and yacht clubs, including restoring counters and making repairs to flooring and drywall.

**Signs:** Per recommendations from the Rec and Parks Committee, signs have been ordered for all parks, including directional, walking trails, adopt-a-park, curb your dog and playground rules.

- **Trash Collection:** The contract with Republic Services has been renewed for three more years. New trash containers will be provided for residences within the next few months. Special leaf collections will occur on Nov. 9, 16 and 23 and Dec. 7, 14 and 21. All leaves must be in paper bags for pick-up and there will be no limit to the number of bags. Republic will continue to collect four bags of leaves during its regular weekly pick-ups.

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RELIABLE & LOCAL NEWS



# Resignation leaves racquet sports in limbo

## Ten percent increase for pickleball being considered by board in next budget

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Racquet Sports in Ocean Pines will continue on after the second departure of the director, Tim Johnson, whose abrupt resignation was announced by the Ocean Pines Association last Wednesday.

“The GM is evaluating the structure of the team at Racquet Sports. We’re confident the operation will continue to be a benefit to Ocean Pines homeowners, and we’ll announce more details as they arise,” read a statement provided by the public relations office.

Johnson resigned once before and was brought back and promoted to director, reporting directly to General Manager John Viola. His tenure was less than one year.

“It’s a shame,” said Cathy Noble, the chair of the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee.

She hopes the decision makers will identify a replacement who has experience with pickleball, the most popular and financially beneficial of all the racquet sports in Ocean Pines.

She also suggested that the person



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pickleball players fill an outdoor court in Ocean Pines. The sport is the most popular of the racquet sports played in the community.

have experience with running pickleball tournaments, which can bring in a lot of money and be familiar with league play. Noble also thinks the position should remain at the director level.

In the meantime, Noble is focused on next year’s budget. She said she is concerned about the potential of a 10 percent increase for pickleball membership that is being considered by the board, with no increase for the other racquet sports. She thinks a

more equitable option is to increase all the memberships by 3 percent and raise the drop-in rate by 10 percent.

In the committee’s annual report to the board in preparation for the budget process, it requested a portapotty be placed in the back area, near the Pickleball courts, since the bathrooms are a distance away from the back courts. Apparently, that has led to many members relieving themselves in the trees and bushes.

The report also suggested that

drinking water access, which was discontinued during the covid-19 pandemic, be restored at the pickleball and tennis courts. It also called for an industrial court-drying machine that can be useful during tournaments, more shade structures, temporary tournament quality nets and lighting for night play.

The committee also suggested providing the option of a two-sport combo membership. Currently, there is a one- or three-sport option.

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A cone blocks off the entrance to Heron Park in Berlin.

# Park contractor asks what else could possibly be done

Continued from Page 1

Council members were eager to know what JNT Enterprises would charge for knocking down even more of the old processing plant. Miller said he'd have to run the numbers and could provide cost estimates in a couple weeks.

Andrew Welch of Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc. pointed out that no one yet knew the foundation conditions workers would find on the portion of the building that will be left closer to the road and the portion of the building more toward the back of the property once the middle section was torn down.

Councilman Steve Green said JNT Enterprises had come highly recommended.

"The value we're going to get out of this work is welcome," he said.

Tyndall said town officials were grateful to receive the two bids that were submitted for the demolition, which has been discussed for years.

"We're really looking forward to working together on the project," he said.

After the council accepted the bid, Councilman Jack Orris asked about the future of Heron Park.

"We probably should decide what we want to do with this property," he said.

Green said if the town sold the land outright it would have no say in what was done with the property after that.

David Gaskill, the town attorney, said if officials wanted to try selling the land again, the best way to do that was by seeking proposals. He said that while an RFP wasn't required it would give officials more influence on the future of the property.

"I think the RFP process if you want control is cleaner," he said.

Tyndall said it was too early to begin drafting an RFP since officials didn't yet know how much of the processing plant would end up being demolished.

"I think we need those add-ons first so we have a clear idea of what we're doing. I think we're at least 45 days out before we can start shaping an RFP," he said.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen agreed and said the town was about to start the budget development process.

"There's still a lot to be done," Bohlen said.

# Community will get update on Jenkins Point restoration

By **Bethany Hooper**  
Contributing Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program, or MCBP, will host a meeting on the Jenkins Point restoration project on Monday, as community members will be updated on the project and asked their opinion of a revised design.

The 6 p.m. meeting will take place in the Ocean Pines Clubhouse, Association President Rick Farr said during last Saturday's board meeting. "There will be more news on that on social media, so take a peek at that for those details."

In 2020, MCBP applied for funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to reestablish the eroding Jenkins Point Peninsula, in the Isle of Wight Bay just offshore of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. As part of that effort, the agency also approached the association with plans to pursue grant funding for the project.

While MCBP was not successful in its quest for a grant, officials were encouraged to reapply. And later that year, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors voted to provide a \$10,000 cost share as part of the reapplication process.

In 2022, Maryland DNR announced MCBP was awarded funds for the project. In a meeting last May, coastal bays Executive Director Kevin Smith said \$62,000 would be used to proceed with the design and permitting phase.

"If everything were to fall together perfectly, we could potentially be under construction for a project like this in December of 2024," he said at the time.

Once an unbroken peninsula, Jenkins Point is now a fragmented strip that includes two small islands near Ocean Pines and other waterfront communities near the Route 90 bridge.

Officials say once it is restored to its original state, Jenkins Point has the potential to protect residential properties and community infrastructure in those areas filled with residential development and recreational amenities, including the Yacht Club, the Osprey Point condominium community and the Pines Point community.

A link to attend the meeting virtually can be found on the association's website. The meeting will also be recorded and available for viewing at a later date.

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# Property maintenance priority for OP board

### Residents who received two notices will lose access to all amenities, voting rights

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) Most properties in Ocean Pines are well maintained, but some can be an eyesore. Ocean Pines Association Director Elaine Brady has made addressing those properties a priority.

During the elections, Brady noted that she and other candidates heard repeatedly that a clean-up of properties was a priority for residents.

“We took it very seriously.”

The association has been aggressive in helping to alleviate the problem, said Brady, who blamed the problem on not enough staff to address the issue.

“We want this community, as it ages, to continue with the charm and the look of the community and make sure that we are all proud. We need people to be good neighbors and if you are not, we will take care of the problem,” Brady said.

During the January board meeting on Saturday, Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin rattled off a list of addresses that have received

first and second notices for violations, including stop work orders, trailers, unregistered or junk vehicles and vehicle parking, paint colors, trash, leaves, and lack of permits.

The board members agreed to send all violations that have received a second notice to the association’s legal advisors and to suspend the parties’ access to all amenities and voting rights. Altogether, 144 properties had violations as of the end of the year.

During the meeting, the board heard the first reading of revisions to the Architectural Review Committee Guidelines. Some sections that will be clarified relate to the requirements

for permits, which must come from the county and Ocean Pines.

Other issues that will be addressed include fencing materials, community appearance, current property surveys and site plans when residents ask for variances. The committee is also trying to make it clear to people what they need to know prior to coming before the ARC committee.

Tree removal, fill and grading of new properties will also be addressed in the updates.

The changes have already been reviewed by the Bylaws Advisory Committee and the updates will go to legal counsel for review.

# Sewer system smoke testing Jan. 29-Feb. 2

### Several neighborhoods in Ocean Pines will undergo assessment to look for gas

(Jan. 25, 2024) Staff with the Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater Division will conduct smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system Jan. 29-Feb. 2 in several Ocean Pines neighborhoods.

The testing is planned for Hingham Lane, Links Lane, Greens Court, Bunker Court, and Dog Leg Court.

A news release said the study will involve opening and entering manholes in the streets and public utility easements to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke will also reveal where storm and other surface water enters the sewer system.

A specified, non-toxic type of smoke will be used in the tests. It leaves no residuals or stains and has

no effect on plant or animal life. The smoke is visible and has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor that should last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in homes and buildings are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter facilities in the following instances:

- Vents connected to a building’s sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed, or miss-

ing.

• Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

The smoke test can reveal the presence, if any, of sewer gas, which can be dangerous and a health risk to occupants.

In the event that smoke enters a home or business, contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area or by contacting the division between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 410-641-5251.

# Assateague Island National Seashore announces award

(Jan. 25, 2024) Assateague Island National Seashore recently announced the winners of the annual Assateague Island Superintendent’s Award, and Assateague Island Safety Award.

According to a news release from the organization, the superintendent’s award is given to an employee or employees who have performed “above and beyond” during the previous year. The safety award is given to an employee who has made a major contribution to the safety program or the safety culture of the park. The winner is chosen from peer nomina-

tions.

Lauren Kramer received the 2023 Assateague Island National Seashore Superintendent’s Award.

Kramer serves as the geographic information system specialist for Assateague Island National Seashore. Her work includes developing and managing spatial data sets that are used for creating digital maps and for other environmental research.

Kramer also implements the seashore’s beach and shoreline change monitoring program, which includes collecting field measure-

See PEERS Page 10

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# Lower Shore Land Trust hires new, experienced exec. direc.

Matt Heim set to officially take over Feb 1 for Kate Patton, who retired last year

(Jan. 25, 2024) The Lower Shore Land Trust recently named Matt Heim as the next executive director.

Heim, who will officially take over the position Feb. 1, brings nearly 20 years of nonprofit experience to the organization, the majority of which was based in local environmental initiatives.

After spending several years in Memphis, Tennessee, managing a network of community gardens and urban farms, Heim and his wife Sara returned home to the Eastern Shore, where Sara became the assistant director of the ShoreCorps AmeriCorps program at Salisbury University. A news release said Heim quickly rose to the forefront of environmental issues as the leader of a local campaign in opposition to offshore drilling for oil and gas in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Heim went on to serve as the first director of the One Water Partnership program at Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, which engages faith communities in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.

In 2022, Heim joined Delmarva Public Media as the deputy general manager and director of development, through which he oversaw the establishment of partnerships with the Bay Journal and helped produce several environmentally focused programs.

The release said Heim's experience over the years has involved managing multi-million-dollar budgets, overseeing fundraising campaigns and developing a strong grant writing track record. He has run successful environmental advocacy campaigns that brought together diverse stakeholders from across the political spectrum and has worked for and with multiple lower shore environmental organizations. Heim's educa-



PHOTO COURTESY LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST  
**Matt Heim, the new executive director of the Lower Shore Land Trust, poses for a photo. Heim will take over the position Feb. 1, filling the shoes of longtime director Kate Patton who retired last year.**

tional background has focused on the environmental history of the lower shore, giving him a long-range view of landscape change.

"We were impressed not only with his background and experience, but with the seriousness with which Heim researched the organization," Search Committee Chair and Board Chair Michael Lewis, said of Heim in the release. "In addition to his experience, Heim articulated a carefully thought-out agenda for the leadership transition at the Land Trust, which illustrated both his values, vision, and practical organizational skills."

Heim will succeed long-time Executive Director Kate Patton, who announced her retirement last year after 18 years.

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# Assateague State Park gets funds for horse safety signs

## Pocomoke River State Park receives grant for Scales & Tales aviary rehabilitation

(Jan. 25, 2024) The Friends of Maryland State Parks recently awarded 24 grants totaling nearly \$41,800 to parks statewide through the Small Grants, Big Impact program, with two going to sites in Worcester County.

According to a news release, the funds will enable staff to collaborate with community partners to provide information on Maryland's cultural history, replace unsafe bridges and puncheons, provide water safety resources, and promote recycling and stewardship on public lands.

A grant issued to Assateague State Park will pay for horse safety signs. Park officials are designing two interpretive panels to educate park goers about the history of the property's wild horses, where to find them on the island and hope to safely coexist with them while visiting.

At Pocomoke River State Park, a

grant will be used to meet new USDA regulations at the Scales & Tales aviary. The release said the work includes replacement of door fixtures, hinges, locks and some portions of rat wire that have rusted and show signs of wear and tear, among other updates.

The release said the Friends of Maryland State Parks has increased funding 207 percent since the program began (\$13,619 in 2021 to \$41,798 in 2024). At least one state park in each of the four state park regions has applied for and received a grant every year.

Launched in 2020, the Small Grants, Big Impact program was designed to inspire people from all backgrounds to connect with, celebrate, and support Maryland's State Parks and their community-based programs. Through the program, the nonprofit provides \$2,000 grants to state park. The release said this year's funding exceeds last year's allocation by 30 percent, which can be attributed to an increase in contributions.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Wild horses walk along the beach at Assateague State Park. Thanks to a grant from the Friends of Maryland State Parks, new signs will soon be erected to educate park goers about the horses that live on the island.

# Peers picked Kramer for award

Continued from Page 8  
 sments on beach topography as well as the position of the ocean shoreline. The release said the information contributes to officials' understanding of how Assateague Island moves and changes over time, which allows them to plan responsibly for the future.

Following the retirement of the IT specialist in December 2022, Kramer, despite the job not being part of her position description, also provided reliable park-wide IT support to the organization from January to October of last year. She performed an array of duties that kept the organization's infrastructure operational so everyone could do their jobs.

The runner up for the superintendent's award was Park Facility Management Systems Specialist Bruce D'Alosio.

Merrit Kramer, a biological science technician, was the recipient of the 2023 Assateague Island National Seashore Safety Award.

Kramer is responsible for monitoring water quality conditions and other aquatic resources throughout Assateague Island, collects monthly water samples from fixed sites in Sinepuxent and Chincoteague bays,

as well as weekly ocean water samples during the summer months, to document long-term changes to the ecosystem and to protect public health.

The release said Kramer also makes safety her number one priority in her daily work and since she was hired, she has maintained her qualifications as a wilderness first responder, among other work and accomplishments.

She also represents the resource management division on the organization's safety committee and regularly attends and comes prepared to each meeting. In this capacity she took a lead role in planning the 2023 Assateague Island Safety Day. The release said her work helped make the event a major success.

The two runner's up for the Safety Award are Steven Braun and John Watson. Braun is a lead fee collector and Watson is a maintenance mechanic in the Virginia District.

The two winners received crystal plaques and a time off award, while the runner ups received time off awards.

For general information about the seashore and park activities, visit the park's web site at nps.gov/asis or call 410-641-1441.



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# WPS sophomores selected for HOBY leadership program

(Jan. 25, 2024) Worcester Preparatory School sophomores Kain Crossett, Beckett Green, Ayla Yonker, Ashton Browne, Jude Damouni and Jake Timmons were recently selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth, or HOBY, leadership programs in Maryland and Delaware this summer.

The program, founded in 1958 by veteran actor Hugh O'Brian, is renowned as the country's top youth leadership development organization.

According to a news release, the program has a mission to empower individuals to achieve their highest

potential and "has been instrumental in creating positive catalysts for change in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities."

More than 500,000 alumni worldwide serve as youth leaders.

Over the years, the release said the program has graduated leaders who have made significant differences within the global society through effective and compassionate leadership.

The Leadership Seminar, which welcomes hundreds of sophomores from across Maryland and Delaware, provides a platform for students to



Six Worcester Prep sophomore ambassadors selected to attend this summer's Hugh O'Brian Youth leadership programs in Maryland and Delaware pose together for a photo. Pictured front from left are Jude Damouni, Ayla Yonker and Ashton Browne. Pictured back from left are Kain Crossett, Beckett Green and Jake Timmons.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

expand their understanding of leadership potential and personal development. Through immersive experiences, guest speakers, panel discussions, and hands-on activities,

students learn about personal, group and societal leadership.

For more information on HOBY Maryland, visit [hobymd.org](http://hobymd.org) or HOBY Delaware, visit [hobydelaware.org](http://hobydelaware.org).

# Foundation announces new board members

(Jan. 25, 2024) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore recently announced that Gail Foltz, Sharone Grant, Michael Mathers, and Phyllis Mitchell have joined the organization's board of directors.



Gail Foltz

Foltz lives in Salisbury and is a senior vice president, commercial relationship manager with Shore United Bank. She has served on numerous civic organizations including the board of directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore and the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay. She is an active member of the Wicomico Rotary Club, where she has served as president, and was a former Rotarian of the Year. She is also a member of the Leadership Maryland Class of 2019.



Sharone Grant

Grant lives in Snow Hill and is the director of student health services at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She serves as president of the Links, Princess Anne Chapter, an African American professional sorority committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans. She served as the president of the Women's Commission in Snow Hill and was recognized as a "Jewel of Worcester County."

Mathers lives in Salisbury and is an attorney at Webb, Wilber, Douse, Mathers and Illuminati LLP. He is versed in last will and testament, power of attorney, advanced medical directive, and a variety of trusts, among other areas of law. He is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association (estate planning and elder law sections), Wicomico County Bar Association, and National Acad-



Michael Mathers

emy of Elder Law Attorneys. Mathers has been active in the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, serving as a board member and then president in 2017. He is also active with the Wicomico County Department of Social Services.

Mitchell lives in Berlin and is a certified financial planner. She is a registered representative and investment advisor representative through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. She is also a certified financial fiduciary, and a certified mutual funds specialist, and has taught financial planning at Salisbury University. She has spoken to many groups about financial, investment, tax and estate planning



Phyllis Mitchell

topics for over 35 years, and has written a number of published financial articles over her career. She is a member of the Financial Planning Association, Investment Services Institute, and Financial Services Institute.



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep alumni pose together for a photo at the school's recent alumni luncheon and college fair.

# WPS hosts alumni college prep luncheon for seniors

(Jan. 25, 2024) Earlier this month, Worcester Preparatory School's college counseling department, in partnership with the alumni association, held its annual college alumni luncheon and panel.

The event provided an opportunity for current seniors to ask recent WPS graduates about their experiences with the college application process,

choosing the right school and college life.

According to a news release, 18 recent alumni attended this year's event, which included lunch, fellowship and an alumni panel discussion with current seniors.

The release said alumni expressed appreciation for how school officials prepared them for their college suc-

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(Top) The alumni panel at Worcester prep's recent alumni luncheon and college fair engage with attendees, who mostly consisted of current seniors. (Above) Worcester Prep Head of Upper School Carol Evans, center, poses with recent graduates Maria Deckman, Samantha Repass, Rylie Carey and Meredith Cummings at the school's recent alumni luncheon and college fair.

## Choosing college big decision

cess; particularly in terms of time management, writing skills, and communication. They encouraged the seniors to take advantage of the opportunities that await them at college.

Alumni couldn't reiterate enough the importance of making an informed and carefully researched decision when choosing a college. They also encouraged students to reach out

to their network of contacts and use the college counseling office at WPS to learn more about the schools in consideration.

For those who will be heading off to college in the fall, they shared tips for acclimating to college life including making friends, connecting with professors and excelling in their studies.

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# Berlin Chamber of Commerce



(Right) Normie Bunting received the 2023 Berlin Award. Bunting, center, is pictured with, from left, Councilman Jay Knerr, Councilman Steve Green, Berlin Chamber President Mike Poole, Mayor Zack Tyndall and Councilman Jack Orris. (Left) Bunting speaks during the event.



Bradley Atlantic Insurance Management earned the Chamber Partner Award. Pictured, from left, are Denny Murphy, Chamber Incoming President Garrett Neville and Robert Bradley.

## INSTALLATION AND AWARDS DINNER

The Berlin Chamber of Commerce held its Installation and Awards Dinner last Thursday at the Berlin Fire Company. Along with the Berlin Award, a number of chamber-specific awards were presented during the event.

PHOTOS COURTESY CHARLENE SHARPE



Jeff Auxer of Jeffrey Auxer Designs, who created the new blown glass trophy awarded to the Berlin Bathtub Race winning team, was recognized with the Bright Idea Award. Auxer is pictured with Neville.



The Best New Business honor was presented to the British Rose, which is owned by Larnet St. Amant and Deborah Passwater, who are pictured with Neville.



For assisting to make individuals available to help at Berlin Chamber events, Taylor Bank received the award for Volunteer of the Year. The bank's representatives are pictured with Neville.



# Chamber honors Bunting with Berlin Award

Designation presented at annual dinner last Thursday for first time since 2022

**By Charlene Sharpe**  
Contributing Writer

(Jan. 25, 2024) A lifelong resident known for his devotion to the Berlin Little League and dedication to preserving the town's historic architecture is this year's recipient of the Berlin Award.

Town officials honored Norman "Nornie" Bunting with the Berlin Award Thursday night at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Awards Dinner. Bunting, whose win was acknowledged with a standing ovation from the crowd, thanked everyone for the honor.

"I love my town," he said. "Go Berlin, go Berlin go."

After a brief hiatus, the tradition of the Berlin Award returned to highlight this year's chamber dinner. Melissa Reid, president of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum and long-time art teacher at Buckingham Elementary School, spoke about the award's origins.

"The Berlin Award is presented annually to an individual who has, by unselfish effort and dedication, made outstanding contributions of commu-

nity service in the Town of Berlin and immediately surrounding region," she said.

While no award was presented between the years of 2017 and 2022, prior to that it had been presented every year since 1964. When the award was established, it was presented by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and endorsed by the town. It was later sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club and then the Humphreys Foundation. Joel Todd, the 2010 recipient, told the crowd Thursday night sponsorship has once again returned to the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

Barbara Purnell, the 2016 award winner, said Bunting had been selected as the 2023 recipient for his nearly two decades of serving the Berlin Little League as well as his several years of work on the Berlin Historic District Commission.

Bunting, who didn't know he was getting the award until he arrived at Berlin Fire Company headquarters, where this year's dinner was held, said he was simply supporting the town the way it had always supported

him.

"I knew it was time for me to put back into our town what I'd taken out of it for so long," he said.

In 18 years as president of Berlin Little League, Bunting said the program had won 19 state championships. He's hoping the program will serve as the foundation local kids

need to become professional players.

"We've got kids from Berlin now that are close to being in the show," he said. "That's our goal."

He added that while his role on the Berlin Historic District Commission was a newer one for him, he was no less devoted to it.

"I might not be the best historian but I can tell you what I do have is a photographic memory," he said. "When I rode up and down these streets when I was 8, 9, 10 years old on my bicycle, I remember what everything looked like then and I want it to continue to look like that now and in the future."

Previous Berlin Award recipients include Frederick Brueckmann, 1964; Jane Q. Parker Gantz, 1965; Willis W. Hudson, 1966; Paul Scott, 1968; Au-

drey Pennington, 1969; Horace E. Quillin, 1970; Oscar Littleton, 1971; Anna A. Burbage, 1972; William S. Hudson, 1973; James G. Barrett, 1974; Elton W. Parsons, 1975; William Briddell, 1976; Mable S. Holland, 1977; Rev. E.C. Hackshaw, 1978; Charles T. Martin, 1979; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Abernethy, 1980; Edgar Gaskins, 1981; no award, 1982; Wilford and Rhoda Showell, 1983; Laurence Eastburn, 1984; Edward H. Hammond, 1985; Luther Shultz, 1986; Frank Timmons, 1987; Gee Williams, III, 1988; Stuart J. Scott, 1989; Mary E. Humphreys, 1990; Barbara Derrickson, 1991; Doris Taylor, 1992; Mildred Ann Villani, 1993; Denman E. Rayne, 1994; Raymond D. Coates, 1995; Patrick L. Henry, 1996; John T. Buehl, 1997; Frank Villani, 1998; Bennett Scott, 1999; Leola A. Smack, 2000; Ellen H. Lang, 2001; RoxAnne D. Williams, 2002; Tom & Judy Patton, 2003; Jesse Turner, 2004; Clayton P. Collins, Jr., 2005; Deborah S. Frene, 2006; William Burke, 2007; Tim and Christine Rayne, 2008; Susan Taylor, 2009; Joel J. Todd, 2010; Terri Sexton, 2011; Jan Quick, 2012; Doug Parks, 2014; Mike and Helen Wiley, 2014; Woody and Cam Bunting, 2015; Barbara Purnell, 2016; and no award, 2017-2022.

**'I knew it was time for me to put back into our town what I'd taken out of it for so long.'**

Norman "Nornie" Bunting

## Schuman named Marine of the Year at local detachment

(Jan. 25, 2024) The First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League has named veteran Rick Schuman the 2023 Marine of the Year.

According to a news release, First State Detachment Commandant Al Soto said Schuman was chosen for exemplary service as the detachment's web sergeant, citing his many initiatives to modernize and improve use of online and computer tools in conducting day-to-day business.

Schuman, of Newark, Delaware, joined the Marines in June of 1973. He was assigned to the Brigade Marine Air Group 24 until June 1977, stationed at Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station in Hawaii as a bench electronics technician specializing in aircraft systems. He also played snare drum with the First Marine Brigade Drum & Bugle Corps.

After leaving the Marines, Schuman worked for more than four decades in information technology as a Lotus Notes developer and administrator, eventually bringing that experience to the First State Detachment where he significantly upgraded the detachment's computer programming.

The Marine Corps League is the only congressionally chartered



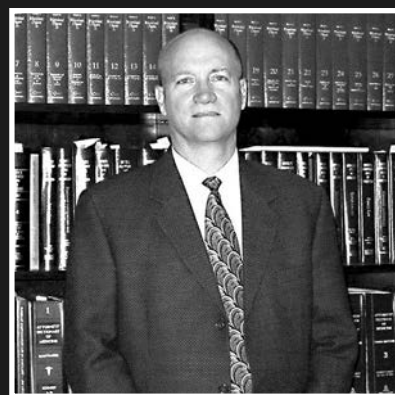
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Marine Corps veteran Rick Schuman, Marine of the Year for the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League for 2023.**

United States Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States. Membership is open to individuals who have served honorably in the Marine Corps. Associate membership is open to anyone who does not meet the requirements for regular membership but who possesses the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League.

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Housing woes driving solicitations to sell

Having people knocking your door down to buy your property might sound like a good problem to have, especially if the price exceeds your expectations.

But as tantalizing as some of these offers might be, accepting them means having to find another place to live at a price that the sales proceeds will allow. In other words, there's no point in selling your home if you can't find another one in your price range.

That's the situation that worried members of the audience at the meeting on Berlin's strategic plan last week at St. Paul's Church on Flower Street. So persistent are these offers to buy that some residents have begun to wonder if they are somehow being encouraged to move out to allow for the gentrification of their neighborhoods.

While gentrification — replacing less expensive property with upscale development — happens everywhere, it's usually due to market forces, which is the case here.

Obviously, some prospective buyers believe there might be deals to be had in the Flower Street area, but just as obviously they are wrong. For one thing, this is a tight-knit community that doesn't want to be broken up and sold off in pieces. Secondly, these property owners know their relocation options in the immediate vicinity are virtually nonexistent.

Consequently, the question put to town officials last week is how they might provide some relief for these solicitation-weary homeowners. The short answer, unfortunately, is there's little they can do because the town doesn't have the land or the ability to develop moderately priced housing.

Besides, the absence of affordable housing is a county-wide problem and fixing the problem, if that's possible given the demand for coastal area property, will require a countywide effort.

In the meantime, all the Flower Street community can do is tough it out, which, as tiresome as it is and has been, is what its residents have been doing for generations.

## Aging commission offers programs

### Services for aging in place, adult centers, and transportation

(Jan. 25, 2024) Worcester County Commission on Aging is a partner and friend of seniors living in Worcester County.

According to a news release, the organization has served more than 1,380 individuals throughout Fiscal Year 2023.

Below are the services provided:

#### Senior Rides

In 2023, The commission's senior ride program served 218 seniors for a total of 16,110 rides, averaging 310 trips per week. The rides took seniors to doctors' appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, and 50plus Centers. To learn more about senior rides and ways to benefit from the program, visit [worcoa.org/seniorride](http://worcoa.org/seniorride).

#### 50Plus Activities

The commission manages 50plus Centers in Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Berlin

and Ocean City. In fiscal 2023, along with planned daily activities, members enjoyed 48 trips for meaningful experiences along the entire Delmarva Peninsula and to other destinations such as Baltimore; Annapolis; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Atlantic City, New Jersey. To learn more about 50plus Centers, visit [worcoa.org/50plus](http://worcoa.org/50plus).

#### Community for Life

Community for Life is a members-only program providing services for aging at home, such as handyman jobs, prescription pick-ups, salon/barber trips, transportation to and from medical appointments, grocery pick-up, friendly contacts/vendor referrals, and more. In 2023, Worcester County's community for life program led the state, serving more than 130 members. To learn how to become a member in the program, visit [worcoa.org/cfl](http://worcoa.org/cfl).

#### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels continues to be a vital need for

many vulnerable seniors. The demand for the program has increased partly due to the cutback in food stamp funding. The commission's Meals on Wheels program has served more than 33,200 meals in fiscal 2023. To volunteer or learn more about the program, visit [worcoa.org/mealsonwheels](http://worcoa.org/mealsonwheels)

#### River Oaks Day Ctr.

River Oaks is an adult day center for individuals over the age of 16 who are disabled and/or medically compromised and in need of supervised daily care. Their services allow participants to join in activities that promote social, physical, and emotional well-being without permanently removing them from their families or communities. To learn more about the program visit [worcoa.org/riveroaks](http://worcoa.org/riveroaks).

For more information on the programs available, or to contact Worcester Commission on Aging for other inquiries, call 410-632-1277 or visit [worcoa.org](http://worcoa.org).

## Group supports post-suicide grievors

### Everytown for Gun Safety provides grant to Jesse Klump Fund

(Jan. 25, 2024) The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund was recently awarded a grant to launch a Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors, or LOSS, Team to cover the lower Eastern Shore.

An extension of the nonprofit's monthly support group for those left behind after a suicide, the team will enable outreach to more local individuals struggling with grief.

The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, based in Bishopville, was created in 2009 following the loss of Snow Hill High School senior Jesse Klump to suicide. In 2011, the nonprofit launched a suicide prevention program,

which began with a group for grievors of suicide loss. According to a news release, more than 100 people have benefitted from the first post-suicide grievors' support group — the only one on the Eastern Shore — since its creation.

Now, thanks in large part to the grant from Everytown for Gun Safety, the organization's support will reach more families experiencing grief after suicide with the creation of the LOSS team.

The team will be made up of stakeholders consisting of first responders, hospital personnel, crisis responders, mental health therapists and counselors, and volunteers, some of whom have lost loved ones to suicide. The team assists with the immediate aftermath of the loss, making sure survivors find

the resources they need to get help, and planting the seeds of hope. Often just saying, "I lost someone to suicide too," dispels the stigma surrounding suicide and opens the door to accepting compassionate care, the release said.

Local LOSS team members will be trained to reach out to grievors shortly after the loss, help in any way that they can, and stay in touch — through visits, phone, text, emails, etc.

"Just knowing someone else has been there and managed to find peace is a huge help," Kim Klump, the fund founder and president, said in the release.

Members of the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program also attends community events, works within school systems, See LOSS Page 17

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842  
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.  
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.  
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.  
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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Blue Water Development CEO Jack Burbage, center, poses with several Blue Water Hospitality general managers and members of Atlantic General Hospital's leadership team and a check from the company's Blue Turns Pink Fundraiser that raised money for AGH's Burbage cancer center.**

# Blue Turns Pink gives funds to AGH

(Jan. 25, 2024) During the month of October, Ocean City-based real estate developer Blue Water Development held its first-ever Blue Turns Pink Fundraiser in support of cancer research and awareness initiatives.

All 63 of Blue Water's properties, which span 21 states nationwide, took part in the fundraiser. Staff, patrons and members of the communities surrounding the company's properties raised \$42,000 to support people impacted by cancer.

Properties managed by Blue Water hosted a series of on-site events, with

proceeds benefiting local community support organizations. The effort included theme weekends on local properties, on-site fundraisers, and raffles for stays at properties within the Blue Water portfolio.

Throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Blue Water Development extended support to Atlantic General Hospital's John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center in Berlin.

The center is named in honor of Blue Water's founder, Jack Burbage, and stands as a tribute to his philan-

thropic and leadership contributions in the battle against cancer. Every Blue Turns Pink dollar raised for the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center received a 100 percent matching contribution from an anonymous donor.

Overall, the Blue Turns Pink Fundraiser, with the help of an anonymous donor, raised \$23,242 for the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. The proceeds will be used to buy cancer care equipment, including a fiber optic laryngoscope, vein finder and Hoyer lift that will improve cancer prevention, care and treatment.

## OP Players present 'Love Letters' at community center

(Jan. 25, 2023) Members of the Ocean Pines Players will present "Love Letters," a play by A. R. Gurney, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Set for 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10, at the Ocean Pines Community Center, a news release said the play stars married couple Ed and Monica Guinan as "star-crossed lifelong complicated friends."

The release said the players are returning to the community center after a long absence and that the event will feature "cabaret-style" seating with wine and charcuterie included in the ticket price of \$25.

"I am thrilled that OPP is once again serving its community right here in the heart of Ocean Pines," Ocean Pines Players President Frank Pasqualino said in the release.

Tickets are available online at [oceanpinesplayers.org](http://oceanpinesplayers.org).

## LOSS Team set to offer resources

Continued from Page 16

first responders' groups, and faith assemblies.

"We teach 'suicide prevention first aid,' similar to CPR. You don't have to be a cardiologist to keep someone alive until the ambulance arrives. You don't have to be a psychiatrist to keep someone safe until a professional can intervene," Jennifer LaMade, program executive director, said in the release.

To bring the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness & Prevention Program to a group or event, contact the members through [jessespaddle.org](http://jessespaddle.org) or call 667-227-9247.

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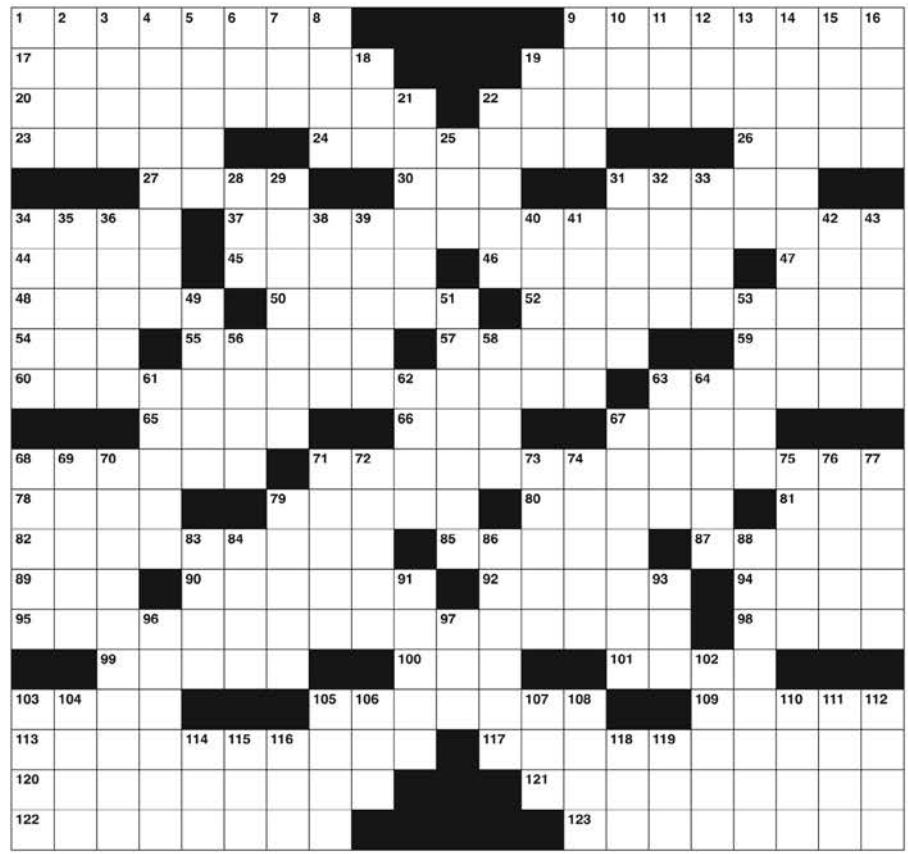


# Puzzles

## ER, IN OTHER WORDS ... BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

John Kugelman is a software engineer and musician from Gainesville, Va. He has worked in cybersecurity for many years. "I like anything that's complicated and puzzle-y," John says. "Any engineering problem is fascinating to me." (And what is crossword construction, after all, but the engineering of words?) This is John's second crossword for The Times, both Sundays. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hurricanes and tornadoes
  - 9 One of 12, biblically
  - 17 "Way to go, me!"
  - 19 Grape from France's Côte-d'Or
  - 20 Great ape?
  - 22 Erotic artist?
  - 23 5-Down's pet
  - 24 Ooze
  - 26 Authors
  - 27 Yesterday, in Spanish
  - 30 \_\_\_ Jam (record label)
  - 31 "Let me be perfectly \_\_\_" (Pride slogan)
  - 34 Guinness of "The Ladykillers"
  - 37 Street magician?
  - 44 Made, as a putt
  - 45 Stockpile
  - 46 Linger
  - 47 Rock's \_\_\_ Fighters
  - 48 Toast with a raised stein
  - 50 Bad thing to drop in polite company
  - 52 Anthony Hopkins won this with only 16 minutes of screen time
  - 54 Reply of disgust
  - 55 One hitting the space bar?
- DOWN**
- 57 Muscat resident
  - 59 Leaves slack-jawed
  - 60 Farmers?
  - 63 Took big steps
  - 65 Unplanned preview, perhaps
  - 66 See here!
  - 67 \_\_\_ of Orleans, moniker for Joan of Arc
  - 68 Supply, as elevator music
  - 71 Switch hitter?
  - 78 Zeno of \_\_\_, paradoxical thinker
  - 79 Fastest train in the U.S.
  - 80 Spot for a microphone
  - 81 What might be drawn with a "C" in cartoons
  - 82 Plans of study
  - 85 Time's 2023 Athlete of the Year
  - 87 Appropriate
  - 89 Hail, to Caesar
  - 90 Warm touch
  - 92 Gunpowder ingredient
  - 94 Top pair
  - 95 Animal tranquilizer?
  - 98 Trash
  - 99 Pan handle?
  - 100 Communication with one's hands, for short
  - 101 Target of Y.A. fiction
  - 103 Word with straw or swing
  - 105 Big Apple figure
  - 109 "Boy Wonder" of comics
  - 113 & 117 The Grim Reaper?
  - 120 Live content creators
  - 121 They might be flagged as "Potential Spam"
  - 122 Seasonal charity event
  - 123 Cuts down to size
- ACROSS**
- 22 Disney villain who's the grand vizier of Agrabah
  - 25 /
  - 28 Replies of disgust
  - 29 Stoolie
  - 31 Somewhat
  - 32 Section of a syllabus
  - 33 \_\_\_ Griffin, civil rights pioneer
  - 34 Meat jelly
  - 35 Butler on "The Addams Family"
  - 36 Japanese mushroom
  - 38 "Pass," in a casino
  - 39 Quadcopter, e.g.
  - 40 Concrete support
  - 41 Straws in the wind
  - 42 Sweet-talked
  - 43 Origin of the words "cake" and "egg"
  - 49 Actor George who wrote the 1994 autobiography "To the Stars"
  - 51 Police accountability tool
  - 53 Rapper \_\_\_ B
  - 56 List
  - 58 Demure
  - 61 E. R. shout
  - 62 Author Gaiman
  - 63 What a crackerjack cracker jacks
  - 64 Does some field work
  - 67 Superlatively sullen
  - 68 Praline ingredient
  - 69 Valentine candy message
- DOWN**
- 1 V on the N.Y.S.E.
  - 2 Albatross, metaphorically
  - 3 Hypnotized, say
  - 4 Some closet organizers
  - 5 "The Jetsons" boy
  - 6 Crossed (out)
  - 7 Online school closing?
  - 8 Nurses
  - 9 Dash's partner
  - 10 Ancient Romans made it from soot
  - 11 Purchase for a golf course
  - 12 Nexus: Abbr.
  - 13 Peeved
  - 14 Indigo Girls song with the chorus "Adding up the total of a love that's true/Multiply life by the ..."
  - 15 Creditor's security
  - 16 Makes a misstep
  - 18 Ready, with "up"
  - 19 Wrinkle-faced dog
  - 21 Cash in



- 70 Not open to appeal, as a court decision
- 71 Bass symbol
- 72 Tiniest bit
- 73 Actress Fisher of "Eighth Grade"
- 74 Worshiper of Jah, informally
- 75 Insurance giant
- 76 Mental fogs
- 77 Lock
- 79 Law enforcer in the Harry Potter universe
- 83 Longtime actor on "Law & Order: SVU"
- 84 Give a darn
- 86 All together
- 88 Emulate Jack Sprat
- 91 Old SeaWorld mascot
- 93 Parkway or expressway: Abbr.
- 96 Complained
- 97 Keyboard corner key
- 102 Straight up
- 103 Like the open sea
- 104 Not fooled by
- 105 Some carry a spare one in a boot
- 106 Smartphone platform
- 107 Bit of decoration at a beach house
- 108 Not just think
- 110 Zodiac symbol
- 111 Sicily or Sardinia
- 112 Ending with late or great
- 114 "\_\_\_ out!"
- 115 "The Dark Side of the Moon" studio
- 116 Fire (up)
- 118 Texter's "Truthfully ..."
- 119 French chess piece

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### HARD - 54

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

PAPA	EGAD	MEDS	EDIBLE
I RECKON	SOL	IDOL	VELLUM
POWERSUIT	SNOOZE	ALARM	
EMILY	HEARME	ROCKY	
DATASCRAPER	SONTAG		
THE	CURSE	IN	IDLE
SPIDER	WEBS	PRAG	ENCIES
ARMANI	TAEBO	STP	
GOES	SFMOMA	MUD	SEASON
AMAH	LILACS	DEER	
ONCE	MORE	WITH	FEELING
AGER	STEERS	SKORT	
SWIM	SHIRT	UPPISH	ARAB
OHM	SEMIS	ERRATA	
SEACAPTAIN	AVID	READER	
ONCALL	CB	RADIOS	
TBONES	LUCKY	NUMBER	
ABASE	OXTEAM	LORRE	
GENERATIONZ	FLUSTR	AIN	
RENATO	SKYE	WERESAVED	
ANORAK	TEAR	DENT	LOSS



# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Jan. 25

### STORY TIME: LUNAR NEW YEAR

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a story time to celebrate the year of the dragon. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

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

### IT'S NOT A BURDEN: 'THE HUMOR AND HEARTACHE OF RAISING ELDERLY PARENTS'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. This documentary "provides an intimate look, presented with humor and heart, at the relationships between aging parents and the adult children who care for them." 410-957-0878

### GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines, 3-5 p.m. Atlantic General Hospital leadership and medical staff, Board of Trustees, AGH Foundation Board members and donors will be on hand. Ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m.

### FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. Come and find your next great read. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MOON DECOR

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Celebrate the upcoming full moon by making wall decor for your room or office. All supplies provided. For adults and teens. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ROMANCE BOOK CLUB: 'SO THIS IS EVER AFTER' BY FT. LUKENS

The Buzzed Word, 11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. For more information, call 410-524-1818.

### 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](http://BeachSingles.org).

### PILATES FOR BEGINNERS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Joyce Landsman teaches this class that can improve flexibility, strength and

muscle tone. Can be done on a mat or on the floor. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## Fri., Jan 26

### 'A TRIBUTE TO HARRIET TUBMAN'

Wor-Wic Community College, Guerrieri Hall, 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free historical talk and poetry reading in honor of Harriet Tubman. [www.worwic.edu](http://www.worwic.edu) under "Events."

### HOMESCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING FOR TEENS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Helps students with vocabulary, imaginative thinking, literary knowledge and social enrichment. Geared for upper elementary to middle school, but all are welcome. 410-632-3495

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### KIDS FUN FILLED FRIDAYS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-7:30 p.m. Held Fridays from Jan. 26 to Feb. 23. Kids ages 8-10 years will play new games and old classics. Parent drop off event. Cost is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Registration: 410-641-7052.

### 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. 27

### CREATIVE KIDS CRAFT TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop by to get crafty and create an arctic animal. For all ages. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs,

chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

### CRAFTY SATURDAY: SWEET TREATS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Make some crafts and satisfy your sweet tooth. For all ages. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m. Assists veterans by preparing them for success in college, bringing them up to speed on critical Math and English skills. Assistance with college admission, financing and more. 410-957-0878

### 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. 28

### ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 10 a.m. A very spirit-filled commemorative service featuring a moving speaker, local choirs and liturgical dancing. All are welcome. 410-641-0270

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., Jan. 29

### STORY TIME: 'SHAPES'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn about shapes through stories, songs and games. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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

### THE FUNNY THING ABOUT CAREGIVERS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Comedian and health care professional Lon Kieffer will talk about the caregiver experience through comedy and conversation. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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. 30

### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Singing, moving and rhythmic instruments. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FREE PLAY DAY AND CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Make some new friends with play and improve language and motor skill development. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PICKLE BALL INDOORS

Ocean Pines Community Center Gym, 235 Ocean Parkway, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Held every Tuesday for six weeks beginning Jan. 30. Cost is \$30 per person For newbies only. Register: stop by the community center or call 410-641-7052. Info: Tim Johnson, 410-641-7228.

### CAREER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about free library resources in this class. Spruce up a resume, learn computer skills and general professional development. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### VALENTINE'S DAY LAVA LAMPS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Get ready for Valentine's Day by making a groovy lava lamp in a jar. For ages 6-12 years. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

### BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves pro-

Continued on Page 20



# Calendar

Continued from Page 19  
 vided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

**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.

**ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS**

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

**ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE**

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

## Wed., Jan. 31

**TEEN MARIO PARTY**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1 p.m. Teens and their families are invited to compete in Mario games on the Nintendo Switch. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**SCHOOL'S OUT SWITCH SESSION**

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Come play some Nintendo Switch games on the big screen and hang out with other kids and tweens. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**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

**CARD MAKING & EXCHANGE (2 PART PROGRAM)**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Held Jan

31 and Feb. 7. Learn about design and methods of stamping. Create cards and exchange while enjoying light refreshments. Registration is necessary: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

**DINING FOR A CAUSE**

Pancho & Lefty's, 12911 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 5-9 p.m. Featuring 50/50 raffles, huge gift basket raffle and great food and drink specials. Support Assateague Coastal Trust and foster a local business' growth and success.

**THE ORIGINS OF CANDLEMAS**

Held via Zoom, 6:30 p.m. Of Pagan and then Christian origin, Candlemas marks the return of the light, initiations and the midpoint between winter and spring. 443-783-6164, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**

*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly on the website and Facebook. Guests are welcome. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

**ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS**

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

**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.

**BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK**

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during February. Choose a mystery date from the display to take home and read. Fill out the brief form inside the book and return it to the library to be entered into a drawing to win a sweet prize. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org



**Habitat for Humanity**  
of Worcester County

**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](mailto: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](http://habitatworcester.org), then send an email to [families@habitatworcester.org](mailto:families@habitatworcester.org) to begin your application by January 31!



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# Classified

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

Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)



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### HELP WANTED

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### RENTALS

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Ocean City Mini Storage.**

Units to be auctioned: B28-  
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O151-O175-O165-O164-  
S6-S32-S35-S188-S189-  
S747-S785-S211. Units are  
being sold due to non-pay-  
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items in units are house-  
hold items, furniture, tools,  
fishing equipment, paint-  
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items.

**Date: Friday,  
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Time: 10:00 am**  
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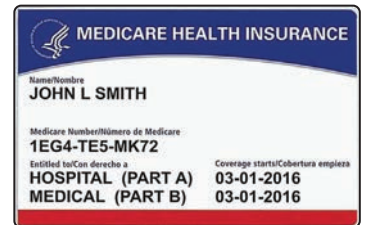


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