



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Several Berlin business owners addressed the Berlin Mayor and Council Monday night to express concerns about the town's Main Street hosting Stephen Decatur High School's prom on April 27.

Berlin nixes SDHS prom on Main St.

Businesses say they can't accept Sat. revenue loss

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) Stephen Decatur High School's plan to hold prom on Main Street failed to get the approval of elected officials this week after business owners voiced concerns.

The Berlin Town Council on Monday opted not to approve a request from Decatur representatives to have prom on Main Street.

Business owners said they couldn't afford to lose business on a Saturday in April after a slow and wet start to the year, especially with only a month's notice.

"We could've come up with a cool idea," business owner Larnet St. Amant said. "We could have welcomed it but no one asked us."

Mayor Zack Tyndall told the council on Monday that he'd been in communication with Decatur teacher Jamie Greenwood regarding the possibility of holding prom on Main Street on April 27.

Greenwood, who has been organizing prom for close to 20 years, told officials the convention center in Ocean City didn't let local groups book events more than six months in advance.

While the April 27 date was discussed with convention center staff, it was before it could be formally booked. The school found out in February that the date was no longer available.

"What happened happened,"
See BUSINESSSES Page 10

'We could have welcomed it but no one asked us.'
Larnet St. Amant, business owner

Easter, spring events abound

Coastal communities have different ways to celebrate, but they all relate to fun

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) There are no shortage of traditional as well as unique ways to celebrate Easter this week in Berlin, Ocean Pines and Ocean City.

The following is a recap of some events on tap:

Berlin Spring Celebration

Breakfast with the Easter bunny, a bonnet parade and an egg hunt highlight this Saturday's Berlin Spring Celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Berlin.

"We are thrilled to announce the

return of one of our favorite family events, and all of the fun that comes with it," said Ryan Nellans, executive director of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. "We are welcoming back lots of familiar faces, including the Shake it Up Jam! and children's book author Katie Ruskie. Our egg hunt on the Taylor House Museum lawn and our Midway on Main Street are back and better than ever with even more prizes, all made possible by our sponsors, Bradley Atlantic Insurance Management, Taylor Bank, and Jolly Roger Amusements."

The day kicks off early, with the Berlin Fire Company hosting "Bunny Brunch" from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The event, which is \$5 for kids under 10 and \$10 for adults, will be held in the upstairs event hall at the station on

Main Street. All-day parking will also be available at the firehouse, where cash donations will be accepted.

The Spring Celebration itself will begin with some fanfare, as a bonnet parade will run from the firehouse to the festival grounds on Main Street at 10 a.m. There, the best bonnets will win prizes and then children will be invited to visit the games that will make up "Midway on Main Street." An egg hunt is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the lawn of the Taylor House Museum.

The Spring Celebration will also include live music from Shake it Up Jam! and appearances by Lollipop the Clown.

In the days leading up to the Spring Celebration, Nellans noted
See BERLIN Page 4



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Berlin secures \$1.2M grant to design Route 113 bridge

Structure could provide pedestrians, bicycles safe route over busy highway

(March 22, 2024) The Town of Berlin has secured a \$1.2 million grant from the federal government to study a possible bridge connecting the two sides of town separated by Route 113.

According to a press release from U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, the funding, secured through the Inflation Reduction Act, will “support the planning and design of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Route 113 in Berlin, as well as other sidewalk and street crossing improvements, to better connect both sides of the Town, which is currently split by the roadway.”

The funding was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and provided through the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant Program, which the lawmakers worked to create and fund through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Last fall, the senators wrote to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in support of the federal funding.

“The Town of Berlin is grateful for Senator Cardin and Van Hollen’s support and advocacy for our ‘Bridging the Highway that Divides Berlin: Reconnecting Neighborhoods Split by US-113’ project. The grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation will allow the Town of Berlin to make meaningful progress toward providing equitable and safe access to schools, shopping, and healthcare services for all community members. We look forward to working with community members and the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop an inclusive plan that overcomes the highway that divides our small town,” said Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall.

The town will also use the funding to identify necessary sidewalk and crossing improvements in the area and potential connections to existing and proposed bike and pedestrian facilities.

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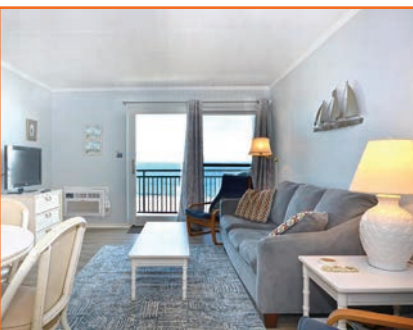
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Berlin, OP, resort ready for holiday weekend

Continued from Page 1
that the town's paper egg hunt was still underway.

"If you don't already know, our paper egg hunt is still going until we draw two winners, who will each receive a \$100 gift card to the best Ice cream in the United States - Island Creamery," he said. "Forms for the hunt are available at the Berlin Visitors Center at 14 S Main St."

For more information, visit the Berlin Spring Celebration event page on Facebook. Nellans said volunteers are still needed for the event and those interested should call 410-641-4775 or email berlinmdchamber@gmail.com.

Ocean Pines Activities

On Saturday, March 30, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks group will welcome residents to their Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt at White Horse Park. The holiday-themed function will offer carnival games, food, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, and a special Easter Bunny visit.

The event is free for guests and will include three Easter Egg hunts, differentiated by age. The 1, 2, and 3-year-olds will begin their search at 11:30 a.m., the 4 to 6-year-olds will start at noon, and the 7 to 10-year-olds will round out the hunts at 12:30

p.m.

The spring festivities continue in Ocean Pines as the annual Easter Magic celebration returns to the Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturday, March 30. Early spring produce, flowers, and baked goods will be available for purchase.

New and returning merchants are expected to bring an abundance of fresh and homemade seasonal goodies to the event.

According to Ocean Pines Association Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis, DelVecchio's Bakery will offer Easter eclairs, breads, and scones. The booth will sell cookies, pies, cupcakes, and hot cross buns.

Belinda White of Pies Etcetera will have handmade chocolate-dipped peanut butter eggs, and Maureen Meushaw, owner of Pocket Farm, will sell fresh eggs from her pasture-raised laying hens.

Snyder's Produce and Beautiful Things will return to the farmer's market on the March 30 Easter Magic celebration, where owner Debbie Snyder will offer spring bedding plants, Easter flowers, and patio planters.

New sellers plan to participate in this year's Easter celebration. Fika Coffee will provide shoppers with a



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A participant in a previous bonnet parade in Berlin proudly displays her style and creativity.

variety of coffee beans, Davis said. Salt Marsh Dry Goods and owner Michelle Kemp will also make their first Easter Magic appearance.

"Kemp creates reusable products for the kitchen and home," market manager David Bean said in a press release issued by Davis. "For those looking to replace paper options for cooking and cleaning, Salt Marsh Dry Goods has sustainable options. Their home-sewn sustainable items include reusable replacements for paper towels, napkins, baby wipes, makeup removers, coasters, trivets, and crochet dish cleaners."

The Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market occurs each Saturday in White Horse Park. Shoppers can browse the booths and vendors from 8 a.m. to noon. More information regarding Ocean Pines' springtime and Easter activities can be found on the official Ocean Pines Association website.

Ocean City

Ocean Promotions is bringing back the annual Easter Art & Craft Show and Kids Fun Fair on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center.

Admission to the event includes the arts and crafts fair as well as many games and contests as well as face painting and visits with Beanny the Easter Bunny.

Pay-as-you-go options will include the bounce houses and obstacle courses on site as well as a mechanical bull.

The entertainment schedule each day includes multiple Easter egg hunts for different ages, a limbo, hula hoop and musical chairs contest and Cascading Carlos teaching juggling.

The Easter Art & Craft Fair will feature dozens of vendors offering a variety of gift, food and art options.

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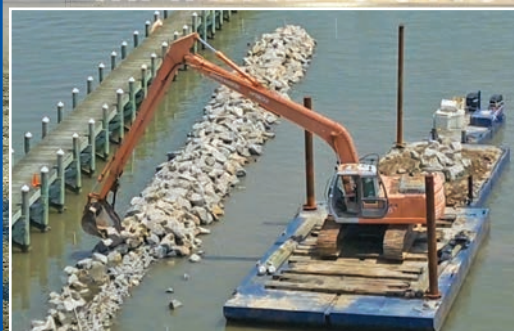


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Expenses exceed revenue in county's proposed budget

Commissioners expected to address shortfall during scheduled work sessions

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) Worcester County has a shortfall of more than \$10 million to address as officials begin the annual budget process.

The Worcester County Commissioners this week were presented with a requested \$270 million general fund budget. Revenues for the coming year are projected at a little more than \$260 million.

"This leaves a shortfall of \$10,116,174 which must be reconciled either with reductions in expenditures, additional revenues or a combination of both," Budget Officer Kim Reynolds said.

The budget Reynolds presented Tuesday includes projected general fund revenues of \$260,076,878, an increase of \$24 million, or about 10%, compared to the current year. Net property tax revenues increased by about \$13.9 million, primarily as a result of increased assessments and homeowner tax credits. Income tax revenue is projected to increase and

is estimated at \$47 million.

As far as projected expenditures, Reynolds said the requested expenditures totaled \$270,193,052, which is a \$34 million, or 14.5%, increase compared to the current year.

The board of education's requested budget is \$109,632,071, which does not include an additional \$7.7 million in debt related to school construction.

Budget work sessions are set to start April 9. A second budget session is scheduled for April 16, followed by a public hearing on Tuesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. Additional budget work sessions are scheduled for May 14 and May 22.

"The FY 2025 general fund operating budget must be adopted on June 4," Reynolds said.

Commissioner Chip Bertino pointed out that the proposed budget did not include the health insurance changes approved earlier in Tuesday's meeting.

Because the commissioners agreed to cover half of the health insurance increase projected for county and board of education employees, the county's FY 2025 expenditures will increase beyond the current \$10 million shortfall.

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Michele and Rick, her husband and business partner, have dedicated the One-of-a-Kind collection to the memory of their son, Lance Henri Topper. Each piece is unique and stamped with the initials "LHT" for what Michele describes as her "best one-of-a-kind."

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---Michele Sanner,
Creator, Michou Jewelry

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THE TREASURE CHEST

Ocean Pines continues fire station fundraising efforts

Second annual cash bingo set for April 18, just 80 tickets remained this week

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2024) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors heard a presentation last weekend from Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste about ongoing fire safety and fundraising initiatives.

interested in attending to purchase their entrance passes quickly. They can be obtained for \$35 on the OPVFD's official website.

Other initiatives include the Queen of Hearts fundraiser, where community members can buy \$5 tickets to win the growing jackpot, which is currently up to \$2,513, and the vehicle raffle. According to Enste, the department now has the means to cover all the winner's taxes, tags, titles, and fees associated with the automobile.

Enste also touched on the importance of fire safety, given the March 16 house fire in Ocean Pines that saw one resident transported to the hospital, as well as the passing of four family pets. Two other fires were responded to last weekend by the department. The fire department president emphasized the need for proper smoke detectors to prevent similar tragedies.

"The smoke alarm is a simple yet powerful tool that can make a life-saving difference," he said. "These small devices are like silent guardians constantly monitoring the air for any signs of smoke. When they detect even the slightest hint of danger, they'll sound the alarm and give us precious time to escape safely."

However, Enste said having a smoke alarm installed is not enough. He urged the meeting attendees to regularly test these apparatuses to ensure they are in working condition.

Evacuation plans are also vital for fire safety. Knowing the quickest escape route and practicing it often is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones.

"Fires can happen unexpectedly and spread rapidly, posing a significant threat to lives and property," Enste said.

"...By taking a simple yet essential step, like installing and maintaining smoke alarms and having an escape plan, we can better protect ourselves and our loved ones. Let's work together to make Ocean Pines safer for everyone."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Joe Enste, president of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, speaks to OPA officials.

Enste relayed the department's fundraising efforts, which will contribute to renovations at the aging South Fire Station. One initiative is the brick campaign. Individuals can purchase 4-by-8-inch bricks for \$100 or 8-by-8-inch bricks for \$200, which will be used to erect a unique feature at the updated facility.

The department president also reminded residents of the group's second annual cash bingo. The event, which will be held at the Ocean Downs Casino on April 18 at 5 p.m., has only 80 tickets remaining as of March 23. Enste urged homeowners



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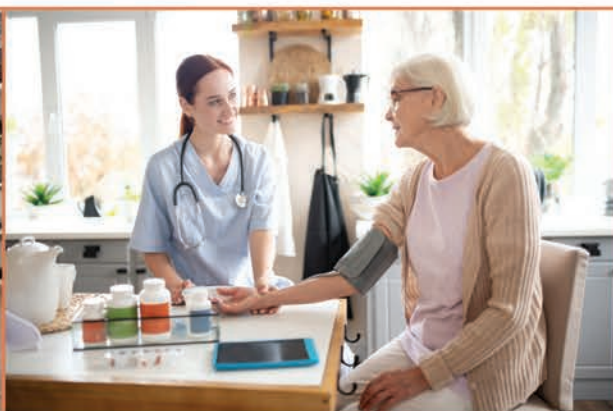

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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors hears an update on electronic signs at Saturday's meeting.

Electronic sign placement to take place in mid-April

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2024) At a March 23 Ocean Pines Board of Directors meeting, General Manager John Viola provided his monthly report on construction advancements, maintenance, and the community's financial situation.

Viola updated attendees on the electric sign initiative. The association was required to move the current sign, located at the North Gate, six feet because it was found to be in an easement. While this has delayed the installation of the updated structure, the general manager maintained that the apparatus is ordered, the neces-

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GM provides project updates

sary permits have been obtained, and construction will likely take place in mid-April.

OPA is committed to beautification. Seasonal flowers can be seen on the North Gate bridge, and bulbs have been planted at the north and south entrances. Viola said that spring flowers have been ordered and will be installed in late April. Mulching around trees is scheduled to begin soon, and seasonal banners, which the manager has received positive input about, will be cycled every few months.

On March 14, the department leaders for golf, Bob Beckelman, aquatics, Michelle Hitchens, and racquet sports, Terry Underkoffer, met with Worcester County Tourism Director Melanie Pursel to film a promotional video. The footage will be released on April 6.

Viola also said that Beckelman urged him to support a golfers' lounge to increase the course's competitiveness. The lounge is being built with new patio furniture donated by a local golfer.

"We will talk more about this down the road, but we are committed to getting lounge here, as we have for racquet sports, for the golfers," the general manager said.

According to Viola, the association is determined to complete the tiki bar

expansion before Memorial Day and finish the new pavilion at the Veteran Memorial grounds by Veterans Day in November.

As for the racquet sports building, \$25,000 has been allocated for a new HVAC system, office furniture, window repairs, paint, and additional amenities. OPA is hopeful that these upgrades will improve the facility for their members.

Viola also gave an update on the community's financial situation, which shows \$48,000 favorability for February. This includes \$9,000 favorability in revenues and \$39,000 favorability in expenses.

"On expenses, we continue to be efficient and effective," he said. "That doesn't mean we have a surplus. That means ... we're favorable. Everything has been earmarked ... and it will be part of the budget going into next year."

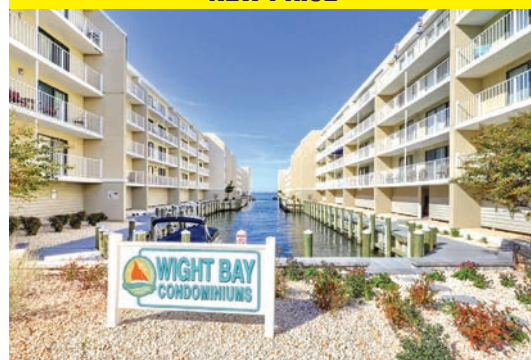
According to OPA Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis, the year-to-date favorability is approximately \$908,000, and the "forecast for the next fiscal year is roughly \$1.5 million in spending and a total reserve balance of around \$7 million."

The next OPA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

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Businesses object to closing for prom night

Continued from Page 1

Greenwood said. "I can't change it. We're looking for some help."

Since late February, Greenwood said he'd been working with Tyndall on plans to hold prom on Main Street. He said the street would be closed to allow for setup at noon April 27 and would remain closed until

about 11 p.m. The area would close to the public at 5 p.m. as shuttles began to drop students off for prom. Those shuttles would return students to their vehicles at 10 p.m.

"I want to disrupt as little as possible," Greenwood said.

Councilman Jack Orris asked what the fire company thought of the plan.

"This is the first stop," Tyndall said.

Orris asked what town businesses had said.

"This is the first stop," Tyndall repeated.

When asked what he thought, Police Chief Arnold Downing said the event would be a heavy lift but could be done. Greenwood said the school traditionally worked with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office on prom and that they would have officers present as well. As far as town staff costs associated with the event, department heads said up to 10 public works employees would work overtime during the event in addition to the police coverage. Greenwood assured the town that the school would be able to contribute financially, as ticket sales in the past had covered the cost of food at the convention center.

Greenwood stressed that in his time leading the prom effort, there had been very few issues with student behavior at prom. Fellow teacher Michelle Hoffmeister agreed. She said that in the wake of the pandemic, students were just so grateful to go to events that they behaved well.

Greenwood noted that students and staff would have wristbands on and those wristbands would be cut off

when they left.

"Once you leave you're done," Greenwood said. "You're not allowed back in."

Business owners, who packed the council chambers, were quick to express concerns with the proposal. Matt Borelli of Sterling Tavern said there had been no communication with the business community about the prom. He said Saturday was typically a good day for business in Berlin and that with a rainy winter, it would hurt businesses to give up a spring Saturday. He noted that Main Street was being shut down for a children's event. He said it was unlikely teenagers would be spending money at Main Street establishments. He added that when Decatur's state champion football team had paraded through town, one of his employees' cars had been jumped on and covered in hot chocolate.

"I don't think the business district is where it should be done," he said.

Borelli said if he accepted the fact that he wouldn't do much business during prom and closed, his staff would lose a day of pay.

"If the town doesn't stick up for us on this it's going to be tough," he said.

Borelli said another day of the week, even a Sunday, would be better. Greenwood said the school

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Prom night planning kept many out of loop

wanted the April 27 date because students had already rented tuxedos and made hair appointments.

St. Amant was adamant that the event could have been pulled off fantastically if the business community had been brought on board from the start. Instead, she said the event had been sprung on merchants despite the fact that they were in town working every day.

“Who’s got my back in this room?” she said. “No one came to me.”

She said she’d love to support the idea but that there had been no time to prepare. Another merchant said the purpose of the town’s other events was to bring shoppers to town, something the prom would not do. The concept of student safety was also discussed, as she pointed out that people walked their dogs up and down Main Street constantly and that people lived in the apartments above Main Street.

“We can’t do this in five weeks,” she said.

“We hear you,” Tyndall said.

Matt Burrier of Burley Oak suggested the prom be held on the

school’s football field. He said Berlin businesses would likely be happy to help with any related fundraisers.

Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols said her daughter was a senior at Decatur but she wasn’t able to support a prom on Main Street. She said she had too many concerns about what could happen.

“I want my child to have a prom but it’s not happening on Main Street,” she said.

Greenwood said the prom couldn’t be held on the football field because it was AstroTurf and couldn’t be pierced.

Councilman Jack Orris suggested the group focus on the rain location, which Greenwood said was under a tent on the parking lot at Berlin Intermediate School.

“Our decision here tonight is whether the prom plan proceeds downtown,” Councilman Dean Burrell said. “It is not to figure out what needs to happen if it’s not held downtown. That’s not our responsibility.”

Cindi Krempel, representing the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, said having the prom on a Saturday in April would be a financial burden for

businesses. She suggested Stephen Decatur Park as a location. Laura Stearns of the Atlantic Hotel said she knew prom was a difficult topic because emotionally everyone wanted to support it.

“I want nothing more than for them to have a nice prom,” she said. “But understand what it’s like as a business in the town of Berlin.”

She said businesses this year had dealt with bad weather, an increase in minimum wage and a jump in food costs.

“We have to put the emotional part aside and think what’s the best thing for the town of Berlin,” she said.

Melissa Esham brought up the concept of a grand march, something Decatur hasn’t had. Borelli said that could be something the businesses could support, as it wouldn’t include

a lengthy street closure.

Resident Sara Hambury said she often planned events for Atlantic General Hospital and said she felt a tent was key for an outdoor event. Another resident who said she also had a child at Decatur said parents were not aware of the prom problem and should be engaged.

“I struggle that this is now the town’s issue,” she said, adding that there were parents who owned hotels and other suitable sites that might be able to step up.

Greenwood thanked the Berlin community for the input provided. He said he understood he difficulties small business owners faced. He said he’d discuss the possibility of a grand march, as well as using the park or the rain location, with his prom planning group.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Racquet Center building remains closed this week as the association seeks a consultant to complete an environmental assessment. The courts, pictured above, are open.

Suspensions of mold lead to close of OP racquet building

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2024) Mold concerns led to the Ocean Pines Racquet Center building being closed for now while an inspection continues.

At a March 23 Ocean Pines Board of Directors meeting, Racquet Sports Advisory Committee (RSAC) members advocated for a proper expansion of the racquet center building

and a mold inspection, which led to the board temporarily closing the facility pending a comprehensive health evaluation.

“At the Board of Directors meeting, it was brought to the board’s attention by Racquet Sports Advisory Committee members Karen Kaplan, Suzanne Russell, and Cathy Noble that there were significant concerns regarding suspected mold in the Rac-

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Courts open, assessment planned

quet Sports building, and they made a claim that it made people sick and caused employees to quit,” Ocean Pines Association President Rick Farr said in a press release issued by Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis.

The directors decided to temporarily close the Racquet Center on Sunday, March 24. Following discussions with the association’s insurance specialist and a preliminary inspection on Monday, March 25, which found no mold, the courts reopened for players. The building will remain inaccessible until an environmental consultant completes an in-depth assessment and any issues are resolved.

Per the building’s closure, racquet sports members are not required to check in, the association reports. OPA is formulating a revised check-in process that will be communicated with residents once it is decided. The bathrooms are closed, but temporary accommodations are available near the adjacent dog park.

“While we understand this closure may inconvenience those who regularly use the center, we believe this proactive measure is necessary to safeguard the well-being of our community members,” OPA General Manager John Viola said in a release. “We will closely monitor the situation and provide updates on the reopening.”

RSAC member Suzanne Russell emphasized the need for the health evaluation, citing a 2015 situation in which the golf course building was discovered to contain mold while undergoing renovations. OPA was forced to tear down the entire facility and start from scratch. The incident led to increased project costs, which RSAC is trying to avoid.

The RSAC members also advocated for properly expanding the racquet center building. Russell proposed that the \$150,000 funding approved for the initiative be used for a proper investigation of mold issues, “professional architectural conceptual plans to provide cost estimates... and a licensed structural assessment of the building’s soundness...all of which should be done before any project is started.”

According to Russell, the committee was presented with a drawing that would double the facility’s size at a May 11, 2023 meeting, and the group voted 7-0 in favor of the proposed plans. However, RSAC was later told that construction could not be expanded beyond the building’s footprint and that a considerable amount of the two-story expansion would be lost to stairs and elevators.

Russell argued that county-level research revealed permits could be easily obtained for the initially planned racquet center development. The committee, therefore, voted at their March 14, 2024 meeting to pur-

sue a “long overdue and greatly needed expansion to the racquet center building.” Members argue that the current building is undersized and cannot meet the members’ demands, nor can it keep up with increased participation.

‘We will closely monitor the situation and provide updates on the reopening.’

John Viola, OPA General Manager

“Today, we have nearly 500 members with five different racquet sports being played,” Russell said. “That number is expanding quickly since pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America. The existing building is no longer sufficient in size to meet the racquet sport’s growing membership.”

The RSAC member highlighted the need to increase the building’s size, claiming that functions had to be moved to the community center’s Asateague Room and the Golf Club’s meeting spot. She also claimed that the proposed bathroom enlargement leaves little space for pro-shop offices and worries that the facility’s structural soundness is compromised,

given its age. The committee maintains that the board-approved renovations do not address these issues.

Karen Kaplan continued these sentiments. She argued that the building needs a proper central HVAC system, as the current one does not sufficiently ventilate, an upgraded check-in site with windows for employees to monitor players, cameras, and improved shade amenities.

She also expressed her concerns about the quality of work this project will receive, as funding is only \$86 per square foot.

“That does not seem nearly enough to do a proper HVAC, new flooring, new walls, and possible mold remediation,” she said.

Kaplan argued that a proper expansion would increase the racquet center’s revenue and make it self-sustaining. Some ideas include offering breakfast food and drinks prepared by the Ocean Pines Yacht Club or the Clubhouse Bar and Grille, holding additional tournaments, selling more equipment and apparel from the pro shop, and cross-marketing to other amenities, like the swim club.

The next OPA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at the Golf Club Meeting Room.



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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Planning Commission Chair Matt Stoehr, seated right, and commission member Ron Cascio are pictured during a work session with the Mayor and Council March 25.

Berlin officials talk growth areas for comp plan review

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) Berlin officials agreed that growth areas need to be adjusted as Worcester County begins a review of its comprehensive plan.

The Berlin Town Council this week held a work session with the Berlin Planning Commission to discuss growth at Berlin's borders. The two bodies agreed to let county officials know that growth areas currently depicted around the town in the comprehensive plan are too large and need to be adjusted.

"We just need to build the Berlin wall and say no," said Ron Cascio, a member of the town's planning commission.

The current Worcester County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2006. In early March, the town received a letter from Worcester County officials advising municipal officials that during the next year a consultant would be working with

the county's planning commission to update the plan.

"As we begin our review, it is important that we begin discussions with each municipality to get your input on existing and proposed future growth areas surrounding the town of Berlin," the letter reads. "One of the most important goals of the county's current plan is to maintain the rural and coastal character by continuing the county's concentrated development pattern. To achieve this goal, we must continue to support sustainable growth by infilling existing communities and identifying appropriate areas for future growth."

Mayor Zack Tyndall said the questions the town was tasked with answering were whether the current growth areas were adequate and whether or not they were in the wrong place. Cascio and Matt Stoehr, the only two members of the planning commission present, said there was space for

See OFFICIAL Page 15

Town of Berlin Public Notices



TOWN OF BERLIN, MARYLAND NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance No. 2024-01 was passed by the Council of the Town of Berlin on Monday, March 25, 2024. The Ordinance may be petitioned to referendum so long as the petition is filed not later than April 15, 2024. The title of the Ordinance is as follows:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BERLIN INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS, 2024 SERIES A - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BERLIN, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND (THE "ISSUER"), PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,800,000.00) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BERLIN, MARYLAND, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BERLIN INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS, 2024 SERIES A" (OR BY SUCH OTHER OR ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION OR DESIGNATIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IDENTIFIED HEREIN, THE "BONDS"), TO BE ISSUED AND SOLD PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 4-101 THROUGH 4-255 OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE

FUNDS NECESSARY FOR (I) FINANCING, REIMBURSING AND/OR REFINANCING COSTS OF THE PROJECTS GENERALLY REFERRED TO BY THE ISSUER AS (A) ELECTRIC AMI METER SYSTEM AND (B) PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING, (II) FUNDING A PORTION OF A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AND/OR OTHER RESERVES, AND/OR (III) PAYING OR REIMBURSING ISSUANCE AND OTHER COSTS RELATED TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING THAT THE BONDS SHALL BE ISSUED UPON THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE ISSUER; PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF THE BONDS AND FOR THE LEVY OF ANNUAL TAXES UPON ALL ASSESSABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE ISSUER FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AS THEY SHALL RESPECTIVELY MATURE OR COME DUE; PROVIDING FOR THE FORMS, TENOR, DENOMINATIONS, MATURITY DATE OR DATES AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED PURPOSES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE METHOD OF FIXING THE INTEREST RATE OR RATES TO BE BORNE BY THE BONDS, THE APPROVAL, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS, CERTIFICATES AND INSTRUMENTS, AND THE MAKING OF OR PROVIDING FOR THE MAKING OF REPRESENTATIONS AND COVENANTS CONCERNING THE TAX STATUS OF INTEREST ON THE BONDS.

The Ordinance can be viewed in its entirety during regular business hours at Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM or on the Town website at www.berlinmd.gov.



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Official: 'we need to build the Berlin wall ...'

infill development within the town's current borders and that the county's growth areas outside Berlin needed to be adjusted.

"We have determined we should not annex any more properties," Cascio said.

He referenced planner Dhiru Thadani's visit to Berlin and his emphasis on infill.

"For a small town to function as a small town size matters," Cascio said.

Cascio said there were still areas for development within town limits. He suggested the ice plant area as well as the grain tower area.

Councilman Dean Burrell said he understood the desire for Berlin to remain quaint but questioned how the town would address growing operating costs without an increase in property tax revenue. He added that increasing the tax

rate would burden existing residents.

"We do not want to be a town where people who live here cannot afford to live here," he said.

Cascio said that annexing property would only further increase the town's operating expenses, as there would be more people that would need services like trash collection and police protection.

"Tax dollars are more impactful when they're compacted," he said.

Tyndall said officials would need to determine how to address the need for revenue. Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols said she felt it made sense for the town to stick with its current borders. Councilman Steve Green said he understood the commission's desire to see growth areas like the one on Libertytown Road eliminated but brought up the possibility of

commercial growth. He said the area on Route 50 near the auto parts store and Royal Farms seemed a reasonable place for commercial businesses to go.

"That's an area I'd be open to hearing an annexation," he said.

Cascio agreed there were suitable places for commercial development but

that developers needed to work in the town's architectural style.

"We think there are no brainers in some commercial districts like Route 50," he said.

The council is expected to work Monday's discussion points into a response to the county's letter.

OP streets undergoing milling

(March 28, 2024) Contractors began milling and patching several streets in Ocean Pines on Monday,

According to a news release, crews are working on the following streets:

- Battersea Road
- Canal Road
- Deerfield Court
- Driftwood Lane
- Moonraker Road

- St. Martins Lane
- Waters Edge Court
- Warf Court

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said flaggers will help direct traffic, and plans are to always keep one lane open on each street.

Weather permitting, paving should start on the first week of April. For roadwork updates, visit oceanpines.org.

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Library, Arts Council partner on new exhibit

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) Those visiting the Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library will have the opportunity to view work from two local artists from now until mid-May.

Mixed media pieces by Ocean Pines artist Sandy Glassman and a variety of paintings by West Ocean City artist Judy Benton will be on display in the second-floor gallery space at the library from now until May 14.

"The Worcester County Arts Council is proud of the partnership with

the Worcester County Library Foundation and pleased to offer exhibiting opportunities to many community artists that are being featured in the Berlin Library Gallery," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "The artists selected to participate in the 2024 exhibition season are remarkable in their creative expression and display a diverse array of mediums, styles, and subject matter for the visiting public. Artwork provides educational and cultural enrichment, encourages lifelong learning, and

connects our communities. All artwork is available for purchase."

Glassman, whose work includes scenes from Assateague as well as other landscapes and nature scenes, said her journey as an artist started more than a decade ago.

"I was a special needs teacher," she said. "When I retired I wanted to learn something new."

She met a watercolor teacher and started taking classes.

"Thirteen years later here I am," she said.

She said she primarily worked

with watercolors but also typically incorporated ink and sometimes things like pastels in her pieces.

"I decided the art police would not come to my door if I did my own thing," Glassman said, adding that her pieces were technically mixed media.

Benton said she worked in oils as well as acrylics, mixed media and watercolors. Her love of music has influenced her artistic style as has her interest in nature.

"I like to work intuitively," she said, adding that her subject matter

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was familiar to everyone but that she put her own spit on it. "I connect with my feelings."

Benton said she'd exhibited in the area before but appreciated the opportunity through the arts council to have her work on display in the library's gallery.

"It's good for artists and it's good for the community," she said, adding that it gave people the chance to admire a variety of artwork. "It's nice to know people are looking at artwork and checking artists out. More of that needs to be done."

Glassman agreed. She hopes more

people will become aware of the library's gallery, which features art from various members of the Worcester County Arts Council throughout the year.

"It's a hidden gem," she said. "The work here is beautiful and it deserves to be seen."

Artists interested in exhibiting opportunities can contact Mullis at anna@worcestercountyarts-council.org For more information about the Worcester County Arts Council's programs, services, and available resources, visit: www.worcestercountyarts-council.org.



Pictured with some new art work to be on display at the Worcester County Library Berlin branch are artist Sandy Glassman, WCAC Executive Director Anna Mullis and artist Judy Benton.

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Police chief releases speed results, new starting salary

A recent survey reveals most motorists obeying limit on Ocean Pines roads

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(March 28, 2024) Ocean Pines Police Department Chief Tim Robinson shared speed survey results and increased entry-level salaries for law enforcement officers at a March 23 meeting of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors.

According to Robinson, speed surveys were conducted over three weeks in February and March along Ocean Parkway at Briarcrest Drive, Sandyhook Road, Wareham Court, and the 300 block of Ocean Parkway to observe the frequency with which residents exceeded the 35 mph posted limit.

The police chief said that the department observed 48,112 vehicles during the study, but only 53 reached speeds above 50 mph. Robinson explained that the number of speeding cars may be slightly lower because this figure does not account for ambulances and other emergency responders.

Specific results revealed that be-

tween Feb. 21-24, 9,145 vehicles were recorded at Briarcrest Drive. The average speed was 32 mph, and 88% drove slower than 40 mph. Over eight days at Sandyhook Road, 17,971 automobiles were observed, and 96% clocked in at 39 mph or less. The average pace fell to 33 mph.

Wareham Court was surveyed for seven days, where it was discovered that the average speed of the 11,303 vehicles examined was 36 mph, and 78% did not exceed 40 mph. The 300 block of Ocean Parkway was surveilled from March 7-13, and 9,693 cars were detected. 85% went below 39 mph, and the average was 33 mph.

"I was very pleased," Robinson said. "Tens of thousands of cars have been seen over several days, and we are pleased to see the vast majority of Ocean Pines guests and residents obey the limit."

The chief also mentioned that he conducted Ocean Parkway radar from 8 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, March 16, and encountered only two speeding vehicles.

The OPPD intends to continue these surveys, moving to the south side of the community and including a few residential streets where the department has received complaints of irresponsible driving.

Additionally, Robinson shared police department salary developments, crediting Ocean Pines Association Manager John Viola and OPA Board President Rick Farr. The new starting pay for officers once they complete training has been increased to \$63,500.

"Remarkably, this puts us at the highest tier of law enforcement," the chief said.

Per the department, the OPPD is the highest-paid law enforcement agency on the lower Eastern Shore. Easton is the only area on the Delmarva Peninsula that pays an equivalent amount.

Robinson maintained that the department has struggled to find qualified applicants over the last six months. However, their phones have been "ringing off the hook" since raising the starting salary.

"If you know anybody who wants to get in law enforcement, this is a great community to work for," he said. "It's a great department to work for [and] we have great support here. I think it's been the talk of the law enforcement community."

For additional information, the Ocean Pines Police Department can be reached at 410-641-7747.

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(Above) Worcester Prep freshman Mia Jaoude and senior Izzy Huber pose with art they created that won awards in the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club's Worcester County High School Art Contest. Junior Angeline Todorov is not pictured, but her artwork hangs on the lower right side. (Right) Worcester Prep junior Mikayla Towns proudly stands with her digital piece, "Amanda Seyfried Mamma Mia," which won an Honorable Mention award.

PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Worcester Prep students earn art awards in contest

(March 28, 2024) Worcester Preparatory School students recently received awards for pieces of artwork they entered in the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club's Worcester County High School Art Contest.

In February, the club's gallery featured the Worcester County High School Art Contest, a juried art competition. The exhibition featured 28 pieces of student artwork submitted by high school art teachers, including WPS Art Director George Zaiser.

Worcester Prep competed against students from Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Stephen Decatur high schools, and Worcester Technical School, who all could submit up to 10 entries. The competition awarded a total of

\$2,000 in cash prizes to the student artists. The selection of artwork was judged by local artist and art club board member Doris Glover.

The WPS awards are as follows:

Drawing

Second Place – Junior Angeline Todorov – "Pavo Cristatus"

Painting

First Place – Senior Izzy Huber – "Emersion"

Digital

Third Place – Freshman Mia Jaoude – "Lightning Dragon"

Honorable Mention – Junior Mikayla Towns – "Amanda Seyfried Mamma Mia"

For more information on the contest, visit ocberlinoptimistclub.org.

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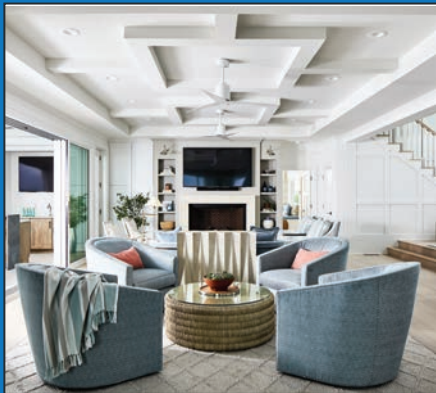
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PHOTO COURTESY MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Participants in the 2022 MBS Color Run pose for a photo after completing the course.

Color run in May at Most Blessed Sacramento school

(March 28, 2024) Most Blessed Sacramento Catholic School and the Home & School Association will dedicate this year's MBS Color Run to the memory of former middle school substitute and principal, Kathy Manns.

A dedication ceremony will be held at 5:15 p.m., May 3, followed by the color run events.

According to a news release, Manns was a champion of Catholic education. She dedicated her career and her retirement to serving students from not only most Blessed Sacramento, but also Holy Saviour John Foster School in Linwood, Pennsylvania and Mary Magdalen Catholic School in Wilmington, Delaware.

She made a lasting impact on the lives of many MBS families during her time as a middle school substitute teacher and principal and was instrumental in promoting MBS at Play to raise money for a new playground, the release said.

The Home & School Association's goal is to raise \$20,000 for 20 years of MBS. Phase I of the

playground has been completed and now it's time to complete Phase II.

For more information on registering for the color run, or to donate to the playground fund, contact Laura Barker at hsa@mbscs.org, or call the school office at 410-208-1600.

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Opinion

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

OPA errs on side of caution with closure

At the risk of having bricks thrown through the window, the question must be asked: why do pickleball players seem almost militant? That's how it appears at times, judging from the escalating demands of picklers across the country for more recognition.

The sport's rapid growth, however, is part of the problem, as it far exceeds the ability of communities, neighborhoods and local governments to accommodate its swelling numbers as quickly as enthusiasts would like.

This explosion of popularity also has pitted picklers against tennis players who don't want to lose their courts to them, against neighbors, who don't want to hear the whack-whack of pickleballs against paddles, and against local governing authorities whose long-term financial plans could not have anticipated that pickleball would spread like kudzu in the immediate post-pandemic period.

Big membership numbers, in other words, don't automatically send the game to the head of the line in terms of facilities and facility financing, when commitments to other sports have already been made and must be honored.

Consequently, it was disconcerting when the word began circulating in Ocean Pines early this week that the administration's closure of the racquet sports center to inspect for mold was actually retaliation for picklers' aggressive stance on racquet sports fee changes and their insistence that a better racquet center be provided.

Although the only thing that may be growing faster than pickleball these days is the embrace of conspiracy theories, this one is wrong. A complaint was made about the presence of mold in the building, it was alleged that it had made some people sick, and the OPA's insurers told management to err on the side of caution because of the possible liability.

That's it. A "let's show them" conversation was not a factor in the decision. Again, pickleball players should try to understand that while theirs may be the most popular game in town these days, it isn't the only game and communities are struggling to catch up.

Letters

Physicians provide quality health care

Editor,

As we celebrate this year's National Doctors' Day on March 30, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for all that our physicians do on behalf of their patients, our hospital and this community.

Every strong health care system relies upon the compassion, expertise and steadfast commitment to patient care exemplified by its physicians. And, Atlantic General Hospital and Health System is fortunate to have such a highly capable and qualified staff of physicians serving our hospital and providing for the health care needs of our community.

This Doctors' Day, it's important to reflect upon the significant impact they have made in the lives of our patients and their families. Each and every day, they make a difference. Their ability to heal transcends medical treatment – they bring comfort, hope and reassurance to those in need.

Their dedication, commitment and professionalism in caring for the needs of our community does not go unnoticed and is certainly not taken for granted.

On behalf of the hospital administration, staff and board of trustees, we say THANK YOU to Atlantic General Hospital and Health System's physicians for all that they do.

*Sincerely,
Donald Owrey
(The writer is the president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System.)*

Germantown School celebrates author

Editor,

The Germantown School Community Heritage Center is a vital source of community pride, historical significance and educational outreach in the Berlin area. Over the past few months

under the effective leadership of President Barbara Purnell, board members, and many faithful volunteers the school has sponsored many events including the very popular series "Veterans Voices" during the month of January.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, at Celebrity Stephen Decatur High School auditorium a diverse group of nearly 400 people came to support our Black History event. A book presentation by renowned author Ta-Nehisi Coates was well received as he shared his story. Mr. Coates has intimate ties to Berlin having spent many summers here with his family including his aunts, uncles, and cousins. He has a strong sense of "family" and it's "connectiveness" to his well-being. Having to navigate the mean streets of Baltimore during his childhood, this country setting brought him a sense of safety, peace and nurtured his creativity.

Mr. Coates has authored six books, which is amazing considering he confessed to not being a good student. I found it easy to get emerged in times and places he transports us through his writing.

The book "Between the World and Me" was on the Bestseller's List and also selected for Oprah's Book Club 2012. His book entitled "The Water Dancer" was on the New York Times Best Sellers List. Its background setting is the farms and fields of the Eastern Shore.

In his books, Mr. Coates elaborates on the personal, cultural and social challenges of slavery and the very difficult movement toward freedom. Mr. Coates' books provide minute details and vivid descriptions throughout the pages. Prepared discussion questions were focused but could have stifled a lively discussion on the realities of living in a segregated small town that was slow to change.

Those in attendance said that Mr. Coates was enthusiastic, positive and encourag-

ing. He retained good memories of Berlin. There is also comfort in knowing you can always "come home again." We are so proud of Ta-Nehisi Coates and all his accomplishments. Listening to this presentation inspired us to look at our own creative nature to see what we can bring to the world.

*Betty Smith
Berlin*

Board of ed. budget should be dynamic

Editor,

Last week's article "Money found to fund Worcester County summer school program," has definitely stirred up some responses. The headline accomplished the goal of grabbing the reader's attention. The headline uses "money found," which implies it was lost or missing. But the funds were neither lost nor missing.

The budget process for the school system involves many variables, but first and foremost, it must be dynamic. That is to say, the budget must allow room for the changing needs of the students it serves. A school system budget must also never be in a deficit. Those two requirements alone mean that when creating a school budget, you must build in a reasonable surplus.

In order for a surplus to occur or be built into a budget, revenue received must be greater than anticipated or expenditures incurred must be lower than planned. When creating a budget, conservatively planning use of both measures is prudent. Both practices would enable enough wiggle room to meet changes and fluctuating demands and situations that a school system could encounter. Furthermore, it's important for categories that may experience variability to be given a conservative measure of deviation, so that necessary ex-

Continued on Page 23

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Letters

Continued from Page 22

penditures are not relying on a revenue source that has too much fluctuation.

This topic came up at the county commissioners meeting, where it was discussed that a few revenue categories of the BOE budget were experiencing higher actual revenues than the budget showed were expected. This is part of the conservative, reasonable surplus. This wasn't something that is a surprise. In fact, at the end of previous fiscal years, the BOE has informed the County Commissioners of the total surplus amount and asked to use it for identified needs. It was only last year where this practice deviated, and the Commissioners requested the surplus not be used to fund Summer Academy for FY24 as requested, but to be returned and put towards OPEB.

The identification of this current year surplus, which amounts to approximately 0.16% of the FY24 budget, is essentially reallocating the money ahead of the FY24 close out.

I'm ecstatic that Summer Academy will take place this year, even if it is a trimmed down and smaller staffed version. Even if this is just a Band-Aid for this current year and doesn't address a full return to a robust Summer Academy program, I'm glad the surplus has been reallocated ahead of year end in order to address this now.

However, the handling of this has left a bad taste in my mouth.

The point was hammered that WCPS BOE has under budgeted revenue. And yes, revenue did exceed the budgeted amounts in a few categories by approximately \$200-\$300k total. I already spoke to understanding why such a conservative budget for variable revenue categories may result in a fiscally sound and reasonable surplus. Yet, I can't help but draw comparison to the County General Fund budget for FY23 which had under budgeted revenue by \$27 million. I find that instead of understanding and working together for a solution, this is being used as another

weapon for the commissioners to undermine the authority and duty of the BOE. I find it interesting there wasn't a mention of \$27 million being "found" in the county general fund revenues for FY23 and nor did I hear a call for better budgeting practices and transparency. Or even when the County General Fund's excess revenue for FY23 exceeded the budgeted amount by \$19M and the County General fund balance grew another \$10 million.

This wasn't a nefarious or negligent act. And I wish what I had seen from my commissioners and county government was a collaborative discussion with the BOE and WCPS leadership if they wished for this current year surplus to be allocated before the end of the fiscal year. Unfortunately, that's not what I heard.

I heard politics take the lead over what is best for our students and community. I heard the creation of another justification for providing MOE for FY25. I heard another crack in the working relationship between the county commissioners and WCPS BOE. And the only ones that will suffer from these continued actions are the students, teachers, and community.

*Kate Hulme
Bishopville*

Latest US Wind changes questioned after hearing

Editor,

Last Monday, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) held a public hearing regarding US Wind's application to turn Ocean City's small commercial fishing harbor into its Maintenance and Operations Facility (M&O).

Sadly, US Wind and MDE neglected to inform any elected official representing this area, or the public, of an altered application that massively downgraded the project until five hours before the hearing.

Such tactics belie US Wind's "Transparency and Community En-

agement Claims." We have been lied to far too long both in Ocean City and Delaware Beaches. We are tired of "pretty posters," as we witness the devastation to our north, and now to Virginia Beach homes and sea life. Reality is vastly different than US Wind's "pretty posters."

It appears, US Wind now proposes only two crew transfer boats and no equipment/maintenance vessels are needed to maintain and repair its OSW project.

How can this differ so vastly from the Construction and Operations plan, which states, "operation of the proposed action could generate up to seven vessels and an average of 1,644 annual transits with most trips consisting of service operation vessels or crew transfer vessels to and from Ocean City. Vessel traffic generated by proposed action could restrict maneuvering room and cause delays accessing ports."?

This sudden change leaves one to believe untruths are being told and US Wind has embarked on a program to piecemeal this project to full original desires through small change applications it believes would be approved with little to no community resistance. I am here to let US Wind know all the near 15,000 (and growing) signatories to Protect Our Coast Delmarva's petition, beg to differ.

How can any Maryland official support a project that will fiscally harm our state that has huge budget deficits and is struggling to pay for the new education mandates?

What do you think will happen to the budget if we allow the industrialization of our coastal waters estimated to kill Ocean City's fiscal contributions by at least 15% (per Ørsted)?

How can you justify approving a M&O facility that will kill our seafood industry when the state recognizes it contributes \$600 mil/year to our economy? Why massively harm OC's recreational fishing when NOAA tells us that in 2019, (the latest data,) 6.8 million recreational trips happened in Maryland generating \$268.2 million?

Why would Maryland even consider a project that will severely damage our economy, not save the planet, and is spearheaded by Mr. Grybowski; the man responsible for the debacle that is Block Island's wind farm? The one that doesn't work, leaks oil constantly and has cost the residents of Rhode Island over \$30 million to keep the high voltage cables on the island's beaches buried?

Not one part of this project is good for Maryland.

*Dianna Harris
West Ocean City*



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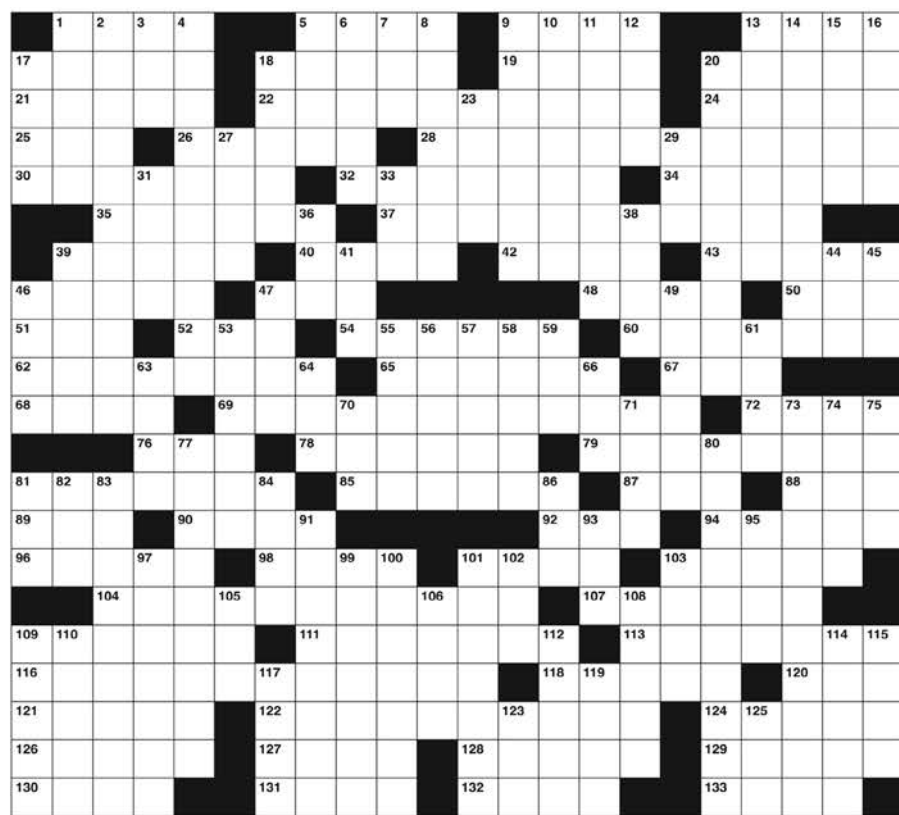
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Puzzles

ALL OVER THE MAP BY SIMEON SEIGEL / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Simeon Seigel is an architect at the Turrett Collaborative in New York City. He uses his subway commute to "trainstorm" theme ideas — including this one, which has been in the works since 2018. He writes, "The best themes, to me, are the ones that hinge on breaking 'rules' that I hadn't thought of as rules until they were broken."

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pear variety
 - 5 Universal, as a motor
 - 9 Short hedge?
 - 13 Turner on the radio
 - 17 Farm machine equipped with twine
 - 18 More crafty
 - 19 The right one is usually slower
 - 20 Eclipse
 - 21 Title character for Tyler Perry
 - 22 Bright pink shade
 - 24 Literary friend of Sam, Merry and Pippin
 - 25 "___ With Marc Maron" (podcast)
 - 26 Like a stock quote?
 - 28 Attraction in 69-Across that once froze over for 30 hours in 1848
 - 30 Informally agree to
 - 32 Stick in a cup
 - 34 Buyer
 - 35 Sudden arrival
 - 37 Attraction in 69-Across that withstands dozens of lightning strikes a year, familiarly
 - 39 Didn't swipe right?
 - 40 Mail insert: Abbr.
 - 42 What prices can do
 - 43 Turning on the waterworks
 - 46 Either end of America?
- DOWN**
- 47 "I goofed," in slang
 - 48 Fish fittingly found in "anemone"
 - 50 Music genre that emphasizes the offbeat
 - 51 Stumbler or bumbler
 - 52 Name that sounds like a letter
 - 54 Actor Kutcher
 - 60 General meeting place
 - 62 School subjects?
 - 65 Steel boot feature
 - 67 Occasion for fireworks: Abbr.
 - 68 Capital city founded by King Harald
 - 69 Locale of this puzzle's attractions (really, all eight of them!)
 - 72 Spa service, in brief
 - 76 Pro ___ (for now)
 - 78 Bleep out
 - 79 Unwrapped eagerly
 - 81 Voicer of Olaf in "Frozen"
 - 85 Typical sock hopper
 - 87 British throne room?
 - 88 Not a good guy
 - 89 Handled thing
 - 90 Handling things
 - 92 Curt reprimand to a dog
 - 94 Wood used to make chess pieces and pool cues
 - 96 Scarfs (down)
 - 98 Caribbean music genre
 - 101 Name of two "Groundhog Day" characters
 - 103 Little rascals
 - 104 Attraction in 69-Across overseen by the Navajo Nation
 - 107 "Life would be ___ if it weren't funny": Stephen Hawking
 - 109 French eatery
 - 111 Noted name in 2005 news
 - 113 Cause of a driveway stain
 - 116 Attraction in 69-Across on the Extraterrestrial Highway
 - 118 "Nature of a ___" (1991 Queen Latifah album)
 - 120 Originally called
 - 121 Children's author Eric
 - 122 Biggest portion
 - 124 A little crazy
 - 126 Colonized, as bees might
 - 127 Directional heading?
 - 128 Skipjacks and bluefins
 - 129 Perfect places
 - 130 Be on the decline?
 - 131 Spanish for "weight"
 - 132 Former L.A. center
 - 133 Clinic liquids
 - 1 Political party founded in Syria
 - 2 Attraction in 69-Across that's part of America's first national park
 - 3 Picture
 - 4 Attraction in 69-Across that's almost 2,000 feet deep
 - 5 Often
 - 6 Gives as a reference
 - 7 Many a lib
 - 8 Heady?
 - 9 Owners of an infamous cow
 - 10 Citrus with a portmanteau name
 - 11 Person living in London
 - 12 Consider
 - 13 Comedian Jimmy with a self-described "schnozzola"
 - 14 "Shoulda listened to me!"
 - 15 Confuse
 - 16 One way to be cut
 - 17 Some German rides
 - 18 They're very attached to their calves
 - 20 Collection during a church service
 - 23 Prepare (oneself) for a challenge
 - 27 Debauchee
 - 29 "Hail," in old Rome
 - 31 Have down
 - 33 Special attention, for short
 - 36 "Sup"
 - 38 Steep
 - 39 Improvises in a jazz group
 - 41 Jazz group, for short
 - 44 Distributor of 1933's "King Kong" and "Little Women"
 - 45 Nigerian staple food
 - 46 Nothing special
 - 47 "Bulls get angry when they see the color red," for one
 - 49 Meditation aid
 - 53 Small role for Paul Rudd
 - 55 Marble, e.g.
 - 56 Word before fly
 - 57 Wyoming's ___ Range
 - 58 Yellowish pigment
 - 75 Fictional archaeologist with a whip, familiarly
 - 77 Googled oneself, e.g.
 - 80 Attraction in 69-Across where crocodiles and alligators uniquely coexist
 - 81 Quick boxing move
 - 82 Tic-tac-toe loser
 - 83 Buffet style
 - 84 Part of the spine
 - 86 Diamond stat
 - 91 Deliberated (on)
 - 93 Subgenre prefix
 - 95 Flake, so to speak
 - 97 Came to
 - 99 Supply for kindergarten drawers
 - 100 Eponymous saint of "Alamo City"
 - 101 Some clerical workers
 - 102 Seller of over a billion Huggable Hangers on TV
 - 103 It's a trap!
 - 105 Profitability metric, for short
 - 106 Sea eagles
 - 108 Wine-menu section
 - 109 The two wives and 20 children of Johann Sebastian
 - 110 Letter-shaped beam
 - 112 Yoga pose
 - 114 Insurance company whose name contains a diphthong
 - 115 "Ivories"
 - 117 Bomb
 - 119 Where dinars are spent
 - 123 "Wait ... what?"
 - 125 Work on something you love?



- 59 "No," in a certain dialect
- 61 Default consequence, perhaps
- 63 "The lady ___ protest too much ..."
- 64 Brut-ish?
- 66 Touch gently
- 70 Division for a tennis match
- 71 Persuaded
- 73 Attraction in 69-Across designed to be a "city of the future"
- 74 Academic figures
- 75 Fictional archaeologist with a whip, familiarly
- 77 Googled oneself, e.g.
- 80 Attraction in 69-Across where crocodiles and alligators uniquely coexist
- 81 Quick boxing move
- 82 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 83 Buffet style
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- 117 Bomb
- 119 Where dinars are spent
- 123 "Wait ... what?"
- 125 Work on something you love?

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NEW TRAILERS FOR SALE / MAINE TAGS AVAILABLE

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 45

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.

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

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Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Diakonia's Rt. 611 plans scaled back, receive some sewer

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(March 28, 2024) County officials approved a modified sewer capacity request that will allow Diakonia to move forward with some of its plans for property on Route 611.

The Worcester County Commissioners voted unanimously this week to approve a request for four EDUs (equivalent dwelling units) for the proposed Diakonia campus on Route 611. The allocation will allow the non-profit to move forward with plans for a thrift store, food pantry and office but not the housing initially being considered.

"They've considerably changed their development plan," said Bob Mitchell, the county's director of environmental programs.

In January, the commissioners voted 4-3 not to approve an agreement between Diakonia and the Town of Ocean City that would have allowed the resort to provide sewer capacity so the nonprofit to construct a new facility on Route 611. Diakonia has provided emergency housing, food assistance and other resources to those in need in the Ocean City

See DIAKONIA Page 26

Pocomoke eyes Boys, Girls Club

Mayor: New community center partnership would support local youth

(March 28, 2024) Pocomoke City Mayor Todd Nock and Councilwoman Esther Troast have clarified details surrounding a forthcoming partnership between the city and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Eastern Shore. According to a news release, the collaboration aims to establish a new community center that will significantly benefit the local youth and the broader community.

Addressing recent misinformation circulating online, Nock responded in the release.

"We never said that we were giving property or donating land. We never said that we were selling. The property will remain in the possession of Pocomoke City," he said.

He added that the facility, tentatively named the Pocomoke City Community Center, will primarily host the Boys & Girls Club but remain under city ownership. The arrangement ensures community-wide access and flexibility in usage, including the city's right to terminate the contract with the Boys & Girls Club at any discretion.

Troast highlighted the thorough

due diligence conducted prior to solidifying the partnership. Collaborating with regional educational and Boys & Girls Club officials, the release said she sought to address critical questions concerning liability, financial responsibilities, construction timelines, and long-term property ownership. The inquiries revealed a cooperative financial strategy involving both the city's efforts to secure Community Development Block Grant funds and the Boys & Girls Club's commitment to operational financing.

According to the release, key takeaways from the discussions include the city's overarching liability protection, support in grant applications from the Boys & Girls Club and a clear construction timeline contingent upon grant awarding. Troast said that, regardless of future out-

comes, the property would remain a city asset.

"The building will always be the city's, simply operated by the Boys & Girls Club during after-school and summer camp hours," she said in the release.

The proposed partnership and facility promise a win-win situation for Pocomoke City, by not only enriching the offerings for the city's youth but also by providing a versatile space for the entire community.

Troast expressed confidence in the project's impact, citing personal commitment to and involvement in the city's educational and recreational offerings for children.

As the city of Pocomoke advances the project, community members are encouraged to stay informed through official city channels for updates on the project's progress.

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OPEN HOUSES			March 28 - April 4		
DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	12327 Vista Way, Lighthouse Sound	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,375,000	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	107 Convention Center Drive #117C, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$484,900	Lauren Martini/BHHS PenFed Realty
Friday 11am-2pm	13 131st St. #105, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	1 66th St. Unit 101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	13 131st St. #105, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	7 Windswept Drive, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$399,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 1-2:30pm	603 St. Louis Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Multi-Unit	\$579,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 3-5pm	1207 Edgewater Avenue #104B, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$599,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	1005 Edgewater Ave, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$699K	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate



Diakonia revises project scope to use fewer EDUs

Continued from Page 25

area since the 1970s and wanted to expand those efforts with a new facility. The nonprofit initially planned to have the new structure include housing as well as a thrift store, food pantry and office space.

As a result of that January decision, Diakonia officials approached the commissioners this month with a revised request. Instead of the 32 EDUs sought before, the nonprofit said it needed four.

"We are respectfully requesting that the county either allocated Mystic Harbour EDUs or approve the Town of Ocean City's offer to provide the necessary sewer EDUs to allow for construction of the thrift store, food pantry and corporate offices (no EDUs are being requested for the housing units as part of this request) in order to allow us to expand the vital services that we provide to our community for those in needs," a letter from Mike Diffendal, vice chair of Diakonia's board, to Commissioner Eric Fiori reads.

Diffendal said approval of the request would preserve the nonprofit's state funding and would mean its volunteers could proceed with fundraising.

"Hopefully the county will have an agreement for additional sewer capacity with the Town of Ocean City in place soon, but approval of this request for a limited allocation would allow for Diakonia to expand our community outreach sooner rather than later during these times of increased community need," the letter reads.

Mitchell told the commissioners the Mystic Harbour service area had 17 remaining EDUs and would be able to allocate four to Diakonia. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the request.

Calendar

Thurs., March 28

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING BUDGET WITH D3

Berlin Maryland Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 8 a.m. Breakfast and coffee provided. Free.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fls-2024-2945089?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcol-lection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>.

STORYTIME: 'THE EASTER EGG'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Design your own Easter egg and create a baby chick during storytime. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SCHOOL'S OUT TEEN HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Play video games, make crafts and compete in trivia. For teens and their families. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. Book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. Come find your next great read. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL IN UPPER ROOM

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 4:30 p.m. A worship service of recalling the events of the meal eaten by Jesus and his disciples so long ago. Sign-up: 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CELEBRATION

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 6 p.m. A light dinner and service will be held in the Parish Hall to commemorate the Last Supper. <https://stpaulsberlin.org/events>

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

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

Fri., March 29

40TH ANNUAL HOME, CONDO AND OUTDOOR SHOW WITH ART AND CRAFT FAIR

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Hundreds of ideas and products for homes and outdoor spaces. Get advice, compare and take advantage of Show Specials. Also a craft show with handcrafted decor and gifts. www.oceanpromotions.info, 410-213-8090

EASTER KIDS FUN FAIR

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring continuous activities, games and entertainment including Juggling shows, Easter egg hunts, limbo contests and photos with the Easter Bunny. Schedule of events: www.oceanpromotions.info. 410-213-8090

GOOD FRIDAY SELF-GUIDED PRAYER STATIONS

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin. Held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. Come and go as your schedule allows. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com.

MAHJONG CLUB

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

JOLLY ROGER AMUSEMENT PARKS PIER OPENING & PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Jolly Roger at the Pier, 401 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. Free Easter pictures with the Easter Bunny. <https://jollyrogerpark.com/easter-sale/>, 410-289-4902

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 7 p.m. Good Friday service. <https://stpaulsberlin.org/events>

Sat., March 30

40TH ANNUAL HOME, CONDO AND OUTDOOR SHOW WITH ART AND CRAFT FAIR

Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Hundreds of ideas and products for homes and outdoor spaces. Get advice, compare and take advantage of Show Specials. Also a craft show with handcrafted decor and gifts. www.oceanpromotions.info, 410-213-8090

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AUCE BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet will include 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.

TRIMPER RIDES GRAND RE-OPENING WEEKEND

Trimper Rides of Ocean City, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12-5 p.m. Featuring the Easter Bunny and Trimper Troupe. Indoor rides only. https://www.trimperrides.com/trimper-news/easter-at-trimper_rides/, 410-289-8617

JOLLY ROGER AMUSEMENT PARKS PIER OPENING & PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Jolly Roger at the Pier, 401 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 1-3 p.m. Free Easter pictures with the Easter Bunny. <https://jollyrogerpark.com/easter-sale/>, 410-289-4902

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 7-11:59 p.m. Easter Vigil service. <https://stpaulsberlin.org/events>

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., March 31

EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

Assateague State Park, 6915 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 6:30 a.m. Free breakfast after service at Bethany United Methodist Church. In case of inclement weather, updates will be post on the church's Facebook page: Bethany United Methodist Church in Berlin. 410-641-2186

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. Services held 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to commemorate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. <https://stpaulsberlin.org/events>

EASTER WORSHIP

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 10 a.m. Free breakfast before service at 8 a.m. Egg hunt for all ages follows worship. The service will also be live-streamed at <https://bethanyberlin.org/worship/>. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com

TRIMPER RIDES GRAND RE-OPENING WEEKEND

Trimper Rides of Ocean City, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12-5 p.m. Featuring the Easter Bunny and Trimper Troupe. Indoor rides only. https://www.trimperrides.com/trimper-news/easter-at-trimper_rides/, 410-289-8617

Continued on Page 27

Local News
Cuisine
Entertainment
Classifieds
Business
Opinion
Calendar

BAYSIDE GAZETTE
www.baysideoc.com

Calendar

Continued from Page 27

JOLLY ROGER AMUSEMENT PARKS PIER OPENING & PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Jolly Roger at the Pier, 401 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 1-3 p.m. Free Easter pictures with the Easter Bunny. <https://jollyrogerpark.com/easter-sale/>, 410-289-4902

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., April 1

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Takes place the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

STORY TIME: DRAGONS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Newark Volunteer Fire Co, 8338 Newark Road, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Appointments are suggested by calling the Blood Bank of Delmarva, 888-825-6638 or online at delmarvablood.org. Walk-ins welcome, time permitting. Ava, 443-523-4081 or Jackie, 443-735-4275

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION: 'HUMAN PERSONALITY' BY SIMONE WEIL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets twice a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. They are reading from Book 5 of the Great Conversations Anthology. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Meet to play Warhammer. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available, so novice and veteran players alike are welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

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 PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE!

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 7 p.m. Prizes may include appliances, vacations and possibly a new car. Purchase tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/828402>

17/the-price-is-right-live-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center. Doors open 6:30.

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

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., April 2

OCEAN CITY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-noon. Free health fair for the community. The event includes various free health screenings, health education and guest speakers at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268

STORY TIME: FROGS

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

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring any questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PASTA LIKE A PRO

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2-4 p.m. Learn how to make pasta dough, then hand-form into southern Italian shapes. Cook the pasta and eat with a paired sauce. Registration required. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BASEBALL FEVER IN BALTIMORE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Author Mark Millikin discusses the 1969-71 Baltimore Orioles and how star players and other created baseball magic in Charm City. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANIME CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Celebrate appreciation for anime and manga. Monthly themes will include trivia games, Japanese snacks and arts and crafts. For ages 13-16 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND SAFE BOATING COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. Takes place April 2, 3 and 4. Successful attendees receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states. Fee is \$20. Register: 410-935-4807, CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882,

Wed., April 3

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Have fun making music, singing songs and playing. For ages 0-2 years. 410-

208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SLIME PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn what slime is and make your own slime to take with you. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

AROUND THE WORLD IN 30 INSTRUMENTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 11 a.m.-noon. Aodh Og O'Tuama of Cork, Ireland and Christy Martin of California perform traditional and original from the Celtic lands, Medieval & Renaissance Europe, India and the Americas. 443-783-6164

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5-6 p.m. Group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-641-4217, pyocubik@atlanticgeneral.org

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 6-7 p.m. A safe place for caregivers to share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have a serious illness. Nicole, nfry@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-2626

CELTIC, FOLK & WORLD MUSIC CONCERT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6-7 p.m. Aodh Og O'Tuama of Cork, Ireland and Christy Martin of California perform traditional and original from the Celtic lands, Medieval & Renaissance Europe, India and the Americas. 443-783-6164

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

ONGOING EVENTS

TEEN STEAM STATION

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., during April. Create jewelry using binary code, construct a flying glider, design your own city out of recycled material and more. Challenges change each week. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, all day, March 18-28. Stop by to grab a scavenger hunt sheet and search the library for reading rabbis. Finish the hunt to reveal a secret message. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

Classifieds appear in **OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceanacitytoday.com & baysideoc.com



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Worcester County Health Department
Come Join Our Team!

We are currently seeking a quick learner who enjoys working in a fast paced & team oriented environment in Snow Hill, Maryland!

PERSONNEL ASSOCIATE II - Full Time, State Benefits. The main purpose of this position is to assist with recruitment activities for the Worcester County Health Department as well as process payroll & timekeeping. This position will also perform a variety of human resources functions accurately and effectively as directed while maintaining the strictest level of confidentiality. Background check required.

APPLY ONLINE at www.jobapscloud.com/md April 2, 2024.

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TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Town of Snow Hill is accepting applications for the position of Code Compliance Officer. Responsibilities include: enforcement of various Town codes; inspections; issuance of permits; processing of complaints and staffing of various committees. Preferred candidate is IRC Certified and has familiarity with IBC, IEBC, Energy Code, ADA, and other applicable codes; has good organizational skills, excellent communication skills and is available to attend night meetings.

Salary commensurate with experience. This is a full-time position with Town benefits, health insurance and Maryland State Retirement.

To request an application form, send resume with salary requirements to: csullivan@snowhillmd.com or Town of Snow Hill, Carol Sullivan, P.O. Box 348, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

Seeking Housekeeper F/T, YR. Seaside Condominiums, 135th St. Apply in person. 410-250-2262

Help Wanted - Cook

with 2-3 Years experience required. Honest, dependable, reliable. Flexible schedule - Full or Part-time. Weekly pay checks. Friendly work environment. Serious inquires only.

Open daily 12:00 p.m. American Legion Post #166, 2308 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, MD

PGN Crab House
29th St. & Coastal Hwy. Now Hiring for • Waitstaff • Kitchen Help **Apply within in person after 11:00 am.**

Currently looking for two part-time **Pool Attendants**. Seasonal May 24 through Sept. 2. Shift Monday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm and 4-10pm. Duties include enforcing the pool rules as posted and checking pool bands. Send resume to Kristin.moore@atlantisocmd.com

Now Hiring Summer 2024 Positions for Sun Outdoors Ocean City!

Looking for bartenders, cashiers, cooks, housekeepers, activities attendants, front desk agents, security, and maintenance!

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(next to the convention center)

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(Next to Quietstorm on the boardwalk)

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Seasonal Weekly Rental (ONLY). Single family home, Berlin, 4BR, 3BA, \$625/per night. **Call 484-319-7188 for details.**

Looking For 4-Month Summer Rental in Ocean City. Gentleman works on beach full-time downtown for local business. Excellent references. **Call or text Charles, 410-294-1028.**

ROOMMATES

Houseshare. Furnished rooms in South Ocean Pines. All inclusive. \$800 per month. Year-round. No smoking. No pets.
Call 443-880-2317.

Furnished Room, Montego Bay, for a male, preferably 20's to 30's for house share. Young man on premises with cat. \$700 rent, \$700 security, all utilities are included - excluding cable. Background check, references and employment verification. Available April 1.
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BOATS/PWC

BOAT - 1976 Catalina Yacht, Sailboat.
Call 443-880-7453.

AUCTIONS

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

Units to be auctioned: B28-S785-S226-O101-O103-O136-O145-O151. 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: Saturday, March 30, 2024
Time: 10:00 am

This will be an online auction. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

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

MISC./OTHER

The rising sun cries, "You can neer go, not now!" Turning, she is gone.

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E-mail resume with **OFFICE MANAGER** in the subject line to: AdSales@coastalpoint.com



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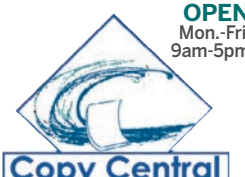
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