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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Mold claim false

Board says resident hoped to get new racquet building using unfounded assertion

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 4, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors late last week revealed that an inspection of the racquet center building showed it was free of mold and mildew, despite assertions to the contrary made by a Racquet Sports Advisory Committee member.

At a March 23 OPA Board of Directors meeting, RSAC member Suzanne Russell said the center's building contained mold and had sickened some employees and members.

On March 24, the board and OPA General Manager John Viola decided to close the facility until the charge could be investigated. The courts remained open for players throughout the inspection.

A statement released by the association's governing body last Friday said an analysis of the property found no evidence of mold or mildew.

"OPA management took immediate action to close and proactively inspect the facility, which involved destructive investigation behind walls and under carpeting, inspection by qualified outside professionals, and testing the air inside the building for ambient mold conditions," the board's statement reads.

"... Although a few very small areas of discoloration of indeterminate type were observed on the interior side of

See OPA Page 6

## SPRING FUN

Berlin and Ocean Pines each held their own Easter activities last weekend. (Top) One of the highlights of last Saturday's Berlin Spring Celebration was the annual bonnet parade on Main Street that attracted about 20 participants. (Above) attendees to the Ocean Pines Spring Celebration check out the festivities offered at White Horse Park.



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During a meeting March 25, the Berlin Mayor and Council deliberated over the best way to break a tie in an election. Pictured, from left, are Council Vice President Dean Burrell, Mayor Zack Tyndall and Councilman Jay Knerr.

# Town council prefers run-off elections to break tie votes

By Charlene Sharpe  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) With an election coming in the fall, Berlin officials agreed to institute a policy to address tie votes.

Members of the Berlin Town Council this week asked staff to move forward with drafting a policy to allow for a special run-off election in the event of a tie vote.

“Last election we came very close to a tie vote,” Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. “As it turns out the state requires us to have measures in place to address tie votes.”

Bohlen said in preparation for the upcoming election cycle, she realized the town needed to incorporate a policy to decide a tie vote in case there was one. She said options included flipping a coin, drawing straws or rolling dice. The staff recommendation provided in the council’s packet was to utilize the dice roll or high card option as there was no cost and the

vacancy could be decided at the next council meeting following the election.

“You will find every method under the sun out there,” Bohlen said. “It just comes down to how you want to do it.”

Mayor Zack Tyndall said his recommendation was that a run-off election be held. Bohlen said the only disadvantage with that was that it would take time and could be happening close to county, state or national elections. The state requires that a vacancy from a tie vote be filled within 90 days of the election.

Councilmen Steve Green and Jack Orris said they supported a run-off election.

“I agree with the human vote,” Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols said.

The council is expected to review a draft ordinance incorporating the plan for a run-off election in the event of a tie at its April 8 meeting. A public hearing will be held April 22.

# Waterline flushing set for Ocean Pines through April

(April 4, 2024) The Worcester County Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works will begin flushing waterlines in the Ocean Pines Service Area between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. during select days in April.

The following proposed dates are set now for the waterline flushing, but subject to change:

- April 16 – River Run
- April 26 – Pennington Commons Area
- May 1 – Bay Point Plantations
- April 15-30 – Ocean Pines Sections 1-19

For more information, view [co.worcester.md.us/sites/default/files/OP\\_Sections.pdf](http://co.worcester.md.us/sites/default/files/OP_Sections.pdf).

According to a news release, routine flushing of the water system

helps reduce the frequency of discolored water.

Public works crews open and close the hydrants and flush out the built-up iron deposits. That can sometimes lead to temporary increases in suspended iron, which should settle out within a few hours of the flushing.

Please be aware that, even on dates the water lines in the sections not set for flushing, it is still possible to experience discolored water. If area residents notice their water becoming cloudy, they are advised to run their water for a few minutes until it becomes clear.

For more information, call the county’s water and wastewater division at 410-641-5251.

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Michele’s love of art and antiques first drew her into jewelry design when, by chance, she discovered a tiny collection of rings during a ski trip in the Swiss Alps. Michele was so inspired that months later the New York City native found herself on the faraway tropical island of Bali.

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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 Sonner,  
Creator, Michou Jewelry



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# Divided commission okays Wawa in Berlin

By Charlene Sharpe  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission voted 4-3 to approve a site plan for a Wawa at the intersection of Route 50 and North Main Street.

In what was the commission's third meeting on the project in four months, the commission agreed to approve a Wawa site plan featuring an updated design that developers said incorporated elements of Berlin. Those in opposition to the site plan felt developers could have done more.

"We have examples of other Wawas across the country that would suit me better," commission member Ron Cascio said. "To me it's not acceptable."

In 2021, the commission approved a site plan for Athena Properties, the



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

For the third time in four months, members of the Berlin Planning Commission met with representatives of the proposed Wawa near the corner of Route 50 and North Main Street.

parcel on the corner of routes 818 and 50, that included a 7-Eleven and a hotel. In December 2023, developers returned to the commission asking for approval of a Wawa instead of a 7-Eleven. Those developers re-

turned to the commission this week to present updated plans they said incorporated aspects of Berlin's architecture. Steve Fortunato of Bohler Engineering said the commission hadn't been very specific in its guidance but that Wawa designers had removed extra signs from the building and simplified the facia and use of materials. The updated design also features more red brick and windows added to the building's side.

"This is a one off," he said. "This is different from all the new models."

Commission member Newt Chandler noted that the new design even featured brick pumps under the fueling canopy.

"That's a nice touch," he said.

Cascio said developers hadn't changed the form of the building. Commission member Erich Pfeffer agreed and pointed out the property was a landmark entrance to Berlin.

Developers said the commission had asked not for changes to the footprint but rather changes to the exterior of the building at the last meeting. Fortunato said it had been hard to figure out how to adjust the building at all without specific architectural guidelines.

"What is a challenge here is we had six different opinions," he said, adding that the commission's most specific direction had been to walk around downtown Berlin to look for architectural elements that could be worked into the Wawa design.

Attorney Dirk Widdowson said he questioned how buildings like the Rite Aid and Goose Creek had been approved, as they didn't work in elements of the town's architecture.

"You're dictating a lot more than you did for any of those buildings," he said, adding that a convenience store had been approved for the site in 2021. "It's a convenience store. We certainly can't make it something it's not."

Commission member Austin Purnell said he had looked at more recently approved buildings, such as the Dollar General and the police station and felt the new Wawa design fit in.

"It's tied in with the red brick," he said. "Generally speaking I like it."

Commission member Pete Cosby said he'd been on the commission

when the Rite Aid was approved.

"We were less experienced and more sympathetic," he said, adding that he went along with it and as a result had to look at the building for the last 20 years. He noted the proposed Wawa building could be improved by a cupola or gable and said he didn't like the white risers on either side of the proposed building.

Fortunato said if that had been voiced at the last meeting designers would likely have removed them.

Attorney Regan Smith said it wasn't fair to expect developers to return to the commission every few weeks in response to a member's criticism. Property owner Spiro Buas said the process so far had been extremely frustrating.

"Why is the standard not the same?" he said. "You can't keep changing what you want."

He added that the need for a light at the intersection, one of the early concerns regarding the project, had been addressed with the state's confirmation that a traffic signal would be installed by the fall of 2026.

Berlin resident Andy Grunden spoke in support of the project and said a lot of workaday people wanted the Wawa in town.

"Leaving it as it is right now, a little corner warzone is what it resembles, is just unacceptable," he said.

Attorney Peter Buas said site plans were meant to be subject to planning commission review but within the confines of the code. The project even when it was a 7-Eleven was code complaint he said.

"I think we can agree this plan is better than the original 7-Eleven site plan," he said.

Though there was talk among commission members about a conditional approval that would require the developers to incorporate a gable or similar element on the roof of the structure, Widdowson said that would not work for Wawa. He said the project team was asking for a vote Wednesday night, not a conditional approval, as that would be turned down by Wawa.

The commission went on to vote 4-3, with Cascio, Cosby and Pfeffer opposed, to approve the site plan as presented.

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# OPA board spent \$10K to investigate claims

Continued from Page 1

a wall, there was no discovery of any confirmed mold or similar condition or other indication that was sufficient to warrant further testing, inspection, or investigation.”

The board pointed to Russell's claims as the basis for the request for a new racquet sports center building instead of pursuing the previously approved renovations.

The directors also suspect committee may have acted outside its jurisdiction to address members' alleged health and safety worries.

“We are deeply concerned that, as to matters raised publicly by the RSAC in the March Board meeting, the committee was less than thorough in its own vetting of the purported mold concerns and may have made public assertions in that regard

for purposes other than the performance of the committee's legitimate role,” the statement said.

At the March 23 meeting, Russell said the committee was presented with plans to double the structure's size in May 2023.

The group was later told that any upgrades could not extend beyond the facility's original footprint and improvements had to be made through renovations rather than rebuilding.

Russell continued to argue that the current spot is undersized and cannot meet the players' needs, especially as membership increases. She reasoned that an entirely new building was the solution to the lack of usable space, as group functions had to be relocated to the community center's Asateague Room.

Additionally, according to Russell, the golf course building was found to have mold while undergoing renovations in 2015, which forced the association to tear down the entire facility.

She cited this situation as part of her reasoning for requesting a comprehensive health evaluation of the racquet center structure.

OPA Board President Rick Farr noted that the association spent \$10,000 in labor, materials, supplies, and services to investigate the concerns.

In an email response to the board and General Manager John Viola, Russell clarified that at the March 23 meeting, she was not speaking on behalf of the advisory committee but rather as a concerned resident.

She maintained that suspected

mold was mentioned in the March 2023 RSAC meeting minutes and that players have witnessed staff spray chemicals in the building and pull-out cabinets behind the registration area, which revealed black discoloration.

Much to the board's dismay, Russell's initial statement revealed that the group discussed the viability of a new racquet center building with Worcester County officials. She claimed professionals said that permits for the original expansion project could be easily obtained.

According to the directors, advisory committees are barred from advocating for community groups, lobbying the board, and generating “controversy or disputes between themselves and the board or otherwise as to OPA matters,” which they believe RSAC violated.

The statement continued, “Advisory committees are not permitted to interact with governmental entities on OPA matters without express authorization from the OPA Board.”

“...We are concerned by references in the RSAC's public statement concerning unauthorized OPA-related interactions with county officials. The Board of Directors will meet soon to discuss appropriate next steps in light of this situation.”

However, Russell countered that a resident called the county to discuss a house project. While on the phone, this citizen asked how Ocean Pines could properly expand the racquet center. She said the caller did not identify themselves as an OPA employee at any point.

“The RSAC committee understands that we are an advisory committee and that the OPA board makes all final decisions,” RSAC Chair Cathryn Noble said.

The racquet center building reopened on Monday, April 1. According to a press release issued by OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis, players should check in on the left side of the facility. The warming hut will remain closed pending an evaluation.

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Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors met with advisory committee leaders during an Executive Council meeting last week.

# Pines advisory committees present '23 annual reports

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(April 4, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association's advisory committee chairs shared their annual reports, and the board president reiterated the application process at the Thursday, March 28, Executive Council meeting.

Board President Rick Farr said the first step when an advisory committee position is available is for the group to advertise the vacancy with OPA. Once an application is secured, it is forwarded to the board for final approval with endorsements from the chair and liaison.

Budget and Finance Advisory Committee Chair and former OPA Board President Doug Parks noted that the chair must indicate on the application that he or she does not endorse the candidate. However, Farr maintains that the governing body will unlikely receive the submission if the liaison and group leader do not support the individual's campaign for the position.

Existing members looking to extend their term will go through the application process again two months before the expiration. The committee votes on individuals moving from

participant to chair, or any other leadership position. The board must also be notified to validate the promotion.

Additionally, each advisory committee provided reports from the last year at the meeting.

Aquatics Chair Gary Miller discussed the group's priorities, which he said were safety, policy, procedure, pricing, equipment maintenance, staffing, and special events. Their biggest issue last year was at the Swim and Racquet Club. According to Miller, the steps leading into the pool are too narrow, and children often use them as a play area.

Because the pool's shallow end is still too deep for smaller kids, they often jump off the steps, which Miller identified as a safety risk for elderly folks trying to get in and out of the pool.

The Aquatics Advisory Committee recommended replacing the slippery ladder in the Yacht Club Pool with plastic steps, as they provide a firmer grip. They also noticed maintenance issues in the men's room.

The group suggested a new membership option for couples. The category is cheaper than the family

See ADVISORY Page 8

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# Advisory committees provide board updates

Continued from Page 7

package, but because this implementation gives residents additional choices, revenue has increased for the amenity.

Parks reviewed the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and confirmed that the group conducts a two-day review with the OPA general manager as part of the budget preparation process. The chair goes through every line item and ensures that all financial changes and variants are understood.

Parks also said the committee updated the financial policy manual, which had not been restructured since 2006. The upgrades were approved, and the association's dealings with different investments were addressed, among other issues. The chair also said that the group would

continue to provide budget guidance and communicate with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department on any improvements they make regarding the new South Station.

Bylaws and Resolutions Advisory Committee Chair Lora Pangratz provided her report. She said that over the last year, her committee has continued to review the resolutions to keep them up to date. The group meets once a month, and the minutes are posted on their page of the official OPA website.

Linda Yurche, chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, said the last year was spent conducting market research within the community regarding electronic signs. One of the new electronic signs will be installed at the North Gate entrance before the summer season begins.

The committee also hosted a vote sign contest to encourage residents to submit their ballots in the board elections. Additionally, Yurche emphasized the April 20 Ocean Pines Day. A plethora of OPA amenities, clubs, and organizations will be present to showcase all that they offer and encourage community involvement.

"What you guys have done for Ocean Pines Day is incredible work, and we're pushing it out," Farr said. "...kudos to the communications committee and the team...I think it's going to be a great success. It has been the talk of the town."

Environmental and Natural Assets Advisory Committee Chair Timothy Peck provided his review, in which he said the group was "strong, active, and full with nine members."

The chair mentioned the new duck warning signs, which the committee maintains. Peck also credited the group with researching the technology used for the soft shoreline project around the South Gate Pond.

The committee also researched safe tree-cutting practices in the past year and recommended planting new trees in White Horse Park.

Frank Brown, the chair of the Golf Advisory Committee, reviewed the course's improvements. The restrooms were repainted, the gazebo between the 12 and 13 holes was restored, and membership among women and men increased. Weeds in the fairway were addressed, and handicaps were changed on holes two, three, 14, and 15.

Speaking on behalf of the Marine Advisory Committee, Donna McElroy said that last year, their main activity was soliciting feedback from residents through a weekly email. Citizens were asked open-ended questions about the community's canals, waterways, and activities. The group took the advice and made recommendations to the board.

McElroy said they have continued working on erosion issues with Maryland Coastal Bays and the Environmental and Natural Assets Advisory Committee. The member also mentioned an app that provides water quality information that she hopes will gain traction in the community.

William Barnard, chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, mentioned the group is focused on bike and pedestrian safety. He also urged the board to find a use for an abandoned tennis court.

"That whole area is an opportunity for the association to examine it and develop a good plan that fits the community and adds value to it," the chairman said.

Racquet Sports Advisory Committee Chair Cathryn Noble recommended improvements to the tennis and pickleball facilities, such as a webcam for the center. She said this could deter individuals from jumping the fence to play and provide a resource for members to check the available space at any given time.

The next OPA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20.

## Ocean Pines gearing up for Bay Day event next month

(April 4, 2024) Ocean Pines' fifth Bay Day is set from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 19, at White Horse Park.

The free, family-friendly event is a collaborative conservation effort between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Ocean Pines Association aimed to help improve the health of the waterways that shoulder the residential shores of Ocean Pines. It caters to all age groups through hands-on activities, boat tours, live music, food trucks, live animal exhibits, and more.

"The Maryland Coastal Bays Program relies on our communities to help us protect the resources and ecology of our Coastal Bays. Events like Bay Day are important to communicate relevant and current environmental information to interested citizens and provide a basis of support to help keep our waterways clean and beautiful," Maryland Coastal Bays Executive Director Kevin Smith said in a news release.

Liz Wist, the organization's Educa-

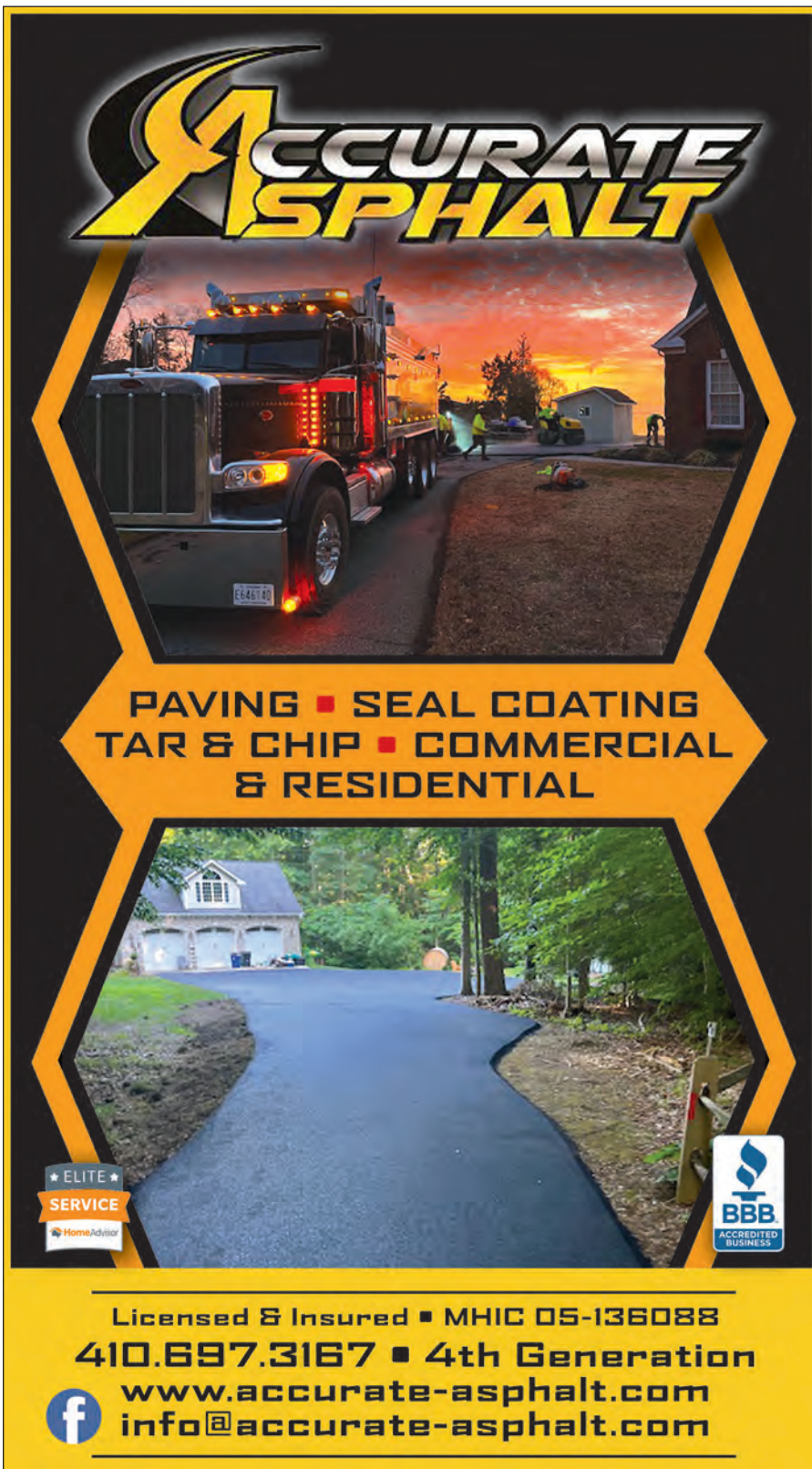
tion Coordinator, added that people should feel welcome to stay all day.

"They can learn from environmental organizations, take a boat tour on the St. Martin River, pick up a native plant, and participate in the interactive exhibits," she said in the release.

This year's Bay Day will feature more than 30 conservation partners, including the Phillips Wharf Fish Mobile, Ocean Pines Anglers, UMES 4-H STEM, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Assateague Coastal Trust, and Protectors of the St. Martin River. The first 200 attendees will receive a canvas bag, hand-painted by students from Worcester County Public Schools.

The recycling station will be back this year. Community members can bring alkaline batteries, old phones and more to drop off for recycling. Go Green OC will also collect compost.

For more information on the compost and recycling program, and for weekly Bay Day updates, visit the Bay Day in Ocean Pines event on Facebook.



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# Longtime Pines employee retires

### Violante's service, helping hands will be missed by employees and residents

(April 4, 2024) Norbert Violante finished his last official day of work for Ocean Pines on March 1. Like most days, he could be found at the Community Center doing many odd jobs and wearing his trademark smile.

Originally from Baltimore, Violante worked for Ocean Pines for 18 years. His son, Nobie, is the deputy director of public works and has been with the association for 23 years.

On an average day, Violante would do a little bit of everything, from changing message boards along Ocean Parkway, to getting the com-

munity center ready for civic and social club meetings, to keeping the grounds neat and tidy.

"Up here [at the community center] it's mostly setting up rooms and even taking care of the parks and leveling off the trails and cutting the grass. But I've been all over the place. I used to do tennis sometimes too," Violante said.

He's also been a big part of events, like helping with the annual Hometown Christmas celebration at White Horse Park.

"I would do the decorating and light displays. I won't have to climb up on the roof anymore," he said with a laugh.

Violante also drives a school bus

for Worcester County Public Schools.

"Altogether, I leave the house around 6 in the morning and I don't get home until 7 in the evening," he said. "I always got eight hours in here - or more."

Asked what he will miss the most, Violante said, it's "the people."

"I like working with people and helping people," he said.

Violante said he plans to continue driving a school bus.

"I'll be busy," he said. "[The bus] is probably a little louder than this place."

Many Ocean Pines staffers said they will miss seeing Violante who, each day, provided a steady hand and a friendly smile.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

"He always had a smile and always had a nice things to say, and he would just lift your spirits whenever you saw him," Ocean Pines Public Relations Director Josh Davis said of Violante.

# Community members salute spirit of dedicated worker

"It's been really nice for me to be able to work with him all these years - almost two decades. Not everybody has that opportunity to work with their dad. And it's wonderful that so many people appreciated what he did, each and every day he came into work. He's a great role model."

-Nobie Violante, Deputy Public Works Director

"Norbert truly was the backbone of many of our special events that Recreation and Parks puts on. I could always count on having his help preparing for every special event we hold for the community ... it really was a team effort, and I am very sad that part of our team is now gone. Norbert always had a positive attitude, and he enjoyed assisting the various community groups that meet in our building with their room set up. I will miss him very much. While I do hope they find someone soon to fill his position, he can never be replaced."

-Katie Goetzinger, Recreation and Parks Program Supervisor

"As far as Norbert, he is awesome to work with. Always willing to offer a helping hand and share a corny dad joke to make you laugh. He's a hard worker and just an all-around good guy, and he will be missed."

-Kevin Powell, Recreation and Parks Event Coordinator

"Norbert was one of the first people I was introduced to when I started working in Public Works back in 2006. He was always willing to help others and never complained, even when given a task that was not so

wonderful. I will miss seeing his smiling face every day working around Ocean Pines."

-Linda Martin, Senior Executive Office Manager

"Norbert was a great employee and worked on many, many different projects for us. He was one of those indispensable people who just kept things running, and he knew how to do a little bit of everything. More than that, he is just a really nice guy. He always had a smile and always had nice things to say, and he would just lift your spirits whenever you saw him."

-Josh Davis, Public Relations Director

"Norbert will really be missed by the Kiwanis Club of OP-OC. He got the Assategue Room ready for every Wednesday morning meeting. He helped get tables and chairs to many of the club's events in Ocean Pines when concessions were sold. He's been a real asset to both Ocean Pines and Kiwanis. He will be hard to replace. Wishing him the best in his retirement and future endeavors."

-David Landis, Kiwanis Club Press Relations Chair

"Norbert was always a big part of the Kiwanis Club. Members show up every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. to a place set up specifically to accommodate our needs. Whatever we needed, Norbert made it happen with a nod and a smile. His efforts are already missed. Our club wishes him the best in his retirement."

-Bob Wolfing, Kiwanis Club President

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# Skate park effort nears goal for fundraising

By Charlene Sharpe  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) Skate park supporters say they're just \$7,500 from their next fundraising goal in Berlin.

We Heart Berlin, the nonprofit focused on bringing a skate park to Berlin, is in the midst of a fundraising push to raise \$7,500. The funding will bring the nonprofit to the brink of actual construction.

"We are nearing the end of the design phase," said We Heart Berlin's Tony Weeg. "We're just \$7,500 short of our next goal, which gets us construction documents."

While We Heart Berlin promotes healthy and sustainable activities and the creation of recreational opportunities throughout the town, one of its key goals since inception has been construction of a skate park in Berlin. In 2022, the nonprofit hired Spohn Ranch, a skate park design company, to look at potential locations and come up with a concept design. Last year, the Berlin Town Council officially voted to designate Heron Park as the future location of a Berlin skate park.

That was a key step, as it enabled We Heart Berlin to begin fundraising more formally. Weeg said this week the nonprofit was still focused on a 14,000 to 16,000 square foot skate



A tentative schematic of a proposed skate park in the Town of Berlin is pictured. The design part of the process will feature community feedback through each step.

SUBMITTED RENDERING/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

park that would be located near the section of Heron Park where the town plans to construct a new public works facility. Weeg said the fact that the skate park would be located adjacent to the new building meant that development could proceed cooperatively, as considerations for things like parking, sewer and electric could be made around the same time.

"We're going to be in lockstep with them," Weeg said, adding that the skate park would be in front of the public works building.

He said the skate park was nearing the end of the design phase and fundraising was underway for the \$7,500 still needed so Spohn Ranch can draft construction documents.

"Our goal is to be breaking ground in 2025," he said.

Once the funding is raised for the construction documents, Weeg said the nonprofit would be working toward the \$1.2 million needed for the actual construction of the park, which will likely be done in phases. He is anxious to see the community benefit

from all of the positive activity a skate park can create.

"It's hugely important for the kids of Berlin," he said. "Kids of all ages. A skate park is not just a skate park. It's a place for mentorship, burning off energy and learning. It's not just for learning skateboarding but to learn about life."

He thanked community members for their support of the project so far and encouraged anyone interested in donating to visit the We Heart Berlin website.

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**LINCOLN DAY**

President Abe Lincoln, portrayed by retired history teacher Chris Hill, visited the Pocomoke Branch Library on his birthday (Feb. 12) to discuss his boyhood, presidency and the American Civil War.

# Berlin seeking open space funding for land acquisition

### Town, county partnership needed to purchase three connected properties

**By Charlene Sharpe**  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) The Town of Berlin is seeking state funding to buy property that could help with stormwater management.

The Berlin Town Council last week agreed to present Worcester County with a request for Program Open Space (POS) funding that would allow the town to purchase property that could be used as a passive park and stormwater mitigation area.

“This has come up very quickly,” Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. “The information that’s included here is still somewhat protected.”

Bohlen told the council that Worcester County this year hadn’t asked for the town’s entire wish list of potential POS projects, but rather just the portion of POS requests the county could process. Bohlen said that would be acquisition projects. As a result, she said she was asking the council to approve the town’s 2025 POS acquisition request for the purchase of three contiguous parcels of land. The listing

price for the parcels is \$599,000.

“The Town’s project to be considered for Acquisition for 2025 is the purchase of three contiguous parcels of land for the purpose of the development of a passive park and stormwater mitigation facility,” reads the proposed letter from the town to the county. “The availability of this land has only very recently come to the Town’s attention and, unfortunately, is not yet at a stage for public disclosure. The listing price for the three parcels is \$599,000, and they are listed as one purchase package. The Town understands that appraisals to determine fair market value must be completed.”

The letter goes on to say that the location cannot yet be disclosed but that one of the three parcels is within town limits while two are not, which is why the town needs county partnership in seeking POS funding.

“We just to have to give the little bit of information we can and go from there,” Bohlen said.

The council voted unanimously to approve the POS acquisition request as well as the town’s parks plan for development, which lists projects the town would like to see implemented at municipal parks.

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# Ashore reopens after resort transformation

(April 4, 2024) After an extensive off-season spent conducting a massive transformation, Ashore Resort & Beach Club is excited to announce its inaugural summer season.

With the completed comprehensive property-wide reimagination, the resort has established a new standard for destination travel along the Maryland coast, receiving recent acclaim by USAToday as one of the "10 Best New Hotels Across the US" for 2024. With exclusive beachfront access, the resort's prime location is thoughtfully positioned to offer guests the best of both worlds – secluded beachfront serenity and convenient access to the vibrant energy of downtown Ocean City.

To celebrate the kick-off to the 2024 season, Ashore Resort is offering guests up to 30% off using code 14KICK. Offer valid for stays from April 29 to June 27.

"There's a genuine buzz and sense of collective pride at Ashore Resort & Beach Club as we gear up for our first summer season now that the full transformation is complete," General Manager Kane Kennedy said. "Our team is eager to welcome guests and create memorable summer moments, whether it's through our coastal-inspired dining outlets, vibrant lineup of events and activities, or just the

simple pleasure of a picture perfect day at the beach. We've curated a range of experiences to keep guests thoroughly entertained throughout their stay in Ocean City."

The resort's programming for locals and travelers will kick off on Memorial Day Weekend. Guests will be able to enjoy daily live music, happy hour specials, weekend brunch with a build-your-own-bloody mary options, beachfront cookouts to celebrate the patriotic weekend, beachfront yoga and food and beverage service on the sand and rejuvenating Recovery IVs every weekend in partnership with East Coast IV's. A comprehensive list of seasonal happenings can be found on the resort's website, which is also where guests can learn more about exclusive packages organized to serve out-of-town guests coming for major Ocean City events like Oceans Calling Festival on Sept. 26-29 and the Country Calling Festival Oct. 4-5.

Ashore Resort features 250 fully renovated guest rooms and suites, including 15 spacious multi-room suites, designed to cater to individuals, families, and groups of all sizes. Guests can enjoy modern décor, plush bedding, and private balconies offering stunning beach views.

Culinary enthusiasts will delight in



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The view of the Tide Room restaurant at the Ashore Resort & Beach Club on 101st Street is pictured on a sunny day.

the resort's five new coastal-inspired restaurant concepts from newly appointed Executive Chef Nathan Leonard. The five options include the upscale Tide Room offering ocean views with indoor and outdoor dining; the Wahoo Beach Bar with live bands, beach menu and cocktails served in signature coconuts; The Tap Room offering a late night menu and place to watch all the sports action; gourmet coffees and culinary delights from Ashore Things; and an indoor-outdoor beach club called The Shore Deck, offering a place to work and relax from morning to late night.

Ashore Resort & Beach Club offers one of the only Ocean City destina-

tions for beachfront weddings, making it a top choice for brides and grooms looking for a coastal affair. With 14 meeting rooms and 40,000 square feet of versatile indoor and outdoor function spaces, Ashore Resort provides the perfect setting for any event, complemented by bespoke services and attention to detail. The Ballroom and picturesque Beachside Pavilion serve as ideal backdrops for memorable gatherings, such as wedding receptions, private beach parties and team building activities. For information on special events at Ashore, please contact Katie Kosgrove at [kcogrove@ashoreresort.com](mailto:kcogrove@ashoreresort.com).

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# Court overturns Gavin Knupp case dismissal

### Judge sides with state's attorney, rules charges filed in correct jurisdiction

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) The case against a local man accused in the hit-and-run death of Gavin Knupp will continue in Worcester County Circuit Court following an appellate court opinion released last week.

Last Wednesday, the Appellate Court of Maryland reversed a Worcester County Circuit Court ruling in the case against Tyler Mailloux, 23, of Berlin, who was charged last year in the 2022 death of 14-year-old Knupp. The opinion, issued by Judge Rosalyn Tang, argues the lower court had concurrent jurisdiction and erred in its ruling to dismiss charges against the defendant.

"When the State filed the information in the circuit court to include offenses charged in Counts 9 through 17, which undisputedly arose out of the same circumstances as offenses

charged in Counts 1 through 8, the District Court was divested of exclusive original jurisdiction in the criminal case, and the circuit court had exclusive original jurisdiction over all the offenses ...," the opinion reads. "We, therefore, hold that the circuit court erred in dismissing the information filed in the circuit court on the ground that exclusive original jurisdiction lay in the District Court."

Last April, 17 traffic charges – including failure to immediately stop at the scene of an accident involving bodily injury and failure to immediately stop a vehicle at the scene of an accident involving death – were filed against Mailloux in the death of Knupp, who was struck and killed by a motorist in a black Mercedes while crossing Grays Corner Road on July 11, 2022. Knupp was returning to a vehicle driven by his older sister and died from injuries sustained in the collision. Mailloux allegedly fled the scene and did not return, according to charges filed.

During a motions hearing in Worcester County Circuit Court last



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A memorial was created in 2022 for Gavin Knupp near the site of the fatal collision.

August, Mailloux's attorney argued the district court had "exclusive and original jurisdiction" and that the judge should either dismiss the case or transfer it to district court. The Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, however, argued state statute provided exceptions allowing the case to be tried in circuit court, including that the penalty for such charges exceeded three years. Following the hearing, Judge Brett Wilson granted the defense's motion to dismiss the case, and the matter was immediately appealed.

Last month, the Appellate Court of Maryland heard oral arguments from both the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Defender, Mailloux's legal counsel. In the opinion issued Wednesday, the appellate court reversed the circuit

court ruling to dismiss over lack of jurisdiction. The reported opinion is considered a binding legal precedent to be cited in future cases, according to a statement from Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser.

"While we were always confident that our arguments were correct and firmly grounded in statute and case law, we are grateful for the reported opinion of the Appellate Court," Heiser said in the statement. "Their decision clearly confirms that when there is concurrent jurisdiction, prosecutors retain the discretion to choose where to file charges. We intend, as we always have, to prosecute all charges against Mr. Mailloux in the Worcester County Circuit Court as soon as the case can be scheduled for trial."

See KNUPP Page 16

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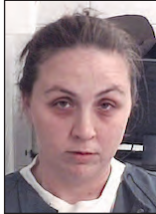
# Former daycare worker indicted

## Owner releases statement expressing outrage over Ward's 'abhorrent acts'

**By Charlene Sharpe**  
Associate Editor

(April 4, 2024) A Berlin woman faces 90 charges, including 10 felony child abuse charges, related to her time working in the infant classroom at a local daycare.

A grand jury last week indicted Heather Lynn Ward, 40, who is facing numerous charges related to her time working at Berlin Activities Depot/Education Station. The charges pertain to nine children who were under Ward's care and supervision at the daycare.



Heather Ward

"The Worcester County Sheriff's Office maintains an unwavering commitment to protecting children and will continue to work hand in hand with Child Protective Services and our other community partners to ensure that reports of child abuse are thoroughly investigated, and those responsible are held accountable," Sheriff Matt Crisafulli said.

In November, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and Child Protective Services (CPS) launched an investigation related to an eight-month-old baby who was admitted to Atlantic General Hospital

with a broken tibia.

"During the investigation, it was determined that the injured child was an attendee of the Berlin Education Station Childcare Center," a release from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Investigation reads. "Video surveillance footage from the child's classroom revealed actions by an employee identified as Heather Ward that appeared to cause the injuries to the child. The video footage additionally revealed other concerning interactions with several other children under her care."

As a result of the investigation, on March 26 the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office presented the case to the Worcester County Grand Jury. Ward now faces 90 charges, including 10 felony counts of child abuse and 80 misdemeanor counts of second-degree assault, with offense dates ranging from Oct. 2, 2023, to Nov. 1, 2023. The charges include 10 felony counts of child abuse as well as misdemeanor charges such as reckless endangerment, second degree assault and neglect of a minor.

In a bond hearing last Thursday, prosecutors said Ward could face a maximum of 1,000 years in jail if found guilty. While Ward's defense attorney asked for home detention, Judge Brian Shockley denied the request.

"Based on the information before me there is a profound risk of public safety if Ms. Ward is released and I have no way of remedying that," he

said.

Carmella Solito, owner/operator of Berlin Activities Depot, said the charges were gut-wrenching.

"I am outraged and appalled that the person could allegedly commit such abhorrent acts," she said in a statement. "The betrayal cuts to the core of everything I believe in and have worked towards at Berlin Activities Depot. Providing a safe, nurturing environment for children is my life's work and highest calling. That's why I believe nobody wants justice more than me."

Solito said the charges did not reflect the "values, dedicated staff, and loving caregivers who make up the Berlin Activities Depot family."

"We have zero tolerance for any abuse or mistreatment of children in our care," she said. "Parents put their utmost trust in us, and we will stop at nothing to uphold that sacred responsibility. I ask for continued patience and understanding as we continue to fully assist law enforcement as the investigation continues. Protecting children must be our shared priority as we seek accountability and justice. I promise we will not rest until every necessary action is taken to ensure no family ever has to relive this nightmare."

According to charging documents, police met with Ward in December and showed her surveillance video from the daycare classroom.

"Ward stated from what she saw in  
See WARD Page 17

# Arson deemed cause of Ocean Pines house fire

(April 4, 2024) Criminal charges may be pending in relation to a fire last Friday in Ocean Pines that investigators believe was intentionally set.

According to a news release from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office, firefighters with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department were called out around 5:40 p.m., March 29, to a residence in the 700 block of Ocean Parkway. When the responders arrived, they saw smoke emanating from the single-story home and it was reported that a male resident was still inside.

Firefighters entered the residence and discovered a small fire in a bedroom, which they promptly extinguished. The release said the occupant was able to leave the home without sustaining any injuries and damage was confined only to the bedroom.

County fire deputies were called to investigate the incident, and determined the fire was deliberately set, the release said, prompting deputies to collaborate with the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office to pursue criminal charges. Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Korb Jr. said in an email on Monday that the department was not releasing any other details, as the investigation is still ongoing.

The Ocean Pines' department was assisted from neighboring volunteer fire companies, including Showell, Berlin, Ocean City, Bishopville, Selbyville and Frankford.

# Knupp family 'gratified' case can proceed

Continued from Page 14

The appellate court has ordered that the Worcester County Circuit Court reversed the judgment and the cost of the appeal be paid for by Mailloux. A statement from the Knupp family through their attorney Neil Dubovsky applauded the ruling.

"We are immensely gratified by the unanimous reported opinion from the Appellate Court of Maryland confirming that this case can move forward in the Circuit Court for Worcester County. We remain supremely confident in Kris Heiser and her team and that support has once again been vindicated," the

statement reads. "While this process has been frustrating at times, we remain resolute in our commitment to holding those responsible for Gavin's death accountable. In the immortal words of Dr. Martin Luther King, 'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.' Today's ruling helps bring us closer to justice and for that, we are appreciative."

During oral argument last month, Mailloux's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Celia Davis, asked the appellate court to uphold the circuit court's decision in the matter. She argued that charges should have first

been filed in district court.

"The plain language of Section 4-301 is the original enabling statute for the district court of Maryland, and it sets forth exactly what cases should originate in that court," she said at the time. "And it sets forth in part A a general category of traffic and boating offenses, and in part B it enumerates 25 offenses, including the offenses charged in this case."

Davis acknowledged that while there were exceptions where the case could be tried in circuit court, the district court had "starting point jurisdiction." She said that took precedence

over the provision that allowed for concurrent jurisdiction.

"I would urge this court to give plain meaning to the term 'exclusive,' meaning limited or dedicated, and 'original,' meaning that's the court that has the power to decide the case first. That's what those words mean ...," she said. "The term exclusive original jurisdiction does not define where the case must be tried, it defines where the case starts ... In fact, the state has not brought us any examples of cases with these particular charges that started in the circuit court. They always start in the district court."



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# Hospital focuses on primary care

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(April 4, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital and Health Systems hosted a panel on March 21 at the Ocean Pines Community Center to update residents on the facilities' changes and upgrades.

AGH President Don Owrey moderated the event and detailed the healthcare system's priorities.

"At Atlantic General Hospital, we focus on five pillars," he said. "The first is strengthening our core service. We are a community hospital, and we are focused on ensuring that our patients receive high-quality, efficient, and safe care."

Owrey maintained the importance of skilled medical staff. In September 2023, pediatrician Cristian Salgado joined the team at the new Gudelsky Family Medical Center, which is located near the Ocean Pines South Gate entrance. Gastroenterologist Scott Itzkowitz was also hired in February. He is a military veteran who spent time on the Navy and Army side of healthcare.

Primary care recruitment is a priority for the hospital system, as the need for more family and internal medicine remains. Owrey said patients are leaning into urgent and emergency care as a result.

"We are trying to expand access to more primary care," he said. "The inability to tackle this issue is one of the things that has most disappointed me in the twenty-plus months I've been here. Primary care is a strong foundation for strong healthcare, and we are working on that."

The facility is also introducing new technology. In September 2022, AGH became the first hospital on the Eastern Shore to offer Mako SmartRobotic joint replacement surgeries. The machinery allows surgeons to deliver increased accuracy and a higher quality of care.

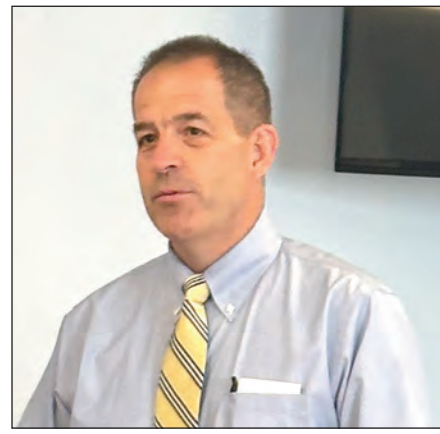
The hospital implemented new video equipment for minimally invasive procedures that require highly complex monitors. The system also plans to upgrade MRI and CAT scanning technology in Fiscal Year 2025, which providers need to diagnose and treat patients.

Owrey said AGH is focused on increasing and strengthening its workforce. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare professionals have become burnt out, leading to a shortage of doctors, nurses, and physician assistants. Hospital officials have attempted to remedy the issue by partnering with Wor-Wic Community College's nursing program. It has also eliminated all agency staffing, which uses outside

businesses to facilitate hiring.

The facility has reduced harm events, including falls, medication errors, and infections, by 50% over the last year. The Joint Commission also designated the hospital as a Center for Excellence in Orthopedic Care in the fall.

Recruitment is at the top of the system's priority list. AGH aims to partner with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to establish a scholarship that requires awardees to commit to working on the lower Eastern Shore post-residency.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
**Atlantic General Hospital and Health Systems President Don Owrey updates residents on changes and improvements underway at the Worcester County healthcare facilities.**

# Ward faces 90 abuse charges

Continued from Page 16

the videos that I showed her, she didn't believe she broke the 'kids' leg," charging documents read. "She was told by the staff at the Education Station that it didn't look like she broke her leg."

At that point parents of other children who were in Ward's classroom on Nov. 1 were shown video of their children's interactions with Ward, and in mid-January, police obtained video for the Bees classroom during Oct. 1 to Nov. 13. The charging documents go on to identify numerous in-

teractions between Ward and the baby whose leg was eventually broken.

"(The child) moved in her crib. Ward immediately turned and pushed down on (the child's) body twice. 12:05:25— (The child) moved again, Ward pushed down on (the child's) body and then slapped her twice. Ward repositioned (the child) so her head was at the opposite end of the crib. 12:08:16—Ward punched (the child) on the head area two times and slapped her," according to charging documents.

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Photo by Stephen Pryce Lea

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PHOTO COURTESY GERMANTOWN SCHOOL

**HISTORY SPEAKER**

Clara Small, professor emeritus of Salisbury University, speaks to an audience who came to her recent African American Women presentation at the Germantown School in Berlin.

**BJ's Wholesale Club membership OP offer available**

Deal's proceeds benefit vets memorial foundation

(April 4, 2024) BJ's Wholesale Club is once again partnering with the Ocean Pines Association to bring a special membership offer, effective April 1-30, to benefit the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines Foundation.

With the offer, new members receive The Club Card Membership for 12 months for \$20, or The Club+ Card Membership, which receives 5 cents off per gallon at BJ's Gas every day and 2% back in rewards on most BJ's purchases, for \$60 with BJ's Easy Renewal.

Existing members can buy a 12-month renewal for The Club Card Membership for \$50, or a 12-month renewal for The Club+ Card Membership for \$100.

BJ's will also donate \$10 for each completed new membership application, or \$5 for each completed renewal membership application received, to the veterans memorial foundation.

To take advantage of the offer by phone, call 800-313-8887 and use promo code 100407. Phones are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BJ's membership applications are also available at the Ocean Pines Association Administration Building at 239 Ocean Parkway, and online at [oceanpines.org](http://oceanpines.org). Applications must be returned with payment by April 30. Check and credit card payments will be accepted.

Applications may be dropped off at the administration building front desk or mailed to Ocean Pines Association, at Attn: Marketing, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

To download an application, visit the Ocean Pines website.

The offer is not available online, at any BJ's location, or for any current Easy Renewal members.

The promotion is only offered through Ocean Pines two times a year. The next promotion will be in fall 2024.

Current BJ's members whose memberships will expire before then are encouraged to renew during the fall offer. Members can check their current expiration dates by checking their BJ's receipts or the BJ's app, or by calling 800-313-8887.

BJ's operates over 200 clubs in 15 states from Maine to Florida, including a location in Millsboro, Delaware. The wholesale club offers a large assortment of products for home and business, savings of up to 25% off supermarket prices, a mobile app with digital coupons, and online shopping at [BJs.com](http://BJs.com).

**Bikers for Autism ride announced**

(April 4, 2024) The Bikers Without Borders Foundation is hosting its third Bikers for Autism Ride on April 13.

The escorted ride starts at Rommel Harley-Davidson Delmarva in Salisbury, run through the shore communities, and end at the Showell Fire Department. The event will raise funds for the Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County.

Bike registration will be held from 9:30-11 a.m. at Rommel Harley-Davidson Delmarva. The \$25 per person registration fee includes a barbecue chicken lunch at the end of the ride. Following the ride, the Bik-

ers Without Borders Foundation will join other enthusiasts for a community get together at the Showell Fire Department.

The Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to families of children with autism and related development disabilities in Worcester County and surrounding communities. The group was formed by parents who wanted to provide parent-to-parent support. For more information, visit the ACSG at [acsgwc.org](http://acsgwc.org).

Bikers Without Borders Founda-

tion is comprised of men and women who believe giving back to the community is a civic duty. Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities, which support local communities.

The Foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in communities.

For more information, visit Bikers Without Borders Foundation on Facebook or email [bikerswithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bikerswithoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com).

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PHOTO COURTESY BEACH TO BAY HERITAGE AREA

Beach to Bay Heritage Area Certified Interpretive Guide training instructor Jamie Bunting, far left, poses with participants in the latest training class offered through the National Association of Interpretation.

# Heritage Area announces certified guides

(April 4, 2024) The Beach to Bay Heritage Area recently offered a training class that certified guides through the National Association of Interpretation.

According to a news release, the association provides training and networking opportunities for interpreters of natural and cultural heritage. The instructor, Jaime Bunting, led the 32-hour course over two non-consecutive weekends at the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture in downtown Salisbury.

Participants had to demonstrate proficiency in interpretation by successfully developing a program outline and delivering a presentation.

The interpretive guide course is designed for individuals who regularly lead interpretive programs and want to learn more about the fundamental principles of interpretation. During the course, the release said participants learned how to develop and deliver purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized and thematic programs and

left ready to facilitate experiences that will inspire engagement with the world.

Bunting said in the release she always looks forward to working with interpreters and enjoys helping them work through the process of creating more relevant, meaningful, and engaging programs for their visitors and audiences.

Participants who attended the training were from Chesapeake Ghost Tours, Maryland Coastal Bays Pro-

gram, Sustainable Visions, Purnell Museum, Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum, Experience Smith Island, Furnace Town Historic Site and Downtown Salisbury.

"The participants were really engaged and excited to participate," said Lisa Challenger, the executive director of the Beach to Bay Heritage Area. "They were fortunate that the Beach to Bay Heritage Area underwrote the cost of the training through a Maryland Heritage Areas Grant."

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# Snapshots



PHOTOS COURTESY ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

## FILM FESTIVAL FUN

The Art League of Ocean City hosted its eighth Ocean City Film Festival March 7-10, with films shown at a variety of venues across the resort. (Above) Ruth Waters, Gwen Lehman, and Sara Simon pose for a picture at the opening reception at the Princess Royale.



Jack Burbage, Rina Thaler, and Virginia Pappas pose together during the performance and screening of the movie "Hairspray" by John Waters on March 9 at the Ocean City Performing Arts Center.



Jack Gerbes, the director of the State of Maryland Film Office, displays the official festival poster at the opening night reception at the Princess Royale.



Josh Chamberlain, of Berlin, won an Audience Choice Award for his film, "Father's Day: A Kirk Franklin Story"



Patrick Elijah, star of the Best in Fest Award winner "The Echoes We See," poses with his movie poster at a reception on March 8 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

## FYZICAL WELCOMED

Members of the staff of local FYZICAL Physical Therapy and Balance centers were recent guest speakers at a Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City meeting. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club President Bob Wilfong, and physical therapists Scott Gardner, Mike Delaurentis and Evan Bier.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY LIONESSE LIONS CLUB

## PULL TAB COLLECTION

The Ocean City Lioness Lions Club is participating in a district-wide project of collecting pull tabs from sodas and other types of cans to donate to the Ronald McDonald House of Johns Hopkins Hospital. Pictured with donations are Kathy Crockett, 22B district governor, with Ocean City Lioness Lions Kathy Engle, Liz Scott and Denise Becker. Community donations of pull tabs are welcomed. Give them to any Lion or call 410-289-7060.



# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## 100 DAYS MARKED

Worcester Preparatory School students and staff recently celebrated reaching their 100th day of school. Pre-K through Grade 5 students celebrated 100 Days In The Books by dressing as their favorite book characters, and participated in a variety of educational and physical activities throughout the day. (Above) First grader James Howarth enjoys celebrating during lunch.



PHOTO COURTESY SEN. MARY BETH CAROZZA

## STATE CHAMPS CELEBRATED

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Del. Wayne Hartman pose with members of the Stephen Decatur High School wrestling team during recent Senate and House floor proceedings at the capital in Annapolis. Carozza and Hartman recognized the team, who won its fifth consecutive 2A State Championship for a total six championship wins since 2008.



PHOTO COURTESY OC LIONS

## LIONS DONATION

OC Lions Past District Gov. Norm Cathell is pictured presenting a \$5,000 check to U.S. Kennels with Lions from the 22B Charitable Foundation. The organization provides service dogs at no cost to disabled Veterans. All of the dogs are shelter dogs that are rescued, rehabilitated and trained. Pictured, standing from left, are Past District Gov. Charlene Travers, Lion Jerry Hovatter, Past District Gov. Dave Studley, Past District Gov. Carol Schoonover, U.S. Kennels founder Chris Hardy, District Governor Kathy Crockett, Cathell, and International Director John Lawrence. Seated are trainer Dan Atkinson with canine Tac and Keith Goldsborough with canine Wolfman.



# Opinion

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

## Racquet committee's usefulness in ruins

Whether the false claim of mold in the racquet center building arose out of a misunderstanding, an innocent conversation that went deeper than it should have or a clumsy attempt to force the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors to erect a new facility, the board's racquet sports advisory committee is in a heap of trouble.

The board has not indicated how it will respond to one or more committee members' involvement in causing a \$10,000 search for mold that didn't exist, but the committee's credibility — and its usefulness to the board — is ruined.

Committee members gambled that the claim of mold behind the building's walls would cause the board to replace the current structure with a larger, better equipped facility. Instead, the committee has put its own existence in jeopardy.

Regardless of the extent of individual members' involvement in the mold complaint ruse or conversations with county officials about the building process as it pertains to new quarters for racquet sports, the committee's advice and recommendations will be met with skepticism from now on.

This leaves the directors with two options: see that the committee's membership is replaced completely or abolish the committee altogether.

The latter possibility is not only the easiest and cleanest solution, but also the most likely considering the mood of the directors and the administration after this attempt to trick them into giving racquet sports fans what they want.

What committee members probably want now is forgiveness for this embarrassing episode, but that's going to be difficult to deliver because of the way this failed con played out in public. This is not to mention the \$10,000 the association spent for what turned out to be no reason.

These directors have gone about their business quietly and efficiently and didn't deserve to have a manufactured controversy thrust upon them. Their apparent low tolerance for foolishness should extend now to the racquet sports committee, which at least should be suspended, if not done away with altogether until the time is right to create a new one.

## Letters

### Anonymous letter upsets association

Editor,

Some of our executive officers and building reps have received an anonymous letter in regard to our commissioners not funding the budget due to our current leadership.

They are accusing us of not speaking out to help rid of our current leadership. As an organization we do not get involved with decisions that need to be made by the school board.

We are, however, in favor of fairness.

We will not stand for someone trying to bully or make accusations about us. This has left some of those who have received the letter upset and nervous about the situation.

It is not the association's decision to hire or fire. We'll fight for better wages and the respect we deserve everyday. Let us as an organization come together and not allow someone to instill fear or pull us apart. To-

gether we win, divided we fall.

*Ivory P. Smith Sr.  
(The writer is the president of the Worcester County Education Support Professional Association.)*

### What would ocean say about turbines?

Editor,

What if the Atlantic Ocean could share its thoughts about the offshore wind turbines? Would it be pleased to have over 100 offshore wind turbines planted in its ocean floor? Could it agree to the height of the turbines which could be over 900 feet? Will it be offended by the pounding needed to secure the turbines? Will the digging into the ocean floor and the planting of cables that will transport electricity miles away be a pleasure for the ocean?

This Atlantic Ocean has served us well. We know how Delaware and Maryland have become successful ocean communities because

of this magnificent resource. So many admire the views of our ocean. Will our ocean no longer hear the excitement of the many people who look for the sunrises, or see uninterrupted views of the blue waters next to the blue of the sky?

We know one thing for sure. The ocean does what the ocean does. It can be so still and serene. It can also be turbulent.

Will the gigantic offshore wind turbines have a safe and secure place when nor'easters and hurricanes happen? Would the ocean ask that these turbines not be placed in its waters? Might the ocean suggest to keep the wind turbines on land where the turbines would be safer and easier to get to for repairs or damages?

Well, so much for the above thoughts. Our Atlantic Ocean has no say. People do. Every person does. What will the decision be from all the people?

*Anita Welsch  
Bishopville*

## Snow Hill to host Trails Day April 27

### Event offered to give chance to explore new trail system

(April 4, 2024) Members of the public are invited to participate in Celebrate Trails Day on April 27, in Snow Hill by exploring the newly established trail system with Pocomoke River State Park and Forest. The scenic trails will eventually link Snow Hill to Pocomoke River State Park at Shad Landing.

"This is an exciting time, and our town is thrilled to invite citizens and tourists alike to enjoy the beautiful countryside connecting the state park to our community," Snow Hill Mayor Michael Pruitt said in a news release.

The event will begin at

9:30 a.m. at the Lower Shore Land Trust office on River Street in Snow Hill, with a brief welcome and educational displays, followed by a short walk through town to Byrd Park. Starting at 10 a.m., attendees can engage with representatives from local organizations, receive maps, and gather information on recreational offerings within Worcester County.

Around 10:30 a.m., attendees will be invited for a short walk to the start of the Summerfield Trails at the end of Dighton Avenue. The entrance is accessible only to pedestrians and cyclists. No parking is available at the trail entrance. All vehicles must park at Byrd Park or the Lower Shore Land Trust. Attendees may take a self-guided walking or cycling tour throughout the Sum-

merfield Trails system.

Maryland's Coast, in collaboration with Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development, is organizing and hosting the event alongside the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition, Delmarva Trails and Waterways, Pocomoke River State Park and Forest, Lower Shore Land Trust, and the Town of Snow Hill.

For further information about the event, contact Maryland's Coast office at tourism@co.worcester.md.us or call 410-632-3110.

For a comprehensive list of Celebrate Trails Day events, visit railstotrails.org/celebrate-trails. For a complete integrated trail map, visit delmarvatrailsandwaterways.com/trail-locator-map.

**BAYSIDE GAZETTE**

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Tables with gear and other fishing accessories are pictured during the 2023 Teach a Kid to Fish Day in Ocean Pines.

# Anglers Club offering flea market Saturday

Event provides opportunity to prepare for upcoming summer fishing season

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(April 4, 2024) The Ocean Pines Anglers Club is gearing up to host a fishing flea market in preparation for its Teach a Kid to Fish Day and the Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest this summer.

The fishing flea market, scheduled 7 a.m. to noon, Saturday April 6, at the Ocean Pines Community Center, will allow residents to sell their excess fishing and boating gear to neighbors.

Angler Club Administrator Jerry Leuters said the entrance for browsers is \$2. Half of the proceeds are allocated for an event raffle, and

the remaining money will be used to host the summer events, as will the table rental fees for vendors. Last year the occasion raised \$600. Organizers are hopeful they will exceed that amount this time around.

Teach a Kid to Fish Day is slated for Saturday, June 22. Leuters said that Angler Club members will help children cast and tie hooks, provide them with bait, and show them how to catch marine life. The group also brings a display board of different kinds of lures, as well as fish to help with identification.

The Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest, on Saturday, July 20, is where the young fishers can apply their newfound knowledge and compete against other beginners. Competitions are between 4 to 7-year-olds, 8 to 11-year-olds, and 12 to 16-year-olds. Each age category offers

a prize, and every kid gets either a t-shirt, hat, tacklebox, or rod.

Both events will be held at the South Gate Pond and are free and open to the public.

“This is a great way for the community to give kids something to do besides hanging on the streets,” Leuters said. “We want to teach the next generation to fish.”

The club was founded by the late Art Hansen, a former Ocean Pines resident, in the 1990s. According to a press release issued by OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis, Hansen was featured in the Guinness Book of World Records for fishing.

The organization now has about 100 members and is dedicated to spreading the love of the sport.

“I joined the Ocean Pines Anglers around 1996, and there were

only like six or seven guys and one woman,” early participant and life-long fisher John McFalls said. “I’ve really learned what little I know from that small group.”

Beginning days of the Anglers Club meetings were held in Hansen’s kitchen, McFalls said. They moved to the Yacht Club for a time, and now gather at the Ocean Pines Library.

The fishing contest was the first activity designated for young fishers.

“A year or so after that, we thought we ought to be teaching the kids to fish if we’re going to put them in a contest,” McFalls said.

For those interested in joining the Anglers Club, Leuters said the best way is to attend one of their meetings. They are held at 9:30 a.m., on the second Saturday of the month at the Ocean Pines Library.

## OPEN HOUSES

### April 4 - 11

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Saturday Noon-2pm	36937 Creekhaven Dr., Selbyville, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$759,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
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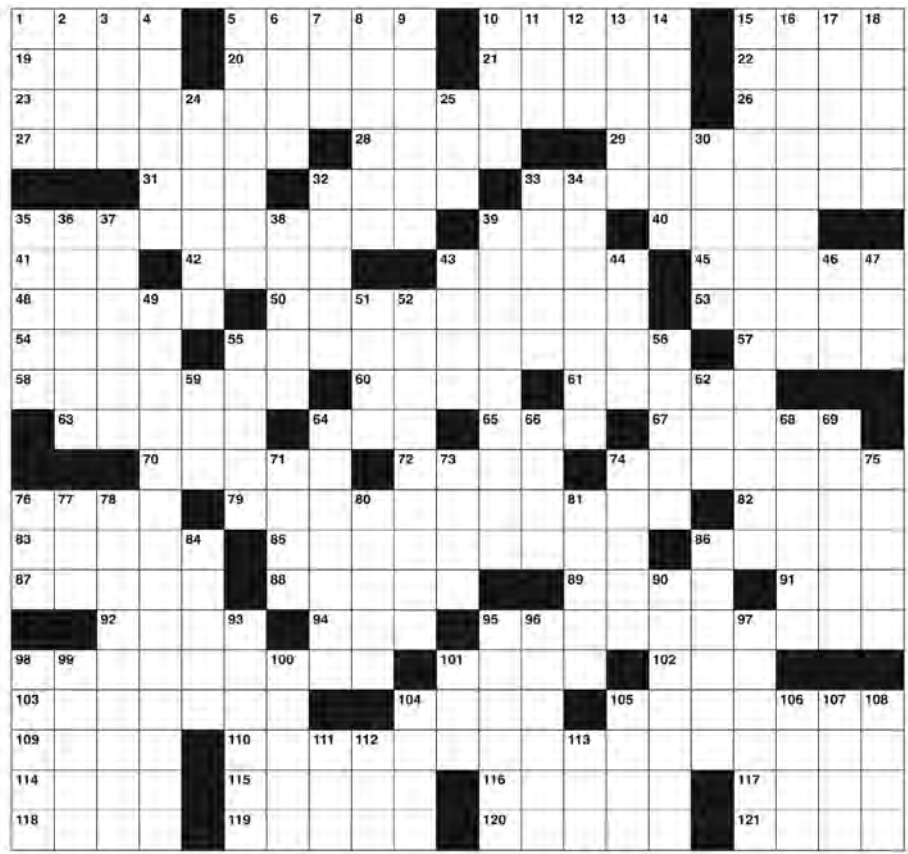


# Puzzles

## FEELING POSSESSIVE BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

John Kugelman, of Gainesville, Va., is a software engineer and musician. This is his third crossword for The Times — all Sundays. Crossword construction and music “tickle all the same brain cells,” he says, as each is “half-creative and half-technical.” He adds: “Sundays are like the progressive rock of crosswords. I love 20-minute songs and I love 21x21 grids.”

- ACROSS**
- 1 “No \_\_\_\_, Bob”
  - 5 Commuting options
  - 10 Thunderstruck
  - 15 Lead-in to cure or cab
  - 19 Peace symbol
  - 20 Absolutely necessary
  - 21 Snack brand with a hyphen in its name
  - 22 Simoleons
  - 23 Oil futures?
  - 26 The Australia-shaped “Pride of Australia,” for one
  - 27 Pool side
  - 28 Crest
  - 29 Sack
  - 31 Parent’s exhortation
  - 32 Real bind
  - 33 People who might answer “What’s up?” with “The sky”
  - 35 Castle moat?
  - 39 \_\_\_\_ Scott-Heron, writer of “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised”
  - 40 Entitled guys?
  - 41 Kind of rating system in chess
  - 42 Audio option
  - 43 Slangy greeting
  - 45 Sales prospects
  - 48 Smoky tendrils
  - 50 Shoves, to a poker player
  - 53 Ed of “Up”
  - 54 Daredevil Knievel
  - 55 Sugar and cocoa content?
  - 57 \_\_\_\_ the Orange (Syracuse mascot)
  - 58 Scoop, so to speak
  - 60 Braces might fix them
  - 61 Auto company headquartered in Yokohama
  - 63 Veg-O-Matic maker
  - 64 Over there
  - 65 Humble home
  - 67 Wavy dos
  - 70 International date line?
  - 72 Bordeaux besties
  - 74 They prevent accidental scribbles
  - 76 \_\_\_\_ room
  - 79 “Lights! Camera! Action!?”
  - 82 Biblical twin
  - 83 Midas’s downfall
  - 85 Reprimand to a rubbernecker
  - 86 Peter the Great and Ivan the Terrible
  - 87 Pale purple
  - 88 N.B.A. analyst Burke
  - 89 Police alerts, for short
  - 91 What goes around the head at Diamond Head
  - 92 Preposterous
  - 94 The “en” in “enby”
  - 95 “And... cut!?”
  - 98 Personal theory that isn’t in the source material
  - 101 Fed. statute that took down the Gambino crime family
  - 102 Mama’s boy
  - 103 Not working, say
  - 104 He literally jumped the shark on “Happy Days”
  - 105 85 to 115, typically
  - 109 Skier Lindsey
  - 110 Stock prices?
  - 114 Monthly utility bill: Abbr.
  - 115 Rapper with seven posthumous albums
  - 116 Persona
  - 117 Quantum \_\_\_\_
  - 118 Utility figure
  - 119 “Killers of the Flower Moon” tribe
  - 120 Wears on
  - 121 River swirl
  - 17 Render more youthful, as with C.G.I.
  - 18 Sweden has more than 200,000 of them (of which only 1,000 are inhabited)
  - 24 Sudden contractions
  - 25 God’s first word on the first day
  - 30 With 12-Down, world champion boxer who retired an undefeated 24-0
  - 32 Put up with
  - 33 Novelist Cather
  - 34 Not authorized
  - 35 Cut
  - 36 Late-night host John
  - 37 Finish behind
  - 38 Breed of cattle
  - 39 Swinger’s attire
  - 43 Hinged fastener
  - 44 “The Empire of the \_\_\_\_” (H.G. Wells short story)
  - 46 Lions or Tigers, on a scoreboard
  - 47 Theater sign
  - 49 Leaf fossils?
  - 51 Brand whose sales spiked after an appearance on “Stranger Things”
  - 52 Portrayer of Bob Newby on “Stranger Things”
  - 55 Parade sight
  - 56 Carriers of master keys, informally
  - 59 \_\_\_\_ blue
  - 62 Garden variety?
  - 64 At 78, she became the oldest artist to have a No. 1 dance hit
- DOWN**
- 1 Some email attachments
  - 2 Beat handily
  - 3 “I’m done talking”
  - 4 Called into question
  - 5 Binary
  - 6 Homebodies?
  - 7 Go after
  - 8 Actual title of “The Piña Colada Song”
  - 9 Drunken state
  - 10 Comet alternative
  - 11 Come down with
  - 12 See 30-Down
  - 13 Pours poorly
  - 14 Pays (up)
  - 15 Noodles and floaties?
  - 16 Chess move with a French name



- 66 Inits. on a “Choice” label
- 68 Indian spice mixture
- 69 Necessities for retiring?
- 71 Org. with the tagline “No More Victims”
- 73 Something furry on a fir
- 74 Practices mise en place
- 75 “\_\_ Q” (rockabilly classic)
- 76 James Bond studio
- 77 Memorable time
- 78 Machine learning model that mimics the human brain
- 80 Company whose misconduct helped spawn the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002)
- 81 Muse with a lyre
- 84 Record label that famously turned down the Beatles
- 86 Supercell, e.g., for short
- 90 Europeans who speak a non-Indo-European language
- 93 Can’t not
- 95 Encouragement at karaoke night
- 96 Skin condition
- 97 Turn on
- 98 What drones and anxious parents do
- 99 \_\_ Gay
- 100 Hub
- 101 Bacardi, por ejemplo
- 104 Part of a clock
- 105 Playwright William
- 106 Call for
- 107 Mortarboard tosser
- 108 Catch a glimpse of
- 111 Many an I.R.S. employee
- 112 Witch
- 113 Coltrane’s instrument

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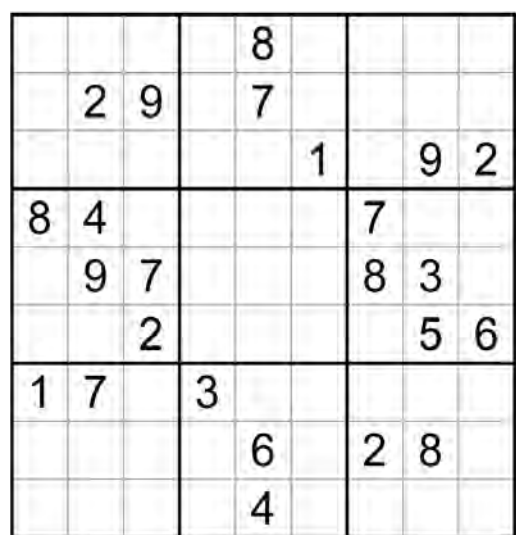


## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

### HARD - 44

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.



### Answers to last week's puzzles

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





# Marine Corps League starts new Peacemakers chapter

(April 4, 2024) Several former U.S. Marines recently started a new chapter of the Marine Corps League Peacemakers Detachment based in Ocean Pines.

The group is part social club and part fundraising arm for the Tunnels to Towers Foundation that supports fallen first responders.

The Peacekeepers Detachment was first established in 1923 by Gen. John Lejeune.

"In 1937, the 75th Congress chartered the Marine Corps League and Franklin Roosevelt signed it," Cpl. John Whitehead, the local junior vice commandant, said in a submitted article. "Today, we have over 1,000 detachments and over 45,000 members."

He added that the mission is about veterans and the community, as well as serving as a social organization to promote Corps.

Whitehead said the group was initially set up to help World War I veterans, "and then it morphed into a part social club and part charitable group."

"We'll get together, have social events, and collect money for charities in the area," he said.

He also said the Peacekeepers De-

tachment isn't just for former Marines.

"We have veterans from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, and we also have some first responders in the detachment," he said. "We basically look for any patriotic American that wants us to support what we do."

The group is also not limited to military activity and the traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps.

"We're also a social organization," Whitehead said. "We have breakfasts, we have dinners, cookouts, the Marine Corp ball, and we'll attend car shows and the farmers market in Ocean Pines."

The primary fundraising focus is Tunnels to Towers.

"Tunnels to Towers will help the families of any military or first responders who are killed or seriously wounded, by helping to pay their mortgage. Tunnels to Towers also purchase and renovate hotels, giving homeless veterans a place to live," Whitehead said. "We talk a lot about people who make the ultimate sacrifice but, to me, these people who lose arms or legs or are seriously burned have to live with that every day for the rest of their lives, so they're also mak-

See MARINE Page 26

# Obituary

**ROBERT MARION BAKER**  
Berlin

Robert "Bob" Baker, 74, of Berlin, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024.

He was the firstborn son of the late Marion Lee Baker and Ann (Disharoon) Baker.



Bob Baker

He is survived by his son, Robert Brooks Baker Sr. and wife Andrea, of Berlin. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Lily Belle Baker and Robert "Bobby" Brooks Baker Jr. As well as his Aunt Jane Disharoon Bunting; several cousins; and his best friend of 50 years, JC Pruitt.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Barry D. Baker.

Bob was a Berlin native, graduating from Stephen Decatur High School where he was a high school athlete. He was a graduate of Goldey Beacom College. Bob worked for the Town of Ocean City at Eagles Landing Golf Course for over 30 years, working seasonally over the last 16 years.

Bob continued to enjoy sports throughout his life and kept up with his Orioles, Ravens, NASCAR races and golf tournaments. He spent the past 20 years traveling the East Coast

with his granddaughter Lily Belle, attending all of her sporting events and cheering on her teams. He could be found on the sidelines and in the bleachers ready for a lacrosse or basketball game. "Pop Pop Baker" was a good luck charm and was always wearing his Decatur Blue.

He loved weekly visits catching up with his grandson Bobby, talking and laughing about their favorite movies, TV shows, commercials and actors.

He was at every birthday party, school event, graduation, holiday celebration and loved being a "Pop Pop" to his grandchildren and their friends. His family was his pride and joy. Friends and family would always know when Bob Baker had arrived by hearing his distinctive deep booming "Baker" voice.

He was a creature of habit and you always knew where to find him on any given day or time. He loved to joke and laugh and will be sorely missed.

A Celebration of Life will take place from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, April 13, at the American Legion Post #123 Boggs-Disharoon in Berlin. Friends and family are welcome and encouraged to come.

Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home. Condolences may be shared with the family via burbagefuneralhome.com.

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# Calendar

## Thurs., April 4

### CPAP MASK FITTING

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

### STORY TIME: MS. ANGIE'S FAVES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for some of Ms. Angie's favorite books for National Library Week. Stick around for some crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Meet new friends and play chess. Bring your boards and join the game. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### JOB FAIR

Wor-Wic Community College, Guerrieri Hall, 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, 1-4 p.m. More than 40 area employers will participate in the fair. Attendees do not need to register to attend. Come dressed to meet prospective employers. Bring resumes. www.collegecentral.com/worwic, 410-334-2903

### PREVENTING COGNITIVE DECLINE: COOKING AND LIFESTYLE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Nutritionist Kelly Williams cooks some recipe ideas and talks about promoting a healthy lifestyle for mitigating cognitive decline. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### ZUMBA

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

### BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

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

## Fri., April 5

### MANGA & ANIME YOUTH ART SHOW

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Featuring artwork by middle, high school and college students. Cash prizes awarded. On display at the OC Center of the Arts for one week-end only (April 5-7). Kacie Neeb, kacie@artleagueofoceancity.org. 410-524-9433

### 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

### CHAIR YOGA

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Nicole Young, certified yoga instructor, helps participants stretch in a safe and low impact manner. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION & MARKETPLACE

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and see the new exhibits. Free event. Art exhibits also held at the Coffee Beanery and Princess Royale in Ocean City. artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

## Sat., April 6

### FISHING FLEA MARKET

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7 a.m.-noon. Buy/sell fishing, boating and other household items. Table cost is \$15 for 10'x10' space and one table. Admission cost is \$2. Reserve tables: Laura Leuters, 240-818-2864, dorado1045@yahoo.com.

### BEACH CLEAN UP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m. Meet up in the Ocean City library parking lot. Gloves and trash bags provided. All ages. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650

### FRIED CHICKEN/FRIED FISH/GOAT PLATTERS TO GO

Calvary United Methodist Church, 8607 Ironshire Station Road, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. Fried chicken and fish combo platter, \$15; Goat platter with rice, \$15; Chicken platter, \$12; Fish platter, \$12. Chicken and fish platters come with two sides and a roll. Drink, desserts and more.

### MANGA & ANIME YOUTH ART SHOW

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring artwork by middle, high school and college students. Cash prizes awarded. On display at the OC Center of the Arts for one weekend only

Continued on Page 27



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY LIFE SAVING-STATION MUSEUM

George and Suzanne Hurley Memorial Scholarship 2022 winner Riley Schoch, of Worcester Preparatory School, is pictured accepting his \$2,000 award.

## Ocean City museum seeks applicants for scholarship

(March 28, 2024) The Ocean City Life Saving-Station Museum is accepting applications for the George and Suzanne Hurley Memorial Scholarship, now through May 13.

The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Stephen Decatur High School, Worcester Preparatory School, Pocomoke High School or Snow Hill High School who plans to further his/her education in the fall at a four-year accredited college or university in Maryland. The scholarship is nonrenewable.

According to a news release, the scholarship was established in memory of two people who were the heart and soul of the Ocean City Life-Sav-

ing Station Museum from its beginning. Their dedication to documenting the history of Ocean City and preserving the 1891 U.S. Life-Saving Station that houses the museum spanned almost 40 years.

Applicants must submit a letter of recommendation from a non-family member (do not use teachers or counselors) and a copy of the college acceptance letter. An interview may be required. The applicant must have an unweighted GPA of at least 2.5 that must be certified by a school counselor. The essay is required.

More information, and the nomination form, can be found at [ocmuseum.org/support-us/scholarship](http://ocmuseum.org/support-us/scholarship).

## Marine Corps looking to grow

Continued from Page 25

ing a tremendous sacrifice – even though they're still alive. They all deserve our thanks and gratitude."

The group currently has about 40 members, and they're always looking for more people to join.

"It's just a social organization where we do these things together, and it's up to each member's discretion to be as active or as inactive as they want," Whitehead said. "We will do fundraisers and generate funds that we distribute to needy community organizations, so we want to help the community and have some social events that we all can participate in and have fun."

He added that the camaraderie of the military and patriotic Americans

is the backbone of the organization.

"All of us were in the military or were first responders," Whitehead said. "And, it's just a good feeling to help out people in need. It's a lot of work at times, but it's very rewarding. Come join us and help make a difference!"

The Marine Corps League Peacemakers Detachment 1492 meets on the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. at the South Fire Station at 911 Ocean Parkway, in Ocean Pines.

Marines, veterans, first responders and patriotic Americans are invited to participate.

For more information, contact Whitehead at 301-372-8993 or [naphar@aol.com](mailto:naphar@aol.com).



# Calendar

Continued from Page 26  
(April 5-7). Kacie Neeb, kacie@artleague-  
ofocancity.org. 410-524-9433

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET**  
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church,  
36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11  
a.m. Vegetables, beverages and desserts  
included. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for  
children and free to those 6 years and  
younger. Carry outs available. No pre-or-  
ders. 410-835-8340

**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., April 7

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST**  
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166,  
2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 8-11  
a.m. Menu includes eggs, bacon, ham,  
sausage gravy and biscuits, pancakes,  
scrapple hash, fruit, juice, coffee and tea.

**FATHER CARL'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St.,  
Berlin. There will be one service at 9:30  
a.m. followed by a potluck. Come say  
farewell to Father Carl and his wife Vir-  
ginia.

**MANGA & ANIME YOUTH ART SHOW**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11  
a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring artwork by middle,  
high school and college students. Cash  
prizes awarded. On display at the OC  
Center of the Arts for one weekend only  
(April 5-7). Kacie Neeb, kacie@artleague-  
ofocancity.org. 410-524-9433

**OCEAN CITY LUXURY WEDDING EXPO**  
Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100  
Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1-4 p.m.  
Wedding vendors and prizes. Admission  
cost is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the  
door.  
[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ocean-  
city-luxury-wedding-expo-registration-  
840309457207?aff=ebdssbdestsearch](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ocean-city-luxury-wedding-expo-registration-840309457207?aff=ebdssbdestsearch),  
410-390-3937

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**  
*Sundays* - Berlin Congregation of Jeho-  
vah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10  
a.m. www.jw.org

## Mon., April 8

**BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP**  
Takes place the first and second Wednes-  
day of each month. For non-surgical pa-  
tients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center,  
410-641-9568

**4-DAY WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP WITH  
JANET ROGERS**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St.,  
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 4-Day Expressive  
Watercolor: Flowers to Figures held April  
8-11. Cost is \$450 for members and \$565

for non-members. Register: 410-524-  
9433, <https://canvas.artleagueofocancity.org/classes/526>.

**LITTLE LEARNERS WITH MARYLAND  
COASTAL BAYS**  
Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S.  
Atlantic Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Story time  
at the museum and a sand-shifting activ-  
ity on the beach. Designed for children  
ages 0-5 years, but all are welcome. Free  
event and parking. www.ocmuseum.org,  
410-289-4991

**STORY TIME: SPACE ADVENTURES**  
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.worcesterli-  
brary.org

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

**TOTAL ECLIPSE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines  
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m.  
Check out the total solar eclipse with  
solar eclipse glasses. Learn about  
eclipses and what makes the eclipse so  
special. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterli-  
brary.org

**TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB: 'I'LL BE GONE IN  
THE DARK' BY MICHELLE MCNAMARA**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City  
Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m.  
Join in for an afternoon of true crime.  
410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**LEGO MASTERS STEM**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines  
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m.  
Build one of your favorite fictional char-  
acters out of legos. Drop in and design.  
For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014,  
www.worcesterlibrary.org

**T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169**  
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference  
Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-  
6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a  
weekly support and educational group  
promoting weight loss and living a  
healthy lifestyle. Rose Champion, 410-641-  
0157

**COME FROM AWAY**  
Ocean City Performing Arts Center, 4001  
Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Featuring  
broadway musical "Come From Away."  
Tickets:  
[https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5732927  
6/come-from-away-ocean-city-oc-per-  
forming-arts-center](https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/57329276/come-from-away-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center).

**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 Cen-  
ter, 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 9

**PLAY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines  
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join  
in for a variety of activities and toys. Play  
and socialize with other families. For ages  
0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worces-  
terlibrary.org

**MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin  
Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m.  
Clap, sing and move to the beat. For ages  
2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worces-  
terlibrary.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 work-  
ing on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterli-  
brary.org

**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP**  
Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin  
Ave., Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Discussions and  
mutual support, along with education on  
exercise, nutrition, coping techniques,  
medications and developments in treat-  
ment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkin-  
nikin@atlanticgeneral.org

**GROWING UP WILD: BACKBONE BONANZA**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin  
Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Learn  
about vertebrates and the things that de-  
fine them through a variety of activities.  
For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650,  
www.worcesterlibrary.org

**SONG CELEBRATION**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin  
Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a  
song to the library and share it with other  
players and writers. Originals encour-  
aged. Listeners welcome. 410-641-0650,  
www.worcesterlibrary.org

**ATLANTIC COAST SPORTSFISHING  
ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING**  
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166,  
2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7  
p.m. The guest speaker will be charter  
Captain Mark Hoose of the "Marli." He  
will discuss bait rigging, spreads and  
dredges. Food and refreshments avail-  
able at 6:15 p.m. Open to the public.

**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 Jeho-  
vah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7  
p.m. www.jw.org

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**  
*Tuesdays* - Worcester County Health De-  
partment, 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 High-  
way, 10:30 a.m.

**ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE**  
*Tuesdays* - Experienced dancers and oth-  
ers interested in watching or learning  
more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No part-  
ner 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, www.htcanglican.org/activi-  
ties.

## Wed., April 10

**AARP CHAPTER 1917 MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**  
Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10  
a.m. Matt James, President of the Ocean  
City city council is the guest speaker. Caf-  
fee and conversation at 9:30 a.m.

**MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City  
Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30  
a.m. Join in for a silly morning full of  
movement and music themed stories, fun  
songs and interactive activities to get  
everyone moving. For ages 0-5 years.  
410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**MONTHLY MOVIE MATINEE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines  
Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Cele-  
brate National Library Week with a book-  
related movie. Free event. 410-208-4014,  
www.worcesterlibrary.org

**KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**  
*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community  
Center, Assateague Room, 239 Ocean  
Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m.  
Third Wednesday meetings are offsite  
and will be updated monthly on the web-  
site and Facebook. Guests are welcome.  
www.kiwanisofopoc.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 [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

**Worcester Preparatory School**  
 Worcester Prep is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of  
**Upper School MATH TEACHER**  
**Upper School ENGLISH TEACHER**

For more information, please scan the code or visit our website.  
[worcesterprep.org/about/employment](http://worcesterprep.org/about/employment)  
 Worcester Prep is a fully-accredited Pre-k through grade 12 independent school located in Berlin, MD.

**West-O BOTTLE SHOP IS HIRING**

Looking for a dedicated individual that would like to work in a cool place that sells delicious things!

- Full Time • Year Round • Competitive Pay
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- Employee Cost Program & more

Apply online @ [www.WestOBottleShop.com](http://www.WestOBottleShop.com)  
 a brief cover letter is required

**Look For A Rewarding Summer Job?** Coastal Kayak is hiring all positions! No experience necessary - just the desire to learn! [Coastalkayak.com](http://Coastalkayak.com) for more info and application.

**EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER**  
 FT/PT Work in Motel  
 Must Have Experience  
 •GREAT PAY!  
 •MONTHLY BONUSES!  
 CALL 410-289-9205

**Now Hiring** for year round, part-time **Breakfast Attendant.** Apply within **Comfort Suites, 12718 Ocean Gateway (Rte. 50) Ocean City, MD (WOCK).** 410-213-7171

**Thunderbird Beach Motel.** Now hiring Night Auditor & Front Desk Clerk. Competitive pay. Apply in person. 32nd St., Baltimore Ave. Monday through Friday from 9am-3pm.

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For more information, please scan the code or visit our website. [worcesterprep.org/about/employment](http://worcesterprep.org/about/employment)  
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