BAYSIDE GAZETTE

APRIL 18, 2024

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY• OCEAN PINES



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPENING DAY PARADE

Hundreds of players, parents and coaches walked from the Berlin Fire Company to the Berlin Little League fields on Saturday morning in the traditional parade to start the season.

Incumbents seek return to OP board

Farr, Heavener will run as May filing deadline nears

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(April 18, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors is gearing for the 2024 election process as two seats on the seven-person volunteer panel are up for grabs.

According to Elections Committee Chairperson Tom Piatti, the terms currently held by Board President Rick Farr and Director Jeff Heavner are coming to an end. However, both members have publicly announced their candidacy for reelection.

Ocean Pines homeowners who wish to run for the community's governing group must complete a candidate application and submit it to OPA Secretary John Latham by May 10 at 4 p.m. The resident's eligibility will then be determined.

Piatti said that on June 7, the Elections Committee will conduct a work-See PINES Page 4

Multiple ideas aired for community center

Citizens roll out wish lists during preliminary session on long-awaited project

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) Dozens of residents shared a wish list of items they'd like to see in a community center on Flower Street at a kickoff meeting last week.

A pool, exercise equipment, office space and a community kitchen were among the numerous ideas voiced by members of the public in attendance

at a community center meeting held last Wednesday. Mayor Zack Tyndall said that while the town would have to be realistic with its plans, at this phase officials are still brainstorming for what the new facility will include.

"We really want to make sure that this is a place that everyone feels welcome," he said.

Close to 50 community members gathered at the Berlin library at the invitation of Tyndall and the Berlin Community Center Advisory Committee to kick off the planning process for the new facility. For years, See FUTURE Page 5



A crowd of about 50 citizens turned out last week to hear the plans for a new community center in Berlin, incuding providing ideas to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall and committee members.



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Shrimp Tempura | 13 tempura fried gulf shrimp · gojuchang yum yum hoisin · sweet chili slaw

Crabby Fried Green Tomatoes | 15

et blue crab meat · house pimiento cheese · salsa verde

Bao Buns | 13 marinated chicken - avocado - cilantro - cabbage - red chili glaze

Philadelphia Cheesesteak Rolls | 12 cheesesteak meat · provolone cheese · onion · deep fried and served with arugula and buffalo ranch dipping sauce

Angry Onion Rings | 10 fried jalapenos - beer battered vidalia onions - sriracha aioli & sriracha ketchup

Poke Tuna Nachos | 15

rice paper nachos · tossed sushi grade ahi · sriracha aioli eel sauce · seaweed salad · thai chili dipping sauce

Smothered Jalapeno Poppers | 12 cream cheese poppers \cdot cheddar cheese sauce \cdot diced bacon scallions \cdot bang-bang sauce

Mussels | 12 roasted tomatoes \cdot white wine garlic broth \cdot focaccia

Load 'Em Up Fries | 11 bacon · cheddar cheese · scallions · crema

SMASH WINGS 6 FOR \$10 OR 12 FOR \$18 BREADED OR MAKED HOICE OF plain · mild · hot · BBQ · old bay · garlic parmesan

HAND CUT FRIES OR ONION RINGS

All American | 13

:heddar · lettuce · tomato · caramelized onion mash burger sauce

Texas | 13

onion rings · cheddar cheese · chipotle BBQ sauce

Big Kahuna | 14

er jack cheese · spicy ham · grilled pineapple

Kentucky | 15 bourbon brown sugar onions \cdot BBQ beef \cdot cheddar cheese

Swiss | 14 roasted mushrooms & onions · swiss cheese

HANDFULS

HAND CUT FRIES OR ONION RINGS

Classic Burger | 13 hawaiian bun · 8oz beef patty · choice of cheese · LTO

Black Bean & Quinoa Burger | 13 sprouted whole wheat oat bun · black bean, red & white quinoa & corn patty · LTO · pesto aioli

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Cheeseburger Sliders I 15} \\ \text{trio of sliders on hawaiian buns} \cdot \text{caramelized onion} \cdot \text{cheese sauce} \end{array}$

Chicken Sandwich | 13 hawiian bun · grilled or fried · LTO · choice of cheese

Crabcake Sandwich | 19 whole lump crab · hawaiian bun · lettuce & tomato · house tartar

Lobster Roll | 22

maine lobster tail · toasted brioche split top roll · mayo red onion · celery · old bay · LTO

Fish Burger | 13

fried cod patty · hawaiian bun · pepper jack · cabbage slaw yum yum sauce

Philadelphia Cheesesteak | 13 chopped philly steak · caramelized onions & peppers · sauteed mushrooms · traditional cheese sauce · classic hoagie roll

Classic Grilled Cheese | 11 butter toasted • trio of cheese [provolone • cheddar • american]

BBQ Short Rib Panini | 14

n cream cheese · smoked gouda · caramelized onions

Ham & Cheese Panini | 12

applewood smoked ham & cheddar cheese · garlic aioli

French Dip Panini | 13 gruyere cheese - sliced prime rib - caramelized onion - au jus

HEALTH ADVISORY: Consuming raw or undercooked meats may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.

APPETIZERS SOUPS & SALADS

Smash Burger Chowder | 8 ground beef - dill pickle - onion - cream - cheddar - diced potato

French Onion | 8

rich beef broth · white onion · croutons · caramelized cheese

fresh basil · roasted tomato · garlic · cream · parmesan

Soup du Jour | 8 Chef changes it daily, but keeps it TASTY!

Soup Flight | 15 your choice of any 3 soups on our menu or specials list!

Tossed Salad 6 | 10 mixed greens · red onion · tomatoes · carrots · shredded cheese CHOICE OF RANCH · BLUE CHEESE · HONEY MUSTARD · BALSAMIC

Thai Peanut Noodle Salad | 12

soba noodles · red & green cabbage · thai peanut dressing · scallions crushed peanuts · red onion

Arugula Salad | 12

baby arugula · goat cheese · raisin vinaigrette · golden raisins candied walnuts · red onion · heirloom tomatoes

iceberg lettuce - red onion - grape tomatoes - smoked bacon ranch dressing - blue cheese crumbles

Caesar Salad 7 | 11 cates I Salau 7 | 11 crisp romaine · house caesar dressing · clabatta croutons · shaved romano & grated parmesan

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{Smashed Chop Salad} & | & \textbf{14} \\ \textbf{crisp romaine} \cdot \textbf{grilled onions} \cdot \textbf{blue cheese crumbles} \cdot \textbf{twin chopped} \\ \textbf{burger patties} \cdot \textbf{dill pickles} \cdot \textbf{ranch dressing} \cdot \textbf{shredded carrots} \\ \end{array}$

AND AND ADD ON TO YOUR SALAD OR ENTREE

SMASH PATTY \$4 | CHICKEN BREAST \$6 | GRILLED SALMON \$7 | FLANK STEAK \$8 QUINOA & BLACK BEAN PATTY \$5 | WHOLE LUMP CRAB MEAT \$9

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Exotic Mushroom

thin crust · garlic roasted exotic mushrooms · chives · truffle oil

Spicy Italian thin crust - arugula - italian sausage - pomodoro - spicy garlic aioli

Smash Burger two all beef patties - special sauce - lettuce - mozzarella & cheddar cheese - pickles - onions - sesame seed crust topped with fries & special sauce drizzle

ENREES

Four Cheese Mac | 12 cheddar · gouda · provolo

AD IT UP \$2 ADD BACON - JALAPENO - SCALLIONS

Chicken Chesapeake | 19

grilled chicken breast topped with old bay buttered lump crab meat served with grilled asparagus & smashed whipped potatoes

ground beef, pork & veal - smashed whipped potatoes - roasted broccolini - mushroom & onion gravy

BBQ birch beer marinated flank steak · smashed whipped potatoes boursin cream cheese · grilled asparagus

Smashed Short Rib | 19 slow braised beef short ribs · demi-glace · roasted broccolini smashed whipped potatoes

Shrimp Noodle Bowl | 19

soba noodles · gulf shrimp · mushroom miso broth · carrot, onion, broccolini & cabbage · chili unagi glaze

Neptune Pasta | 23 fettuccini - basil pesto cream saue - gulf shrimp - sweet crab meat scallop pieces - roasted red pepper - caramelized onions

 $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{Summer Salmon } & \textbf{19} \\ \textbf{blackened} \cdot \textbf{chimichuri glaze} \cdot \textbf{jasmine rice} \cdot \textbf{summer squash saute} \\ \end{array}$

Crab Cake 21 SINGLE | 36 DOUBLE blackened · black bean & corn dirty rice · avocado · crema

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Rec storage building amendment endorsed

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) A text amendment that would allow recreational storage buildings on agricultural land will move forward to the Worcester County Commissioners for consideration.

The Worcester County Planning Commission last week voted 3-1 to give a positive recommendation to a text amendment that would allow private, noncommercial storage buildings in the A-1 agricultural district as a special exception use on parcels at least 20 acres in size. Applicant Jonathan Anders said the change would allow him to use his agricultural property for storage despite the fact there's not a principal structure there

"If there's an opportunity to think outside the box that's what I would ask of the committee," he said.

Anders told the commission he and two friends had purchased a 30-acre agricultural parcel to build a storage building for their classic cars and boats. It wasn't until the building was under construction that they realized the current code limits accessory buildings like theirs to 500 square feet when there's not a principal structure on site. Only agricultural storage buildings are allowed to exceed 500

square feet on agricultural land.

"The million-dollar question to us becomes is a principal structure really necessary," Anders said.

The proposed text amendment would allow a building of any size for storage of personal property without a principal residence on A-1 parcels larger than 20 acres with special exception approval by the Worcester County Board of Zoning Appeals.

"Keep in mind this would be county-wide," said Jerry Barbierri, chair of the commission.

Staff noted that there were 1,716 parcels throughout the county that would be impacted by the change.

"I just have concerns about the precedent it sets," said commission member Phyllis Wimbrow. "If this is passed it's applicable to every other agriculturally zoned parcel."

Anders said that if the text amendment wasn't approved, he'd likely put up a double wide on the farm to serve as the principal residence so his storage building would be code compliant.

"None of the neighbors are going to

like that," he said.

Commission member Mary Knight said that because it was proposed as a special exception use the buildings would still have to each be reviewed by the board of zoning appeals.

"It's not just a blanket," she said. "I think that protects the county."

A motion to forward the text amendment to the commissioners with a favorable recommendation passed 3-1, with Barbierri opposed and commission members Ken Church and Marlene Ott abstaining.

Pines recommends online voting

Continued from Page 1

shop to establish the ballot order and seating arrangements for the candidate forum, the date of which is still being decided. Board contenders can use signage, local and social media advertising, and direct mail to create support for their campaigns.

"We encourage anyone thinking about running to do their homework, read up on the association's governing documents, attend the regular meetings, and volunteer," Piatti said in a press release issued by OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis. "Volunteers have helped make this community what it is today, and there's no better way to give back than to serve on our Board of Directors."

The Elections Committee chair said a federally certified contractor with a secure voting platform will conduct this year's hybrid process. Each eligible voter, consisting of Ocean Pines property owners, will receive an envelope with candidate information and instructions on how to cast ballots online or via USPS.

"We encourage online voting - it is instantaneous with a return email

confirmation," Piatti said. "It also saves money. The Association will not have to pay USPS Business Reply Mail or processing costs."

The deadline to vote is Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 4 p.m. The hired contractor will handle ballot counting on Thursday, Aug. 8; afterward, the Elections Committee will announce the totals. The post-election annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 10.

Residents interested in applying can pick up an application at the administration building or the Ocean Pines official website.





CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Berlin Community Center Committee were joined by residents and town elected officials at a kickoff meeting April 10 to brainstorm the new amenity to Flower Street.

Future of community center will depend on partnerships

Continued from Page 1

the town has been working toward building a new facility on Flower Street to replace the decrepit multipurpose building. Last year, the committee was formed and the consolidation of the four parcels making up the six-acre site was completed. Now, the committee is asking the public to weigh in on programming and amenities for the future center.

"What it needs is the involvement of each and every one of you," said Councilman Dean Burrell, a member of the committee. "This project is going to be dependent upon us as a community. We'd like to have the participation of the entire community. I'd like to ask that we share candidly as possible for what we think and what we see."

Suggestions made included exercise equipment and gym space, meeting rooms and offices, resources to help with recovery and emergency shelter provisions, among other ideas. There was talk of space for junior wrestlers and football players, as well as office space for someone who could do sports physicals. Office space for a social worker and probation officer was also suggested. Other residents said the community needed space to store local historical memorabilia and artifacts. Burrell said there was already a commitment by the group to have a display related to the Flower Street School.

"We are going to incorporate the history of that location and that school so everyone in the town of Berlin can realize how important that place is to the town," he said.

Committee member Gabe Purnell agreed that it was important to preserve local history which currently

was scattered all over.

"I feel this place could really be a vault," he said.

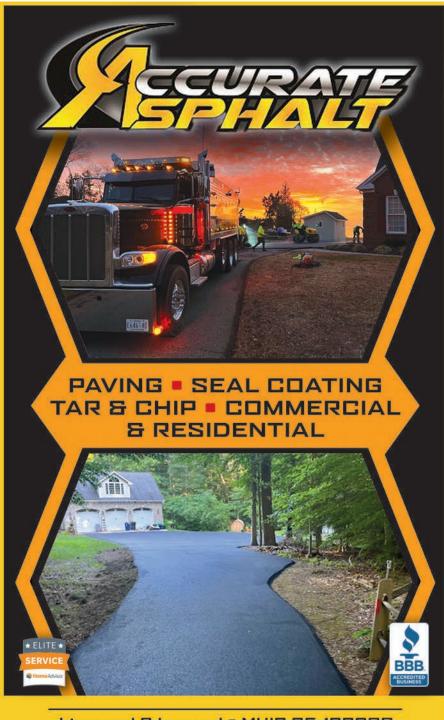
Committee members stressed that it would take partnerships with a variety of agencies and organizations to make the community's dreams a reality.

ality.
"What we're doing is ambitious," said Worcester County Commissioner Diana Purnell, another member of the committee. "We need those partners to develop what we're trying to do."

Committee member DJ Lockwood agreed. He pointed out that the project was going to be expensive, as it would cost \$1.8 million at today's prices just to build a new structure the size of the multi-purpose building. He said maintaining a building like that cost about \$10,000 a year in maintenance and \$18,000 a year in utilities.

"The whole community needs to buy into it," he said. "We all need to open our minds to partnerships."





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Small insurance increase positive for budget

Berlin budgeted for 10% health hike, but officials learn reality 2% jump

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) Unexpected insurance savings are expected to help Berlin address more needs within the municipality's proposed budget.

In a work session this week, staff presented the council with updated cost estimates for health care and workers compensation. With those figures significantly lower than expected, the town should have savings of more than \$300,000 that can be used elsewhere. Officials agreed to use some of it to address the funding requested by the Berlin Fire Company for fire and EMS services.

"Everybody here, we've got a lot of different levers we need to pull. I think we've done a pretty good job of doing that," Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

At the start of a utility fund budget work session this week, staff updated Tyndall and the council regarding projected insurance costs for the coming fiscal year. While staff projected a 10% increase in health insurance costs as a budget placeholder, they said Monday the cost was actu-

ally only going to increase about 2%. Workers compensation costs, which were projected to increase 8%, actually decreased, meaning the town's workers comp costs will drop from a budgeted \$273,000 to \$180,000.

Later in the work session, council members said they wanted to use some of the unexpected savings to increase funding to the Berlin Fire Company for fire and EMS. The department requested \$200,000 for fire operating expenses and \$150,000 for fire capital. The department is seeking about \$605,000 for EMS from the town.

Councilman Jack Orris said he felt increasing the town's proposed fire operations allocations from about \$117,000 to the requested \$200,000 was a good goal to reach. Councilman Steve Green agreed.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh noted that would cost the town \$83,000 more than included in the proposed budget. Green said he was confident the money would be there once the budget was updated to include the insurance savings outlined earlier in the meeting.

Saleh said the council had asked staff to continue reviewing ways to compensate staff for longevity. She asked if providing the fire company more funding came before employ-

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ees' longevity.

"We took a huge step for the employees already," Councilman Jay Knerr said, referencing the salary and step scale created as well as the step and cost-of-living adjustment employees were going to see in the coming budget. Town employees are expected to raise a 4.5% salary adjustment between the step and COLA

Councilman Dean Burrell pointed out that raising the tax rate by a penny would generate an additional \$55,000 in revenue.

Didn't I see in the news where some town's tax rate was going to increase 47%?" Burrell said. "We do not want to get the Town of Berlin in that type of situation. As unpopular as it is this is something that we're going to have to discuss not only with us but the public in general... If we did a penny every other year, or two cent every other year, it would put us in a better situation and avoid not having to say hey this year we have to increase our tax rate by 15 cents or some ridiculous number. We've planned for everything else and we have strategies for everything else. We need to be looking at this tax

Staff also spoke in support of developing plans for incremental tax in-

oroncoc

"We're very limited in the options we have for revenues sources but same as everywhere else our costs keep going up. One way or the other someone has to pay..." Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. "We're not going to balance the budget with speed camera tickers. We look at the revenues sources we can, but the reality is they're limited."

Green said he'd supported small tax increases in the past but felt this wasn't the year to do one, when the town's property tax revenues increased \$300,000 with a constant tax rate and health insurance and workman's compensation savings had been realized.

As far as the EMS allocation, the fire company requested about \$605,000, up from the roughly \$409,000 the town had budgeted. Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald said 93% of the EMS operating budget was spent on personnel. He said the company's billing rates were already at the level they needed to be so the organization needed more revenue from the town. He said if there was insufficient funding, staff wouldn't be getting laid off but that empty shifts would not be filled.

Orris pointed out most of the proposed increase would be spent on a new EMS supervisor. Officials pointed out if the position was removed the increase was considerably less. Burrell suggested the fire company look at potentially reducing the planned cost-of-living adjustment of 3% to 2%.

"I really would want to see that number, what the one percent on the COLA would save," he said.

At the end of the work session, Orris said officials did their best during the budget process.

"It's all important and we, I believe, do not make decisions with the intent of slighting anyone in particular or any group or any department or anybody," he said. "I believe and I know that we are up here looking out for everybody that is under our stewardship as elected officials."

Green agreed and said being an elected official was about balance.

"A lot of tonight was great news," he said, referencing the insurance savings and the fact that the town wasn't passing the slight increase in health insurance on to employees. He said this marks the fifth year in a row employees have not had to cover the cost increase for health insurance. Green added a number of good infrastructure projects were included in the proposed budget but it was clear that a long-term funding solution needed to be identified for the fire company.

Tyndall praised department heads and said officials were still committed to reviewing potential longevity rewards for staff.



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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Jessica Iacona of Salisbury University's BEACON organization led a small group of attendees Monday through a draft of the strategic plan.

Berlin's strategic plan draft reviewed at public meeting

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) The final stage of Berlin's strategic plan process continued this week with a sparsely attended community comment session Monday morning.

A handful of residents shared their views on the latest draft of the town's strategic plan with representatives of Salisbury University's BEACON (Business Economic and Community Outreach Network) at the Berlin library on Monday. They complimented the process and facets of the plan reviewed.

"I think it's great to come up with a vision like this," resident Bronwyn Betz said.

In the first of two community input sessions scheduled for this week, BEACON's Jessica Iacona outlined the latest draft of the town's strategic plan, which BEACON has been gathering input for during the last several months. The plan is meant to establish priorities for the town and concentrate the town's organizational efforts and resources.

"We envision a town where our heritage, culture, resilience, friendliness and well-being serve as the guiding principles, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community," reads the plan's community mission statement.

The plan goes on to identify each of the community values (heritage, culture, resiliency, inclusivity, wellbeing and vibrancy) and driving strategies as well as action steps.

"These are really what is driving Berlin for the next five years or so," Iacona said.

Betz said she thought a strategic plan was a good thing for the town and said she particularly supported the references to the need for a recreation center within the plan.

"We don't have that," she said. "This town is growing. There are so many kids here."

Her husband Tyler agreed and said many families traveled to Salisbury or Pocomoke to use recreational facilities

"An activity center in Berlin is needed," he said.

He also questioned the references to the need for affordable housing in the area.

"I think that should be examined more," Tyler Betz said.

Councilman Jay Knerr agreed and said that the town must determine what constituted affordable housing.

"It seems to be a myth in our area," he said. "Developers build housing but it's never affordable. We really need to dial it down."

Resident Donna Main said the plan's references to culture and heritage tied in with efforts already underway by various historic and cultural entities in town to work together moving forward. She said there needed to be even more cooperation in the future, as combined efforts were more likely to receive grant funding.

"I think more could be done," she said. "There is money out there for different projects. Sometimes entities are working in silos and not coordinating enough."

After another input session set for April 17, BEACON is expected to compile feedback to share with town officials. Iacona says her team has appreciated the variety of feedback received and that the process has gone smoothly

"The town has been awesome to work with," she said.



School officials review proposed spending

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) Education officials reviewed the school system's proposed budget with the Worcester County Commissioners in a lengthy work session last week.

Worcester County Public Schools leadership spent nearly six hours reviewing the school system's proposed fiscal year 2025 spending plan with the commissioners last Tuesday. Topics ranged from expenses associated with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to how individual school spending is handled.

"I think it's fair to say today was unprecedented," Commissioner Chip Bertino said. "This was a conversation that was long and maybe tortuous for some, but I think it was productive and that's what we were trying to get to."

At least a dozen school system employees were in attendance Tuesday morning as the commissioners kicked off their annual budget work sessions. Vince Tolbert, the school system's chief financial officer, provided an overview of the proposed \$136 million budget, which includes a proposed \$25 million in state aid and \$108 million in county appropriations. He stressed that as the commissioners had requested during the past year, his team had worked hard to provide the county with more detail on education spending. He said



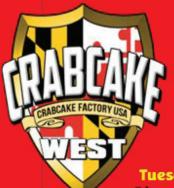
CHARLENE SHARPE/RAYSIDE GAZETT

Worcester County Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert is pictured during a six-hour review of the county school system's proposed \$136 million budget.



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Commissioners raise questions

they'd provided 300 line items of detail as opposed to the roughly 150 line items provided last year.

Bertino, referencing a February meeting of the state Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB), school board and commissioners, asked how the budget had been reimagined to meet the needs of the Blueprint, Maryland's comprehensive educational reform plan.

Superintendent Lou Taylor said the AIB hadn't offered any detail on how the school system should reimagine its budget.

"They're still building this plane as we're going down the runway," he said.

Bertino said the state advised that the county's local share funding for education was \$73 million. He said the county was already funding that share, what is in theory required to implement the Blueprint, as well as an additional \$26 million.

"Was there any imagination, any rethought of the budget?" he said.

Tolbert said the bulk of the school system's spending related to people. He added that the school system's budget process had included input from parents and stakeholders, who said they valued things like small class sizes and retaining high quality educators.

The commissioners and county staff went on to question various aspects of the school system's budget. They asked for detail about projected revenues, individual school bookkeeping practices and grant spending. They also pointed out inconsistencies within budget documents and asked about hiring practices. According to county staff, the school system added 35 positions in the last six months. Commissioners pointed out the average position between pay and benefits had a roughly \$100,000 impact on the budget. School system officials, however, said that was an average and they thought most of the recently added positions were food service or educational assistants but that they could back to the commissioners with specific information.

Bertino acknowledged that the state's funding formula left the burden of education costs on Worcester County but stressed that efforts to rein in costs needed to be made.

"I see your point. I think we've got to talk about some of those things moving forward. It is a different mindset or a different direction than we've been in the past," Taylor said.

Taylor, referencing the \$3.5 million total held within the 14 schools' individual accounts, stressed that that money was earmarked, as it had been fundraised by clubs and teams. He said it couldn't be used to pay teachers. Commissioner Eric Fiori, who shared earlier in the meeting that he'd reviewed some of the schools' Quickbooks accounts with a retired school bookkeeper, indicated Taylor should take a look at the individual school accounts.

"Maybe things have changed but I can tell you sir what I saw on that expenditure list is not what you're describing...," Fiori said. "Not one time did I tell you to pay teacher raises out of that. What I asked you to do is when our teachers that are struggling to make ends meet are pulling money out of their pocket for what they consider essential education supplies, at least have a channel open to allow them to apply for this money so we can get that money back in the classrooms. I want to sit down, we can go over these accounts. Mr. Taylor I think you're going to be really shocked when you see some of these expenditures."

Bertino said the commissioners needed to see results.

Yeah, I mean the budget we sent vou I don't think is excessive," Board of Education President Todd Ferrante said. "Could we cut things in the budget, we probably could but at what expense? What we want to make sure is that we want to meet the needs of our students. When we make budgets up we don't just throw them over here. We want to make sure we meet the needs of our students. Those needs need to be met because every student matters. That's what we look to do. We will continue to work with you and we will continue to have dialogue with you so that we can make it better for everybody."





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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Staff and management of Fox's Pizza Den and the new Smashed Bar and Grille are pictured outside the establishment this week.

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Owners announce change in direction for restaurants

Fox's going carryout only with Smashed Bar, Grille open in restaurant space

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(April 18, 2024) Fox's Pizza Den has transitioned to a carryout and delivery-only establishment, Smashed Bar and Grille moves into the former restaurant's dine-in space.

Fox's Pizza Den, located on Samuel Bowen Boulevard off Route 50, opened in 2018 and offered dinein, carry-out, and delivery. However, as of April this year, Smashed Bar and Grille will take over all tableside service and offer a fresh menu.

The new establishment is owned and operated by the same group that runs Fox's. Headed by Alex Buinovskis and Alex Laizans, the duo oversees Pines Public House in Ocean Pines, Boozy Egg Tiki Bar in Ocean City and two pizza locations in Delaware.

Buinovskis said comfort food was the idea behind the restaurant's staple item, smashed burgers.

"I love the cheeseburgers," General Manager Patrick Fanning said. "They come on Hawaiian buns and are fourounce burgers; you get twin smashed patties. The Hawaiian bun sets it off.'

In addition to the signature handhelds, the menu includes entrees like lobster macaroni and cheese, cheesesteaks and paninis, seafood appetizers, and gourmet pizza from Fox's. Patrons can also choose from 16 draft beers, craft cocktails, and a complete and curated wine list. Fanning said their goal with the food and beverage options is to ensure that everyone in even the largest parties can be accommodated.

Kati Thomas, who specializes in the restaurant group's design and marketing, created her cocktail with a local spin. The orange coffee and creamsicle combines the classic Maryland orange crush with Burley Oak's Coffee-n-Cream Ale and whipped cream vodka.

"That is our big push," Fanning said. "Specifically, when it comes to the alcohols, we are trying to source everything as local as possible."

Given its position between the communities, the group's mission with the establishment is to serve Berlin, Ocean Pines, West Ocean City, and Ocean City.

"We are not trying to be a tourist and summer restaurant," Buinovskis said. "We want to be a local spot with comfortable prices and excellent service.

Fanning continues, "A lot of people come down to visit, and there is a lot of money to be made in the summertime, but we are a restaurant for the people who live here year-round."

Fanning maintained that their goal is to solidify the establishment as community-centric. The general manager hopes that once it is up and running, the eatery will host trivia and first responder nights and support local sports teams and charities.

While the new location is wrapping up last-minute decorations and kinks before a grand opening event, likely to occur the first week of May, the restaurant officially welcomed diners on April 8 with full bar and dine-in services. Smashed Bar and Grille can be found on Instagram and Facebook.



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State outlines four options for Buckingham

IAC explains classroom sizes major factor in determing school needs

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(April 18, 2024) Local plans will have to change if Worcester County wants to receive state funding for a new Buckingham Elementary School.

The head of the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) outlined four possible scenarios this month, none of which was a new standalone Buckingham Elementary School. Alex Donahue, executive director of the IAC, said his agency wanted to work with Worcester County officials to come up with a solution.

"The four we've laid out are what we see as viable possibilities," he said. "What we're hoping is all three parties will look at the needs and the dynamics here..."

Donahue and other representatives of the IAC met with the Worcester County Commissioners and the Worcester County Board of Education last week to discuss ways the county could get state funding for construction of a new Buckingham Elementary School. Donahue said that just as the local capacity for funding was declining, budgets were tighter at the

state as well. He said inflation and school construction costs were up.

"The amount of capital renewal work that can be done today versus 20 years ago is much much smaller for the same nominal dollars," he said. "This is making things much tougher."

Because of that, he said the IAC was leveraging all available resources to maximize its impact across the state. In Worcester County, while about half of the schools are approaching the point of needing replacement or renovation, the average school in Worcester is 27 years old. Statewide, the average is 31. Donahue pointed out that in addition to condition, another issue the IAC looks at is utilization of space. In Worcester, classrooms aren't as full as they are elsewhere.

Donahue said the IAC had developed four potential options for providing state funding to support a new Buckingham. Those include combining Buckingham and Berlin Intermediate School, replacing both Buckingham and BIS back to back, moving sixth grade to Stephen Decatur Middle School and replacing Buckingham as a pre-k through fifthgrade school or. moving sixth grade to the middle school and converting Buckingham, Showell and Ocean City

elementary schools back into pre-k through fifth grade facilities. Those options could result in \$30-\$37 million in state funding.

"The IAC is not pushing demanding directing any specific solution or option," he said. "We are putting out these different scenarios for discussion because we believe this has to be a three way partnership discussion to id what's going to fit best and what's going to obtain the best return on investment in every given situation."

Commissioner Jim Bunting asked if there would be any state funding for Buckingham if it was pursued as a standalone project. Donahue said there would not be state funding in that scenario.

Superintendent Lou Taylor said his concern with doing Buckingham and BIS back to back was that it would bump replacement of Snow Hill Elementary School and Pocomoke Elementary School. He also asked about funding for systemic improvements. He said in the past, the school system didn't ask for help with smaller projects, opting instead to seek money for major projects like school construction.

Donahue said the IAC wanted to see all requests from local education agencies (LEAs).

"Increasingly over the last couple

of years some LEAs have been giving us longer and longer requests," he said. "That has helped us significantly in making the case that we're not getting enough appropriations. We can show more of the need. When the need is self limited....then we don't have as much tangible request evidence and we can't see as much of the need picture."

He said the school system's capital improvement plan needed to show its true needs.

"Second, when it comes to the major projects like a Buckingham, we would like you to share with us your expected major project asks much more deeply earlier on so we can see not just the one you're looking at next but all of them. So we can talk with you about which solutions might leverage more eligibility."

In fiscal year 2023, the school system got none of the IAC's roughly \$400 million in funding. In fiscal year 2024, the school system got about \$62,000 out of about \$600 million in funding.

"We were able to go farther down a number of school districts' lists than normal," he said. "Worcester County, because your request list was so short we didn't have additional projects from you we could just fund with those extra dollars . So yes there is a way to

APRIL 16-20

See CONCERNS Page 13



— 16 MARVIEW DRIVE • OCEAN PINES — Wonderful 3 BR, 2 BA contemporary home with room for expansion. Painted & new carpet. 14' X 12' 3-season porch sold with patio furniture included. Living area cathedral ceilings. Roof replaced 2013 with top-of-the-line shingles. Skylight solar power sunshade. Lennox HVAC replaced 2012. Top-of-the-line Tankless Hot Water Heater in hall closet. New LVP flooring in utility closet (with stack washer & dryer), Hall BA & Primary suite BA. Wraparound deck, picnic table. Raised garden bed is ready for Spring planting. New mulch over entire lot. 8' x 14' detached storage shed plus 2 ½' x 4' vinyl shed. Potter's sink & table at rear side of house. Property has Fire Pit, extensive patio pavers & Horseshoe pit. Vacant & easy to see. Hurry before it's gone!

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured, from left, are recently crowned champions of the the Ocean Pines Mixed Bowling League Donna Kelly, Pam Barkett, Dick Topper and Brenda Littleton.

Ocean Pines Mixed Bowling League title won by Herons

(April 18, 2024) A championship roll-off between the Monday and Tuesday champions of the Ocean Pines Mixed Bowling League was held recently at Ocean Lanes Bowling Center.

The Monday champions were the Herons (aka Dick's Chicks) with team members Pam Barkett, Donna Kelly, Brenda Littleton and Dick Topper. The Tuesday champions were the Killdeers with team members Sue Larue, Bob Mathers, Lynne Waugh and Paul Wollschlager.

The Herons became the official 2024 League Champions, winning the best two of three games.

The league will begin its next season in late September. A kickoff meeting will be held at 1 p.m., Aug. 26, in the Ocean Pines Community Center. Current and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

The league has been active for 25plus years. This year there were 24 teams divided between Monday and Tuesday. The games start at 1 p.m. It is a mixed league with four people on

For information or questions, contact Barbara Harman at 301-980-7798.

Concerns for Buckingham grow other district because that would pull more of the limited scarce state dollars to the districts that choose to fund smaller class sizes versus the

ones that can't afford to." When asked how he saw Buckingham moving forward, Donahue said he wanted the IAC to work with local leaders.

"I would say the mechanism is up to you and board of education to determine how you want to work the conversation," he said. "The IAC is ready to join in that three way conversation.

Continued from Page 12 be better positioned for future years." Bunting asked how the county

could prepare when it never had any idea how much state funding it would get. Donahue said there was no simple solution.

The challenge here is that the state program is an assistance program that is to add onto projects where eligible to the local funding," he said. "The base responsibility for the school facilities is on the county and what most counties do is they set up an approach with the school district so there is a clarity around what the fiscal capacity is."

Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young asked if the state wanted Worcester to have larger class sizes.

"Not necessarily but there is an issue there about affordability of your facilities based on how you utilize them," Donahue said. "There are a lot of nuances there. The state doesn't prescribe particular class sizes however for fairness IAC uses state rated capacity which is based on a standard class size and we fund all the LEAs the same. If an LEA wants to run smaller class sizes the IAC doesn't say you can't or shouldn't but the IAC cannot equitably fund one district for much smaller classes sizes than an-



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Snapshots



THOTOS COUNTEST WORCESTER TREFARMORT SCHOOL

BOOK FAIR WEEK

As part of the week-long Scholastic Book Fair, Worcester Prep Lower School students shopped with special guests at Donuts with Grownups on March 20. Attendees enjoyed Dunkin Donuts breakfast and coffee, compliments of the Nistazos family, while buying books together. (Above) Pre-K student Katherine Williams and first grader Christian Williams browse the book fair.



Alumni Ali Gilliam, left, and Lee Kendall, right, enjoy donuts with their children, kindergartners Issac Gilliam and Landon Kendall, and Landon's sister, Sophia Kendall.





Siblings, first grader Savannah Baker and pre-K student Bella Baker, enjoy donuts together at the book fair.



Kindergartener Winslow Ross picks out books with her mom, Chelsea.



PHOTO COURTESY OC LIONS

CLUB FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Ocean City Lion and Past District Gov. Norm Cathell presents District Gov. Kathy Crockett a \$1,000 donation from the club to support the Lions Clubs International Foundation.



STUDENT AWARDED

Worcester **Preparatory School** sixth grader Emma Mealy stands next to her acrylic painting, "May Reflections" that received a third place award in the middle school category of the **Shirley Hall Youth Art Show held** March 1 at the **Ocean City Center** for the Arts. PHOTO COURTESY ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

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Snapshots



STUDENTS

PERFORM Fifth through eighth-grade students at Most **Blessed Sacrament** Catholic School recently performed "My Son Pinocchio, Jr." under the direction of Jackie Selba. (Right) Students Elizabeth Lovell, playing Gepetto, and Maisie Murphy, playing Pinocchio, act out a scene. PHOTOS COURTESY MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Students Elizabeth Lovell, as Gepetto, and Maisie Murphy, as Pinocchio, act out a scene.



PHOTO COURTESY OC LIONS

OCFD DEMONSTRATION

Pictured, from left, are Ocean City Fire Department Chief Richie Bowers, OC Lions President Greg Cathell, OCFD Paramedic Ryan Whittington and OC Lion JD Quillin after a demonstration the fire department members gave on the use of an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED, and basic CPR.



Student Mia Genga plays the Blue Fairy during a scene of the performance.



PHOTO COURTESY OC LIONS

LIONS CLUB DONATION

Pictured, from left, are OC Lions President Greg Cathell and Lion Sean Williams and a donation check for \$500 to Camp Possibilities, a camp for youth ages 8 to 17 with diabetes. The camp offers arts, basketball, field games and supportive diabetes education.



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OPA Board President Rick Farr is pictured recognizing community volunteers who provide essential

'Tireless efforts' of Ocean Pines volunteers recognized

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(April 18, 2024) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors welcomed community members and public officials to the association's annual volunteer appreciation dinner at the Yacht Club on Thursday, April 11.

Approximately 200 volunteers, including the OPA advisory committees, were invited to this year's event. Members from Aquatics, Architectural Review, Budget and Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Communications, Elections, Environmental and Natural Assets, Golf, Marine Activities, Racquet Sports, Recreation and Parks, and Strategic Planning at-

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, specifically President Joe Enste and Fire Chief Joe Widgeon, were recognized, as were the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, Women's Club of Ocean Pines, and the Pine'eer Craft

The OPA board, including Secretary John Latham, Dr. Stuart Lakernick, Monica Rakowski, Steve Jacobs, Elaine Brady, and Jeff Heavner, who serve as volunteers, were also hon-

"This evening is meant to recognize with appreciation our dedicated volunteers who selflessly donate their time, skills, and passion to support See OFFICIALS Page 17







mm mm open Houses

April 19 - 25







DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & S	SF -	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Friday Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday & Sunday 10am-1p	m 11000 Coastal Hwy. Capri #1703, OC	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900 M	Ionica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	304 S. Heron Gull Court	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pr	m 13 131st Street #105 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	36937 Creekhaven Dr., Selbyville, DE	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$759,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	1 66th Street Unit 101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	13 131st Street #105 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	23 Abbeyshire Rd., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$349,900 P	ower of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
Saturday Noon-2pm	12327 Vista Way, Lighthouse Sound	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,299,900	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty

Space Deadline Springfest CAR Real Estate Guide April 24th. For Details, Contact Renée Kelly 667.288.1233 Renee@OceanCityToday.net

PHOTO COURTESY TIDALHEALTH FOUNDATION

Officials and staff with Homes4Hope Therapeutic Solutions in Salisbury pose with toys they donated to TidalHealth Foundation's Brooke's Toy Closet this year.



PHOTO COURTESY TIDALHEALTH FOUNDATION

Area organizations support Brooke's Toy Closet effort

(March 28, 2024) Several regional organizations were recently recognized for donating to TidalHealth Foundation's Brooke's Toy Closet this year.

According to a news release, Homes4Hope Therapeutic Solutions in Salisbury, Seaside Smiles in Salisbury, Sportland in Ocean City, Westside Intermediate School in Hebron, and an anonymous donor supported the program, which provides new toys to children in the emergency department and pediatric units at Tidal Health. The children get to keep and take home the toys upon discharge.

The program was named in honor of Brooke Mulford, a young girl who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, an aggressive form of cancer, in 2009 at the age of 4. After a valiant battle, she passed away in June 2017. Brooke had a vision to give toys to kids in the hospital to make their time there a little easier. Her vision sparked the creation of Brooke's Toy Closet.

To learn more about Brooke's Toy Closet, including ways to donate, visit tidalhealth.org/toycloset or contact the TidalHealth Foundation at foundation@tidalhealth.org or 410-543-

 ${\bf Students\ from\ We stside\ Intermediate\ School\ in\ Hebron\ pose\ with\ toys\ they\ donated\ to\ the\ program.}$

Officials celebate volunteerism

Continued from Page 16

Ocean Pines," board president Rick Farr said, addressing the crowd. "Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the community we serve. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am truly grateful for your invaluable contributions, enthusiasm, and dedication to serving our great Ocean Pines community."

Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), Maryland Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C), Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino, and Ocean Pines Forum

founder Joe Reynolds were in attendance.

"The volunteer dinner was an absolute success, and we received wonderful feedback and gratitude from our county and state leadership for the invitation to share in the celebration," Farr told OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis after the event. "I and the rest of the Board felt it was our responsibility to not only recognize the advisory committees for their dedication and service, but also the other organizations and clubs that serve our great community."



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Opinion

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

Clear process needed for community center

Considering that it has been at least six years since the Town of Berlin floated the idea of replacing the old multipurpose building on Flower Street with a community center, the critical question these days is when the talking will end and the doing begins.

Time is money, as they say, and the longer it takes to decide what a new center should include, the more difficult it will become to find a way to pay for it.

County Commissioner Diana Purnell, who is a member of the Berlin Community Center Advisory Committee, was even more emphatic in 2018, when she cautioned that failure to act expeditiously on such a project would leave the community with nothing but a pile of dirt where the multi-purpose building once stood.

It hasn't come to that, but the town and the Flower Street area community need to agree on what is possible now and then establish a timeline to act on it.

What isn't possible right now is the fulfillment of everyone's wishes, some of which are beyond the scope of what the town and community center advocates can afford.

Although last week's community center kickoff session invited residents to express their thoughts on what the center might include, the priorities ought to be creating a building and a campus layout to serve as foundation inside and outside of which various amenities can be added.

After all, a building with a big empty room that can accommodate big ideas at some point down the road is better than a well-planned room in a nonexistent building.

Town officials, committee members and residents should agree that creating a community center is going to be a building block process that will start with a solid foundation followed by more development as time and money allow.

Otherwise, more years will pass discussing a blue sky facility without a functioning counterpart on the ground.

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

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Fire Marshal adding new county title

Owens tapped to lead emergency services department

(April 18 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners appointed Fire Marshal Matt Owens to lead Worcester County Emergency Services (WCES) and the Fire Marshal's Office. Owens has been leading the Fire Marshal's Office since 2022 and stepped into his expanded role March 19.

"Matt Owens is a highly respected leader in the public safety community and an incredible asset to Worcester County Government," Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said. "He has a comprehensive knowledge of fire and EMS and a proven record for coordinating the emergency planning, response, and recovery partnerships necessary to prepare Worcester County to address natural and manmade disasters. He is the ideal candidate to move both departments forward."

Owens, a certified law enforcement officer, joined Worcester County government in 1996. He also serves as a part-time certified instructor at the Police Academy at Wor-Wic Community College, where he plays a role in training each new generation of law enforcement and correctional officers.

"The fire service has been in my blood since a young age, and I appreciate the opportunity granted to me by the County Commissioners to lead these two departments," Owens said. "My fawas a volunteer firefighter as I was growing up along with my brother, and I've aspired to follow in his footsteps. With everyone's support, we will continue striving to move public safety forward, making Worcester County an even safer place for the residents and visitors to live, work, and play."

The Fire Marshal's Office, which serves as the local enforcing agency for the County and three municipalities, carries out all provisions of the Maryland and Worcester County laws relating to fires, fire prevention, protection, inspections, investigations, and explosive incidents. **Professionals** within the Fire Marshal's Office conduct fire safety inspections, origin and cause fire investigations, hazardous materials response and planning, new construction plan reviews, and fire prevention education. They also coordinate fire prevention and fire education activities within the community and respond to and mitigate all hazardous materials and bio terrorism incidents in Worcester County.

WCES oversees all matters relating to emergency management, the County's 911 system, and the County's P25 800 MHz Radio Divi-

AGH plans anniversary celebration

(April 18, 2024) To celebrate Atlantic General Hosgrowth pital's community support, the hospital's foundation will be holding its 31st Anniversary Celebration on May 9.

Guests are encouraged to wear cocktail attire for the outdoor event that will take place, rain or shine, from 6-9 p.m., at the home of Emily and George Tunis in West Ocean City.

Features of the gala in-

clude hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and live musical entertainment.

Admission to attend is \$150 per person and tickets can be purchased online at agh.care/agh31. Event sponsorships are also available. Several sponsorship levels include a number of complimentary admissions to the celebration.

Anniversary Celebration Committee Co-Chairs Emily Tunis and Sara Hambury coordinated the event.

Visit agh.care/agh31 to purchase admissions or submit sponsorships. All proceeds benefit Atlantic General Hospital Foundation, 501(c)(3) organization, and all gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For more information, contact Community Relations Officer Laura Powell at lspowell@atlanticgeneral.or g or call the foundation office at 410-641-9671.

Vendors needed for Pines Arts Day

(April 18, 2024) The Art League of Ocean is seeking artisan vendors for its fourth installment of Arts Day in the Pines, set June 2 at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines. The event is free to the public.

Arts day will feature more than 50 vendors offering original arts and crafts, including pottery, paintings, glassware, fiber art, jewelry, photography and sculpture. Attendees can meet the artisans and buy directly from them.

"Last year, Arts Day in the Pines drew more than 2,000 attendees," Aubrey Sizemore, art league event coordinator, said in a news release. "So this is a great opportunity for talented artisans to share and sell their creations."

The event, which will take place rain or shine, will also feature food trucks, a multicultural talent show, a kids' zone with bouncy houses and face painting, art See ARTS Page 19

Child pornography dealer sentenced to one year in jail

(April 18, 2024) A Berlin man will serve at least one year in jail for distributing child pornography.

On April 4, Pasco L. Allen, Jr., 75, was convicted of distribution of child pornography and sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Brian D. Shockley to five

years of incarceration with all but one year suspended. The court placed Allen on three years of supervised probation upon his release and ordered him to register as Tier II sex offender for a period of 25 years. Allen



must also submit a DNA sample.

The charges stem from a cybertip sent by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to the Maryland State Police last fall. The cybertip provided evidence of the possession of child pornography by a reported user, which investigators used to trace back to Allen's residence. Maryland State Police investigators obtained a search warrant for Allen's cell phone, which they seized in August of 2023. Digital Forensics Examiners with the Maryland State Police extracted the data from Allen's phone, and were able to determine that in June of 2023, Allen had sent a saved image of child pornography to another individual using Facebook. Allen was subsequently charged with knowingly distributing child pornography and related offenses.

Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser thanked NCMEC, the Marvland State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, and Sgt. Pruitt of the Maryland State Police for their efforts to hold online predators accountable. Heiser also thanked Assistant State's Attorney Mary-Ann Burkhart who prosecuted

Arrest made in Ocean Pines arson case from March 29

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(April 18, 2024) An arrest has been made in a March 29, house fire in Ocean Pines after the Worcester County Fire Marshal's office confirmed the cause as arson.

The fire marshal announced Felix C. Rounds, Jr as the suspect in the house fire. The man was evaluated at Tidal Health Peninsula Regional Medical Center on the evening of the incident, which was reported to authorities at 5:40 p.m.

Upon his April 12 discharge from the hospital, Rounds was arrested and is currently being held without bond. Rounds has been charged with first-degree arson and reckless endangerment.

On the evening of March 29, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department was alerted of the residential

fire on Ocean Parkway. Fire companies from Showell, Berlin, Ocean City, Bishopville, Selbyville, and Frankford also assisted. Responders were met with smoke from the singlestory home and told a man was still inside.

A small fire was located in a bedroom, which was "quickly extinguished." The fire marshal said the house's resident did not sustain any injuries, and damage to the home was isolated to just one bedroom.

Deputies from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office conducted an origin and cause investigation, where they determined the fire was deliberately set.

Members of the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office and the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Office pursued the criminal charges. They did not identify a motive.

Arts day set for June 2 in park

Continued from Page 18

projects all day, Radio OC giveaways, and wine, beer and soft drinks.

Vendors will provide their own tent shelters, displays, signage, and transaction processing. The art league will actively promote the event and coordinate on the day.

More information is available by aubrey@artleagueofocontacting ceancity.org.





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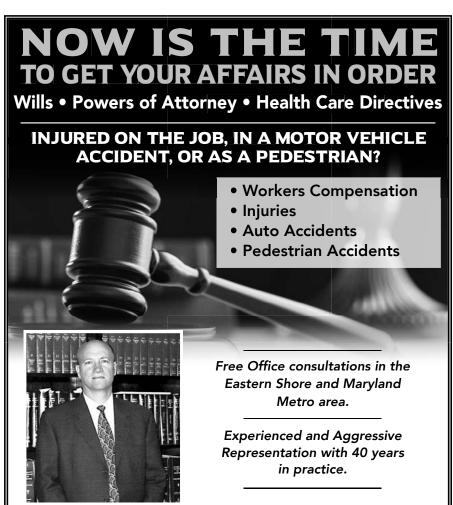
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23

26

37

41

67

73

91

116

122

125

Puzzles

DOUBLE DUTY BY TRACY GRAY / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Tracy Gray lives in Hunt Valley, Md. She and her husband recently retired after 35 years of owning and operating a lawn-and-landscaping business outside Baltimore. This puzzle started with its title, which Tracy then brainstormed themes to fit — the crossword equivalent of putting the cart before the horse.

ACROSS

- 1 "We're doing this!"
- 6 Rear ends
- 14 Mensa prereq
- 20 Lightweight curtain fabric
- 21 Folded brunch fare
- 22 Tito who wrote "Oye Como Va"
- 23 Song performed three times in "The Wiz"
- 25 Give a kick, say
- 26 What "American Airlines" means in poker lingo
- 27 Marty Feldman's role in "Young Frankenstein"
- 28 Cioppino ingredient
- 30 Crumbly coffeehouse confection
- 31 Container for
- movie popcorn _ Nation (annual
- music festival) 33 One place to find a
- pair of parrots 35 Backless stool
- 37 DFW stat
- 38 Riddle-me-
- 39 Group with the 2009 hit "I Gotta Feeling"
- 41 Boldness
- 43 Apple variety whose name sounds like part of a flower
- 45 Steph Curry and LeBron James, e.g.
- 49 "Yes, cap'n!"

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

- 51 Move quickly (through)
- 53 Pinnacle
- 54 Mérida mister
- 56 Layering garment
- 59 Number of Gospels in the New Testament
- 61 Author Koontz
- 62 Big
- 63 Fitness enthusiast's mantra
- 66 Old Italian currency
- 67 The one who got away?
- 69 Japanese vegetable
- 70 Suffering memory
- 73 Nicholas II was the last one
- 74 Start of some cautionary advice
- 79 PreCheck org.
- 81 Bird whose first letter
- is silent
- 82 Baby
- 83 Low-lying wetland
- 85 Real looker
- 87 List-ending abbr.
- 89 Mean
- 91 Rubs the rite way? 93 Surfboard/kayak
- hybrid 96 Casey of classic radio
- 100 Take advantage of an opportunity
- 102 Where the buck
- might stop? 104 Alex and
- (jewelry brand) 105 2022 No. 1 hit for Taylor Swift
- 108 Snoopy, to Charlie Brown

WE PAY CAS

For Like New & Used Cars & Trucks

- 109 Actress Campbell of the "Scream" films 110 N.Y.C. subway inits.
- 111 Former African country, and its currency
- 112 Jewish rite for an 8-day-old
- 114 Weather the storm
- 115 Sow and hoe for dough, say
- 116 F-14 fighter jet
- 118 You love to see it 122 Fashion designer
- Pucci
- 123 Broke a nationalpark rule
- 124 Emoticon's mouth, for short
- 125 Apple-processing plant
- 126 Church parts vulnerable to lightning
- 80 POTUS's military title 127 Hip spot for a drink?

DOWN

- 1 "No food for me, thanks'
- 2 "Adorbs!"
- 3 Angle-measuring
- instrument 4 Ransom Eli (pioneering
- automaker) 5 Opposite of paleo-
- 6 What "the Hill"
- is a metonym for
- 7 Recess retort 8 Paint brand
- 9 Fútbol cheer
- 10 "Come the Sea" (Thomas Moore poem)

RACETRACK AUTO SALES

- 11 Daytona vehicle
- 12 List-ending abbr.

410-3

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(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

- 13 Calm
- 14 Computer addresses, for short
- 15 Cheesy appetizer with chips
- 16 Variety of tiny dog
- 17 Belgian Surrealist painter James
- 18 Peach pit
- 19 Doctrinal belief
- 24 "The Good (Emmy-winning series)
- 29 Bread spread 32 "Still awake?"
- 33 Olympian Raisman
- 34 Zodiac animal
- 36 "The View" co-host
- Joy 39 Emptier
- 40 Butter cutter
- 42 Amazon Prime vehicle
- 44 Early name in digital recording 46 Unlikely donors to the AARP
- 47 Kinda close
- 48 Largest of New York's Finger Lakes
- 50 Pennsylvania city that's home to Gannon University
- 52 Luau finger food
- 54 Word with jam or joint 55 Best animated
- feature winner of 2021 57 Curved line between
- musical notes 58 Hot cocktail
- 60 It owns the trademark for "The Greatest on Earth"
- 62 "You

- 64 Streak on a cheek
- 65 _speak
- 68 Where to see the midnight sun
- 71 Barbenheimer in the summer of 2023, e.g.
- 72 Aaron Judge, e.g., in brief
- 75 Teeny-tiny
- 76 When a football may be snapped
- 77 Walt Whitman, notably
- 78 Fail miserably

- 81 Preamble start
- 84 Nutritional fig.

112

86 Like love on Valentine's Day, it's said

118

123

126

- 88 Bad spot to leave food 101 Standards of unattended behavior
- 90 Laundry purchase in an orange
- container 92 Belgrade resident
- 94 Service center?
- 95 Tympanostomy performer, for short
- 98 "Mains"
- 99 Former TLC reality show set in a Florida tattoo parlor
- - 103 O.T.C. part
- 105 Like the emblem on Mexico's flag
- 106 Two-time Australian
- Open winner Osaka 107 Unlikely to make the first move
- cards 113 "Really, though?"

127

97 Iraqi city on the Tigris 109 Like some credit

- 114 PC shortcut key
- 115 A little horse
- 117 Nursery item 119 It merged with Bell Atlantic to become
- Verizon
- 120 With it, in old slang 121 Letters on some

skin-care products

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom **HARD - 42**

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.

PREVIOUSLY OWNED VEHICLES for SALE

MD STATE INSPECTED BUY HERE, **PAY HERE!**

- '17 HONDA CRV LX
- '20 CHEVY SILVERADO

AUTO DETAILING AVAILABLE

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Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Holocaust author to speak at Ocean Pines library

(April 18, 2024) Most accounts of the Holocaust focus on trainloads of prisoners speeding toward Auschwitz in the summer of 1944, but a largely overlooked chapter is a prequel to those gas chambers: The face-to-face mass murder of Hungarian Jews in the summer of 1941.

George Eisen, the author of "A Summer of Mass Murder: 1941 Rehearsal for the Hungarian Holocaust" (\$39.99/Purdue University Press), will get into those lesser discussed details at 2 p.m., April 23, at the Ocean Pines Branch of the Worcester County Library. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.

Within a six-week period, about 23,600 Hungarian Jews were forcefully deported to Galicia — modernday Poland and Ukraine - and summarily executed. Two of Eisen's

Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates volunteer support

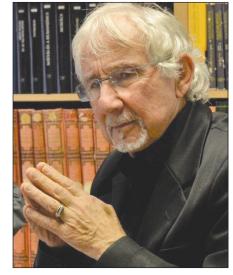
(April 18, 2024) During the month of April, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore will celebrate the many efforts and influential work of its volunteers.

According to a news release, volunteers play a special role in the fabric of the organization, from supportive board members who guide the agency and help develop new programs to meet the needs of the community, to mentors who ignite the power and promise of youth through wisdom and guidance. Each day, organization volunteers share their time and talents with their little mentees to help children develop skills and achieve their dreams. Volunteers' efforts, no matter what role, are appreciated, the release said.

Volunteers support the organization in many ways. Agency represenespecially appreciate volunteers who have given their time in the past year. Some people have had to pause volunteering, others have had to change the way they volunteer, and others have come on board as new volunteers.

To become a mentor or learn how you can support the programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shore, shorebiglittle.org, email info@shorebiglittle.org, or call 410-543-2447. Experienced program staff will help find the best fit.

Follow the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore National Volunteer Month campaign on Facebook, Instagram @shorebigs, and X, formerly Twitter, @ESBIGS.



George Eisen

uncles were among those killed in the unfolding genocide.

A professor of political science, Eisen has discussed his work throughout the United States and Europe. His book incorporates extensive archival research, interviews, and corresponding literature, along with previously unexplored documents and testimonies.

For information on all library programs, check out the Events page at worcesterlibrary.org.

Obituary

JAY WALTER PERSKIE

Ocean Pines

Jay Walter Perskie, 78, of Ocean Pines, went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ at 8:30 p.m., April 12, 2024.

He was born to Leon and Leah

Perskie on Oct. 7, 1945, in Baltimore. He graduated from Baltimore City College in 1963. After several semesters of college at the University of Maryland, College Park, he joined Jay Perskie his parents in running



their photography studio and became the third-generation owner of Perskie Photographics. These three generations were the official inaugural photographers of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson and

Jay also owned and operated Professional Photographer's Wedding Lab and the Glass Slipper Wedding Center in Baltimore. Jay loved life and saw everyone he met as impor-

Jay is survived by his wife, Beth (Ocean Pines); three daughters, Lauren Porter, Julia Bauer and Hannah Smith; and eight grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Beatrice Foxman and Carolyn Rosen.

Jay's family will host a funeral service at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 18, at Berlin First Baptist Church. A visitation was set 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. Interment will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 19, at Druid Ridge Cemetery in Baltimore.

In lieu of flowers, consider Ariel Ministries, The Coastal Hospice Macky and Pam Stansell House, and the Hackerman-Patz Patient and Family Pavilion at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary Notices cost \$50 per week for Print and Online Publications. E-mail: editor@baysidegazette.com Mail: 11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842 Fax: 410-723-6511



Calendar

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

Thurs., April 18

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.

STORYTIME: SPRINGTIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Create insects and plants with paint, google eyes and more. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TECH TALKS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. This group will break down tech topics into byte-sized lessons for all. Call the library for more information. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

EARTH DAY SUN CATCHERS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day by crafting your own sun catcher. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANIME TRIVIA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Test your knowledge. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

2ND ANNUAL CASH BINGO

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin, 6 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Advance tickets: www.opvfd.com. Tickets cost \$45 at the door. Must be 21 to participate. Food and beverages available. Proceeds benefit O.P.V.F.D. 410-641-8272

ROMANCE BOOK CLUB: 'THE PERKS OF LOVING A WALLFLOWER' BY ERICA RIDLEY

The Buzzed Word, 11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Join the Ocean City Library with The Buzzed Word for an afternoon of Queer Romance and wine. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THREE-DAY REVIVAL

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 7 p.m. Held April 18-20. Speakers include Rev. Markel Thomas, Rev. Gary Miller and Rev. Dr. Roxie Dennis. All are welcome. 410-641-

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 19

LOCALS DAY WITH OCEAN 98

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Rude Awakening Show from 6-10 a.m. All-day, self-guided park access until 4 p.m. Featuring animal encounters, music, breakfast (Turtle Beach Cafe), games and more. Only \$9.81. All ages. 302-829-1549

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

POWERFUL POETRY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Learn about famous poets, types of poetry and create a poem of your own. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'BLACK GIRL, CALL HOME' BY JASMINE MANS

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

FRIED FLOUNDER DINNER

Bowen Um Church Hall, 8423 Newark Road, Newark, 4:30 p.m. Fried flounder dinner, green beans, Mac & cheese, cornbread, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$10. Carryouts available.

WSW MURDER ON THE MENU HOPE DINNER

Dove Pointe, Inc., 1225 Mount Hermon Road, Salisbury, 5:30-9 p.m. WSW and Ovation Dinner Theatre present Murder on the Menu New Orleans Style. Tickets cost \$65 and include buffet dinner, show and one free drink ticket. Cash bar. Tickets: WSW office or 410-548-7880.

THREE-DAY REVIVAL

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 7 p.m. Held April 18-20. Speakers include Rev. Markel Thomas, Rev. Gary Miller and Rev. Dr. Roxie Dennis. All are welcome. 410-641-0270

Sat., April 20

VINTAGE & VINYL ON RECORD STORE DAY Pitts Street, Berlin, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Live music by Journos & Friends, musicians instrument swap, vinyl records and vintage clothing. Parking at Stephen Decatur Park. https://berlinmainstreet.com

DOGFISH HEAD RECORD STORE DAY

The Globe, 12 Broad St., Berlin, 12-4 p.m., Buy any Dogfish Head beer and receive one free Dogfish Head pint glass and one free raffle ticket. Multiple raffle items and giveaways. DJ Kenny Flight on the decks.

PIG ROAST

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 3 p.m. Featuring Funk Shué performing, beer and games. Bring a chair. Free event. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

OCEAN PINES 2024 SEASON KICKOFF & EXPO

White Horse Park, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 3-7 p.m. Music, live performances, interactive exhibits, health screenings, giveaways and more. Explore Ocean Pines amenities, organizations, clubs and businesses. Food and beverage trucks.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 8 a.m. Join in for prayer, food and fellowship. All men are encouraged to attend, come as you are and bring a friend. 410-641-0270

EARTH DAY BAY TO BEACH CLEANUP

Fenwick Island Town Hall, 800 Coastal Highway, 8:30-10 a.m. Participants gather at Town Hall for refreshments, some educational materials, an appreciation gift and cleanup materials. Street and beach cleanup assignments provided at 8:45 a.m.

WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. A brief discussion about a health topic with a representative from AGH, then the group will walk around the park's trail. First 10 to arrive receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. 410-641-9268

SPRING CELEBRATION

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet and greet with Bluey, all day access to the facility and kangaroo walkabout, special animal ambassador encounters, live music (10 a.m. to noon), outdoor games, nature craft stations and more. 302-829-1549

DRIVE THRU CHURCH LUNCHEON

Powellville Methodist Church, 35606 Mount Hermon Road, Pittsville, 10 a.m. Featuring oyster fritter sandwiches, homemade chicken salad, baked goods, homemade soups including lima beans and corn, peas and dumplings and vegetable beef. No pre-orders. 410-835-8796

THREE-DAY REVIVAL

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 7 p.m, Held April 18-20. Speakers include Rev. Markel Thomas, Rev. Gary Miller and Rev. Dr. Roxie Dennis. All are welcome. 410-641-0270

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 21

OCEAN PINES' RESIDENTS GOLF DAY

Ocean Pines Golf Club, 100 Clubhouse Drive, Ocean Pines, 2-5 p.m. Free greens fees for OP residents (pay for cart only). Tee times: 410-641-6057. Tee times may be made within 48 hours before date of event. Resident ID cards required for discount. oceanpinesgolf.org. 410-641-6057

ARGENTINE TANGO VIBES AND TRY TANGO PLUS MILONGA

Lewes Senior Activity Center Inc, 32083 Janice Road, Lewes, 2-6 p.m. Use back door near the trail entrance. Argentine Tango Vibes event at 2 p.m. for new Tango dancers and a Milonga from 3-5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. If possible, wear shoes with leather soles. TangoByTheBeach.com.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., April 22

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EARTH DAY ILLUSTRATIONS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Using basic shapes, line techniques and shading, learn to capture Springtime blossoms, trees, bugs and more. No prior drawing experience needed. Supplies included. 410-208-4014

STORY TIME: EARTH DAY

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

WRITING FOR WELLNES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like

Calendar

illness may boost health and psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

EARTH DAY STEM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about the water cycle and create it with legos. Bring your old toys and learn how to create a brand new toy robot. For ages 6-14 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 Campion, 410-641-0157

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 5 oplus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., April 23

CREATIVE KIDS CRAFT TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Stop by to do a spring related craft. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: 'FOOD'

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

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

THE SUMMER OF 1941: A PRELUDE TO THE HUNGARIAN HOLOCAUST

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Author Dr. George Eisen examines the killing of 23,600 Hungarian Jews, years before the Holocaust became known to the world. He details how this event foreshadowed more horrors to come. 410-208-4014

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., April 24

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND ACCESS POINT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Maryland Access Point of Worcester County will discuss how they serve as a "one stop shop" for aging adults, individuals with disabilities and their families of all income levels. 410-957-0878

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference

Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. The goal of the support group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

PAINTED TILES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Make designs on ceramic tiles using markers and rubbing alcohol. For ages 6 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PAINT & SIF

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

BINGO FUNDRAISER

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6-9 p.m. Featuring \$2 bingo cards, 50/50 raffle, cool gift and a chance auction. Proceeds support the Lower Eastern Shore Group of the Sierra Club.

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

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

ONGOING EVENTS

OCEAN CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

Held April 14-28. Participating restaurants are given the freedom to offer whatever best fits for their restaurant at this time. Several will offer fixed-price menu options others may offer great deals. Reservations are recommended. https://oceancityrestaurantweek.com



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ESTATE SALE

Page 25

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