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BAY DAY FUN

Arts and crafts projects were among the many activities available for attendees to the annual Bay Day event in Ocean Pines.

More financial success for OPA

Another year, another solid financial report from GM to Pines board of directors

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 23, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola updated residents on the community's favorable financial situation, beautification efforts, Ocean City Beach Club and racquet center maintenance, amenity updates, and more at the Saturday, May 18 Board of Directors meeting.

Viola, who was named the temporary general manager in April 2019

and signed a full-time agreement in June 2019, said that OPA ended the fiscal year on April 30, 2024, with a \$166,000 favorable variance to the budget for the month.

"We are favorable," he said. "That does not mean it is a surplus; much of this money is earmarked. The favorability mostly comes from revenues, and a lot of it is driven by golf."

The fiscal year unaudited, or flash, numbers estimate a \$1.2 million favorability to budget. According to the OPA Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis, 2024 marks four straight years with favorable variances over \$1 million and six consecutive years with a positive variance.

The official audited numbers will be finalized at the beginning of July.

Viola mentioned the favorable and unfavorable factors expected to impact the community in the next fiscal year. The promising aspects, what the general manager calls tailwinds, include positive conditions of Ocean Pines amenities and a motivated staff. The general manager maintained the pools, the golf course, and the marina were ready for the summer season.

Additionally, Viola credited the reserve study as a favorable factor for the upcoming year.

"This Association, the team, the

See REPORT Page 19

Old-Fashioned Memorial Day parade Mon.

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) A longstanding tradition will continue next week with Berlin's Old Fashioned Memorial Day Parade.

The parade, which typically brings thousands of visitors and residents to Flower Street, will feature an array of floats, dance groups and marching units. The parade will start at 11 a.m. at Stephen Decatur Middle School

See PARADE Page 3

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Parade recognizes locals who died serving country

Continued from Page 1 and end at Henry Park.

“It’s something people recognize as Berlin’s opportunity to say thank you to the families and memorialize those who died in service,” organizer Gregory Purnell said.

Memorial Day recognitions within the community will actually begin Sunday, as Duncan Showell Post 231 will be turning out at St. John’s United Methodist Church on Lewis Road at 10 a.m. for a special Memorial Day service. The following day, Post 231 members will spend Memorial Day morning visiting local cemeteries to place flags and play taps to honor local residents who served in the armed forces.

They’ll be in line and ready to lead the parade at 11 a.m. however, as entries will march from Stephen Decatur Middle School down Flower Street to Henry Park. Purnell expects about 30 entries to participate in this year’s event, for which the theme is “Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future.” A prize of \$100 will be awarded to the best float. A variety of food and craft vendors will be set up for attendees to browse after the parade, and the band Uprising is set to perform. There will also be a dance competition at Henry Park.

“We’re going to be doing a lot of dancing,” Purnell said.

Purnell said a special effort this year was being made to honor local veterans who died on active duty, including Mitchell Brown, Samuel Bowen, Charles Briddell, Kenneth Smack, Keith Bailey, Lamont Lockwood, Robert Trower, Leon Duncan and Daniel Showell.

“We’re having a special tribute to those who died while serving,” Purnell said, adding that with more research organizers hoped to have more information on local veterans in the future. “We’re asking families of those we’re honoring to come out and join in the celebration.”

Attendees might also notice an empty chair at the judge’s stand, as longtime volunteer Tony Bowen recently passed away.

“He would always come out,” Purnell said.

Purnell said the Old Fashioned Memorial Day Parade, which is meant to remind people of the old Decoration Day parades that Berlin was known for in the first half of the 20th century, is a longstanding tradition in Berlin. He said that’s why the event draws such a crowd.

“They come because it’s tradition,” Purnell said. “It’s time honored. People older than myself, they’re happy this event has been reincarnated.”

The parade begins at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 27. Attendees can park on the grass lot across from Henry Park.



Many of the annual parade participants entered in the annual Old-Fashioned Memorial Day Parade create patriotic floats and dress with a flare demonstrating their respect for the holiday.

PHOTO BY CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Veteran set to speak at Memorial Day event

(May 23, 2024) The largest Memorial Day ceremony in the region is set to return to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, Monday, May 27, starting at 11 a.m.

The event each year draws thousands of people to the memorial grounds and features music, demonstrations, and public speakers honoring U.S. Military men and women who gave their lives in service.

“Memorial Day honors all who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our county,” Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said in a news release. “This year’s ceremony, as those before it, will honor the brave men and women who served our country and lost their lives in doing so.”

Gilmore said the keynote speaker this year will be Bob Smith, a U.S. Air Force Vietnam Veteran and career



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The POW MIA wreath is presented during last year's Memorial Day event at the Worcester Veterans Memorial. This year's event is set for Monday, May 27.

member of the U.S. Army Reserves.

The ceremony will also honor local Gold Star families. During World War I, families would fly flags or ban-

ners with a blue star for every immediate family member serving in combat. If one of them died, a gold star replaced the blue star.

Walter Webster, a member of the Maryland East Chapter of Ex-POWs, will place a wreath in honor of all current and former prisoners of war.

The program will also include patriotic music performed by Randy Lee Ashcraft, The Delmarva Chorus, and Glen Mohr with the St. Luke's Contemporary Choir.

The program is scheduled to run for one hour.

Public parking will be available at Veterans Memorial Park on Route

589 and Cathell Road in Ocean Pines. Limited seating will be available during the ceremony and guests are encouraged to bring chairs. No seating will be supplied for the special dedication ceremony.

In case of inclement weather, the Memorial Day ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center and be announced on the ocean-pines.org and wocovets.org websites and on social media.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit wocovets.org or search for Worcester County Veterans Memorial on Facebook.

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Proposed Berlin subdivision plans for West St. reviewed

Flag lots concept jeered by commission despite hopes for more in-fill projects

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) Members of the town's planning commission showed little enthusiasm for a group of flag lots proposed for West Street.

The Berlin Planning Commission last week expressed concerns regarding a proposal presented to break a two-acre property on West Street into several flag lots. Commission members said having multiple lots share an access would open up a can of worms.

"This is not what we need here," commission member Ron Cascio said. "You tried, but this is just a mess."

Chris Carbaugh of the Atlantic Group approached the commission last week to get input on his clients' plan to subdivide a 2.42-acre property on West Street into four single family home lots. One lot would contain the property's existing single family home while the other three could be flag lots that could be serve as sites for other single family homes. Carbaugh said he felt the proposal

supported Berlin's aim to have more infill development. He added that the town's code did include a definition for flag lots and only prohibited them in the historic district.

"This is a concept plan, very preliminary," he said, "just to get your thoughts on the flag lot concept."

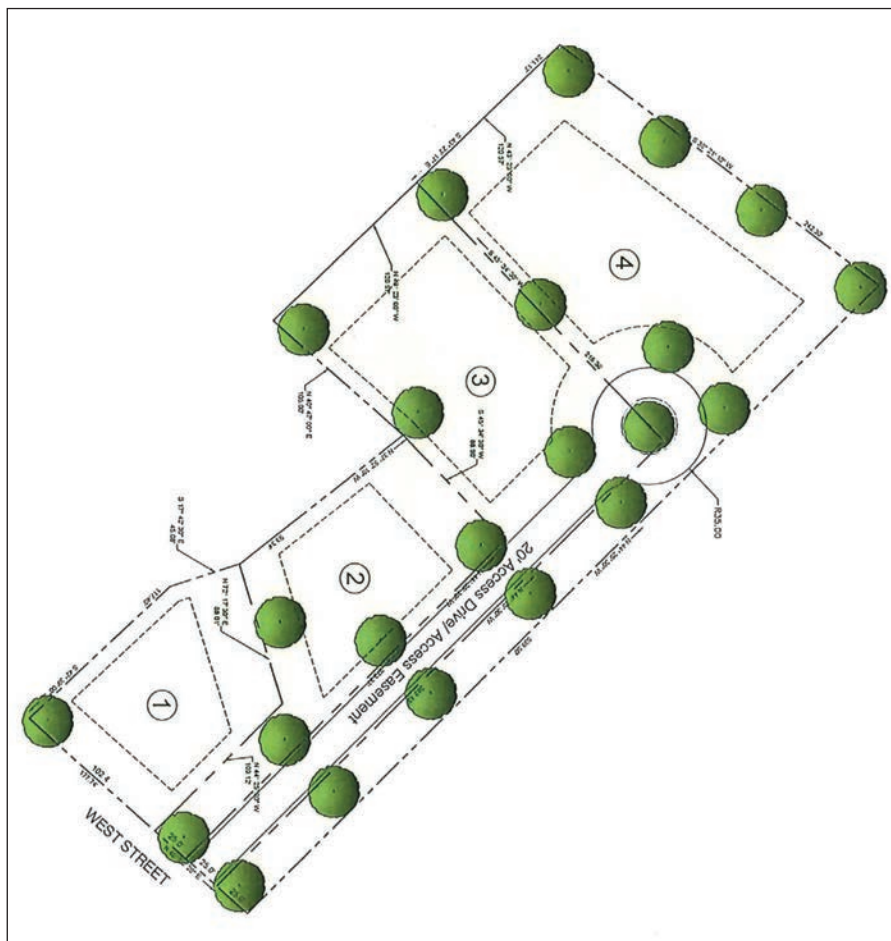
Commission member Newt Chandler said he'd been in town a long time and flag lots had always been frowned upon because officials realized if they allowed it for one property others would want to do something similar.

"It opens up the door to everybody that's got room in the back," he said.

Cascio said that since this proposal had been on the agenda he'd already had other people ask him if they could do flag lots on their properties. Commission member Chris Denny said a major issue with the proposal would be the need for stormwater management.

"The stormwater's going to have to be addressed before anything else gets built," he said. "That seems to be the consensus of the people who live there."

Chandler said the property owners should just attempt to subdivide, which is addressed in the town's



RENDERING BY ATLANTIC GROUP

Subdivision plans for a 2.42-acre property along West Street were reviewed last week by the Berlin Planning Commission.

code, if they wanted to build more on the property.

Resident Ed Hammond told the commission he'd subdivided several years ago and had been told to adhere to different minimum requirements than Carbaugh proposed. Hammond also talked about the extensive stormwater issues already existing in the Bottle Branch watershed.

"The town has known for more than 30 years that the culverts under Route 113 are undersized," he said. "What this means, new water that is generated by development in Bottle Branch watershed, if it can't pool it goes to me and it floods my land."

Resident Glenn Davis said he felt allowing the flag lots was a slippery slope. He said Burley Street, for example, had deep lots.

"Every one of them could come in and say I want to build two houses in the back of my lot," he said.

Resident Marie Velong said she

thought the flag lot proposal was in line with the town's infill goals but acknowledged that stormwater was an issue in Berlin.

"We are not paying attention to stormwater management in the least in this town," she said. "To pretend that we are is incredibly aggravating."

Carbaugh said he knew there were stormwater concerns in Berlin but that developers were required to address stormwater management when they did projects. He stressed that his clients felt the flag lot proposal was the best way to promote in-fill development with the subject property. Chandler said they should just try to develop the property under the town's existing subdivision requirements.

"If you're going to do what you're doing here you need to have a town approved subdivision that meets subdivision requirements," Chandler said.

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Racquet sports leader excited by programs

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 23, 2024) Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler provided an update on the program's new team structure, operational improvements and staffing expansion.

Underkoffler, who has coached racquet sports for 46 years and stepped into his current role in March 2024, noted that the association's general manager, John Viola, restructured the amenity to create a team-oriented support system.

The director assured that Membership Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer would focus on bookkeeping and money intake, and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue would be assigned special events and tournaments. Deputy Public Works Director Nobie Violante also provides support to the racquet center.

"With having those features, if I need to have something looked at, I have direct contact to public works and a direct contact to the administration building," Underkoffler said. "Viola set up a team structure that works."

The longtime coach maintained that he enhanced the collaborative approach by organizing onsite communication with the tennis, platform

tennis, and pickleball presidents. During monthly meetings, the racquet leader receives each sport's needs, questions, and concerns and directs them to the appropriate department.

"I cannot emphasize enough how much this system is working and is fostering a positive environment," Underkoffler said.

The racquet center has updated its check-in procedure. According to the director, players frequently forget to pay. Violante has set up temporary fencing around the site to amend the issue to block off all but the primary entrance.

The check-in desk has also been relocated to the player's lounge, which has a view of the whole site. Underkoffler claimed that these adjustments have allowed staff to catch a dozen individuals attempting to sneak into the courts.

Residents can expect a second sign-in computer and court monitors whose job will patrol the site and ensure all members have registered and paid with the attendants as the summer season increases the center's participation.

Underkoffler hopes these improvements will minimize the influx of people playing for free. "It is to emphasize to the community that we

mean business," he said.

The racquet center prioritizes maintenance. Storm damage and everyday weather have forced the staff to maintain the court's conditions. The tennis coach's primary concern is that the facility is the best in the Worcester County.

Additionally, the OPA Public Works Department gave Underkoffler half a dozen palm trees for beautification efforts. Flowers and perennial bushes were added to make the center "look a bit cheerier."

Program expansion is an ongoing initiative for the tennis and pickleball facility.

"Being a coach for 46 years, I value

training and certification," Underkoffler said. "I want to have people out there who have gone through the process professionally."

New to the staff are pickleball instructor Linda Horst, former Naval Academy coach Bill Gilroy, the previous Forty West racquet sports director and Mid-Atlantic and state titleholder Rieck Foelber, and Araceli Popen, a decorated tennis coach who offers timeless tennis, children's introductory tennis, and net generation tennis instruction.

"Our staff has expanded, and we're excited about the programming we can offer," Underkoffler said.

Public hearing Tuesday for Berlin's proposed budget

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) Citizens will have the chance to weigh in on the Town of Berlin's proposed budget for the coming year at a public hearing Tuesday.

The Berlin Town Council on Tuesday, May 28 will host a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget during the regularly scheduled 7 p.m. meeting.

"This body has worked very diligently with our department heads and staff to really craft a balanced budget addressing most of what we'd like to see," Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "I really think this is a good foot forward for Berlin for FY 25."

Last week, the council introduced the fiscal year 2025 budget for Berlin. The spending plan, which was drafted by the mayor and staff and adjusted by elected officials during budget work sessions this spring, includes proposed revenues of \$14,257,116, an increase of 23.8% over the current year.

"The revenues and expenditures are about \$14.2 million," Tyndall said. "Of that \$2.4 million is a transfer from reserves and \$2.8 million is a bond ... for the public works facility. So all in

all about a \$9 million balanced budget taking those two items out."

As for the enterprise funds, the proposed electric department budget is \$8.5 million, though \$1 million of that is a bond for the town's new AMI metering. The water department budget is proposed at \$5.4 million, though \$2 million of that is a transfer from reserves. The town's sewer budget is proposed at \$7.1 million with \$2.2 million from reserves and the town's stormwater budget is \$1.3 million with \$388,000 of that being a transfer from reserves.

The tax rate for the coming year is flat at \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed valuation. For a \$400,000 residence in Berlin, the annual tax bill at the current tax rate will be \$3,310. The town's net assessable real property base now stands at \$551 million.

Tyndall encouraged anyone with questions about the proposed budget to reach out to his office at 410-641-3858 or by emailing mayorzack@berlinmd.gov.

Tuesday's public hearing will occur during the regularly scheduled 7 p.m. council meeting in the council chambers at Berlin Town Hall.

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Offshore wind bill signed into law despite opposition

Governor continues to support projects, looking beyond fairness questions

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) Legislation facilitating the evaluation and approval of revised offshore wind projects was recently signed into law.

On May 9, Gov. Wes Moore (D), joined by Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones, Senate President Bill Ferguson and US Wind representatives, signed legislation that allows qualified offshore wind developers to apply for outstanding Offshore Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs) created as a result of changes in the market and to add additional capacity to existing projects, among other things. While local officials argue the legislation would provide funding to support projects off Ocean City's coastline, others say it keeps the state's offshore wind goals on track.

"Revisions outlined in House Bill 1296 seeks to streamline the approval process for revised project schedules and pricing, ensure the project is located in the authorized wind energy area, and those possessing offshore wind renewable energy credits can move forward expeditiously," House Economic Matters Committee Chair CT Wilson, bill sponsor, said in a hearing this spring. "Moreover, the bill does not restart the process for the projects. Merely, it allows limited alterations to already approved plans, including the adjustment to turbine placement, generating capacity, installation dates and pricing within the existing statutory limits."

Earlier this year, Danish company Ørsted announced plans to reposition its Skipjack Wind project, which was set to bring a 966-megawatt project off the Delmarva coastline. To that end, legislation – cross-filed as House Bill 1296 and Senate Bill 1161 – was introduced in the General Assembly to require the Maryland Public Service Commission to open a revised round-two proceeding to evaluate certain offshore projects and authorize certain offshore wind proj-

ects to submit certain revised plans for project schedules, sizes and pricing, among other things.

"We lost half of the power because Ørsted stepped out," Wilson said. "US Wind will hopefully bring at least a third of what Ørsted has left ... It's about being able to capture some of what has been lost."

The legislation has been opposed by both county and resort leaders, who came before the General Assembly in February to share their concerns about turbine sizes and project subsidies.

"HB 1296 as proposed gives US Wind the funding in the form of more expensive subsidies from Maryland ratepayers," Ocean City Councilman Tony DeLuca said at the time. "So, unlike most energy projects, where the larger the project the lower the energy cost, under HB 1296 the project gets bigger and the price goes up."

However, those supporting the legislation say it will allow offshore wind developers to overcome economic challenges and meet scheduling and pricing requirements set by state law. For developer US Wind, the legislation would assist the company in altering its Maryland offshore wind project, according to CEO Jeff Grybowski.

"This legislation is a game-changer for the Maryland offshore wind program," he said in a statement last week. "We are grateful for the unwavering support and stalwart leadership of Maryland's leaders on this critical piece of legislation. US Wind is here to stay. I am very confident that we will build Maryland's first offshore wind farm, first offshore wind manufacturing facility at Sparrows Point, and deliver this clean energy to the people of Delmarva for years to come."

In addition to allowing qualified developers to apply for outstanding ORECs and add additional capacity to existing projects, the new law amends the POWER Act to add an additional solicitation to the state's Department of General Services offshore wind procurement schedule and removes the cap on the amount of offshore wind energy the state seeks to procure.

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New Berlin brewery's live music request scaled back

Board issues license, but reduces entertainment hours inside and outside

By Charlene Sharpe
 Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) The Berlin Beer Company moved another step closer to opening this week with an alcoholic beverage license approval from a local board.

The Worcester County Board of License Commissioners (BLC) on Wednesday unanimously approved a beer wine and liquor license for the Berlin Beer Company. Concerns from neighbors, however, prompted the board to reduce entertainment hours for the establishment from noon to 8 p.m. as opposed to the later hours requested by proprietor Adam Davis.

"You're better off to get in with the vibe of the town than alienate the town," BLC member Reese Cropper said.

Davis told the board this week about his efforts to restore the 100-year-old building at 115 Broad St., the former Southern States, and his plan to operate it as a brewery. He said the building had originally been the town's freight train station and had required extensive renovations.

"We redid everything," he said. "We tried to retain as much of the history as we could."

He said the craft brewery would produce about 1,000 barrels a year. The facility has a 500 square foot kitchen and will feature food. Davis said he

planned to have family games and entertainment both inside and outside. Though his initial application sought to have entertainment until midnight, he told the board he modified that request in response to concerns from neighbors. He said Steve Green, a town councilman who lives adjacent to the brewery, organized a meeting between Davis and neighbors. During that discussion, Davis agreed to seek reduced entertainment hours.

"It went well," he said of the meeting. "It was just an open discussion. We want to be good neighbors. We want our neighbors to be our customers."

Green sent a letter to the board in support of the modifications agreed to after the meeting with Davis. The letter read in part, "After hearing our concerns about noise emanating from the property as well as potential quality of life impacts, Mr. Davis agreed to modify his entertainment request. ... We were pleased with the owner's good faith attempts ..."

Davis told the board the brewery would generally be open from 10 or 11 a.m. until 9 or 10 p.m.

"We're not trying to have a concert venue," he said.

Richard Holland, part owner of the Adkins Company, asked about parking at the brewery. Davis said the facility was required by the town to have 28 spaces and it had 30 spaces. Holland said that could be a problem. He said the Adkins Company let the public park on its property on the weekends. Holland is worried that on Friday afternoons, however, when Adkins Company is open and the brewery is open, there could be issues.

"We don't want to be in a situation where people are parking on us to go to the beer hall and we're not able to get to our materials," Holland said. "Our only alternative in the future, if this is not a careful scenario with Berlin beer hall, there's a right of way down Harrison Avenue. We own all of Harrison Avenue with this right of way. We would put a fence next to the right of way so there would be no parking... We don't want to have a confrontation problem. If we do, we'll take action."

Oak Park told the board he'd lived in his home adjacent to Berlin Beer Company for 47 years and wanted to make sure the new business didn't bring noise to the area.

"By definition our neighborhood is quiet and free from noise," he said.

Neighbor Don Ferguson told the board he supported

the business but encouraged Davis to work with a professional sound installation company so noise wasn't a problem.

Davis told the board he'd added a fence in the back of the property and had enclosed the loading dock area to ensure noise wasn't an issue.

"This is a craft beer brewery," he said. "We're not attracting the college crowd. This is a premium product. We shouldn't have to worry about the type of crowd that would be causing a ruckus."

BLC member Marty Pusey acknowledged that Davis had requested a lot of entertainment. BLC member Charles Nichols said rather than including a DJ on his list of entertainment, Davis should simply call the board to request permission for a DJ if the facility was holding a special event such as a wedding. Cropper made a motion to allow up to three-piece acoustic music from noon to 8 p.m. outside and inside. The board voted 3-0 in support of the motion.

'We're not attracting the college crowd. This is a premium product. We shouldn't have to worry about the type of crowd that would be causing a ruckus.'
 Proprietor Adam Davis



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Proposed hotel for Berlin reviewed, jeered

Planning Commission still unhappy with designs, developer seeks guidance

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 23, 2024) Developers of a Microtel proposed on Route 113 in Berlin are expected to work with members of the Berlin Planning Commission to come up with a building that fits the town.

After a modified concept plan failed to impress the Berlin Planning Commission last week, the group that wants to build a Microtel on a five-acre lot near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Route 113 offered to set up a meeting between some representatives of the commission and the head of design for Wyndham. Commission members Ron Cascio, Pete Cosby and Erich Pfeffer agreed to consult with the designer regarding ways to improve the design of the building.

“Corporations just have to start understanding ... we’re trying to preserve something here. And keep it special. Because it is special,” commission member Pete Cosby said.

After initially meeting with the planning commission in March, Tom Zambetis returned last week to share updated plans for the Microtel he



SUBMITTED RENDERING

Two renderings of the proposed Microtel on the east side of Route 113 were presented to the Berlin Planning Commission, the majority of which jeered the designs.

hopes to build on Route 113. He said he’d tried to address the array of concerns shared by both members of the public and members of the commission the last time the concept plan was presented. He said that the hotel would not increase residential property values, which was a worry voiced in March, and that the hotel’s pool would be completely enclosed and only accessible from within the hotel, so it wouldn’t be a hazard for school or daycare

children in the area. He added that the premises would be monitored around the clock through security cameras.

“The chances are slim to none that anyone would be putting themselves at risk,” Zambetis said.

He said he’d reached out to local law enforcement and told them the hotel would give them access to its parking lot as well as its coffee and bathroom facilities. In addition to the training Wyndham provides its employees re-

garding drugs and sex trafficking, Zambetis said the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office had offered to provide hotel staff with additional training as well.

Zambetis said he’d consulted with the Maryland State Highway Administration and officials there were looking at whether the Route 113 and Franklin Avenue intersection should have a traffic signal.

“It would make it easier for us but also the neighbors behind us and the

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Developer requesting direction

school," he said.

Zambetis told the commission the hotel would employ 14 people and that more than 12 subcontractors would be hired during the nine-to-10-month construction process. As for the architectural changes the commission recommended in March to make the project fit better in Berlin, Zambetis said brick had been added to the entrance.

"It's simple, it's clean," he said. "It's nothing major but it adds contrast and the splash of Berlin I think you all are looking for."

Commission member Ron Cascio said he had a hard time seeing any splash of Berlin.

"It's frustrating," Zambetis responded. "We have no direction. We have nothing from you giving us specifics."

When Cosby said he liked the look of the Wyndham in West Ocean City, project representative Ernie Selici that was an old layout the hotel no longer did.

"None of the branded hotels have that type of roofline anymore," Selici said. "None of their prototypes have it."

Cosby referenced the Atlantic Hotel's brick fenestration and interesting details.

"But that's a boutique hotel," Selici said.

"But it's Berlin," Cosby responded.

Cascio said he understood that Zambetis was limited in what he could propose for the elevation of the building because it was a national brand.

"This obviously doesn't fit the town but that's what you're left with. It's not our job to design it," he said, adding that Microtel's architect was in Texas.

Commission member Newt Chandler said the proposed hotel was definitely a box but pointed out that the commission had approved similar buildings. Commission member Erich Pfeffer said it didn't necessarily need to look like downtown Berlin.

"In regard to the fact that we don't have architectural standards obviously makes things more difficult but I don't think this does enough to say 'We're Wyndham/Microtel and we did something different in this town of Berlin.' I know it's tough that that's the only guidance I can give. As an architect myself I'd think that'd be the only guidance I'd want, and not to have too much prescriptive guidance because that would really pigeonhole you."

Selici said he'd worked with other hotel chains and felt Wyndham was the one most likely to be amendable to making changes at the town's request. He offered to set up a meeting between some commission members and the company's head of design.

"We want to be in Berlin," he said. "It's the right spot to be."

Cascio indicated it was a good idea.

"That makes sense," he said. "I don't think anybody's happy with this."

Pfeffer, Cascio and Cosby agreed to meet with the designer if Selici set something up.

Resident Marie Velong said that if the hotel wanted to be in Berlin the company should do what Berlin wanted in terms of architecture.

"I don't understand why we're even talking about it because a lot of citizens don't want it," she said. "To me it's in your best interest to come up with something that's amenable to everyone here or forget it. I don't have any sympathy for you. This is our town and this is what we want. If you can't do it, go someplace else."

Resident Bronwyn Betz said she didn't see the need for the hotel because the town had a small hotel and some bed and breakfasts as well as nearby hotels in West Ocean City. She said she'd rather see more small businesses than a hotel that served people who didn't live here.

"To me that looks like an eyesore," she said. "I don't see how it benefits us as town residents."

Resident Gabe Purnell also voiced opposition to the hotel. He said in March more than half the people in attendance at the meeting voiced opposition to the hotel. He said if the commission was only looking at the design of the proposed structure it didn't make sense for residents to object.

"You're going to do what you're going to do," he said. "To me that don't sound like a democracy."



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Police, fire officials provide monthly update

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 23, 2024) Representatives from the Ocean Pines Police and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire departments updated the community on their initiatives and ongoings at last week's Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting.

OPPD Chief Tim Robinson was present May 18 as OPA Board of Directors President Rick Farr swore Officer Michael Ebersole into the department. Farr noted that this act will be a regular tradition as new hires are welcomed into the community's police force. With Ebersole's appointment, Ocean Pines now has 10 officers, with three more expected later this year.

"We have three officers slated to go to the academy, which starts July 1," the chief noted. "We are going through the background on that ... the way it looks, we will have three officers going to the academy. That academy class will graduate just before Christmas."

According to Robinson, the OPPD is still looking for additional officers and is often contacted by individuals interested in employment with the department. As of March 2024, new hires will receive a starting salary of roughly \$63,000 upon training completion.

The officer also updated the community on a Thursday, May 16, incident involving an individual with an arrest warrant from Pennsylvania. A department member observed fugitive John Pasquariello at 3:45 p.m. on Mumford's Landing Road.

The pair engaged in a low-speed chase back to Pasquariello's residence on Fishing Creek Lane, where he was then taken into custody and charged with attempt to flee and elude, driving without a license, and operating an unregistered vehicle. The Pennsylvania warrant was for a probation violation following a criminal conviction in a theft case.

After an initial appearance before the District Court Commissioner, Pasquariello was detained in the Worcester County detention center without bond, pending extradition back to Pennsylvania.

The police department can be reached by sending a message via its new web page's contact button. Correspondence is delivered directly to Robinson and the two lieutenants.

"The goal of the Ocean Pines Police Department, besides being your police department, is to provide outstanding customer service," Robinson said.

Additionally, OPVFD President Joe Enste attended the May 18 meeting. The firefighter updated the com-



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA Board President Rick Farr is pictured swearing in new Ocean City Pines Police officer Michael Ebersole.

munity on the department's fundraising initiatives, including the annual vehicle raffle.

Tickets for the drawing have increased to \$100 this year. However, the surge in price will allow the department to cover the expenses associated with winning the car.

Last year, the selected ticket holder paid approximately \$18,000 in title,

taxes, and gaming fees.

"I don't know about you all, but I don't think about winning and then spending a lot of money," the fire president said. "So, we looked at it this year and thought, 'Hey, how can we do something different and help the community while also helping ourselves.'"

The OPVFD reminded residents about the brick fundraiser for the South Station renovation project. The department sells customizable 4x8 and 8x8 bricks for \$100 and \$200, which will be used for a unique feature at the updated facility.

Donations of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, and more are also being collected, and each will be distinguished on a separate plaque in the renovated building.

Fire safety resources can be found on the department's website. Enste urged residents to visit the page for information on smoke alarms, fire escape planning, carbon monoxide safety, and boat and marine safety.

"Look at our resources, and if you need anything else or have any other questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us," the president said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT BROWN

Over the last week, Snow Hill residents have been dealing with an odor from burning corn inside one of the silos at the Tyson Foods plant.

Snow Hill monitoring grain silo fire at Tyson Foods plant

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(May 23, 2024) Snow Hill representatives and county emergency services officials spent much of this week monitoring a grain silo fire at the plant owned by Tyson Foods.

“We are monitoring a fire inside a silo at our Snow Hill, Maryland feed mill,” read a statement issued by Tyson Foods last Friday. “The fire is contained inside the silo, and we are working closely with the local fire department to resolve the incident. Because the silo contains corn, those in

See AIR Page 18

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Air quality tests in normal range despite reported odor

Continued from Page 17

the area may notice an odor coming from the facility temporarily. Out of an abundance of caution for safety, the roads leading to the facility have been closed."

On Tuesday afternoon, Worcester County Public Information Officer Kim Moses confirmed air quality tests have been reviewed.

"We have reviewed the air quality test results, which reflect that all readings are within normal ranges," Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens said. "However, like any form of smoke, those who are sensitive to air quality conditions may wish to limit outdoor activities."

According to Owens, fire suppression is underway through the use of nitrogen to remove oxygen. Fire hoses will then be use on any grain still smoldering once removed from the silo.

Tyson Foods Vice President of Corporate Communications Laura Burns pledged full cooperation with Snow Hill officials, saying in the statement, "We will continue to work closely with the local officials until the situation is resolved and are grateful for their support."

Snow Hill residents have reported an odor for the last week over the town. Last Friday, May 17, a press briefing was held and officials on hand included Mayor Mike Pruitt, Councilperson and Mayor-Elect Janet Simpson, Town Manager Rick Pollitt, Police Chief Andy McGee, Police Sergeant Rudell Brown, Code Official Kevin Brown and Tyson representatives.

"We are aware of and are closely monitoring the silo fire situation in Snow Hill," the Maryland Department of the Environment posted on its Facebook page last weekend.

In response to community concerns, Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company posted on Facebook, "The fire department is aware of community concerns regarding the incident at the feed mill. Since Thursday, a number of meetings have occurred regarding the extinguishment of the fire. Multiple local agencies, and elected officials have been attending these meetings, to better understand the situation and assist when and where necessary. The facility operator has contracted for air monitoring within the area of the plant. While odors from the plant are currently unpleasant, the plant operators have provided assurances from their contractors that all levels are within appropriate regulatory limits. As extinguishment operations commence, the response contractor will be performing additional air monitoring on and off site out of an abundance of caution."

In his own statement Tuesday, Pollitt said, "The mayor and town council of Snow Hill have been deeply involved in the situation at the Tyson feed mill from the beginning and have strongly pressed for assurances that the health and safety of our residents is at the forefront of all considerations and actions. We have confidence that the emergency is being properly managed and that ongoing testing for air quality and traffic safety is among the highest priorities. We understand that, as the corn product is removed from the silo, there may be additional concerns about smoke and odor and ask everyone to use common sense when in the immediate area. All of the appropriate agencies are involved, and they continue to stress that public health and safety is not at risk."



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Report wraps up year while looking ahead

Continued from Page 1

Budget and Finance [Committee] ... back in 2017-18, we initiated a reserve study, which put us ahead of the curve with everybody else," he said. "We are positioned better than we were back then, and the numbers show that."

Work on the new reserve study will begin at the end of 2024.

Negative elements, or headwinds, include the increased costs to maintain the infrastructure and amenities, unknowns for the planned reserve study, a raise in the minimum wage, and the requirement for competitive salaries.

Viola also updated meeting attendants on projects and initiatives planned throughout the community.

Viola said beautification efforts are ongoing, and new flowers and plantings have been added throughout Ocean Pines, including palm trees at the Yacht Club, racquet center, North Gate, and Ocean City Beach Club.

Public Works has also addressed the accumulation of algae in the North Gate Pond. The pond was treated on May 6, and service to the fountains, which did not work because of the overgrowth, was restored on May 9.

"We had a lot of algae," Viola said. "It was excessive this year and kept clogging the fountains...we brought an outside company in to treat the algae, which took about a week or two, and the fountains are back and better than ever."

OPA prioritizes maintenance. Viola said the racquet center has undergone repairs, including resurfacing clay courts, and a contractor is slated to assess cracks in the platform tennis and pickleball play areas in June.

Additionally, segments of the deck at the beach club were replaced and painted, and damaged spots on the railings were restored. The facility is set to reopen on Memorial Day Weekend.

For the aquatics department, OPA Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said that pool operations will resume May 25, and lifeguard orientation is scheduled for June. OPA is still looking for front-desk employees. For more information on job openings, contact hr@oceanpines.org.

The center will unveil new sum-



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors heard a sweeping report last Saturday recapping the \$166,000 favorable variance in the most recent fiscal year that ended April 30.

mer classes, including water cycling, trampoline workouts, and water volleyball. The pools have been cleaned, and furniture has been set for the Memorial Day Weekend opening.

Martin said summer events like "School's Out Splash Party" are scheduled for June 15, and "Family Splash Nights" are slated for July 6, Aug. 3, and Aug. 31.

Martin said that new programs are being offered at recreation and parks, including yoga, chair yoga, injury prevention classes, body book camp, and girl's flag football.

The office manager added that per request, OPA is updating signs at the racquet center and community gardens, and non-verbal communication markings will be installed at Bainbridge, Manklin, and White Horse Park.

QR codes with Ocean Pines trail maps and information will be placed on the bulletin boards at Swim, Racquet, and Bainbridge.

"What will happen is you scan, and it will take you to the website and give you information of what is going on in Ocean Pines, and also provide a trail map so you have where you can walk in Ocean Pines," Martin said.

Paving on roughly three miles of roads, including Battersea Road, Canal Road, Deerfield Court, Driftwood Lane, Moonraker Road, St. Martins Lane, Waters Edge Court, and Wharf Court, was completed for

a total cost of \$356,618.20. Martin said that Asphalt Maintenance LLC completed the project.

Martin said phase one of the mailbox replacement initiative is still underway. Public Works repaired a few of the mailboxes rather than replace them. Currently, 12 mailboxes and 23 pedestals are still awaiting service.

Martin said the Compliance, Permit, and Inspection (CPI) Depart-

ment issued 246 new violations in April. Maintenance issues accounted for 65 notices; four were distributed for leaf placement, 19 were due to a lack of permits, and 86 were sign-related. The remaining 72 were for miscellaneous reasons.

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room at 100 Clubhouse Drive.

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Pines committee prepping for summer board election

Five candidates seek two available spots in this year's association race

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 23, 2024) The Ocean Pines Elections Committee hosted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 14, to discuss candidate eligibility, timelines, events, and regulations for this summer's Board of Directors election.

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors, a seven-member volunteer group, is the community's governing body.

Following the meeting, Ocean Pines Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis issued a press release with the names of the five Board of Directors election candidates. The

contenders were declared eligible to run by OPA Secretary John Latham.

Residents Sherrie Clifford, Jerry Murphy and Amy Peck have opted to challenge incumbents Rick Farr, the current board president, and director Jeff Heavner for the two available seats.

The candidate forum will likely take place in mid-to-late June, allowing contestants to publicly share their positions and promises. Questions will not be shared with the campaigners early; they will be pulled from a hat. Residents are encouraged to submit their inquiries for the runners at elections@oceanpines.org.

According to Elections Committee Chairman Tom Piatti, Ocean Pines homeowners who are ineligible to vote for violation or HOA fee reasons will be notified promptly to allow ample time to amend any holdups before the voting deadline. Approximately 800 residents were unable to cast their ballots last year.

"We expect that when those ineligible letters go out, people will come back, resolve their ineligibility, and then we'll have the vendor send them a ballot package," Piatti said.

While paper ballots will be collected, the Elections Committee expressed their preference for electronic voting. "I am anxious to see how the online voting goes here," the chairman said. "We had 833 online votes in 2022...we had a few more in 2023, but online voting is important. It saves us money because we don't have to deal with business reply mail costs and the vendor's processing of those paper ballots."

The Pittsburgh-based MK Election Services has been hired as the vendor to handle OPA's 2024 voting cycle. The company was chosen because it offers observable ballot counting. At the conclusion of the May 14 meeting, Piatti announced he was resigning from the Elections Committee. While the Ocean Pines resident will remain a homeowner in the community until

'I am anxious to see how the online voting goes here. We had 833 online votes in 2022...we had a few more in 2023, but online voting is important. It saves us money because we don't have to deal with business reply mail costs and the vendor's processing of those paper ballots'

Tom Piatti, Elections Committee Chairman

the end of June, he is relocating to North Carolina on May 30.

The Eligible Candidate Draw and Workshop, which determines ballot order and seating during candidate forums, is set for Friday, May 31, at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Administration Building.

The voter eligibility deadline is Tuesday, July 2. The last day for residents to cast their ballots is Tuesday, Aug. 6, and the votes will be counted and announced on Thursday, Aug. 8.

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Ocean Pines Association Board President Rick Farr holds up a pair of scissors and celebrates with his fellow board members and General Manager John Viola after cutting the ribbon to open the new Yacht Club Tiki Bar last Sunday. PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

New Ocean Pines Yacht Club tiki bar open

(May 23, 2024) Ocean Pines Association Board members and General Manager John Viola on Sunday celebrated the opening of the new, expanded Yacht Club tiki bar with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The board approved building the new tiki bar in December, with contractor Whayland Construction and Ocean Pines Public Works sharing construction duties.

“I’d like to thank everybody that

worked on this tiki bar, especially the people of Ocean Pines [and] the team that put this together: Whayland, the Board, and everybody involved,” Viola said during the ceremony.

“I want to thank John Viola, his team, the entire Board here, [and] everybody who has participated in making this a wonderful event [and] expanding our tiki bar for the great customer experience that we have

here,” OPA President Rick Farr said. “We want everybody to enjoy today – and this entire summer.”

At a board meeting Saturday, Viola said directors had challenged him and staff members to expand the tiki bar ahead of Memorial Day.

“We expect a big summer [and] we’ve seen that we can improve customer service,” Viola said.

Viola credited a can-do attitude by staff to not only get the tiki bar open

by Memorial Day, but a full week early.

“I’m excited about it. I know everybody is,” he said. “It was a challenge – and I mean that in a positive way ... I’m proud of the team.”

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club is currently open seven days a week. The Yacht Club is always open to the public.

For information on upcoming events, visit opyachtclub.com.

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School system announces personnel moves

Principal retirements at tech school, SDMS lead to internal reappointments

(May 23, 2024) At Tuesday's Worcester County Board of Education meeting, several school-based administrative appointments and transfers were announced. The new assignments are effective July 1.

Following the retirements of Worcester Technical High School (WTHS) Principal Tom Zimmer and Assistant Principal Wynnette Hansen, the board has appointed Tony Bevilacqua to return to the school as principal, and LaVerne Cray will transfer from Showell Elementary School to serve as Assistant Principal. Prior to serving Somerset County Public Schools for ten years,

most recently as principal and Supervisor of Instruction and Mentoring, Bevilacqua was the 2012 Worcester County Teacher of the Year during his tenure at WTHS. He brings a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge of the specialized programming WTHS offers students.

Filling the vacancy of Stephen Decatur Middle School's (SDMS) principal following H. Lynne Barton's retirement is current Assistant Principal/Extended Day Administrator Theresa Torpey. Torpey brings 26 years of educational experience in Worcester County to the role, the last 15 of which were in administration at SDMS.

The Board also appointed four new Assistant Principals to roles throughout the county:

Colby Haines, who has been with

the school system since 2012, will join the administrative team at Stephen Decatur Middle School as Assistant Principal replacing Torpey

Leah James will become Assistant Principal at Snow Hill Elementary, filling the vacancy left by Jennifer Howard, who will move into a School Counselor vacancy at Pocomoke Elementary School. James has been with the school system since 2015, most recently serving as Curriculum Resource Teacher at Pocomoke High School.

Jeff Postell, who joined WCPS in 2021, will join Buckingham Elementary School's administrative team as Assistant Principal, replacing Quinn Swain, who will transfer to Berlin Intermediate School.

Joining Snow Hill High School's administrative team is Kristina Salvarola, who has been a teacher at Snow Hill Middle School since 2019.

Salvarola will fill a vacancy from the upcoming retirement of current Assistant Principal Scot Tingle.

Completing the administrative announcements is the transfer of Mark Shipley from SDMS to Showell Elementary School, filling Cray's previously referenced vacancy. Kristy Clark will transfer from Berlin Intermediate School to Stephen Decatur Middle School, replacing Shipley as Assistant Principal.

'I am confident that these appointments and transfers mark another step in the right direction for our school system.'

Superintendent of Schools
Lou Taylor

"I am confident that these appointments and transfers mark another step in the right direction for our school system," said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. "We have a deep pool of talented educational leaders here in Worcester County, and I believe the changes announced today will benefit our students greatly. Congratulations to those announced today, and I thank them for their commitment to bring their best to these new roles."

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Pocomoke man sentenced for dealing crack cocaine

(May 23, 2024) A Pocomoke man will serve five years in prison for carrying a firearm while dealing crack cocaine.

On May 10, Worcester County Circuit Court Judge Brian Shockley sentenced 22-year-old Jael Ghent after he convicted of possession of a firearm while dealing crack cocaine. Shockley sentenced Ghent to serve 14 years in prison and suspended all but the five-year mandatory minimum sentence required by law. Upon his release, Ghent will serve three years of supervised probation.



Jael Ghent

in Pocomoke was the subject of a search and seizure warrant conducted by the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team.

Investigators located and seized a loaded semi-automatic Glock handgun, plastics bags containing crack cocaine, digital scales and prescription medications.

Ghent was indicted on multiple felony charges including possession with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking case.

In a press release, Heiser commended the efforts of the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team to remove drugs and guns from the Pocomoke community and thanked Assistant State's Attorney Joaquin Cabrera who led the prosecution.

In July of 2023 Ghent's residence



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Two anglers are pictured fishing in Maryland. The Department of Natural Resources is offering license-free fishing days across the state on June 1 and 8, and July 4.

Md. announces June and July dates for license-free fishing

(May 23, 2024) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will offer license-free fishing days for all state residents and visitors on June 1 and 8, and July 4.

The annual events provide anglers opportunities to explore the state's diverse fishing areas without needing fishing licenses, trout stamps, or registrations.

The department hosts license-free fishing every year on the first two Saturdays of June and on the Independence Day holiday to take advantage of peak spring and summer fishing. On these days, any individual may catch and possess finfish for recreational purposes in any tidal and nontidal waters of Maryland. All anglers must follow all current regulations, including size and catch limits found in the department's fishing and crabbing guide.

The department also has dozens of

other resources to help new or experienced anglers, including angler access maps and fish identification charts. Anglers of all levels are also encouraged to sign up for the weekly Maryland Fishing Report, which provides up-to-date fishing information.

This year the department is encouraging anglers to catch invasive species such as snakeheads and blue catfish, which are affecting the overall Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Both fish are great options for eating.

Aside from the free fishing days, and certain license-free areas, anyone 16 or older fishing in Maryland must possess a license, which can be obtained or renewed online, through the department's mobile app, or in person at a department service center, a participating retail sports license agent in the state, or by calling 866-344-8889 during normal business hours.

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WEATHER HOLDS OUT

The Berlin Chamber of Commerce welcomed dozens of classic vehicles last Saturday along Main Street and surrounding roads for Cruisin' Berlin. Trophies were awarded near the end of the annual show.

CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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Installation of Mother Suz held last month at St. Paul's

Congregation welcomes first female priest-in-charge in church's long history

(May 23, 2024) St. Paul's Episcopal in Berlin celebrated the installation of Rev. Susannah E. Southern as priest-in-charge on Saturday, April 13.

Mother Suz, as she prefers to be called, was ordained in June 2023, and has been serving as assistant priest at St. Paul's since July 2023. The beautiful and moving ceremony was attended by parishioners, friends and family, and many clergy from various parishes in the area.

The Right Rev. Dr. Santosh Mar-ray, XI Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, was the presider and celebrant, with many other priests participating in the ceremony. The Rev. Carl Mosley, who has been the interim

rector of St. Paul's Berlin for the past two years, served as Clergy of Word and Table.

Mother Suz is the first woman priest to serve as priest-in-charge at St. Paul's Berlin, marking a major milestone in its almost 200-year history.

St. Paul's Berlin welcomes Mother Suz as its new priest-in-charge, and thanks Father Carl for his guidance and wisdom as interim rector over the past two years.

St. Paul's Episcopal in Berlin is at 3 Church St. in Berlin, and celebrates Communion every Sunday. Visit the church's website at stpaulsberlin.org/ for more information or find it on Facebook.

All are welcome.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Rev. Susannah E. Southern, known as Mother Suz, was installed as priest-in-charge at St. Paul's Episcopal in Berlin on April 13.

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The United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore Coordinators of the Year, pictured with United Way representatives, center from left, are Avery Hall Insurance Solutions' Christy Rose, Karen Bromley and Megan Roy. Not pictured, Michelle Smith.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Public Schools received the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore's Flame of Excellence award. Pictured, from left, are United Way's Amanda Hailey; Leland Green, Carrie Sterrs, Vince Tolbert, Lou Taylor, Dwayne Abt and Matt Record with WCPS; and Pam Gregory and Joy Strand with United Way.

United Way gives annual awards to shore leaders

(May 23, 2024) The United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore recently celebrated community leadership during the 78th Annual Meeting, held in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

TidalHealth's Roger Follebout served as program emcee, and PAC14 provided video production.

Community members, donors, volunteers, and partners gathered to celebrate the impact of the 2022-23 campaign year.

After opening remarks by Immediate Past Chair Joy Strand from JA Strand Consulting, President/CEO Pam Gregory highlighted the importance of partnerships, with special appreciation for the dozens of funded nonprofit partners, along with many collaborative partners who work with United Way to bring needed resources and services to the region.

United Way's annual sponsors were also highlighted for their continued support: Impact Champion Perdue Farms, Campaign Sponsor Avery Hall Insurance, Anchor Sponsor PNC Bank, Leadership Sponsor First Shore Federal, video sponsor TidalHealth, and Volunteer Center sponsor Bank of America.

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Bryan Newton from Wor-Wic Community College received the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore's Jim Barrett Leadership Award. Pictured, from left, are Newton; United Way's Pam Gregory; and Jamie Barrett, representing the Barrett family.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ricky Pollitt received the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore's Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore award. Pictured, from left, are Amanda Hailey and Ryan Jackson with United Way; Pollitt; and Pam Gregory and Joy Strand with United Way.

Community awards presented

The agency's Top 50 organizational contributors, who support through workplace campaigns, grants, sponsorships and event participation, were recognized as well.

The following annual awards were given out:

- Flame of Excellence Award – Worcester County Public Schools
- Spirit of the Shore – Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore
- Volunteer of the Year – Maggie Fulkrod
- Coordinator of the Year - Karen Bromley, Christy Rose, Megan Roy, and Michelle Smith of Avery Hall Insurance
- Affinity Leader of the Year – Ricky Pollitt
- Legacy Award – Jennifer Cannon and Amy Wingate of Perdue Farms
- Jim Barrett Community Leadership Award - Dr. Bryan Newton

United Way's annual Impact Report highlights outcomes across the region, which brought better health, economic stability, and educational success to local neighbors.

The report is available online at uwles.org. Or, for a published copy, contact the United Way for a published copy at info@uwles.org or 410-742-5143.

For more photos or information, follow UWLES on social media.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Amy Wingate and Jennifer Cannon from Perdue Farms received the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore's Legacy Award. Pictured, from left, are Pam Gregory with United Way; Candice Johnson with Perdue and the United Way board, Wingate, Cannon, and Sonya Whited with Perdue and the United Way board



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Snapshots



PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

EARTH DAY OBSERVED

The first-place winners of a recycled art competition held recently at Worcester Prep Middle School to celebrate Earth Day are pictured with their project, "The Recycled Rainbow Fish." They are, from left, eighth graders Chloe Holland, Viv Ruggerio, Rani Yonker, Scarlett Shimko and Nora Gorfinkel.



Worcester Prep second grader Henry Hudson and senior Leby Becker celebrate Earth Day by working on a Seed Paper Shape project together.



Worcester Prep siblings, ninth grader Isha Garg and fourth grader Priya Garg, celebrate Earth Day by working on a Recycled Doodle Bot together.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY LIONS CLUB

LIONS CLUB DONATION

The Ocean City Lions recently donated \$500 each to three local scout troops. Pictured, from left, are Ocean City Lions President Greg Cathell, Troop 261 Scoutmaster James Smith, Bella Smith with Scout Troop 621, and Pack 261 Cubmaster Joe Coleman. Each of the Scout Troops meet weekly at the Ocean City Lions Club.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STUDENTS AWARDED

Members of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution attended the 119th State Conference of the Maryland State Society DAR held recently in Ellicott City and awarded Worcester Prep sixth grader Lea Jaoude the American History essay award. Pictured, from left, are Maryland State Editor and chapter member Pat Arata, member Marty Pusey, Jaoude, and members Betty-Jane Cain and Christine Nanna-Lieb



Jaoude is pictured receiving her award from Maryland State Regent Mernie Crane.

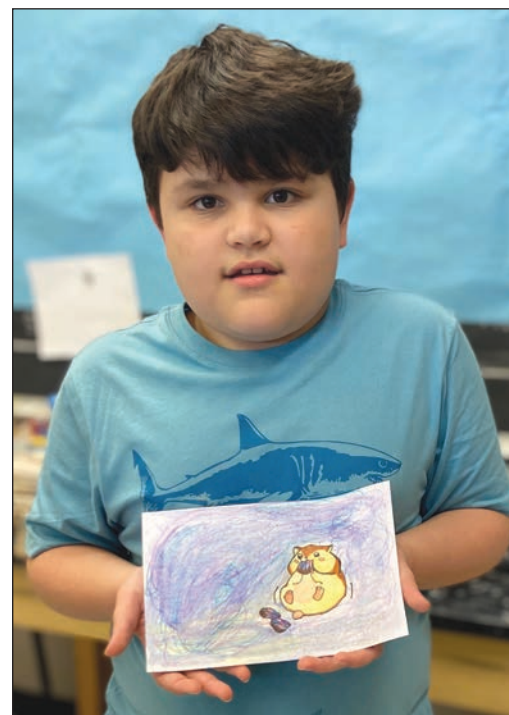
Snapshots



PHOTOS COURTESY ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

AFTER SCHOOL ART

Students of the After School Art Club at Berlin Intermediate School recently used Kawaii, Japanese style drawing, to make art with pencil, ink pen, watercolor, and pencils. The club is an outreach program of the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City, funded in by community donations and a grant from the Worcester County Arts Council. [Above] Lillian Belmont, Jameson Guard, Calleigha Aston, Maleah Maness, Brityn Gulyas display their drawings.



Tristan Pendleton displays his drawing.



Matthew Chavarri-Agular displays his drawing.



Zoe Martin & Kaylie Anderson display their drawings.



Lillian Bellmo takes a break from working on her drawing to smile for a photo.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

NEW MEMBERS INSTALLED

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently installed two new members. Pictured, from left, are President Gina Shaffer, new members Mary Jo and Larry Krause, and past District Governor Cliff Berg.



VOLUNTEER HONORED

The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library and Worcester County Commissioners President Chip Bertino is pictured with volunteer Lee Monick, who was recently recognized as the Ocean Pines Library 2024 Volunteer of the Year.

SUBMITTED. PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opinion

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

Barbecues, boating, time for reflection

For most people, Memorial Day marks the beginning of the traditional summer season, when outdoor recreation opens up for people looking to exchange their indoor confines for some time on the beach, on the water or on their way to a vacation destination.



This is when backyard grilling gets underway in earnest, the end of school is just around the corner, swimming pools begin to open, and produce markets begin to offer the season's early honest-to-goodness home-grown fruits and vegetables.

Local businesses begin to gear up for the 14-week run toward profitability and merchants near and far offer all kinds of sales and promotions to attract — and possibly retain — the attention of existing and potential customers.

All-in-all, Memorial Day and the holiday weekend preceding it have become recognized as the enjoyable beginning to the even more enjoyable weeks ahead.

The intended purpose of Memorial Day, to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by members of the military in service to the country, has become obscured by these other holiday traditions.

While virtually everyone professes to know exactly what the country needs these days, it might be good to think a moment about all those who did what the country needed at the time, and paid dearly for it.

We can celebrate the beginning of summer, but we also must acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of service members whose opportunity to do the same was cut short.

Letter

Route 611 speed concerns raised

Editor,

As I was leaving my development in Mystic Harbour today, I was nearly T-boned by a car leaving Sinepuxent Road. It was a very close call. Thank God I wasn't coming down from Frontier town at 50 miles per hour, which brings me to the point of this letter.

It's very dangerous even now with all of the new development surrounding the area. I can only imagine how it will be this summer. The Seaside

Village Townhomes and The Shore Point "cottages" have drastically changed the traffic on 611. New Cottages are still being built just past Mystic Harbour.

I fear that if the speed limit is not reduced from 50 mph to 30 mph all the way from Frontier town down towards Rt. 50 There will be at least one catastrophic accident there sooner rather than later. This would close both lanes of traffic for people coming to and from Assateague and frankly, for everyone trying to get to and from the beach. It's the only

road that will get you there. People have trouble gauging the speed of the oncoming traffic and pull out as they tired of waiting 5 to 10 minutes to do so.

If the speed limit could be lowered (including warning signs about the change of speed) I think it would make it easier for people to leave their developments more safely and, hopefully, greatly reduce the chances of a fatal accident. I would hate to write another letter with the heading "I TOLD YOU SO."

Wendy Lamour
West Ocean City

Land Trust hosting birding field trips

Dates announced for opportunities with registration opened

(May 23, 2024) Nestled among the cypress swamps of the Pocomoke River, Snow Hill transforms into a haven for birdwatchers each spring. This year is no exception, as Delmarva Birding Weekends, the Lower Shore Land Trust and Furnace Town prepare to welcome birders from across the region to Songbirds of the Swamp, June 14-16.

The cypress swamps of the Pocomoke River and Nassawango Creek boast a unique ecosystem, designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. The cool, dark forests surrounding historic Furnace Town become a breeding ground for a stunning array of neotropical migrants, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and tanagers.

Birders will participate in field trips in and around Snow Hill and Furnace Town, as well as excursions to other birding hotspots on the Lower Shore. On the evening of June 15, all are invited to

attend a summer concert at Furnace Town featuring Heinz and the Red Bird.

"The birdwatching opportunities on the Lower Shore are truly world-class," Matt Heim, the executive director of the Lower Shore Land Trust, said in a news release. "We have diverse habitats ranging from barrier island to cypress swamp, and thousands of acres of protected land. There's something here for every birder, from the casual observer to the seasoned traveler."

One special field trip will be a trek on the morning of June 14, to Nutter's Neck at the Nanticoke River Wildlife Management Area near Hebron. Here, birders will search for a bird that was once common on Delmarva, the Northern Bobwhite.

Since the mid-1940s, the population of this quail species has significantly declined across most of their range mainly due to habitat loss. Northern Bobwhite represent a declining species representative of many other songbirds, pollinating insects and native grassland habitat which ultimately limits the diversity and overall health of the local ecosys-

tem. Nutter's Neck is managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide nesting and brood-rearing cover, escape cover, and food sources for Northern Bobwhite.

The impact of the feathered visitors extends far beyond birdwatching enthusiasts. As highlighted by the 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, birding generates billions of dollars in economic output, supports numerous jobs, and contributes substantial tax revenue at local, state, and federal levels. This economic engine fuels conservation efforts by fostering appreciation for birds and their habitats.

"Birdwatching is a significant economic driver for Worcester County," Melanie Pursel, the director of the Office of Tourism and Economic Development for Worcester County, said in the release. "Birders spend money on lodging, meals, guide services, and equipment, all of which benefit our local businesses and communities."

To register for field trips, visit DelmarvaBirding.com.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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We invite you to share your opinion, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to editor@baysidegazette.com. For questions, call 410-723-6397.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Representatives from Atlantic General Hospital and Health System and other local officials cut the ribbon on the new AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy inside the Gudelsky Family Medical Center in Ocean Pines during a ceremony on May 7.

AGH celebrates second pharmacy opening

(May 23, 2024) On May 7, Atlantic General Hospital and Health System hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its second AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy location in Ocean Pines.

Local elected officials, chambers of commerce and community members, RediScripts staff and Atlantic General

leadership attended the event. The new pharmacy inside the Gudelsky Family Medical Center in Ocean Pines offers a wide range of services to patients, including free comprehensive medication reviews, allergen-free medication flavoring options, immunizations for all ages, pharmacist-prescribed birth control, free Medicare Part D plan compar-

isons, pet medications, and more. Along with prescription refills, AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy also carries a variety of over-the-counter medication. At the new facility, patients have the option to either walk in or use the pharmacy's drive-thru. "We are very excited to have brought this much-needed pharmacy resource to Ocean Pines and sur-

rounding areas," Atlantic General Hospital President & CEO Don Owrey said in a news release. "The team at this new location are some of the best around, and look forward to fulfilling the pharmacy needs of residents for many years to come." More information about AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy can be found at agh.care/rediscripts.



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**Friday 5/24 & Saturday 5/25
10AM to 3PM**

11307 Manklin Creek Road Ocean Pines, MD
furniture * lighting * artwork * rugs * tools * decorative items
****items purchased must be taken home day of sale****

Prices start at \$1!

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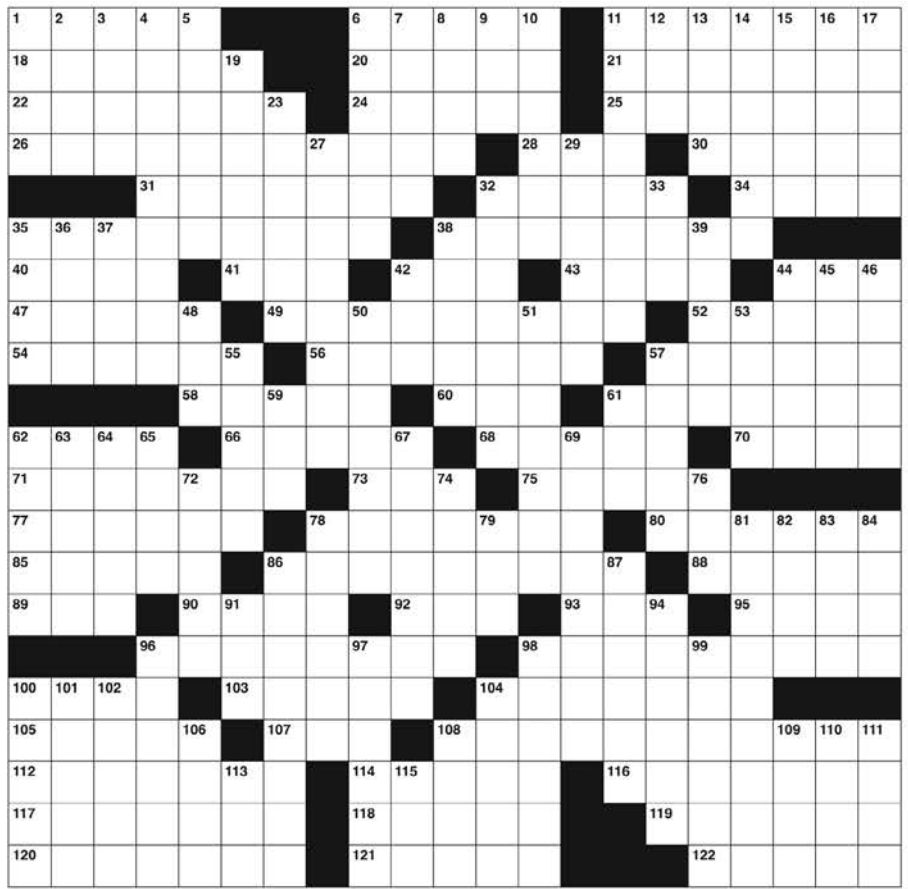
Puzzles

PIXAR BOX SET

BY AVERY GEE KATZ / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Avery Gee Katz, of Santa Clara, Calif., is a user-experience designer at a software company. She comes from a puzzle-loving family — the first crossword she ever made was a Father's Day present for her dad. A diligent constructor, she worked and reworked this puzzle for months, ultimately ending up with 19 versions of the grid. You're solving version No. 16!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Depicts unfairly
 - 6 Monitor
 - 11 Fruits exchanged on Chinese New Year
 - 18 "Moo, Baa, ____!" (classic children's book)
 - 20 Egg, in Spanish
 - 21 Where to find signs with circles, squares and diamonds
 - 22 "My only request ..."
 - 24 Young's partner in accounting
 - 25 Original host of MTV's "Total Request Live"
 - 26 Stay cool
 - 28 Bit of body art
 - 30 They come in twice a day
 - 31 Metal ring that holds a pencil's eraser
 - 32 Title Disney character of 1998
 - 34 Overhaul
 - 35 Tourist destination in Baja California Sur
 - 38 Band shirts?
 - 40 Letter-shaped construction piece
 - 41 Zoomed, perhaps
 - 42 Beam at a bar
 - 43 Dr. _____, talk-show host with the catchphrase "Get some!"
 - 44 Test for an M.A. seeker
 - 47 Hit the gas
 - 49 Lady Gaga vis-à-vis Billie Eilish, e.g.
 - 52 Multipurpose tool for a mountaineer
- DOWN**
- 54 Fixed
 - 56 Dal ingredients
 - 57 Note in the B major scale
 - 58 Programming language used in government and banking
 - 60 Triple _____
 - 61 Cloud nine, so to speak
 - 62 No more than
 - 66 Formula 1 tour stop since 2023, informally
 - 68 O.C.'s region
 - 70 Negative contraction
 - 71 "Sounds right to me"
 - 73 Boy band that went on hiatus in 2023 for army service
 - 75 No fan
 - 77 "_____ in the Rain"
 - 78 Camper's vessel
 - 80 Struck
 - 85 Fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, etc.
 - 86 Property at an intersection
 - 88 Actor Pascal of "The Last of Us"
 - 89 Author Rand
 - 90 Pulitzer-winning author Jennifer
 - 92 Fair-hiring inits.
 - 93 Like some kisses
 - 95 Wart-covered critter
 - 96 Digital "container" associated with Bitcoin
 - 98 Dystopian classic whose title comes from "The Tempest"
 - 100 Metonym for the U.S. Congress, with "the"
 - 103 Stuck
 - 104 Tarot card featuring a howling wolf
 - 105 Mountain nymph
 - 107 Waterproofing material
 - 108 Picture book with characters like Odlaw, Wizard Whitebeard and Woof
 - 112 Batter-fried bento dish
 - 114 Part of a princess costume
 - 116 Nike and others
 - 117 Palm-tree product used in skin care
 - 118 Statistical calculation
 - 119 Safe investment options, informally
 - 120 Secret option?
 - 121 Factory _____
 - 122 "Barbie" director Gerwig
 - 27 Certain streaming library
 - 29 Push notifications, e.g.
 - 32 They're kept under wraps
 - 33 "Kidding!"
 - 35 Things to stub out, for short
 - 36 Have a side in common
 - 37 Actor Eric
 - 38 Starts to fall
 - 39 Trawl for personal information
 - 42 _____ O'Malley Dillon of the Biden White House
 - 44 Clock innards
 - 45 _____ to go
 - 46 Many an attendee of Gertrude Stein's Paris salons
 - 48 Start of a winning row
 - 50 Go on and on about
 - 51 "The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems," per Homer Simpson
 - 53 Celebrity chef Roy
 - 55 Group of witches
 - 57 Two-family dwelling
 - 59 Frequent antagonist of Winnie-the-Pooh
 - 61 Have something
 - 62 Home to the University of Montana
 - 63 Enlighten
 - 64 Kept going and going
 - 65 Breakfast brand with a rhyming slogan
 - 67 Refused to answer questions
 - 69 One buying a stuffed mouse, perhaps
 - 72 Van Halen's contract once had one that specified no brown M&M's
 - 74 Olympic event since 1968
 - 76 Good or bad name, for short
 - 78 Against
 - 79 Not against
 - 81 It might come with a plunger
 - 82 What squiggly lines can represent
 - 83 Russia's _____ Mountains
 - 84 Maiden name of an 1860s first lady
 - 86 What can symbolize 50
 - 87 Was thick (with)
 - 91 Spot for recess on a rainy day
 - 94 Like some short tennis matches
 - 96 Keep rhythm with, in a way
 - 97 Al _____, discus thrower in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame
 - 98 1995 blockbuster with numerous historical inaccuracies
 - 99 Blowing away
 - 100 Drink often served with marshmallows
 - 101 _____ Joliot-Curie, chemist daughter of Marie
 - 102 Primate that exists only on the world's fifth-largest island
 - 104 Pang
 - 106 Daft Punk and Outkast, for two
 - 108 Polemology is the study of them
 - 109 Word on some yogurt labels
 - 110 Bug-bite preventer
 - 111 Greek peak
 - 113 Where Simone Biles won four golds
 - 115 Source of much U.S. immigration in the 1840s: Abbr.



- 76 Good or bad name, for short
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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 37

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BUSY FARMERS MARKET

Community members are pictured enjoying the festivities at Sunday's Berlin Farmers Market. The weekly event runs from May to September.



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TempleBatYam-oc.org



OPEN HOUSES

May 23 - 30



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
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
Friday 5-7pm	121 81st St. #706 Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5 BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5 BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-5pm	13905 Lighthouse Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5 BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon - 2pm	1300 Marina View Lane #23, Ocean City	4BR/4 BA	Townhome	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 3-5pm	13 131st Street #105, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$365,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Monday 10am-Noon	304 S. Heron Gull Court	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	103 Mumfords Landing Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$659,900	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	14 68th St., Sea Lodge # 203, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	11000 Coastal Hwy., Capri #1703, OC	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	14 68th St., Sea Lodge #203, Ocean City	2 BR/2 BA	Condo	\$439,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-3pm	302 & 304 North Main Street	5BR/2BA/2 1/2 BA	Single Family	\$985,000	Paul Cook/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	44-4 & 44-A Washington Street	6 BR/2 BA/ 2 1/2 BA	Single Family	\$950,000	Kim Bounds/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 2-4pm	59 Wood Duck Drive, Ocean Pines	6BR/4BA	Single Family	\$1,125,000	Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	59 Wood Duck Drive, Ocean Pines	6BR/4BA	Single Family	\$1,125,000	Cindy Poremski/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday noon-2pm	5401 Coastal Hwy., #2080B, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$424,000	Ann Holtz/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	674 94th Street, Ocean City	3BR/2 BA	Townhouse	\$524,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 11am-1pm	8 60th Street #301, Ocean City	4BR/3.5 BA	Condo	\$999,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 10am-Noon	109 Caroline St. #106, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,000	Ann-Marie Bouse/ReMax Advantage Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	16 138th St. #301 Island Breeze, Ocean City	3BR/2 BA	Condo	\$679,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty

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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., May 23

STORYTIME: 'THE POUT POUT FISH'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Why is the Pout Pout his so upset? Can his friends cheer him up? Be prepared for a fun, messy art craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THURSDAY CRAFTERNOON: BIRD FEEDERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Make a beautiful feeder that will also brighten your garden. All materials provided. Register: 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

ZUMBA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5-6 p.m. Join Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Registration required for each class. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Nick's Kitchen + Bar, 14410 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, 4-6 p.m. 215-385-4993, BeachSingles.org

Fri., May 24

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND SUMMER KICK-OFF

Ocean City Boardwalk Arch, 1 N. Division St., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Town of Ocean City will hold a ceremony marking the official start of the 2024 summer season and in honor of Memorial Day. Mayor Rick Meehan accompanied by special guests.

MAHJONG CLUB

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

Sat., May 25

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleyville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrap-ple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

ANNUAL AARP ARTISAN FAIR

Lord Baltimore Elementary School, 120

Atlantic Ave., Ocean View, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Artisans will exhibit both indoors and outdoors, showing textiles, metalwork, fine art paintings and more. Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Raffles, food and live music available.

'PLAYING THE SPORT OF BASEBALL IN THE NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL'

Stephen Decatur Middle School, 9815 Seahawk Road, Berlin, 1-3 p.m. Luther Atkinson and Eddie Banks will discuss the Negro Baseball League/Negro Baseball Barnstorm League. Rayner Banks will talk about Judy Johnsons and other players. Also speaking is Kirkland Hall. 443-944-6701

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., May 26

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Duncan Showell Post 231 will be turning out at St. John's United Methodist Church on Lewis Road at 10 a.m.

NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL CELEBRATION DAY

Delmarva Shorebirds, 6400 Hobbs Road, Salisbury, 2:05 p.m. Delmarva Shorebirds vs Columbia Wildfires. Sponsored by McDonald's Corporation and Delmarva Shorebirds. 443-944-6701

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through Sept. 8 - Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street, Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring more than 35 farmers, food cultivators, bakers, distillers, seafood, meat, eggs and more. <https://berlinmainstreet.com/farmers-market/>

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., May 27

BERLIN'S OLD FASHIONED MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The parade starts at 11 a.m. at Stephen Decatur Middle School and proceeds along Flower Street to Henry Park. There will be a variety of food and craft vendors, live music and a dance competition at the park.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines, 11 a.m. to noon. Featuring music, demonstrations, public speakers

and patriotic music. Bring seating. In case of inclement weather, see wocovets.org.

HERO DAY

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. In addition to the park's amenities, explore First Responders' vehicles, Kona Ice Truck, sand art, airbrush tattoos and more. Cost is \$25. Free for first responders with ID. www.coastalwilds.org, 302-829-1549

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., May 28

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE PLAY DAY AND CRAFTS

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

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

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 psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

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

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., May 29

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

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.or-



Join us by the Shore!

Want to work near the beach with a schedule that allows you to enjoy dinners on the docks and beach days on the weekends?

Our Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and Berlin campuses are hiring medical assistants, patient service representatives, schedulers, and more!

Apply today at tidalhealthcareers.org

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



HELP WANTED

MARINE TECHS and BOAT YARD HELPERS wanted for West Ocean City boat yard. Call 410-213-2296.

HELP WANTED

Small Engine Mechanic Year-round. Competitive Wages. 443-754-1047

HELP WANTED

SPECIAL EVENT SECURITY - Staff needed for events in Ocean City. Seasonal FT/PT help also. Please call 443-513-4198.

HELP WANTED

OC Hair & Nail Studio. Now accepting applications for **Full or PT NAIL TECH & HAIR STYLIST**. Sign on bonus w/established clientele. Please call 410-524-7606 for interview.

HELP WANTED

Cleaners - Vacation rentals needed for OC and Pines. Experience preferred but not required. OC Purifiers. Call or text 443-397-1189 or email Karen@ocpurifiers.com.

HELP WANTED

AUTOMOTIVE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES Auto Parts/Marine Parts Store with huge Retail department, is now hiring for: Parts Associates (will train). Locations in: Ocean Pines, Clarksville & Long Neck. Great Pay & Benefits. Must have Great Customer Service Experience. Call: 302-344-9769.



Currently Hiring Manpower For:
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Now Hiring
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JOB SUMMARY: Under the direction of the Public Works Supervisor, this individual operates and trains on non-commercial and commercial weight vehicles (over 26,000 pounds); performs semi-skilled and skilled labor work; uses hand and power operated tools, operates, and maintains various small gas powered, electrically driven, and/or hydraulically operated machinery and equipment; assists in the repair of streets and parks, as necessary; Ability to apply acquired knowledge to increasingly varied and complex tasks; Ability to perform duties independently and as part of a team and complete assigned tasks by the established deadlines.

High school graduate or equivalency plus 7 years of experience in all phases of maintenance, CDL Class B required. Visit www.snowhillmd.gov for Job Description and Employment Application.

TO APPLY: To request an application form, send resume with salary requirements to: execadmin@snowhillmd.com or Town of Snow Hill, Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh, P.O. Box 348, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

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Apply: Qualified candidates can submit a confidential Town of Berlin application, a resume, and three professional references to the Town's Human Resources Director at kjensen@berlinmd.gov. Applications can be found under the employment section of our website at <https://berlinmd.gov/employment/> or you can call 410-641-2770 and arrange to pick one up at 10 William Street Berlin, MD 21811. EOE/M/F/V/D.



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410-289-4902 ask for Suzanne.

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Part time experienced Floral Designer willing to learn computer program, customer service, and work some Saturdays. Looking for a responsible person to fill in when owner is not available. Please contact us by e-mail oceancityflorist@aol.com, phone **410-250-1636** or stop by the shop: **Ocean City Florist, 12909 Coastal Hwy.**

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WANTED TO BUY: Vintage signs, old advertising items, military memorabilia, antique toys, decoys, and small antique items. **Call/text, 443-880-3082**

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AUCTIONS

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

Units to be auctioned: O128-O145-O151-O164-O175-O165-S211-O174-S510-S89-P1-S102-S189-S117-S173. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

DATE: Friday, May 31st, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM

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

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

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