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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Candidates to face off next Thurs.

Hopefuls to describe vision for community at forum

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 6, 2024) The Ocean Pines Elections Committee determined questions and ballot order for the candidates running for the association's Board of Directors. Five contestants are vying for the two available seats on the community's governing body.

Incumbents Jeff Heavner and the current board president, Rick Farr, are campaigning for reelection. Residents Sherrie Clifford, Amy Peck, and Jerry Murphy are challenging the reigning members.

At the Tuesday, May 28 election committee meeting, Tom Piatti, the group's chair, laid out the three questions for the candidates to include with their biographies.

Contestants will describe their vision for the community's future, what they will bring to the office that differentiates them from their opponents, and which amenity fees they believe need rebalancing to increase homeowner participation. The inquiries are to be answered in 200 words or less.

The committee held the candidate draw to determine the ballot order for the election on Friday, May 31. Clifford will be listed first, followed by Heavner, Farr, Peck, and Murphy.

Piatti also announced on Friday that the candidate forum is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. The event will be hosted in the Ocean Pines Golf Course Clubhouse Meeting Room.

The contestants will draw questions randomly, and residents are encouraged to submit their inquiries for the runners to elections@ocean-pines.org.

See BALLOTS Page 3

CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Buckingham Elementary School's annual bike-to-school event was held last Thursday with more than 100 students taking part and joined by teachers, administrators and parents.

Heron park tract up for sale?

After last attempt became mired in indecision, council thinking about another try

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Berlin officials are expected to once again discuss the potential sale of a portion of Heron Park in July.

Members of the Berlin Town Council agreed this week to talk once again about selling parcel 57, the portion of Heron Park with the old processing plant, in the near future. While they shared their initial views during Tuesday's meeting, Council-

man Dean Burrell advocated for a specific discussion item to be set for a future meeting.

"I think this topic is of such importance to the well-being of the Town of Berlin it deserves to be included on our agenda," Burrell said.

At the close of the May 28 meeting, Councilman Jack Orris brought up the issue of Heron Park. He said now that the council had adopted a budget for the coming year he felt there was time to talk about parcel 57, where a portion of the old processing plant is currently being demolished.

Councilman Steve Green said he wanted the town to sell it but didn't want to go through the entire RFP

(request for proposals) process again, as the town had already gone through an extensive process and had opted not to sell after much dialogue. Councilman Jay Knerr agreed he would like to sell the parcel with some sort of abridged process. Burrell questioned what that process would be.

"One of the things that came out of our previous discussion is you don't know what you want," Burrell said. "I wonder if we're there yet."

He said the town purchased the former Tyson plant so it would have control over what would go there.

"The original tenants of that facility, it caused a lot of strife with the

See HERON Page 4

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Dr. Rachel Pomycala, Au.D., CCC-A

County reverses position on SH solar project

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Worcester County has agreed to rescind a denial letter for a solar project in Snow Hill, officially settling an administrative appeal Chaberton Snow Solar LLC filed in circuit court late last year.

Following an administrative appeal hearing on May 23, attorneys for both Worcester County and Chaberton reached a resolution regarding the review of a proposed solar project on Timmons Road. While the Worcester County Commissioners voted last year to not support the project, the county has since agreed to rescind its denial letter and issue no recommendation.

“One, we are very pleased that we were able to resolve this matter by the rescission of the prior denial letter dated November 21, 2023,” Mark Cropper, Chaberton’s attorney, said last week. “This will enable the application for a CPCN with the Public Service Commission to proceed without a procedural defect being reflected in the record. As such, to my knowledge, there is nothing negative in the record for the Public Service Commission to consider.”

In November, staff presented the commissioners with plans for a utility scale solar project on Timmons Road. The 7.54-megawatt project, developed by Chaberton, would occupy roughly a quarter of the 100-plus-acre farm owned by Charles Waite III.

While the project received a favorable recommendation from staff and the Worcester County Planning Commission, the commissioners voted 4-3 against it, and a subsequent letter was issued on Nov. 21.

To that end, Cropper filed an administrative appeal in Worcester County Circuit Court in December.

Although the Maryland Public Service Commission has the ultimate authority over the project, Cropper said the commissioners’ opposition to the project had a negative effect on his client’s ability to secure a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

“My client and I were surprised, especially considering the extensive record that had been created through the CPCN process,” he said. “And at the public hearing, nobody testified in opposition to the project nor was any evidence introduced detrimental to the project.”

At the commissioner level, however, several officials expressed their concerns regarding the proposed project, with those in opposition questioning its decommissioning and disposal processes. While a new letter

issued by the county last week offers no formal recommendation on the project, it reiterates the commissioners’ concerns.

“Subsequent to a public hearing held on November 7, 2023, and after a review of the

entire record, all pertinent plans and all testimony, the Worcester County Commissioners

expressed concern regarding the low estimated costs associated with the decommissioning bond, as well as the extent to which materials would be sent to the county’s landfill upon decommissioning due to the limited salvaging and recycling efforts in place,” the letter reads. “Ultimately, the County Commissioners give no recommendation related to this project.”

Worcester County Public Informa-

tion Officer Kim Moses reiterated the county’s position this week.

“The commissioners took no action, meaning they did not give a recommendation,” she said. “The transmittal letter from staff, not the commissioners, clarifies what occurred at the public hearing.”

With the matter now settled, Cropper said his client will continue to work through the state’s approval process. The Public Service Commission held a virtual public hearing in April, during which no members of the public commented. A second, in-person hearing will be held in August.

“They will continue to complete the CPCN application process with the Public Service Commission and hopefully receive approval, which will then allow the project to come to fruition,” Cropper said.

Ballots to go out later this month

Continued from Page 1

The elections committee chair said that the ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around the third week of June, and residents have until Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. to decide. The results will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Ballots can be mailed back to the sender, dropped in the box at the police station, or submitted online.

At the May 28 meeting, Piatti maintained that he expects approximately 3,000 votes of the 8,500 owned lots. Ineligible voters with an outstanding fee or violation will be informed prior to the deadline so they may resolve their dilemma.

Any questions about the election can be directed to elections@oceanpines.org.

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Heron Park lot to be offered for sale again?

Continued from Page 1

town with it being a chicken processing plant located within the corporate limits of the Town of Berlin," he said. "I'd just like for us to give this discussion the time it needs."

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the town didn't need to go through the RFP process.

Orris acknowledged the concerns from some council members had resulted in the last vote not to sell the property but pointed out if those concerns had been addressed a sale shouldn't be ruled out. Last summer the council voted 3-2 to end all sale discussions with Coastal Venture Properties with Burrell, Knerr and Shaneka Nichols in favor and Green and Orris opposed to ending the negotiation.

Knerr said his concerns had been the number of EDUs (equivalent dwelling units) attached to the property as well as any redevelopment's potential to compete with downtown businesses.

Burrell said officials needed more information, such as the amount of EDUs a potential skate park at Heron Park would need, as well as what would be required for the site's future public works building, before the decision to sell could be made.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said there

wouldn't be a definitive answer on that until plans for the future facilities were completed.

Burrell said if proposals were being accepted, he wanted anyone who was interested to be able to present. Tyndall questioned if there should be an asking price for the property.

"I think the conversation starts at \$1.2 million," Green said, referencing the last appraisal done with the property zoned commercial.

Bohlen said she felt officials needed to reach a consensus on what they would consider for the property.

"That's what we're doing here," Tyndall said.

Council members indicated they didn't want the types of retail that would compete with downtown businesses but said they'd support health-care facilities.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh asked if there was an urgent need to sell parcel 57. She pointed out the town was going to build a public works facility nearby and would be installing utility infrastructure very close to the site, which would make it more valuable.

"What is the need today to sell this property?" Saleh said.

Bohlen added that the sale of the property for \$1.2 million would not satisfy the debt associated with



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Demolition of the former Tyson poultry processing plant is pictured last week.

Heron Park.

"This is a valuable conversation to have, you can have it now, but to Natalie's point I think we'd be doing a disservice to move too quickly," she said.

Green said he wanted to sell the property because it was an embarrassment and an eyesore to the town.

"What's in it for us? To improve that property once and for all," he said.

Tyndall said he understood Saleh's point as well as Green's concern.

"What we do know is it does not look good. We need to do something," he said, adding that he didn't want to see the building covered in graffiti as

it has been.

Knerr said selling the property would put it back on the tax rolls. He said that when the RFP had been done before the town had only gotten two proposals.

"There's not a lot of people willing to invest money in a property like that," he said.

Tyndall said that if the council was again entertaining proposals for parcel 57, he'd like to reach out to entities that had expressed interest before — Natelli Communities, Palmer Gillis and Jack Burbage.

The council agreed to hear Heron Park presentations at its July 8 meeting.

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Residents turn out to back community center grant

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Several Berlin residents voiced support last week for the town's plan to seek grant funding for a community center on Flower Street.

The Berlin Town Council on Tuesday hosted a public hearing for Berlin's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, which seeks \$500,000 to assist with development of a community center at the site of the multi-purpose building on Flower Street.

"I'm so overwhelmed right now," said resident DJ Lockwood, president of the Berlin Community Improvement Association. "To get to this point is incredible. I hope we can keep pushing forward."

Sara Gorfinkel, Mayor Zack Tyn dall's executive assistant, said the town was seeking input for its planned fiscal year 2025 CDBG application. She explained the town was asking for \$500,000 from the \$8.1 million the state had available to assist in development of the long-discussed Flower Street community center. She said the grant would help the town demolish the structures currently on the site, which include

the multi-purpose building as well as Head Start facilities, so the site could be prepared for future building. The new facility planned would continue to support Head Start and would also incorporate after-school and summer programs run by Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services.

"We are very excited about the possibility of a Berlin community center," said Worcester Youth and Family's Dr. Jennifer Leggour.

She said the nonprofit's summer program had outgrown its current facility and could be housed in the community center, as could some of Worcester Youth's mentoring programs.

Berlin resident and Worcester County Commissioner Diana Purnell thanked the town's elected officials for getting the community center project to this point.

"We are just so happy," she said. "It is a needed effort. It begins to make Berlin whole in a lot of areas... You'd be surprised what one major project can do for a community and a town."

Her husband Gabe credited the town with purchasing land and consolidating the parcels that now make up the community center site.

"Berlin saved us," he said. "Mayor you did a great job. I'd like to say that this, you've been talking about one Berlin. This truly brings the community more together. When you invest in your community especially the minority communities, you don't know how much that enhances the attitudes of the people that live in those communities."

Resident Janice Smack also expressed her appreciation.

"This is a big project and Berlin deserves it," she said.

Councilman Jay Knerr asked if there was a plan in place to relocate Head Start during construction. Gorfinkel said she was in communication with Shore UP, which runs Head Start, and was working on a plan to temporarily relocate the program.

Councilman Dean Burrell said it had taken fortitude for the Berlin Community Improvement Association to turn over its property to the town to allow the consolidation of the parcels for the community center. He praised the nonprofit as well as town officials for their work in getting to the point the town could start seeking grant funds for a community center.

"This is a brilliant and needed project," he said. "I just want to thank the partners that have come together to facilitate this endeavor."

The council voted 4-0 to adopt a resolution authorizing submittal of the CDBG application.



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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The speed camera site on Flower Street is pictured last month.

First speed camera location sees 178 violators in 2 days

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Speeding motorists on Flower Street will now be facing fines following installation of a speed camera.

The speed camera on Flower Street went live May 28 after installation earlier in the month. Municipal officials are hoping the \$40 fines that will be mailed to violators will begin to decrease the amount of speeding on the residential street.

"It's not a thing about making money it's having the speed limit complied with," Councilman Dean Burrell said. "That's what we're looking to do—slow these folks down."

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing told the council on May 28 that the speed camera on Flower Street had gone live that morning. The camera was installed and tested in early May.

"On the three demo days they were having 65 violations a day," Downing said.

He said his department had made contact with the school system and other local partners so that everyone was aware of the new camera.

"We're expecting after citations are

sent out a dramatic decrease," he said.

The Berlin Police Department reported on its Facebook page last Friday a total of 178 violations were recorded on Tuesday, May 28 (87) and Wednesday, May 29 (91). To receive a ticket, motorists were going 37 mph or greater in the 25 mph zone.

Downing added that most jurisdictions were now using speed cameras.

"We're following the trend," he said. "We realize technology is a force multiplier. We can't be everywhere."

Burrell, who lives in the Flower Street neighborhood, said he'd always felt speeding was a problem there. He said the 65 violations a day proved that observation was correct.

"I just wasn't paranoid I was really seeing something," he said.

When asked if repeat offenders would get higher fines Downing said they would not, as the state regulated citation fees for speed cameras. He said that from the \$40 fine, the town would receive \$26 while its speed camera vendor would receive the rest.

"The goal is not to make money it's to make the problem stop," Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said.



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Competitors in a heat during a previous edition of the Berlin Bathtub Races are pictured heading toward the finish line with Berlin Police's Merle Bragg making the call.

Bathtub races eye annual return to Berlin on June 14

By **Bethany Hooper**
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Local businesses will once again compete for the trophy, and bragging rights, in the 34th installment of the Berlin Bathtub Races.

On Friday, June 14, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce will host its 34th annual Berlin Bathtub Races. Starting at 6 p.m., competitors will race their modified bathtubs down Main Street as onlookers cheer from the sidelines in what has become the town's most beloved summer sporting event.

"We are thrilled to host the Bathtub Race's 34th year," said Ryan Nellans, the chamber's executive director. "It has already been the most exciting build-up to any race we've had yet with sixteen teams and two reserve teams registered. The competition will be tight as two-time champion Derek Jarmon of Maryland's Coast is stepping back and making room for new faces and new names on the Turner Cup. While the Chamber runs a lot of events like Jazz & Blues and the Fiddler's Convention, those help bring new folks to Berlin. The Bathtub Race is something we do for ourselves. It's a little weird, it's a little silly, but it's ours, and that's why it's my favorite."

Each year, participating businesses show off their speed and pageantry by racing their modified bathtubs in a series of heats, with the final two teams left competing for the trophy. The bathtubs themselves must be authentic and homemade and capable of holding at least two gallons of water. Wheels can be no bigger than 26 inches, and bathtubs must have breaks and steering. The winning team will have their

name added to the Turner Cup, which will return from its winterlong display at the Worcester County Recreation and Parks facility in Snow Hill. The trophy pays homage to Jesse Turner, a longtime Berlin business owner who helped start the races and went on to win them several times.

Nellans added that the Berlin Bathtub Races will feature an opening parade, as well as carnival snack vendors onsite. For the third year in a row, WBOC's Delmarva Sports Network will be broadcasting the event live for those who cannot attend.

He said the event would not be possible without the support of community members, volunteers and sponsors.

"Personally, I'm pumped to see a previously unheard of level of support from racers, residents and local businesses like our Spring Season Sponsor Bradley Atlantic, as well as Taylor Bank, Coastal Baths and our Hula Hoop Heroes, Pohanka of Salisbury," he said.

For more information on the Berlin Bathtub Races, visit the events page on the Berlin Chamber of Commerce website, berlinchamber.org.

Correction

In the Ocean Pines Board of Directors story featured in the May 30 print edition, it was stated that current board president Rick Farr helped the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department receive higher salaries. In fact, the incumbent director increased Ocean Pines Police Department starting salaries. We regret the error.

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Berlin holds tax rate, approves new budget

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Elected officials approved a \$14 million budget that includes funding for key projects such as a new public works facility, an employee step and grade system and design guidelines this week.

The Berlin Town Council voted 4-0 on Tuesday to approve the town's fiscal year 2025 budget, which at \$14 million is almost 24% higher than the current year's budget. Council members said the spending plan would allow the town to accomplish several of its goals.

"I think it's pretty solid and a good look for fiscal year '25," Councilman Jack Orris said.

The town hosted its annual public hearing on the proposed budget during Tuesday's council meeting. 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.



Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald addressed the Berlin Mayor and Council May 28 during the budget public hearing.

CHARLENE SHARPE/OC TODAY-DISPATCH

The budget includes a bond that will allow the town to build a new public works facility.

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.

The only comment during Tuesday's public hearing came from Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald. He said the town was not meeting the funding request from the fire company for EMS operations. The town is providing \$484,000, which is a \$75,000 increase over the prior year's funding, but about \$100,000 less than requested.

"We appreciate the increase how-

ever it does not meet the proposal that was submitted," he said.

Following closure of the public hearing, Orris said he felt good about the budget, as it did not include a tax increase for residents but had allowed the town to set up a step and grade system for its employees and had also allowed the town to provide more funding to the Berlin Fire Company.

"It was a good team effort," Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "We appreciate the hard work the finance team does."

Councilman Steve Green said the budget was allowing the town to do a lot of good things. He said he supported the concept of incremental tax increases coming into elected office to avoid a repeat of the major tax increase five years ago, but hadn't wanted to see residents charged more this year because the town's property tax revenues had increased \$300,000 by keeping the tax rate due to rising property values. Green said he also didn't want a tax increase the same year the town was instituting a step and grade system.

"I think we have done a great job for our employees," he said. "I didn't want it to be looked at that we increased taxes because of our desire to
See BUDGET Page 12



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Berlin plans to add wireless access points

Town residents plagued with service interruptions over holiday weekend

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) Municipal officials urged residents to report internet issues to their providers this week.

While town staff have been in communication with Comcast regarding internet outages in Berlin, they said it was still helpful if residents reached out directly to their providers when outages occurred.

“It’s far more effective for them to get 500 complaints from citizens than one complaint from the town,” Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said.

Staff told the council last week that

in the downtown area, Comcast was experiencing technical issues with some of the equipment that provides internet service to the town. They’re working to resolve the issue during the overnight hours, between midnight and 6 a.m., so as not to impact residents and businesses, according to Tim Lawrence, the town’s electric utility director.

“Hopefully they get it repaired as soon as possible,” he said.

He urged residents to report any internet issues they experienced to their provider. Councilman Steve Green said he knew of at least one

business that had to close during Memorial Day weekend because of a lack of internet connectivity.

“Keep reporting it,” Mayor Zack Tyndall said. “We’ve been talking with their government affairs folks but keep reporting the issue. Same thing with Verizon.”

Bohlen said posting complaints about internet service on social media was not effective.

“Comcast is not reading your comments,” she said.

She added that the internet providers were independent companies who operated on franchise agreement with the town.

“We have very little leverage,” she said.

Councilman Jack Orris asked if the town could work with another franchise.

“If you wish to open that door you can,” Bohlen said. “Historically towns

that have opened that door have found it to be favorable but it’s an incredible amount of work and it takes expensive lawyers to do.”

Tyndall said one thing the town would look at in the future was fiberoptic internet, as other towns had found success with it.

“It is something we have laid out as a pathway that does require some further exploration,” he said.

While not related to the Comcast issue, Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells told the council that crews would be adding access points downtown to improve the free public wifi.

“We had received some complaints from some of the farmers market vendors,” she said, adding that they hadn’t been able to use their mobile credit card processing apps.

To address the issue the town will have more access points added.

“They are coming out in the next few weeks to increase our access points,” she said. “That should help with the folks downtown who need public wifi while they’re outside.”

‘Historically towns that have opened that door have found it to be favorable but it’s an incredible amount of work and it takes expensive lawyers to do.’
Town Administrator
Mary Bohlen

Budget approved unanimously

Continued from Page 10
help our employees.”

Green added that the budget included reinvestment, with projects like street paving, but also included money for key studies such as an impact fee study and the creation of design guidelines.

“I think it’s a very well-rounded budget,” he said.

Councilman Jay Knerr said meetings with department heads regarding their needs had been very helpful during the budget process.

“It helped bring the budget into

focus,” he said.

Councilman Dean Burrell said he too was pleased with the way the budget had turned out.

“I am especially pleased with how we started it — we started it with trying to look out for those folks that provide these day to day services for the citizens,” he said. “We started with our staff and I am so pleased that we took that initiative this year to look out for our staff first and then we built the budget. This time next year we will be able to evaluate what we’ve done.”

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Former Vermont sheriff's deputy accepts county post

(June 6, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners recently named Maurice "Moe" VanDemark as the new emergency management specialist within the Worcester County Department of Emergency Services.

VanDemark stepped into his new role on April 15.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Moe as part of our team," Fire Marshal Matt Owens said in a news release. "Moe brings a trove of knowledge and experience with him, and we are looking forward to what he will add to an already great team."



M. VanDemark

VanDemark brings 12 years of experience in law enforcement, fire safety, and emergency management to the position. Prior to joining Worcester County Government, he served as a deputy within the Caledonia County Sheriff's Office in Vermont from 2016 to 2023, while concurrently serving within the State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety as an assistant state fire marshal.

"I'm excited to bring my extensive skillset to the county and bring in fresh new ideas to help with emergency management," VanDemark said. "I've dedicated my life to protecting the communities I serve, and I will continue to do so while working here. I'm also excited to be a part of the local community and look forward to meeting the community members."

VanDemark earned a bachelor of science in criminal justice from Western New England University and a master of science in fire science, with a concentration in emergency management, from the University of New Haven. He is an FAA certified drone pilot, National Fire Prevention Association fire inspector II, and hazardous materials technician. He has served as a member of Urban Search and Rescue within the State of Vermont's Division of Fire Safety and also on the State of Vermont Hazardous Response Team.

In his free time, VanDemark enjoys going to the beach and spending time with family. He has coached middle school basketball and softball, and each fall he can be found rooting for his favorite football team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

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How is police accountability board doing?

Officials reflect on review body's status three years after creation mandated

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(June 6, 2024) While the new oversight system mandated by the Maryland Police Accountability Act is causing strife and contention in some parts of the state, law enforcement officers in Worcester County say they're working well with the Police Accountability Board.

As some counties struggled to set up their boards and others have been flooded with complaints about police, here in Worcester County the Police Accountability Board (PAB) has quietly established a schedule of quarterly meetings. While there are

complaints to be reviewed by the board's charging committee, the PAB spends the bulk of its time communicating with law enforcement and learning local agencies' policies and procedures. Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing says that effort to build a foundation of understanding kept Worcester County from experiencing the conflicts seen elsewhere in Maryland.

"We are parts of a single process," Downing said. "It's not a situation where we're adversaries."

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, which replaced the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights as the system for police discipline, went into effect in July 2022. As a result, Worcester County had to create a police accountability board, a charging committee and a trial

board. The seven-member accountability board — appointed by the Worcester County Commissioners — met for the first time in Sept. of 2022. Since then, the PAB has received 12 complaints. While the most recent two are still under investigation, all but one of the remaining 10 were determined to be unfounded by the PAB's charging committee. In December 2022, the PAB received a complaint from a citizen who said a Pocomoke officer had been disrespectful. The officer's department recommended a written reprimand and more training. The PAB's charging committee agreed with the discipline.

In 2023, citizens filed complaints alleging police had conducted unlawful traffic stops, harassment and unlawful detention, among other charges. According to Roscoe Leslie, the county's attorney, complaints can be filed directly with the PAB or through the agency whose officer is the subject of the complaint. The charge is then investigated by the officer's department. The internal report is forwarded to the charging committee, which then reviews the materials and issues a ruling.

"All complaints are addressed impartially and thoroughly," said Greg Tate, chair of the PAB.

Tate, who after working for the

Ocean City Police Department, Maryland State Police and the federal government wanted to give back to the community by serving on the PAB, said he believes the board is doing what it was meant to do. He said it has enhanced transparency and increased trust between law enforcement and the community. He stressed that the board and its charging committee take complaints very seriously.

Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser confirmed that in two of the unfounded complaint cases, her office filed charges against the individuals for filing false complaints. She noted that the complaint form itself warned signatories they could be criminally charged for making a false statement to the PAB.

"Since the PAB was created, my office has only filed charges against two individuals for filing false complaints," Heiser wrote in an email. "These charging decisions are only made after the PAB has determined that no police misconduct occurred. When the PAB determines that no police misconduct occurred, but there is a written allegation that police misconduct did occur, we are often asked to review the case for a charging decision because there are only 2 reasonable conclusions: (1) ei-

See PROSECUTOR Page 15

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Prosecutor defends filing charges

Continued from Page 14
 ther the PAB is wrong and police misconduct did occur, or (2) the PAB is correct, meaning that someone made a false allegation about police misconduct. In the 2 cases that we charged, the evidence (primarily body-worn camera footage) clearly showed that both individuals had lied repeatedly about their interactions with police throughout their written complaints to the PAB, which is a crime.”

The court did not side with Heiser, however.

“...watching these tapes and listening to these officers testify, I find that—it’s not my job in this case to find it, but I find zero police misconduct,” the judge said in the first case. “Every officer in this case was professional in their interaction with the defendant. How she felt about it is another whole story. She’s a difficult person to deal with. I get that. That’s pretty obvious from these tapes here. She’s not the type of citizen that the police would want to deal with each day. But that’s their job. They’ve got to deal with difficult people who are going to come into the police station and make complaints, and it’s not rising to the level of a criminal investigation that they disagree with this person.

She has a constitutional right to be heard. To bring criminal charges against her in this case has a chilling effect against her constitutional rights...”

Heiser stood by her decision to file charges.

“I agree with the court’s statement that the evidence established that there was zero police misconduct in this case,” she said. “I respectfully disagree with the court’s statement that filing criminal charges has a chilling effect on any constitutional right of this defendant. No one has a constitutional right to lie to the police accountability board or to falsely accuse police of misconduct, and my office will continue to prosecute all criminal acts as is our duty and obligation.”

As for the complaints the PAB’s charging committee is reviewing, officials say body camera footage has played a key role in exonerating officers. While some departments had cameras already, the Police Accountability Act made body-worn cameras a requirement.

“It really makes things a lot quicker,” Downing said.

He added that there are still shortcomings, however, as one body-worn camera can’t capture every angle. When there is an incident that needs to be reviewed, investigators review footage from all officers who were present with activated body cameras.

“The cameras help us so much,” he said. “But what we’ve also learned is one camera doesn’t see it all. We have to look at all the officers’ cameras.”

While the charging committee is tasked with investigating misconduct complaints, the PAB itself spends time studying the policies and procedures of local law enforcement agencies and communicating with department representatives regarding community initiatives. Downing said he and his fellow chiefs have shared departmental use of force and de-escalation policies, statistics and recruitment efforts with the board. He said PAB members have asked about prom safety initiatives, outreach efforts and how hate crimes are

handled.

“None of those things are part of the job of the PAB but what it did was help them to have an understanding of what we do every day,” Downing said.

He praised Worcester County for bringing the parties together and encouraging understanding and communication. That, he believes, is how Worcester County has avoided the chaos experienced elsewhere in the state. He credits the PAB with having the foresight to work to get an understanding of police policies early on.

“We’ve had zero conflict,” he said. “We feel that we’re each a part of a single process. We know what our job is. It hasn’t changed.”

When complaints are received by a department, the internal investigation findings are presented to the charging committee.

“If they don’t agree they have the ability to come up with a different thought process and move in a different way,” he said. “When they have questions they ask. We’ve always come at the same place in the end.”

For his part, Tate said he knew that any time he needed more information he could pick up the phone and call any local agency.

“I think we have an excellent relationship with our departments,” Tate said.

Woman sought for business theft of \$42K

(June 6, 2024) The Selbyville Police Department issued a call for the public’s help last week-end in locating a woman wanted on theft charges involving a local business.



Betheny Bruning

On May 28, the department was alerted to Kendall Furniture in Selbyville for an internal theft. Interviews with management revealed Betheny Bruning, 38, had allegedly falsified payroll records and subsequently obtained approximately \$42,000 in funds relating to work hours she not earn. Bruning has been charged with three counts of theft over \$1,500 and three counts of falsifying business records.

Anyone with information on the suspect’s location should call 911 or contact PFC Liana Dodson at Liana.Dodson@cj.state.de.us or 302-604-3308



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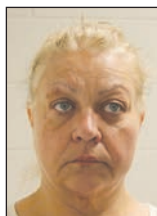
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Pines woman headed back to Fla. on fugitive warrant

(June 6, 2024) An Ocean Pines woman was apprehended Monday on a felony warrant from Florida.

On June 3, according to a press release, the Ocean Pines Police Department located and arrested Stacy L. Schaffer, 53, at her local residence on an arrest warrant filed in the state of Florida. The Tampa Police Department communicated with the local police department after the felony warrant was issued for Schaffer due to a court order issued as an injunc-



Stacy Schaffer

tion against stalking being violated.

Schaffer was detained without incident at her Ocean Pines residence. Following an initial appearance before a District Court Commission, Schaffer was detained without bond in the Worcester County Detention and will be extradited to Florida.

County taps local journalist for first legislative analyst

(June 6, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners have appointed Charlene Sharpe to the newly-created position of legislative analyst. She stepped into the role last Friday.



Charlene Sharpe

“Charlene has earned the community’s respect for her professionalism and her fair and accurate news coverage,” Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said in a news release. “She can hit the ground running covering Worcester County. Her strong oral and written communications skills make her the solid choice to represent the county’s legislative interests.”

Sharpe brings nearly two decades covering Worcester County as a journalist to her new position. In 2007

she earned a degree in journalism from the University of Richmond. From 2014 to 2024 she worked as a reporter for the *Maryland Coast Dispatch*. Prior to that, she worked in the news industry as a reporter for the Delmarva Media Group. For her feature story writing, the MDDC Press Association awarded her first place for excellence in news reporting.

“I’m honored to be working with local, state, and federal representatives to further the interest of Worcester County Government and its residents,” Sharpe said. “I look forward to the opportunity to serve my community in this new role.”

Sharpe is a Worcester County native and Stephen Decatur High School graduate who is active in the community. She previously served on the Lower Shore Land Trust Board of Directors, and she volunteers for the Great Pocomoke Fair.

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County funds hospital, supports state grant

Approved budget includes \$115K for new antibiotic stewardship program

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(June 6, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners agreed Tuesday to unanimously send a letter of support for a local hospital's request to purchase new infrastructure.

Atlantic General Hospital is planning to seek a grant through the Maryland Hospital Association's FY 2025 Hospital Bond Project Review Program for the expansion and renovation of the hospital's Central Sterile Processing Department. The hospital has asked for \$1,576,877 through the program to help fund the project.

Hospital asked the Worcester County Commissioners, among other officials, to send a letter of support for the project, which will reportedly allow for a separate space for contamination, instrument assembly and sterile storage, resulting in the cre-

ation of a sustainable central processing environment that will boost patient safety while limiting infections.

On Tuesday, as part of its meeting consent agenda, the commissioners voted unanimously to support the request with a letter signed by Commission President Chip Bertino.

"Our growing resident population and booming visitor population place ever greater demands on our healthcare system, and for those reasons Worcester County has been federally designated as a medically underserved area," Bertino's letter read. "Through the expansion and renovation of the Central Sterile Processing Department to create a separate space for decontamination, instrument assembly and sterile storage, the hospital will be equipped with a sustainable central processing environment that allows for increased surgical cases and promotes infection prevention and patient safety. This will increase efficiency and allow staff to perform more procedures, giving patients more access to the care that

they need."

In other hospital news, the Worcester County Commissioners included \$115,259 in its budget for Atlantic General this year for an antibiotic stewardship program. The line item – a result of a grant requested by the hospital – was voted on in a work session last month with Commissioners Bertino, Eric Fiori, Caryn Abbott and Diana Purnell in favor and Joe Mitrecic, Ted Elder and Jim Bunting opposed. The antibiotic stewardship program is expected to increase organizational efficiency, de-

'Our growing resident population and booming visitor population place ever greater demands on our healthcare system...'

Letter from Commission President Chip Bertino

creasing hospital costs by reducing lengths of stays for patients as well as lowering readmission rates from infections.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

An unnamed road in the South Point community will now be called Heron Lane officially after a review by county staff with input from homeowners.

Unnamed South Point lane now has name

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(June 6, 2024) A private road in South Point will be named after all. At Tuesday's meeting, Worcester County Development Review and Permitting Deputy Director Matthew

Laick came before the commissioners to discuss a private lane name in the South Point area. Before Laick could present the matter to the board, Commissioner Jim Bunting motioned to approve the new name of Heron Lane with a second by Com-

missioner Eric Fiori. The motion passed unanimously.

Two months ago, it was a different story as the concept was tabled after concerns were aired by commissioners with instructions for staff to review potential options to accommodate property owners along the road.

According to Worcester County code, all lanes home to three or more residences must be named. The unnamed private lane in South Point features nine residential lots. According to Laick's memo in the county meeting packet, the county does not

know why the lane was never named and was unaware until it was learned the Berlin Fire Company had a challenging time finding the home during a recent fire call.

In his memo, Laick noted property owners along the lane prefer to keep their current addresses, but exceptions are not permitted in the code. Laick presented two options for the new name — Osprey Lane or Heron Lane.

Residents of the Bay Shores subdivision supported the Heron Lane name and the commissioners agreed.

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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opportunities to walk and chat with Atlantic General Hospital physicians around the South Gate Pond will be offered monthly.

AGH hosting Walk with a Doc program each month in OP

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(June 6, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital's Walk with a Doc program allows Worcester County residents to improve their heart health, foray into regular physical activity, and receive answers to medical inquiries all during a morning stroll.

On the Walks with a Doc, residents can ask expert physicians questions while doing a few laps around the Ocean Pines South Gate Pond.

According to AGH's website, Dr. David Sabgir conceived the concept in Columbus, Ohio, in 2005. The program has expanded throughout the See WALK Page 23

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Snapshots



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ARTS DAY IN THE PINES

The Art League of Ocean City had a beautiful day last Sunday to celebrate all things related to the arts. The 4th Annual Arts Day in the Pines was held on the lawn at the Veterans Memorial Park and featured fun for all ages including the bounce houses, pictured above.



An Artisan Marketplace allowed an opportunity for artists from around the region to display their arts for event attendees.



The Annual Arts Day in the Pines event featured more than 40 artists displaying their handmade local works of arts.



Featured in the Kids Zone area at the event were a number of activities. Above, a vendor offers hair wraps, while others provided sand art and airbrush tattoos.



PHOTOS COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN OPTIMIST CLUB

NEW OPTIMIST MEMBERS

Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club member Don Fentress is flanked by two members he recently brought into the club, from left, Danny Mumford and Liz Mumford.



From left, Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club Membership Chairman Roger Pacella is pictured with new members Kim Jones and Jodi Siebenberg

Snapshots



PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL PROGRAM PRESENTED

Worcester Preparatory School family and friends recently gathered for the annual spring music and art program, "Planet Rock," presented by pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students. [Above] Third grade students sit to watch the Musical Mallards (third through fifth grades) perform "Twist and Shout" during this year's program.



Fifth graders played the parts of Mission Control in this year's program. Pictured kneeling in the front is Eli Parker. Standing, from the left, are Serena Jaoude, Olivia Mason, Ev Smith, Sadie Absher, Tejal Pillai, Allen Martikyan and Gavin Dennis.



Third through fifth grade students performed "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" together during this year's program. Pictured in the front row, from left, are fourth graders Mykolas Doyle, Jace Zervakos, and third graders Michael Bouzaglo, Ben Evangelista, Kamden White and Abigail Kratzer. In the second row, from left, are fourth graders Jack Parks, Peter Van Dalen, Avrum Gudelsky, third grader Grayson Arauz, and fifth grader Evan Kaufman.



PHOTO COURTESY GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEW BOUTIQUE OPENS IN WOC

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of Tide Together Boutique in the Park Place Plaza in West Ocean City with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 1. The family business is owned by local sisters Nicole Chamberlain and Natalie Long, and their mother, Ruth Phillips. Pictured, from left, at the ribbon cutting ceremony are Park Place Plaza owner Todd Ferrante, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Chamberlain, Phillips, Long, Ed Phillips, OC Chamber Ambassadors Jessica Jersey (Atlantic General Hospital), Tatjana Petrenko (Shore United Bank), and OC Chamber Membership Director Olive Mawyer.

Opinion

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

Appearances can be as important as money

It's not a matter of whether the Berlin mayor and council want to sell Parcel 57 on the Heron Park tract, that's been established. At issue is how town officials want to sell it and how many strings they want to attach to its development.

The latter will determine what a reasonable asking price for the parcel would be, no matter what a standard appraisal might suggest, since the attractiveness of any developable property depends on its potential to deliver a decent return on the investment.

That's what scuttled the last potential sale of the Parcel 57, when likely buyers found it impossible to satisfy the council's conflicting visions and demands, as well as the shifting price-vs-profit numbers resulting from differing ideas of how a fair price should be determined.

As Councilman Dean Burrell pointed out Monday, the council needs to decide exactly what it is selling — land, sewer and water capacity and type of development permitted — before possible suitors come calling. And that assumes that would-be buyers are willing to invest time and money exploring the unknown.

Also to be determined is what the mayor and council believe is the most important aspect of selling the land: getting as much money as they can for these few acres so they can buy down the loan used to buy the park property? Or is it settling for getting what they can to guarantee the elimination of the town's worse eyesore?

Without going so far as to say the mayor and council can't have both if they wait long enough, it is a matter of how much harm the town's image will have to endure because of this heap of ugly while town officials hold out for a better price.

With that in mind, a reasonable price and a reasonable set of restrictions on the parcel's development would result in the removal of that scar on the landscape sooner rather than later. Although reducing debt is something everyone wants to do, there are times when compromises must be made for the sake of appearances.

Letters

Decision makers hurting our county

Editor,

Residents should know that the Worcester County Commissioners are being incredibly short-sighted and setting up our schools for future failures if they continue down this path of politicizing education in our county. It isn't (just) that Worcester County teachers are paid the lowest in the state(marylandpublicschools.org), or that our teachers deserve a raise because they work hard for our students, or even that the commissioners are considering using budget numbers from three years ago (MOE from FY23 school year) to get through fiscal year 2025. (How many of us can personally afford to live on the same budget we did in 2022?)

It's all of these things and so much more.

A major issue that our County Commissioners appear either unaware of, or unconcerned about, is the

Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which is coming our way — ready or not. The Blueprint calls for all teachers in the state of Maryland to be at a starting salary of \$60,000 annually by July 2026. Currently that number is about \$50,000 in Worcester County.

Most other counties and districts in the state have been taking this into consideration when planning budgets to slowly move teacher's salaries up so that there will not be a seismic shock to the budget in FY27 to make the leap upward for starting teachers, as well as an appropriate adjustment for all teachers relative to the starting salary. (If a starting salary is increased, clearly a seasoned teacher should make more!)

Are the County Commissioners up for reelection in 2026 planning not to run, and to leave this as a problem for another group to handle, just passing the issue down the line to look good for their constituents?

Or are they setting us all up for future tax increases to blame it on the State or Maryland? Hoping the tax base will increase dramatically? Or are they just looking at what is right in front of them and not taking the time to plan ahead?

Regardless of the reason, choosing to not fully fund the Worcester County Board of Education budget and give cost of living increases to their employees and teachers will hurt the county finances in just a few short years.

Stretching out the increases over the maximum number of years makes the most fiscal sense versus kicking the can forward and setting us all up for sticker shock sometime in the near future.

If you are a tax-paying citizen of Worcester County, I would humbly ask that you also support this position — or plan to move in the next few years.

*Alissa A. Carr-Phebus
Berlin*

Pipe replacement project announced

Old Ocean City Road work expected to last until September

(June 7, 2024) The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will begin to replace an underground pipe on Route 346 (Old Ocean City Road) in Whaleyville on Monday, June 10. Weather permitting, the project is anticipated to be finished by September.

To complete the pipe replacement, crews will need to close Route 346 from east of Route 610 (Whaleyville

Road) to west of Hall Road. Local traffic will be permitted in the area.

SHA's contractor, ANA General Contractors LLC of Laurel, will use reflective barrels, temporary traffic signs and VMS boards to detour traffic around the project limits.

Motorists will be directed to the following detour route:

Route 346 east traffic: Turn right onto Route 610, left onto Route 50 East (Ocean Gateway), and then turn left onto Route 346 West

Route 346 west traffic:

Drive on Route 50, then turn right onto Route 610

State Highway Administration officials understand detours and roadwork can inconvenience some motorists but the work is necessary to maintain a safe and reliable transportation system. Motorists in need may dial #77 on their mobile devices for roadside assistance.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, visit the Project Portal or the homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, visit md511.maryland.gov.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, 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.

Walk offers informal time with area doctors

Continued from Page 19

country and commenced in Worcester County on Jan. 21, 2017.

AGH Community Education Clinical Coordinator Alyce Marzola said the hospital system holds the event at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of every month. Anyone is welcome to join.

“You don’t have to sign up; you just have to show up,” the nurse said.

The program directors switch out the physicians as much as possible. If there is a dedicated awareness month, they want to pull in the doctors most involved in that field. The summer walks often include talks of sun safety, while the flu vaccine is a fall topic.

The monthly meetings typically draw ten to 12 participants. Often, other walkers join when they notice the group.

“We are coming out into the community where the people are,” Marzola said. “It’s a laid-back setting. You get to see your doctor in shorts and tennis shoes. It’s a regular conversation. We walk and talk...and you get to know some of your physicians in a different light.”

Residents are also getting their daily recommended movement as they are given the chance to ask their providers medical questions in a more casual environment.

The Walk with a Doc’s official forum outlines the advantages of regularly hitting a step goal. The low-impact exercise, which the American Heart Association cites as the physical activity with the lowest dropout rate, strengthens bones and muscles, regulates blood pressure and cholesterol, lowers the risk of several types

of cancers, and helps to maintain a healthy body weight. Walking can also ease stiffness, reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood, aid cognition and creativity, and improve overall quality of life.

AGH states that walking is accessible for people of every age and fitness level. The activity is easier on the joints than running, safe for individuals with heart and orthopedic ailments, and beneficial for those over 20% overweight. Taking extra steps in a day may also aid longevity. Research suggests that two hours of life can be gained for every hour of regular exercise, the hospital system said.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that adults engage in 150 minutes of moderate to intense aerobic activity per week, while children should aim for

an hour a day. A simple 20-minute walk can help individuals reach this goal.

To determine if your activity is considered moderate to intense, the Walk with a Doc program outlines the “talk test.”

“If you can talk but not sing, you’re at the right pace,” the website says.

Individuals looking to rack up more miles can walk to work, start and end their day with a stroll, park further away in lots, take the stairs instead of the elevator, and do some laps while talking on the phone.

Marzola maintained that the AGH Walk with a Doc is a great way to start. “It’s a good community event,” she said. “...We have a following, and people are working on staying healthy. It helps that they encourage each other.”

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Friday & Saturday Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday & Saturday Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 5-7pm	13905 Lighthouse Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	13905 Lighthouse Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2PM	121 81st St. #706 Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	13000 Marina View Lane #23, Ocean City	4BR/4BA	Townhome	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 3-5pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	103 Mumfords Landing Rd., Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$629,900	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	308 N. Main Street, Berlin	7BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$699,000	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
Saturday 2-4pm	353 Schooner Lane, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$318,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
Saturday 11am-1pm	8 60th Street, #301, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$999,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller William Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 11am-1pm	54 Birdnest Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/3BA	Single Family	\$409,000	Lauren Martini/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	50 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$369,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Sunday 11am-2pm	30583 Cannon Drive, Salisbury	4BR/2BA	Single Family	\$329,900	Cam Bunting/Bunting Realty, Inc.

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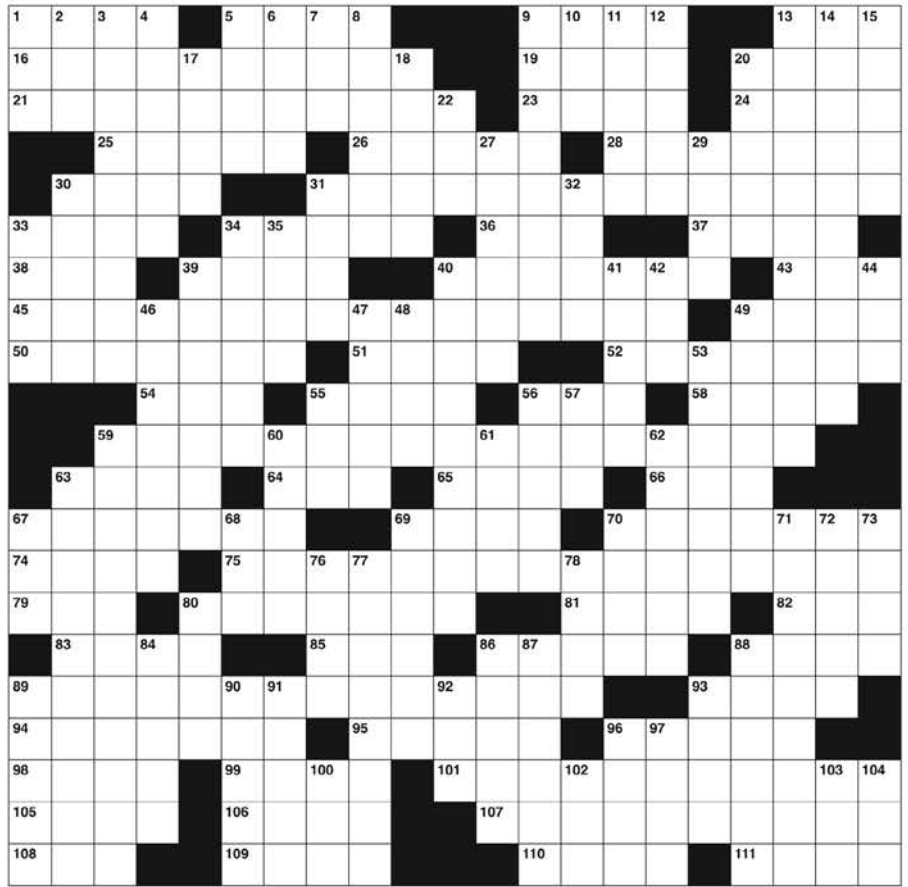
Puzzles

ROUGHLY SPEAKING

BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

John Kugelman is a software engineer and musician from Gainesville, Va. Despite only starting to make puzzles in 2023, he is The New York Times's most-published Sunday crossword constructor this year (with three). As a lifelong puzzle solver, he doesn't know why it took him so long to discover crossword construction — "I wish I'd thought of it 20 years ago!"

- ACROSS**
- 1 Prefix with valent
 - 5 Sound of rejection on a 1970s variety show
 - 9 "How disappointing!"
 - 13 Academic résumés, for short
 - 16 "Embiggins" the English language
 - 19 Composer Stravinsky
 - 20 Feature of a snake's eye
 - 21 "That rotted old log ain't even fit for termite food!"
 - 23 Word on Charlotte's web
 - 24 Guillermo del _____
 - 25 Does perfectly
 - 26 Helvetica alternative
 - 28 Country that surrounds Gambia
 - 30 Something to pump or bump
 - 31 "Huh, I wasn't aware I was at an ugly sweater party!"
 - 33 Gospel singer Winans
 - 34 Wimbledon surface
 - 36 Studio for Astaire and Rogers
 - 37 Czech or Pole
 - 38 Hindu mother goddess also called Parvati
 - 39 It's bright when it's full
 - 40 Disposable baking pans
 - 43 Actor Cage, familiarly
 - 45 "The only mystery in this novel is why I finished it"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Oops!"
 - 2 Unpopular day to get married: Abbr.
 - 3 High-tech prosthetic
 - 4 T o be safe
 - 5 British lockup
 - 6 Doesn't dispute, as a criticism
 - 7 "Stat!"
 - 8 Reacts to a pun, perhaps
 - 9 Gave a thumbs-down
 - 10 In the past
 - 11 Claim on a ramen packet
 - 12 Lead-in to horn or Hornet
- 49 Band whose guitarist wears a schoolboy outfit
 - 50 Certain expensive suits
 - 51 Rank below marquis
 - 52 Less clean, as a chimney
 - 54 Batman adversary
 - 55 "Brains" of tech
 - 56 Avocados are rich in it
 - 58 Mocking Jay
 - 59 "My dog could translate an ancient Mesopotamian tablet faster than you"
 - 63 Part of a thermostat
 - 64 The i's have it
 - 65 Church area
 - 66 Hardly ne'er
 - 67 Herald
 - 69 Beget
 - 70 Cause of misery
 - 74 Skinny, so to speak
 - 75 "Thou art a villainous knave"
 - 79 Back the other way
 - 80 Background in the theater
 - 81 Feed-bag contents
 - 82 Pop's _____ Lipa
 - 83 Dude, in lingo
 - 85 Prefix in some modern-art movements
 - 86 Photoshop company
 - 88 Switch predecessors
 - 89 "Dear John, I'm writing you this letter to tell you — it's not me. It's 100% you"
 - 93 Nonmetric unit ... or a metric unit
- 94 Someone who hopes to stay out of the spotlight?
 - 95 Five Pillars religion
 - 96 Astounding
 - 98 It comes from the Greek for "indivisible"
 - 99 Any of six Russian monarchs
 - 101 "Tu as le Q.I. d'une huître" ("You have the I.Q. of an oyster")
 - 105 Some wines
 - 106 Musical that reimagines "La Bohème" in Manhattan
 - 107 Sucrose, by another name
 - 108 Numero di colori in Neapolitan ice cream
 - 109 Bond villain with an island lair
 - 110 Condé _____
 - 111 Get off to a flying start?
- 13 Charlie Chaplin started his career with this not-at-all-silent form of entertainment
 - 14 TikToker's hope
 - 15 Mistook?
 - 17 Bit of improv
 - 18 2007 literature Nobel laureate
 - 20 Famed Damascus product
 - 22 Morse code click
 - 27 Counterpart of ventricular
 - 29 One of the Untouchables
 - 30 Leg bone
 - 31 "Citizen _____"
 - 32 "Count me out!"
 - 33 Island country sometimes called "El Cocodrilo" for its shape
 - 34 Card-game cry
 - 35 Breaks down
 - 39 Fetter
 - 40 Epitomize
 - 41 The 'gram
 - 42 Oxfam or Doctors Without Borders, in brief
 - 44 "Born on the Bayou" band, in brief
 - 46 Give voice to?
 - 47 Move, as a houseplant
 - 48 Brother of Fidel
 - 49 Totally bought an idea
 - 53 There's bad blood between them
 - 55 Corp. bigwig
 - 56 Police, slangily
 - 57 Point of no return?
 - 59 JFK, for one
 - 60 Discombobulate
 - 61 Teri of "Young Frankenstein"



- 62 Olympic swimmer Ryan
- 63 Deal that brings in a big crowd
- 67 Common file type
- 68 Its iconic chimes were trademarked in 1950
- 69 Razor sharpeners
- 70 Random guess
- 71 Queen song from which a pop icon took her name
- 72 Astronaut's blackout preventer
- 73 GPS guesses
- 76 Part of A.D.
- 77 Investigated
- 78 Terrain in "Wuthering Heights"
- 80 Class where students learn about squares and planes
- 84 Author of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
- 86 "Things Fall _____" (Chinua Achebe novel)
- 87 Abase
- 88 Prevailed
- 89 Drummer Neil of Rush
- 90 Like the three sisters of "Macbeth"
- 91 "In your dreams!"
- 92 Sitcom extraterrestrial
- 93 Some Christmas trees
- 96 Common sports injury sites, for short
- 97 Stimulate
- 100 New England's Cape _____
- 102 Court grp.
- 103 Bluesy instrument, in brief
- 104 Prefix with valent

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HARD - 35

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

BAIT	DEI	AMIS	PRIDE
ULTRA	OPPONENT	LOSER	
GOSOLO	TEAMGAME	USHER	
SHOULD	THEDEED	ARISE	
YAK	OER	SNL	TEN
	OWLISH	OREOS	IOTA
WHAT	ELSE	ISDUE	ILLTRY
HEROD	GERI	LAPSE	PAS
ARCH	DOASIS	AYDOTAS	IDO
POT	ANN	SHOOP	VICES
	ITSAWRAP	INSOLENT	
DICES	AUDRA	FIN	UPS
ITSAHARD	DOCK	LIFE	BRUT
MAE	ANDES	REAM	FIERY
PLATTE	USEYOUR	DOODLE	
LILA	MORPH	SPOONS	
EAST	ICU	EVA	BOD
	THATSAD	OUGH	BRAIDER
WAZOO	OHIDUNNO	SNOOPY	
WHOO	PEDESTAL	TUBES	
WHOSE	IDED	STY	SORT

Pines resident releases self-published book

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(June 6, 2024) Ocean Pines resident Margit Novack's self-published book, "Squint: Re-visioning the Second Half of Life," paints themes of caregiving, forgiveness, estrangement, and downsizing through personal and memorable stories, is now available as an audiobook.

Novack is a pioneer in the senior move management industry who spent 25 years helping older adults relocate to retirement communities and downsized properties. She also started her own company, Moving Solutions, in 1996.

According to Novack, she is the founding president of the National Association of Senior and Specialty Move Managers, chaired the NASMM Ethics Commission, and developed industry training. Her website adds that NASMM created the Margit Novack Award for Excellence in Senior Move Management for her commitment and service to the industry.

The author grew up in Philadelphia before moving to Worcester County. She attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls and obtained graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

In 2020, the current Ocean Pines resident transitioned from her professional work to the author and speaker space.

"Squint," which Novack began writing during the COVID-19 pandemic and finished in roughly a year, explores how people find meaning after retirement through a plethora of personal and recounted stories.

"The book is for people wondering, 'How do I

find purpose and interest?'" the author said. "How do I go about the second half of life?"

Novack's profound storytelling secured "Squint" as a finalist for the American Legacy Book Awards.

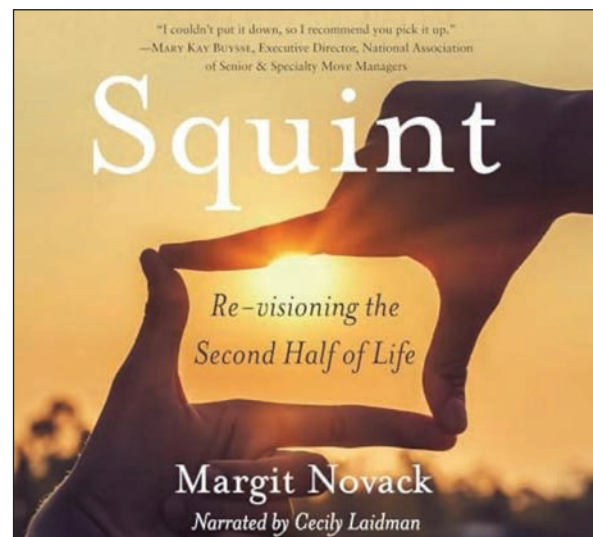
One story from the self-published work recounts two sisters sorting through their parents' belongings after their passing. Novack explained that the women both wanted a ring and a silver vase. The siblings compromised by each taking an item, and every January 1, they would meet up and switch. Whoever had the container would return it with white roses, their mother's favorite flower.

The author highlighted the narrative to showcase the importance of preserving bonds as humans age. "What an incredible legacy you have left your children," Novack said of the anecdote. "You have shown them that relationship is more important than ownership."

The artist's trick of squinting inspired the book's title and how this connects to the idea of shifting perspectives.

"Squinting is an artist ploy where they sometimes change the shape of their eye and look at a work of art because it puts things out of focus but allows you to see other aspects more closely," Novack said. "A group squint is when artists take multiple pieces and squint to see common themes and techniques. In my book, I took these stories, focused on specific things, and could see the themes with a clearer vision because of my perspective as an older adult...Some gifts come with aging, like our ability to let things go and look at behavior and see it differently."

The author speaks to senior living communities and highlights her favorite stories from the book.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The cover of Ocean Pines resident Margit Novack's audio book is pictured.

Often, she chooses narratives that, while different, share a common thread of downsizing and belongings.

Novack said the stories are memorable and short and are repeated by those who attend. "That's what happens when people hear a story."

A physical copy of Squint can be purchased on Amazon, at the Greyhound Bookstore in Berlin, one of Novack's earliest supporters, or Browseabout Books in Rehoboth, Delaware. The audiobook is available on Amazon and Audible and is narrated by Cecily Laidman, a retirement community marketing director.

Visit DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

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Photo by Brent Baker

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- Red, white, and rosé wine plus Dogfish Head beer and cocktails
- Taste of Good Earth Market
- Music by Vince Varrassi and Fifth Avenue

TICKETS:
Single member \$100 | nonmember \$110
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For more information,
Executive Director, Sheryl Swed
sherylswed@delawaregardens.org

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Malinda & Brent Baker
Carol McCloud

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., June 6

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. A free, mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointment required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

STORY TIME: CAMP OCEAN PINES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Have you ever wondered what camp was like? Come find out. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a relaxing game of chess every Thursday at the library. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PREVENTING COGNITIVE DECLINE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn how gardening is good for your body and your brain. 410-957-0878, 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., June 7

RWO OCEAN CITY GRAND PRIX

The Wedge Bar, 806 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m. Featuring top-tier offshore powerboat racing. Registration and inspections at the Convention Center and Welcome Party Racers & Fans at The Wedge Bar, 6 p.m. <https://raceworldoffshore.com/ocean-city/>

MAHJONG CLUB

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

3RD ANNUAL BLUES FOR D.U. BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Three-day tournament benefiting Ducks Unlimited. Kayaks wel-

come. Scales open from 3:30-7:30 p.m. There will be raffles for artwork, hunting supplies & more. bahiamarina.com/tournament/blues-for-du/

2ND ANNUAL 'DANCE ON THE SHORE' FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. The dancers of Saltare in Elementis Dance Collective will perform during the First Friday Reception. All activities are free and open to the public. artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

ART LEAGUE OPENING RECEPTION & MARKETPLACE

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. See the new exhibit, meet the artists, enjoy complimentary refreshments and shop a one-night-only vendor marketplace. 410-524-9433, www.artleagueofoceancity.org

Sat., June 8

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City. 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET & BREAKFAST

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8 a.m.-noon. Breakfast sandwiches, baked goods, yard sale, gift and craft items for sale. Vendors, to make reservations: 443-614-2261, fcbumc21811@gmail.com.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Budd Heim, one of the top flounder fisherman in the area, will share his knowledge of catching this much sought after and elusive fish. Also updates on fishing regulations and more. All welcome. 410-641-7662

SATURDAY WRITERS

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

RED BULL FOAM WRECKERS

40th Street beach, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Bull Foam Wreckers offers a refreshing alternative to traditional surf contests. Only soft boards are allowed in this contest, and anyone can win. Minimal rules, maximum fun! <http://redbull.com>

ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories and cool props from Assateague Island National Seashore. A

different adventure each week. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE KIDS CRAFT

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring the kids and do something creative with them. The summer Saturday projects will change every week. Free and open to all. No reservations needed. artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

RWO OCEAN CITY GRAND PRIX

Quality Inn Boardwalk, 1601 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 12-3 p.m. VIP Viewing Deck Experience held at the Quality Inn Boardwalk. Two-day VIP tickets: <https://raceworldoffshore.com/ocean-city/>. Racers party held at Skye Bar from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

PERLER BEAD FUN

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Explore your creativity by making Perler bead creations using patterns - or design your own. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

THE ART OF AUTISM

Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery, 11206 Worcester Highway, Berlin, 3-8 p.m. Live music, local vendors, art auction, create station, sensory-friendly hours (3-5 p.m.) and food and drinks available. Outdoor event held rain or shine. 443-783-6180, melissaesham@yahoo.com

3RD ANNUAL BLUES FOR D.U. BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Three-day tournament benefiting Ducks Unlimited. Kayaks welcome. Scales open from 3:30-7:30 p.m. There will be raffles for artwork, hunting supplies & more. bahiamarina.com/tournament/blues-for-du/

2ND ANNUAL 'DANCE ON THE SHORE' FESTIVAL

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Saturday Kids Crafts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; "Mat to Movement" Workshop, 1:15-2:15 p.m.; and Community Improv Dance Party, 2:30-3 p.m. Free and open to the public. artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

DELAWARE INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

US 13 Dragway & Delaware Int'l Speedway, 37854 Sussex Highway, Delmar, 6-11 p.m. Tickets \$25. Dirt track racing featuring Millman's Auto Parts Big Block Modified, Blue Hen Disposal 602 Sportsman, Elliott Farms Crate 604s, Delaware Super Trucks, little Lincoln and Street Stock. 302-846-3911

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., June 9

RWO OCEAN CITY GRAND PRIX

Quality Inn Boardwalk, 1601 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. VIP Viewing Deck Experience held at the Quality Inn Boardwalk. VIP tickets: <https://raceworldoffshore.com/ocean-city/>. Awards Ceremony and After Party at Seacrets, 117 49th St., 6-7:30 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING

The Greyhound - An Indie Bookstore, 9 S. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Author Garry Cosnett will sign copies of his new book, "Everything Slows Down: My Hidden Life with Depression." www.greyhoundbookstore.com, 410-641-0291

3RD ANNUAL BLUES FOR D.U. BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Bahia Marina at Fish Tales, 2107 Herring Way, Ocean City. Three-day tournament benefiting Ducks Unlimited. Kayaks welcome. Scales open from 3:30-7:30 p.m. There will be raffles for artwork, hunting supplies & more. bahiamarina.com/tournament/blues-for-du/

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy live music by Bob Loughheed & The Memphis Mafia (Tribute to Elvis), kid-friendly entertainment, ice cream and fireworks. Free admission. Entertainment Lineup: www.ocean.com/things-to-do.

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., June 10

STORY TIME: PETS

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

TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Featuring "Indecent Advances: A Hid-

Calendar

den History of True Crime and Prejudice before Stonewall." 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DELMARVA AUTHOR PANEL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road. All FOPL members are invited to refreshments at 9:30 a.m., followed by an open membership meeting at 10 a.m. The Delmarva Author Panel starts at 11 a.m., everyone is welcome. 410-208-4014

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. The group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3-6 p.m. Need help finding your roots? Come by the second Monday of each month and the local history librarian can help navigate the library's print and online sources. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

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

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., June 11

ADVENTURES IN GARDENING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Help plant a flower garden. Create a garden marker, plant a seed and come back throughout the summer to watch your flower grow. A family adventure. 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

KINETIC SAND STATION ROTATION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Create a building, whip up some dessert and uncover dinosaur bones with kinetic sand stations. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides discussions, support and education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinikin@atlanticgeneral.org

TAPE AND MAKE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Duct tape is everything. Create rings, wallets and phone cases completely from duct tape. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB: 'THE POET X' BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 5:30 p.m. Join Snow Hill library and Tides & Vine for an evening of books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill library to pick up a book anytime before the event. Must be 21 years or older. 410-632-3495

SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song to share with other players and writers. Originals encouraged. Listeners welcome. Hosted by Mikel Campbell. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Barry Brittingham, A.M.S.A. affiliate, to talk about competitive surf-fishing methods and tactics. Food and refreshments available beginning at 6:15 p.m. The public is invited.

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., June 12

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Online Zoom call on the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

FANDOM WEDNESDAY: ANIME/MANGA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop in for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 12-17 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promote the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

BOOK CLUB: 'A WRINKLE IN TIME' BY MADELEINE L'ENGLE

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by Snow Hill Library or the 50+ Center to pick up your book. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterli-

brary.org

PREVENTING COGNITIVE DECLINE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Boost brain health with this cooking demo inspired by the local community garden. Learn how gardening is good for your body and your brain. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FAMILY RAINBOW CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Show your support during Pride Month by making a flag, button or sticker. Families and teens may drop in any Wednesday in June from 3-5 p.m. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TABLE TOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come play selected role playing games for adults and teens. Registration required: 410-632-3495. Limit 10. www.worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Free movie on the beach every Wednesday, weather permitting. This week features "Space Jam: New Legacy." Bring chairs, snacks, warm clothing. Schedule: www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun.

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

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

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

ONGOING EVENTS

JUNETEENTH MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, June 10-21. Help create a collaborative collage that represents freedom. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CERAMICS EXHIBIT

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., June 7-29. Shop handcrafted pottery in Studio E, featuring members of the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore. 410-524-9433, www.artleagueofoceancity.org

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



HELP WANTED

Night Floor Manager
6:00-midnight. Must be available for weekends. Must be able to lift 40 lbs. or more. **Apply in person, American Legion Post 166.**
410-289-3166

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

IES Residential, Inc. Licensed Electricians & Subcontractors Needed ASAP! Full Benefits for Employees. **Please call or text 302-614-6944.**

Kitchen Manager/Cook position w/salary to commensurate w/exp. OC ELKS LODGE Contact Vivian Merritt to apply, **410-299-1336.**

SEAHAWK MOTEL EXP DAYTIME SEASONAL LAUNDRY PERSON
Apply in Person, 124th St. & Coastal Hwy.
410-250-3191

Thunderbird Beach Motel
Now Hiring
NIGHT AUDITOR
All shifts. Competitive pay. **Apply in person.**
32nd St., Baltimore Ave.
Monday through Friday
from 9am-3pm.

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted: FT, Seasonal, Front Desk, Housekeeping, Laundry. Walk in to fill out application. **Safari Hotel, 13th Street and Boardwalk.**
410-289-6411

2 Professional Cooks - Experience. Night shift 3:30-9:30. Flexible weekdays and weekends. Must be available for weekends. Must be able to lift 40 lbs. or more.

Apply in person, American Legion Post 166.
410-289-3166

Building Attendant. Full & Part Time. Day & Evening Shifts. Memorial thru Labor Day. Dependable, conscientious individual to monitor building, grounds, pool and parking.
Send resume to Fred@paradiseoc.com or call 410-250-1111.

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

HELP WANTED

Cleaners Wanted for Ocean City, MD
If you are a conscientious individual or team looking for great pay and minimal hours on summer Saturdays in OC, then we are the cleaning company for you. Exp. Preferred. Cell phone and vehicle required.
443-880-0525

Pool - General Maintenance. Outdoor work, lifting heavy objects. Mechanical, basic pool pump & motors, CPO a plus / not required. Able to pass CPO test. Summer includes weekends & long hours; working alone or with others
410-289-4902
ask for Suzanne.

SEEKING WORK

Seeking Work: Small and Large Jobs. 44 years experience in construction. Patch work, landscaping, painting, etc. **Call/leave a message, 443-754-7709.**

Run your business card in our
SERVICE DIRECTORY
CALL 410-723-6397
for pricing!

HELP WANTED

Ocean Aviation Flight Academy seeks **Office Assistant**

Growing Flight Academy with campuses in Berlin, Maryland and Georgetown, Delaware seeks Exceptional Candidate to join our team. Professional Friendly office environment. **F/T.** Weekend availability is a plus. Year Around Position. Responsible for student interaction, dispatch and check in of flights, filing, retail sales and keeping our offices neat and clean. Must be customer oriented and be proficient in data entry and have good computer skills. Previous office or educational experience necessary.

Please forward resume to mfreed@flyoceanaviation.com
We prefer initial contact be through e-mail only. Qualified applicants will be contacted for in person interviews.

Worcester Preparatory School

Worcester Prep is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of
Upper School
MATH TEACHER
Upper School
SCIENCE TEACHER
Director of
DEVELOPMENT
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

For more information, please scan the code or visit our website.
worcesterprep.org/about/employment

Worcester Prep is a fully-accredited Pre-k through grade 12 independent school located in Berlin, MD.

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- Food Runners
- Bussers

302-539-2607

Apply In Person. Fenwick Island

Classifieds 410-723-6397

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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Retail Team Member **Factory Worker**
Merchandising Helper **Kitchen Help**
Delivery Driver **Delivery Assistant**

APPLY IN PERSON
Tuesday - Friday 10am to 3pm
CORPORATE OFFICE
5301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City MD

CANDY KITCHEN

APPLY ONLINE

HIRING: Line Cooks, Sous Chefs, A/V Techs, Painters, Maintenance Staff, Plumber, Security, Office Staff, Food Runners, Cashiers, Carpenters and more

Apply in person or online at secrets.com

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Production Crew
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Up to \$20/hr.

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- o Experience preferred.
- o Tools, transportation & valid driver's license are a plus.
- o Excellent pay and a competitive benefits package available.

Please Apply Online:
<https://www.allstatesconst.com/delmarva-renovations-careers>
Or Contact Our Office at 410-352-9800

TOWN OF BERLIN
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING
POLICE OFFICER

We are looking for motivated individuals to come to work for the Town of Berlin.
We are currently seeking a Planning Director and a Police Officer.

Overview of employee benefits: Members of the Maryland State Retirement System (LEOPS for Police Officers), a competitive health benefits package including a health reimbursement account, employer-paid life insurance, 100% tuition reimbursement, vacation accruals based on tenure, 12 sick days per year, 16 paid holidays per year, two personal days per year, and much more!

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.



- Convenient
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- Days, Nights & Weekends

RENTALS

WOC, YR RENTAL Newly remodeled. 3BR, 2BA, \$1,950 per mo. No smoking, no pets. **410-251-6497**

Waterfront Bayside - Newly remodeled 2BR, 2BA Condo in North OC. 4 steps to ground level off your private balcony. Full kitchen, LR, DR, W/D, balcony w/tables + seating for 6. Seasonal/ monthly Dec.-April, \$2,200. **Contact Julie 443-223-4623.**

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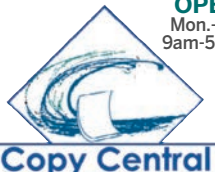
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