



JULY 11, 2024

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF OPA

BANNER FOURTH IN OCEAN PINES

The long 4th of July holiday weekend kicked off with a bang in Ocean Pines with festivities and fireworks hosted at the veterans memorial grounds. See story Page 14.



Viola gets four-year deal

OPA, GM come to terms on contract extension with option on fifth year

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola has signed a four-year contract extension with an option for a fifth year. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the decision on Monday, July 8.

Viola has served as the community's general manager since April 2019. He was initially meant to temporarily fill the position following John Bailey's resignation. In June 2019, Viola signed a six-month agreement, which has been extended several times.

"We believe that under the lead-

ership of Mr. Viola, Ocean Pines has achieved significant milestones in keeping Ocean Pines financially strong and continuing to keep all our amenities top-notch," OPA Board President Rick Farr said in a press release issued by Public Relations and Marketing Director Josh Davis. "The new contract reflects the Board's commitment to providing stability and continuity in leadership and also underscores our confidence in the General Manager's vision, strategic direction, and ability to navigate the challenges and opportunities facing Ocean Pines."

In a statement released by Viola, who is expected to have an annual salary of \$210,000, he emphasizes this monetary success, claiming that the "updated flash estimate for the fiscal year 2023-

2024 is a nearly \$1.2 million favorable variance to budget."

"To get good results, an organization and management has to realize what your KPIs are -- what's driving your organization, what's driving your results, where to put your assets, and where to put your money and invest your time," the general manager said. "That has been our focus for the last five years and will continue to be our focus."

Amenities are helping to create this financial positivity. According to Viola, golf is among the highest contributing factors, with \$220,000 in favorability and an \$87,000 improvement over the last year.

Amenity membership has also increased 17% since the prior year.

See VIOLA Page 7

Planning work goes on hold

Council imposes moratorium until director vacancy filled

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) At their Monday, July 8 meeting, the Berlin Mayor and Council unanimously approved a temporary moratorium on specific actions of the planning commission until the vacant planning director position is filled.

The pause comes after former planning director Dave Engelhart's passing in April. Since then, Rick Baldwin has acted as a consultant for the group. Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said that the initial resolution will be valid until Sept. 15. It is intended that it be reviewed at the first August meeting of the Mayor and Council, where it may be

See TOWN Page 6



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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Demolition progress is pictured on Tuesday at the former poultry processing plant in Berlin.

Heron Park property's sale headed to public discussion

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) The Berlin Mayor and Council will hear presentations from potential buyers of the former poultry processing plant grounds later this month.

The part of the park for sale is parcel 57, the old processing plant that is undergoing demolition.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said the proposed sale would only pertain to parcel 57 for at least \$1.2 million and include 15 EDUs (equivalent dwelling units) attached to the property.

Most of the discussion at the meeting surrounded what businesses would be acceptable to place in the building. Initially, the thought was that the new venture should not compete with downtown Berlin. This would disqualify restaurants and retail. Healthcare, gyms, general office space, housing, and entertainment venues were acceptable. Councilmembers struggled to accept the restrictions.

"If I had my way, there would be no limit on uses," Councilmember Steve Green said. "Let's see what comes out. I have felt that way all along. I am a capitalist and disagree with interfering with private business."

"I want something that we are excited about," Tyndall said, echoing Green's statement. "I want something that is going to fit Berlin, that has some energy around it, it fits our needs..."

The council agreed to widen the scope of possibilities. While processing plants and storage facilities are a "hard no," everything else is fair game with an emphasis on mixed-use concept plans, which would see different ventures on different levels of the building. Housing is also a high priority with many references to retail or restaurant space on the ground floor with office and apartments above.

Presentations from interested buyers will be capped at 15 minutes and will take place in public at the next council meeting on July 22.

"The presentations will be at the next meeting, and it is safe to say that it is not binding," Tyndall said. "It is a presentation that will hopefully lead somebody into...a negotiation period. We will be looking to revisit this in August. We do not want a long delay."

The council discussed the sale in an early June meeting. After Councilman Jack Orris implored his colleagues to discuss the park property and its sale, Green and Councilman Jay Knerr maintained they wanted to sell the parcel but wanted to avoid the RFP (request for proposal) process again. The town had gone through an extensive process last summer and opted to hold onto the space. The body intends to expedite the negotiation this time by forgoing the lengthy RFP process.

The cut-off date for submissions is July 16, so the proposals may be included in the July 22 public meeting packet.

OP temporarily closes playground for planned work

(July 11, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association this week announced the temporary closure of the Bridgewater Playground for planned improvements.

Improvements were scheduled to start this week, but were pushed back by the vendor. Because mulch and borders were already removed to prepare for the upgrades, the area must be temporarily closed for safety reasons.

For further updates, visit oceanpines.org, or contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.



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New scoreboard approved for rec complex

Total expenditure likely to reach nearly \$44,000 with shipping, installation costs

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 11, 2024) County officials have approved the recreation and parks department's request to purchase a scoreboard for the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex.

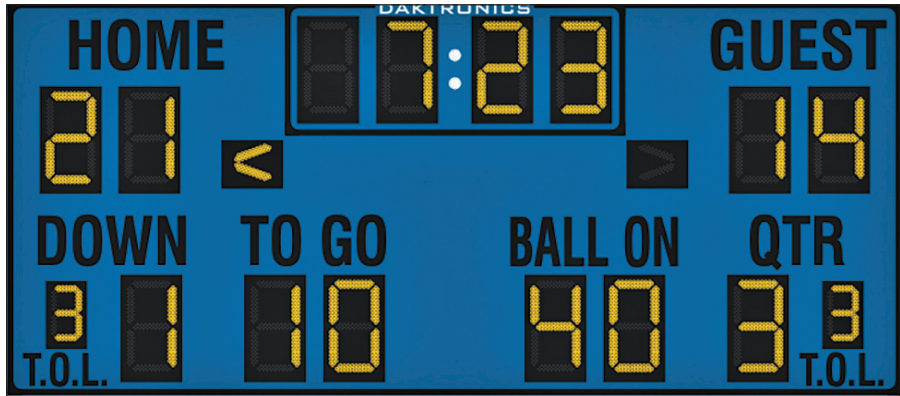
During the July 2 meeting, the Worcester County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the department's request to buy and install a new scoreboard at the complex. The project will be fully funded through the Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) program.

"These services have been quoted

by Daktronics Inc. through their cooperative contract with Sourcewell," Procurement Officer Nicholas Rice wrote in an email to the commissioners. "Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) funding has been approved for this project. LPPI grant funds is 100% reimbursable. The total cost for the scoreboard and installation is \$43,855."

Last August, representatives with Pop Warner Football asked the commissioners to donate a 30-year-old scoreboard previously used on Stephen Decatur's football field. Connections with the organization said they wanted the old scoreboard to be used at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex, where Pop Warner games are played.

Citing concerns about the cost of installation and the unknowns of ac-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A proposed schematic of a new scoreboard to be installed at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex was presented last week.

cepting an old scoreboard, the commissioners at that time directed staff to research the purchase of a new board. And in September, the commissioners agreed to pursue the project.

With the scoreboard back on the consent agenda last week, Commissioner Ted Elder asked where and how high the scoreboard would be placed. Staff noted that it would be placed 10 feet above the ground.

"It will be in the back far corner of the field facing out," Parks Superintendent Jacob Stephens added.

With no further discussion, the commissioners vote 7-0 to approve

the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard.

While the board itself will cost \$16,605, installation and shipping costs bring the total to \$43,855. Daktronics Inc. will provide services for the project through its contract with Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing organization that competitively awards purchasing contracts on behalf of itself and its participating agencies.

"Sourcewell follows the competitive contracting law process to solicit, evaluate, and award cooperative purchasing contracts for goods and services," Rice wrote.



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Berlin council votes to add month for farmers market

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) Berlin’s farmers market will continue through October this year in a pilot program to determine if the demand is high enough for future years.

“The farmers have extended their seasons,” Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said. “They have greenhouses and are doing various things to extend their season, so I would like to extend the market through October.”

Berlin Councilman Jay Knerr broached the topic at a meeting last month of adding a month to the farmers market season. The idea was supported by a majority of the council.

Wells maintained the extra month would cost the town about \$2,000, including staffing. Berlin will have to fund an extra month of live music, as the grant received for the tunes only goes through September, the petting farm and continued advertising.

The community development director said that as the vendors pay a fee through September, they will not be charged for October.

Previous discussions had included a request by Council Vice President Dean Burrell to extend the market an extra hour. However, Wells said the vendors typically run out of crops around noon.

“They are looking to get out of there and the heat is too much for them,” she said.

The event will continue to run each Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While Wells is hopeful that the farmers market will bring in summer-like crowds in October and is excited to try it out, she has hesitations. She said that extending the event into September took time, and historically, attendance tends to wane as it cools off.

“We are a resort town, so you need that additional capacity,” she said. “... Now that we are extending it through October, while everyone wants it, I am not sure that the same amount of people will come. I hope that I am incorrect. I love the farmers market; everyone loves it, they look forward to it; it is the week’s highlight. I would love to extend it to see if this year is different and more people will come. I certainly

See MARKET Page 7

Town puts approvals on hold

Continued from Page 1
extended to October.

The planning commission’s reaction to the moratorium at their Wednesday, June 12 meeting was unfavorable. However, Bohlen recommended the motion, which was passed by the Mayor and Council.

“The purpose is because we are down a planning director,” Bohlen said. “This is intended to be temporary ... This is to give staff a bit of relief from having to approve what are very complex matters ... Rick’s assistance has been invaluable, but he is not the planning director. He cannot sign off on things. He gives me solid advice, but he is not the authority.”

According to Bohlen, the town interviewed five candidates for the planning director role and elected two for in-person discussions to be had on Thursday, July 11. The goal is to have a new planning director in place within a month. The moratorium will allow the hire to complete the onboarding process and settle into the position.

The pause will apply to applicants for site plan approval, rezoning and property annexation. The planning commission will be permitted to meet publicly to discuss conceptual issues. If the Mayor and Council elect to extend the moratorium, it will be reviewed at the first meeting of each month until it is officially terminated.

“The objective is to be able to handle the complexities of these types of requests against the limited staff time

that we have to be able to apply diligence to those requests,” Mayor Zack Tyndall said. “Rick does not work 40 hours a week, so we do not have full capacity in the planning office. We do not have what we need to handle complexity.”

Council member Steve Green emphasized that the moratorium does not mean Berlin is not “open for business.”

“We do not want to send a message that building permits and things like that are not still going to be allowed to move in a direction,” he said.

On Wednesday, July 10, the proposed Microtel Inn and Suites, intended to be placed off Route 113 in Berlin, went before the planning commission as a concept plan. The temporary pause did not impact the ability to have the discussion. The outcome of the meeting will be reported next week. However, Tyndall maintained that if the moratorium stalls the project, it would be an initial priority for the new director.

In addition to the halt, a filing deadline of 30 days prior to any regularly scheduled meeting of a board or commission was implemented as of June 17. The goal is to provide staff with ample time to discuss and consider submittals. The new policy will remain permanent.

The council also unanimously passed the motion to approve an additional \$5,000 for Baldwin’s consulting contract to continue working for the town into the new fiscal year.

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On continuing in the role he took on temporarily five years ago, Viola, pictured with OPA President Rick Farr, said, "I'm very hopeful that we will continue to produce for Ocean Pines."

Viola signs for four more years

Continued from Page 1
Golf and racquet sports have seen the most significant rise.

The association has prioritized course maintenance, as golf has proven to be a money-maker for the community. The new golf club irrigation system project is underway, and materials for phase one have arrived. The first part of the proposal will include replacing pump stations at the first and ninth holes and the driving range. The total cost for this stage is \$934,000.

Viola maintained that the construction would have little impact on daily operations at the course.

Davis said that Viola has been an Ocean Pines homeowner for 15 years. Originally from New York, the general manager is a certified accountant with an MBA from Pace University, specializing in management and tax management. He also received his undergraduate degree from Manhattan College.

Viola has been a Certified Public Accountant in the private sector. He spent 28 years with Avon, finishing as the assistant global controller, Davis said.

Once in Ocean Pines, the general manager dedicated his time to the Budget and Finance Committee as the chair for four years. Before accepting his current role in 2019, Viola volun-

teered as OPA's assistant treasurer and chief financial officer.

"In six years as general manager, Viola has overseen six consecutive fiscal years with a positive variance to budget and four-straight years with a favorability greater than \$1 million," Davis said. "During that span, OPA also lowered the assessment, and increased spending on public safety, maintenance, and drainage, among other areas."

Upkeeping the community has been a priority for Viola. In his statement, he claims that maintenance efforts at the Beach Club have included parking lot cleaning and shower repairs.

Brainbridge Park and Bridgewater Park playground equipment was power washed, the community pools were cleaned and inspected before Memorial Day, and the Pine'er Craft Club received a new storage shed.

"I have enjoyed working with a professional Board, and I'm very hopeful that we will continue to produce for Ocean Pines," Viola said. "Our achievements over the past six years reflect the hard work and dedication of the entire Ocean Pines team. I look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance the quality of life for all our homeowners and to ensure that Ocean Pines remains a thriving and vibrant community."

Market to stay open in October

Continued from Page 6
hope so. The farmers have additional crops; the vendors want to be there. Everyone wants the farmers market to continue. Let's see who shows up ... You always have to remember the law of economics, the rule of scarcity."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall agreed to "pilot" an extended farmer's market, see how it does and factor that into

their grant application next year. The rest of the council also expressed excitement for the event's fall era.

"I am looking forward to it," Councilmember Shaneka Nichols said. "I hope the farmers bring their autumn wear and we'll spice it up for fall. Bring out the gourds and the pumpkins. I think having those extra four weeks will be a great addition."

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Historic District Commission reviews replacement request

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) The Berlin Historic District Commission voted last week to have a commercial property owner replace a rotten wooden door.

Applicant Deborah Everett went before the commission to request permission to replace the current unsightly entrance door with a Thermo-Tru Smooth-Star fiberglass door. The property owner said she intended to paint it dark green to match Dolle's Candyland's door.

While the group agreed that the entryway must be replaced for aesthetic purposes, vice chair Laura Stearns argued that the door Everett and her husband purchased did not match the style of Berlin.

"It seems like an insignificant door because it is not to a storefront, but the problem is it's right on the front of the building," Stearns said. "The door chosen is a craftsman style, and it's a Victorian town ... it is the wrong style for the front of that building, and it is one of the most historic buildings."

According to Stearns, the craftsman design, which is plain and simple, is the "antithesis" of the detail-orientated Victorian look.

"This is smack dab on the front of the

building, and it is not the right style," she continued. "To me, it is the wrong style for a very historic property."

Everett said that she will likely be unable to return the door, which cost \$3,000, as it was specially ordered to fit the precise measurements of the current opening. Still, the commission voted against the fiberglass entrance and will instead allow the applicant to refurbish the rotten passageway with new wood and paint it dark green in the meantime. She will continue to look for an appropriate replacement.

If Everett finds a door that matches the Victorian fashion of Berlin, the historic advisory group advised her to receive approval from the commission before she purchases it.

"I understand the historical part of Main Street," the applicant said. "Let's patch this one up and revisit."

Everett said the entrance opens into a staircase that leads up to a loft. The owners hope to convert the area into an apartment eventually, but that project would be in the distant future. For now, they are focused on removing the unattractive structure from the public's view.

The Historic District Commission gathers again on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 5:30 p.m.

Obituaries

SAMUEL A. WATERS JR.
Ocean Pines

Samuel A. Waters Jr. of Ocean Pines, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2024, at the age of 85.

Sam was born on April 18, 1940, to Samuel A. Waters Sr. and Evelyn Hahn Waters in Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from Camden High School in 1957, he attended Rutgers University for two years until enlisting in the Army in 1961.

He served three years in the Army before being recruited by the National Security Agency. During his 39-plus years with NSA he traveled all over the world supporting the mission of the agency. One week after retiring in March 2001, he went back to work as a contractor in the same office for another 5-plus years. He was blessed to love what he did for a living saying he never worked a day in his life. His loyalty and commitment were unwavering as he patriotically served our country.

On April 8, 1961, he married the love of his life, Dorothy Robinson. They welcomed their oldest, Carl, in 1962, while Samuel was deployed in Turkey. Three years later, their daughter Michele was born, then



S. Waters Jr.

three years after that they welcomed Craig into the world.

Sam was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was also a true and loyal friend to many. When he wasn't traveling the world, he was a dedicated, caring father. Always there for his kids' and grandkids' activities and sports, sometimes as a coach but always as a proud father.

After his children grew up, he began participating in many activities. Running over eight marathons, golfing, and playing tennis and platform tennis. He was very involved in the Ocean Pines platform tennis group, making many lasting friends. He was an avid Washington Capitals fan as well as a fan of the Redskins and the Orioles.

Sam was predeceased by his parents, Samuel and Evelyn; and his brother, Carl.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 63 years, Dorothy; his son Carl (Heather) Waters; his daughter Michele Waters; his son Craig Waters; his four granddaughters, Danielle Akins, Courtney Shipp, Caitlyn Waters and Marley Waters; his step-grandsons Ryan and Dylan Caldwell; as well as five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of a service or memorial, my dad would want everyone to pay it forward, spread love and kindness. He wished to be remembered as a hardworking, loving father, loyal, unselfish friend, and respected colleague.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Coastal Hospice.

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Group reviews park upgrades

Continued from Page 10
of the initiatives at public works is to keep beautification going all throughout town,” he said.

According to Charles, the American Legion Post #123 donated \$7,500 for updated flag poles at the War Memorial at the corner of Main and West streets. Another private donation has been made for new poles at Stephen Decatur Park.

The public works director said that at the park, the town intends to place the poles eight feet apart. The posts will be capable of hanging 6-by-8 foot flags, which Charles maintained will be perfect for military holidays and the Fourth of July. The department hopes to place an updated sign at the entrance and clean up the trees to enrich the space.

A plaque detailing Commodore Stephen Decatur’s connection to the area is also planned for the park. Decatur was born in Sinepuxent, now known as the Town of Berlin. The Worcester County native was a United States Naval Officer and lived from 1779 to 1820. He served in the War of 1812, the Barbary Wars in North Africa, and the Quasi-War.

The next Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, at 4:30 p.m. and can be streamed on Facebook Live.

Flower Street speed limit lowered

Council will seek reduction on portion of road owned by Worcester County

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) A motion to reduce the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph on the stretch of Flower Street from the intersection of Seahawk Road to the corporate, municipal limit unanimously passed at the Monday, July 8 meeting of the Berlin Mayor and Council.

“We are coming before the council to have ... the only part of Flower Street that is not 25 to be switched from 30 to 25,” Berlin Chief of Police Arnold Downing said. “That area consists of the stop sign from Seahawk Road to the town limits, which is at the end of the back of Stephen Decatur Middle School.”

The council also agreed to write to the Worcester County Commissioners asking that the speed limit on the portion of Flower Street that remains outside Berlin’s jurisdiction be reduced from 30 to 25 miles per hour.

“I think this is phenomenal, changing the speed limit to 25 mph,” councilmember Shaneka Nichols said. “I will say this, and I know it is outside of our jurisdiction, but I would like the entire length of Flower Street to be in that 25 zone...For consistency and

safety for all of Flower Street, I would also love to see that county portion be 25 mph.”

Nichols argued that the goal is to train drivers to slow down.

“I advocate for a 25 miles per hour speed limit and speed cameras because I can tell you to slow down all day long, but until it hits you where it hurts, your pocketbook, you are not going to slow down,” she continued. “As I sit on my front porch, you can hear engines rev back up once cars pass the speed camera.”

Berlin resident Jayden Johnstone proposed that the town reduce the speed limit in the determined area and add a sidewalk to increase safety.

“I like the idea of having a whole walkable community, and right now, it is too dangerous,” he said.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said that Berlin

did receive a federal grant to evaluate pedestrian and bicycle traffic. While the funds have yet to be acquired, there are plans to survey where sidewalks are needed.

For now, Berlin is focused on speed safety. The body voted unanimously to reduce the limit from Seahawk Road to the town line from 30 to 25 miles per hour and send a letter to the commissioners requesting that the Worcester County-owned stretch be decreased.

“I don’t want anyone to think that this is a ploy by the Town of Berlin to fatten our pockets,” Nichols said. “That is not what this is about. What this is about is point-blank safety. There is no reason for anybody to drive on a 25 mph two-lane street where the houses are kissing the street to be driving 55 and 60 mph, which happens down Flower Street every day.”

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County pilot program to target ‘snipe signs’

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 11, 2024) Worcester County will start a pilot program to remove illegal signs from state rights-of-way.

On July 2, Public Works Director Dallas Baker came before the Worcester County Commissioners with a request to start a pilot program to remove “snipe signs,” or off-premises signs posted by members of the public. He said the program is an effort to assist the State Highway Administration clean up the state rights-of-way.

“So, we’re asking for commissioner approval to start a pilot program to remove snipe signs,” he said. “Those are the small roadside signs typically seen advertising services or sales of homes, that kind of thing, that have been illegally

placed within state right-of-way. The state has the ability to delegate that authority to remove the signs to the counties. They’re understaffed.”

Baker said the public works department has received complaints regarding snipe signs along major roadways, including routes 50, 113, 611 and 589. He said creating a pilot program would allow roads crews to remove the signs and, eventually, charge a fine of \$25 for each sign disposed of by the crew.

“Prior to starting the program, a public advertising notice regarding the removal of signs in SHA ROW would be posted,” he wrote in a memo to the commissioners “After advertising, the first three months of the program would involve the removal and disposal of the

signs. After the initial three months, a \$25 per sign fine would be charged for each sign removed.”

Commissioner Ted Elder asked how far back the state right-of-way extended. Baker said the size of the right-of-way varied, and that public works would have to obtain right-of-way drawings from the State Highway Administration.

“The easy determination is when you’re on a state road, if you see a utility pole, that’s where the state right-of-way ends,” he said. “Utility poles are typically located just on the outside.”

Commissioner Chip Bertino also asked how the public works department would determine who placed the sign.

“What happens when someone says, ‘I didn’t put that sign out there, someone

else did.’” he asked.

Baker said the details would need to be worked out with the county attorney. He noted, however, that Worcester County would keep any revenues generated from the citations.

“The county gets the money,” he said.

When asked if the county had a similar sign policy for its right-of-way, Baker said it didn’t. He noted that public works crews hadn’t received any complaints of signs within the county right-of-way.

“It’s something we can look into and develop a policy for,” he said.

With no further discussion, the commissioners voted 7-0 to proceed with the pilot program, but to have the public works department develop a policy for county roads in the meantime.

Temporary digs official for Pocumoke library

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 11, 2024) A lease agreement will allow the Pocumoke library to operate from a renovated firehouse while a new facility is being built.

The Worcester County Commissioners on July 2 voted 7-0 to proceed with a lease agreement for temporary library space at 5 5th Street in Pocumoke. Offi-

cials say the old fire station, which was recently renovated, will house library operations on the first floor while a new branch is being constructed on Market Street.

“A temporary location will be needed starting in September until December 2025/January 2026,” Library Director Jennifer Ranck said in a statement this week. “Construction is estimated to take

14 months.”

In recent years, officials have been working on plans for a new library branch in Pocumoke. What is currently being proposed is a 12,000-square-foot facility at the library’s current location on Market Street. The new branch will feature gallery space, rain gardens, a children’s porch and dedicated reading areas, as well as multipurpose meeting

space that will be accessible to the community when the library is otherwise closed.

While construction is underway, library operations will need to relocate. To that end, Ranck sought the commissioners’ approval Tuesday to lease space at the renovated firehouse on 5th Street.

“Some modifications to the site are

See LIBRARY Page 13

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OP youth fishing contest planned for next weekend

(July 11, 2024) The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host its 28th Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday, July 20, at the South Gate Pond at Veterans Park in Ocean Pines.

Registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m., and the contest will be from 9-10:30 a.m. Participating youths should bring their own rods and reels. Bait is provided.

There will be three age groups: 4 to 7, 8 to 11 and 12 to 16. A trophy will be awarded for the biggest fish in each age group with special awards for the top three. Grand Prize awards will be a Mike Vitak custom rod and reel and a fishing trip aboard the Angler. Children younger than age 4 can fish but will not be eligible for trophies.

The event is free and all registrants will receive a prize, compliments of the Anglers Club and the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club.

Library's lease agreement OK'd

Continued from Page 12

needed, including the addition of a small counter and sink," Ranck wrote to the commissioners. "The library would begin moving to the temporary site in late August or early September."

With no discussion this week, the commissioners voted to proceed with the lease agreement at a price of \$3,063 per month, plus triple-net lease fees of roughly \$448. The agreement includes an additional \$7,500 to paid out for the buildout of the library space. Ranck said in a statement this week that most services will continue from the library's temporary location.

"We will be able to maintain most services at a temporary location — material checkout, computer use, etc.," she said. "We are hoping to have a meeting space available for things like book discussions, story times, and other enrichment programs."

The commissioners this week also approved a request for design services of IT and AV systems at the new Pocomoke library. The \$23,825 cost will be paid for from excess funds for the Berlin branch project.

"The good news is I did receive a call from the Maryland State Library Agency and said we have \$63,000 to give you ...," Ranck told the commissioners Tuesday. "So I do have the monies to cover that extra expense."

Officials earlier this year reported that the total cost of the Pocomoke library project is estimated at \$8.1 million, which includes \$400,000 to \$500,000 in value engineering. Last month, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$3.99 million grant for the facility's construction.

Gooden will appear at WOC event

(July 11, 2024) Berlin Sports Cards will present a Sports Cards and Memorabilia Show on July 13 on the rear deck of Hooper's Crab House in West Ocean City.

The event will feature an appearance by former Major League Baseball pitcher Dwight "Doc" Gooden from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be a \$30 charge for an autograph and \$30 for a photo op. Both an autograph and photo op are available for a combo price of \$50.

"Berlin Sports Cards has a family friendly day planned with Hoopers Crab House and baseball legend Dwight "Doc" Gooden," said Berlin Sports Cards owner Loren Hershberger.

"Raffles, giveaways, sports cards, memorabilia and more. We can't wait to see you."

Admission will be \$5 and the event will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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An aerial shot shows the setup of Ocean Pines' July 4 celebration, which included kids games, activities and more at Veterans Memorial Park. Officials reported a record number of attendees and sales for this year's celebration.

Ocean Pines officials report record-breaking weekend

Association records uptick in amenity use, food sales, more during Fourth of July

(July 11, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola this week announced a record-breaking July 4 weekend, with large crowds and strong financial returns bolstered by great weather and smooth-running operations.

"Our amenities were in turnkey condition prior to the holiday, which helped us achieve these numbers," Viola said in a news release. "Compliments go to our support team, which makes all this possible."

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said a record 270 runners took part in the annual Freedom 5K on the morning of July 4. She said the carnival that afternoon had robust attendance, and roughly 3,000 people watched fireworks from multiple locations across Ocean Pines.

Matt Ortt said the Yacht Club, Beach Club and Clubhouse Grille saw record numbers across the four-day weekend. The Yacht Club featured live music Thursday through Sunday and sales were well up over the prior year.

The Ocean Pines Marina was also

busy and set a new sales record over the weekend.

Golf Director Bob Beckelman said in the release that the entire July 4 week was very busy, with total rounds and revenue well up over the prior year.

Aquatics Director Michelle Hitchens said the four outdoor pools operated at or near capacity throughout the weekend. The new Swim and Racquet Club snack bar was a big hit, she added.

Racquet Sports Director Terry Underkoffler said the Racquet Center was packed, with all courts filled and people waiting to play.

Public Works Director Eddie Wells said things also went well behind the scenes, calling it one of the smoothest July 4 weekends in years. He said his team received only minor complaints, and events went off without a hitch.

Police Chief Tim Robinson said there were a few fireworks complaints, and one minor traffic accident on July 4 with no injuries.

"Overall, there was a lot of traffic and a lot of people, and everybody behaved. There were no significant issues," he said in the release. "Ocean Pines Police, along with our allied partners, were able to get everybody in and out of events as quickly as possible."

Viola complimented staff for coordinating a safe, well organized and profitable weekend.

"I appreciate all the hard work from the team, and the excellent communication and coordination," he said. "Ocean Pines residents and guests saw all that we had to offer, and we broke several records. We couldn't be happier with how everything turned out."



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Worcester County combines bay critical area regulations

Commissioners merge two codes into one, maintain current conservation rules

By Stewart Dobson
Editor

(July 11, 2024) Worcester County will no longer have the distinction of having two Critical Area Program codes on the books following the county commissioners' vote to combine its Chesapeake Bay Critical Area program regulations with those for the Atlantic coastal bays and its watershed.

The county has had a pair of critical areas development and conservation rules since 2002, when the Maryland Department of Natural Resources recognized that Worcester's coastal bays needed the same protections codified for the Chesapeake in the Critical Areas Act of 1984.

The state's action resulted in the creation of a second set of rules for the coastal bays, even though many of the provisions were virtually identical.

Acknowledging that on July 2,

county Natural Resources Administrator Brian Soper told the commissioners that the merger of the two codes was a matter of simplifying the law as part of the county's comprehensive update of the programs designed to protect waterways and wetlands habitat from development and other aspects of nearby populations.

The combined bill stipulates what can and can't be done in the "critical area" around or leading into any body of water, tidal or non-tidal that feeds into the Chesapeake and coastal bays.

The county bill approved last week was initially presented to the commissioners in late May and then submitted for review by the commission, which called for some minor changes.

Although some clarifications and modifications are included in the update, Soper said the rules remain the same.

There being no public comment offered, commissioner President Chip Bertino closed the meeting and called for the vote, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the move.



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Opinion

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

Directors take easy, best route with Viola

It's inevitable that the ever-present critics in Ocean Pines will question the salary General Manager John Viola is expected to receive as part of his newly signed contract extension.

With an annual paycheck a little north of \$200,000, according to unofficial estimates, Viola might be the highest-paid government/public service administrator in the county, and certainly will earn more than his administrative counterpart in Ocean City.

The irony, however, is that the difference in paychecks is not because Viola is overpaid but because Ocean City's top administrator is underpaid based on total budget, level of responsibility and the scope of the operation.

Besides, the Ocean Pines manager's job requires a certain level of tolerance for the hassle factor that comes with the territory, the numerous committees that must be dealt with and the challenge of balancing the pursuit of money-making opportunities against the need to keep amenities as accessible to members as possible.


Newer members of the association might not remember the bad old days, when an annual spring tide of red ink washed over the ledger and no GM seemed capable of winning the confidence of the board of directors and the public.

That changed when Viola took over as general manager, as he guided the association out of those troubled waters and into financial security with the support of the board.

Considering what Viola has been able to do for Ocean Pines during his time on the job, there's no reason to do anything but retain his services for as long as possible and delay the day when the directors must go fishing for a replacement with no guarantee that they will land a keeper.

Congratulations to the directors for taking the smart route by extending Viola's contract, and to Viola for making their choice an easy one.

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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OCEAN PINES FEATURE

World-class pickleball instructor

Horst bringing passion, experiences to Pines racquet center

(July 11, 2024) It's no secret that pickleball is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in the United States.

What everyone may not know is that the Ocean Pines Racquet Center has a world-class pickleball instructor who was taught by two of the best players in the sport – and has a trophy case full of her own medals.

Linda Horst grew up just outside of Philadelphia. She studied physical education and coaching at West Chester State College and did graduate work at Penn State in Harrisburg, and then put her education to good use as a career teacher and coach in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

"I taught there for 36 years," she said. "I coached archery for 10 years, and I also helped to start soccer programs and coached that for 20 years. It was a brand-new sport for Central Pennsylvania, and I coached a lot of it in the community, from travel teams to high school girls."

Horst retired and moved to Ocean Pines in 2012, in part because the community had platform tennis courts.

"I had played platform tennis when I was 16 years old, where I was born and raised," she said. "They had a court there, but I never saw one again until we were checking out Ocean Pines. I had loved it then, and I was so excited to have it back in my life."

Horst said pickleball wasn't yet a major force in Ocean Pines in 2012, although it was a sport that she taught in high school.

"I had introduced it into my teaching curriculum in the 1990s," she said. "I saw pickleball at a convention that I went to as a physical education instructor, and it caught my attention. It was something I thought, oh, I could do this in a gymnasium. I could make this work

for my students.

The following year, she dedicated her entire PE budget to buying pickle balls and paddles.

"They were only wooden paddles at the time, but it was enough to get it started," she said. "And I self-taught myself the game."

Years later, one of her platform tennis friends in Ocean Pines brought up pickleball. They went to the old racquet center, taped out some lines, brought in a portable net, and started to play.

"That was long before the whole idea of a pickleball club was established here," she said. "But I started playing more and more, and I found that I really, really liked the challenge."

Learning from the best

In 2018, a family situation drew Horst to Florida for three months over the winter.

"Pickleball was everywhere in Florida," she said. "My oldest son, who was a lawyer, gave me a phone number and said, 'Mom, I've got a friend who is just starting to teach down there, and they can give you some lessons.'"

The instructor was Leigh Waters. Her daughter, Anna Leigh Waters, is currently the number one ranked pickleball player in the world.

"She and her very young daughter started coaching me on a regular basis, every week. These people gave me my foundation," Horst said. "And, around that time, they decided to pair up and try a few tournaments as a mom daughter. Anna Leigh was only 12, but the rest is history, because they started blowing everybody out of the water."

Horst said the duo also got her interested in playing competitively.

"How can you not get hooked if you're playing with

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean Pines resident and world-class pickleball instructor Linda Horst is pictured playing at the racquet center.

people like that?" she said. "They were and still are very down to earth, but I had no idea what I was walking into in that situation, actually working with the no. 1 player in the world. I'm very fortunate."

Around that time, Leigh Waters introduced Horst to her mixed-doubles partner, Toby Kaye, who she has competed with several times at the U.S. Open and at the Pickleball National Championship in Arizona.

Horst won a silver medal for women's doubles at the U.S. Open in 2018 and a gold medal for mixed doubles in 2019. This year, she won gold medals in doubles and mixed doubles at the U.S. Open, and she qualified for the upcoming nationals.

"I don't care really about the medals – I love the people, I love the competition," Horst said. "I always want to know what do I still need to work on and how? What can I do to figure that out, because then I can bring it here to show people what they can work on."

In 2022, Horst took her education and her career as a teacher – along with her own championship pedigree – and started teaching pickleball in Ocean Pines. She became certified through several top pickleball agencies and got to work.

See PEOPLE Page 17

Responders work fast to extinguish OP fire

Ocean Pines, multiple agencies partner on response, credit ‘quick action of the initial caller’ to stop spread

(July 11, 2024) Members of the Ocean Pines and other neighboring fire departments worked together last week to put out a blaze inside a home in the 100 block of Ocean Parkway.

According to a news release from the Ocean Pines volunteer department, crews were called out to the residence last Wednesday, July 3, for report of fire and smoke coming from a crawl space.

Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Rob Korb arrived first and saw “heavy smoke coming from the living room.”

Crews from Engine 1102 and Ladder 6 quickly began removing sections of the living room floor to access the crawl space, and once they got in, they found the fire. The firefighters managed to put out the flames which

mainly damaged the crawl space and the first floor above it.

“Thanks to the quick action of the initial caller, more serious damage was avoided,” the release said. “Always remember to call 9-1-1 as soon as you think there might be an emergency because fire spreads fast.”

Because of the time of day and high temperatures, the release said extra help was called in from nearby fire departments, including the Showell Volunteer Fire Department, Berlin Fire Company, Ocean City Fire Department, Willards Volunteer Fire Company and Selbyville Fire Company.

While dealing with the fire, Ocean Pines EMS was alerted to two other medical emergencies, which Showell EMS covered via a mutual aid agreement between the departments.



PHOTO COURTESY LT. JOE ENSTE

Damage is pictured to the interior of a home in the 100 block of Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines after a fire broke out July 3 in the crawl space.

Teens arrested for trying to steal cars in OP

Police arrest two juveniles for smashing four vehicles’ windows in theft attempts

(July 11, 1024) Two teenagers were arrested over the weekend for reportedly breaking into and vandalizing vehicles in Ocean Pines.

According to a news release from the police department, officers responded around 3:30 a.m. Friday, July 5, to a home on Garrett Drive that had been broken into. The vehicle’s alarm went off, alerting the resident,

who went outside and discovered a side window smashed and a door ajar.

Officers reportedly saw two people, later identified as a 15-year-old from Ocean Pines and a 14-year-old from Harrisonburg, Pennsylvania, run away into the woods. Officers chased the two young men and requested help from other law enforcement officials. Officers from the Maryland State Police, Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and a K-9 from the Pocomoke City Police responded, and together they apprehend the juveniles, according to the release.

During an investigation of the incident, law enforcement officials discovered two more vehicles on Falonbridge Road and Fantail Court that has been broke into. All of the vehicles were Kias and had smashed windows. The officers determined that the teens were trying to steal the vehicles.

A couple of days earlier, on July 3, an officer took a report for another incident involving a smashed window of a Kia that occurred overnight. They believe the same juveniles are involved in that as wall.

Both of the teens were taken to the Ocean Pines police station where the investigation continued, and their families were contacted. The juveniles, who face charges of malicious destruction of property and attempted motor vehicle theft, were released pending formal action by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, the release said.

Anyone with information about the incidents, who anyone else who believes their vehicle was broken into, is asked to contact the Ocean Pines Police Department at 410-641-7747.

‘People are the No. 1 asset of pickleball’

Continued from Page 16

“What players will get from me is a lot of experience and a very unique teaching style,” Horst said. “I use a lot of visualization with crazy analogies. I’ll use the words ‘Amazon smile’ for a swing path, or I’ll tell them to turn the flashlights on their shoulders in certain directions if they want the ball to go somewhere. I found that approach works very well.”

Horst teaches players and groups in virtually all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

“We all work together and try to help each other just get better because, if I can make the level of play here better, that benefits everyone,” she said. “We all have the notion that Ocean Pines is going to be known as a really good center to go to play pickleball. The quality of the courts is getting better all the time, and there’s

not another facility in this area that’s this big.”

This summer, Horst will lead a kids’ camp on July 15-17, and regular clinics for all ages and skill levels are scheduled throughout the year.

“In August and September, we’ll do more beginner classes, beginner sessions, intermediate sessions, all different things,” she said. “I’ll be teaching a variety of whatever people want to learn.”

A family affair

A career teacher, championship player, and coach, Horst said it all comes from her family background.

“We are a very competitive family, and my children achieved umpteen things in the world of athletics,” she said. “My oldest, Bobbi-Jo, was an athlete and she still does a lot in her life. When she was in high school, she

won the state championship in basketball. My next child is Steven. When he was in high school, he set records for the number of goals scored in soccer and points in basketball, and he was an All-American in Division III college basketball and had a great career.”

Her youngest, David, went on to become a professional Major League Soccer player and played Division I soccer at Old Dominion.

“But we just we had fun, and we learned so much from each other,” she said. “Now all our families are involved, and it’s been great. I have nine grandchildren – and six of them play pickleball.”

When everyone comes to visit, Horst said, she and her husband, and their children and grandchildren can take up three or four courts at once.

“We love it,” she said. “They’re all

competitive to a degree in sports, and they just love having fun. And when they come here, it’s the first thing that’s announced – ‘When are we going down to the courts?’ I love that. I love being with my family, and I love teaching both kids and adults. That’s been a real blessing in my life.”

More than anything, Horst added that she enjoys the people.

“The people are the No. 1 asset of pickleball, whether it be my students, my friends, my competitors, or my partners,” she said. “They have made me a better teacher, and they have actually made me a better person.”

To contact Horst about pickleball lessons in Ocean Pines, email pgasoccer@gmail.com.

For more information on the Ocean Pines Racquet Center, visit oceanpines.org/web/pages/racquet-sports.

Puzzles

MISSTATED
BY GINNY TOO / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Ginny Too, of Philadelphia, is a vice president of customer retention at Comcast. She started solving crosswords on the Appalachian Trail, sharing clues from a Times desk calendar with her hiking buddies. She has since completed the Pacific Crest Trail and the Continental Divide Trail (both running from Canada to Mexico), usually with the crossword as a companion. This puzzle was inspired by her father, whose love of silly puns spans English, Mandarin and Taiwanese Hokkein.

ACROSS

1 Say "Another great thing about me ...," say

5 Baltimore squad, casually

10 Turkic tongue

15 "I'll return shortly," in shorthand

18 Experience

19 Shapeshift

20 Emirati's neighbor

21 Feast often concluded with haupia (coconut pudding)

22 Getaway driver's plan, obviously?

24 Desires

25 Octopus's octet

26 Staple of '80s pop

27 Graphing-calculator button

28 "She sure runs fast!"?

30 "Human beef" and "Chicken pox pie" on a menu, one hopes

32 Preps for framing, as a photo

33 Where fairy-tale creatures often live

34 Captain and nine crew members?

37 Bust

38 Ones living a lavish lifestyle, in slang

41 Film unit

42 Like braids and some breads

45 Jaded miner's remark?

47 Preferring platonic relationships, informally

48 Words after "Mamma mia!" in "Bohemian Rhapsody"

50 Bhagavad (Hindu scripture)

51 Coke-ette?

56 Sandy springs

57 "What a pity"

59 Real

60 Actress Kendrick, when appearing in smaller films?

62 Time of one's life

63 Perform better than

65 Like yesterday's bread, compared with today's

67 Core components

70 PC-sensitive, in a way?

74 Day before domingo

77 One of several named in a will

79 The same

80 "You realize this is a silent meditation, right?"

82 Cornucopia, essentially

83 Floral brew

85 Ring call, for short

86 Considered buying that garden tool?

90 Subject of a common phobia

93 Taiwanese tech company

94 Unswayable

95 Obvious name for a pet lion

96 "Wait ... can we not play this in F sharp instead?"

98 River in a classic dad joke

99 Landlocked African country

101 Quick-cooking noodles

102 "Mm-hmm, get a little nearer"?

106 When doubled, a rebuke

107 Spanish wine region

111 "Got it"

112 What a glass of cold water forms on a hot day

113 Parent's encouragement to a budding chef?

115 Box

116 Inspiration for the jokes in this puzzle's theme

117 Ancient region bordering the Aegean Sea

118 Excess

119 Sassy retort

120 Rulers used to make many crosswords?

121 Like a good day for kite-flying

122 Miffed

11 Hoard

12 Black and (beer cocktails)

13 Like Gandhi

14 Meat-filled puff

15 Frowned-upon sound

16 Way up

17 Word with body or work

21 Successfully nested, say

23 Actor Matthew of "The Americans"

28 Ticked off

29 Author Émile

31 Zip

32 Sheep product

34 Public transportation option around Hong Kong

35 Haunting

36 Eye-catching shades

37 German article

38 Heckles, in a way

39 Poker action

40 Long-necked instrument

43 In the style of

44 South Asian

46 Zip

49 V-six or V-twelve?

52 Figure skater Midori

53 Like Mecca and Medina

54 Pride : lion :: raft :

55 Poker action

57 Cloisonné technique

58 1990s fitness craze

60 "Invisible Cities" author Calvino

61 Poet who wrote "Behold the duck/ It does not cluck"

64 Bordeaux red

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	
18					19						20						21			
22					23						24						25			
26						27				28							29			
				30		31				32				33						
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77			78					79						80					81	
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86					87	88	89			90					91	92		93		
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										95										
102	103	104								105				106			107	108	109	110
111															114					
115																		118		
119																			122	

66 Zodiac animal that spells another if you change its last letter to "t"

67 Long

68 Gloating winner's exclamation

69 What surfers and guitarists can do, in slang

71 Genie's gift

72 " and the Bee" (2006 film)

73 Double-knotted, say

75 Leave behind

76 Harmonious, in a way

78 Put in harm's way

80 Sad trombone sound

81 Reason for an R rating

84 Source of confidence

87 Certain camarade

88 Fish whose left eye migrates to its right side as it ages (!?)

89 Unity

91 "Eureka!"

92 Total

93 They may be striped at ice-cream shops

97 Sub

99 Chest material

100 Padlock parts

101 What's left of the Colosseum

102 A tourist may have one

103 "Sunday N.F.L. Countdown" ailer.

104 Assessment of a situation

105 Hindu god of death

106 10 hundos

108 Where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented

109 "Belle de _____," 1967 Catherine Deneuve film

110 Poker action

113 Freak (out)

114 Elided agreement

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HARD - 30

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

ALGA	PIAF	PAWL	TINSEL
HARP	INCATRAIL	OLEOLE	
AMERICAN	GOTHIC	PERMIT	
AID	SEINE	CINDERS	
INVOICE	NEARSPACE	POE	
GUERNICA	MAHER	PITA	
ATSIGN	THESTARRY	NIGHT	
	CUTEY	EMU	EON
LEBANON	REID	ONSTAGE	
ABATE	INBUD	TARTT	ROD
GIRLWITH	HAPEAR	LEARRING	
EKE	TCELL	ADOBO	INANE
REDHAIR	PLOP	OGLALAS	
	IKE	WEE	RINSE
THEPERS	ISTENCE	TROPPO	
WADS	LIARS	OFMEMORY	
EPI	AIRGUITAR	LEANOTOS	
REFORMS	OCULI	LIT	
KNIVES	PAINTBY	NUMBERS	
ENCASE	AMBI	VERTS	URAL
DYELOT	LIMA	NASA	SYFY

Grant funds 12 interpretive signs to document history

Details of each lower shore site’s significance included to explain local heritage

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) An Eastern Shore-focused nonprofit group, Beach to Bay Heritage Area, recently received a grant to develop African American products, including 12 interpretive signs across Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

The group defines itself as a “grassroots, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to preserve, protect, and promote the cultural, natural, and historical heritage” of the Eastern Shore counties. The interpretive signs aid in that effort.

Worcester County Public Works assisted in the installation of two signs at the Germantown School Community Heritage Center and the New Bethel United Methodist Church, both in Berlin. The signs give a concise history of the site’s importance.

The structure at the Germantown School details the facility’s past. It was built during a time when it was illegal for black and white children to

receive an education together. “The school closed in the late 1950s, and on Dec. 11, 1962, the Board of Education sold the site to the Worcester County Highway Association for \$1,” the marking reads.

The building was converted into a truck and storage garage. In the late 1990s, community members raised money to restore the structure, intending to preserve its history. Renovation was completed in 2013, and now, “the former school serves as a museum and community gathering place.”

On June 14, a sign was also placed on Willow Street in Pocomoke City at the Sturgis One Room Schoolhouse. Worcester County Public Works completed the installation.

The markings detail the African American experience on the shore and the impact these individuals have had on the region’s development and heritage. The Pocomoke sign explains that the Sturgis School is one of the last remaining one-room learning buildings intended to educate African American children in Worcester County. The structure now acts as a museum.

“These sites were chosen for their significant contributions to the lower



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

One of the new signs detailing the historic significance of the Sturgis One Room Schoolhouse is pictured with volunteers and public works crews after installation.

Eastern Shore ...,” Beach to Bay Heritage Area Executive Director Lisa Challenger said. “The signs are designed to present history in a brief and accessible way. It is important to showcase our heritage and allow people, both visitors and residents, to understand better the place they visit or call home. This discovery enriches a person’s experience when exploring

the shore.” Challenger said that the QR code on each sign directs visitors to a page on their website that provides more information on the black heritage of the lower Eastern Shore. The organization is also in the process of finalizing three murals, including one that will be located at the Henry Hotel in Ocean City.

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Photo by Ray Bojarski

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

AT PEPPER CREEK

Calendar

Thurs., July 11

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHT
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy a free concert and sunset views over the Isle of Wight Bay. Featuring “Chris English Band” (traditional and original blues). <http://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/>

CONCERT IN THE PARK
White Horse Park Pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, 7-9 p.m. Featuring “Uptown Band.” Free family-friendly entertainment. Bring chairs and blankets. BYOB permitted, concessions for sale. Held Thursdays through Aug. 22. 410-641-7052

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

STORY TIME AT THE PARK
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 10:30 a.m. Join in and wiggle, sing and read interactive stories together. Story time will be at the picnic pavilion by the playground. Rain location is inside the Ocean City Library. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818

STORY TIME: THE ADVENTURES OF BEEKLE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Have you ever wondered what lies beyond your world? Beekle is off on an adventure to discover it. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OMAZING YOGA ADVENTURE
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. The group will stretch and move their bodies, learn breathing techniques and relax together, while having fun and being silly. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, 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

LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12:30 p.m. Join in for a LEGO challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-12 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TRIVIA: THE 90S
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m.

Test your knowledge and luck with our monthly trivia. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OMAZING YOGA ADVENTURE
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, 2-3 p.m. The group will stretch and move their bodies, learn breathing techniques and relax together, while having fun and being silly. For ages 6-11 years. 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., July 12

37TH ANNUAL OC TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet Isle Lane, 4-8 p.m. Weigh-ins also at Sunset Marina. Both establishments offer top notch accommodations. Local vendors at the OC Fishing Center. <https://octunatournament.com>, 410-213-1121

SUMMER KICKOFF SKATE BASH
Ocean City Town Skate Park, Third Street, Ocean City, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Kick off the opening of the new expansion and renovations at Ocean Bowl Skate Park. Featuring free skating, live music, refreshments, best trick contests and prize drawings. 410-250-0125

40TH ANNUAL OCEAN PINES · TAYLOR BANK GOLF SCRAMBLE'S PLAYERS AND SPONSORS DEADLINE
Takes place July 17 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Public entry fee is \$120. Tee sponsorships available. Pick up sponsorship forms at the Ocean Pines Golf Club or download forms at oceanpinesgolf.org. 571-239-8469

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Summer sewing workshop for ages 8 years and older. The group will be working on beginner pillowcases. Cost is \$20. Register: Debbie, 443-430-4948.

BABY TIME
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and finger plays. For ages 0-2 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STEAM SOCIAL
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join in for an hour of open-ended STEAM activities. Build, experiment and create with a variety of materials. For

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

ages 5 years and older. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ARTISTIC ARENA: BUILD A BOAT
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Design and build a boat to adventure on the seven seas. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER
Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Single crab cake sandwich platter cost is \$14, two crab cake sandwich platter is \$24 and a crab cake sandwich is \$10. Bake sale available. Eat in or carry out. Platters: green beans, potato, Cole slaw.

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO
Fridays - Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, behind St. Luke’s Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks available before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

Sat., July 13

37TH ANNUAL OC TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet Isle Lane, 4-8 p.m. Weigh-ins also at Sunset Marina. Both establishments offer top notch accommodations. Local vendors at the OC Fishing Center. <https://octunatournament.com>, 410-213-1121

SPORTS CARDS AND MEMORABILIA SHOW
Hooper’s Crab House & Sneaky Pete’s, rear deck, 12913 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring an appearance by former Major League Baseball pitcher Dwight “Doc” Gooden from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Autographs for \$30, photo op for \$30 or both for \$50. Admission cost is \$5.

FURNACE TOWN SUMMER MUSIC SERIES
Furnace Town Historic Site (Nasawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 5-8 p.m. Music by The Folk Villains. Beer, wine, burgers and dogs available. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5-15 years. www.furnacetown.org/events

REGGAE AT THE GERMANTOWN SCHOOL
Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 6-9 p.m. Featuring “Island Sounds.” Hot dog, chips and soda for \$5. Bring your cooler, chairs and picnic basket. Tickets cost \$10. Tickets: 410-641-0638.

THE DELMARVA CHORUS PRESENTS ‘COFFEE, TEA & JUKEBOX HARMONY’
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235

Ocean Parkway, 7 p.m. Complimentary coffee, tea and homemade desserts; door prizes; 50/50 raffle; raffle baskets; and more. Tickets cost \$15. Elaine, 410-703-1262; Candy, 610-506-7714

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 and vendors. Reservations: 443-614-2261, fcbumc21811@gmail.com.

BELIEVE IN TOMORROW PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 8 a.m. For skill levels 2.5-4.0. Cost is \$45 plus \$25 per bracket and includes breakfast, snacks, lunch, beverages and prizes. BelieveInTomorrow.org/Pickleball

KIWANIS SUMMER PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Ocean Pines Community Center - Assateague Room, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, coffee, tea and orange juice. Cost is \$9, but children 11 years and younger, eat free. Take out available. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. The speaker will cover bow fishing for the elusive snakehead. Also other topics for local fishing, charter trips and regulation updates. All welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

CRAFTY SATURDAY: BE KIND TO YOUR MIND
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Create some calming crafts at the library. For all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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. For all ages. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SOUND BATH EXPERIENCE
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Join Kacey Martin, certified Sound Bath Practitioner, on an immersive journey of meditative escape for the mind, body and spirit. Registration required: 410-957-0878. 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

Calendar

something creative with them and for them. Projects change each week. No reservations needed. Free and open to all. www.artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

CRABCAKE SANDWICH FUNDRAISER
St. Paul’s by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 12-7 p.m. Crabcake sandwich with lettuce, tomato, sauce and chips for \$12. Carry-out. Walk-in via Third Street entrance or drive-thru pick-up in the church alley (north side). Orders: office@stpauls-bythesea.org.

FELT SEA CREATURES
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1 p.m. Create cute felt sea creatures. Patterns will be available, or you can create your own. It’s a great activity for budding sexists and plushie fans. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650

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., July 14

37TH ANNUAL OC TUNA TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Fishing Center, 12940 Inlet Isle Lane, 4-7 p.m. Featuring weigh-ins, top notch accommodations and local vendors at the OC Fishing Center. <https://octunatournament.com>, 410-213-1121

SUNDAES IN THE PARK WITH FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Live music by “Making Waves” (upbeat dance), kid-friendly entertainment, ice cream and fireworks. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/sundaes-in-the-park/>

WRITERS GROUP
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 1-3 p.m. Monthly meetup with fellow writers. Share your writing (poetry or short prose) and receive feedback from your peers. Writers of all levels are welcome. 410-524-9433, www.artleagueofoceancity.org

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

SEWING FOR A CAUSE
Sundays - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

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/farmersmarket/>

Mon., July 15

OC BEACH DANCE PARTY WITH FIREWORKS
Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Beachside dance party featuring “BK & Chrissy” (from Radio Ocean City). Free fireworks show starts at 9 p.m. All ages welcome. <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/oc-beach-dance-party>

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE FOR TEENS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Create a real message in a bottle. Take it with you as a keepsake or leave it at the library to be released into the ocean. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: SHARKS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Summer story time about sharks to celebrate shark week. Stories, songs and activities. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER ARTS GROUP
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Bring your own fiber art project (crochet, knitting, etc.) and join in for a casual meet up to work on projects. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

JEWELRY MAKING
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. All supplies provided. Use beads and charms to create earrings. 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 Campion, 410-641-0157

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

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

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

Tues., July 16

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE FOR TEENS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Create a real message in a bottle. Take it with you as a keepsake or leave it at the library to be released into the ocean. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registration requested: 410-208-4014.

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Learn how marine animals move around underwater during a hands-on program with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. For ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Learn how marine animals move around underwater during a hands-on program with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

JR. LIFEGUARD CAMP
Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5:30-7 p.m., July 16-18. Must be a strong swimmer. For ages 7 years and older. Cost is \$75 for residents, \$80 for non-residents. Jr. Lifeguards receive T-shirt and whistle. Register: 410-641-5255, oceanpines.org.

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

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

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

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., July 17

STRANDED AT SEA: OC BAY HOPPER PROGRAM
OC Bay Hopper, 11703 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Professionals share true accounts of shipwrecks and rescues dating back to 1880. Cost is \$50 with half of proceeds benefit OCLSSM. 410-289-4991, <https://book.ocbayhopper.com/Experience>

MOVIES ON THE BEACH
Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m.,Featuring “Migration.” Enjoy free movies on the beach every Wednesday through the summer. Movie lineup: <https://www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun/>

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Online Zoom call on the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE FOR TEENS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Create a real message in a bottle. Take it with you as a keepsake or leave it at the library to be released into the ocean. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FANDOM WEDNESDAY: FAIRIES/FAE
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-
Continued on Page 22

Calendar

Continued from Page 21
6 p.m. Drop in any time for crafts, quizzes and discussions about the monthly topic. For ages 12-18 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. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn how marine animals move around underwater during a hands-on program with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BACKGAMMON CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of Backgammon. All

skill levels welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FOAM MARBLING PAPER
Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. All supplies provided. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

COOKS-N-BOOKS: ADVENTURES AROUND THE WORLD
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Choose a book from the display and make a dish to share. Registration necessary: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, bglime@atlanticgeneral.org

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
Ocean Pines Yacht Club Pool, 1 Mumfords Landing Road, 6-8 p.m. Featuring swimming, DJ, games and prizes. Cost is

\$3 for swim members; \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-resident. No cost if not swimming. Food available. Wednesdays through Aug. 21. 410-641-7052

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING
Wednesdays through Aug. 26 - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and information can be found on www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

NAO TRINIDAD IN OCEAN CITY
Chicago Avenue and 3rd Street, bayside, Ocean City, June 28 through Sept. 1, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Nao Trinidad was the flagship of the Magellan-Elcano expedition, leading the first sailing around the world between 1519 and 1522. Tickets: <https://tickets.naotrinidad.org/content>

QUEEN OF HEARTS
Weekly virtual drawings on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Winner receives 60 percent of jackpot. www.opvfd.com/queen-of-hearts. Sponsored by the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

SUMMER STORY WALK
John Walter Smith Park, 6030 Public Landing Road, Snow Hill, from June 24

through August 24. Visit the Story Walk any time this summer and enjoy the book "This Moose Belongs to Me." Activity posted for a special summer reading prize.

OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RAFFLE
Win a 2024 F-150 4X4 Supercrew 5.0L V8. Tickets cost \$100. All registration, sale, etc. expenses covered by O.P.V.F.D. Drawing will take place when all of the tickets have been sold. For more information: www.opvfd.com/f-150.

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.

PIRATE ADVENTURE MURAL
Pocomoke library, 301 Market Street, Pocomoke City, from June 17 through August 24. Every week will feature a different craft to add to your pirate ship mural. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don's Seafood & Chop House at the South Gate of Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com



OPEN HOUSES

July 11 - 18



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Daily 11am-3pm	14 82nd Street, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Townhomes	from \$800,000's	Dan Clayland/Coldwell Banker Realty
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 10am-Noon	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1-3pm	377 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Fri & Sat Noon-3pm	121 81st St. 3 #706, Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	36937 Creek Haven Drive, Selbyville	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$759,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Tuesday 10am-Noon	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Tuesday 2-4pm	121 81st Street #706, Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	61 Grand Port Road, Ocean Pines	2BR/1.5BA	Single Family	\$609,900	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 11am-1pm	8 60th St., #301, Meridian	4BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$975,000	Lauren Bunting/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Friday 2-4pm	18 69th #15 St., Summer Palace, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,000	Justin Damadio/Iron Valley Real Estate
Saturday 10am-Noon	18 69th #15 St., Summer Palace, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,000	Justin Damadio/Iron Valley Real Estate
Friday 1-am-Noon	409 Sandyhill Drive, Montego Bay, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$355,000	Justin Damadio/Iron Valley Real Estate
Saturday 2-4pm	409 Sandyhill Drive, Montego Bay, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$355,000	Justin Damadio/Iron Valley Real Estate
Friday 2-4pm	9 Brandywine Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$544,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-12:30pm	407 Charlotte Court, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$899,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 2-4pm	36 Juneway Lane, Ocean Pines	5BR/4BA	Single Family	\$649,900	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 10am-12:30pm	11000 Coastal Hwy. #1703, Capri, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$530,000	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	11000 Coastal Hwy. #1703, Capri, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$530,000	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	14 68th St. #203 Sea Lodge, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$434,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	315 Sunset Drive #202, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$289,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate

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Worcester tech students go to Georgia for competition

SkillsUSA national contest brings students together to compete in expertise areas

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 11, 2024) Students from Worcester Technical High School completed a successful run at the 2024 SkillsUSA national competition in Atlanta, Georgia, last month.

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit organization that serves students across the United States enrolled in training programs for trade, technical, and skilled service occupations through their school's chapter. The group is dedicated to developing employability and creating an education that meets the workforce's needs.

Each June, SkillsUSA hosts a national competition where students can demonstrate the abilities they have learned and expanded on in the previous school year.

The contests were held from June 24 to June 28 at the Georgia World Congress Center. Worcester County students demonstrated their skills in various career and technical categories.

"The event gets the kids out among their peers and connects them with possible future employers," Worcester Tech Welding Instructor and SkillsUSA Advisor Rick Stephens said. "The industry is out there sponsoring these contests. Toyota and Honda are there for the automotive category. They get to meet people across the country and show their skills."

Students Maddison French, Catherine Miller and Julia Knerr received fourth place in the American Spirit contest. According to Worcester Tech Special Education Assistant Tammy Hearne, the group is responsible for highlighting what the chapter has done throughout the year to demonstrate community service, citizenship, patriotism, and career and technology education.

Hearne said that to showcase these priorities, the Worcester team underscored the creation of Valentine's Day cards for Gull Creek nursing home residents as part of an anti-loneliness initiative. They also emphasized a presentation on human trafficking and safety created by the criminal justice interns.

"It's a year-long project," Hearne said. "They demonstrate and promote their chapter's events while showing off their communication,

job, and personal skills."

Lillian Jones, Kyleigh Powell, and Alayna Spagnola, who completed the human trafficking presentation to their peers, placed sixth in the career pathways human services category. Keith Savage got fifth in Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair, and Christofer Villarreal was eighth in computer programming.

Skyler Nottingham received sixth place in the advertising design competition, which tests students' technical skills and creative aptitude in a professional advertising agency setting.

The category requires competitors to complete a written test and recreate a provided advertisement on a computer. The students are judged on their accuracy, proficiency with industry software, and ability to meet deadlines.

Mandy Chau placed eighth in the medical math competition. Contestants demonstrated their proficiency in mathematical concepts within the healthcare lens. They performed a written test that was likely to include ratio and proportion, dosage calculation, metric and household equivalents, Roman numerals, abbreviations, and other medical math-related problems.

Worcester County middle school students also competed in Georgia. Cecilia Diehlman and Catrina Donmoyer placed second in mobile robotics. At the same time, Asher Nichols and Nodish Gupta received third in Robotics Urban Search and Rescue, which requires teams to build a robot and arm mechanism before the competition. The machine must be capable of "locating, grabbing, and moving simulated ordnances on the challenge course."

Worcester Tech students first competed at the local and state levels to qualify for nationals. In the Maryland-wide contest, Stephens said 65% of Worcester Tech participants placed in the top three of their respective categories.

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