



RENDERING COURTESY MODES ARCHITECTURE

A Microtel Inn as it would look on Route 113 according to its current design. The Berlin Planning Commission wants something more in the spirit of the town's architecture.

Microtel just can't make P&Z happy

Developer's counsel scolds commission for its failure to define what it wants

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission heard concept plans, once again, for the proposed Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham on Wednesday, July 10, when the group showed dissatisfaction with the developer's apparent lack of attention to Berlin's historic character in the outlined architecture. As a result, the commission took no formal action.

Developers approached the Berlin Planning Commission in March with a plan to build a four-story, 78-unit Microtel Inn and Suites on the east side

'It's clear from tonight you are not going to tell this developer what needs to be done for site plan approval!'
— Attorney Mark Cropper

of Route 113 near Franklin Avenue. Since then, three members of the commission and the builders have discussed how to ensure the hotel matches the town's aesthetics and remains safe.

The planning commission heard the amended concept plans last week, as they told developers at a previous meeting that they wanted to see architecture more aligned with downtown Berlin's historic charm. Since those discussions, brick at the facility's entrance, an enclosure for the pool, cornices, Victorian-style lights, and mature trees were added to the outline.

The developers maintained the plans have adequate room for emergency access, vehicles, and trash trucks and that the arrangements for storm water and landscaping are the

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OPA, fire dept. sign agreement

Groups wrap up eight months of negotiating with detailed memorandum

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department signed an agreement last week after approximately eight months of negotiations to ensure the department is set up for years to come.

"The MOU (memorandum of understanding) is in perpetuity," OPVFD President Joe Enste said. "There are specific years and terms around the new south station and the apparatus replacement schedule, but we worked collaboratively with the OPA board, with our general counsel, and our membership to make sure that the department is going to be set



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA President Rick Farr reflects the mood as Ocean Pines Fire Department President Joe Enste signs a memorandum of understanding that took eight months to negotiate.

up for the future ... there are a lot of things we wanted to do to make sure the relationship we had is as solid as

it could be moving forward, and we can leave a lasting legacy here for an-

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Microtel told to reflect Berlin's uniqueness

Continued from Page 1

same. They said the bulk of the changes come from an architectural perspective.

Still, members of the planning group were unhappy with the proposed building's overall "box" appearance.

"Looking at the current plan, it doesn't work to me," Commissioner Pete Cosby said. "The colors, the architecture, it just doesn't work ... We talked about getting Victorian street-lamps; you have three, but not throughout the project. It is just incoherent."

Mark Cropper, attorney for applicant Thomas Zambetis, argued that creating a site plan with zero architectural guidelines is difficult. Berlin has no commercial design guidelines for developers to follow.

However, Cosby maintained the town does have a code that requires developers to "enhance the town's historic architectural character and uniqueness."

The hotel, the commissioner said, fails to accomplish this task.

"There is no way this building does anything for the uniqueness of Berlin," he said. "This is a corporate building."

Cosby referenced the Microtel in West Ocean City, noting that the structure is "conducive to the area" and that the proposed Berlin facility is a "far cry from the architecture of Berlin."

Cropper said that the commission is trying to get them to meet regulations that do not exist. "I am trying to get specifics to meet the target," he said. "Either you can do that, or you can't."

The commissioners maintained that they want a hotel in Berlin. However, they struggled to approve a "computer box." Despite the changes, the group argued that they could not see Berlin's charm in the proposed plans.

Cropper recalled when the county, "back in the Walmart days," would deny site plans because they were unhappy with the look of the buildings. He said they realized this was unreasonable unless they adopted architectural guidelines. The applicant's representative urged the Town of Berlin to do the same.

"We all understand what you are trying to achieve. The problem is the manner in which you are trying to achieve it," Cropper said. "At some point, if a developer does A, B, C & D, a developer is entitled to site plan approval. The problem is you have a developer in front of you trying to truly hit a nonexistent target. It's clear from tonight you are not going to tell this developer what needs to be done for site plan approval. I just want you to understand the position this is putting my client in and quite frankly the authority of this planning commission. You have authority per the

Berlin code ... we are trying to be responsive and cooperative but it's a two-way street. ... we are told to return with something different but there's no guidance or details to go by. We are trying to get there but this is a hard arena to work in when there's nothing to work through."

As the discussion continued, the commissioners proposed moving the location of the pool and adding additional parking spaces between the hotel and the highway. The group also recommended more mature trees along the road and tall-growing vegetation. They said they would be more likely to approve the facility if it was not visible to drivers.

"You have to look at what is in Berlin and come up with something acceptable to this commission," Cosby said.



RENDERING COURTESY MODES ARCHITECTURE

As currently proposed, the 78-unit Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham will be located on the east side of Route 113 across from the highway from Berlin Intermediate School.

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Attendees to Monday evening's interfaith prayer service are pictured personally connecting on the grounds of the veterans memorial off Route 589.

Prayer service held in effort to bring residents together

Dozens turn out to support country, each other after shocking national event

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation and Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) hosted an interfaith “Prayer Service for Our Country” on Monday, July 15, to foster unity following the attempted assassination attempt of former United States President Donald Trump.

On Saturday, July 13, Trump was speaking at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, when a 20-year-old male opened fire. The former president narrowly missed the bullet. One spectator was killed, while two others were critically injured.

The Monday night event occurred at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. Carozza said that she received a text message from OPA resident Marcy Prezioso proposing a prayer service, and the gathering was efficiently planned in collaboration with the memorial’s foundation.

“I thought it was an outstanding idea and a perfect event to unify at the local level as Americans,” she said.

President of the memorial, Marie Gilmore, underscored the necessity of the service.

“As the horrifying events of Saturday night were unfolding, I could not help but despair over how our country had changed,” she said. “In big cities and small towns, violence is replacing civilians. This country needs to return to the Judeo-Christian values it was formed.”

“It is time to tamp down the rhetoric and find a way to resolve our differences peacefully,” she continued. “It is a time for prayer. It is by the

grace of God that a past president, a past commander in chief, is alive today ... prayer is powerful.”

Leaders from various religious centers in the area were in attendance. Reverend Dale Brown of Community Church at Ocean Pines prompted attendees to join hands as he led the crowd in prayer.

“Help us to see each other not as enemies but as brothers and sisters and friends,” he said. “Help us be willing to make the first move to step across the line to say, ‘I want to get to know you better. How can we work together?’ Help us as a nation care for those most vulnerable... Help us to love in a way that...welcomes everyone, particularly the stranger. Help us always to love our enemies. In doing so, we show the best of who we are.”

Pastor Peggy Briggs from St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and Father Lance Martin from St. Mary Star of the Sea Holy Savior Catholic Church were also present, where they preached unity and looked past the political differences of our neighbors. The Delmarva Chorus sang God Bless America to round out the event.

Carozza said that in preparation for the Monday night service, she recalled the book Patriotic Grace by Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan. The senator said the book is integral in reaffirming that Americans must face everyday challenges together.

“The book asks key questions like, ‘Can we continue as a sovereign nation as peace with itself?’” Carozza said. “After 9/11, we came together as a country and united as Americans. As time passed, we have lost that depth of unity. Still, Saturday’s attempted assassination attempt of a former president and the killing of an innocent bystander ... is an opportunity to approach our political discourse in a new way.”

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‘Runaway Bride’ run, walk event scheduled for July 27

Mile-long course to start, end for participants in front of Taylor House Museum

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) Fans of the Julia Roberts-led and Berlin-filmed “Runaway Bride” will get the chance to participate in a Fun Run and Walk to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the movie’s release. As they race down the town streets, participants are encouraged to sport wedding and bridesmaid dresses, suits, all-white looks, and tuxedo t-shirts.

The mile-long race will be held on Saturday, July 27, at 8:15 a.m. Runners will begin on Main Street in front of the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, pass iconic movie locations like Raynes Reef and the Atlantic Hotel and finish at the museum lawn.

Once all participants return to the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, they can take photos and listen to hits from the movie’s soundtrack. Some attendees will receive awards and prizes.

Worcester GOLD, a nonprofit that aids low-income county residents, is the designated event charity. According to the group’s executive director, Nicholas Cranford, the run, which costs \$20 to participate in, will raise funds for their Emergency Financial Assistance Program. The initiative provides monetary support for households experiencing an urgent need for housing, utilities, food, medicine, etc. Cranford said Worcester GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) served over 1,000 families in 2023.

The idea for the fun run came from Berlin resident Theresa Gardiner. “[Gardiner], who has a passion for fundraising, connected the dots on raising money for a worthy cause while creating a fun celebration to commemorate the filming of Runaway Bride,” Cranford noted. “She is the one who worked with the Town of Berlin and the Chief of Police to get necessary approvals.”

Gardiner contacted the Worcester GOLD director in March. The planning for the run has been ongoing ever since.

First, second, and third-place runners and the best-dressed and best-dressed group will receive prizes. Cranford said that organizers are still gathering awards. They currently have Vernon Powell gift cards, a framed photo featuring Assateague Island from Mary Fiore Photography, a basket from Skin Fitness, a Berlin-themed tote bag from Victorian Charm, a \$100 Sandal’s Bridal gift card, and free gold rounds from Old Pro Golf.

“Runaway Bride,” released on July 30, 1999, was directed by Garry Marshall and stars Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. Paramount Pictures produced the film, turning the small quint Town of Berlin into the movie’s setting of the fictional Hale, Maryland.

“The production people flew into Salisbury and came into town on a bus and toured the town,” Ellen Lang, a former town council member, told The Dispatch in 2019. “Garry Marshall decided it was just like a Hollywood set.”

Berlin resident and real estate agent Cam Bunting told The Dispatch that while filming, she secured private homes for Gere and Joan Cusack while the director stayed at the Atlantic Hotel.

The fun run’s sponsors include Belle of the Ball Weddings, Catharsis Counseling, Thistle Wedding Event Florist, Coastal 59 Venue, Barefoot Bride Weddings, Jun and Juice, Skin Fitness, Tracks and Yaks, Poole Contracting, Ocean Pines Handyman, Sandal’s Bridal, Bank of Ocean City, Honey Water Candles, and Ocean City Florist.

“I only know from all of the people I’ve talked to that the filming in Berlin and other locations had a massive impact on not just Berlin but all of Worcester County,” Cranford said. “I think this area was a hidden gem unearthed around that time, and the town has exploded since then. The event celebrates this community and its successful growth without compromising its identity.”

Organizers of the “Runaway Bride” themed race expect around 150 to 200 attendees. Spectators are welcome to gather on the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum lawn to see the runners off and then journey to the Berlin Brewing Company to watch them cross the finish line.

“Planning this event has allowed me to hear so many personal stories about how this film impacted the community’s people,” Cranford said. “There is a profound effect to seeing big Hollywood actors in a scene outside where you’ve had brunch.”

The Worcester GOLD director noted that participants and spectators are encouraged to visit the “Runaway Bride” filming exhibit at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum following the event.

The deadline to enter the race is July 24 at 1 p.m. Participants can register at runsignup.com.

‘The event celebrates this community and its successful growth without compromising its identity.’

Worcester GOLD executive director, Nicholas Cranford

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OPA, fire department have formal agreement

Continued from Page 1
other 50 years.”

Enste said that the board assembled a work group of OPA President Rick Farr, Vice President Stuart Lakernick and Director Jeff Heavner and approached the department to collaborate with him and Fire Chief Joe Widgeon to determine each party’s needs. The joint effort drafted the official MOU with Ocean Pines counsel Bruce Bright and the fire department’s counsel, Genevieve Macfarlane.

The agreement outlines the roles of the board of directors and the fire department.

Per the MOU, the department membership must consist of at least 20 members, including three active officers. All individuals must “reside within the effective radius of the department based on the location of the South Station.”

The fire company will provide Ocean Pines emergency medical services and fire and rescue protection. If roles change and expand over time, they “shall be determined with reference to the needs of OPA (as determined by OPA in consultation with the Department) and the requirements for the Department to maintain its standing as a volunteer fire company duly chartered and recog-

nized by the Worcester County Commissioners.”

The MOU also establishes funding arrangements for the OPVFD. The agreement states that the department must apply for and pursue the maximum available monetary support from the Worcester County Commissioners each year.

The document guarantees that the company will make a “diligent and organized effort” to garner private donors and fundraising initiatives, which must be communicated to the OPA Board of Directors six months in advance.

The department must also maintain a “Capital Replacement Reserve Schedule.” According to Enste, the fire company keeps a replacement schedule that evaluates the cost of apparatus across the country and how that compares to their current pieces.

“We figure out how much it is going to cost to replace this piece of apparatus and when it needs to be replaced based on our county charter,” the fire president said. “Our county charter says that front-line engines must be 20 years or less old, so each piece of apparatus we have has an age requirement. Then we will look at and say, ‘If it is going to cost this much money, and we need to replace

this in 20 years, how much money do we have to put away every single year to make sure we have that in 20 years from now?’ Every year, we try to reevaluate that to account and adjust for inflation.”

The reserve will be funded using a 25%/ 75% split, with the OPVFD contributing 25% of the yearly required reserve contribution and the OPA contributing 75%. This arrangement will be reassessed every five years.

The MOU specifies that if the department’s funding obtained by the commissioners and grants and fundraising activities is inadequate to meet the needs of the company and provide the agreed-upon services, they may submit a request for additional monetary support from OPA. In this case, the parties will meet for an official discussion.

The signed agreement outlines arrangements for constructing the new firehouse on the South Station Property, located at 911 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines.

Per the MOU, “OPA shall manage the construction on the South Station Property of a newly constructed firehouse to be utilized exclusively by the Department...The firehouse shall be constructed to meet industry standards set forth by the National Fire

Protection Association and all State and local regulatory requirements.”

The OPVFD will determine the design, interior dimensions, layout, color schemes, and furniture and have them approved by OPA. Upon the project’s completion, the department will pay all property taxes and maintenance associated with the South Station property and its improvements.

The MOU breaks down the initiative’s funding by the fire department and OPA. The agreement determines that the fire company will use “grant and bond funds previously secured toward the project’s construction cost. The department shall also utilize funds raised through charitable fundraising efforts or otherwise available for the Department for the project.”

Ocean Pines will be responsible for the remaining costs, “subject to OPA having exclusive control over the ultimate cost and scope of the project, as well as management after that.”

The fire company president said OPA General Manager John Viola is working on determining the next best steps for the new station. He hopes construction will be underway in the next year or two.

“We would not be here right now if not for the collaboration between the OPA Board of Directors and the OPVFD,” Enste said. “We have been in constant communication throughout the years, but this was another opportunity to sit down, pull back the curtain, and say, ‘how do we move forward and move forward in a way that is going to be beneficial to OPA and Ocean Pines Fire Department?’”

The OPA Board expressed their excitement at the newly outlined agreement.

“This is a huge win for the Ocean Pines Community, being able to provide public safety, having the state of our equipment that we have, they are going to have a state-of-the-art building that we are going to provide for them,” Farr said. “We had a great team to get this over the finish line.”

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Worcester to create special fund for cannabis revenue

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(July 18, 2024) Following no speakers during a required public hearing, the Worcester County Commissioners agreed this week to create a special revenue fund to collect dollars sent to the county by the state from cannabis sales.

On Tuesday, the commissioners reviewed a bill to create a Reinvestment and Repair Special Revenue Fund. In a memo to the commissioners, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Candace Savage detailed the special revenue fund connected to cannabis. She wrote, "The Maryland Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund receives money from one-time cannabis license conversion fees and 35% of cannabis sales and use tax. Maryland counties receiving cannabis funding under the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund are required to adopt a law establishing the purpose for which money received from the Fund may be used. Funds are distributed to counties proportionately based on the total cannabis possession charges within each jurisdiction between July 1, 2002, and January 1, 2023."

According to Savage's memo,

Worcester will receive 1.22% of the total funds with the first distribution of conversion fees and the sales tax for the 2023 calendar year amounting to \$369,473.

A public hearing was held on Tuesday as part of the bill introduction with no attendees making comments. Commissioner Caryn Abbott asked county attorney Roscoe Leslie if there were for specifics on where the funding would go.

"We tried to make it as a broad as possible and this is enabling legislation ...," Leslie said. "The decisions on how to spend the money will likely be done through the budget process so it will come before you," Leslie said.

According to the bill's language, "revenue paid into the Fund must be used for: funding community-based initiatives intended to benefit low-income community, community-based initiatives that serve disproportionately impact areas ... any related administrative expenses." Revenue can not be used for law enforcement, per the bill.

Commissioner Diana Purnell made a motion to approve with a second by Commissioner Eric Fiori. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

'New era of cooperation' begins

Continued from Page 8

Director Heavner echoed Farr's sentiments.

"This is indeed a new era of cooperation," he said. "...A carefully crafted memorandum of understanding will enable the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department to provide exceptional fire protection and emergency medical and rescue services for decades."

The fire company president said the MOU is necessary in part because the original agreement was ratified in 1975 and replaced with a new version in 1977. Since then, a plethora of ad-

dendums have been added, complicating the parties' relationship. As one of only ten recognized and chartered volunteer fire departments in Worcester County, having the support to provide emergency services effectively is vital.

"The MOU...aims to clarify the relationship and the responsibilities of each organization, ensuring a clear and effective partnership now and in the future," Enste said. "...For over 50 years, we have proudly served this community. And this new agreement... will allow us to continue serving for many years to come."

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AEDs now available in Berlin

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been installed in Berlin at the Welcome Center, Stephen Decatur Park and Henry Park as an added safety measure for emergent cardiac arrest incidents.

The Food and Drug Administration describes AEDs as a “type of computerized defibrillator that automatically analyzes the heart rhythm in people experiencing cardiac arrest. When appropriate, it delivers an electrical shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm.” The devices have now been added around town to protect residents and visitors in an unfortunate situation.

According to Berlin Special Project Administrator Kate Daub, the town has been looking to purchase the potentially life-saving appliances since 2023. Officials investigated the possibility of receiving Community Parks and Playground Program funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for purchasing the AEDs. However, they discovered the devices were ineligible for the CPP monetary support because their expected lifespan was less than 20 years.

“Since then, the Town of Berlin and the Parks Commission have been discussing ways to make the project feasible,” Daub said.

The installation was completed earlier this month, and the devices are fully operational. Daub said that the project’s total cost, including three AEDs and accessories and climate-controlled and monitored storage cabinets for each, was approximately \$7,500. Of that, \$6,700 was

donated by the Berlin Lions Club, a group dedicated to fostering a tight-knit community and helping those in need.

The remaining cost, as well as unexpected electrical maintenance that was discovered during installation, was covered by the Town of Berlin.

One AED has been placed at each site. Daub said the unit at Stephen Decatur Park is adjacent to the playground area near the parking lot, the device at Henry Park is on the outer wall near the restroom building, and the appliance at the Berlin Welcome Center is in the main foyer at the entrance. The defibrillators are available for public use 24/7.

“We recognize the vital role of AEDs in the chain of care during cardiac emergencies,” Daub noted. “It is crucial to place AEDs in high-traffic areas or locations where physical activity occurs to ensure public access to AEDs as an essential safety measure.”

Daub maintained that the venture was a collaboration between the town and the Berlin Lions Club.

“Their donation was crucial in providing the necessary funding to get the project off the ground,” she said.

The Berlin Electric Department and Public Works Department also diligently worked to ensure the installation was completed safely and the units were secured in readily accessible areas.

Daub urged residents with questions regarding the AEDs of their locations to contact her directly at 410-641-4002.



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
The Berlin Lions Club donated \$6,700 of the \$7,500 cost to install three Automated External Defibrillators in Berlin at the town’s welcome center and Decatur and Henry parks.

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Aquatics committee mulls future programs, projects

Advisory group provides concepts for full Ocean Pines board to consider

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) With summer officially in full swing, the Ocean Pines Association's Aquatics Advisory Committee is committed to providing a well-maintained and eventful pool experience for the community's residents.

Aquatics Committee Director Gary Miller said, after taking a hiatus from regular meetings over the winter, the group resumed meetings in February to discuss new proposals and priorities to bring to the OPA Board of Directors. The advisory panel is waiting to hear back from the governing body about a few recommendations.

Miller said the committee submitted proposed projects to the board during the budget process and recently resubmitted the ones they believed would have the most impact this summer. For instance, the group recommended that the association reinstate evening classes at Mumford's Landing pool.

"Before COVID-19, a popular aerobics class was held at 6 p.m. at Mumford's Landing with an additional charge for participants that covered the cost of having a lifeguard present," Miller said. "This was a popular class."

The committee also proposed a "Sunset and Cocktails" event at the Yacht Club pool. The occasion would be on a weekday night and cater to the adult crowd.

"Just like Family Fun Night on Wednesdays, dogs and hamburgers are geared toward kids and families, the Sunset and Cocktails would have specialty cocktails and food items geared toward singles, couples with no kids living at home, and seniors," the aquatics advisory committee chair said.

The Sunset and Cocktails event was proposed at the June 15, 2024, OPA Board of Directors meeting. Committee liaison and board vice president Stuart Lakernick presented the group's written proposal, which argued the event would "appeal to singles, couples, and retirees in our community while remaining inclusive to our families and charge a fee that would cover the cost of lifeguards and other staff while remaining cost-effective for attendees."

Officials had reservations about the proposal.

"It sounds really good; it sounded good the last three years when I heard it, but if it's adults only, we cannot do it," OPA General Manager John Viola said. "I do have from counsel in the past that it was recommended not to do it."

The idea was passed onto the Ocean Pines attorney to provide an opinion on its legality. Miller said the committee sent clarification on the intent of both projects and is waiting to hear back from the board.

The advisory group is also looking at potential improvements. The Sports Core pool has a lot of equipment stored around the perimeter of the deck, and the committee has suggested moving the items to a storage shed to alleviate

See AQUATICS Page 12

Flower Street's speed limit now consistent at 25 mph

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(July 18, 2024) The speed limit on Flower Street in Berlin will now be 25 mph on the entire road.

In a meeting packet memorandum, Worcester County Public Works Director Dallas Baker requested approval to drop the speed limit on a county-owned portion of Flower Street west of Stephen Decatur Middle School from 30 to 25 mph. There is a short stretch of Flower Street the county owns with Berlin owning and operating the rest.

At a Berlin meeting last week, the council voted unanimously to lower the speed limit from Seahawk Road to the county line to 25 mph. The town's portion of Flower Street leading to Bay Street is already 25 mph.

The commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve the

change.

On behalf of the town, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall wrote in support of the move.

"Based on data obtained through the recent study and implementation process of speed cameras along Flower Street, the Town of Berlin has found it necessary to lower the speed limit to 25 mph within the town limits," Tyndall wrote. "The Mayor and Council made this decision to enhance safety for our residents and visitors. However, it has come to our attention that the portion of Flower Street within Worcester County's jurisdiction remains at 30 mph. For the sake of consistency and the continued safety of all who travel along Flower Street, we kindly request that the speed limit on the County-maintained portion also be reduced to 25 mph."



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Aquatics group advising board

Continued from Page 11
the tripping hazard and boost the atmosphere.

“The Swim and Racquet pool could use an upgrade, including safety rails in the stalls,” Miller said. “The sidewalk leading from the front parking lot to the front pool entrance is also in bad shape.”

Additionally, a member complained that the ladder steps at the Yacht Club pool were slippery and difficult to use. The committee chair said they brought the feedback to the board’s attention and have since been told that a special “no-slip” tape was ordered to rectify the issue.

Some current events at the pools include Family Fun Night each Wednesday at the Yacht Club and swim lessons, lap swims, and aerobic classes at Sports Core.

The committee is dedicated to ensuring the pool areas remain in pristine condition.

“The most important thing residents can do to maintain the pools is pick up any trash they happen to see, especially around their tables and chairs, before they leave,” Miller said. “They also need to be patient with the staff and listen to the lifeguards, especially when their kids misbehave or run around the pool deck.”

Officials OK Autumn Grove Lane

Homeowners suggested moniker after learning of need for official naming

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 18, 2024) A private lane off Sinepuxent Road will be named Autumn Grove Lane following recent county approval.

With little discussion on July 2, the Worcester County Commissioners voted to name a private road near Berlin as Autumn Grove Lane. The new moniker came at the suggestion of homeowners in the Autumn Grove Estates community, located off Sinepuxent Road.

“We have received a request to name a private lane that serves four lots on the south side of Sinepuxent Road,” Matthew Laick, deputy director of development review and permitting, wrote in a memo to the commissioners. “All the lot owners, including the existing homeowner have agreed and submitted Autumn Grove Lane as their road name choice.”

According to Worcester County’s code, all lanes that are home to three or more residences must be named. Staff noted that efforts to name the private lane began as early as 2020,



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Under the county code, roads or lanes with three or more residences must have a name for delivery and emergency services.

when the county received its first building permit application for a lot in the Autumn Grove Estates subdivision. Due to an existing policy at that time, nothing came of it.

“However, in 2023 the Public Safety Article 6-101(e) was amended to include ‘... or 3 or more buildable lots ...’” Technical Services Manager Kelly Henry wrote in his memo to the commissioners. “Now the Depart-

ment is in receipt of the second building permit application.”

Henry noted that all property owners were notified of the naming in June. The owners, in turn, suggested Autumn Grove Lane.

“This name is not in conflict with nor a duplicate of an existing road name in the County, and therefore acceptable,” he wrote.

Staff reported that the county would work to assign addresses in the four-lot subdivision and communicate with the U.S. Postal Service, UPS and FedEx.

While nothing was said this week of the name change at the public meeting, Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said he had fielded one concern from a South Point resident regarding a road that was recently named Heron Lane. He said residents had received a letter, supposedly from the county, that the road would be widened.

“We’re making them move their wells so we can widen the road down there?” he asked.

Public Works Director Dallas Baker said the roads department did not send out any letters.

“It’s private,” he said. “I don’t know why we would be widening it.”

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County approves broadband funding plan

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(July 18, 2024) An update was provided this week on the ongoing plan to meet the high-speed internet needs of all county residents.

While pitching a proposal to use \$1 million in county funds, Worcester County Information Technology Director Brian Jones told the County Commissioners significant progress has been made on the county's goal of having all homes with the ability to utilize high-speed internet. He said initial examination years ago found about 6,400 homes in the county without the ability to use high-speed internet for computers and television streaming services.

"We are knocking those numbers down as we go but we expect after today to have about 1,400 to 1,600 homes without internet services," Jones said.

Jones came before the commissioners for approval of a staff supported plan to spend \$1 million officials approved on March 17.

"What I would like to ask permission to do is a 50/50 grant between our two providers, Choptank and Talkie, and we have come up with a plan to piggyback with services they already have. What I mean by that is areas they are already in that it would help them expand and also help the citizens as well ... these are not areas tied to any other grant today," said Jones. "We want to make sure whatever services we provide are not part of any grant that's out there today."

According to Jones, the county has only spent \$96,000 to date. The rest of the funding has come through grant funding as well as state and federal sources. Included in the proposal outlined for the commissioners was \$500,000 to Choptank to cover 13 miles of fiber and hit 80 homes. Talkie would like to cover 19 miles of fiber and 98 homes at an estimated cost of \$596,969. Jones said the providers understand the

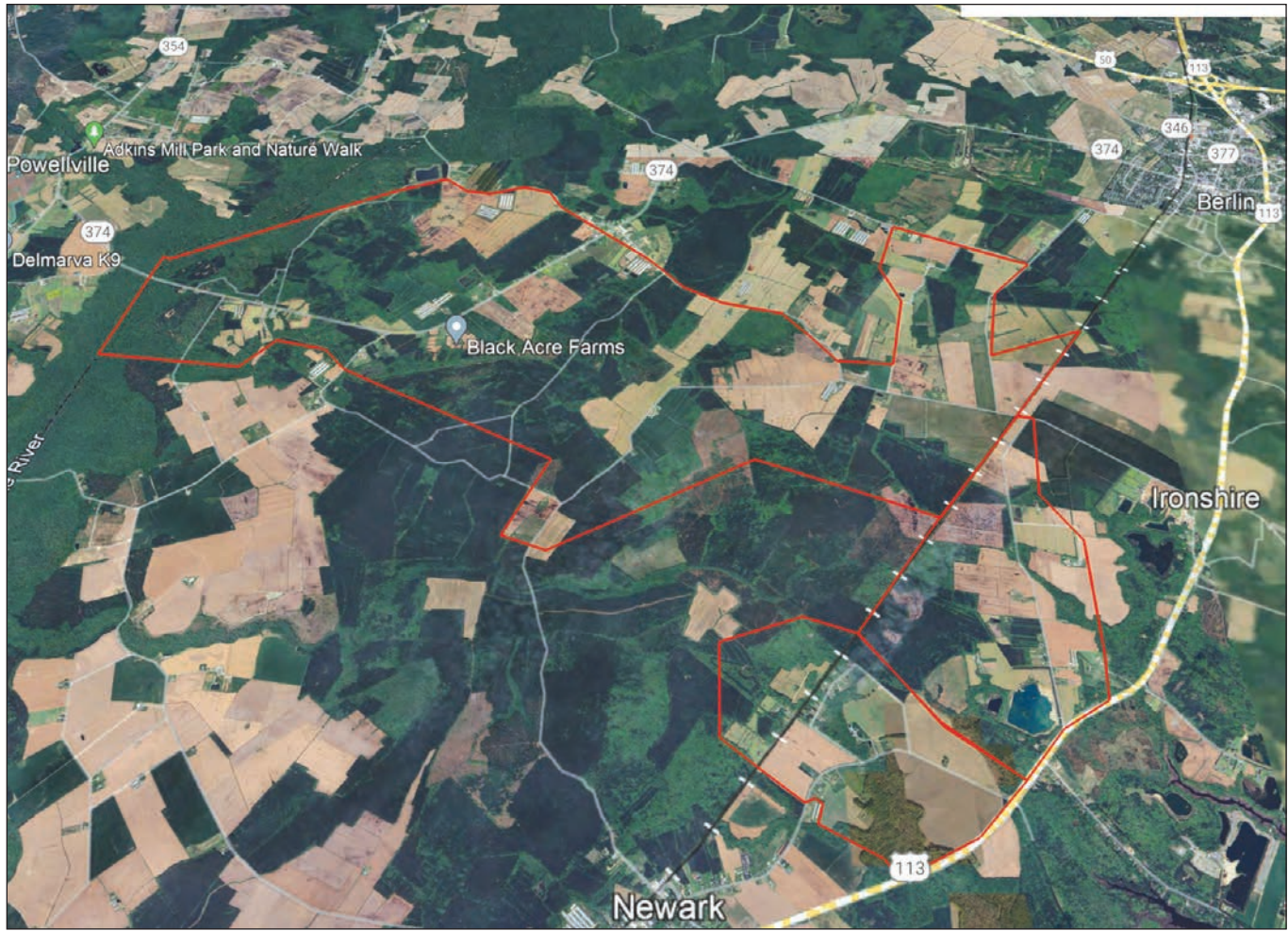


PHOTO COURTESY OF WORCESTER COUNTY

county's allocation will not exceed \$500,000 so Talkie understand it's responsible for covering the planned overage amount.

The proposed split of the funding was approved by a 7-0 vote after a motion by Commissioner Ted Elder and a second by Commissioner Caryn Abbott.

Commission President Chip Bertino spotlighted the success of the county's efforts without having to spend the overwhelming amount of funding initially reported as the overall expense.

"Five years ago, this county govern-
See GRANTS Page 14

Choptank's targeted area to provide high-speed internet service in the central part of the county is pictured in red. It's hoped 80 homes can be served with the county's funding commitment.



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County seeking restaurant loan forgiveness from state

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(July 18, 2024) The county is requesting forgiveness of a state loan provided for a Pocomoke restaurant 16 years ago.

On Sept. 1, 2008, Worcester County received a \$525,000 Community Development Block Program grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). About \$500,000 was for the construction of the restaurant originally opened in 2012 as the Riverside Grille. Since the spring of 2019, the restaurant is now under new management as Dockside. About \$25,000 of the grant was to be used for general administration. On Feb. 1, 2012, an amendment to the grant added \$98,000 for the purchase of kitchen equipment.

In a letter to DHCD Office of Community Development Programs Director Cindy Stone, Worcester County Commission President Chip Bertino detailed an aspect of the grant that has become impossible for any of the three restaurant operators to successfully meet.

"Each restaurateur has struggled with meeting the CDBG National Objective of benefiting low- and moderate-income persons through job creation. The grant calls for 35 full-time permanent jobs with 18 going to low to moderate income employees. After years of inability to meet the national objective, a consensus is that the national objective numbers submitted with the grant application were inadvertently inflated," Bertino wrote. "Despite the attempts of three different operators, the restaurant has been unable to meet the grant's employment goals over the past 12 years. The highest employee numbers since the grant

agreement was executed occurred during the first 6 months of the restaurant opening in 2012. Since that time period, there has been a decline in the number of jobs created. It is anticipated that those numbers will not be attainable by any lessee at this property."

Bertino added, "In addition to the fact that none of the officials who initially applied for the CDBG funding are involved at this point, the County has struggled with obtaining job creation forms from each of the lessees and has had difficulty gathering the data needed for the semi-annual reporting to CDBG. Furthermore, the \$98,000 in kitchen equipment is past its useful life after 12 years and has had numerous repairs."

County Administrative Officer Weston Young reiterated to the commissioners the grant terms are impossible to meet and the request for forgiveness is supported by Pocomoke. He said forgiving the grant would allow county staff to focus on other aspects rather than meeting the grant's paperwork monitoring requirements.

"We are trying to get out of this agreement. The restaurant owners are not able to meet the terms of the grant and will not be able to ..." Young said.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Ted Elder motioned to approve the forgiveness request with a second by Commissioner Jim Bunting. The matter passed unanimously.

After the vote was taken, Bertino pointed out during a recent walking tour of Pocomoke DHCD Secretary Jake Day was informed the request would be forthcoming.

"Mr. Day was open to working with us ...," Bertino said.

Grants used to progress project

Continued from Page 13
ment said we would put up to \$50 million to get this county connected," Bertino recalled. "You just said we have just spent \$96,000. The aggressiveness of this grant solicitation has gone a long way."

Along those lines, Jones said during

his presentation the county recently secured a \$1.2 million grant to keep the broadband effort moving through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Difficult to Serve Properties Grant Program.

County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic asked Jones and his colleagues to consider having the two primary service providers in for an in-person update in the near future.

"I voted for this because everyone deserves it, but you are talking about \$36,000 a mile to run the cable. That's our cost, not including the state's portion. That's about \$650 per household and that's our costs ... a lot of money being slung out there," Mitrecic said. "They seem to operate out there and we haven't seen them other than asking for money. I would really like to hear an update from Talkie and Choptank on this, where they are going. I would like to hear what their final outcome would be and when they think it's going to end."

Bertino agreed and asked staff to schedule an update as available.

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Salisbury airport's grant request supported

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 18, 2024) Officials in Worcester County recently pledged to provide some matching funds to a federal grant that will be used to attract a low-fare, nonstop airline service to the Salisbury Regional Airport.

Salisbury Regional Airport Director Tony Rudy told the Worcester County Commissioners on July 2 that his facility will be seeking grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Small Community Air Service Development Program this year to recruit a low-fare, nonstop airline service from the Salisbury airport to a major Florida destination. To make the application more attractive, he said he was seeking monetary matches from various jurisdictions and private-sector partners.

"We're looking for a total local support of about \$200,000, which will add to our \$800,000 request to the DOT for the grant," he explained, "So \$1 million total."

Officials noted that the \$1 million would be used to incentivize the airline to provide nonstop trips to and from Florida, two or three times a week. The money, Rudy said, would be used to provide start-up and marketing support in its first years of operation.

"This is for a revenue guarantee that will basically help guarantee that the airline can get off to a successful start ...," he said. "All things being equal, you know airlines are looking at other service around the country, and airports are competing for the same service, so they're often looking at the best support they can get from a community, including the revenue guarantee, which is kind of the last piece of the puzzle for the airport."

Rudy said the airport was seeking \$200,000, or a 20% match, from the community. As of July 2, the airport had received \$60,000 in pledges.

"If we do fall short, we're still going to apply for the grant," he told the commissioners. "But we feel that that 20% is a good percentage for the DOT to consider ... They look at that and see that the community has some skin in the game. And really successful grants that are awarded often do have that community support."

Rudy added that the airport was simply seeking pledges. He noted that any money not used at the end of the agreement with the airline carrier would be returned.

When asked if Wicomico County had pledged any money, Rudy said he would be seeking \$50,000 from the Wicomico County Council that evening. For his part, Commissioner Joe Mitre-cic said he saw the service as a benefit to the residents of Worcester County. He then made a motion to match Wicomico County's contribution.

"I think this would be, depending on where the actual final destination would be down there, it could be really huge for all the people of Worcester

County," he said.

Rudy noted that the Salisbury airport continued to lose passengers to other regional airports such as Baltimore-Washington International, where nonstop flights to Florida can be booked. He said bringing a nonstop service to the facility could bring some of those passengers back.

"Right now, we're losing 80% of our passengers in the area to other airports," he said. "Most people are going to BWI and flying on Southwest, and there are reasons for that. But we feel this is a great opportunity to capture some of that back ... The Orlando area is our absolute top market, and we lose 64,000 passengers a year."

Melanie Pursel, Worcester County's director of tourism and economic development, spoke in support of the county match. She said she had spoken

to several businesses, including Hardwire LLC and NASA Wallops Flight Facility, and that everyone had talked of the benefits it could bring to the area.

"This is not just a one-way benefit for the folks that are leaving our region to go to Florida. It's actually reciprocal ...," she said. "To them, we can also look at this as a possibility to recruit additional contractor businesses to our business park, our industrial park in Pocomoke because we have this service available. So we look at it as a, you know, economic development tool, recruitment tool for new business and expansion."

Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Thompson agreed. She added that private-sector businesses have already pledged \$25,000 to support the grant application.

"If other small regional airports around the country are kind of paying to attract these services, we're kind of trying to play in the same sandbox," she said.

Rudy noted that if the grant is awarded, and the airline chooses to operate from Salisbury, it would likely do so in January or February at the earliest. He said nonstop flights would be offered on Airbus A220 jets.

After further discussion, the commission voted 6-1 to approve up to \$50,000 in funding, contingent upon Wicomico County's contribution. Commissioner Jim Bunting opposed the motion, citing concerns about the airline's lack of commitment to Salisbury Regional Airport.

"I'm not willing to commit to a dollar amount if they're not willing to commit anything," he said.

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A West Ocean City company's plan to dredge an area of the commercial harbor was supported earlier this month with the commissioners backing the project.

FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Proposed harbor dredging project supported by county

Commissioners report no objections to proposed work by private company

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(July 18, 2024) A local company's request to dredge an area of the West Ocean City harbor channel recently received the support of the Worcester County Commissioners.

The Worcester County Commissioners on July 2 approved a request from staff to authorize a local sponsor statement of no objection for a proposed dredging project at Atlantic Tackle. The company plans to complete dredge work within an area of the West Ocean City harbor channel and will occur adjacent to a proposed dredging project that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to undertake.

"This project benefits us as they are contemplating dredging part of the West Ocean City Commercial

Harbor and this work will coincide with the county's dredging of the adjacent harbor channel," Bob Mitchell, director of environmental programs, wrote in a memo to the commissioners.

Mitchell noted that the company's project required a Corps review, as to ensure any changes do not harm public interest or "affects the ability of the project to meet its authorized purpose." He said the agency then issues a determination as to whether the proposed project is approved or denied.

"These are supposed to be routine reviews and should be expedited," he wrote to the commissioners. "The private sector project needs a review and also needs the endorsement of no objection from the county."

As part of their consent agenda, the commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the chief administrative officer to sign the local sponsor statement of no objection on the county's behalf.

Pines Architectural Review Committee rules now online

(July 18, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association this week announced the updated Architectural Review Committee guidelines are now available to the community.

Homeowners and residents can access the updated guidelines on the Ocean Pines website under Applications and Documents at oceanpines.org/web/pages/cpi.

The updated guidelines have been meticulously re-crafted to enhance the community's aesthetic appeal, while ensuring that all property modifications comply with the highest standards to maintain maximized values. The guidelines are based upon the original Declaration of Restrictions as well as current federal, state,

and Worcester County requirements, and provide clear, concise, and comprehensive instructions for property owners planning exterior changes, renovations, or improvements.

Homeowners and residents are encouraged to visit the website to review the guidelines and ensure compliance with the new standards. Copies of the association's restrictive covenants and the architectural review guidelines are also available at the Compliance, Permits & Inspections office in the Public Works Building.

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Twilight Wish Foundation's chapter opened

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) Elderly Worcester County residents may get the chance to fulfill lifelong dreams through the Twilight Wish Foundation, a program dedicated to granting the desires of seniors who meet the eligibility requirements.

Similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which fulfills the wishes of seriously ill children, the Twilight Wish Foundation grants the wishes of those 65 and above or permanent residents of an eldercare facility who meet the poverty threshold. Local chapter director and founder Carolyn Dryzga brought the program to Worcester County in March.

The original organization was started in 2003 by Cass Forkin in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. According to the official website, the idea was conceived when the founder “witnessed a group of three senior ladies paying for an inexpensive brunch at a diner by counting their dollars and cents.”

Forkin paid their check and was graciously thanked by the older women. The do-gooder claimed that the ladies were surprised to receive kindness, which inspired Forkin to focus on ensuring young people give back to the aging community. As

such, the Twilight Wish Foundation was born.

The website describes the initiative’s goal as making the world a “nicer place to age.”

“A Twilight Wish granted recognizes seniors for all that they have done throughout their lives and shows them they are appreciated and of value to society,” the national chapter’s online page reads. “Wishes can connect a senior to many things: a lost passion, such as getting their book published; people they haven’t seen in years, such as siblings separated for over ten years being reunited in their 90s; and rediscovering their purpose in life, such as returning to the classroom to read to students one more time. Every wish we grant is helping to build a culture that values and respects our senior population.”

Twilight Wish grants various types of wants and necessities, Dryzga said. There are simple needs wishes, which provide items like clothing, hearing aids, appliances, and lift chairs; “celebrating life wishes,” which facilitate family reunions and hometown visits for hospice and limited life expectancy patients; and “living life to the fullest” wishes. These include riding a motorcycle, publishing a book, meeting a celebrity, or attending a sporting event. The program also fo-

cuses on veterans’ wishes, as one-third of all recipients are former military personnel.

The foundation has already fulfilled many wishes this summer through multiple chapters nationwide. The program helped a lifelong Elvis fan visit Graceland, facilitated a Yankee stadium and clubhouse tour, provided new reclining lift chairs, and assisted in a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

As of 2024, the organization has 20 active chapters throughout the United States. On March 26 of this year, Dryzga officially founded a Worcester County division in partnership with the Worcester County Commission on Aging, a group that works to “enhance the quality of life for all older Worcester County citizens by managing community-based senior programs.”

Dryzga, also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines and Ocean City, said she learned of the Twilight Wish Foundation through her daughter and son-in-law.

“I was immediately interested and knew it was something I could do for the rest of my life,” she said. “...The habit of caring for elderly family members has started to disappear.”

The local chapter just granted a wish on Wednesday, July 17, to an 80-year-old Worcester County Development Center client. Entertainer Amber Fraser of Amberlina’s Adventures dressed up in a Minnie Mouse costume so the living facility resident could fulfill her dream of interacting with the Disney character.

Two men from the same center will get the chance to ride in a hot rod in August. Dryzga, responsible for identifying eligible recipients and or-

ganizing logistics, said that she had secured a 1929 Ford Roadster or a 1929 Ford Sedan for the occasion from Ocean City Cruzers Club member Ronnie Young. The exact date is yet to be determined.

On the horizon, a 98-year-old World War II veteran will visit the Iwo Jima monument in Arlington, Virginia. Dryzga said this wish is still a work in progress, but she is nailing down arrangements to make it happen.

Grantees must be at least 65, a United States citizen, have an annual income of less than 200% of the current federal poverty level, or be residents of a nursing or assisted living facility, and have the cognitive and physical capacity to receive the wish.

“The poverty level established by the government is around \$30k,” the Worcester County chapter director said. “Some elderly individuals only receive social security, and that’s it. It is tough to do something nice for yourself with that.”

The Twilight Wish Foundation also prefers individuals with a history of giving back through community or family.

Dryzga said that 6,000 wishes have been granted since the foundation began in Pennsylvania. Currently, the collective national chapters fulfill desires on average once a day.

The Worcester County branch founder maintains that the program is a “wonderful opportunity to put smiles on the faces of our elder community.”

Individuals looking to get involved in the Worcester County chapter of the Twilight Wish Foundation can contact Dryzga directly at twfworcoa@gmail.com or by calling 302-889-0040 or 215-519-3670.

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Weekend pickleball tourney planned for Berlin in August

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 18, 2024) Pickleball novices and experts alike will have the opportunity to participate in a pickleball tournament this August at the first-ever PKLNPALOOZA to benefit Diakonia and youth athletics.

The event will take place at the Worcester Preparatory School outdoor tennis courts. The matches will be played in the facility’s indoor gymnasium if it rains.

The tournament, slated for Friday, Aug. 16, to Sunday, Aug. 18, is \$45 to enter. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Diakonia, a nonprofit that supports low-income and homeless individuals and families. The rest will be invested in a pickleball club at Worcester Preparatory School.

“We are trying to introduce the town to pickleball,” Worcester Prep basketball coach and tournament organizer Mike O’Malley said. “The sport is exploding and is on fire and is not slowing down anytime soon.”

The event is open to any skill level. Traditionally, pickleball players are rated 3.0 to 5.0, with 5.0 indicating a high ability at the sport. For this tournament, participants are prompted to enter their scores so the organizers may properly match up opponents. O’Malley maintained that first-time individuals dabbling in the game who do not have a classification should place themselves as beginners.

“We are opening the tournament up to anyone,” O’Malley said. “Anyone from five to 100 can sign up, any skill level...It is going to be laid back for the whole family.”

The event organizer said that while the tournament is open to all proficiency levels, the 4.0-up division of entrees will be competitive.

“We want people who are just starting to watch these pro players to see the level the sport can reach,” O’Malley said. “Anyone from a child to a professional player in their prime and even grandma and grandpa in their 70s and 80s is welcome.”

The tournament’s opening night is Friday, August 16. Organizers will reveal the bracket, host skills challenges, and set up pickle pong, an alternate and non-alcoholic version of beer pong. A happy hour will follow at Sinepuxent Brewing.

The men’s and women’s doubles are set for August 17, while the youth, family, and mixed doubles are scheduled for Sunday, August 18. At the conclusion of each day, a happy hour like night one will take place, but venues have yet to be nailed down.

“The happy hour is a way to get people together to get drinks, meet everyone, and network with other pickleball players, the fastest growing community in the world,” O’Malley said.

The event organizer also hopes to se-

cure food trucks for the tournament. Anyone interested in offering their services may contact him at info@pklnpickleball.com.

First, second, and third place in the upper division matches will receive cash prizes. The amount is yet to be determined, but O’Malley hopes these awards will incentivize higher-level players to register.

The tournament organizer hopes the event will foster a devoted pickleball community in Worcester County. He is even attempting to secure a USA Pickleball certified coach to do a mass rating for the town a few times a year and learn from an expert.

“The sky is the limit,” O’Malley said. “Just look at what the sport has done for entire communities worldwide. I hope this will be a taste of pickleball, and years down the road, we will have more dedicated pickleball facilities and more middle school and high school teams. It is such a unifying sport and has brought so many people together. I want to bring the town together. It’s already so tight knit, but if anything can do it, it’s pickleball. I’m hoping to unleash its powers on Worcester County and Berlin.”

Individuals who have any questions or are looking to register can contact O’Malley directly at info@pklnpickleball.com.

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Blueprint update presented to school board

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(July 19, 2024) The Worcester County Board of Education provided updates on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, approved school developments, reappointed their attorney and welcomed public comments at their July 9 meeting.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, passed in 2021, includes "comprehensive changes to nearly every aspect of Maryland's public education system. Increasing annual education funding by over \$3.8 billion over the next ten years, the Blueprint will enrich student experiences, accelerate improvements to student outcomes, and improve the quality of education in Maryland."

Per the plan's timeline, local school systems should have begun implementing a new "career ladder system" aligned with the state's requirements by July 2024.

Worcester County Public Schools Chief Academic Officer Denise Shorts said that the board submitted the second piece of their implementation plan to the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) in early May and received feedback on July 1. The document, which can be found on the system's website, hits the five pillars that Maryland schools must aim to enhance at their facilities. These include

early childhood education, high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, resources to ensure all students are successful, and governance and accountability.

For example, in their submitted plan, WCPS noted the challenges and strategies for encouraging students to enroll in non-traditional gender CTE (career and technical education) programs to foster college and career readiness.

To address the obstacle, the school system's career coaches worked with students to explore and consider non-traditional careers through the Schoolinks platform and facilitated field trips to non-traditional gender-owned businesses.

"These efforts aimed to broaden students' perspectives and encourage greater diversity in CTE program enrollment," the outlined plan reads.

Shorts said the updated proposal addressing MSDE's feedback is due by July 18. The board hopes to receive the final "check off," which guarantees the system gets state funding, by the end of the summer.

The school system's facilities planner, Joe Price, attended the July 9 meeting to present the Maryland Mesonet Project and seek board approval for the weather station at Stephen Decatur Middle School.

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management and the University of Maryland partnered to create

= weather station network throughout the state. According to Price, the venture will result in 70 total stations in Maryland that will provide data to improve forecasts and severe weather warnings to the public. The Maryland Mesonet team has determined that SDMS meets the criteria as a site.

The Berlin facility was chosen because the area planned for the installation, the middle of the field at the far-left side of the Stephen Decatur property line, lacks outside forces that may impose bias or inaccurate data. The space was also determined to be a sufficient representation of the location. The board unanimously approved the project.

The Worcester County Board of Education approved the reappointment of the school system's attorney, Heather Stansbury, of the law firm Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy, and Almand for the 2024-2025 academic year. Stansbury has served in the position since 2017.

"I have the opportunity to work with her as a board representative, and I have never been affiliated with more of a professional, a well-thought-out when it comes to responses person," WCPS Superintendent Lou Taylor said of the reappointment. "... I want this community to know that we have one of the best board attorneys I have worked with over my many years here in Worcester County."

The board also heard public comments. Former Stephen Decatur High School teacher Gwen Lehman went before the body to advocate for arts education. The request comes as issues over county funding plague WCPS.

"As the board of education central office and each faculty and staff of our 14 schools face the challenge of working with the current county government over issues of adequate funding, I ask that the board continue to support the arts and arts-related programs

in Worcester County Public Schools," Lehman said. "Our music, art, creative writing, and theater programs have enriched the lives of thousands of Worcester County students and given them a place to feel safe and valued."

"These programs have led to careers in academia and the arts and entertainment industries," she continued. "From sound technicians, theater teachers, actors, DJs, scriptwriters, location scouts, production assistants, producers, opera singers, band directors, studio musicians, college professors, and sword smiths, students graduating from Worcester County Public Schools have used their arts education to launch and secure careers in multiple fields of the entertainment and performance industries as well as in the field of education. Too often, tough choices must be made. I hope you will continue to see the academic value and personal benefits of arts education in the lives of our students."

At the previous board of education meeting, member Katie Addis asked the body to consider extending two additional night meetings to next year's schedule. The group still discussed the matter while Addis was absent at the July 9 gathering.

Board president Todd Ferrante said that he and his colleagues have compared attendance at evening and afternoon meetings and have found no difference.

"If there is a need or we see a push, we will certainly review it as a board," he said. "We are inclusive, and we want to ensure everyone can contact us. We want to hear from everyone."

The president also emphasized that meetings are livestreamed and uploaded to YouTube for individuals to view at their leisure. The board can also be contacted through email or on their website's contact form.

"There are many ways to reach us without coming before us," Ferrante

See BOARD Page 21

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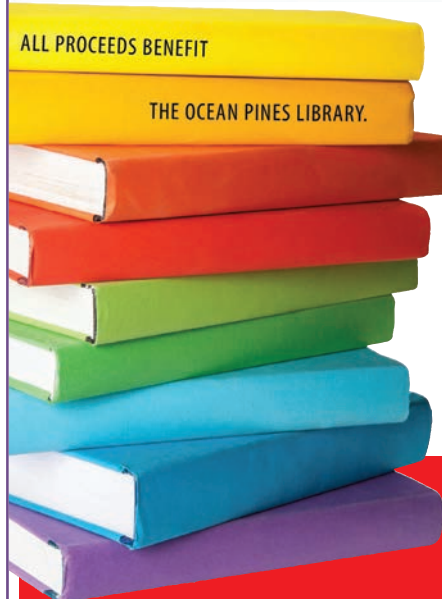
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Obituaries

JOAN BERNICE SCRUDATO
Ocean Pines

Joan Bernice Scrudato, 85, of Ocean Pines, passed away after a long illness on Tuesday July 9, 2024.

She was the loving wife to her husband of 66 years, John Scrudato.

Joan is survived by her husband John; and her children Christopher Scrudato (Kirstin), Kenneth Scrudato and Suzanne Sampson (John); as well as six grandchildren, Matthew Scrudato, Brianna Talbert (Corey), Tyler Scrudato (Cassidy), Danielle Sampson, Nicholas Sampson and Stephanie Sampson; and three great-grandchildren, James Scrudato, Banks Talbert and Brooks Talbert.

She will be remembered for her intelligence, kindness, generous spirit, and for the love she had in abundance for family and friends.

She was born February 23, 1939, in Montclair, New Jersey, to Catherine and Edmond Laskowski, and later graduated from Battin High School in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

After a memorable first date — he picked her up in a 1950 convertible — she married John Scrudato in 1958, and raised three children as a stay-at-



Joan Scrudato

home mom.

Then in 1974, she enrolled at Middlesex College, seeking an education that would lead to new professional opportunities. She would go on to be inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, and ultimately graduate with an associates degree in business management.

In 1981, she started a temporary job at Merck Pharmaceuticals that quickly led to a permanent position in the company's purchasing department. She would enjoy a more than 20-year long and successful career there, before retiring in 2002.

After more than six decades of living in New Jersey, she and John

moved to a new home in Ocean Pines in 2004 to enjoy their retirement.

In her free time, Joan enjoyed spending time with family, fishing (she was an expert at cleaning fish), traveling, reading, crocheting and baking.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10 a.m., Monday, July 15, at Holy Savior Catholic Church, 1705 Philadelphia, Ave. in Ocean City. A visitation was held from 5-7 p.m., Sunday July 14, at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

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

Ocean Pines Library book sale announced

(July 18, 2024) The 2024 Annual Ocean Pines Library Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, is set to commence later this month with 25,000-plus donated paperback, trade paperback and hardcover books

The sale will open from 6-8 p.m., July 26, for Friends of the Ocean Pines Library members. Anyone can join at the door for as little as \$5 per individual, or \$10 per family. There will also be a separate time for book dealers from 8-10 a.m., July 27 for a \$50 admission fee.

Members of the general public can

peruse the sale items from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 27 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 29, when all books are marked half price.

For a sneak preview of the sale, the Specials Room — filled with individually priced antique, collectible, first edition, rare, odd, local, unique, ephemera and author signed books — will be open from 1-4 p.m., July 23-25. The room will also be open during the main book sale hours on July 26, 27 and 29, with everything marked half price on July 29.

The books will be separated into more than 30 different categories, including fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, children's, history, biography, self-help, art, music, movies, TV and theater, sports, travel, animals and nature, cookbooks, religion, foreign language, science, reference, humor, antiques, etc.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Ocean Pines Library's programs, events and needs. The friends of the li-

brary group has raised over \$180,000 in the 22 years at the annual book sales. This year a new outdoor learning and event venue was constructed on the west side of the library using funds from

the book sales.

For questions about the sale, contact the library during operating hours at 410-208-4014, or contact the friends of the library at berlinbookseller@gmail.com.

Board discusses meeting times

Continued from Page 20

said. "... We have many avenues to contact us. Even if you were to call the central office asking for a board member to call you, we would be happy to get back to you at any time."

The Worcester County Board of Education meets in open session again on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 12:30 p.m.

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Opinion

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Planning commission risks legal challenge

The Berlin Planning Commission might think it is looking out for the community by blocking the development of a Microtel Inn on Route 113, but its continued exercise of authority it doesn't have risks placing the town in legal jeopardy.

Obviously, the commission doesn't want Microtel or probably any other motel or hotel on this patch of ground near the intersection of Route 113 and Franklin Avenue. That, however, is not the planning commission's call to make.

Consequently, the commission is trying to delay or avoid having to make a site plan decision on this project by insisting that Microtel first meet a non-existent standard.

It's reasoning is apparent: should commission members review and reject an applicant's site plan simply because it doesn't coincide with their personal tastes, the mayor and Town Council could and should reverse that finding — if the project complies with the zoning code.

That's the essence of the problem and where the legal issue becomes apparent. Berlin's zoning code contains no language that specifies how a building might express an intangible such as charm, image or spirit.

Consequently, by insisting that Microtel guess what its members are thinking, the commission has sent this applicant on a chase without end. That can get expensive ... until this or some other applicant has had enough and sues the town for a fair hearing.

Maybe Microtel, having had enough of this frustration, will pack its bags and go away, allowing the commission to argue that the end justifies the means. But one of these days some well-financed entity is going to call the commission's bluff and the town will be on the hook for the legal expenses.

To avoid that possibility, the commission needs to cool its jets until the mayor and council can give it real architectural guidelines that applicants can follow and the commission can enforce.

Until that happens, the commission is asking for legal trouble by demanding that applicants draw up some "I'll-know-it-when-see-it" manifestation of the imperceivable.

Diakonia thrift store celebration set

Event planned for July 19 will launch 'Christmas in July'

(July 18, 2024) Diakonia is celebrating 15 years of operation of its thrift store on Friday.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 19, a celebratory event will kick off the annual "Christmas in July" Festival with sales on holiday items. Refreshments will be provided with door prizes, a raffle basket and other giveaways. Sales will include 15 clothing items for \$15 on selected racks.

In July of 2009, Diakonia opened the a thrift store on the corner of Sunset Avenue and Route 611 in Ocean City called "Used to Be Mine." With the help of the late Mary and Jack Ferry, and Marie and George Hollendersky, the store began with the rental of two units (1,200 square feet each), until Reese Cropper Sr. donated another 1,200 square feet to be used for donations and furniture sales in December of 2021.

Prior to the addition of the third unit, all donations were accepted at the emergency shelter on Old Bridge Road and sorted on the outside picnic tables. Items were then taken to the thrift store daily until 2019 when Diakonia rented a unit near its administrative office to sort and store donations. The move created much-needed relief for the emergency shelter program to focus more on clients, and remained in use until the

new unit could be added.

Volunteers like Bill Venable and his wife Sandram, who were also integral players in opening the thrift store, along with Jim Salembene and his wife Bernie (now long-standing thrift store volunteers) were the main drivers, hauling donations in their own trucks and trailers until Diakonia was able to purchase a box truck in 2016.

The biggest secret to the success of the thrift store has always been the volunteers. Only 6% of the "staff" is paid.

"I am extremely grateful for the success of the thrift store which is possible due to our volunteers," Ken Argot, the executive director of Diakonia said in a news release. "We could not operate the store without them. They are truly an amazing bunch who dedicate their time with hard work, dedication, and great customer service. Secondly, the generosity from our local community of residents and businesses who donate everything we need to sell in the store and to help those in need. We also have sincere gratitude towards our loyal customers with the many that come in weekly to support the store. Together these key components create the balance that allows us to be successful to help support our shelter and operating costs for Diakonia."

The primary function of Diakonia's thrift store is to generate income for the non-profit's various homeless programs and services offered in the community to U.S. veterans and others. Last year, sales were just over \$210,000, which is nearly 10% of the annual budget.


"We couldn't do that without the support to the community," Argot said. "People in this area are very generous. Our volunteers help us keep costs down, and we've had a variety of new partners who donate new products, such as furniture, which is a hot commodity in our area. All of it helps."

Beyond profits needed to cover program costs, many items are used to help clothe Diakonia's shelter residents and homeless people reached through its outreach team. When moving clients out of the shelter and into their new units, case managers will often gather furniture and other items at the thrift store, that clients may need to start a home

Plans continue to be made regarding a potential new thrift store on 611 with expanded food pantry and case management offices. The new facility would have a loading dock to receive large pallets of food and other donated furniture and items.

The thrift store is located at 12507 Sunset Avenue near Route 611. The store is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Friday; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturday.

Call 410-213-0243 for more information on how to donate gently used items or coordinate pickup for larger donations.

BAYSIDEGAZETTE

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Striped bass restrictions underway

(July 18, 2024) Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff are reminding recreational anglers that targeting striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries is prohibited from July 16-31 to protect the species during the hottest part of the summer.

According to a news re-

lease, the fish are more vulnerable to dying after they are caught and released during that time.

While recent research has suggested that environmental factors, such as warm winters and low water flows are significant factors influencing spawning success, the summer closure of the recre-

ational striped bass fishery is one of several management measures the department implemented to protect the resident stock of striped bass and decrease overall mortality in the Chesapeake Bay.

The release said recent heat waves in Maryland have already triggered nearly a

See MIDSEASON Page 25

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HERITAGE CENTER PLANNING

The Executive Board of the Germantown School Community Heritage Center met recently to plan summer activities and discuss exterior maintenance of the building. Members of the board pictured are Germantown School President Barbara Purnell, Clara Smith, Carol Rose, Karen Pregelman, Gabe Purnell, Ella Blake, Tom Pitts, and Geraldine Bell.



PHOTO COURTESY OC LIONS CLUB

LIONS CLUB DONATION

Members of the OC Lions visited 4Steps Therapeutic Riding Program to learn about its services and present a donation. The organization works with children and adults with physical, emotional and behavioral health issues. Pictured, from left, are OC Lion JD Quillin, President Greg Cathell, Lion Jeff Facello, 4Steps Executive Director Sandy Winter, and OC Lion Greg Burgan.



PHOTOS COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

ROTARY CLUB VISITS SCHOOL

Margaret Mudron of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club finished out the school year with visits to the club's adopted kindergarten and pre-K classes at Ocean City and Showell Elementary schools. Students enjoyed popsicles from Jun & Juice during the visits.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

HOME GARDEN TOUR

Worcester County Garden Club member Glenda Clarke recently hosted a pop-up tour of her home garden in Snow Hill for members of District 1 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, including President Susie Middleton, who are pictured.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

FOUNDATION SPEAKER

Tim McMullen of the Mary Mac Foundation was the guest speaker at the June 26 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing and McMullen at the meeting. Mary Mac Foundation is named for McMullen's deceased wife and has a mission to aid low-income and homeless children and families..

Puzzles

DOUBLE DIGITS

BY DAVID KARP / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

David Karp, of Victoria, British Columbia, works for the provincial Ministry of Finance. This puzzle was built around 107-Across, which makes its debut as an answer in the Times crossword. David was also happy to include 92-Across — in addition to neatly fitting this theme, it was one of his favorite shows as a kid.

ACROSS
1 Common ingredient in eye shadow
5 Anticipate a near success, so to speak
12 Sci-fi comics sound
15 Animal in the Bacardi logo
18 Wayfair alternative
19 Egg-laying mammal
20 Art _____
21 What a boring meeting never seems to do
22 Admit one was wrong
25 Attitude
26 Chemical compound in plastics and rubber
27 Clear to see, maybe?
28 Abstract painter _____ Thomas
29 Title in a Puccini title
31 Like a room with a fire fireplace, often
34 Second calling?
35 Research trials using withheld information
40 Genesis brother
41 Go (for)
42 "Calvin and Hobbes" girl
43 Opulent
45 Presentation prop
48 Royal whose wedding had a whopping 1,900 guests
57 City that's home to the Green Dome
58 Party
59 Writing wrongs?

DOWN
61 Spartan queen of myth
62 Delivery-room figures, for short
65 Month between avril and juin
66 Cries of pain
68 Abdel Fattah el-_____, Egyptian president beginning in 2014
69 Gush
71 Pioneering chemist Lavoisier
74 Like some hipster T-shirts
76 Friendly debate opponent
80 Gossip spreader
81 Your wish is his command
82 "Likewise"
85 Run out of clothes?
88 Humorist Bombeck
92 Lab mice in a 1990s cartoon
98 F on a final
99 Slowly wanes, as support
100 To no avail
101 Infuriates
102 Four- or six-pointer, say
103 Display at a school show
106 O.E.D. ender
107 Excuse for texting errors, jocularly ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
113 Its egg resembles an avocado
114 Cheerful tune
115 "Core" things
116 Opposite of absorb
117 Shill for, informally

DOWN
118 Root word?
119 Ingredient in a Bloody Caesar cocktail
120 "No returns"
1 Makeshift limbo bar at a wedding
2 Letters before a 34-Across
3 Abandons, as an argument
4 Marsh plant whose flower resembles a corn dog
5 World capital at the foot of the Elburz Mountains
6 Take _____ from
7 Turn one's back on
8 "The longest distance between two places," per "The Glass Menagerie"
9 The N.H.L.'s Oilers, on scoreboards
10 Bach's "Mass _____ Minor"
11 Guitar sheet music, for short
12 Gentle breeze
13 What vinegar adds to a salad dressing
14 Aptly named mascot of the Baltimore Ravens
15 Popular brunch cocktail
16 Bring to life
17 QB's feat
20 Italian for "tooth"
23 Inspiration for many a gospel song
24 Speech-therapy subject
28 Flight selections, say

DOWN
29 Bush Jr. is the only U.S. president to hold one
30 Minister's robe
31 Pot leaves?
32 Lead-in to Clean
33 Rose of Guns N' Roses
34 Charm
36 Generate, with "up"
37 Member of the South Asian diaspora
38 Set of guiding principles
39 Words from someone who's following you
43 "The tongue of the mind," per Cervantes
44 "omg u r 2 funny!"
45 Duke's address ender
46 On top of that
47 Bunch
48 Serious thing to play for
49 Make sense
50 Ice on one's head?
51 Lindelof who co-created "Lost" and "The Leftovers"
52 Emotionally tax
53 Completing
54 Big name in chicken
55 Offer one's two cents
56 Polite denial
57 Org. that Lionel Messi joined in 2023
60 [I know it's wrong]
63 One might be raised on a farm
64 Pouty mood
67 Assistant who handles more than 25 billion requests per month
70 "Here, have a sample"

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			34			
35					36	37	38					39				
40					41							42				
				43	44						45	46	47			
	48	49	50					51	52	53				54	55	56
57							58						59			60
61				62	63	64		65			66	67		68		
69				70		71		72			73		74	75		
	76				77						78	79				
				80							81					
	82	83	84					85	86	87				88	89	90
92							93	94	95				96	97		
98							99						100			
101											103	104	105			
106									108	109	110					111
113									115						116	
117									119						120	

72 Hermana de la madre

73 Urged (on) Abbr.

75 GPS suggestion: Abbr.

77 Head turner at a racetrack

78 When placed under high pressure and heat, it forms coal

79 So-called "key of life"

82 "Please — I've heard that excuse before"

83 Ready for a massage, perhaps

84 Trash

85 Qantas hub, on luggage tags

86 _____ kwon do

87 Triage pros, in brief

88 Its capital is Asmara

89 Rates of return?

90 "Cool" amt.

91 "Whichever"

92 Big name in vaccines

93 Water heater

94 Robert who owns the New England Patriots

95 Toon first seen on "The Huckleberry Hound Show"

96 Nevertheless

97 Something a newlywed might wear — or dance to — at a wedding

102 Boom attachment

103 Custom car consideration

104 Offshore

105 App with "Rides" and "Bikes" tabs

107 Rapper _____ Rida

108 Peacock's parent

109 It might make one's hair stand on end

110 She, in Portuguese

111 Early 11th-century year

112 U.F.O. crew

WE PAY CASH!

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 29

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

BRAG	THEOS	TATAR	BRB
FEEL	MORPH	OMANI	LUAU
FLOOR	ITDUH	WANTS	ARMS
SYNTH	COS	MISSIS	ZIPPY
TYPOS	MATS	WOOD	
TENASEA	DUD	BALLERS	
REEL	PLAITED	OREAGAIN	
ARO	LETMEGO	GITA	
MINISODA	OASES	ITSSAD	
ESTATE	INDIEANNA	ERA	
OUTACT	STALER		
ABS	DELLAWARE	SABADO	
COHEIR	ALIKE	WHYOMING	
HORN	ROSETEA	TKO	
EYEDAHOE	HEIGHTS	ACER	
ADAMANT	LEO	HUWHYE	
NILE	CHAD	RAMEN	
VERGE	INYEAH	TUT	RIOJA
ISEE	BEADS	WHISKONSON	
SPAR	USMAP	IONIA	GLUT
AND	TSARS	GUSTY	SORE

Suspects arrested after drug dealing probe

(July 18, 2024) On May 29, members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Criminal Enforcement concluded an eight-month multi-state Drug Trafficking Organization investigation that resulted in multiple arrests of people who were reportedly distributing "significant quantities of cocaine" throughout Worcester and Sussex counties.

According to a news release, Jarod Lamon Rhodes, 40; Tyrone Briddell, 56; William Antonio Miller, 41; and Sahmoen Renise Briddell, 37, all of Berlin; and Tavon Chavez Biles, 42, of Rehoboth, Delaware, have been indicted and charged with various offenses in relation to the possession, distribution and import of large



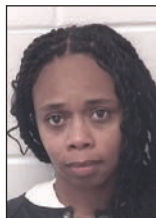
Jarod Rhodes



Tyrone Briddell



William Miller



Sahmoen Briddell

amounts of a controlled dangerous substance.

The release said investigators seized about 1.7 kilograms of cocaine during the sting with street value of nearly \$150,000, a "large quantity" of cash, various other assets, and "other evidence of the distribution of illegal drugs."

The investigation is ongoing and

more arrests are expected, according to the release.

Anyone with information can contact the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office also has an app <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a87521863> that can be downloaded for free on IOS and Android where residents can submit tips to law enforcement anonymously.

Investigators and officers from the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, U.S. Drug Enforcement Admin-

istration, Homeland Security Investigations, Maryland State Police, Ocean City Police Department, Delaware State Police, Eastern Shore Information Center, Washington-Baltimore High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area all helped the Worcester County Sheriff's Office with the investigation.

The operation was also supported by the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy supplies grants and strategic assistance to network member sites. The resources enable the identification, disruption, and dismantling of criminal organizations through enhanced inter-agency collaboration and data sharing, the release said.

Midseason closure in effect through July 31

Continued from Page 22

dozen "red flag" advisory days when anglers are encouraged not to fish for striped bass after 10 a.m. The Striped Bass Summer Fishing Advisory Forecast is an awareness campaign aimed at reducing striped bass mortality during the summer fishing season when catch-and-release fishing is allowed.

A midseason closure was introduced

in 2020 and aims to protect fish during the weeks when weather conditions cause stress on striped bass and the chance of death from catch and release is high. Recreational dead discards, when a fish dies after it is caught and returned to the water, accounted for 21% of total fishing-related striped bass deaths in the bay in the most recent stock assessment data published in

2022.

During the closure, DNR officials encourage anglers to pursue other fish instead of striped bass, such as invasive blue catfish and Chesapeake Channa, also known as snakehead, by using different fishing methods than those used for striped bass. The invasive species have no bag or size limits and their harvest contributes to a healthier ecosys-

tem in the bay, according to the release. Tips and methods for fishing blue catfish can be found on the DNR website.

The Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery will reopen from Aug. 1 through Dec. 10, at which time anglers may keep one striped bass per person, per day, with a minimum length of 19 inches and a maximum length of 24 inches.



OPEN HOUSES



July 18 - 25

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
Saturday 10am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-3pm	121 81st St. 3 #706, Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 4-6pm	353 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nikki Rayne Rose/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Friday 4-6pm	353 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nikki Rayne Rose/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 10am-1pm	353 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nikki Rayne Rose/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Sunday 10am-1pm	353 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nikki Rayne Rose/Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva
Saturday 1-3pm	714 Mooring Road #C102, Chateau Phoenix, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$368,000	Dianne Jensen/EXP Realty

RESERVE SPACE FOR AUGUST COASTAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS REAL ESTATE GUIDE BY JULY 24TH

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CONTACT Renee Kelly 667.288.1233 or renee@oceancitytoday.net



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Calendar

Submit calendar items to: editor@oceancitytoday.net. Submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, the week of publication. Local submissions have priority. Area event listings are subject to space availability.

Thurs., July 18

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 “Lauren Glick” (blues and soul).
<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 “Club Phred.” Free family-friendly entertainment. Bring chairs and blankets. BYOB permitted, concessions for sale. Held Thursdays through Aug. 22. 410-641-7052

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

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT
PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-3 p.m, July 18-20.

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 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. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: REX WRECKS IT!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a story about friendship. Songs, stories and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SHARKAPALOOZA
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Featuring some jaw-some shark activities, a craft and loads of shark facts presented by students from University of Delaware’s School of Marine Science. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818

PLAY TIME
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington 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. 410-632-3495,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a LEGO challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-12 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 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. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SPOOKY SUMMER BOOK CLUB
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 4:30 p.m. Select your favorite paranormal fiction of any genre (horror, romance, sci-fi) and bring it for discussion. Refreshments served. 410-632-3495, 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 19

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT
PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., July 18-20.

ARTISTIC ARENA: DREAMCATCHER
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Catch all bad dreams in your own dream-catcher. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

LIBRARY CAMP OUT
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come to the library garden for some fun camp-style activities. Make a craft, play games and hear some campfire stories. For all ages. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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 20

OC SUMMER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Ocean City Racquet Center, 104 61st St., 8 a.m. Cost is \$20. Register at the Ocean City Racquet Center. 410-524-8337, <https://www.ococean.com/event/oc-summer-pickleball-tournament/1968/>

28TH ANNUAL ART HANSEN MEMORIAL YOUTH FISHING CONTEST
South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Registration at 8:30 a.m. Free event for ages 4-16 years. Bring rod and reel; bait and water provided. Trophies and prizes awarded. All participants will receive a prize. Jerry Leuters, 240-427-8929

WALK WITH A DOC
Southgate Pond, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. An Atlantic General representative will give a brief discussion, on their expertise, then lead the group for a walk around the pond. First 10 participants receive \$10 WalMart gift card. 410-641-9268

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT
PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., July 18-20.

CRAFTY SATURDAY: FRIENDSHIP DAY
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. July 30th is the International Day of Friendships. Join in to celebrate friendships with bracelets and more. 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

CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 for a 1/2 BBQ chicken platter with two sides, roll and drink and \$12 for a 1/2 BBQ chicken, roll and drink. Proceeds benefit the church’s men’s ministry.

COMIC BOOK CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Learn how to begin creating your own comic book and get set drafting. No experience required. For ages 8-18 years. 410-208-4014, 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 and for them. Projects change each week. No

reservations needed. Free and open to all. www.artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

GERMANTOWN REGGAE FUNDRAISER
Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 6-9 p.m. A night of Reggae music with “Island Sounds.” Bring chairs, coolers and picnic baskets. Admission cost is \$10. Hot dogs, soda and chips available for \$5, while supplies last. 410-641-0638

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 21

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

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET
Sundays through October - Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street, Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Featuring more than 50 farmers, bakers, growers, brewers, food cultivators, distillers, creators and artists. Also free kids art projects, petting zoo, face painting and live music. <https://berlinmain-street.com/farmersmarket/>

BERLIN FLEA MARKET
Sundays - Uptown Emporium Parking Lot, 13 S. Main St., Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendor opportunities available. Julie, 410-726-9012; Bill, 410-629-9656

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

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

Mon., July 22

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 “DJ Knappy & Gizmo.” 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>

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 26

STORY TIME: COLORS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Summer story time about colors. There will be stories, songs and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

STORY TIME AT THE FARM

Chesapeake Bay Farms, 4111 Whitesburg Road, Pocomoke City, 2 p.m. Visit the Chesapeake Bay Farms for a special story time. Stick around to feed some of the animals. Fro ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, 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

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 23

STORY TIME: 'ARMADILLOS'

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.worces-

terlibrary.org

JUGGLING WITH CASCADING CARLOS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Learn about the ancient art of juggling while Guinness World Book Record holder, Cascading Carlos, hypnotizes with his juggling skills. For all ages. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterli-brary.org

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE - TEASER!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-4 p.m. All prospective customers welcome. The specials room, open for a limited time, features collectibles, signed copies, rare books, sets and vintage books. Proceeds benefit the library. 410-208-4014

HISTORY OF COLLAGE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 1 p.m. Learn about the usage of collage throughout art history and try your hand at making your own masterpiece. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WEEGAMERZ VIDEO GAME TRUCK

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Enjoy a wide selection of games in the high-tech and climate controlled video game truck. Players play in 20 minute turns. Register: 410-208-4014. For ages 12-18 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org

JR. LIFEGUARD CAMP

Ocean Pines Sports Core Pool, 11144 Cathell Road, 5:30-7 p.m., July 23-25. 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.

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., July 24

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

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

STRANDED AT SEA: OC BAY HOPPER PROGRAM

OC Bay Hopper, 11703 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 5:35-7:05 p.m. Uncover the gripping details of three 1880 shipwrecks. Cost is \$50 with half of proceeds donated to Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum. 410-289-4991, emma@ocmuseum.org, <https://book.ocbayhopper.com/Experience>

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

SEW WHAT? FOR TEENS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. A self-guided tour through the library with sewing guides, activities, and supplies to help learn the very basics of sewing. Participants receive a mini sewing kit. For ages 12-21 years. 410-632-3495

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterli-brary.org

JUGGLING WITH CASCADING CARLOS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn about the ancient art of juggling while Guinness World Book Record holder, Cascading Carlos, hypnotizes with his juggling skills. For all ages. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterli-brary.org

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE - TEASER!

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features collectibles, signed copies, rare books, sets and vintage books. Proceeds benefit the library. 410-208-4014

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE WITH SEASHELL PAINTING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Create a one-of-a-kind piece using shells collected from local beaches. Adventure themes range from outer space to ocean depths and all points in-between. Registration required: 410-957-0878.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. Providing participants with hops for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

ANALOG NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Fun and games, analog style. Snacks and games will be provided, but patrons are welcome to bring their own too. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.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

FIND A SUMMER STAR IN BERLIN

Search outside downtown Berlin to find free handblown Summer Stars by artist Jeffrey Auxer Designs. The hunt lasts all summer with 100 to win. Please register stars found at <https://berlinmainstreet.com/berlin-bubble-project/>. The Berlin Bubble Project: Operation Summer Stars.

ROCK THE PARK

Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks will hide five golden rocks at different Ocean Pines parks every week from June 17 through Aug. 19. Find a rock, return it to the OP Community Center to receive a prize. 410-641-7052

NAO TRINIDAD IN OCEAN CITY

Chicago Avenue and 3rd Street, bay-side, 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>

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