



PHOTO COURTESY NICK DENNY

Carter Walsh, younger brother of Tyler, who is battling for his life in Shock Trauma in Baltimore, is pictured being passed around by members of the girls soccer team as well as attendees who rushed the field Monday night.

Community rallies for Walshes after collision

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(Sept. 19, 2024) Approximately \$11,000 was raised for the Walsh family at Stephen Decatur High School Monday night, as the community continues to show love and support after 16-year-old Tyler Walsh was critically injured last Fri-

day night in Ocean City.

“Tonight was nothing short of amazing,” the Stephen Decatur Athlete Boosters posted Tuesday morning on Facebook after the varsity girls soccer game. “Thanks to our generous community the Athletic Boosters were able to raise over \$11,000 for The Walsh Family.

Please continue to keep Tyler and family in your prayers.”

Tyler Walsh, a junior at Stephen Decatur who lives in Selbyville, Delaware, was walking in a marked crosswalk on 12th Street in Ocean City on Friday night around 9:30 with a group of friends when he was struck by a speeding motorcyclist,

Michael Scot Schneider, 51, of Ballston Spa, New York. Walsh was flown immediately to Shock Trauma with life threatening injuries.

Schneider fled the scene before being apprehended in the park and ride in West Ocean City showing
See COMMUNITY Page 8

OPA will test market on food operations

Directors solicit proposals to manage clubs, grills currently run by Matt Ortt

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association is testing the restaurant management and operations market

by requesting proposals from operators in that field who might want to handle the food and beverage service at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the Ocean Pines Beach Club and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

Matt Ortt Companies is the community’s current food and beverage vendor. The group, which also operates Coastal Salt and the Ocean City

Rum Shack on the 16th Street Boardwalk, signed a two-year deal with OPA to manage the neighborhood’s food service locations in March 2018.

The agreement involved a \$12,500 monthly management fee with eight payments due May 2018 through Dec. 2018, totaling \$100,000, and eight payments due May 2019 through December 2019, also totaling

\$100,000.

The first year of the agreement included a budget bonus and a profit bonus. The budget bonus would pay “fifty percent of every dollar of net income generated ... that exceeds the budget,” up to \$50,000 at each facility. The yacht club budgeted a \$92,961 net loss and the beach club
See AS Page 6



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Adjustments approved for a residential project in Berlin

Developers intend to tweak a housing initiative in town to create fee-simple units

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) Developers for the proposed Assateague Landing Apartments on Bay Street in Berlin intend to transition the initially approved apartment complex outline to a 12-unit duplex.

The commission green-lit site plans for the Assateague Landing Apartments project last September. The structure, to be placed on a 2.8-acre lot on Bay Street, included 20 one-story townhouse rental units, two parking spaces per dwelling, and eight guest parking spots. The developers returned to the commission last week with changes in mind.

Chris Carbaugh of the Atlantic Group and Associates and property owner Eric Davis went before the planning commission at their Wednesday, Sept. 11 meeting to discuss their fresh plans for the space.

Rather than building the 780-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-story townhouse apartments originally intended for Bay Street, the developers plan to construct 12, two-story units, roughly 1,150 square feet. The upstairs will include two master bedrooms with master baths, and the downstairs will serve as the living space, equipped with dining and a

kitchen.

The updated design will still incorporate the coastal elements the commission requested last year, including cupolas, covered front stoops, and added concrete back patios.

"The plan would carry the coastal theme that...you guys saw on the one story, and it would be carried to the two stories," Davis said.

The developers said that since the structure is no longer an apartment complex but a duplex with fee-simple units, they opted to limit parking to two spaces per home. There is also no planned parking on the street. The commission inquired about adding overflow spots to accommodate guests and unforeseen circumstances, to which Davis and Carbaugh were receptive.

"In my world, I do not object," Davis said. "It would be a matter of Chris letting me know where we could put it."

The site will include trees on Bay Street between the highway and the complex.

Davis and Carbaugh also maintain that the structure will be equipped to handle stormwater management, meaning the developers must control runoff during construction and after.

The Berlin Planning Commission approved the change from the apartments to the 12 duplex units. The commission will meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Berlin to tweak county rules for commercial architecture

Town's planning group to begin creating first set of building design guidelines

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission intends to adapt Worcester County building standards to simplify the design process for developers looking to create new commercial spaces in town.

At the Wednesday, Sept. 11 meeting, the group agreed to adopt the commercial guidelines set forth by the county for building design and construction and adapt them for Berlin use. Members of the commission will meet to remove all mentions of the words "must" or "shall" from the Worcester document or change the phrases to "should" to avoid pinning hard and fast rules on potential developers.

The preliminary guidelines will act as a quick fix. Currently, Berlin

lacks outlined regulations, which has presented conflicts to the commission and builders. Developers, like in the case of the proposed Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham, have struggled to nail down and produce precisely what the town desires in a new structure, and the planning group lacks specific standards to which they can refer them.

During a July 10 meeting of the planning commission, members expressed their dismay with concept plans for the Microtel to be placed off Route 113. The group argued that developers showed a disregard for the historic charm of downtown Berlin despite the addition of cornices, Victorian-style lights, a pool enclosure, and mature trees.

"We all understand what you are trying to achieve. The problem is the manner in which you are trying to achieve it," Mark Cropper, hotel building applicant Thomas Zambetis's attorney, said to the commis-

See BERLIN Page 7



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Berlin Fiddlers Convention kicks off Friday

Bluegrass music festival is back for its 32nd year of music, contests and shops

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Berlin Fiddlers Convention is back for the event's 32nd annual weekend of music, crafts, and vendors.

The convention, scheduled for Sept. 20 to Sept. 22, is a free event hosted by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and features a weekend of bluegrass bands. On Friday, the first day of the series will welcome The Plate Scrapers from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by The High and Wides from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A competition in banjo, fiddle, mandolin, flat pick, and band categories is slated for Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday's headliner, Rebecca Frazier, will perform from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event will wrap up around 4:30 p.m. A Sunday gospel jam is also planned for Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the weekly farmers market on Main Street.

Local beer will be available for purchase during the weekend. Proceeds from the sales will help support the Berlin Chamber of Commerce



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Guests are pictured taking in the bluegrass sounds of a band during a previous year's Berlin Fiddlers Convention.

and its events.

Berlin's shops will be open during the music weekend, and vendors and artisans will be out as attendees enjoy the bluegrass tunes.

The event is chock-full of musical talent.

Friday's performers, The High and Wides, were born on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Their 2018 freshman album, "Lifted," deputed on the Bill-

board bluegrass chart in the top ten, The Maryland State Arts Council's website says.

According to The Plate Scaper's website, the band originated in 2014 in Western Maryland and has since released three studio and three live albums. In 2019, the group won the Podunk Bluegrass Telefunken Band Contest. The crew has spent the ten years since its creation touring

throughout the East Coast and Midwest.

Saturday's headline, Frazier, is a Virginia native. Her most recent album, "Boarding Windows in Paradise," was released on Friday, Sept. 13, on Compass Records.

Additional information on the Berlin Fiddlers Convention can be found on the Berlin Chamber of Commerce's website.



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As Ortt contract expires, board seeks RFPs

Continued from Page 1

re-budgeted a \$101,308 net gain.

Also included was a profit bonus "if the combined net income for the facilities results in a net profit of more than \$100,000" based on a sliding scale: 10 percent for \$1 to \$25,000, 20 percent for \$25,001 to \$50,000, 30 percent for \$50,001 to \$75,000, 40 percent for \$75,001 to \$100,000, and 50 percent for upwards of \$101,000. The year-two bonus structure offered a doubled bonus if the combined net income of both facilities in fiscal 2020 was greater than the combined net income of fiscal 2019.

That initial arrangement was extended by five years in 2020, which provides for a half-million dollar payout to the food and beverage service and a \$19 per property owner subsidy by the Ocean Pines property owners.

With that accord set to expire next year, community officials have elected to seek proposals from firms outside the Ortt company rather than simply negotiate a renewal agreement with the vendor.

OPA Board of Directors Vice President Rick Farr said the decision was based on advice from the homeowner association's legal counsel, Bruce Bright of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy, and Almand, and the community's gov-

erning documents regarding the request for proposals (RFP) process.

The OPA bylaws state that "all purchases and contracts for services or supplies for the Association shall, to the fullest extent practicable, be made by open competitive procedures." While Matt Ortt Companies has not been prohibited from bidding on the new contract, they may still vie against additional proposals if they apply for the management slot.

"It is our fiduciary responsibility as board members to our community to follow our bylaws and governing documents and ensure all protocols are followed for the recommendations by our general manager that is in the best interest of all of Ocean Pines membership," Farr said.

OPA General Manager John Viola reported in 2023 that since the original contract with Matt Ortt Companies, the company "met or exceeded combined operating profit targets of \$130,000, \$175,000, and \$190,000 in consecutive years."

Most Ocean Pines residents have continued to express their satisfaction with Ortt.

"Matt Ortt and his operations have been doing a fantastic job," OPA resident Jerry Murphy said during the June 13 board of directors election candidate forum. "The Yacht Club



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Yacht Club is pictured on a busy summer evening. The Ocean Pines Association is now seeking proposals to manage the facility, as well as other food and beverage operations.

used to never have any good food. Matt has put together an operation that attracts."

On Friday, Sept. 13, the day the community announced the proposal request, Ocean Pines resident Budd Shea wrote on the community's on-

line forum that, "Ortt has done an outstanding job, but ... nothing helps business better than competition."

The official request for proposals outlines the scope of work for which the selected vendor will be responsible.

See OPA Page 8

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Berlin continuing search for planning department leader

Continued from Page 3
 sion at the summer presentation. "At some point, if a developer does A, B, C & D, a developer is entitled to site plan approval ... 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."

The upcoming construction standards are intended to prevent similar standoffs.

The planning commission maintains that the regulations will be an interim solution. Once a full-time planning director is in place, the hired individual will shape the standards to a more Berlin-centric framework to address some of the issues highlighted by the Microtel situation.

The county-adapted document will create temporary parameters to avoid unacceptable spaces, and the planning director, once hired, will adjust them to account for the uniqueness of Berlin. The commission agreed that while the charm of downtown does not need to be massively considered out on the highway, area-specific criteria should be set forth as soon as possible.

The group emphasized that building standards specific to the town remain on hold as they are to be drafted in collaboration with the expertise of a planning director.

Berlin has lacked a leader in the planning department since the previous position-holder, Dave Engelhart, passed in April.

Rick Baldwin has acted as a consultant since. Still, to not overburden staff in the absence of a director, the town has elected to halt site plan approval, rezoning, and annexation until someone is hired to fill the vacancy.

A moratorium on these actions passed in July and has since been extended twice. Per the Sept. 9 gather-

ing of the Mayor and Council, the pause will expire on Nov. 15 but may be lifted prior if a director is hired. The governing body will evaluate the suspension at the first assembly of each month.

At the Sept. 11 planning commission meeting, Town Administrator Mary Bohlen noted that Berlin is still actively searching for a director. She confirmed that two separate individuals were offered the position but turned the job down in the end, citing unaffordable housing as the reason.

Bohlen said that "it does not appear to be a salary problem," despite the commission arguing that it must be.

"That is not how they indicated it," she maintained.

Berlin is offering approximately \$95,600 to \$100,400 for the role.

"This is in line with what we have found that other towns are advertising," Bohlen said. "Now, at the end of the day, what they are advertising and what they ultimately end up paying, you do not necessarily know how that fleshes out."

The town administrator also informed the commission that restrictions on annexation requests have loosened, albeit slightly.

"What I am telling people right now ... is to send a letter with their intent and the reason they are seeking annexation, and we will start to review it," she said. "That is the best I can offer right now... The annexation process itself is pretty complex. It is not just a matter of the town saying, 'Yes, we do' or 'No, we don't want it'...I will say that we are accepting them sending us their requests to be considered for annexation, but there is a certain level of professional skill and knowledge that has to be there."

The planning commission is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. A video of the meeting will be streamed live via Facebook.



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OPA obligated to seek RFPs for restaurant management

Continued from Page 6
 ble. The document can be found on Ocean Pines' official website. The contractor will oversee management and operations, including janitorial services, banquet functions, and the handling of live entertainment at the Yacht Club from Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The firm will also ensure that the menu and pricing are of quality and variety that meets Ocean Pines' needs, administer staffing, coordinate events, and maintain the facilities and equipment.

Proposals from prospective contractors are due by Oct. 18. OPA will accept questions from potential consultants through Oct. 4. The official RFP states that firms must include a

"detailed operational and business plan for managing the facilities " in their application.

The outline must describe a management approach, a menu and pricing strategy, a banquet and events plan, a financial proposal, an entertainment schedule, a revenue proposal, a facility maintenance plan, experience, and qualifications, including three references.

OPA officials are seeking a contractor who will cater to the community's needs.

"I, and I am sure all association members, are looking for outstanding food and beverage services to all our Ocean Pines facilities; ensuring high standards of service and customer satisfaction are met," Farr said.



Players for both Stephen Decatur High School and North Carolina High School are pictured wearing orange to honor Tyler Walsh, who was injured in a collision last week. PHOTO COURTESY NICK DENNY

Community rallies around family

Continued from Page 1

sighs of impairment. Schneider is being held without bond. A blood sample was collected to determine his alcohol concentration level. As of now, Schneider faces 12 traffic offenses, including driving under the influence and failing to remain on the scene of an accident resulting in bodily injury or death.

On Monday night, hundreds turned out at Stephen Decatur High School dressed in orange, Tyler's favorite color, to support the Seahawks in a varsity girls soccer matchup against North Carolina. Nearly every attendee – including the opposing team – sported orange in a show of solidarity behind the Walsh family.

Cory Walsh, a long-time employee of Taylor Bank where he is currently a vice president of loan and business development officer, said this week he is hoping for a miracle for his son, who has sustained multiple broken bones and major head injuries.

"It's going to take a miracle for this one," Walsh told Coastal Point Staff Writer Susan Canfora in an interview this week. "His doctors say he's stable, but he's very critical and there are many more surgeries to go. He's going to be sedated another couple of weeks. He's a good kid. Good grades. Wrong place, wrong time. The guy on the motorcycle was running a red

light, and he was going 55 mph in a 35-mph zone. I lost my wife almost two years ago. We've been through a lot in the past couple years."

The family lost its matriarch, Rhonda, 40, in October of 2022 after a long, courageous battle with sarcoma cancer.

Tyler has two siblings, a twin sister Emma and Carter, a 10th grader. Both are students at Decatur and Emma played in the soccer game Monday. "There are so many injuries," Walsh said. "They had to stabilize him, and it took a lot of time to get him stabilized and trying to slowly repair everything. His skull is open. He had a seizure, something like a stroke. His brain is swollen, and they had to open his skull to let his brain expand. As for injuries – you name it. They had to open his stomach. There are a lot of things going on."

There are two current GoFundMe pages set up if the community wants to support the Walsh family. One was started by Jack Brady, a close friend who was with Tyler on the night of the collision. It can be found here: go-fundme.com/f/community-support-for-tyler-walshs-healing. Approximately \$34,000 had been raised as of Tuesday afternoon on Brady's page in addition to \$92,626 raised on the previous page set up for Rhonda Walsh.

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Work on golf course irrigation system begins

(Sept. 19, 2024) Work started recently on a multiyear irrigation improvement project at the Ocean Pines Golf Club that will effectively replace a failing 50-year-old system.

The new system is said to be longer lasting, and more efficient in terms of both coverage and water usage.

General Manager John Viola said in a news release that the new irrigation system is the latest example of Ocean Pines investing in its amenities.

Golf Course Superintendent Justin Hartshorne said the disruption for golfers will be minimal, with work scheduled around the shoulder season, and the 19th hole to be used whenever one of the primary holes is unavailable.

He said the first phase of what will likely be a four-year project will include the pump station, the first and ninth holes, and the driving range.

Hartshorne said the project is getting an early start and will focus on perimeter areas so as not to be disruptive for golfers.

"We're going to try to run the mainlines that are out in the rough areas and the perimeters of these holes, so it's not going to be extremely disruptive to play," he said in the release. "When we shut down the pump

station when we're done watering for the season, we'll be working more in the winter, and we'll certainly have the 19th hole in play then."

Hartshorne said the original system is about 53 years old. He said most irrigation systems have a lifespan of roughly 25 years.

"It's well overdue," he said. "We do a lot of maintenance on it every year, and we've actually been seeing pinhole leaks forming in the pipes — they're literally just falling apart and deteriorating. So, we're long overdue for a replacement and we've more than exceeded the lifespan of the current system."

Hartshorne said golfers will see some work done off to the sides, with pipes fused aboveground and some trenching work done in preparation.

"They'll see some equipment, and some excavators on just a few holes," he said. "Eventually, we'll scrape up the sod, trench it out, put the pipe in the ground, and then they'll backfill everything and tamp it down. It will be very clean when the whole process is done. This contractor has a lot of experience with these kinds of projects, so it should be limited disruption."

For the average golfer, playing nine or 18 holes at the Ocean Pines Golf Club won't be much different.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Crews are pictured working on the underground irrigation system at the Ocean Pines golf course.

What will be noticeable are the long-term benefits to the course, the release said.

"It's a big investment, but it's a huge part of the infrastructure and it's my most vital maintenance tool for keeping a high quality of grass out here," Hartshorne said. "It's a very important system for keeping everything alive through the summer months."

He added that the irrigation systems are not visible to the public.

"It's underground, so you walk right over it, but there's miles and miles pipes and wires underground

that help operate the system that you don't notice on a daily basis," he said.

Hartshorne said the project will continue to run in phases, during the shoulder months, likely over the next four years. When it's done, the Ocean Pines Golf Club will have a much more efficient system, with much better coverage over the whole course.

"We're going to be able to really control where we're putting the water out," he said. "We'll also probably reduce our water usage, because it's going to run more efficiently, so it will help us save water as well as get water

See PROJECT Page 11



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Mitreic continues push for staggered terms

By **Bethany Hooper**
Associate Editor

(Sept. 19, 2024) County officials will continue to evaluate staggered terms for commissioners.

Last month, Commissioner Joe Mitreic called on county leaders to evaluate terms ahead of the 2026 election. While all seven commissioner seats are up for reelection every four years, he asked that staggered terms be created.

"We replace the entire board every election, and in an election year we could actually end up with seven new commissioners," he said. "Looking at the slate for the next election, two years from now, this may in fact be the time to look at staggering the positions in two different election cycles."

Mitreic told the commissioners in August that he had considered the possibility of staggering terms since

he was first elected. With Commissioner Jim Bunting stating he would not seek re-election, and he himself weighing his options for another term, he said he wanted to have a discussion now.

At the end of a commissioners meeting in early September, Mitreic said he had been contacted by numerous people since the topic was brought up last month. He said many thought the idea of staggered terms to be a good one.

"This is a constitutional issue ... and I would like to see us try to get it in this year's election," he said. "Let the people speak to it and let them decide whether they think it's the right thing to do or not."

When asked if the county had time to add the referendum question to this year's ballot, County Attorney Roscoe Leslie said it would first need the ap-

proval of the Maryland General Assembly. He said it would not be decided upon this year.

"That's something I'd like to see us stay on top of though in the future and keep moving that forward," Mitreic responded.

Mitreic told the commissioners last month that Worcester was one of the few jurisdictions in the state of Maryland to not have staggered terms. And while it was unlikely, he said the entire board in Worcester County could be replaced in any given election.

Worcester County's most recent election was held in 2022, during which the only uncontested seat was the one held by Mitreic, who presents District 7 (Ocean City). In District 1 (southern end of the county including Pocomoke), Caryn Abbott defeated in-

cumbent Josh Nordstrom. In District 2 (court-mandated minority district including part of Berlin), incumbent Diana Purnell defeated Catherine Freeman. In District 3, which includes West Ocean City, Eric Fiori pulled ahead in a four-way race to fill a seat left by Bud Church's departure from the commissioners. In District 4, the western area of the county that includes parts of Berlin and Snow Hill, incumbent Ted Elder won by a six-vote margin. In District 5, (most of Ocean Pines) incumbent Chip Bertino defeated challenger Grant Helvey. And in District 6, (northern area of the county including Bishopville) incumbent Jim Bunting defeated Richard Addis.

Most of the winners were determined in the primary race that summer.

Project to replace aging pipes

Continued from Page 10

to some areas that we don't have the ability to get to now. We'll have wall-to-wall coverage across the golf course, so we'll be able to maintain pretty much every bit of acreage that we have."

What's more, Hartshorne said the new system is said to be longer lasting and more durable.

"These pipes are certainly going to be able to hold up well beyond what our original system was built with," he said.

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Worcester asking Sussex to oppose wind farm substation

Commissioners send letter to county council seeking denial of conditional use

By **Bethany Hooper**
Associate Editor

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners will ask its northerly neighbor to oppose a conditional use request to construct a substation at the Indian River power plant.

The commissioners recently voted to send a letter to the Sussex County Council asking for its rejection of a conditional use request from a US Wind subsidiary.

While the company has presented a request to construct an electric substation in the heavy industrial zoning district, the county council has yet to issue a decision.

"They did not make a decision last month on a [conditional] use to allow the landing of the power cables from the windmills," Commissioner Joe Mitrecic told his colleagues at the conclusion of last Tuesday's meeting. "It's a conditional use that they have to rule on that would allow the cables to come in through the Indian River Inlet, and land up at the

power plant I believe. So, I would make a motion that we send Sussex County a letter asking them not to grant that conditional use to the wind farms, that they will be just as destructive to their ocean as it is ours."

As proposed in its application to Sussex County, a conditional use approval will allow Renewable Development LLC to construct an electric substation and utility uses on a 140-acre property located off of Iron Branch Road in Dagsboro, Del. The project would bring cables from the proposed wind project onshore to connect to the power grid.

In July, the Sussex County Planning and Zoning Commission considered the company's request and forwarded the matter to a public hearing, which the county council held on July 30. However, the council at that time opted to defer its decision following hours of testimony.

With the decision still pending, Mitrecic asked commissioners to pen a letter of opposition to the Sussex County Council. Mitrecic's motion, seconded by Commissioner Eric Fiori, passed in a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Caryn Abbott absent.

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Mitreic requests action on insurance drops

Commissioner eyes state assistance as mobile home coverage issues continue

By **Bethany Hooper**

Associate Editor

(Sept. 19, 2024) It appears the Worcester County Commissioners will join a growing list of local leaders seeking state assistance on behalf of homeowners struggling to secure insurance for their manufactured homes.

At the end of a recent commissioners meeting, Commissioner Joe Mitreic pointed to a recent news article in the OC Today-Dispatch highlighting the lack of available homeowners insurance for older mobile homes in the area. With insurance companies choosing not to offer, or even continue, policies on manufactured homes older than 20 years, he asked officials to reach out to state representatives.

"I think it's something we need to be aware of," he said. "I don't know if we can talk to the state about it, but I think something's going to have to be done at the state level as far as some sort of high-risk insurance for these dwellings in the future."

In recent weeks, area residents and real estate agents have shared stories

of their ongoing struggles to find insurance carriers that will provide policies on older manufactured homes. For some owners, this change has resulted in the loss of a home sale, as the buyer could not find a homeowners insurance policy required by the mortgage company. For others, it has resulted in dropped insurance coverage. Officials say this has impacted homeowners not only in Ocean City's Montego Bay community, but also in Worcester County's two campground subdivisions – White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe.

"To the best of my knowledge, there's no insurance carriers at the moment that will hand out homeowners insurance policies for single-wide, double-wide or buildovers, which is a single-wide that's been added onto," Montego Bay Realty's Mike Grimes said earlier this month. "So, because of this current situation, anybody buying those types of homes have to buy in cash because lenders require a homeowners insurance policy."

The Ocean City Mayor and Council have also directed staff to explore options for mobile home owners and to relay their concerns to the state legislature. Mitreic similarly urged county officials to take some action.

"I don't know if any of you have read it in the paper about insurance

companies pulling out of Ocean City," he said. "Right now, they're pulling out of mobile homes that are older than 20 years old. They're not re-upping their insurance. And in some cases, people trying to buy one are not able to get insurance, so they can't get mortgages to purchase these mobile homes. So some of these people are stuck with them, and can't sell them and can't insure them."

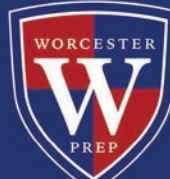
Mitreic also shared his own recent struggles in securing homeowners insurance. He questioned if the state would consider some sort of state-funded insurance program for homeowners struggling to find policies for their mobile homes.

"I know after 28 years with State Farm and never having a claim, they sent me a letter that they were not insuring people in homes in my zip code

anymore. So I had to go out and find insurance in a very short amount of time. I had a month, basically," he said. "So I know what these people are going through, and if they are not able to find insurance anywhere else, it's going to be tough."

Mitreic pointed to the homeowners who would be affected, including the White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe residents who attended a recent meeting for a separate matter.


"We need to work on that with our senators, and I'm sure our senator is well aware of it and our delegates are well aware of it," he said. "We're going to have to keep it on our radar because it's not only going to affect the people in Ocean City but it's going to affect the people speaking here today in White Horse Park and Assateague Pointe eventually."



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County OKs school system budget transfers

Commissioners approve shifts within educational board's spending accounts

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners recently approved several transfers within the board of education budget.

With approval from the school board to make adjustments to the school system's fiscal year 2024 budget, Worcester County Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert came before the commissioners at a meeting earlier this month

seeking their support as well. Officials report several transfers needed to be made to cover overages within five categories of the school system's budget ending June 30.

"We reduced instructional salaries, other instructional costs, and fixed charges to cover those overages in those other categories," Tolbert said. "So there's no increase in our operating budget. It was just a transfer among the different categories of those funds."

The school system this year recorded nearly \$1.5 million in overages among five categories – administration, instructional support, student transportation, operation of plant, and maintenance of plant. To balance the

fiscal year 2024 budget, officials proposed taking \$957,310 from instructional salaries, \$74,000 in other instructional costs, and \$468,000 in fixed charges.

When Commissioner Jim Bunting asked about overages within the instructional support category, Tolbert said it was largely driven by software costs, but that additional funds from instructional salaries and fixed charges would cover it. Bunting, however, questioned if that transfer had any impact on after-school or summer programs.

"No, it did not," Tolbert replied.

For his part, Commissioner Chip Bertino asked if the number of transfers within the board of education

budget would decrease as the school system changed the way it made its budget. Tolbert said it would.

"We worked hard, as you know, over the last 12 months to realign certain categories," he said. "And I think because of that, in FY25 and going forward, the amount of budgetary transfers would be much less."

With no further discussion, the commissioners voted 5-1, with Bunting opposed and Commissioner Caryn Abbott absent, to approve the school system's requested budget transfers. The commissioners also voted unanimously to advertise and hold a public hearing to amend the county's fiscal year operating budget.

Just Walk series event schedule announced

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Worcester County Health Department is gearing up for the 2024-2025 Just Walk Fun Walks, a series of free health-conscious events from October 2024 through the summer of 2025.

The program was launched to encourage Worcester County residents to explore local parks and trails, like

Stephen Decatur Park and the Assateague State Park Rackliffe Trail while walking, a healthy and accessible exercise method.

This year, the department is introducing Just Walk Passports. Participants are encouraged to pick up a passport-esq form from the Snow Hill Health Department, the Berlin Health Center, or the Pocomoke Health Center and get it stamped at

each event during the program. Those who complete all nine walks will receive an award and be entered into a raffle to win a grand prize.

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, Just Walk will host Walktober, a 31-day self-guided challenge. Participation in the individualized events will be documented through registration. From Oct. 4 to Oct. 6, walkers can complete a community-wide scavenger hunt.

Attendees are encouraged to visit Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Berlin, Ocean Pines, and Ocean City parks and search for the hidden sneakers. Eligible areas will be listed on the tracking sheet, which individuals must fill out to enter the free raffle once the shoes are found.

On Oct. 26, Just Walk entrants may compete in the Fungi Festival 5k
See RESIDENTS Page 15

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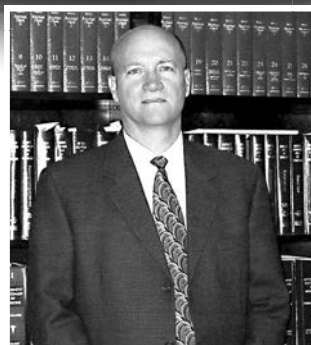
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New 4-H teen club is being brought to Worcester County

Program aims to develop leadership skills among the area's juvenile population

(Sept. 19, 2024) An interest meeting for a new 4-H Club in Worcester County is set for 6 p.m., Sept. 25, at Wilson United Methodist Church, 10722 Bishopville Road, in Bishopville. The club is open to all youth 12 to 18 years old.

Worcester County 4-H is a youth development organization within University of Maryland Extension. It is project driven and focuses on developing leadership, civil engagement and life skills.

The new club will be a fun, hands-on experiential learning opportunity for youth to gain skills in some basics as they grow into adulthood.

Topics consist of what's in your kitchen, how to read a food label, shopping on a budget, easy meal

prep, sewing and mending, how to do laundry and use an iron, how to set a table, entertaining and party planning, gardening, knowledge and use of basic hand tools, basic auto care, first aid, credit and banking skills, wants vs. needs, organizational skills, telephone etiquette, dress for success, and career exploration and readiness.

Field trips will be included in the educational activity plan. The club will meet monthly at various locations in the northern part of Worcester County. Registration in 4-H is \$10 per calendar year. Club dues are \$5 per meeting to offset the cost of field trips.

To RSVP for the meeting, or for more information, contact Susan Childs at 443-235-2926, or Kathy Decker at 410-726-5232. For more information on 4-H, call the extension office at 410-632-1972, or visit 4-h.org/.

Residents to walk county parks

Continued from Page 14

Walk Run at Pocomoke State Siver Park Shad Landing. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., and the event will start at 10 a.m. Nov. 8 will see the Berlin Fall Glow Walk, where participants can stroll Stephen Decatur Park, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. From Dec. 2 to Dec. 13, Worcester residents may partake in the self-guided 12 Days of Just Walk at Newton Park, Byrd Park, and Herring Creek Nature Park each day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Just Walk Worcester will ring in 2025 with a Jan. 1 First Day Walk and Hike Scavenger Hunt, a self-guided walk at Assateague State Park Rackliffe Trail from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., host a Go Red Scavenger Hunt at Cypress Park, Byrd Park, and Stephen Decatur Park from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16, and arrange an April 5 walk at Pocomoke River State

Park at 9 a.m.

The 2024-2025 Just Walk Fun Walk program will conclude on June 7 with the Just Walk for Men's Health event at Cypress Park, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Worcester County Health Department-hosted event is a challenge to encourage healthy movement. According to the Cleveland Health Clinic, "benefits of walking for 30 minutes a day include decreasing your resting heart rate, lowering your blood pressure and LDL (your "bad" cholesterol), and strengthening your heart...It's been proven that regular walkers have fewer heart attacks and strokes, lower blood pressure and higher levels of HDL ("good" cholesterol) than non-exercisers."

The Worcester County Health Department's website has more information about the Just Walk Fun Walks 2024-2025 series.

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Elks scholarships available to high schoolers

Ocean City arm of national nonprofit offering \$1K to \$7.5K awards for 24-25

(Sept. 12, 2024) The Elks National Foundation continues to invest in the future of many high school seniors through a variety of grants and scholarship programs. During the 2024-25 academic year, the Grand Lodge will award more than \$4 million nationwide to students who qualify through the application process and judging. The Ocean City Elks Lodge, in con-

junction with the ENF, will promote the scholarship programs at the local level.

There are three programs available each academic year which provide financial opportunities and assistance through the Elks National Foundation.

Of the three, only the Most Valuable Student competition is open to all high school seniors. The other two are reserved for students whose families are associated with an Elks' lodge. Brochures explaining the programs are available at the Ocean City

Elks Lodge and in the office of senior counselors/academic advisors at the local high schools.

For the most Most Valuable Student scholarship, the Elks National Foundation will award \$2.5 million in each year to 500 seniors nationwide who participate in the competition.

The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year. The top 20 applicants will receive \$30,000 (\$7,500/year). The remaining 480 applicants will receive \$4,000 (\$1,000/year). Ocean City Elks Lodge

#2645 also awards local scholarships to selected applicants in the program who represent the lodge.

Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen is eligible. The student need not be related to an Elk. Judges will choose recipients based on academics, leadership, financial need, and service and applications are available now. For details and to access the application, visit enf.elks.org/mvs.

The senior counselors at the participating high schools will be provided information to assist students

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with the application process.

Participants must submit their application online on or before Nov. 12.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting scholarship@elks.org or calling 773-755-4732.

For Legacy Awards, children and grandchildren of a dues-paying Elk (excluding great-grandchildren) are eligible. The applicant must be a college-bound high school senior. Applicants compete against other children and grandchildren from the state of their sponsoring Elks' lodge.

In order to strengthen the next generation's ties to the Elks, Legacy Awards recipients are required to perform three instances of service with an Elks' lodge during the four years they receive the scholarship.

The Elks National Foundation will award 350 Legacy Awards worth \$4,000 each. The Maryland, Delaware, and D.C. area has been allocated six awards.

Applicants are judged on knowledge, charity, community service, and integrity. No ACT or SAT is required.

Applications are available online now and applications must be submitted online on or before Feb. 3 at enf.elks.org/leg.

For the program's Emergency Education Grants, college financial assistance is provided to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one-year grants of up to \$5,000.

A student can apply for up to four Emergency Educational Grants during their undergraduate education. The applicant cannot accept more than one ENF scholarship/grant in

any one academic year.

Eligible recipients must attend an accredited U.S. college or university as a full-time undergraduate student (12 semester hours), be unmarried and under the age of 24 during the academic year for which assistance is desired, and demonstrate financial need

Applications have been available by request since May 1. To request an application, contact the ENF Scholarship Office at 773-755-4732 or scholarship@elks.org. Applications are due by Dec. 31,



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AT PEPPER CREEK

Photo by Ray Bojarski

Tickets available for Vienna Boys Choir concert this year

The singing group is slated to perform in Ocean City for first time this December

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Vienna Boys Choir will perform in Ocean City this December, per an initiative planned by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department. Tickets are now on sale.

The concert will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in Roland E. Powell Convention Center's performing arts space in Ocean City. According to OPA Parks and Recreation Event Coordinator Kevin Powell, roughly half of the 1,200 tickets initially available are still up for grabs.

The price to attend the show ranges from \$40 to \$70, with seats near the stage more expensive and the higher-level spots cheaper. Tickets can be obtained at Vienna Boys Choir - Performing Christmas In Vienna (ococean.com).

The singing group performs over 300 concerts a year around the world and is comprised of boys aged nine to 14 from across the globe, divided into four touring choirs.

While the Vienna Boys Choir is one of the most famous choruses, it is also among the oldest. Marketing materials from Powell say that its origins date back to at least 1296 when boys would sing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel. Two hundred years later, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I established a Court Chapel in Vienna, which paved the path for the choir, declaring that boys were to be included in the space's singing.

Today, the Vienna Boys Choir is a

private, nonprofit organization that generates funds through donations, shows, and sponsorships. The group exists on a campus that includes a primary and grammar school focused on choral music and singing. Approximately 330 boys and girls between six and 19 attend the learning facility, each receiving individual voice lessons.

The group is now bringing its talents to the Eastern Shore, performing its Christmas in Vienna setlist, which is full of Austrian folk songs, classic pieces, and familiar favorites.

"It is going to be a great event that will spread Christmas cheer," Powell said. "We need some positivity in our environment... It is their first time in Ocean City, and they are one of the greatest choirs on the planet."

Powell was inspired to bring the choir to Ocean City after seeing the group perform in Richmond, Virginia. The original hope was the event would take place at a church, but a larger facility was required to meet the capacity needs of attendees and the chorus.

A grand piano was rented from Cunningham Piano Company in Delaware, and local community member and entertainment manager Bob Rothermel will handle lighting and sound for the event.

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, in collaboration with the Ocean City Convention Center, is thrilled to be hosting the famous Vienna Boys Choir.

"If you're looking for one of the best concerts you'll ever listen to, this is it," Powell said. "It is a world-renowned choir. Let's pack the house for them and make them feel welcome. They will put on a great show for us."



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County arts council seeks grant applications

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Worcester County Arts Council is seeking grant applications for its Community Arts Development program, which is committed to financially assisting local creative initiatives.

WCAC Executive Director Anna Mullis said the group awards grants in six-month cycles to nonprofit organizations with proposed projects that highlight artistic merit, community need, and public impact.

In the first segment of the fiscal year 2025, the WCAC divided \$26,000 among ten initiatives, including a kids' paint event hosted by the Art League of Ocean City, an entire year of Berlin Heritage Foundation ongoings, funding for the Pines Tone Chorus based in Ocean Pines, and creative healing endeavors for groups like the Worcester County-based Warriors Against Addiction.

The WCAC is again accepting applications for the next round of award handouts. Mullis said the deadline for submission is Tuesday, Oct. 15, and that every group that applies will receive the financial benefit, granted they meet the criteria.

Applicants must represent a nonprofit organization, and the project they seek help for should demonstrate

a decent level of artistic pursuit while meeting the community's needs. The initiatives are also required to be open to the public.

Submissions from groups that act on behalf of creatively underserved members of the community like the aging population, low-income areas of the county, and the disabled are encouraged to apply.

"It is important for the arts council to focus on electing awards that represent all areas of Worcester County," Mullis said. "When the grant panel looks at the applications, we try to have an equitable review process."

The Maryland State Arts Council funds the grant program, which Mullis said allows for art exhibits, festivals, and school projects. The WCAC director notes that her organization is designated by the state and the Worcester County Commissioners as an agency to support the arts county-wide.

Each year, Mullis's team applies for general funding from the MSAC and designates a portion, roughly \$50,000, of the financial support for local art events distributed to regional organizations over the six-month grant cycles.

"We have a close partnership that allows us to continue our artistic mission and support the other community missions," Mullis said of the MSAC.

Each year, the WCAC receives 25 to 30 grant applications, including mini-grants, which are used for emergency events that happen in between grant cycles and require immediate support.

On the submission forms, organizations must indicate how much money they are requesting for their proposed project. Typically, initiatives are fully funded, Mullis said, but the amount given is at the discretion of the review panel. The artistic merit of the group, the budget, and the impact the event will have on the community are considered to determine the award sum.

"We believe this program ... en-

courages all local arts activities and disciplines," Mullis said. "We think that equitable funding for the arts on the local level is important to strengthen the arts and create strong vibrant healthy communities. Art benefits our lives and this program is crucial for that."

Mullis urges organizations to contact the council with any questions they may have about the grants. The arts group can be reached at 410-641-0809.

"I am proud of how the council supports the community through this program," Mullis said. "This is how we invest in the arts in the county."

AGH hosting Dining with Docs

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation is hosting a Dining with Docs event, set for 12:30 p.m., Sept. 25, Dockside Pocomoke Restaurant.

The event gives participants the opportunity to connect with a medical providers in an informal, relaxed setting, in which they can ask questions and learn about the provider's area of expertise.

Atlantic General Hospital's diabetes education coordinator will dis-

cuss diabetes management techniques, common myths surrounding diabetes and examples of low-carb snacks and drinks. The coordinator will be open to questions throughout the entirety of the lunch.

Participants will be treated to a buffet-style lunch catered by the host Dockside Pocomoke Restaurant. Admission is \$20 per person, and RSVPs can be sent to AGH Foundation's Michael Cyle at duckltd@aol.com.

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Snapshots

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED

During the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester Awards ceremony in Snow Hill on Aug. 20, the commissioners named the Whatcoat Church Opportunity Shop volunteer group the Faith-Based Award recipient. The group has been likened to a village that works together to help make the Opportunity Shop a blessing to the people of Snow Hill and all of Worcester County. Pictured are group members with their award and the commissioners at the meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Worcester County Garden Club Scholarship Chair Sandy Buchanan is pictured with the club's 2024 scholarship recipient, Ellie Johnson. Johnson, who also received the scholarship in 2023, met for lunch recently with Buchanan and committee member Glenda Clarke to talk about her freshman year at the University of Maryland studying environmental science.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

SUPPORT FOR DIAKONIA

Pictured from left, are local Kiwanis members Diane Spazak, President Bob Wolfing, Janet Wolfing, John Hanberry, PJ Sanders, and John Hulit prepared dinner for residents of Diakonia on Sept. 5. The Kiwanis Club and numerous friends from the Ocean Pines community also contributed much-needed baby gifts and supplies for three pregnant mothers-to-be at Diakonia.



PHOTO COURTESY RANDY'S CREW

POP WARNER DONATION

Randy's Crew Board Members Jim Hamlin and Dr. Danielle Jackson are pictured presenting a \$1,000 check to Kim Jackson and Tony Morris of Worcester County Pop Warner to pay registration fees for the kids to participate.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

INDIVIDUAL SPIRIT RECOGNIZED

During the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester Awards ceremony at the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill on Aug. 20, the commissioners congratulated Carlos Caceres, Jr., as the Individual Spirit Award recipient. Caceres has donated his time daily as a volunteer at the Ocean City library for over 15 years, where he brings positivity, determination, and smiles to all he encounters. He has shelved over 12,000 DVDs and has earned recognition as the most reliable and consistent volunteer in the history of the Ocean City Branch Library. He is pictured accepting his award from Commissioners President Chip Bertino.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN OPTIMIST CLUB

OPTIMIST CRAB FEAST

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club held its annual crab feast at Hoopers Sept 8. Pictured, from left, at the event are Bob Rothermel, past president Jerry Sellg, and charter president John Lynch. The club was founded in 1972 by Lynch, and other individuals, with the purpose of supporting the youth of our community.

Chamber announces annual award winners

(Sept. 12, 2024) The Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines announced this week its annual award winners.

The chamber will host the 2024 The Best of Us Awards Banquet on Oct. 24, at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. Along with inducting their new slate of Directors for 2025, the chamber will be celebrating several outstanding chamber partners for their innovation, philanthropy and successes in 2024.

Business of the Year: A Bagel And... For over ten years, Mary and Bill Jaeger have served up fresh deliciousness in the form of bagels, pastries,

sandwiches, dog treats, and deli items. Many hold business meetings there while others enjoy their weekly get-together for mahjong. The business has garnered such a loyal following that hungry people come from all over, not just from within the Pines.

Business Persons of the Year: Brendan and Chrissy Kashuba of Radio Ocean City. After decades of event DJing and as a radio host, "DJBK" and his wife, Chrissy, started a new venture in 2021, taking Ocean City on the road with Radio Ocean City, an internet radio station. You can't miss their brightly colored billboard for Ocean City of an RV

while they provide entertainment for local events or head south for the winter.

Non-Profit of the Year: The CRICKET Center. The CRICKET Center's main objective is to reduce trauma to child victims by bringing all necessary local agencies together. The multidisciplinary team is made up of law enforcement officers, child protective service personnel, prosecutors, lawyers, advocates, mental health therapists and medical personnel. The multidisciplinary team meets regularly to communicate and collaborate on child abuse cases.

New Business of the Year: PopCe's Homemade Ice Cream. Bob Miller had a dream. After decades of nursing facility administration, he was finally able to make that dream come true. He and his wife, Celeste opened PopCe's Homemade Ice Cream in 2023 and haven't looked back since. Testing

the waters with delicious and innovative flavors and combos, Bob then branched out and now provides fresh, homemade ice cream to several local restaurants. It truly is a family operation with many of their children and relatives as employees.

Ambassadors of the Year: Bianca Deacon and Ryan McManus. This husband-and-wife duo never let us down. Whether it's lending us equipment or a hand, they are always up for volunteering. Bianca is a chamber partner with her business Shore Thing Promotional Products. Always welcoming, always smiling, Bianca and Ryan exemplify what a chamber ambassador should be.

The award celebration is a black and gold masquerade themed dinner. Tickets and sponsorships are available at WorcesterCountyChamber.org.

Clays for Kids fundraiser Nov. 2

(Sept. 19, 2024) A Clays for KIDS Fundraiser event benefitting Worcester County Child Advocacy Center, the CRICKET Center, is set for Nov. 2 at the Synepuxent Rod & Gun Club in Berlin

Members of the public are encouraged to attend to support help support child advocacy in the community.

The event will feature specialty Shots for \$5, 50/50 chances, a gun raffle sponsored by Larry's Trading Post, and more. Cash Prizes for top shooters are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third.

Registration will open at 7 a.m., the day of the event, and participants must be 16 or older. There will be a limit of 80 participants. To register in advance online, visit scorechaser.com. Payment will be collected at check-in.

Food and event items will also be available for purchase, attendees are asked to bring their own shells, and no firearms will be provided.

This event is presented by the Synepuxent Rod & Gun Club in partnership with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled for Nov. 3.

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Opinion

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

Nothing to see here, just following rules

When Matt Ortt Companies was brought into run the Ocean Pines Association's beleaguered food and drink operations a little more than six years ago, chances are no one expected that organization and the venues it would be managing to do as well as they did.

Judging from the incentives built into the original contract, it appears that the thought behind it was that simply breaking even on the year would be a wonderful thing to behold, considering the venues' poor performance over the years.

Obviously, the OPA Board of Directors and the association management were delighted when Ortt's efforts put money on the OPA's bottom line.

Now, however, Ortt's success obligates the OPA to play by the rules lest anyone suggest that association leadership and restaurateur Matt Ortt have some kind of a sweetheart deal in place.

With Ortt's contract expiring in 2025, the association really has no choice but to "see what's out there," even if it turns out that there's nothing out there at all.

At least it tried, which gives both the OPA and Ortt some cover from any criticism that might arise should the two come to terms over a new operating agreement.

As Director Rick Farr observed this week, the association's bylaws require the board to issue a formal request for proposals when it seeks contractual services and that is what it's doing.

Obviously, the clientele at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the Beach Club and clubhouse like the product that Ortt produces and would undoubtedly support his return.

Still, the rules exist to protect everyone involved — the community, association management, the board and the vendor — and ignoring them is not in the best interest of anyone.

Local club seeks award nominations

Environmental group to honor individual for land conservation

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Lower Shore Land Trust is seeking nominations for the 2024 Stephen N. Parker Conservation Legacy Award.

The award is an opportunity to recognize an individual that has displayed an enduring and distinct dedication to conserving the vital lands of the Lower Eastern Shore.

The inaugural 2019 award was presented to Charles "Buddy" Jenkins, of Worcester County, on Feb. 15, 2019, for a lifelong commitment to conservation and protection of natural resources. Through deed restrictions and the Jenkins Family Trust, Jenkins worked to protect one of the most significant tracts of land in Northern Worcester County — totaling over 2,000 acres of forest, prime agriculture and coastal wetlands — which serves as an ecological

anchor for the coastal bays.

Since then, the award has been presented to Larry Leese, John B. Long and Hugh Cropper IV.

Nominees possess leadership, dedication, and noteworthy influence — over a significant period of time — to intentionally and meaningfully bring about permanent conservation of Eastern Shore lands. The characteristics are shown through displayed efforts to permanently conserve large tracts of Eastern Shore land, unique love and dedication to supporting the Delmarva way of life, special understanding of the flora and fauna that exists within the region, and a displayed understanding of the overall community. Other criteria includes positive contributions to impacting the economic, health, and/or overall well-being of the community, while respecting and enhancing the rural lands of the Eastern Shore.

Emailed nominations are due by Sept. 20th.



PHOTO COURTESY LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST
Hugh Cropper IV is pictured accepting the Lower Shore Land Trust's 2023 Stephen N. Parker Conservation Legacy Award.

The award will be presented at the annual Flannel Formal, set from 3-6 p.m., Nov. 9, at Coulbourn Farm in Snow Hill. Tickets are \$85 per person until Nov. 3, and \$95 per person after and at the door. Purchase tickets and/or sponsorships online at LowerShoreLandTrust.org, or call 443-234-5587 or email mresto@lslt.org.

OktoBIRDFest features morning walk

(Sept. 13, 2024) Delmarva Birding Weekend and Lower Shore Land Trust are partnering to host a morning bird walk through the Maryland Ornithological Society's Irish Grove Sanctuary from 8-11 a.m., Oct. 11. as part of the OktoBIRDFest x DogFish Head weekend festivities.

Thanks to a grant from the Rural Maryland Council, the Lower Shore Land Trust is partnering with Delmarva Birding to offer a bird walk through the Maryland Ornithological Society's 2,326-acre Irish Grove Sanctuary.

Jim Rapp of Delmarva Birding Weekends, and Jared Parks and Beth Sheppard of Lower Shore Land Trust will guide bird enthusiasts around the Rumbly Point peninsula in southern Somerset County where they'll encounter a variety of over 235 reported species of birds, including saltmarsh sparrows, seaside

sparrows, and Virginia rails.

Along with spotting critical lower shore bird species, participants will also get first-hand experience with marsh migration, where their old trail maps might not match the current route that guides will take them on due to shifting vegetation zones, ghost forests, and sea level rises. Most of the property is less than 5 feet above sea level, with a majority the sanctuary tidal marsh and some pine forest.

Bird watchers are encouraged to dress and prepare for hiking on trails that may be wet and muddy by wearing waterproof boots and other rain gear, wearing and bringing insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats, and preparing for ticks. Arriving early to ensure an on-time departure is also considered courteous, as is speaking quietly and turning off cell

phones during trips. There are restrooms on site at Irish Grove.

Other events happening during the OktoBIRDFest x Dogfish Head weekend include a Friday evening sunset cruise behind Assateague Island and Ocean City, a biking birding tour Saturday morning at Cape Henlopen State Park, a sunset cruise in Lewes Saturday evening, and a birding tour at the Delaware Botanic Gardens in Dagsboro on Sunday morning.

Registration is currently open, and early registrants get a 50% discount until Sept. 27. There are no cancellations and trips will go on rain or shine. More information can be found online at delmarvabirding.com/friday-oct-11-irish-grove-mos-sanctuary/.

For more information, call Jim Rapp at (443) 614-0261 or email dmvbirds@gmail.com.

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Paint Worcester County award ceremony Fri.

(Sept. 19, 2024) This week, from Monday, Sept. 15, to Friday, Sept. 20, skilled artists from four different states painted outdoor scenes in “plein air” in various locations around Worcester County during the Worcester County Arts Council’s Paint Worcester County event, and will now compete for cash prizes.

The event will culminate with the sale and public exhibit set 5-7 p.m., this Friday, Sept. 20 at the Berlin Library. The exhibit will showcase art-

work the artists created during the week.

The sale offers art lovers the opportunity to buy original pieces of art, fresh off the easel, and meet the artists who painted them.

Entries submitted for the competition will be reviewed and winners will be selected by the guest judge, award-winning plein air artist, Jim Rehak. The Paint Worcester County competition offers \$2,550 in total cash prizes, including the Maryland Legislators’ Award, Worcester County Commissioners’ Award, Berlin Mayor’s Choice, and the Berlin Library Foundation Choice awards.

Originally started in 2010 as Paint Berlin, plein air, the event expanded its boundaries in 2021 to become Paint Worcester County, plein air. T

Anna Mullis, the arts council exec-

utive director, said in a news release that the event allows the organization to meet the goal of focusing on and including all geographic areas of the county.

Paint Worcester County empowers artists to explore and interpret the county’s historic sites, architecture, landscapes, marshes, seaside, and street scenes. It also encourages residents and visitors to view landmarks through the eyes of the artists while they work at their easels in public spaces.

To the viewers, the art form can be exciting because it invites them into the creative process, the sight, the sound, and even the smell of the artist’s world. Arts council officials invite visitors of all ages to observe the entire process, from the first brush stroke to the final flourish.

By making people more aware of the beauty of Worcester County, and by weaving art into the social fabric of the community, Paint Worcester County organizers hope to inspire interest in plein air painting, its origins, and its history.

“En Plein Air” is a French phrase that translates to “in the open air,” describing outdoor painting in inspiring settings. Plein air is an admired and well-known approach to art, encouraging painting wherever artists can find a creative spark.

The selection of Paint Worcester County artwork will be on display at the Berlin Library (13 Harrison Ave.) until Oct. 22.

For more information, contact the Worcester County Arts Council at 410-641-0809 or curator@worcester-countyartscouncil.org

Pines Pink Ribbon Pickleball Round Robin set Oct. 4

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Ocean Pines Pickleball Club, in partnership with the American Cancer Society, is hosting the 2024 Pink Ribbon Pickleball Round Robin event on Oct. 4, at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign.

Along with the pickleball tournament, there will be gift baskets, basket raffles, and free giveaways available, with a new option for electronic raffle ticket purchases for immediate payouts. The 50/50 raffle will still require cash payment, with tickets ranging from \$5 to \$25, depending on the selected items.

This year, the event will feature a Vendor Village, where local artisans will showcase their products. Club members encourage everyone to visit and support the vendors as they contribute to the day’s festivities.

The event schedule is as follows:

7:15-8 a.m. – Registration

8:30 a.m. – Play begins promptly

Noon – Lunch served after play

3 p.m. – Medals and prizes awarded

3:30 p.m. – Event concludes

For more information, contact Becky Ferguson at 410-446-1816.



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Calendar

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

Thurs., Sept. 19

46TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2024

Boardwalk from Third Street to Seventh Street, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating and it's all free. kite loft.com

AGH 31ST ANNUAL FALL GOLF CLASSIC

Ocean City Golf Club, 11401 Country Club Drive, Berlin. Featuring 36 holes of championship golf. Two courses, 18 holes each. <https://oceancitygolfclub.com>, 410-641-1779, ocgy@hotmail.com

RIBBON CUTTING - OPEN HOUSE

Beach Bum W.-O, 12308 Old Bridge Road, Ocean City, 4-6 p.m. Meet the staff, tour the property and celebrate the Grand Opening of the Herring Creek Venue that can host up to 150 guests that can be accommodated right on the property. Refreshments. 410-213-1441

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free to patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

STORY TIME: POLICE OFFICERS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a story about police officers and meet a real police officer. Songs, a story and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'GRUMPY PANTS'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MUSIC LEGENDS MOVIE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This 2020 film details how The Band was formed and includes interviews with Bob Dylan Bruce Springsteen, Taj Mahal and Eric Clapton. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAGIC THE GATHERING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Battle it out with sorcery, dragons and giants. Experienced and novice players welcome. BYOC recommended. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PILATES, BARRE TONING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines

Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. CerPilates and Barre focus on strength, flexibility, breathing and full body alignment. Both are low impact. Toning adds optional light weights. Class can be done standing and sitting. 410-208-4014

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., Sept. 20

BERLIN FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 6-10 p.m. Featuring "The Plate Scrapers" from 6-7:30 p.m. and "The High And Wides" from 8-10 p.m.

46TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2024

Boardwalk from Third Street to Seventh Street, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating and it's all free. kite loft.com

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR 7TH ANNUAL PINK RIBBON PICKLEBALL ROUND ROBIN

Held Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry fee is \$40 and includes snacks, lunch and prizes. Open to men and women. Register by Sept. 20. Becky Ferguson, 410-446-1816, rcoltferguson@gmail.com

MAHJONG CLUB

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

HOMESCHOOL PORTRAITS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Give your homeschooler a "School Picture Day" experience and get a free digital copy of their portrait. For all ages. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SURVIVAL SPANISH: HOBBIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Join in to learn about the Spanish vocabulary for different pastimes. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK DISCUSSION: 'WHAT STORM, WHAT THUNDER'

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

www.worcesterlibrary.org

FRIED FLOUNDER DINNER

Bowen Fellowship Church, 8426 Newark Road, Newark, 4:30 p.m. Fried flounder dinner, green beans, Mac & cheese, cornbread, dessert and beverage. Carryout available. Cost is \$10.

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., Sept. 21

BERLIN FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring competition from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and "Rebecca Frazier" from 1-3 p.m.

46TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2024

Boardwalk from Third Street to Seventh Street, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating and it's all free. kite loft.com

OCTOBERFEST SHORE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Bayside Park at Third St., 108 Dorchester St., Ocean City, 12:30-4:30 p.m. More than 15 local craft breweries, unlimited tastings, live music, vendors, food trucks and commemorative pints for the first 1,500 attendees. Pets welcome. Tickets: www.shorecraftbeerfest.com. 410-289-7739

BALLET ON THE BEACH DANCE FESTIVAL

Assateague State Park, 6915 Maryland 611, Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. Free professional performance (5-6:30 p.m.). Pre-performance activities (4-5 p.m.). Rain date is Sept. 22. Parking is \$5. Bring beach chairs. Reserve free tickets: www.BalletontheBeach.org.

FALL FLEA MARKET

White Horse Park and Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m.-noon. Indoor/outdoor, welcomes vendors selling gently used clothing, household items, toys, jewelry, collectibles and more. Free admission. Rain for shine. Vendor space: 410-641-7052.

APPLE HARVEST JAMBOREE

Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m.-noon. Celebrate the diverse and unique fall offering of Delmarva and have old-fashioned family country fun. 410-641-7052,

oceanpines.org

WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9-10 a.m. Atlantic General representative will speak on a topic of their expertise, and then will lead the group for a walk around the pond. First 10 participants receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. 410-641-9268

FAMILY LIBRARY DAY: CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m. Join in for a variety of crafts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. For all ages. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BINGO AND BLUEY'S BRILLIANT LIBRARY CARD PARTY!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come sign up for a library card while you play games and make Bluey crafts. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SPEC TENNIS CLUB OF OCEAN PINES OFFERS FREE INTRO CLINICS

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 10 a.m. Free introductory clinic for Ocean Pines residents. Paddles provided and players of all abilities are welcome. RSVP: 516-508-0313, oppaddle2020@gmail.com.

ORIGINALS ONLY

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Musicians, poets, comics and writers converge. All artists welcome. Free event. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org/event/originals-only-56/>

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Sept. 22

46TH ANNUAL SUNFEST KITE FESTIVAL 2024

Boardwalk from Third Street to Seventh Street, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All are welcome to witness and participate in general kite flying, kite flying games, Bol races, candy drops, sport kite demos or just plain kite spectating and it's all free. kite loft.com

MARINE DEBRIS PLUNDER

White Horse Park Boat Launch, Ocean Pines, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Join Captain Jack Sparrow, MCBP, and Ocean Pines for a bay trash clean up, either bay land or by sea. Visit mdcoastalbays.org or call 410-213-2297, Ext. 106.

Calendar

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., Sept. 23

STORY TIME: APPLES

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

LEGO STEAM CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Join in for a Lego challenge event. All materials provided. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAGIC MONDAY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Magic the Gathering meet-up, fourth Monday of each month. Teens and adults only. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

BRIDGE

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

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.

Tues., Sept. 24

STORY TIME AT THE PARK

Cypress Park Playground, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and outside play. Weather permitting. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Sensory play encourages learning through exploration. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

HOMESCHOOL HISTORY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 12 p.m. Learn facts about different historical time periods through reading, writing and games. For ages 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAKE AND LEARN: OYSTER WARS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. During and after the presentation about oysters, the group will make small treasure chests using collage, small shells, oyster shells and twine. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ARTSCAPE: IN THE GARDEN

Corner Sanctuary Pocomoke Community Garden, 327 Clarke Ave., 5:30 p.m. A casual meetup for artists of all levels to share technique and mediums. Basic painting and sketching supplies are available to use, or bring your own. Weather permitting. 410-957-0878

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-



PHOTO COURTESY RANDY'S CREW

DONATION TO CHEER TEAM

Randy's Crew Board Member Jill Ferrante is pictured presenting a \$1,000 check to the Stephen Decatur High School Cheerleading Team for uniform replacement and competition fees.

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., Sept. 25

BIARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

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.worcesterlibrary.org

COFFEE & CRAFTS - OYSTER SHELL PAINTING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Try painting something new on one shell of a canvas. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DINING WITH DOCS

Dockside, 2 Riverside Drive, Pocomoke City, 12:30 p.m. Featured provider is Dr. Nikki, PHarmD, BC-ADM, CDCES, Atlantic General Hospital's diabetes education coordinator. Cost is \$20 and

includes a buffet-style lunch. RSVP: Michael Cyle, duckltd@aol.com.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

CHARMING BOOKS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Come celebrate Banned Book Week by creating a book charm using banned book covers. All materials provided. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR TEENS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Make your own first aid kit. Sample some survival food packets. For ages 12-18 years. Registration is necessary: 410-208-4014.

4-H OPPORTUNITY FOR TEENS

Wilson Community Church, 10722 Bishopville Road, Bishopville, 6 p.m. The club will meet monthly in the northern part of Worcester County and is open to youth ages 12-18 years. Registration cost is \$10/year. Club dues are \$5/meeting. RSVP: Susan Childs, 443-235-2926.

PAINT & SIP

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

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and information can be found on the website and Facebook. www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

BANNED BOOKS WEEK ACTIVITIES

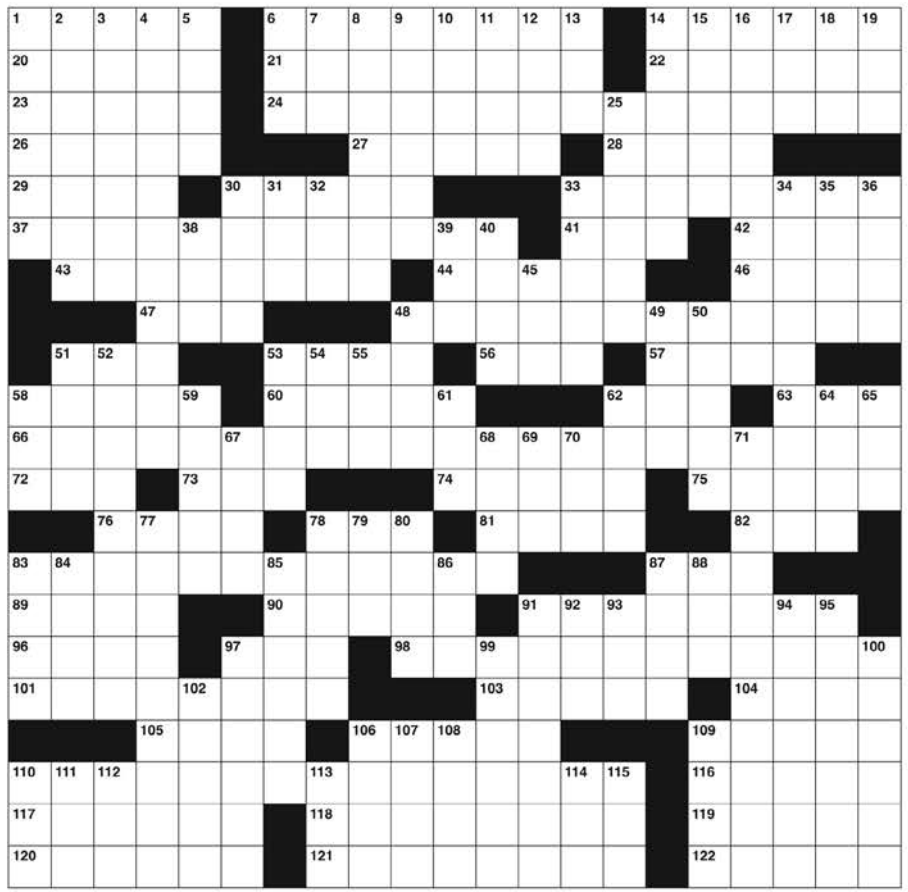
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Sept. 23-28. Celebrate your freedom to read with several activities about banned and challenged books. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Puzzles

LIFE MILESTONES BY MEGHAN MORRIS / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Meghan Morris is an appellate public defender living in Denver (found in the 110-Across). A mother of twin second graders, she often has this puzzle's theme on her mind. One recent parenting challenge has been the "turf war" over who gets to do Wordle on her phone. "I try to take deep breaths and let go of my need to use my regular starting word when I see them typing in something else," she says.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Smacks
 - 6 "Obey your thirst" or "Got milk?"
 - 14 Tiki-bar fruit
 - 20 Painter Rousseau
 - 21 Admit guilt, perhaps
 - 22 Porcelain coating
 - 23 Extra
 - 24 Age 1
 - 26 Tugboat greetings
 - 27 Drive in Beverly Hills
 - 28 Modern-day alternative to a cash till
 - 29 Memo heading
 - 30 Awful, in slang
 - 33 Quarry
 - 37 Age 5
 - 41 ___ al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)
 - 42 Actor Paul
 - 43 One of 13 in a standard game of "Jeopardy!"
 - 44 Animal whose name is pronounced with a "y" sound by many Spanish speakers
 - 46 ___ Rabbit
 - 47 Many an airport shuttle
 - 48 Age 16
 - 51 Rare bill
 - 53 Unvarnished
 - 56 Govt. lawyers
 - 57 Battery options
 - 58 Chris of "Jurassic World"
 - 60 Succulent source of syrup
- DOWN**
- 118 Warmly acknowledges
 - 119 "Good grief!"
 - 120 Like black-tie affairs
 - 121 Broad view
 - 122 Social media request
- ACROSS**
- 63 Alternative to the pill, in brief
 - 66 Age 18
 - 72 Political analyst Walter
 - 73 "It's whatever"
 - 74 Award-winning Janelle
 - 75 Laughing gas or quicklime
 - 76 "The Kite Runner" protagonist
 - 78 Goal
 - 81 Feature of the Pizza Hut logo
 - 82 Prefix from the Latin for "needle"
 - 83 Age 21
 - 87 Built-___ (some shelving)
 - 89 Dwelling with a circular frame
 - 90 Vacation isle in the Ionian Sea
 - 91 Parts of vintage movie collections
 - 96 "However ...," in texts
 - 97 Hide-out spot
 - 98 Age 65
 - 101 Any of the six in football's "New Year's Six"
 - 103 Bug
 - 104 Possible threat to one in debt
 - 105 Director Kazan
 - 106 Pirate's haul
 - 109 ___ Picchu
 - 110 Age 100
 - 116 Place to store seasonal décor
 - 117 Give the lay of the land
- DOWN**
- 1 Worrywart's words
 - 2 Pertaining to the pursuit of pleasure
 - 3 Country that counts the French president as a co-prince
 - 4 Write-in, often
 - 5 Church recitation, at times
 - 6 Letters aptly found in "Obamacare"
 - 7 ___ Pérignon
 - 8 Glittering
 - 9 Singer Jackson who wasn't a part of the Jackson 5
 - 10 Pundit's writing
 - 11 Stick
 - 12 Travel lead-in to "mexico"
 - 13 "Hip Hop Is Dead" rapper
 - 14 Edible shell
 - 15 Diplomat Kofi
 - 16 Way to bulk up one's chest
 - 17 Opposite of an adversaire
 - 18 Desire
 - 19 Neighbor of Niger: Abbr.
 - 25 "Assumption of the Virgin" painter
 - 30 Join a petition
 - 31 Game whose name must be said to win
- ACROSS**
- 32 "Proud Mary" band, for short
 - 33 They follow quarters
 - 34 Leechlike
 - 35 Name rhymed with "says" in Taylor Swift's "Betty"
 - 36 Major or May, politically
 - 38 It may come loose
 - 39 Nice Nikon, for short
 - 40 Went downhill
 - 45 Janine's boss on "Abbott Elementary"
 - 48 "Whip It" band
 - 49 Gawk
 - 50 Word with ship or shorts
 - 51 Decorate, in a way
 - 52 Symbol for a winding road
 - 53 Way to go
 - 54 "Good grief!"
 - 55 John who explored the Northwest Passage
 - 58 Tour grp.
 - 59 Mouselike
 - 61 Tree along Central Park's Literary Walk
 - 62 Head of staff?
 - 64 Close relative of Hindi
 - 65 Give some shade?
 - 67 Years of service
 - 68 Something on an ear ... or, in a different sense, a foot
 - 69 About whom Lennon wrote "I Want You (She's So Heavy)"
 - 70 Thai's neighbor
 - 71 Out of patience
 - 77 Competitors who know their limits?
- DOWN**
- 78 Together
 - 79 Neighbor of Lebanon: Abbr.
 - 80 Tick off
 - 83 Picnic-invitation abbr.
 - 84 Thermostat setting
 - 85 Val Kilmer's "Top Gun" role
 - 86 Homophone of "wee"
 - 87 Wee
 - 88 Casual refusal
 - 91 Flowing movement between yoga poses
 - 92 QVC alternative
 - 93 Channel owned by Paramount, for short
 - 94 Like red-card recipients
 - 95 Deceptive argument
 - 97 Delicately pretty
 - 99 Gab
 - 100 French kisser?
 - 102 Secluded valleys
 - 106 School with the mascot Big Al, for short
 - 107 Oscar-nominated Lena
 - 108 World capital with the most appearances in the New York Times crossword
 - 109 Non-Egyptian people who used hieroglyphics
 - 110 "___: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World" (1997 nonfiction best seller)
 - 111 Mess up
 - 112 German for "never"
 - 113 AOL was an early one, in brief
 - 114 Doctoral graduation cap
 - 115 Driver's target, in brief
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- ACROSS**
- 78 Together
 - 79 Neighbor of Lebanon: Abbr.
 - 80 Tick off
 - 83 Picnic-invitation abbr.
 - 84 Thermostat setting
 - 85 Val Kilmer's "Top Gun" role
 - 86 Homophone of "wee"
 - 87 Wee
 - 88 Casual refusal
 - 91 Flowing movement between yoga poses
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 - 114 Doctoral graduation cap
 - 115 Driver's target, in brief

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su | do | ku

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HARD - 20

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

I	M	S	A	V	E	D	S	H	O	W	S	A	M	B	A	R				
S	N	O	W	T	I	R	E	M	A	R	I	E	C	L	A	I	R	E		
S	H	A	R	E	A	C	A	B	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	A	I	D
T	A	S	T	E	R	T	O	R	T	I	L	L	A	S	E	T				
E	K	E	T	I	A	S	R	E	E	F	E	R	R	S	H	E	D			
P	A	C	3	4	W	A	I	L	S	A	S	D	O	I	L	G	A			
7	4	D	A	Y	S	H	A	I	L	S	O	N	F	O	O	T				
J	P	E	G	J	K	S	I	M	M	O	N	S		D	A	N	T	E		
O	R	N	U	R	S	E	T	B	A	L	L	S	T	A	I	N				
C	O	R	N	S	S	T	A	N	A	H	O	Y	M	A	T	E	Y			
K	V	A	S	S	F	O	R	5	8	W	I	N	K	S	A	X	E	S		
S	E	G	A	C	L	O	U	D	3	3	A	G	E	E	S	P	X			
D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	E	H	E	W	S	A	T	O	N	E			
U	N	I	T	Y	F	L	O	R	A	C	R	U	I	S	E	D				
S	L	A	T	S	L	O	T	U	S	T	R	E	E	C	E					
C	A	M	E	O	S	T	I	G	E	R	H	A	N	G	5	2				
A	N	Y	R	V	L	O	T	G	N	A	T	S	4	2	B	I	T			
B	E	A	R	U	G	G	S	K	Y	S	E	E	P	E	M	O				
D	O	A	B	O	T	T	O	M	U	P	M	E	R	L	O	T				
S	T	A	R	P	I	T	C	H	E	R	S	F	A	K	E	N	A	I	L	S
T	I	M	E	S	S	Q	U	A	R	E	F	L	I	N	C	H	E	D		
Y	E	S	M	O	M	P	I	N	A	T	A	N	D	E	M	S				

Inauguration set Friday for new president at Wor-Wic

Deborah Casey named to position in August 2023 after career in Wash. state

(Sept. 19, 2024) An inauguration ceremony to install Deborah Casey as president of Wor-Wic Community College is set for 10 a.m., this Friday, Sept. 20, at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center in Salisbury. The event will cap off several weeks of celebration at the college.

“It is an honor to be inaugurated as the president of Wor-Wic. The investiture and its surrounding events will reaffirm our commitment to serving and uplifting our communities,” Casey said in a news release. “We are doing exciting and innovative work at the college, and this will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the counties we serve to see the talent, skill and potential our community college has to offer. Together, we will celebrate and continue the journey of visioning our future. Go Fins!”

Casey was named as president by the Wor-Wic board of trustees after a national search. She previously spent 17 years as vice president of student affairs at Green River College in

Auburn, Washington. She started as president of Wor-Wic in August 2023.

Presidential inaugurations are significant occasions in academia, especially at Wor-Wic, where Casey is only the third leader in its history to hold the title. An inauguration is a time for a college to contemplate and communicate its shared mission and values.

The inauguration will feature several speakers consisting of faculty, students and local dignitaries and partners, as well as higher education professionals, such as Brad Phillips, executive director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges; Sanjay Rai, secretary of education, Maryland Higher Education Commission; Karen Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream; and Josh Wyner, vice president of the Aspen Institute.

Along with the Sept. 20 investiture, there will be service events for students and staff in partnership with Diakonia, the Blood Bank of Delmarva, Wicomico County Habitat for Humanity, the Maryland Folk Fest and an Ocean City beach cleanup.

Visit worwic.edu/inauguration for more details on the events.

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Pines Oktoberfest pickleball tourney set for Oct. 11-13

(Sept. 19, 2024) One of Ocean Pines' biggest annual racquet sports events of the year, the Oktoberfest pickleball tournament, will return for its fourth year on Oct. 11-13 at the racquet center.

The event annually draws several hundred players and spectators and is the only pickleball tournament with cash prizes held on the Delmarva Peninsula.

For players, registration is \$45, and the registration deadline is Oct. 1. To register, visit app.pickleballidn.com/external-tournament/5282529.

Organizers are also seeking sponsors for the event at three different levels: gold (\$1,000), silver (\$500), and bronze (\$250). For information on sponsorships, contact Debbie Donahue at ddonahue@oceanpines.org.

For tournament information, contact Jamie Lowe at tournaments@sportsoffice365.com.

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Md. sports betting revenues way up

(Sept. 19, 2024) Maryland's sports wagering market generated nearly \$5.6 million in contributions to the state — more than double last year's total — from a nearly \$377.4 million for the month of August.

Sports wagering contributions go to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

With the August total, the sports wagering program's cumulative contribution to the Blueprint Fund has surpassed the \$100 million mark. Maryland's first retail sportsbooks launched in December 2021, and mobile sports wagering began in November 2022.

In August 2023, sports betting revenues totaled just \$2.6 million in contributions to the state. The overall \$377.4 million handle this year was also higher than last August by 43.1%. Another \$78,740 in expired sports wagering prizes were also contributed to the state's Problem Gambling Fund last month.

There were 11 mobile platforms and 12 retail locations that operated this past August, while 12 mobile sportsbooks and 12 retail locations were in operation in August 2023. Ocean Downs is one of the retail locations that has sports betting kiosks.

A detailed summary of the August 2024 results for each sportsbook, including handle, hold percentage, prizes paid, promotional play, taxable win, and contribution to the state, along with a summary of statewide handle and hold by sport is available for download at mdgaming.com.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Some of the winners in the Worcester County Arts Council's "Scapes" juried competition pose together for a photo. Pictured, from left, are honorable mention winner Mary Shelsby, third place winner Carol Gentes, WCAC Executive Director Anna Mullis, first place winner Mitzi Ash, and honorable mention winners Ellie Scott and Gail Stern.

WCAC names 'Scapes' winners

(Sept. 19, 2024) The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced the winners in the juried art competition, "Scapes."

Entries are featured in the exhibit at the arts council's gallery in Berlin and consist of 33 pieces submitted by 23 artists with work in all media. Entries were judged by local artist and former art educator Marie A. Cavallaro.

The goal of the competition was to encourage artists to interpret their representation of "Scapes" in a literal form, such as landscape, cityscape, or waterscape, and challenge them to explore it further through the concept of mindscape, moonscape, or bodyscape in their creative processes.

The following have been awarded:

First place — "Escape," Painting on Silk, by Mitzi Ash

Second place — "Sunset in Paris," Mixed Media, by Jiyeong Yun

Third place — "Weather on the Edge," Acrylic, by Carol Gentes

Honorable Mention — "Daybreak," Pastel, by Gail Stern

Honorable Mention — "Mini-Green Street, Snow Hill," Oil, by Ellie Scott

Honorable Mention — "Isle of Wight Morning," Watercolor, by Mary Shelsby

Honorable Mention — "Sunscape Over Green," Photography, Fred Johnson

The exhibit will continue to be on display through Nov. 3. The artwork is available for purchase.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.



OPEN HOUSES

Sept. 19 - Sept. 26



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-Sun 10am-4pm	Memory Lane, Harbor Court, West OC	3BR/4BR/5BR/6BR	Single Family	from \$799,900	Joe Wilson/Coastal Life 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 11am-1pm	711 Mooring Road #5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$495,000	Eileen Bumba/Long & Foster Realty
Friday Noon-2pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	1101 Edgewater Ave. #202 Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	11062 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	722 Mooring Road #A102, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$365,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	8814 Hunting Hound Rd., Berlin	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$649,995	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Monday 10am-Noon	1101 Edgewater Ave. #202 Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$435,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday Noon-2pm	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Wednesday 3-5pm	733 Bradley Road, Ocean City	5BR/6BA/2 Half BA	Single Family	\$2,950,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Thursday 11am-1pm	377 Walnut Hill Dr., Berlin	3BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$734,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty



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AUCTION

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

Units to be auctioned; S102-S311-S635-L3-L12-O25-O40-O145-O151-O175-B28-B69-B57. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

Date: Friday, September 27th, 2024
Time: 10:00 am

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

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

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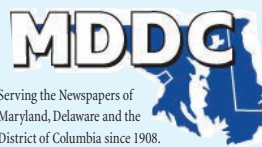
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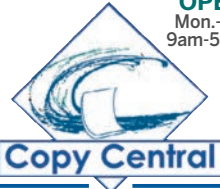
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