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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lakernick looks back at past year

Notes accomplishments, plans, projects in 2025

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Ocean Pines officials late last month reflected on a year of community progress and achievements, including efforts to update the fire department's South Side Station, add a gazebo at the veteran's memorial and take steps toward amenity improvements.

At the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 21, the last assembly of 2024, association President Stuart Lakernick reviewed the association's accomplishments.

"This year has been filled with moments of challenge of triumph, but through it all, we have remained united in our commitment to supporting one another," he said. "...We are a community bound by shared values, and this season of joy and celebration will remind us of our power when we all come together. I am proud when I look at the many achievements we accomplished this past year."

This year has been filled with moments of challenge of triumph, but through it all, we have remained united ...

—Stuart Lakernick

Among the initiatives that got off the ground over the last 12 months is the memorandum of understanding between the OPA and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department for a new South Side Station at 911 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Signed in July, the agreement outlines arrangements for constructing the updated firehouse.

Per the MOU, "OPA shall manage the construction on the South Station
See OFFICIALS Page 4

TIME OF YEAR FOR DONATIONS

Members of the Pine'er Craft Club gathered last week to announce \$10,440 in community donations to seven different government agencies and charities in Ocean Pines.

Tindley portrait lent to library for exhibit

After decade pass, painting realizes its original purpose as historical figure display

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2024) A portrait of gospel singer and Methodist minister the Rev. Charles Tindley, painted by Berlin artist Patrick Henry, is now on display at the Berlin Library.

Known as the "Grandfather of Gospel Music," Tindley was born in Berlin in 1851. According to the Salisbury University site, "Enduring Connections," a project that explores the Delmarva Peninsula's Black history, Tindley taught himself to read, pursued additional education, and

later became the pastor of thousands of members at what is now known as the Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Tindley wrote many hymns, including "I'll Overcome Someday," which inspired the later civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome."

Materials at the Berlin Library on loan from the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum say music played a significant role in Tindley's sermons.

"Often, he would punctuate a point with a familiar hymn from camp meetings, gospel songs, fests, or prayer sessions," the article said. "Occasionally, he would sing an unfamiliar tune and explain it as one he had written, and he would repeat these until they were familiar."



Portrait of the Rev. Charles Tindley by Berlin artist Patrick Henry.

Tindley composed nearly 50 hymns during his lifetime, with his first published works debuting in
See TINDLEY Page 4

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Medical leave rule to cost OP around \$30K

A newly adopted state-wide program for employee time off to incur additional costs

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) As Maryland's paid family and medical leave program goes into effect this year, the cost to the Ocean Pines Association will be approximately \$30,000, General Manager John Viola told the association board of directors on Dec. 21.

Benefits from Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FMLI), a program allowing Maryland workers to take time away from work to care for themselves or a family member, go into effect on July 1, 2026.

The initiative will be funded by both employees and employers, and 0.9% of wages are to be split 50/50 by each party. Employees will start paying into the benefit through payroll deduction beginning July 1, 2025. Employers will start making their contributions to the state in October 2025.

"There is a cost to us," Viola said. "The estimated annual cost to Ocean

Pines is approximately \$30,000. That is something that will be an increase on the budget from last year and going forward."

For the purpose of the program, an employer is defined as "anyone who pays a salary or wage to at least one person who works in Maryland," the Maryland Department of Labor's website states. A worker is "anyone who receives a salary or wage for work done in Maryland. Workers do not include independent contractors or federal government employees."

According to Viola, employees are eligible for the benefit if they have worked 680 hours in the four most recently completed quarters. Workers will be permitted to be paid up to \$1,000 a week for up to 12 weeks of time off for qualifying reasons.

Those reasons include caring for themselves or a family member with a serious health condition, arranging a family member's military deployment, or welcoming a child through foster care or adoption into the household. The state, not an employer, approves leave.

The Maryland Department of

Labor website further outlines the scope of the benefit and its eligibility requirements. For time off to be approved under this program for caring for a loved one, the individual must be either a spouse or a domestic partner, a step-parent, or biological, adopted, or foster child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling.

A valid medical condition may involve inpatient care, organ donation, continuing treatment by a healthcare professional, disability due to pregnancy, disability from chronic illness, or a permanent or long-term condition.

The program was approved in 2022 and does not exclude seasonal or part-time employees. Eligibility is also not dependent on living in Maryland. Anyone working in a Maryland-located position will be eligible for

FMLI.

Furthermore, employees can contribute to the benefit even if their employer is located out of state but they work from home or in an office in Maryland.

OPA Board Vice President Rick Farr noted that "the 680 hours is a collective piece."

"The employee is just not working 680 hours for Ocean Pines," he said. "If they're working another position somewhere else in the State of Maryland, those hours are accumulated on that as well ... every employee, whether they're seasonal, whether they're part-time or full time will be affected. There is no exclusion with the State of Maryland."

More program information can be found on the Maryland Department of Labor's website.

OP electronic sign initiative needs county code tweaked

Commissioner Bertino has agreed to sponsor a bill to push forward new displays

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Ocean Pines plans to add new electronic signage at the north and south gate entrances to the community, but Worcester County leaders need to tweak a county ordinance to make it happen.

The Ocean Pines Board of Directors wants to replace older signage with new electronic message signs at the north and south gate entrances, at Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road, respectively. Such signs would provide only information about Ocean Pines and would not show any advertising content, and they'd maintain the same "monument" style of signage that already exists in the community.

The board's reason for the sign replacement is to eliminate the clutter of changeable signage along Ocean Parkway's right-of-way, according to a Dec. 6 internal memo by Jennifer Keener, director of Development Review and Permitting. Electronic signs also offer greater immediacy for altering a message.

This discussion came before the Worcester County Planning Commission on Dec. 5, as a request from

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola. He was asking for the existing law about signs and sign placement to be amended on behalf of the Ocean Pines Association.

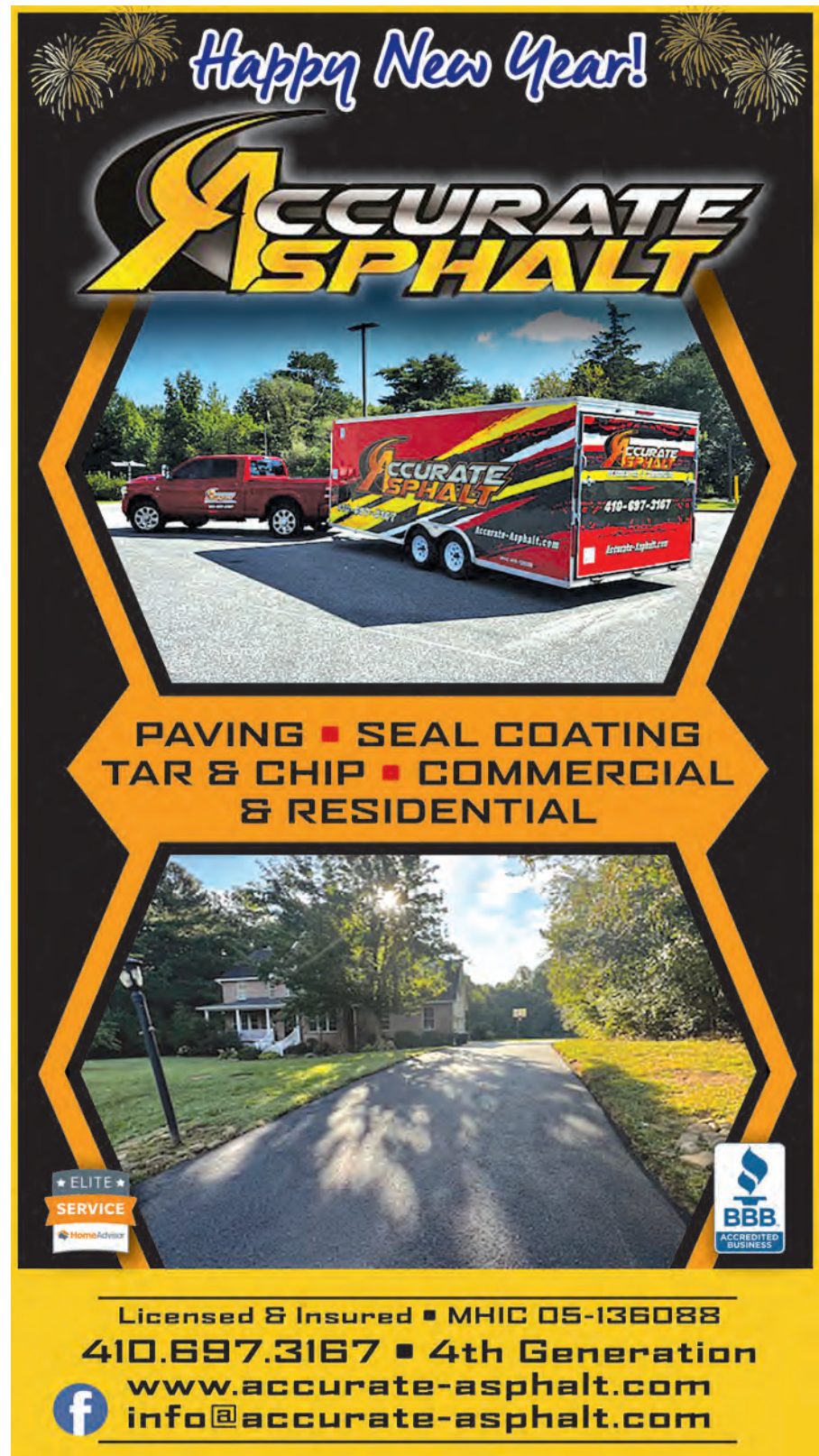
It's not a new request, according to Keener. After years of talking back and forth as to where to place possible electronic messaging signs, the county and the Ocean Pines Association realized that they need a text amendment to accommodate the change.

The reason for this is that the code as written now prohibits a development from having more than one electronic messaging sign at a time per parcel, Keener told the Worcester County Board of Commissioners at its Dec. 17 meeting.

Keener asked the commissioners to create an amendment to this law. The amendment does two things: it adds the provision for electronic signs to be allowed in a commercial district, and it also allows for a second electronic messaging sign on the same parcel.

County Commissioner Chip Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) agreed to sponsor the bill, which will now come back before the commissioners at a future meeting for a vote.

Bertino said that Ocean Pines may have a maximum of eight such electronic signs they can install community-wide.



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Officials reflect on '24, look ahead to 2025

Continued from Page 1

Property of a newly constructed firehouse to be utilized exclusively by the Department...The firehouse shall be constructed to meet industry standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Association and all State and local regulatory requirements."

The OPVFD will determine the design, interior dimensions, layout, color schemes, and furniture. OPA will have the power to approve these decisions. Upon the project's completion, the department will pay all property taxes and maintenance associated with the South Station property and its improvements.

As for funding the new facility, the agreement determines that the fire company will use "grant and bond funds previously secured toward the project's construction cost. The department shall also utilize funds raised through charitable fundraising efforts or otherwise available for the Department for the project."

Ocean Pines will be responsible for the remaining costs, "subject to OPA

having exclusive control over the ultimate cost and scope of the project, as well as management after that."

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

Lakernick also acknowledged the new pavilion added to the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. The pavilion was unveiled on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

That was the deadline the OPA and Whayland Company, the project's contractor, were determined to meet,

Lakernick said. The facility will be used by park visitors and students on field trips to the remembrance area.

Renovations to the racquet center building have been prioritized, Lackernick reported. The work, which is scheduled to begin this winter, will include upgrades to the bathrooms and the front pro shop. Plans are to finish the project by Memorial Day in May.

Other amenities to see improvements include the golf course. The facility's irrigation project broke ground in September, replacing a failing 50-year-old system. Per a press release issued by OPA, the new system will be more efficient in terms

of coverage and water usage.

Building the project's first phase will likely take four years. It is set to include upgrades to the pump station, the first and ninth holes, and the driving range.

"As we head into the new year, let's continue to be a source of strength and positivity to one another," Lakernick said. "Let us carry forth the lessons learned, the connections made, and the generosity shared, knowing that the best is yet to come. Let's enter this new chapter with hope and a renewed sense of purpose, making our community even better for all of us."

Tindley painting finds new home

Continued from Page 1

1905 in a collection entitled "Soul Echoes, No. 1."

His second collection, "Soul Echoes, No. 2," was released in 1909, "New Songs of Paradise" was published in 1916, and "New Songs of Paradise No. 4" in 1923. After Tindley died in 1933 in Philadelphia, his son published his remaining works, "New Songs of Paradise No. 5" and "New Songs of Paradise No. 6" in 1934 and 1941, respectively.

A portrait of the minister created in the 1980s by Henry was unveiled at a brief ceremony on Monday, Dec. 16.

Worcester County Library Board of Trustees President Jeff Smith said the portrait's initial purpose was to be part of an effort to display paintings of historical Black figures at libraries across the state.

But somehow, Smith said, Henry's portrait of Tindley found its way to the St. Paul Methodist Church in-

stead.

"When I heard this story, I called [Henry], and I said, 'Is there any way we can get this in the library so that there could be the portrait as it was originally supposed to be hung? And he said 'yes,' so here we are today," Smith said.

Worcester County Library System Director Jennifer Rank said the portrait will be placed on the center's first floor "so people can really see it."



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School board questions calendar options

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Worcester County Public Schools could change the way professional development days are scheduled during the 2025-2026 academic year.

A presentation to the Board of Education on Dec. 17 by the school system's coordinator of public relations, Carrie Sterrs, showed two options to be voted on by the faculty before Superintendent Lou Taylor makes his recommendation to the board in February.

The model proposes two full-day professional development sessions staggered between schools. Option A would close high schools and elementary schools for students on Sept. 17 and Feb. 4 for staff professional development while special, middle, and intermediate schools remain open.

On Nov. 12 and March 4, middle and intermediate schools would close for professional development while the high schools and elementary schools would carry on as usual.

Option B proposes full-day professional development closures for high and elementary schools on Sept. 17 and Feb. 4 and professional development for special, middle, and intermediate school staff on Oct. 8 and March 4. Each of these professional development days in both schedules falls on a Wednesday.

Sterrs said the 2023-2024 schedule of half-day professional development sessions on the second Wednesday of most months was not well received. Some families and staff members cited childcare concerns that were not present when these professional days were held on Fridays. Even so, the shift to Wednesdays in 2023-24 did produce improved student attendance and staff participation, Sterrs said.

The 2024-2025 calendar essentially did away with professional development altogether, except for the countywide professional development day in November. The new system attempts to bring back professional development for teachers in a way that does not affect student attendance and encourages staff participation.

Some board members, however, were critical of the proposals, with member Elena McComas asking if the committee that developed them had asked families and parents how they felt about closing high schools on days when middle schools remained open and vice versa.

Wallace replied that this decision was made with childcare challenges in mind. High school students would be available to offer babysitting services to elementary children, for instance, because they will be off on the same days. Middle school students

are more likely to stay home alone.

Board member Katie Addis argued that the new model would be a "big change" for families. She proposed that the school system offer a third option.

"I feel like it would be smart on our part to have an option that isn't this," she said. "I see the point of these two options, but I also think it would be smart to have one of our old models."

Board member Jon Andes said his concern was that the program would eliminate two days of schools for young

learners.

The previous half-days were worked in so that students were still given 180 days of instruction, while the new model would cut that down to 178.

Denise Shorts, chief academic officer, argued that half days for development hurt the ability to offer meaningful professional learning.

Taylor, however, agreed that members' concerns were valid, adding that the school system will continue to deliberate the calendar choices.

Library system fundraiser to benefit scholarship program

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Yoga enthusiasts and potential contributors to a scholarship program are invited to the Berlin library on Sunday, Jan. 5, for a class being held to benefit the Leister-Staley Scholarship Fund.

The "Building an Intentional Foundation" yoga fundraiser will take place in the Berlin library meeting room from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The class will be led by Nicole Bellamy, a yoga,

barre, and mat Pilates instructor with Summer Rain Yoga in Ocean City. She also is an ultra-marathon runner and an Ironman triathlete.

According to Summer Rain Yoga's website, Bellamy specializes in gentle, yin, and restorative yoga with sound healing elements.

Worcester County Library System Business Manager Amy Parker said the Leister-Staley Scholarship is a \$1,000 award available to all Worcester County Public School seniors who plan to attend college or university within two years following graduation.

The funds may be applied to tuition, room, board, books, fees, and any other charges. Students interested in applying can check back in January 2025 on the library system's website for the next round.

The Berlin library yoga class will allow participants to set a mindful intention for the New Year. Modifications to the flow and movements are welcome, as the session is meant to be accessible for every skill level. Attendees are required to bring their own mat.

There is no deadline to sign up for the session. Those interested in starting 2025 with a healing and restorative movement practice to benefit local high school students can register by calling Parker at 410-632-2600.



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Viola says projects, budget process are on track for OP

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) As 2025 kicks off, improvements to a racquet center sports building, a new firehouse, a jet ski launch initiative and the annual budget process are all on track for Ocean Pines.

General Manager John Viola gave his monthly progress report on the neighborhood's ongoings at the community's Dec. 21 meeting of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors. Viola updated residents on the status of current projects, including renovations to the racquet center building, which he said is on schedule. The project will see upgrades to the bathrooms and the front pro shop. Construction will begin this month.

Viola said the new South Station for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department is also advancing; the fit-out, or interior of the building, was recently discussed. The general manager said the team is looking at architectural plans at this point and that "everything seems to be on track."

An agreement to upgrade the community fire group's South Station was solidified last July with an MOU (memorandum of understanding) between the OPA Board of Directors and the OPVFD that outlined each party's role in funding and progressing the project.

The agreement determines that the fire company will use grant and bond funds previously obtained for the construction cost of the renovations. The department will also use funds secured through fundraising efforts. Ocean Pines will cover the remaining costs, "subject to OPA having exclusive control over the ultimate cost and scope of the project, as well as management after that," the contract reads.

Additionally, six new jet ski launches may arrive at Ocean Pines this summer. Viola said that permits are being applied for the ramps, which will be located at the Swim and Racquet Marina.

"This is something to enhance the amenities and the customer experience [in Ocean Pines]," the general manager said. The project will likely cost around \$19,000.

A pricing study for neighborhood amenities has also occurred before the new year. Viola said the process is "one of the biggest" elements for the budget. The manager and his team evaluated inflation factors over the last five years, price increases the association made or didn't make during that period, the rise in the minimum wage, which now sits at \$15 an hour, and "has a major effect on aquatics, golf," and other amenities. The community leaders have also looked at comparable amenity prices of nearby institutions. Viola said this study is a "big part of the budget process."

A budget town hall is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 5. Viola hopes that the budget will receive official approval on Feb. 22. The general manager added that he expects public safety, the newly enacted Family and Medical Leave Insurance benefit, which allows employees to take extended paid time off work to care for themselves or a sick loved one, funded by both the employee and the employer, to affect the budget and the community assessment.

Viola broke down the percentage of the assessment that will go toward public safety. In fiscal year 2024-2025, of the total \$850 assessment, 36.8% went toward public safety efforts. The public safety percentage of the assessment for fiscal year 2025-2026, estimated at \$850 to \$875, jumps to around 38% or 39%.

Berlin façade grants offered with applications live soon

(Jan. 2, 2024) The Town of Berlin and Berlin Main Street announced the grant award of \$50,000 to continue the Berlin Commercial Façade Grant Program. This grant program provides matching funds to downtown property and business owners to improve the exterior of their buildings, enhance the overall streetscape, and attract new customers.

The grants will cover up to 50% of the total project cost, with a maximum award of \$10,000. The funds can be used for a variety of improvements, such as painting, signage, lighting, awnings, etc.

"The Town of Berlin is incredibly grateful to receive this continued support. The facade grant program has been instrumental in restoring our downtown shopping district, making it more vibrant and attractive for both

residents and visitors," said Mayor Zack Tyndall. "We encourage our small businesses to reach out to our Economic and Community Development team to start the conversation about their 2025 facade improvement projects. Together, we can continue to enhance the beauty and appeal of Berlin."

"The Downtown Commercial Façade Grant Program is an essential tool in supporting the continued growth and development of our downtown district," said Ivy Wells, Director of Economic and Community Development. "We are excited to see the applications next year and we look forward to seeing the continued historic preservation and beautification of our downtown Main Street Historic District."

Applications for the Berlin Façade Grant will be available in January.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County law enforcement agencies partnered last month to provide a "Shop With A Cop" experience for local children in need of their holidays being brightened a bit.

Annual 'Shop With A Cop' tradition a big hit

(Jan. 2, 2025) The Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack and the Worcester County CRICKET (Child Resource Intervention Center Kids Empowerment Team) Center held their annual "Shop with a Cop" experience on Dec. 14.

The Berlin Police Department, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Ocean City Police Department, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources officers joined in to help with the program. This year, 32 children were identified by the Worcester County Board of Education to participate in the event.

Each child was sworn in as an honorary "auxiliary" police officer before boarding the Maryland State Police bus and heading to the Walmart Supercenter in Berlin. They were provided a law enforcement officer partner and money to buy holiday gifts for themselves and their families.

After their shopping adventure, the children were taken to lunch donated by West Ocean City's Chick-fil-A. Prior to leaving, the CRICKET Center provided food baskets for the family of each child.

This event was made by local donors, including Walmart Supercenter in Berlin, Choptank Electric Co-operative, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 166, Women of the Woods, Draper Media's Bless Our Children Foundation, and Pop's Kitchen.

In a press release, the Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack extended "its heartfelt gratitude to these organizations for their contributions and continued support. Their kindness ensures that this annual tradition remains a cherished highlight of the year for many families in Worcester County."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Two local children are escorted by a deputy from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and an Ocean City Police officer on "Shop With A Cop" day on Dec. 14 at the Berlin Walmart.

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Bridge repairs, irrigation fixes set for OP golf course

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors has approved the renovation of the bridge on the fourth fairway and over the channel at the community's golf course.

OPA General Manager John Viola said the full price to redeck and reference the structure is \$40,000. Fisher Marine Construction of Chincoteague, Virginia, will complete the work. The board approved the renovation at its Dec. 21 meeting.

The surface and the fencing on either side of the bridge, which Viola said "has to be 40 inches high," are set to undergo upgrades. The height will be approximately the same as the existing structure.

According to the general manager, a preliminary study previously placed the project cost at around \$150,000. However, a further inspection revealed that the bridge's pilings were in good shape and did not need to be included in the renovation initiative. As such, the estimated price decreased to \$40,000.

"The pilings... which is a big part of it, are very good, so the price isn't as high as we thought," Viola said. He added that even if the pilings were to be updated, the project would have likely not used the entire \$150,000.

The bridge renovation is set to begin this month. "The fencing is pretty bad," Viola added. "It has to be done."

Upgrades to the golf course continue, as the irrigation project has also seen progress. This initiative will replace a 50-year-old failing system over a four-year period.

The project's first phase includes renovations to the pump station, the first and ninth holes, and the driving range. Viola said the new pumping station was installed at the pump house and that "everything went well."

"[The irrigation upgrades] are well overdue," golf course Superintendent Justine Hartshorne said earlier this year. "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."

The work also includes installing sprinkler heads and connecting the main pipes to the pumps.

"The irrigation system is probably the single most important tool that my department uses to maintain the golf facility, so it is very important we get everything done," Hartshorne said.

Hartshorne added that the association is looking to do emergency replacements of sprinkler heads and main pipe lines for holes two and three while the contractor is still on site. The vendor will be back in the spring to ensure everything is working in time for the season.

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Shore's annual giving day sets new fundraising record

(Jan. 3, 2025) The 10th annual "Shore Gives More Giving Tuesday" campaign held on Dec. 6 took in a record-breaking \$1 million for Lower Shore charities, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore announced last month.

That more than tripled the 2023 Giving Tuesday total, with the 2024 effort bringing in more than 3,800 donations directed to 145 area non-profit organizations.

Giving Tuesday, held each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, is an international 24-hour online giving movement. The local campaign, known as The Shore Gives More, is organized by the Community Foundation, which assists local nonprofits with their fundraising effort.

By providing an online donation platform, marketing, and technical support, the campaign makes a significant impact through collective philanthropy.

"We often hear that every dollar can make a difference, but Giving Tuesday really shows the power of what can happen when we all come together," foundation President Erica Joseph said.

"To see so much generosity creating such a significant impact for our

local nonprofits speaks volumes about how wonderful our region is."

This year's campaign was bolstered by a pledge from The Community Foundation and the Richard A. Henson Foundation to match up to \$250,000 for participating nonprofits.

"By partnering with CFES, we saw an opportunity to inspire nonprofits and donors while honoring Mr. Henson and his legacy in the Community Foundation's 40-year history," said Stacey McMichael, executive director of the Henson Foundation. "We could not be more pleased with the outcome and congratulate the entire community on an amazing day that will benefit so many."

The Shore Gives More was first launched as a Giving Tuesday campaign for the Lower Eastern Shore in 2015 and raised \$4,285 in its first year. The campaign has raised a cumulative \$2.8 million dollars for the Lower Shore in its 10-year history.

"As the area's local philanthropic experts, the Community Foundation's team understands the complexities around charitable giving, and we work hard to simplify the giving process for both donors and nonprofits," Joseph said.

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OPA police chief discusses safety priorities, initiatives

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's police force is looking to advance safety efforts, association officials said last month, and last Saturday OPA Police Chief Tim Robinson updated the board of directors on the priorities he and his staff will pursue heading into 2025.

Topping the list are adding new signs, obtaining protective equipment, and enforcement, the chief said.

Robinson noted that an initiative he is most proud of is his collaborative effort with the Worcester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition to write a funding application for the Share the Road Ocean Pines Grant through the Maryland Highway Safety Office. The financial assistance will help pay for measures such as reflector bands, small blinking lights, bicycle lights, and educational materials to protect vulnerable road users.

Speed cameras have also been installed around the community to help the police understand the patterns and volume of speeding and how to respond accordingly. According to Robinson, the devices capture how fast a car is traveling before the driver has time to reduce speed.

"When you see [the camera], it has already caught you, and it gives me a detailed report of what is going on," the chief said.

As for the new signs the department intends to install throughout Ocean Pines, Robinson said they may include warnings to drivers to reduce their speed as they approach curves and indicators reminding motor vehicle operators that cyclists and pedestrians also use the roads and that the paths are to be shared.

Robinson added that he is working with Worcester County's public works to obtain feedback on the signs' message.

Robinson also updated board members and residents about the department's other recent activities. The chief said that since November, the Ocean Pines police have handled one online harassment case, a few minor vandalism incidents, and two domestic assault arrests, which Robinson said is the "number one" most common type of arrest in Ocean Pines, trespassing, and an assault on an officer. The force has also facilitated 11 welfare checks.

Additionally, there was a case in which a few juveniles caused "significant damages" at a restroom at the community golf course. Robinson said that the offenders were caught and will be held



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOOL DONATION

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club donated \$2,500 to the Seaside Christian Academy playground addition for their pre-kindergarteners. Pictured, from left, are Optimists Oratorical and Visual Arts Contest Chairperson Sharon Sorrentino, Seaside Christian Academy Parent Teacher Fellowship President (PTF) Kara Waggoner and her daughter Kaila. Seaside made the ornaments that decorated the Ocean Pines Christmas Tree.

accountable for the harm that occurred.

To continue bolstering the safety of officers, police will now be armed with Tasers, he told the board. According to Robinson, law enforcement departments began implementing the devices approximately 15 years ago. OPA is just now catching up. He said it will be costly to equip the force with the electronic devices, around \$60,000, but the program will be fully funded via a \$63,371 grant from the state of Maryland.

"[Tasers] are a wonderful intermediary tool to prevent from having to

resort to deadly force," Robinson said. "We don't have them here, and it is something that I think we desperately need as an option in our toolbox."

The chief added that since he stepped into his current position in the summer of 2023, he has secured around \$150,000 in grant money for the law enforcement group's needs and wants, including \$35,000 for the first year of a body camera contract.

"I am very pleased that that money is out there and that we are able to steer it here to the Ocean Pines Police Department," Robinson said.

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School system deploys new online mathematics program

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Worcester County Public Schools' basic math education is using a new online platform designed to help increase students' understanding of the processes they are trying to learn.

According to WCPS Mathematics Coordinator Sarah Blackburn, the school system this year adopted the tech solution, MathFactLab, which allows students to practice multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction problems with visual aids such as number lines and dice. The theory is that such an approach helps to embed certain facts of math into a student's memory.

The program also records data on each student's progress (that used to be the teacher's job) and indicates areas where a young learner is struggling. Blackburn said the program has given instructors more time to teach these math problems and problem-solving strategies.

"Previous to this year, all of our elementary teachers were tracking every single student's fluency about every fact and every operation, which you can imagine was very time-consuming," Blackburn said. MathFactLab has freed teachers to teach, she added.

Basic math — addition, subtraction, multiplication and division — is a skill prioritized in grades first, second, and third and practiced through grade five. Most importantly, Blackburn said, is that students be able to solve problems by applying concepts and facts they have learned.

Per math fact fluency instruction, students should be able to select a

strategy or adopt a different approach if necessary to determine the proper response to a math question. They must also complete the steps of their chosen plan to produce the correct answer. Teaching multiple options to reach the right response is a hallmark of this type of education, she said.

"If [one strategy] doesn't work, they have something else to use so they are not just stuck on one thing," Blackburn said. "They should also be able to solve problems in a reasonable amount of time. We used time, and now we know that every student has a different processing speed, but we still don't want them spending a very long time solving basic facts."

Students have access to MathFactLab in school and at home. Blackburn said the program is available to them via a tablet or a cellphone. The program also allows teachers to look at an entire class's improvement from the start of the year to the end.

"As a class, teachers can celebrate student growth," Blackburn noted.

Worcester County elementary schools are still teaching their students using more traditional methods, but at the end of a quiz, students are now asked what strategies they employed to reach their responses.

"There are lots of ways to practice math 'fact fluency,' and our students are really accelerating," Blackburn said. "We know that when students know their basic facts, they can free up their working memory to do higher mathematics, and it helps them improve their efficiency and accuracy as they grow as mathematicians."



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Ocean Pines rec, parks dept. to offer indoor winter events

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's Recreation and Parks Department is offering residents numerous events and activities this winter.

To stay warm, Ocean Pines is presenting several athletic-related programs. For instance, residents will have the opportunity to try "Pilates Barre and Toning" at the Ocean Pines Community Center on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. from Jan. 16 to Feb. 20 and again from Feb. 27 to April 3.

For those that want to attend all sessions, classes are \$40 for OPA residents, \$45 for nonresidents, and then \$10 for drop-ins.

According to the recreation and parks notice, "Pilates and barre focus on strength, flexibility, breathing and full body alignment. Barre focuses more on lower body toning. Both are low impact and utilize large ranges of motion."

Exercises are performed while standing, sitting, and holding onto a chair. Mats are not required. "Toning adds light weights to complete the full spectrum of conditioning," the notice said. "This is an upbeat class with pizzazz." The sessions are tailored to different fitness goals, ages, and abilities.

Interested parties can register by calling 410-641-7052.

Residents with young children will have an opportunity to take part in "Toddler Time."

"Come socialize your little ones with others through indoor playtime, small crafts, music and movement," the notice said. Kids ages 18 months to three years old are welcome, and a parent is required to stay with each child.

Classes are Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. until Jan. 9 and then again from Jan. 16 to March 6 and March 13 to May 1. Participants can register at 410-641-7052.



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Commissioner appointed to MACo's Board

(Jan. 2, 2025) Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino was one of 16 county elected officials from across Maryland to be installed on Dec. 12 to the board of the Maryland Association of Counties.

The installation by Gov. Wes Moore was part of the association's winter conference in Cambridge.

"The opportunity to serve at this level is a tremendous honor," Bertino said. "It's humbling to have earned the confidence of my colleagues across the state to fill this position. I look forward to representing and advocating for Worcester County and MACo members with government officials and leaders throughout the state."

Bertino is the first Worcester County representative to serve on the board since former Commissioner Judy Boggs in 2013. Former board members from Worcester County also include Joseph G. Harrison (1959), Ray F. Redden (1969), K. Bennett Bozman (1990), and Jeanne Lynch (in the 1990s).

Board members are selected by the MACo membership. Board members serve the interests of the association, oversee its management and strategic direction, and maintain and develop relationships with other parties with whom MACo and Maryland counties regularly interact. The board works with the MACo Legislative Committee, which sets policy



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, second from left front, is one of 16 county elected officials from across Maryland to be installed to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Board of Directors for 2025.

positions for the association and directs its legislative advocacy priorities.

"With Commissioner Bertino serving on the MACo Board of Directors, Worcester County will have more visibility and input on issues that impact our county," Commissioner President Ted Elder said. "We could not be more supportive of his appointment to this vital board."

Bertino, who was elected as a county commissioner in 2014 to represent the Northern District (District 5), is serving his fourth term in office. In addition to

the board of directors, Bertino has also been serving on the MACo Legislative Committee since 2019.

The committee meets weekly during each Maryland General Assembly session to determine which legislative positions to take. The committee votes on every bill that they have taken a position on. This lets state legislators know that the committee has the consensus of all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City when they take a position.

"Commissioner Bertino brings two years of experience as president of the

Worcester County Commissioners and five years on the MACo Legislative Committee, where he and I serve together," Commissioner Jim Bunting said. "His experience in both of these areas will be invaluable as he steps into his new role on the board of directors. He is knowledgeable, experienced, and distinctly able to evaluate all of the issues surrounding legislative issues. This makes him ideally suited to advocate concerning matters that impact not only the three Lower Eastern Shore counties, but all Maryland counties."



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Opinion

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

Keep on keeping on, but with aspirations

It's a new year and another 12 months to keep on keeping on, as the saying goes, although most people aspire to do much more than merely get through another annual cycle.

In Ocean Pines, for instance, many of the projects being worked on in the past year will pick up steam in the year ahead, beginning with work on the long-awaited South Station of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

With the Ocean Pines Association and the fire department working together on this major undertaking, members should see some significant progress in the months ahead.

Progress will also be seen in the OPA's ambitious golf course irrigation project, which seeks to replace a system that, at 50 years old, saw its best days long ago. The work being done this year is just the first phase of a multi-year overhaul, although the plan is to wrap up this early stage in time to open the course for play this season.

Meanwhile, in Berlin, the town will continue its constant quest to improve with help from the state, which came through with a grant of \$50,000 to continue the Berlin Commercial Façade Grant Program.

The program provides matching funds to downtown property and business owners to improve the exterior of their buildings and enhance the overall streetscape.

The grants will cover up to 50% of the total project cost, with a maximum award of \$10,000.

Perhaps the most significant work ahead for the mayor and town council will involve the town's recently adopted design guidelines for commercial buildings. Borrowed as they were from Worcester County's design playbook, the guidelines will have to be adapted to reflect Berlin's specific circumstances.

When that will happen depends on when the town clears its biggest planning hurdle this year — hiring a new planning director.

Obviously, it has its hands full, as does Ocean Pines, and getting everything done in both communities will involve more than resolving to keep on keeping on.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Approximately \$10,400 was donated by the Pine'eer Craft Club at the membership holiday luncheon last month.

Pine'eer Club donates \$10K

(Jan. 2, 2025) The Pine'eer Craft Club recently celebrated the holiday season and its 51st year with an installation and holiday party themed "A New Year, A New Start."

During the event, the club announced its annual community donations, totaling \$10,400. Beneficiaries included the following organizations:

- Ocean Pines Police Department: \$2,000
- Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department: \$5,000
- Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation Department: \$2,000
- Ocean Pines Public Works: \$500
- Worcester County Veterans Memorial: \$500
- Friends of the Ocean Pines Library: \$300
- Neighborhood Watch: \$100

Sharon Puser, president of the Pine'eer Craft Club, attributed the club's increased giving this year to the members' dedication and hard work.

"The Craft Club worked extra hard making items for our Artisan Gift Shop to increase donations this year," Puser said. "We also plan to donate a bench to the community in honor of our 50th year."

This year's contributions bring the club's total community donations to more than \$196,000 since its founding. Damaged records from 1974 through 1987 make it difficult to determine the exact figure, but the club continues to build on its longstanding legacy of giving.

For more information about the Pine'eer Craft Club and its efforts, visit the Artisan Gift Shop in Ocean Pines, or www.ocean-pines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop.



Pine'eer Craft Club President Sharon Puser presented Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Enste with a donation of \$5,000.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RED SHOW BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, the Republican Women of Worcester County held their bi-monthly Red Shoe Book Club meeting at the Ocean Pines Library. The selected book was timely, because it was "Hill-billy Elegy" by US Vice President-Elect J.D. Vance. Ten RWWC members participated. The group is organized by RWWC Literary Chair Susan Ostrowski, who is seated on the left.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WEARING RED

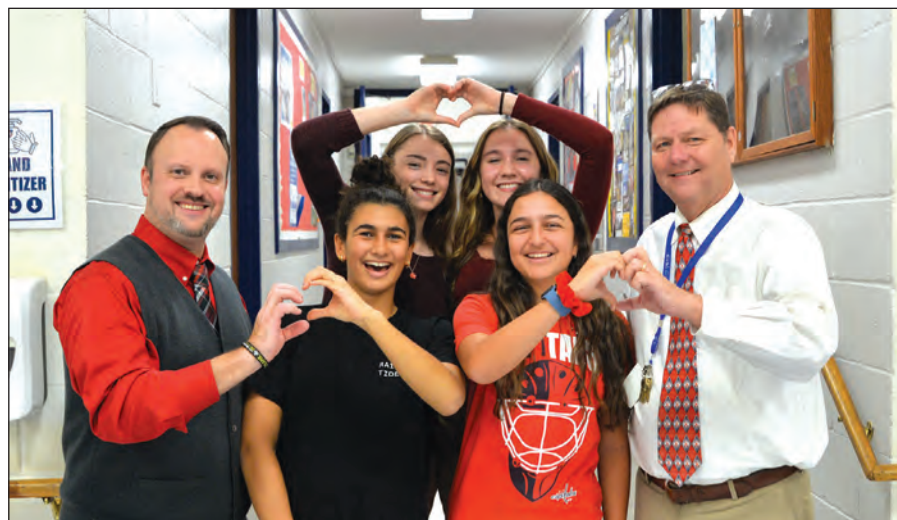
Worcester Preparatory School students showed up in a sea of red in support of the Red Cross. Above are fourth students dressed in red to support the Red Cross. Pictured from the left are Landon Moreland, Summer Nichols, Stella Correa, Alice Diorio, Emma Abbott, Emery Anthony, Hristina Gjoni, Ellie Bookwalter, Hadley Hagner, Emily Leiner, Ian Laroche and Auggie Hall. Below are Upper School teacher Paul Cyryca, sophomores Gabriella Damouni and Isha Garg and Head of School Dr. John McDonald, and, back are sophomores Sydney Parker and Emma Nordstrom.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROJECT GOAL SURPASSED

Students at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School exceeded their goal and filled 135 shoe-size boxes full of small toys, games, toiletries, socks, school supplies, and other gifts for the Cross Catholic Outreach's Box of Joy service project. This school-wide service project, in its eighth year at the school, offered students, families, teachers and staff the opportunity to donate items that will provide children in developing countries with a special Christmas. The boxes are given to children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Eighth grade students helped this project by folding the boxes, talking with younger students about the project and packing the items that were collected to get them ready for shipping





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GUEST SPEAKER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City heard from Home Care Consultant Crystal Heiser of Home Instead recently. Heiser is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell after her presentation. Home Instead provides personal service like bathing and dressing, mobility meal preparation and house-keeping and provide transportation for doctor appointments, prescription pickup, grocery shopping and more.

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School sees progress with new 'asset-based approach'

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2025) Ocean City Elementary School's multilingual learner program is proving successful, as teachers use what's known as an "asset-based approach" to teach students, school officials told the board of education on Dec. 17.

Ocean City Elementary School representatives outlined for the board the processes employed to propel students who are using and learning multiple languages towards academic progress and language development.

The proof of the program's success is evidenced by progress in academic content on the school system's our language proficiency assessment, English teacher Alicia Wallace said.

In the Maryland State Department of Education's recently released annual report card, OCES was the only Worcester County school to earn a rating of five out of five stars on academic growth, academic achievement and graduation rate.

In the assessment of a school's progress in achieving language proficiency, OCES scored 9 out of 10 points, Wallace said,

"This means that 90% of our students achieved English proficiency

growth," she told the board.

The asset-based approach in teaching focuses on a student's strengths to help that student learn more quickly. A student whose strongest asset is public speaking rather than writing could present a report orally instead of having to write it.

"Asset-based teaching seeks to unlock students' potential by focusing on their talents," the Association of College & Research Libraries reported in 2018. "Also known as strengths-based teaching, this approach contrasts with the more common deficit-based style of teaching which highlights students' inadequacies."

This approach has yielded stellar results, Wallace said.

One component of instruction is what Wallace calls Timer Talk Tuesday.

"We utilize the technology that we have, which is going to mimic the testing environment ... and we give our kids on-demand tasks that simulate either content area classroom activities or the things that they're going to see on the test," Wallace said.

This improves oral expression and



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

KIWANIS CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED

For the new year that runs from October to September, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean City-Ocean Pines has a new slate of officers to manage operations. Officers pictured, from left, are Past President Bob Wolfing, New President Tom Southwell, President-Elect Sarah Walker and Vice President Jim Maratea.

fluency through content themes and vocabulary, enforces productive language skills and "rigorous language tasks" via repetition, and exposes technology to practice testing scenarios, she said.

The instructors also employ what they call an Expanding Expressions Tool Kit for the younger students.

This strategy employs visual aids and objects that may be related by the student to aspects of vocabulary being taught.

That this approach is working is further evidenced in the US News and World Report's November ranking of OCES as the second-best public elementary school in Maryland.



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Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm	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-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 1-3pm	5401 Coastal Highway Unit 204, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$444,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	261 Charleston Rd., Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	9 46th St., Unit 6 Old Wharf Condos, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,995	Steve Green/Coastal Life Realty Group
Saturday 10am-1pm	108 120th St. Unit 2027, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$339,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	202 S. Heron Dr. Unit 204C, Heron Harbour, OC	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	11603 Windward Drive Unit A, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$429,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday Noon-2pm	9 46th St., Unit 6 Old Wharf Condos, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,995	Steve Green/Coastal Life Realty Group
Sunday 2-4pm	11603 Windward Drive Unit A, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$429,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	108 120th St. Unit 2027, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$339,900	Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty

Happy New Year!

Worcester Prep Holiday Bazaar



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ANNUAL TRADITIONS

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the annual Holiday Bazaar was held in Worcester Preparatory School's Brent Thompson Field House. Guests gathered at this festive family affair to officially kick off the holiday season. There were plenty of activities, including tasty treats provided by Rudolph's Feed Bag Lunch Café, homemade desserts at the Bakery, beverages at the Coffee & Cocoa stand, handmade items from local vendors, a cookie decorating class by Flamingo Road, story time with Santa and Head of Lower School Dr. Timmons, the ever-popular basket ticket auction, and so much more. Above left, WPS students and guests of this year's Holiday Bazaar enjoyed quality time with Santa while he read aloud "The Night Before Christmas." Above right, Brittingham Farms owner and WPS parent Laura Brittingham is pictured with her husband Jonathan and daughter, third grader Lilly.



BAKERY VOLUNTEERS

Freshman volunteers manned the Bakery booth. Pictured, from left, are Wesley Wisniewski, Ben Rafinski, Harper Hertrich, Rani Yonker, Nora Gorfinkel, Sam Kuon, Chase Thompson and Luke Mize.



COOKIE DECORATING

Fourth graders Hannah Giardina, Gracie Hornung and Sophia Nistazos had a blast in the cookie decorating class by Flamingo Road during the holiday bazaar.



SANTA'S SLEIGH PHOTO OP

Kindergartner Cayman Wang, second from left, is pictured with his mother, Brea Wang, brother Croix and father Benjamin in front of Santa's sleigh at the annual Holiday Bazaar.



STORY TIME

Kindergartner Presley Dykes spent time with the Head of Lower School Dr. Sara Timmons during story time.

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., Jan. 2

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: WINTER WONDERLAND

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories and crafts. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: I'M GOING TO BUILD A SNOWMAN

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Looking for a quiet place to play some chess? Come to the Ocean City Branch and bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

REVITALIZE, RENEW, REFRESH: NEW YEAR'S SOUND BATH

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Sound bath and vision boards with Debby Wolski. Bring any pictures you may want to use, but materials also provided. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

POCOMOKE BRANCH BOOK CLUB: 'THE BOOK THIEF' BY MARKUS ZUSAK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Drop by to pick up a copy of the book in advance. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MAGIC THE GATHERING

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

Fri., Jan. 3

MAHJONG CLUB

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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-641-4217, pyocubik@atlanticgeneral.org

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

Sat., Jan. 4

SATURDAY WRITERS

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

GLOBAL GOODIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Taste test some snacks from around the world and find out if all snacks are created equal. All food provided. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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., Jan. 5

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., Jan. 6

LITTLE LEARNERS: FISH PRINTS & AQUARIUM PROGRAM

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10-11 a.m. Learn about the fish that live in the museum and create a

fish print. Geared to ages 0-5 years. Pre-registration requested: <https://www.oc-museum.org>, Facebook. Free parking in the inlet parking lot. 410-289-4991

STORY TIME: HIBERNATION

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

ESL CONVERSATION CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Come join other non-native English speakers for casual conversational practice and a short lesson prepared by an ESL instructor. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Currently the group is reading from Book 6 of the Great Conversations Anthology. The focus will be on "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For families, partners and other caregivers who share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have any type of serious illness. nfry@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-2626

RESEARCHERS MEET UP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Discuss local history, get tips from the local history librarian and work on the citizen research projects. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available, so novice and veteran players alike are welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

LEGO MASTERS 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

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

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

healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

HIDDEN HEALING

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Discuss the therapeutic properties of common spices and herbs such as Black Pepper, Thyme and Sage. Attendees will be given several recipes. Registration required: 410-632-3495.

BRIDGE

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., Jan. 7

STORY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Story time featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and fingerplays. Geared to ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: SNOW DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, 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

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkrantz talks about all things plants. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants as

Continued on Page 20

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Calendar

Continued from Page 19
well. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

NAILED IT! NEW YEARS CAKE POPS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Drop in to test out your culinary skills. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MILLENNIAL-ISH: NEW YEAR, NEW ME!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 p.m. Make new friends also in their 20s-40s, brainstorm resolutions and make vision boards. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Tuesdays - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: Tangobythe-Beach.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., Jan. 8

MERRY MAKERS: ZIPPERED POUCHES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Merry Makers will use paper napkins and a few crafting materials to make plain canvas zipper pouches. All materi-

als provided. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Takes place the first and second Wednesdays of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7-11 a.m. Eggs, pancakes, sausage, grits and more. Cost is \$10 to carryout and \$12 to eat in.

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

POKENO

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Play Pokeno at the Snow Hill 50plus Center. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring gently used puzzles and leave with new-to-you puzzles. Don't have a puzzle but still want one? That's OK too. Puzzle must be their original boxes. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SCANDAL IN SCULPTURE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Learn about the uproar that ensued in Boston in the 1890s over a sculpture that was gifted to the Boston Public Library. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, bglime@atlanticgeneral.org

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

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

PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and cheese. Must be at least 18 years old to participate. 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.

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