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COOL SCULPTURE

Dozens of ice sculptures lined Main Street during last Friday's Ice Ice Berlin event, which was highlighted by the annual tree lighting. Above, Zoe Salvatore, 5, of Scarsdale, N.Y., gets a close-up look at the Bluey ice sculpture during the event.

Food vendor choice left up to Viola

Identity of chosen operator to remain anonymous until terms reach with contractor

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) An updated Ocean Pines food and beverage contract is being developed, as the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors voted this week to authorize the community's general manager to proceed with contract negotiations with an unnamed food and beverage vendor.

The selected operator will manage the association's Yacht Club, its Beach Club in Ocean City, and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille.

In an open special meeting on Monday, the board unanimously approved a motion to allow association General Manager John Viola to proceed with negotiations with one of the three food and beverage bidders.

The identity of the chosen company was not disclosed and will only be revealed once terms are agreed upon between the parties.

According to OPA Board of Directors President Stuart Lakernick, three proposals were submitted between mid-September and Oct. 18.

Since then, the general manager and his team, consisting of OPA Director of Business Administration Linda Martin, OPA Director of Finance Steve Phillips, marketing and public relations contact Josh Davis, and legal counsel, analyzed the responses, considering several criteria.

These measures included thoroughness and extensiveness of the proposals, the vendor's operational staff, management, and human resource process capabilities, profit and loss statements and the estimated return to Ocean Pines.

Also weighed was the vision the bidders had for themselves and man-

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Residents seek pedestrian safety

OPA board told more needs to be done after vehicle hits, kills man on roadside

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Ocean Pines residents are calling for proactive measures on Ocean Parkway and throughout the community to enhance pedestrian and bike safety following a fatal neighborhood accident last month.

Per a press release issued by Ocean Pines Association's Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis, on the morning of Nov. 16, a

fatal motor vehicle collision occurred on Ocean Parkway between Briarcrest Drive and Beaconhill Road.

The press release reported, "a vehicle...traveled off the right side of the roadway and struck an individual on the property of 47 Ocean Parkway."

At the community's Saturday, Nov. 23 board of directors meeting, residents urged neighborhood officials to take steps to prevent similarly tragic incidents from happening again.

Among the public commenters was Scott Shellenberger, whose wife was killed on Ocean Parkway in May 2023.

Shellenberger asked OPA leaders

to look at safety measures such as speed bumps and signs to make Ocean Pines a more pedestrian-friendly place.

"[Accidents] are inevitable...they are going to happen here because this is publicized as a residential community, but the infrastructure is not residential," he said.

"There is something from a safety standpoint that can be done. Is it speed humps? Is it visuals? What can you do to slow someone down?"

Also present at the Nov. 23 meeting was Patti Stevens of the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition. Stevens emphasized that

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Berlin to host 53rd annual parade Thursday

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Residents and visitors will flock to the Town of Berlin tonight as the community's 53rd annual Christmas parade kicks off the season of holiday cheer.

The jubilant procession will begin at 7 p.m. this evening, Thursday, Dec. 5. It will start at the Berlin Welcome Center and then run north to the Berlin Fire Company.

Berlin Administrative Assistant and Events Coordinator Allison Early said that the community's yearly Christmas parade draws crowds of around 2,500. The event is a staple for the festive season, as those from Berlin, the surrounding areas, and tourists look forward to when local groups perform and journey through the historic town.

"This is the 53rd annual Christmas Parade," Early said. "That in itself ... we don't need to do advertising for it; it's just been happening for so long that it's such an important part of peoples' Christmas. It sets off the holiday season."

This year's parade entries include Jolly Rogers, Atlantic General Hospital, local police groups like the Berlin Police Department, Maryland State Police, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), marching bands and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

from Worcester County high schools, Radio Ocean City, Seacrets, Trimper's Haunted House, and the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team.

Early said that the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team is at the end of the parade and will complete a performance. The drill work typically consists of musically accompanied choreographed movements on horseback.

"[The drill team] was phenomenal last year," the events coordinator noted.

According to Early, the two-hour-long parade allows for 83 entries. She said that in around September and October, she'll invite every act from the previous year back and then pull from the waitlist to fill any remaining spots, usually around 10 to 12.

Early adds that it's "hard to get into the parade" and that entries are kept local.

"[The parade] brings a really big sense of community," she said. "It gives us an opportunity to display our community to people not from here...It is all local businesses, local schools, local community youth, first responders, and local government. This gives us an opportunity to display our community. It is very heartwarming... Even though it's a big event, it's still a community event."

Coordinating the festive experience takes strategy. Early noted that the town tries not to change the lineup placements too much, and organizers ensure each group's position makes sense. For in-

stance, a fire truck and Ocean City Elementary School's OC Stars would be arranged far apart for safety purposes.

Additionally, like last year, Santa will open the parade. He will come in on a fire truck with the Berlin Fire Company to kick off the festivities. The town's administrative assistant said that before 2023's Christmas procession, Santa would round out the march. However, officials found that he went by too fast when placed at the end, and many of the young kids missed his arrival.

"We decided to have him start the parade, and everyone liked it a lot more," Early said. "Also, not having to keep kids out there so late is nice."

Many of the parade's entries will be scored. Early added that professional judges have been hired from Pennsylvania to review the commercial floats, bands, and JROTC acts as they approach

the judges' table set up by the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum. The organizations, like the high school bands, will use this feedback to improve their routines.

"It's like practice for them," Early said.

Local judges will also examine other groups, such as police and military and nonprofits. To remain on schedule, the entries must adhere to a strict two-minute time limit, as the parade will end at 9 p.m. Each winner will receive a trophy.

The 2024 Christmas event will exhibit toys from different periods as its theme.

"This year, we'll be celebrating the magic of Christmas with a nostalgic journey through time, showcasing the evolution of beloved toys that have brought joy to children over the years," a message from Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall's office says. "From classic teddy bears and

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Residents say pedestrians need increased protection

Continued from Page 1
she sees Ocean Pines officials working to make the community a safer place by posting signs that tell people if they're speeding and crosswalks on roads like Robin Hood Trail.

"This is all good progress," she said.

But Stevens maintained that Ocean Parkway is the community's main throughway, and more can be done to prioritize safety.

"How the neighborhood was designed, you can't get from your house to your mailbox without walking on Ocean Parkway," she said.

"You can't get to the school bus stop without walking on [Ocean Parkway]. This was designed as a summer community. It's not a year-round robust community...we need to do something more with the engineering of the main throughway of our road... We have a safe community when you're in your home, but when you're on the road or in the neighborhood, you're not safe. It's not safe, and it's not getting better."

Stevens noted that if the board does not like the recommendation to widen the shoulder and narrow the driving lane, which she said is a strat-

egy that has been done "all around the country with great success," then officials must look to employing professionals who can evaluate best safety practices.

"Please make this a priority," she said. "Commit the resources this year, not another year...we don't want memorials for deaths on our roads."

OPA resident Tim McMullen also spoke at last month's meeting, where he advised the board to place speed bumps on Ocean Parkway.

He argued that if these additions could make someone slow down from 45 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, it could "save the life of a young child."

OPA Police Chief Tim Robinson updated the community on the Nov. 16 accident, saying the incident remains under investigation. The Maryland State Police are handling accident reconstruction. The Ocean Pines Police Department will work with the Worcester County State's Attorney to determine the next steps after the state police's investigation is completed.

"It's a difficult case, and we're doing everything we can to ensure a thorough investigation," Robinson said.

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Food contract in works

Continued from Page 1
agement of the Ocean Pines food and beverage amenities.

In a closed session last week, management recommended to the board and legal counsel a company they wanted to pursue.

Lakernick maintained that the board considers decision-making regarding the food and beverage submissions to be principally an operational and management responsibility.

The identity of the winning bidder was kept hidden from the board to allow a fair review of the submissions.

Lakernick said that if negotiations yield a fully agreed-upon contract, the board will vote on a motion to authorize the general manager to execute an official arrangement at a subsequent special or regular board meeting.

“As to revealing the identity of the selected bidder, this will not happen tonight,” Lakernick said. “The board does not know the identity of the winning bidder. It will happen only after the contract negotiations are completed and an agreed set of contract terms have been arrived at.”

“The board and management believe that the interests of the Ocean Pines Association are best served by maintaining confidentiality as to the identity of the selected bidder until there is an agreed and fully negotiated set of contract terms. This approach is also fair to the counterparty... This approach is consistent with many other contract situations, where sensitive contract negotiations are ongoing.”

The board of directors expressed their satisfaction with the selection process up to this point.

“[The food and beverage company selection] was done in a manner that would be the most fair to all parties involved and allow us to have a really clear understanding of the differences of the different bidders without any other thoughts,” Director Elaine Brady said.

“We were able to look at the data in an extremely fair way... I think our community can be assured it was an extremely fair process.”

Director Steve Jacobs reiterated Brady’s sentiments, maintaining that by looking at the data with the identities of the applicants kept confidential, “any particular advantage that one candidate might have over another candidate” is eliminated and “makes the process neutral on its face” until the contract dealings are complete.

Board Vice President Rick Farr said that he honed in on the respondent’s vision and “whether they are going to take [OPA’s] food and beverage into the future,” as well as the projected financial returns to Ocean Pines.

The association issued a request for proposals (RFP) for companies looking to handle Ocean Pines food and beverage amenities in September, as the neighborhood’s current contract with Matt Ortt Companies expires on April 30, 2025.

Matt Ortt first signed a two-year deal with Ocean Pines in March 2018 to manage the community’s food and drive-service locations: the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the Ocean Pines Beach Club, and the Clubhouse Bar and Grille. The initial arrangement was extended by five years in 2020.

As the contract comes to an end, the governing body elected to seek proposals outside of Matt Ortt Companies per advice from the community’s legal counsel and governing documents that require fair and competitive RFP processes.

The board will vote at some point in the future to authorize Viola to execute an official arrangement if the extended discussions yield an agreed-upon contract.

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Golf, racquet center next up for improvements in Pines

Course bridge replacement eyed along with significant upgrades at sports building

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Infrastructure improvements to the golf course and racquet center are scheduled in Ocean Pines over the next few months, per a report presented at the community's Saturday, Nov. 23, board of directors meeting.

The pavilion constructed at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines was completed last month and unveiled with a ribbon cutting directly ahead of the community's Veteran's Day ceremony on Nov. 11. Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola said that the final budget requested and approved for the project was \$200,000. The structure is now open to the public and will serve as a space for students and others to enjoy as they visit the remembrance park.

As the Veteran's Gazebo has been completed, OPA has moved on to other upcoming projects. For instance, the bridge on the fourth fairway of the Ocean Pines golf course "is in dire need of replacement," Viola said.

The work to enhance the structure will include replacing the current fencing on the sides of the bridge with railings. The community is awaiting a finalized cost from the contractor. A preliminary estimate puts the initiative at about \$40,000. The general manager maintained that the bridge is scheduled to be completed sometime in January and that the construction will yield minimal disruption to the course.

Viola said the racquet sports building renovations are next in line upon the pavilion's completion. The enhancement work, including upgrades

to the bathrooms and the front pro shop, is scheduled to begin this winter. The general manager noted that community officials hope to finish the project by Memorial Day in May.

As the community continues to focus on upgrade initiatives, it is also offering festive activities for its residents this month.

Director of Business Administration Linda Martin briefly touched on upcoming holiday events in Ocean Pines at the Nov. 23 meeting. Light Up the Pines kicks off this December, where residents can decorate and register their homes to be placed on an online map of festive houses. Breakfast with Stanta will be held at the Community Center at White Horse Park from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, and a Swim with Santa event is slated for Saturday, Dec. 21, at the indoor Sports Core Pool from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Leaf maintenance will remain a priority of OPA as the autumn foliage continues to fall.

According to Martin, the neighborhood's trash vendor, Republic Services, will pick up four leaf bags with regular garbage pickup. The company will also offer special pickup days for leaves, collected in paper bags only, on Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21.

Additionally, Public Works will start picking up bagged leaves on Nov. 25 through Jan. 3.

"Leaves will not be picked up unless they are in bags," Martin said. "We will be starting violations through the [Compliant, Permit, and Inspections Department] if we see a big pile of leaves that have been sitting [on the road] for some time."

The OPA Board of Directors, General Manager Viola, and his team will gather again on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse Meeting Room for their monthly meeting.



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Judge denies two motions in pre-trial Knupp hearing

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(Dec. 5, 2024) A Worcester County Circuit Court judge last week denied a protective order as well as sanctions against legal counsel representing Tyler Mailloux, the man accused in a hit-and-run accident that claimed the life of 14-year-old Gavin Knupp.

During a hearing last Thursday, Worcester County Circuit Court judge Brett Wilson ruled against the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office's motion seeking a protective order to shield discovery materials as well as sanctions against Mailloux's legal representation. All other motions in the case, he said, would be deferred, with a status hearing now set for Dec. 5.

"This is a case where emotions run high ...," he said. "I believe as the case has matured, some of the issues at the time no longer exist."

While the state's motion for a protective order and sanctions against the defense counsel has been shielded – a legal move that State's Attorney Kris Heiser said is used to protect sensitive information, including medical information and information about juveniles – Mailloux's attorney, George Psoras, argued the request should be denied. In his response to the motion, Psoras said the state's at-

torney's office accused the defense of disclosing certain protected health and identifying information about the juvenile victim and releasing discovery materials to the public.

"The State has made these inappropriate allegations in an attempt to sully the Defendant, his counsel, and his family, and to further inflame the community against the Defendant ...," the response reads. "Defense counsel affirmatively states that he has never made any statements to the media unlike the state's agency."

In court last week, Wilson denied the state's motion. All other remaining motions, have been postponed.

"All other motions I have will be deferred for further proceedings by this court," the judge concluded.

Mailloux, 24, faces 17 traffic charges in the death of Knupp, a 14-year-old Ocean Pines resident who was struck and killed by a motorist in a black Mercedes while crossing Grays Corner Road on the night of July 11, 2022. Knupp was reportedly returning to a vehicle driven by his older sister and died from injuries sustained in the collision. Mailloux is accused of fleeing the scene and not returning, according to charges filed.

Since charges were filed in April of 2023, the case has worked its way through the legal system, starting with a motions hearing last August. At that hearing, Wilson granted the defense's motion to dismiss, opining that the district court had "exclusive and original" jurisdiction. From there, the prosecution appealed the ruling to the Appellate Court of Maryland, which heard oral arguments earlier this year. When the circuit court ruling was reversed, Mailloux then petitioned the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the decision.

In June, the state's highest court denied the petition, opining that "there has been no showing that review by certiorari is desirable and in the public interest." The ruling essentially meant that the decision handed down by the Appellate Court of Maryland would be upheld and that all charges against Mailloux would be tried in Worcester County Circuit Court.

A 13-day trial is scheduled to begin March 3, 2025.

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Berlin Christmas parade Thursday

Continued from Page 3
wooden trains to the latest tech gadgets, parade entries will highlight the iconic toys that defined childhoods from the early 1900s to today."

The Town of Berlin and the Berlin Main Street program sponsor the annual community Christmas Parade. According to the town's website, a shuttle courtesy of Ocean Downs Casino from Berlin Intermediate School will be available.



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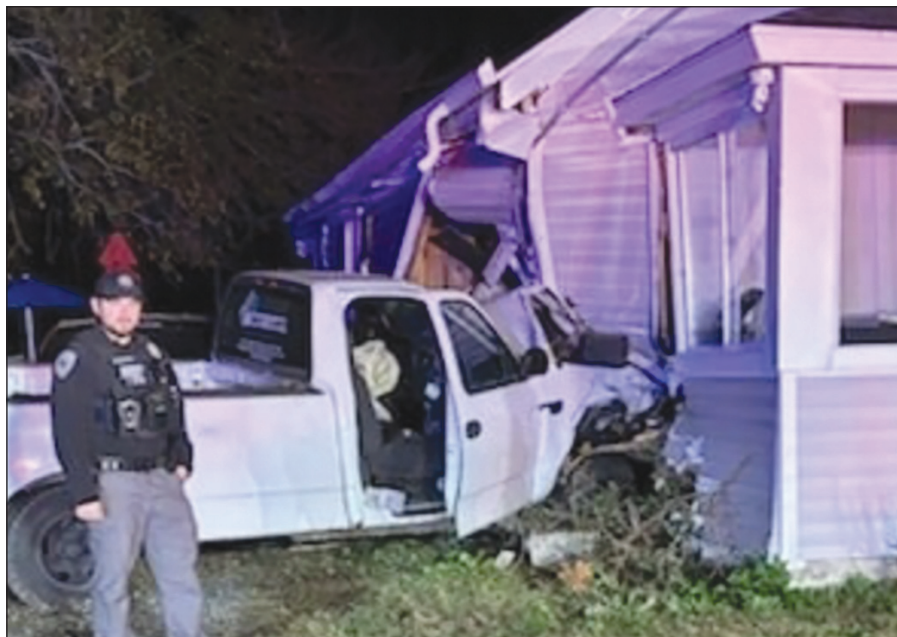


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HOME COLLISION

Berlin Fire Company and Berlin Police Department responded Wednesday night to a residence on Germantown Road where a vehicle ran into it. Maryland State Police Aviation provided transportation for a person injured in the collision.

Juveniles charged in vandalism

(Dec. 5, 2024) Two juveniles were identified as the vandals responsible for destruction of a local golf course restroom.

On Nov. 16, an Ocean Pines police officer responded to the Ocean Pines Golf and Country Club and began an investigation into an act of vandalism that occurred to the public restrooms on the 15th hole of the course. A press release from the Ocean Pines Police Department stated, "It was discovered that the restrooms had been entered and rocks and toilet paper were strewn inside, Additionally, the toilet tanks in both the men's and women's restrooms were both damaged to the point where they required replacement."

On Nov. 27, an additional call came in for report of juveniles in vicinity of the

same restrooms on the 15th hole that had thrown a rock at a golf course employee doing maintenance on the course. The responding officer checked the neighborhood adjacent to the golf course and located two juvenile subjects that matched the description provided. During the ensuing investigation, the officer determined that these were the subjects involved in the Nov. 16 incidents. Charges of malicious destruction of property and second-degree assault were filed.

The officer contacted the parents of both juveniles. A juvenile referral will be submitted to the Department of Juvenile Services for the 15-year-old. The second juvenile cannot be referred due to age limitations under current state law.

Resident takes swing at officer

(Dec. 5, 2024) A local officer was assaulted while interacting with an Ocean Pines resident having a medical incident.

On Nov. 27, around 1:09 p.m., officers from the Ocean Pines Police Department responded to a reported medical incident at a residence in the 100 block of Ocean Parkway.

According to a press release from the Ocean Pines Police Department, while on scene, Timothy Price, 22, Ocean Pines, became verbally abusive and uncooperative with police. "During the sub-

sequent interaction, Price took a swing at one of the officers and struck the officer in the chest," the release stated.

Price was taken into custody for the assault on the Ocean Pines officer and he was subsequently transported to the Ocean Pines Police Department where he was processed and taken before the District Court Commissioner for an initial appearance.

Following the initial appearance, the District Court Commissioner released Price on an unsecured bond.



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By **Brian Shane**
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) The state oversight board for Maryland's Open Meetings Act has ruled that Worcester County's Board of Commissioners violated the Act by leaving an item off a September 2024 meeting agenda that was then discussed openly in the meeting.

This seemingly minor procedural oversight, however, has exposed some raw nerves between Worcester County officials, one of its neediest municipalities in Pocomoke City, and a new nonprofit player making an entrance onto the political stage.

The Open Meetings Act requires a public body to list publicly all agenda items that will be discussed in a given meeting. According to a report released Monday by the three-member Open Meetings Compliance Board, the Worcester County Board of Commissioners at its Sept. 17 meeting violated the Act by "omitting a known item of business from a meeting agenda."

County officials have acknowledged the missing agenda item as a "late addition," the report states. That missing item was a request to the county from Pocomoke City Mayor Todd Nock to repurpose three years' worth of promised but unspent grant funds for his town. Nock made the request in writing a few weeks before the meeting in question.

"These funds would certainly go a long way towards helping our city address many long-standing critical infrastructure needs," Nock wrote in an Aug. 29 letter to the commissioners.

Availability of this money was the result of a fair-play agreement struck between the county and the towns of Snow Hill and Pocomoke: each get the equivalent of 10 percent of Ocean Downs Casino table games revenue as an annual infrastructure grant. For

Pocomoke, the grant was for \$36,807 in fiscal year 2023, \$49,959 in fiscal 2024, and \$48,317 in fiscal 2025

Pocomoke City did collect on its fiscal 2025 grant money, but not the prior two years. The county tried to reach Pocomoke about its money but did not get a response, so unused grant money went back into county coffers, according to County Administrator Weston Young.

"We have several emails and calls that generally went unanswered during time periods where they didn't have a finance person, or they didn't have a clerk; they went without a city manager for some time," Young said at the Sept. 17 meeting.

That \$96,766 in 2023-24 funds did not end up going to Pocomoke City. Instead, the commissioners at the Sept. 17 meeting went another way.

On a motion from Commissioner Caryn Abbott, they voted to give the money to a new nonprofit, the Pocomoke City Development Corp (PCDC). The PCDC was incorporated on May 16, online records show, by a founding member named Sara Chapman.

On Sept. 12 – five days before the See COUNTY Page 12

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Major water, sewer rate increases proposed

County facing need to raise revenue due to rising cost of maintaining services

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Water and sewer rates could double in some parts of northern Worcester County as officials say they might need the drastic price hike to cover a revenue shortfall in the water/wastewater enterprise fund.

“In examining the current cash flows and rate structures of the service areas, many of them are at unsustainable rates not generating enough revenues to cover expenses,” wrote Worcester County Enterprise Fund Controller Quinn Dittrich in a Nov. 6 memorandum to County Administrator Weston Young.

Rate increases are intended to allow the enterprise fund to break even. Areas under consideration for a rate adjustment include Assateague Point, Edgewater Acres, The Landings, Lighthouse Sound, Mystic Harbour, and Riddle Farm.

Customers in The Landings and Assateague Point could see rates increase by as much as 97 percent. Also, water customers in the Assateague Point area could see higher rates because Frontier Town contributes seasonally increased flows, and

PROPOSED WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASES FOR DOMESTIC USE				
Location	current rate	proposed rate	% increase	\$ increase
Assateague Point	\$117	\$134.50	14.96	\$17.50
Edgewater Acres	\$31.20	\$61.67	97.66	\$30.47
Landings	\$318.50	\$627	96.86	\$308.5
Lighthouse Sound	\$242	\$268	9.7	\$26
Mystic Harbour	\$243	\$320	31.69	\$77
Newark	\$240	\$314	30.83	\$74
Riddle Farm	\$288	443	53.82	\$155

introduces far greater substances that need treatment requiring more chemicals and processing, the memo said.

For customers in the Newark area, the proposed rate hike is about 30 percent, but it could be even higher. That’s because Newark rents water tower space to cellular companies. That revenue is intended to be used for future capital needs, but it’s now being used to assist with operations and maintenance. If that money went solely to capital needs, rates would have to be increased further.

The county’s water and sewer service is not tied to its main general fund budget. Instead, it’s operated using self-sustaining enterprise fund – meaning, the people who use the service pay for the service.

Each of the service areas has its own enterprise fund account. Some

of the areas have more users, meaning there are fewer users to divide the cost between. At the same time, a smaller population using the service means it can cost more per person. Water service is less costly than sewer service.

The overall budget shortfall from all seven enterprise funds is almost \$2 million. The reason for the shortfall is that actual operating costs in those service areas for water and sewer service are higher than the rates being charged. A majority of the fiscal imbalance comes from the Mystic Harbor service areas, which is short \$1.2 million, the memo states.

Water/sewer use is metered in 90 percent of properties and is billed quarterly. There is a flat domestic or commercial minimum rate per user, and a tiered usage fee based on the

number of gallons consumed quarterly.

In a statement to OC Today-Dispatch, Dittrich explained that many water/sewer rates are based on a measurement system known as Equivalent Dwelling Units, or EDUs. It’s an environmental term that allots a home an average gallons per day amount.

“If you have public water but a septic system, you’d have one water EDU. If you have a well but public sewer, you’d have one sewer EDU. If you use 500-600 gallons per day, you would then be allocated two EDUs. It lets us know what the customer should be charged based on what they’re using. This also helps a water and/or wastewater plant know how much capacity it has left or is using,” he wrote.

Proposed rate increases are for both domestic and commercial service. Commercial EDUs have a higher per-gallon usage charge compared to the Domestic EDUs. The memo states that a property on 1 Commercial EDU in Mystic Harbor with a current quarterly rate of \$282.16 could see that figure jump to \$1,862.26 – a rate increase of 560 percent.

A public hearing on the matter was scheduled for Tuesday during the meeting of the Worcester County Board of Commissioners in Snow Hill.

County’s vote successfully challenged by area resident

Continued from Page 11

Sept. 17 meeting – Chapman emailed her county commissioner Caryn Abbott (District 1, Southern) to ask “if any funds are available for restoration projects in Pocomoke City, that we be considered.” This email was included in the meeting packet and is part of the public record.

Here’s where the Open Meetings Act violation occurred: when Nock’s letter came up as an item for discussion, it was considered to be unannounced to the public. The description of an item of business need not be particular detailed but should provide enough information to help the public decide whether to attend the meeting, the compliance board report said.

Not only did the commissioners not honor Nock’s request to retrieve the promised grant money, but the commissioners instead voted 5-2 to give the funding to the Pocomoke City Development Corporation on a motion from Commissioner Abbott. Commissioners Joe Mitrecic (District 7-Ocean City) and Diana Purnell (District 2-Central) voted against this.

“You’re going to move that money to this 501(c)(3) that just started?” Purnell said. “Pocomoke is requesting now to use that for infrastructure. Maybe they had a time when they didn’t use it. But now that they want to use it, and they have a project they want to use it on, we take it away from them. There’s something wrong with that picture.”

Mayor Nock said he didn’t even know the PCDC was in consideration for the grant funds. He responded with a scathing press release the next day, Sept. 18, calling the commissioners’ reappropriation of his town’s grants “deeply troubling.”

“Let me be clear: these funds were not up for grabs,” Nock wrote. “They were promised to Pocomoke City for the specific purpose of repaving our roads and sidewalks to ensure the safety and mobility of our residents.”

Nock told OC Today-Dispatch this week that “we always knew it was a violation of the Open Meeting Act” but they did not pursue it. He said the city is working to nurture its new relationship with the PCDC.

“It’s sad that Pocomoke did not receive this money,” he said Monday, “but Pocomoke is a resilient commu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS

Nurse Professionals Home Care President Anita Logsdon Battista, right, and Nicole House-Blanc, clinical nurse specialist, organized donations for this year’s Annual Food Drive for Sarah’s Pantry in Ocean Pines.

nity. Hopefully all the county commissioners will get on board to make Pocomoke a better place.”

The person who filed the Open Meeting Act complaint, Chip Choquette of Pocomoke City, told OC Today-Dispatch via email that the earmarking of public money to a private group, with no notice, “came as a shock to many.” Choquette also runs a Facebook news blog called the Pocomoke Arrowhead.

“Who was allowed to bid? Where is it being spent?” he said. “I continue

to be concerned with the way these funds were awarded and the lack of transparency involving their expenditure. It was a good faith promise that the commissioners would always share the funds with the two south county municipalities to improve infrastructure. A promise that has now been broken.”

The County Commissioners will address the ruling of the Open Meetings Compliance Board at their next meeting on Dec. 3, according to spokeswoman Kim Moses.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

For the last 40 years, members of the Pine Tones Chorus, pictured, have presented holiday concerts featuring a variety of seasonal music.

Pine Tones to present 40th annual holiday show Friday

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) The Pine Tones is gearing up to bring holiday cheer to the community next month with a 40-year-long tradition.

At its 40th holiday concert, the choir will perform a mix of classical, modern, contemporary, and Christmas favorite tunes on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Racetrack Road. Admission is free, and donations are welcome.

Karen Adcock, the choral group's board treasurer and a member of the production committee, said that this year, in a slight deviation from years past, the group is emphasizing the "family-friendly aspect of music."

Adcock said that attendees typically do not bring children to see the show. This holiday season, the group's setlist includes songs like "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Run Rudolph Run," and "Where Are You Christmas" from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" that can be enjoyed by adults and kids alike.

"Bring the whole family," Adcock urged.

The Pine Tones Chorus boasts around 40 singers and does not require auditions for potential new members. The treasurer said the group's mission is to "put on a good show and sound good" while enjoying themselves and sharing their love of music with the audience.

"I have been in audition groups where
See PINE Page 15



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Opinion

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

Public schools again rank high in Maryland

Congratulations to Worcester County Public Schools, which this week were recognized — again — as one of the top-performing school systems in the state.

That's based on the annual report card the state issues annually to each Maryland school districts, and this year Worcester's institutions garnered consistently high marks.

That is certainly true on this end of the county, where all but one school received four out of a possible five stars. Earning four stars based on academic performance, student success and a host of other criteria were Buckingham Elementary, Berlin Intermediate, Showell Elementary, Stephen Decatur Middle and Stephen Decatur High School.

The lone exception to this four-star parade was Ocean City Elementary, which, as it happens, received five stars for its performance last year.

As school Superintendent Lou Taylor observed on the report cards' release by the Maryland Board of Education yesterday, this county's system consistently outperforms its counterparts across the state.

That doesn't happen by accident or by virtue of good luck, not when these high performance standards are reported year after year. It's because of the work that teachers and staff put in to ensure that the children in their charge get their best efforts, with the expectation that the children themselves will respond in kind.

Most everyone understands the main attraction this area offers to families is living near the beach and all the recreational opportunities associated with that.

As parents know, however, other things are important too, maybe even more important. So as great as being close to the beach is, it's also good for them to know that the schools their children will attend or are attending are pretty great themselves.

Free drive-in movie showings offered

County's rec, parks department presents four nights of films

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Christmas festivities continue in Worcester County, with a series of drive-in movies scattered throughout the area this month.

The Worcester County Recreation and Parks Department is hosting four nights of Movies under the Stars with showings of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Elf" as a drive-in movie experience. The organization's website notes that the films will be displayed on a "giant, outdoor screen."

Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" will be presented on Friday, Dec. 6, at Newtown Park in Pocomoke and on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin. Residents can catch Will Ferrell in "Elf" on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Snow Hill's John Walter Smith Park and on Saturday, Dec. 14, at Showell Elementary School in Ocean Pines. Parking will open

at 6 p.m. The movie will begin at 7 p.m. Courtesy of Aetna Better Health of Maryland and Eastern Shore Kettle Korn, the first 20 cars will receive a free bag of popcorn.

According to Worcester County Recreation and Parks Special Event and Marketing Manager Ryan Nellans, the Movie Under the Stars initiative expands on the existing Holiday Drive-In Movie events. Worcester County Recreation and Parks Deputy Director Jacob Stephens added that the group has hosted drive-in movies since the winter of 2019, and this year's film schedule is an evolution of that program.

"This is our first year providing movies at our four largest parks to better serve the entire county," Nellans said.

Stephens said the Recreation and Parks Department anticipates 150 cars at each show. The organization's special event and marketing manager noted that the group hopes the movie nights offer family-friendly holiday fun.

"Just because the sun goes down doesn't mean that the day is over, and anyone with kiddos loose in the house

knows that's the truth," Nellans said. "We want to provide a fun family experience in a safe, community-oriented environment."

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a family musical that premiered in 1993 and was produced and created by Tim Burton, a filmmaker known for gothic horror and fantasy films. "Elf," starring Will Ferrell, is a comedy that appeals to kids and adults alike.

Nellans maintained that these movies were chosen for their cheery and upbeat messages.

"[The movies] are fantastic holiday films in their own right," he said. "Both touch on the importance of friends and family. They reinforce how important it is that we are able to rely on each other and the magic of sharing the things we love — old and new — with the people we love."

The movie nights are free and open to the entire Worcester County community. The event is sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Maryland and is in partnership with the Worcester County Public Library.

Winter clothing collection underway

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Local do-gooders are turning to charity to keep the less fortunate bundled up and warm this winter.

Andrea Raquel Clymire, community school coordinator for Pittsville Elementary and Middle School and Mrs. Delmarva 2025, and her daughter, Delmarva's Young Miss Ocean Pines, are helping the Miss Delmarva Pageant Series collect hats, coats, gloves, mittens, socks, and scarves for Be the Sunshine's Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Winter Clothing Drive.

Be the Sunshine is a regional "motivational and inspirational program with the goal of teaching others to spread positive energy and kindness," according to its Facebook page. The organization is collecting

winter gear for its 11th annual drive in collaboration with the Delmarva pageant group.

Clymire and her 10-year-old daughter are aiding the charitable effort. Gently used or new items can be dropped off at boxes located at Caprichos Books in Ocean Pines, Chesapeake Martial Arts in Ocean Pines, or Twisters Gymnastics in Berlin. Hats, scarves, coats, and "anything that can keep people warm in the winter" are appreciated, Clymire said.

New items will go to the Salisbury Elks Lodge, and used pieces will be donated to local homeless shelters like Diakonia and the Salisbury-based HALO Ministry. The community school coordinator asks that previously worn clothing be washed prior to donation.

Clymire said anything dropped off at the three loca-

tions through Dec. 7 will be donated to the Be the Sunshine's Warm Hands, Warm Hearts program. Mrs. Delmarva added that she will collect winter wear throughout the chilly season and that items garnered after Dec. 7 will be given to Diakonia.

"I try to do a lot of community service," Clymire said. "That's how I got involved in Miss Delmarva. My daughter started competing, and they are very community service oriented. I am also a very 'give back to the community and thankful for what you have' type of person."

The winter donation program is on par with Clymire's position as a community school coordinator in Wicomico County, which she notes is her "dream job."

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BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Berlin's Hanukkah event planned for Dec. 31

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Dec. 5, 2024) Holiday activities continue to make their way to Berlin this winter season.

For the second year in a row, the Town of Berlin has partnered with The Inn Berlin for a menorah lighting to celebrate Hanukkah. The festive event will kick off on Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. at the bed and breakfast located at 15 Harrison Avenue. Chabad of the Eastern Shore donated the menorah, and Temple Bat Yam will supply dreidels. The Inn Berlin is offering potato latkes and donuts that will be gluten-

free to all who come out.

Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said that in addition to the menorah lighting, several people will discuss the story of Hanukkah, and then presenters and attendees will "celebrate together over latkes" and the other sweet treats provided by The Inn Berlin.

This event will be the second of its kind. The menorah lighting and Hanukkah celebration were first held in December 2023 to diversify festivities and educate the community about the holiday.

"After last year, we had so many people say they had never experienced something like [the menorah lighting] before and what a wonderful celebration and they didn't know the story of the holiday," Wells said. "It's a history lesson, and people really enjoyed learning about the culture of what Hanukkah is ... there will be a giant menorah, and the entire community is invited."

The Hanukkah event is happening on the same night as the community's annual New Year's Eve bash. Radio Ocean City will be present, and games will be provided for the kids, set to

start at 5 p.m., Wells said. A ball drop is scheduled for 6 p.m. because, as the Berlin Main Street website specifies, that's when the clock strikes the first midnight of 2025 in Berlin, Germany.

In addition to the menorah lighting and the New Year's Eve party, holiday-themed activities are scheduled throughout December, including an annual favorite.

The Town of Berlin and the Berlin Main Street Program are once again hosting their carriage rides this month, which Wells said has been a community tradition for over a

See CARRIAGE Page 17

Pine Tones prepping for big holiday concert

Continued from Page 13

the focus is so heavily on precise accuracy, and no one has any fun," Adcock noted. "We want everyone to have a good time."

The festive show will be held closer to home this year at the Community Church at Ocean Pines on Racetrack Road, where the choir's annual spring concert is also hosted. Previously, the winter show was performed at the Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, per the original director's involvement with the church.

Adcock said that a post-show reception was hosted in the site's hospitality area while the concert was held at the Ocean City church. This year, given a location change and a lack of sizable space, the singing group will hand out goodie bags filled with cookies, and toys for kids, instead of having an after-performance gathering.

"We try to give as much to the audience as we can," Adcock noted.

Adcock said she hoped the choir's performance would bring joy to attendees and emphasized the "remarkable" impacts choral music can have.

"It has been proven that choral music has positive neurological effects on the brain and has positive social effects," she said. "After people listen to a choral concert, blood pressure is lower. We believe it because we feel it ourselves."

"We are sharing an appreciation for a kind of music that is appealing but that many people may have never heard," Adcock continued. "We hope it brings people together. In my view, anything that improves access to any kind of culture is beneficial in a community ... It's a way to bring everyone in the community together."

Adcock's involvement in the chorus began shortly after she moved to the area in 2009. She took her mom to a Pine Tones concert, and she was "struck by how happy everyone seemed to be" and that "everyone in the group was radiating joy." As soon as Adcock could, she

joined the choir and has remained a member ever since.

"Every single positive thing that has happened to me since moving here can be traced back to my association with the Pine Tones," she said. "We support each

other, and we support the community."

Doors open at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6. Other setlist additions include "Little Drummer Boy," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," and "Children, Go Where I Send Thee."

Effort launched to assist needy

Continued from Page 14

The do-gooder added that a community school is a model that creates public schools as hubs for a neighborhood and the facility's surrounding areas. Programs like food distributions are implemented to meet the needs of a community. Clymire's effort with the Warm Hands, Warm Hearts initiative speaks to her dedication to helping the less fortunate.

"I hope [the drive] brings some level of compassion," she said. "Nobody is living on the streets because they want to... people end up in these situations. Some women are fleeing domestic violence. In these situations, it's not just physical abuse. It's also financial abuse where these women have no control over their finances, and they have no resources, and they have to build their lives from the bottom up. These are small things we can give to someone to keep them warm. The least we can do is to provide some level of warmth and compassion."

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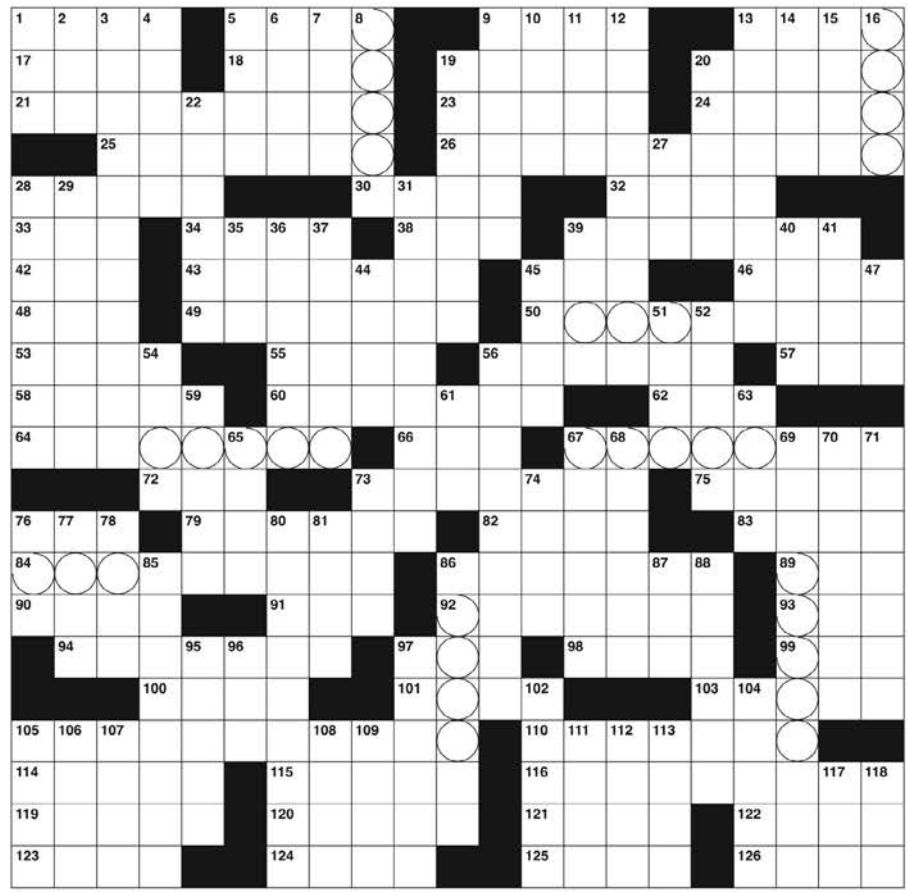
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Puzzles

SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Alex Eaton-Salners, of Lake Forest, Calif., works as an in-house lawyer for a technology company. In addition to making crosswords, he is a prolific variety-puzzle maker for The Times, including the Puns and Anagrams found in this issue. He also invents new puzzle types, such as Hop Cross Fun, which ran in the magazine on Sept. 15. "I like to stretch my limits with different constructing experiences," he says.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Penalty assessors
 - 5 "Be that way!"
 - 9 Black Friday destination
 - 13 Touch-tone phone abbr.
 - 17 Anatomical part from the Latin for "grape"
 - 18 Mashhad's country
 - 19 Portrayer of Mrs. Smith in 2005's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith"
 - 20 Cheer for a diva
 - 21 Filipino meat dish
 - 23 Sumatran swinger
 - 24 Shoelace protector
 - 25 Citrusy breakfast treat
 - 26 Sue Bird or Larry Bird
 - 28 Part of a certain chain
 - 30 Sound from a cappuccino maker
 - 32 Tikka masala go-with
 - 33 The Tabard, in "The Canterbury Tales"
 - 34 Echelon
 - 38 Former roles for Kamala Harris and Arlen Specter, for short
 - 39 Component of an old PC tower
 - 42 Avocado toast topper, perhaps
 - 43 Like the main character in "Memento"
- DOWN**
- 45 Pension alternative, in brief
 - 46 ___ Dingbats (icon-filled font)
 - 48 Layer of a 42-Across
 - 49 Hardly any
 - 50 PAGING device
 - 53 One may be called on to give, informally
 - 55 Queequeg's figurine in "Moby-Dick," e.g.
 - 56 Texter's vociferous agreement
 - 57 Fair-hiring inits.
 - 58 Like Hadrian's Wall in northern England
 - 60 Creates a new account?
 - 62 Divest
 - 64 Nickname
 - 66 El ___ (Castilian hero)
 - 67 Sloth, for one
 - 72 Greek H
 - 73 Was of service to
 - 75 Classic candy company
 - 76 Like
 - 79 Follows
 - 82 Figure (out)
 - 83 Japan's legislature
 - 84 Swaths of land
 - 86 N.S.A.'s home
 - 89 J. Cole's "___ Knows"
 - 90 Guitar's resting place, often
 - 91 Snickering sound
 - 92 One writing wrongs?
 - 93 Fifth note
 - 94 Thinks highly of
 - 97 Get stuck
 - 98 Ja's opposite
 - 99 Estadio Azteca cheer
 - 100 Carriage, in Cambridge
 - 101 Of all time
 - 103 Symbol of the National Audubon Society
 - 105 Imprimatur
 - 110 Finds
 - 114 One of 30+ million Americans
 - 115 Elizabeth's house
 - 116 Midair collision of sorts
 - 119 What Kwanzaa's first principle, Umoja, means
 - 120 Mosque officials
 - 121 Clucking sounds?
 - 122 Mathematician/historian Neugebauer
 - 123 Where Molson Coors is TAP
 - 124 Beer buy
 - 125 Epithet for a G.O.P. moderate, maybe
 - 126 Invite letters
 - 11 Protagonist of the Zelda games
 - 12 Absolutely epic
 - 13 Put together
 - 14 Gloomy mood
 - 15 First name in daredevilry
 - 16 "Phooye!"
 - 19 Bipartisan 2012 stimulus bill
 - 20 Pachyderm of kid-lit
 - 22 "The Joy Luck Club" author
 - 27 Tiny bit
 - 28 Never-give-up sort
 - 29 "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie" poet
 - 31 Individual speech patterns
 - 35 Online commenter's qualification
 - 36 Unabridged
 - 37 Newspaper subscriber
 - 39 Mountain goat's perch
 - 40 Use an e-cig
 - 41 Fencing option
 - 44 Book return spot
 - 45 Some classic PCs
 - 47 To's counterpart
 - 51 N.B.A. coach Steve
 - 52 Digitally endorse
 - 54 Bull or buck
 - 56 Ancient
 - 59 Fireworks ingredient
 - 61 What crossed fingers behind one's back might indicate
 - 63 Monopoly holding
 - 65 "Peter Pan" pooch
 - 67 Make an appearance
 - 80 Circuit diagram
 - 81 Four Corners tribe
 - 85 PowerPoint starting point
 - 86 Listing at an ice cream shop
 - 87 "Ad majorem ___ gloriam" (Jesuit motto)
 - 88 Chemistry Nobelist Rutherford
 - 95 Twisted humor?
 - 96 Battle of Britain grp.
 - 97 Powell of the Federal Reserve
 - 102 Wirelessly driven toy, for short
 - 104 Eva of "Green Acres"
 - 105 Floor
 - 106 Itsy
 - 107 Alliance of powers
 - 108 Patagonia prowler
 - 109 Smartphone predecessors, for short
 - 111 "Didn't see ya there!"
 - 112 Uncharitable
 - 113 Fuel brand with a blue oval in its logo
 - 117 "Jersey Shore" aier
 - 118 Corny sound effect?
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).



- 68 Win for a marketing team
- 69 Barbershop offerings
- 70 Winter fishing spot
- 71 Small card for a short message
- 73 Meeting, informally
- 74 Boneheaded
- 76 Try to find out
- 77 Moon over Miami, to many a Miamian
- 78 Undercover?
- 80 Circuit diagram
- 81 Four Corners tribe
- 85 PowerPoint starting point
- 86 Listing at an ice cream shop
- 87 "Ad majorem ___ gloriam" (Jesuit motto)
- 88 Chemistry Nobelist Rutherford
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- 112 Uncharitable
- 113 Fuel brand with a blue oval in its logo
- 117 "Jersey Shore" aier
- 118 Corny sound effect?

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 9

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

W	E	B	B	V	I	C	E	V	E	R	S	A	T	I	L	L		
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R	E	D	O	U	P	P	A	N	D	A	W	A	Y	K	E	R	I	
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S	N	I	T	H	O	M	E	A	L	O	N	E	T	E	A	S		
C	O	G	N	A	T	E	A	N	N	A	L	W	A	S	H	T	U	B
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S	H	I	N	D	I	G	S	L	E	S	G	E	T	S	A	T	A	N
T	E	N	D	V	O	L	T	J	O	S	T	D	A	L	E			
A	R	K	H	O	T	A	I	R	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	P	L	S
N	E	W	D	O	P	L	A	Y	G	O	D	A	U	D	I	S		
W	E	E	L	A	S	S	B	R	A	M	I	N	I	V	A	N		
H	E	L	L	E	A	H	A	N	T	I	D	A	R	E	N	O	T	
U	G	L	I	O	N	O	T	E	E	N	E	S	A	C	N	E		
B	O	S	S	N	E	T	E	A	T	S	E	E	D					

Obituary

JACK CALDWELL

Ocean Pines

Jack Edward Caldwell, 88, of Ocean Pines, died peacefully at home on November 29. Jack, also known as Graham to many of his friends, was born in York County, PA, son of the late Louis and Alice Caldwell. Jack moved to Baltimore as a child. It was there he met the love of his life, Carol Caldwell (Klaburner). The two attended the same elementary school a few years apart, with Jack attending Baltimore Polytechnic High School and Carol attending Eastern High School. Jack went on to study engineering at University of Maryland College Park, where he was a part of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He proposed to Carol during this time, leading to a 62-year loving marriage.



Jack Caldwell

Jack worked in sales for Otis Elevator Company for more than 40 years. His local office

in New Jersey closed in 1996, allowing him to move to Ocean Pines to continue work, and then to retire. After retirement, he worked many part-time jobs, including an announcer on NPR, as a substitute teacher and as an actor. He appeared as an extra in more than two dozen films and television shows.

He was also involved in Radio Airwaves, community theater and the Ocean Pines Tennis Club. He sang in the choir at the Community Church of Ocean Pines, where he was a member. He had a great sense of humor and a deep voice that everyone knew so well. The Caldwells loved to go dancing together, travelling and serving the community and just being around each other.

Jack is survived by his two daughters, Suzanne Gentile (husband Rick) of Jacksonville,

Florida, and Robin Caldwell of Ocean Pines, his son Gregory Caldwell (wife JoLana) of

Willards, his sister Patricia Rubenstein of Salisbury, nine grandchildren, two great-

grandchildren, various nieces and nephews and his beloved cat, Dolly. His daughter, Pamela Mafera, passed away in 2015.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Race-track Road in Berlin. Friends may call an hour before the service. Burial will be in the Garden of the Pines Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Community Church at Ocean Pines Choir, 11227 Racetrack Road, Berlin, Md. 21811.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.bishophastingsfh.com.

Carriage rides back in Berlin

Continued from Page 15

Visitors and residents can take advantage of the holiday-themed offering from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, Sunday, Dec. 8, Sunday, Dec. 15, Friday, Dec. 20, Saturday, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 22.

Wells noted that Randy Davis, operator and owner of the carriage rides, brings rescue horses to pull the carts along. Davis is hired in advance to ensure he can come out on the weekends in December. The activity is free and beloved by all who partake.

"Everyone looks forward to coming to Berlin during the holidays," the

economic and community development director said. "We are a historic town, and the carriage rides add to the magic and the allure of being in a small town."

The carriage rides span roughly five to ten minutes and take participants on a tour through the charming downtown area. According to Wells, several people can enjoy the trips at once.

The pickup location to hop on the carriages begins on Pitt Street next to Pitt Street Treasurers.

"Just come to the location and get in line, and the line moves accordingly," Wells said.



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OPEN HOUSES

Dec. 5 - 12



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
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
Sat & Sun 11am-1pm	9 46th St., Unit 6 Old Wharf Condos, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,995	Steve Green/Coastal Life Realty Group
Friday 1-3pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	201 S. Baltimore Avenue, Unit #101, Ocean City	4BR/3BA	Townhome	\$742,000	Gail Crosby/Resort Real Estate, Inc.
Saturday Noon-2pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	202 S. Heron Dr. Unit 204C, Heron Harbour, OC	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	702 Ocean Pkwy, Ocean Pines	6BR/4BA	Single Family	\$549,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday Noon-2pm	409 St. Louis Ave. #67, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$239,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday Noon-3pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	3-A 63rd St. Unit 14, Lazy Whale, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$220,000	Greg Nohe/Samson Properties

**Reserve Space by Dec. 17th
To Advertise Your Real Estate Listings in the New Year's/January 2025
Coastal Association of Realtors Real Estate Guide
Contact Renee Kelly 677.288.1233 or renee@oceancitytoday.net**



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., Dec. 5

BERLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 7 p.m. Parade starts at The Berlin Welcome Center, then runs north to the Berlin Fire Company. The judging stand is located on West/Baker Street near the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum. berlinmainstreet.com

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: GINGERBREAD

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 'KITTY'S CUDDLES'

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 meet new friends and play some chess? Come to the library and bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

POCOMOKE BRANCH BOOK CLUB: 'A MAN CALLED OVE' BY FREDRIK BACKMAN

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the Pocomoke Branch. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HISTORY OF HOLIDAYS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Learn about how people celebrated different winter holidays throughout the years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TRADE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Dr. Ralph Lutts presents the history of the ecological and economical impact of the destruction of the American Chestnut trees and the efforts to bring these forests back to life. 410-641-0650

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

QUIT SMOKING & VAPING CLASSES

Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines, 5-6 p.m. Participants receive one-on-one support, group support, weekly prizes and quit resources. Register: 410-632-1100, Ext. 1102, www.worcesterhealth.org.

Fri., Dec. 6

SEACRETS HOLIDAY BAZAAR & BUBBLY!

Seacrets, 117 49th St., Ocean City, 6-9 p.m. More than 20 local vendors featuring unique gifts, handmade treasures and more. Admission cost is \$15 and includes a champagne toast and light fare. seacrets.com

SEASONAL RECIPE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Bring samples of your favorite seasonal dish and the recipe to share it with others. Everything from breakfast to desserts are welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRST FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY ARTISAN FAIR

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and see the new exhibits by a variety of local and regional artists. Free event. All are welcome. 410-524-9433

THE PINE TONES CHORUS PRESENTS 'CHRISTMAS MEMORIES' CONCERT

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Listen and sing along to your holiday favorites. Bring the kids, the grands ... and even the great-grands. Admission is a goodwill offering to support the Pine Tones Chorus.

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

FIBER FRIENDS HAT SALE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-4 p.m. Hats, handbands, scarves, cowls and mittens available. All are handmade items to benefit the Ocean Pines Library. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

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

before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

Sat., Dec. 7

OCEAN CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The parade proceeds along Coastal Highway from Old Landing Road north to 120th Street, beginning at 11 a.m. Following the parade, there will be family-friendly fun and the awards presentation held at the Carousel.

LET&S GET LIT SHORE CRAFT BEER & FUN FEST - WINTERFEST WEEKEND

Cambria Hotel Ocean City - Bayfront, 13 Saint Louis Ave., 3-7 p.m. General admission is \$40. VIP tickets with hotel package. Includes a free pint glass, unlimited tastings of craft beer and beverages. Tickets: <https://shorecraftbeer.ticketspice.com/lets-get-lit-2024>. 410-703-1970

WARM HEARTS WINTER BASH

Crawl St. Tavern, 19 Wicomico St., Ocean City, 3-7 p.m. Featuring free holiday cookies and hot chocolate, tunes by DJ Magellan, Children's Gingerbread House Contest, Children's Art Showcase, raffles and silent auction. <https://crawlstreet.com>, 443-373-2756

FREE CARRIAGE RIDES

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.berlinmainstreet.com

MEET SANTA

Kringle Kottage on Artisan's Green, 124 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.berlinmainstreet.com.

SIP & SHOP

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 5-7 p.m. With special guest speaker Joyce White, Hammond-Harwood House of Annapolis. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

REINDEER LANE GIFT SHOP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Kids ages 12 years and younger can purchase gifts for family and friends. All gifts are \$5 or less. Donations needed. Drop off new or slightly worn items at the community center. Free admission. 410-641-7052

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Cost is \$10 for ages 11 years and older, \$6 for ages 4-10 years and free to those 3 years and younger. Purchase photos for a \$5 donation. Bring an unwrapped gift and/or non-perishable food item. 410-641-7052

COOKIE AND CANDY WALK

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin,

8 a.m. Cookies sold for \$10 per pound. Candies sold for \$12 per pound. Enjoy fresh cinnamon rolls and hot chocolate while you shop. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com

DICKENS WEEK

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Take a trip back in time to Victorian England. Do a Victorian themed craft and scavenger hunt, and Dickens trivia throughout the branch. Family event. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

VETERAN VOICES: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN VETERANS SHARE STORIES

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Following a history presentation by Dr. Clara Small, local veterans will share their personal service experiences. The event is free. Reservations: 410-641-0638, germantownschool@gmail.com.

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

PANCAKES WITH SANTA

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-noon. Build your own pancakes bar, photo op with Santa, Christmas ornament craft and North Pole Market. Tickets: <https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2250/rates>. 302-829-1549

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors, silent auction, lunch, white elephant and bake table.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Vegetables, beverages and desserts included. Dine in costs are \$17 for adults, \$8.50 for children and free to those 5 years and younger. Carryout cost is \$15. 410-835-8340

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Dr. Dean Kotlowski from Salisbury University presents a lecture about Pearl Harbor as the group commemorates this day in history. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER FRIENDS HAT SALE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-2 p.m. Hats, headbands, scarves, cowls and mit-

Calendar

tens available. All are handmade items to benefit the Ocean Pines Library. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HOLIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, 12-3 p.m. Kid's Wassail & Gingerbread. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

DOG MAN RELEASE PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Come celebrate the release of the latest Dog Man book. Crafts, prizes and fun galore. For ages 6-11 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., Dec. 8

MID ATLANTIC SYMPHONY - HOLIDAY JOY
OC Performing Art Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 3 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Featuring an all-star cast of soloists. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/73551176/mid-atlantic-symphony-holiday-joy-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

FREE CARRIAGE RIDES

Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.berlinmainstreet.com

MEET SANTA

Kringle Kottage on Artisan's Green, 124 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.berlinmainstreet.com

SANTA BRUNCH

Marlin Moon Restaurant, 3301 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and free to kids 5 years and younger. Donate an unwrapped toy and receive breakfast for \$10. Proceeds benefit Diakonia. Call ahead for reservations: 410-289-4444.

PANCAKES WITH SANTA

Coastal Wilds, 34215 Peppers Corner Road, Frankford, 10 a.m.-noon. Build your own pancakes bar, photo op with Santa, Christmas ornament craft and North Pole Market. Tickets: <https://book.singenuity.com/469/activity/details/2250/rates>. 302-829-1549

CHURCH SERVICE

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7348 New Hope Road, Willards, 11 a.m. All are welcome.

SIP & SHOP

Papi's Tacos Ocean City, 1500 Philadelphia Ave., 12-5 p.m. Local vendors, The Jamn' Brothers (1-5 p.m.) and drink and food specials. A percentage of sales benefits the Worcester Humane Society. <https://papistacojoint.com/ocean-city>

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., Dec. 9

DICKENS WEEK

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Take a trip back in time to Victorian England. Do a Victorian themed craft and scavenger hunt, ad Dickens trivia throughout the branch. Family event. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

'JINGLE ALL THE WAY' GAME WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Join in anytime from Dec. 9-14 to play the Jingle All the Way scavenger hunt and games. Complete the scavenger hunt to enter for a change to win a prize. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878

STORY TIME: WADDLING PENGUINS

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

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB: 'A HUNGER TO KILL' BY KIM MAGER WITH LISA PULTZER

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. An afternoon of true crime. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TEAS THE SEASON

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Join herbalist, Michaela Eggers for a cozy afternoon exploring seasonal tea flavors. Create your own mulling spice packets to take home. Registration necessary: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIE MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come see a movie you might have missed in the theaters. Light refreshments provided. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3-6 p.m. Come tour the local history collection. If you need help finding your roots, contact the local history librarian at history@worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-3495

COOKIE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Bring at least a dozen cookies to share and you will leave with many more and recipes from others. Non-bakers are invited to attend and sample. Email recipes to: oceancity@worcesterlibrary.org.

COMIC BOOK CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about comics and create your own. No experience required. 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

VICTORIAN INSPIRED EARRINGS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Design and make earrings using semi-precious stones and crystals. Copy presenter designs or add your own style. Registration required: 410-632-3495. www.worcesterlibrary.org

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., Dec. 10

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR PERFORMING CHRISTMAS IN VIENNA

OC Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. Austrian folk songs, classical and holiday music. Cost is \$40-\$70. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/46426120/vienna-boys-choir-performing-christmas-in-vienna-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>. 410-641-7052

'JINGLE ALL THE WAY' GAME WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Join in anytime from Dec. 9-14 to play the Jingle All the Way scavenger hunt and games. Complete the scavenger hunt to enter for a change to win a prize. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878

DICKENS WEEK

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Take a trip back in time to Victorian England. Do a Victorian themed craft and scavenger hunt, ad Dickens trivia throughout the branch. Family event. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME

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

STORY TIME @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, crafts and songs that feature one of the Delmarva Discovery Museum's special animals. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, 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

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. For those living with Parkinson's disease, as well as their caregivers. Group provides education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. 410-641-4765

SONG CELEBRATION

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

BOOK CLUB

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. December book, The cover made me read it. Pick any box with a wild or interesting cover, then meet for a great discussion. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495, 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.

Continued on Page 20

Calendar

Continued from Page 19

vided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., Dec. 11

CHILDREN'S TOURS

Calvin B. Taylor House, 208 N. Main St., Berlin. Tours start at 5 p.m. and 5:30

p.m. www.taylorhousemuseum.org

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

'JINGLE ALL THE WAY' GAME WEEK

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DICKENS WEEK

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BABY TIME

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

MERRY MAKERS: ABSTRACT PAINTED BALL ORNAMENT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Paint abstract patterns on tree ornaments using acrylic paint. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING CHARACTER NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come paint your character you've been playing. Now make it your own. For adults and teens. Registration required: 410-632-3495. www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY 101

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. This presentation goes over some steps of how to start compiling your family history and finding good sources. Individual help available only through appointments. 410-632-3495

SCREEN PAINTING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2-4 p.m. Join Baltimore screen artist John Iampieri and learn an art form unique to our state. Registration required: 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

MANGA AND MORE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30 p.m. Come check out an episode of this week's show, create a comic in that style and Mae a keepsake. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal, 10001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9:30 p.m. The celebration includes refreshments, a mariachi concert and folkloric dances. Concluding with the Holy Eucharist and the traditional mañanitas to the Virgin. 410-723-1973

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

LIVING NATIVITY

Bluebird Farms, 11207 Racetrack Road, Berlin, Saturdays and Sundays until Christmas, noon to 6 p.m. Complimentary hot chocolate, music, petting and photo op with mini cow, donkey, goat and sheep. Donations benefiting Coastal Hospice, Diakonia, Local Troop #621 B.S.A. and Saltwater Mini Farm.

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK

Spend the day exploring New York City on your own. Depart Ocean Pines Community Center at 5:30 a.m. on Dec. 7. Time in New York approximately 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$85 for transportation only. Reservations: 410-641-7052.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Dec. 2-7. Stop in the library to write a letter to Santa and decorate the envelope. Leave it in the special mailbox to be sent to the North pole so Santa can write you back. All supplies provided. For families. 410-957-0878

CHRISTMAS TREE GIFT CARD RAFFLE

The Church of the Holy Spirit in Ocean City is raffling off three small artificial Christmas trees. Each tree is filled with gift cards including those worth \$500, \$300 and \$200. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Drawing held Dec. 8 after the 10 a.m. service. For tickets: Marena, 443-944-3276.

SEND LETTERS TO SANTA

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Nov. 25 through Dec. 20. Children of all ages are welcome to drop off their written letters to Santa at the red mailbox. Make sure that letters have child's name and address so Santa can respond.



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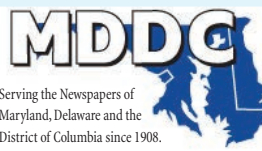
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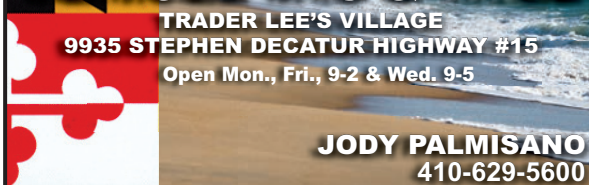
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