



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PLOWING

Berlin Public Works Director James Charles clears a path on Main Street Monday morning after several inches of snow fell on the town and the surrounding area. The year's first snowfall succeeded in shutting down virtually everything, with the obvious exception of road-clearing crews.

Big donations push skate park forward

Knupp Foundation funds, anonymous gift provide a boost to cover initial stages

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) The Berlin skate park initiative closed out the year with a pair of donations totaling \$34,000.

Approximately \$14,000 came from the Gavin Knupp Foundation and \$20,000 was given by an anonymous local donor.

Tony Weeg of We Heart Berlin, the nonprofit pushing for the construction of a skate park at Heron Park, said the donations will pay the final \$7,500 bill from the design phase and the \$25,000 construction documents.

The skate park is proposed to be 19,000 square feet in total area, including parking, landscaping and seating areas.

Weeg said there will be 17,000 square feet of concrete associated

with elements of the park, which will include a bowl and a variety of features for skaters of all levels.

The Gavin Knupp Foundation was created following the death of local teenager Gavin Knupp, who was killed in a hit-and-run in the summer of 2022.

The organization was founded by the victim's mother, Tiffany. In 2023, embezzlement and theft allegations surfaced in connection to the foundation. Tiffany Knupp took an Alford Plea last September, while not an ad-

mission of guilt, acknowledges the stack of evidence to convict her.

Part of the plea deal stipulated that the foundation would be dissolved, and any remaining funds would be donated to local charities. One such charity was the Berlin skate park effort.

"The money from the Gavin Knupp Foundation comes with a lot of gravity and determination," Weeg said. "To make sure that we take the memory of the child and go forward

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Single membership talk for OP racquet sports returns

Center director supports phasing in one-price option due to variety of interests

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) The Ocean Pines Association's racquet sports center may move to a singular, blanket price option over the next few years, switching it up from the current setup of multiple membership choices.

At the OPA's Budget and Finance Committee meeting earlier this month, Ruth Ann Meyer, in charge of the business side of the community's racquet sports, said that her team conducted a price analysis of local competitors, including Sea Colony, the Ocean City Racquet Center, and the Wallingford Swim and Racquet Club in Pennsylvania, the only other center closest that also offers platform tennis. According to Meyer, the evaluation revealed that Ocean Pines is "severely underpriced in memberships for the racquet center ... we're talking anywhere from \$100 to \$200 to \$600 lower in our memberships than other places."

Meyer said that the goal is to switch to a one-price membership rate in the next few years. This would be similar to the aquatics set-up, where residents pay one price and have five pools from which they can choose. Director of Racquet Sports Terry Underkoffler agreed and said that a new, combo-only option could address high expenses and operating costs.

"The board should realize that we have been fighting this big discrepancy between tennis and some other sports," he said. "When we first started out with the yearly membership with platform and pickleball being incredibly low because we had nothing to base it on. As for tennis and the pricing of fixing courts and maintaining buildings, the minimum wage is going up to \$15 an hour, and all those factors have played a part in our operating costs."

The director continued, arguing that having too many choices to manage is a "budgetary nightmare." "There are now six sports that can be played at the racquet center, and a multi-sport option would bring in revenue to address necessary modifications.

"I want to phase the option in as one sport and multi-sport because the reality is that there are not three sports at the racquet center," Underkoffler said. "There's tennis, platform

tennis, pickleball. There is spec tennis, timeless tennis, and pop tennis. These are all games that can be played on the variety of courts we have there. So, the idea of having a one-price membership is something that, for our facility to be maintained at a modern level, for our facility to be fixed in the areas where we need to have our renovations, this is the way we have to go about it."

Viola maintained that the racquet center is not at one price, and while he and his staff believe in it, there is no timeline for when it will be introduced. Still, the potential adjustment makes sense, the racquet director said.

"We have a lot of people now because of our variety of members in more than one sport. Tennis people are transferring and playing pickleball; pickleball people are transferring and playing platform," he said. "As people age and want to stay active, timeless tennis and spec tennis allow them to move and play an active sport without covering the whole court. You still have to fix the platform courts, and you still have cracks in pickleball courts, so the costs are still there."

The possible new membership option comes as Karen Kaplan, the president of the Platform Tennis Club, and Donna Frankowksi, the pickleball club secretary, presented their proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee to add two-sport membership options last September. Currently, racquet sport enthusiasts can purchase a single-sport membership for pickleball, tennis, or platform tennis or an umbrella three-sport fee structure and choose the family or individual package within those options.

The presenters argued at the meeting that the change in fee structure would encourage those interested in paying for two sports, but not three sports, to increase their membership. Per the budget committee's most recent meeting, that idea is likely not to be introduced into the budget.

"I think that [the two-sport option] goes by the wayside because there are six options now, so the idea of a three-sport one, a two-sport one, a five-sport one, and an all-inclusive one, from a budgeting perspective, a planning perspective, an accountability perspective, would be very challenging," the Budget and Finance Committee Chair Doug Parks said.

While OPA staff is interested in the idea, if introduced, the potential combo-only membership option is still a few years away.



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Donations push skatepark ahead

Continued from Page 1

and make the skate park happen is even more in our face now. This is no longer about receiving a couple of donors here and there ... You have to imagine that this is something Gavin would have spent time on and would have been interested in, and to have his name attached to it now is pretty awesome."

Weeg was also surprised by an additional \$20,000 from a private donor. The We Heart Berlin founder added that the contributor said this money is a "down payment" and they want to continue donating, but a possible total amount was not disclosed.

The skate park project's next phase, following construction document securement, is land grading, adding fill dirt to the site to increase the height of some portions of the park, and building the needed drainage. Weeg hopes to accomplish this task through sweat equity.

"The exciting part about that is once construction documents are here and we have direction on that, we can start to seek local donations of time and effort that will eventually erase dollars off the total, around \$170,000," he said.

Another \$160,000 from concrete flatwork could also be eliminated, as



SUBMITTED RENDERING/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The current look of the proposed Berlin Skate Park is pictured. The rendering was completed by Spohn Ranch, a national company that specializes in skate park design and building, and funded by the We Heart Berlin group.

once construction gets underway, Weeg expects the concrete to be provided by a local company. Of the estimated \$975,000, \$330,000 could be taken off the cash amount via time and effort contributions.

"It's going to be a team effort and a group effort from everyone around here but I think we're on the path [to the skate park]," Weeg said.

Weeg intends to contact various foundations, such as the Tony Hawk Foundation, which supports skate park construction in underserved communities, and the Salisbury-based Donnie Williams Foundation, during the next 12 months to secure additional project funds.

Another avenue could be grants recommended to Weeg by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day. For instance, several hundred thousand dollars from the Strategic Demolition Grant could be utilized for pre-development costs, like site preparation for the skate park, if awarded. According to Weeg, Day added that the Town of Berlin received \$500,000 from the Strategic Demolition Grant through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) FY2022 State Revitalization Program for the deconstruction of the former Tyson Plant on the Heron Park property, where the skate park will be situated.

"It is a natural progression of the department of the state to continue funding the increase of productivity and the beautification of the park," Weeg said.

Day also mentioned the Community Legacy Grant for construction costs, of which he said the project would "definitely be eligible for the actual build-out of the park." The project may also qualify for the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund in the several hundred-thousand-dollar range. However, the DHCD secretary noted that it requires a college or hospital to apply, which he suggested could be Atlantic General Hospital.

The town's Annual Program Open Space Development Plan also included the skate park project. Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said last month that the plan "prioritizes upcoming and future planned projects

for the town's parks, with the intent to apply [for grant funding]."

According to Bohlen, the information necessary for an application on behalf of the skate park was not prepared in time for the last cycle. However, she added that "provided the appropriate information is ready for a grant application, the town would intend to make an application to the Community Parks and Playgrounds program (under Program Open Space) for fiscal year 2026."

The grant funds would come through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from its Open Space and Community Parks and Playgrounds Program, which DNR explains "provides flexible grants to local governments to respond to the unmet need for assistance to rehabilitate, expand or improve existing parks, create new parks, develop environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects, or purchase and install playground equipment in older neighborhoods and intensely developed areas throughout the state."

The town may submit a skate park application to the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for FY26, due in late summer this year. Awardees will be notified in spring 2026. Bohlen maintained Berlin intends to apply, but nothing is "set in stone."

The snowstorm earlier this week saw Weeg at Heron Park, the site of the future skating hub.

"It was amazing to be at Heron Park seeing hundreds of kids sledging downhill, and I can just imagine all those kids wanting to be at the skate park in the summertime," he said. "It just goes to show when you build it, they will come. We know it will be great for Berlin, but seeing that many kids on boards going downhill was a good precursor to seeing in the shadow of where the skate park will be."

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Officials weigh Pines tree clearing concerns

Former committee chair alarmed over increase in 'clear-cutting of trees'

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) As Ocean Pines residents point to excessive tree removal, the community looks to strengthen county collaboration during the pre-construction phase of new home development.

Ocean Pines resident Tim Peck, the former chair of the Ocean Pines Association's Environmental and Natural Assets Committee, who stepped down from the post in August, claimed that over the last few years, he and others have noticed "multiple events of clear-cutting of trees on the waterfront and other properties in Ocean Pines."

"Over a dozen Ocean Pines residents have remarked to me they have been very surprised or even shocked that building lots were clear cut of all trees with no attempt to spare a single tree," he noted. "This lot clearing pattern appears to have occurred in Ocean Pines only recently since approximately 2020."

OPA Director of Business Administration Linda Martin said that the association has been made aware of

concerns regarding only one clear-cutting incident on Tiller Lane. Martin said that Worcester County only gave approval to their line of disturbance and the contractor removed more than was allowed per county requirements.

"Worcester County has a line of disturbance which may allow for the entire lot to be clear cut," she said. "Until recently, Ocean Pines always went with what Worcester County recommended. This changed with a house being built on Tiller Lane that clear-cut the property and went against both Worcester County and Ocean Pines regulations."

According to the director of business administration, the OPA Architectural Review Committee updated its lot clearing regulations in April, enacting stricter rules for tree removal. Contractors are now expected to schedule a meeting with the neighborhood's Compliance, Permit, and Inspections (CPI) department 48 hours before clearing a lot for a new development. They are told what can and cannot be removed and other requirements.

For instance, the guidelines note that "removing trees and other plantings from a waterfront lot within one hundred feet of the water requires Worcester County approval, which

will also include their requirements for any replanting."

"The CPI Department will require notification that the county inspection has been completed along with a copy of any county-required replanting before making their inspection for the Association," the documents continue.

In response to the Tiller Lane situation and to ensure Ocean Pines has an input on the line of disturbance, Martin added that the community's inspector will now attend new home pre-construction meetings with Worcester County.

The 1984 Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Act and its 2002 amendment for the Atlantic Coastal Bays within the County address tree removal near waterways. The law requires that trees within 100 feet of shoreline cannot be removed unless they are dead, dying, hazardous, or diseased. Peck argues that the regulation's exceptions, which Maryland Coastal Bays Program Director Kevin Smith said could include bulkhead repair or access to a water-dependent activity, are being used "excessively, especially when contrasted with older lots," and that Worcester County has allowed an acceleration or clear cutting since approximately 2020.

However, per a conversation Peck had with Worcester County over the critical area permitting in Ocean Pines, he said that "[the county] noted that they are following appropriate guidelines to allow the clear-cutting," despite the resident's claim that within the last five years, more trees have been removed in the community than ever before.

Peck has stated that his concerns with the perceived clear-cutting lie with the environmental aspect and a desire to continue the tradition of tree preservation that Ocean Pines has maintained for the past 50 years. In terms of the ecological impact of excessive tree removal, the practice can have negative effects on water quality.

"The reason the critical area law went into place is really about protecting our waterways from excessive sediment, nutrients, and pollutants, and things like that," Smith said. "The buffers that are in place, particularly forested buffers, are really important to help protect these waterways from these pollutants and maintain the environmental and ecological integrity of the waterways themselves, for water quality purposes and habitat."

"So when you go in, and you remove forested areas or trees adjacent

to them, it can have a detrimental impact on the ecology and those waterways as well."

Smith also pointed out that the wooded community offers its residents a unique beautification aspect.

"It is called Ocean Pines," he continued. "I think it is one of the reasons it makes that community such a nice community to live in, mostly because of all the trees there. So, there's a livability factor for people that appreciate trees, forests, and shade... It is also good for maintaining habitat for birds and other critters."

"The whole community was founded on this wooded area and has been maintained that way over the years. I think that is one of the real benefits of that community and one of the reasons that community is well-liked."

Still, Smith added the rules and regulations of the critical area law are complex, and even though the MCBP has not "looked into it enough," to his knowledge, the county is doing its due diligence in its review process for tree removal.

Smith said each case is looked at separately, and tree-cutting allowances are made for different reasons, so it is not a "black and white" situation of simply prohibiting forest removal within the 100-foot buffer.

Assateague Coastal Trust Coastkeeper Taylor Swanson mentioned that Ocean Pines community members have come forward with excessive tree removal observations and his organization is slowly investigating the issue. Swanson also echoed Smith's remarks, saying that many people do not understand critical area law and that there are "very few" experts on the guidelines.

"The critical area law itself is incredibly complex, and so it is hard to teach anyone critical area law, and for the people that try to enforce these laws and review permits, they don't have time to be teaching our citizens what's right and wrong," Swanson said. "... It is hard for us to know what is right and what is wrong. You can get permits to do all sorts of stuff within the critical area, and as long as you have a permit, you're okay for it."

Smith and Swanson noted that an educational campaign would help Ocean Pines and county residents identify when something is amiss. Swanson added that Assateague Coastal Trust relies on community feedback to investigate violation situations. Those who observe anything that appears out of place can contact the group's pollution hotline at 443-235-2014. Swanson can be reached directly at taylor@actforbays.org.

'The reason the critical area law went into place is really about protecting our waterways from excessive sediment, nutrients, and pollutants, and things like that.'

Maryland Coastal Bays Program Director Kevin Smith

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Worcester hiring firm to fight offshore wind

By **Brian Shane**
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) Sometimes, even David needs a public relations firm in his corner to take on Goliath.

Given federal and state apathy to Worcester County's offshore wind concerns, the county's Board of Commissioners on Dec. 17 voted unanimously to contract with Bedrock Advocacy Communications, a public relations firm based in Virginia.

The agency will help with grassroots mobilization, strategic communications, and online engagement for a 2025 campaign to oppose ongoing wind farm development off the Atlantic Coast, according to Worcester County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young.

Young said when it comes to protesting the planned 114-turbine wind farm by developer US Wind, there have been a lot of grassroots efforts, but none that were coordinated. He said Bedrock will serve as the campaign developer and manager, working collaboratively with representatives from Worcester County, Ocean City, and the local business community.

"By the county taking the lead on this, we are trying to bring a larger coordination to the process," Young said in an interview. "The goal is, how do we get everybody else to understand it?"

How do you win in the court of public opinion? Or if there's a very critical vote going on, how do you get mobilized to stop it?"

Hiring a PR team goes "hand-in-hand" with other efforts to fight US Wind's plans, Young said, including the Town of Ocean City's lawsuit against the federal government seeking to block the project.

This also dovetails with the county's recent plan to pursue eminent domain to thwart the developer's plans to purchase two commercial fish houses in West Ocean City, Young said. US Wind wants to build an operations and maintenance facility for turbines on those harborside parcels, and the state's Board of Public Works already granted the permits for that in November.

"I've heard the 'David versus Goliath' saying, but we're fighting a state and current federal government that really wants offshore wind. They're not listening to local concerns," Young said.

"What we realized when we went to the Board of Public Works – they don't care. They turned a deaf ear to us. The person who came closest to empathy for our situation was the treasurer (Derek E. Davis) but at the end of the day he still voted against it because the state and other areas have their own priorities," he added.

Young also said one of the partners

in the PR firm, Bernie Merritt, is a full-time Fenwick Island resident and former town councilman there. When reached for comment, Merritt said it's "dear to my heart to be a part of this," but declined to comment further or discuss what his agency will do for Worcester County as a client.

Per a vote of the County Commissioners, Worcester's contribution to the campaign will not exceed \$100,000 and is already an approved expenditure from the general fund. And while Young said additional money will come from contributions by Ocean City and private donations, Ocean City is still working on that.

"I am aware of the County's hiring of Bedrock and I agreed to cost sharing in concept with Weston (Young)," said City Manager Terry McGean in a Dec. 23 e-mail. "However, I have not received the formal request from Weston at this time. Once I do, then I will take to the [mayor and town] council for their approval."

The initiative is being developed as a public-private partnership and the lead on the county's end is Melanie Pursel, Worcester County's Tourism Director. She said a fundraiser was held a few weeks ago where they introduced Bedrock.

"Some people wanted to give larger contributions, and they didn't know – what am I putting it towards? People were going in their own directions, and they still are, but there's all these groups that want to channel their voice somehow," she said. "It's about harnessing all this effort collaboratively."

The impetus to engage with a PR firm came in the wake of attempts to get everyone – environmentalists, watermen, business owners, government agencies, and more – on the same page with the issue.

Further, it was engagement with one specific group, commercial fishermen, that truly revealed the impact of US Wind taking over the West Ocean City fish house properties. That, she said, directly led Worcester County to start the process of trying to purchase the fish houses to preserve the commercial fishing industry for the commercial harbor.

"That's when, I think, we were like – this is serious," she said.

Another reason to use a PR firm is for education. Pursel said the website they'll create will be a clearing house for articles, information, and stakeholders. She especially wants the public to know how the multi-phase project has evolved – how a promise of turbines being shorter and farther away gave way to a plan for turbines planted 10.7 miles offshore and taller than an 80-story skyscraper. She called it a "bait and switch."

Even though tourists spent an estimated \$2.6 billion last year in Worcester County, with the lion's share being in Ocean City, "sometimes it seems like we don't have the political influence that other areas have."

"We feel like nobody is listening to these very valid issues, from the environment to the economy, that have yet to be properly addressed," Pursel said. "I think it's this perception that the state has committed to this – there are commitments that have been made and they don't want to backtrack on things. They don't look at the whole project because they don't want to."

"I guess the state thinks they'll survive without Ocean City, without the commercial fishermen. They're pushing through these things without looking at the whole ecosystem of our state. Can you imagine us going in and trying to cannibalize an industry in Howard County or Prince George's County?" she said.

So far, US Wind's two projects – called Marwin I and Momentum Wind – are on track and expected to be operational by 2026. There is some uncertainty, however, because the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump has made overtures about stomping out offshore wind projects when Trump takes office.

One major wind project off Maryland's coast has already been scrapped. The developer Ørsted announced in January it decided to pull out of two planned wind farms, called Skipjack Wind, saying the projects were "no longer commercially viable" due to inflation, high interest rates, and supply chain constraints.



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County grants campground's shade request

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) Residents of campground communities may now use gazebos and sunshades legally in their parking spaces, after homeowners from the White Horse Park neighborhood successfully petitioned Worcester County leaders to allow them.

"I haven't been in the park very long, but others have had these shade structure for years and years," said White Horse Park resident Tracey Barnhardt. "That's really all we're asking for is something to sit under and enjoy the little bit of property we have in the heat."

After the Dec. 17 public hearing on the matter, when Barnhardt spoke, the county commissioners voted to amend the county zoning code to allow for two accessory buildings on a campground site, one of them being unenclosed.

Property owners will have to prove they have two parking spots before being granted a permit for an accessory sunshade. Temporary pop-up sunshades like ones seen at the beach or farmers market or like an umbrella over a table don't need a permit.

"You got your shade," said Commissioner President Ted Elder when the bill passed, drawing a small round of applause from the crowd.

Over the summer, when a White Horse Park resident asked the county's permitting office for a gazebo on their property, they learned that only one "accessory structure" – zoning speak for a building like a shed, gazebo, or detached garage – is allowed per campsite by county code. Typically, that lone accessory at White Horse Park is a shed.

County officials since found that many of the park's homeowners were in violation of this code by having a sunshade taking up parking space. Commissioner Eric Fiori (District 3, Sinepuxent) introduced a bill in August to amend the code and lift the restriction.

Fiori said not only do gazebos provide shade from the sun, but having a more permanent version of a sunshade means residents, many of whom are seniors, won't have to put them up and down on a daily basis, which is labor-intensive.

Originally, Fiori's bill would have reduced the required parking from two spaces to one space on a campsite. The intent was to allow campsite owners to permit a gazebo or sunshade in what is now considered a required parking space.

However, county planning officials did not support reducing the amount of required parking because it could lead to street parking that might cause congestion and block emergency vehicles.

At 20 feet wide, campground roads are much narrower than typical county roads. This, Fiori said, creates a concern about whether fire trucks can drive there with additional cars on the street. The other problem was zero separation of gazebos between campsites being a fire hazard.

Based on overall feedback, the bill that passed now removes parking modifications, so two parking spaces would be mandatory per campsite. The bill also sets a minimum distance between buildings at the campsites from 0 feet to 3 feet for gazebo placement, according to Jennifer Keener, the county's director of Development Review and Permitting. Gazebos also are limited in size to 8 by 10 feet.

In a campground subdivision, lots have to be 50 by 60 feet, making the usual parcel size about 3,000 square feet. However, White Horse Park was exempted from this provision when it was founded decades ago, so the lots there are smaller, about 2,000 to 2,500 square feet in size, Keener wrote in a June 21 memo to the county's Planning Commission.

County zoning allows campers to have an RV, a park trailer, a manufactured home, or a modular home. Dwellings are limited to 750 square feet including additions. Open decks are allowed and do not contribute to the square footage calculations, Keener also wrote.

This code amendment could affect nearly 1,000 homeowners in northern Worcester County. There are 465 lots in White Horse Park and 525 at Asateague Pointe, another campsite subdivision, Keener said.

However, the county does not have a

land survey for every single lot in the campgrounds, so if a land survey showed a site lacked its required two spots, a property owner would be required to install that second parking space before getting a sunshade permit, Keener added.

Mike Herbert, a property owner on Snowbird Court in White Horse Park, told the commissioners at the hearing that parking is not a problem because public overflow parking exists throughout the park.

"There's no reason why anybody should ever have to park on the road. Down by the marina, you could park probably 75 cars in that big lot there," he said.

The sunshade discussion among the commissioners also expanded into a kind of review on the state of campground properties in Worcester.

Some commissioners were surprised to learn that campsite properties have no fire hydrants and rely on fire department tanker trucks. Others discussed how code violations, such as sheds straddling property lines, are rampant. Another conversation emerged about firewall protection in sheds from flammable liquids.

In response, Elder told the board that "this bill has absolutely nothing to do with that," he said. "Zero."

"There's code violations everywhere in the county," Elder said. "You can't use violations when you're setting code. Violations are not what determines the code. It is what it is. You're not allowed to park that car on the street."

The vote was split 4-3, with yes votes from Commissioners Joe Mitrecic, Ted Elder, Eric Fiori, and Diana Purnell. See DIVIDED Page 11



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Annual swim raises \$121,000 for hospital

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Jan. 9, 2025) Hundreds of charitable daredevils plunged into the icy ocean last week on New Year's Day for Atlantic General Hospital's 31st Annual Penguin Swim to raise money for local health-care.

With over 700 individual and team participants, the event, hosted at the Princess Royale at 91st Street, exceeded their donation goal, accumulating roughly \$121,000, a Jan. 6 press release issued by AGH said.

Top fundraisers included Leila Attia in the individual youth category, who raised \$1,240; Matthew Lynch from the individual adult group with \$1,070; The Happy Horns with \$6,059 from the youth and family team level; and OC Ravens Roost #44 with \$12,150 in the community group category.

AGH Foundation Community Relations Coordinator Laura Powell said the Ravens Roost fundraises for the chilly event all year round and has contributed more than \$182,000 to the AGH Penguin Swim over the last 16 years.

Powell was quick to spotlight legacy sponsor Bull on the Beach, who has acted as the title sponsor since the event's creation 31 years ago, has raised more than \$725,000 during that period. The Bull team raised \$25,000 this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

In excess of 700 people plunged into the Atlantic Ocean on New Year's Day to support Atlantic General Hospital.

Powell noted the weather was warmer than anticipated for this year's January afternoon dip. The forecast had not predicted sunny skies, yet when organizers observed that the clouds had drifted away, they took to social media for some last-minute promotion. The event coordinator said that between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, an additional 350 people registered.

"The beach was packed ... Having the weather be so nice is encouraging, and it's such a fun way to start the new year," Powell said. "The swim isn't just about the funds; it's about the friends and the family. It's about tradition."

Apart from hundreds plunging into the freezing Atlantic, the Penguin Swim

offers fun at every turn. One way organizers achieve this is through a costume contest. Some highlights included Thomas Riccardi in the best-dressed youth category as a banana, Butch Lorditch as Poseidon for the best adult costume and Cinzia Lombardo and Hannah Dulas as "Old Bay and Crab" in the couples contest.

"It's very cool to see people come and see how people are dressed," Powell said.

Organizers also note some of the standout participants each year. Robert Reese, at 80 years old, was recorded as the most senior swimmer, four-month-old Zachary Tybrowski was the youngest, and Ansley Heckscher from

Boulder, Wyoming, traveled the furthest.

Powell added that AGH partnered with the Town of Ocean City this year and integrated OC's 150th-year celebration into its 31st Penguin Swim promotional logo.

"One of the penguins that form the number one has a scarf on it, and the Town of Ocean City's 150th logo is in that scarf," the event coordinator said.

Preparation for the swim begins each summer and includes some kickoff festivities. For the fourth year, AGH hosted a puppy swim at the Residence Inn by Marriot on 61st Street in Ocean City during the second week of October,

See PENGUIN Page 11



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Resident looking to start bocce ball league

(Jan. 9, 2025) For Michael Galello, a 24-year resident of Ocean Pines, bocce ball is more than a game – it’s a lifelong passion rooted in family and community.

Now semi-retired, Galello is channeling that passion into an exciting new venture: creating a bocce ball league for the Ocean Pines community.

“This is something I grew up with,” Galello said. “It was a neighborhood activity, and it has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I think it is part of the European culture, just like other sports are for other cultures.”

Galello’s love for bocce ball began as a child in northern New Jersey, playing with his uncle Tony and other members of his local Italian American Club.

He also recalled visiting Italy with his wife in 2005 and 2023 and being amazed by late-night bocce games in

Rome.

“You would see people playing at 1 or 2 a.m.,” he said. “It’s a game that brings people together.”

In Ocean Pines, there are two bocce ball courts – one at White Horse Park and another at the Yacht Club. The Yacht Club court, with its carpeted surface and recent upgrades by Ocean Pines Public Works, is Galello’s preferred spot.

“The lights were just installed at the Yacht Club by Public Works, and they’re perfect for bocce,” he said. “They’re positioned low to reduce overhead shadowing, which is how courts in Europe are designed. Public Works also moved the existing scoreboard to a safer location, making the area much more player-friendly.”

While the White Horse Park court has its charm with an ash surface,

Galello said the Yacht Club offers additional advantages.

“You can grab a glass of wine, something to eat, and enjoy the ambiance while playing,” he said. “Plus, the lighting makes it more functional for evening play while listening to a band during the summer season.”

Galello envisions the league as a casual, social activity rather than a highly competitive sport.

“It’s not about physicality or endurance. It’s about strategy, skill, and having fun,” he said. “You can play with teams of up to two or four people, or individually. It’s easy to pick up and can be enjoyed at any age.”

“I’ve seen people watching us play, asking questions, and showing interest,” Galello continued. “I thought, this is a great opportunity for the community. It’s perfect for people who may

have graduated from more physically demanding sports but still want to stay active and engaged.”

Galello has already had preliminary discussions with Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue and received support from General Manager John Viola.

The next step, he said, is to host a community meeting to gauge interest.

“This will be a chance for people to learn more about bocce, ask questions, and get involved,” Galello said.

The meeting’s time, date, and location are still being finalized, but Galello invites anyone interested to reach out to him for more information at mgalello@aol.com.

“This is a game for everyone,” he said. “It’s fun, strategic, and social – and I think it’s something the Ocean Pines community will really enjoy!”

Penguin Swim attracts 700-plus, hits goal

Continued from Page 10

right before the hotel closed the pool. Participants registered their dogs for \$20, and the pups were encouraged to splash around. Powell said the event is the “happiest two hours of the off-season.”

The 31st Annual Penguin Swim had additional sponsors, including Ocean City Tourism, AGH Auxiliary, D3 Corp, Princess Royale Oceanfront and Resort Condominiums, WBOC, AGH Medical

Staff, Chris Parypa Photography, Duffie Boatworks, WMDT, Wilmington University, Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645, and more. Ryan Kirby and Caitlin Evans acted as the event co-chairs.

“We live in such a great community,” Powell said. “Year after year and event after event, the community never lets us down. They always come through and give us the best possible outcome.”

Emily Tunis, Atlantic General Hospital Foundation chair, agreed with pow-

ell.

“We’re thrilled with the community response for this year’s Penguin Swim,” said Tunis, who served as master of ceremonies for the post-event banquet. “And, we’re so appreciative of the generosity of our individual and team

fundraisers and sponsors. Their contributions directly benefit this community, allowing Atlantic General Hospital to invest in the technology, clinical staff and infrastructure necessary to provide safe, high quality care. I can’t say thank you enough.”

Divided vote on shade request

Continued from Page 9

Commissioners Chip Bertino, Caryn Abbott, and Jim Bunting voted no.

“Somebody who’s been living there for 30 years, when they bought the property, they knew what the conditions were,” Bunting said of White Horse Park. “And to change ‘em now, for no reason whatsoever, you might as well just throw your code out on everything. Because somebody might get cancer

from the sun, that’s not an excuse to change the code for everything in Worcester County.”

On the heels of this discussion, the issue of whether sheds and fire safety will be reviewed next. A motion from Commissioner Mitrecic (District 7, Ocean City) passed unanimously for staff to look into requiring firewalls for sheds and proper storage of hazardous materials.

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Snow Days



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICK DENNY

About six inches of snow fell across the mid-shore Monday, providing some winter wonderland scenes. The snow turned to rain in many areas Monday afternoon before turning back to snow Monday night. Top, a blue heron has a meal during the afternoon rain in the coastal bays. Also pictured are some Monday night scenes from the Town of Berlin..

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Snow Days



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The heaviest of the snow from Winter Storm Blair fell Monday morning. Main Street looking north in Berlin is pictured about 7:30 a.m. Monday.



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A State Highway Administration plow is pictured working to clear a lane of travel on Main Street in Berlin Monday morning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK DENNY

On Monday night, an additional inch of snow fell across most of the area including Berlin, pictured.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK DENNY

Schools were canceled for most of this week in Worcester County with most businesses also closing Monday out of an abundance of safety.



PHOTO COURTESY CHELSEA TYNDALL

Officer Brandon West is pictured tossing a snowball at Heron Park with children as well as Mayor Zack Tyndall, right. The mayor organized a community snowball fight to celebrate the snow day.



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

By Wednesday afternoon, the snow and ice had been removed from most town streets. Above Pitt Street is pictured Monday morning.

Opinion

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

Policy on tree removal should be made clear

It's not called "Ocean Pines" for nothing. When the idea of the planned community was conceived in the late 1960s, its developers, Boise Cascade, wisely concluded that a peaceful bayside residential development in the woods would sell better under that name than it would as a 3,000-acre project known as "Ocean Clear-Cut" or "Ocean No-Pines."

That, however, was before people discovered that nature can be unruly, doesn't observe property owner preferences and, worse, makes no provision for a waterfront view.

Admittedly, the above is a little snarky, but that's where we are as society these days, as the fight continues between the live-with-nature bloc versus the nature-must-live-with-us segment.

In between these two positions is where Ocean Pines Association officials find themselves, as they attempt to deal with complaints about clear-cutting lots, while also trying to reconcile the realities of blending residential development into a wooded environment.

Unfortunately, their desire to work with the county government to effect a clear policy on tree removal doesn't give them much to work with, since it sometimes appears that county officials aren't as certain as they should be about what the state's Critical Areas waterfront and watershed regulations require.

Ostensibly, the law calls for a buffer of vegetation between cleared ground and the water, although exceptions are permitted and some aspects seem subject to interpretation. It's been said that's because the law is so complicated that most people don't understand it or its exceptions.

What this suggests is that if the OPA intends to align its tree-removal policies with those of the county, then the county is obligated to make sure its position on these regulations is clear and that its enforcement efforts are consistent.

The rebuttal to the argument that the law defies understanding doesn't cut it. As has been said many times, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Letter

Technical basis for wind opposition

Editor,

As an engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of power plants including wind farms, I need to express my concerns regarding Maryland offshore wind turbine development. There is clearly a lack of electric power generation understanding from our Maryland State representatives who appear to be hell bent on achieving their offshore wind goals with little understanding of the technologies.

Wind turbines are very expensive to construct and maintain on land. These machines will be orders of magnitude more costly to build and maintain in a saltwater environment, and the ratepayers will be burdened with absorbing these exorbitant costs. Furthermore, wind speeds in Maryland are not ideal for wind turbine development which is why one sees so few wind turbines in this State. Rather, the mid-section of the lower 48 is most favorable for wind farms as one can see from

wind maps provided by the government at windexchange.energy.gov. Moreover, wind energy is often not available when the electric grid most needs it (i.e. hot/humid summer days), yet it's often available during periods of low electricity demand which wreaks havoc on electric grid operations due to excessive power being pumped into the grid with nowhere to send it.

So what low emission energy alternatives are there to wind turbines? There's a false narrative that most electricity in this nation is produced from dirty, high CO2 emitting coal fired power plants. Indeed, this was the case a decade ago, but these old coal plants are rapidly being replaced with clean natural gas fired combined cycle power plants that utilize advanced jet engine technology and approach 60% efficiency which all translates to low emissions. An 1,100 MW combined cycle power plant generates about 8000 metric tons of CO2 per day. In comparison, global commercial airline traffic generates about 2.5 million metric tons of CO2 per day. Hence, the tons of CO2 generated from a

large combined cycle power plant is insignificant when compared to commercial airline traffic alone. Furthermore, one combined cycle plant can almost entirely meet Delmarva's customers electric power consumption which averages about 1300MW.

There is a need to reduce CO2 emissions across our planet, but we are decades away from having the next generation of nuclear reactors that can safely generate zero carbon power. Very efficient combined cycle power plants burning clean natural gas is the bridge to get us to this future technology along with carbon capture technologies which are advancing quickly.

That said, I am hopeful the Trump administration will install roadblocks that will prevent Maryland offshore wind development as these wind farms will do little to reduce CO2 emissions yet forever ruin our beautiful Ocean City landscape with an endless array of blinking red lights and burden our ratepayers with excessive energy costs.

*David Cook, PE
Ocean Pines*

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Worcester Youth eyes milestone year

50th anniversary celebration on tap, other special events

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(Jan. 9, 2025) Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services will mark its 50th anniversary this year with a host of celebrations and fundraisers.

The series of occasions and events recognizing the service's quarter-century milestone will culminate in a 50th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 11, 2025 at Mariner's Country Down.

"I'm really proud to be part of a 50-year celebration," said Executive Director

Jennifer Leggour. "I think Worcester Youth & Family has had its ups and downs, but has endured the test of time."

Worcester Youth & Family's story began in 1975, when a group of students asked for counseling services that were not associated with any agency or school. From there, a counseling center was formed in cooperation with Shore Up! and Salisbury State College, now Salisbury University.

"That's how Worcester Youth & Family started," Leggour said, "to serve that need."

Over time, the organization has reformed and expanded to include free

counseling, mentoring and family support programs. Today, Worcester Youth & Family offers clinical services – regardless of an individual's ability to pay – as well as youth mentoring, resource navigation and a Berlin Youth Club. Leggour said the agency helps numerous community members throughout the year.

"It has expanded over the years," Leggour said. "However, the core of providing access to mental health and support remains the same."

Leggour said Worcester Youth & Family will kick off its 50th celebration in January with a \$50, 50/50 raffle, which will continue through
See WORCESTER Page 18

Obituaries

GEORGE THOMAS SCHELEUR

Berlin
 With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of George Thomas Scheleur on December 30, 2024, at the age of 77.



Born on March 12, 1947, in Pasadena, George was a devoted husband, father, brother, and friend whose presence will be deeply missed. George proudly served his country as a Navy veteran, stationed aboard the USS Forrestal during his early years. His commitment to service shaped the man he became and laid the foundation for a life of diligence and care. Following his service, he transitioned into a successful career in Maintenance Management, where his meticulous approach and problem-solving skills contributed greatly to his workplace.

In his prime, George found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He had a passion for reading that allowed him to explore worlds beyond his own, and his love for cooking brought warmth and comfort to his family. Gathering around the dinner table, sharing stories, and nurturing relationships were itineraries of love that he orchestrated so adroitly.

George is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara Scheleur, whose companionship enriched his life in countless ways. He was a proud father to his beloved children: Alicia Basar, Aleta Scheleur, Damon Scheleur, Tina Norris, Dawn Gonzales and Dawn Wilson. Each of them carried forward his values and spirit, embedding his legacy within their own families. He is also survived by his eldest brother, John Scheleur, with whom he shared countless cherished moments.

As we remember George, let us hold close the memories of his laughter, warmth, and unyielding support. He embodied kindness and was a steadfast source of love for all those fortunate enough to know him. Al-

though he has departed from this earthly realm, his spirit will forever shine brightly in the hearts of his family and friends.

In honor of George's life, a memorial service will be held on January 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at Berlin First Baptist Church, 613 Williams St., Berlin, Md. 21811. All are welcome to join in celebrating the extraordinary man he was and the profound impact he had on our lives.

May he rest in eternal peace with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

JANICE HOPE WAINWRIGHT

Berlin
 Janice Hope Wainwright, age 78, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, January 4, 2025.



J. Wainwright

Born in Berlin, she was the daughter of the late Herman Sorin and Eunice Quillen Sorin.

Janice grew up in Berlin and attended Stephen Decatur High School. After graduating she pursued Cosmetology and joined her mother at Rosina's Beauty Salon in Berlin and later took over the business. After retiring from Rosina's, she helped with the trans-

formation and expansion of the family's Hotel into a modern establishment. She enjoyed her life and all her wonderful family and friends.

She is survived by her loving husband, Harold Wainwright; son, Jay Phillips (Christie); and grandchildren Brooke and Moorea Phillips. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Kimberly Phillips.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 1:00 pm at

The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, MD.

Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneralhome.com. Arrangements are in care of The Burbage Funeral Home, Berlin, MD.

GLORIA SHOEMAKER

Ocean City
 With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mother, sister, and friend, Gloria Shoemaker who peacefully entered the arms of her Savior on December 3, 2024, at the age of 67.

Born on June 26, 1957, in Baltimore, Gloria was the daughter of the late Rosalie Neumayer and Edward (Jack) Holland, she was one of 6 children. Survived by her beloved son,



G. Shoemaker

Cody and daughter-in-law, Corinne Shoemaker, her brother, Robert and his wife, Tricia Holland, her brother, Ed and his wife, Candy Holland, and her sister, Jackie and her husband,

Jerry Vandervort and preceded in death by her two late sisters, Linda Holland and Vanessa Fabian.

She was the first one to move away from her hometown and explore life outside of Baltimore, an accomplishment that she was very proud of. In 1978, she moved to the small town of Ocean City, where she would later help her brother, Robert (Robbie) Holland, move down to one of their favorite places ever on 82nd Street Coastal Highway.

Gloria was a devoted mother to her only child Cody, whom she cherished with all her heart. Her love for Cody was unshakeable, and she found her greatest joy in the bond they shared. This was her proudest moment when she became a mother in October 1990. It's an understatement to say that Cody was the light of her life. From day one, they did everything together...from daily beach adventures, to being the "pizza delivery mom" at

Continued on Page 18

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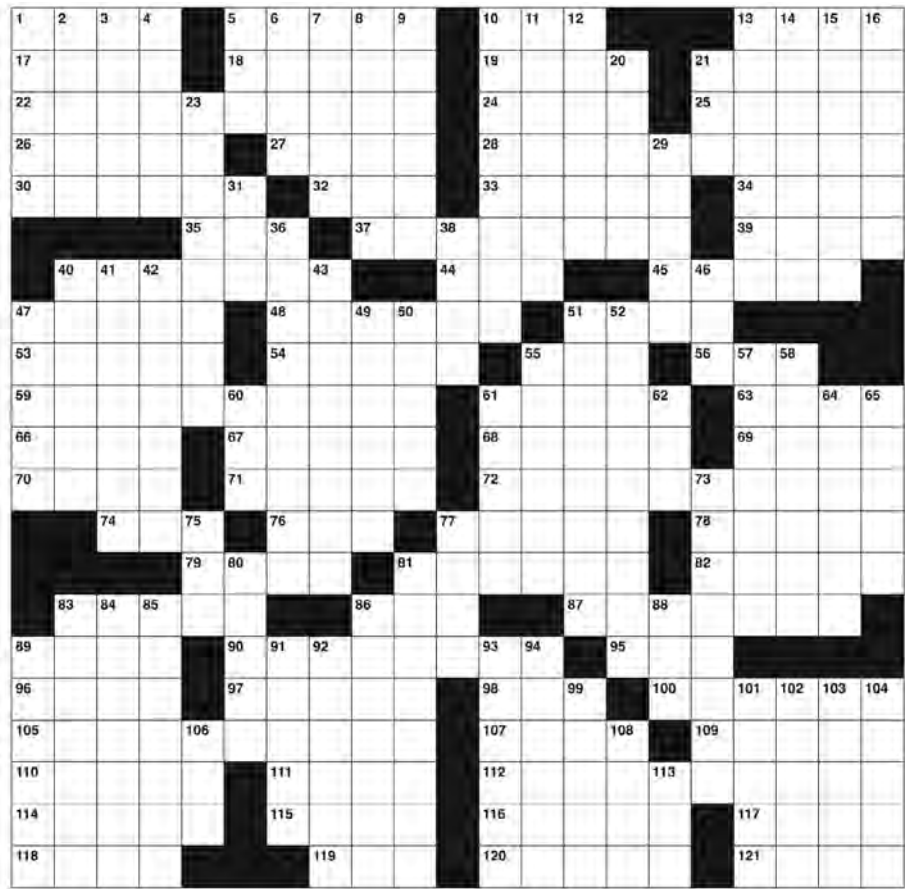
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Puzzles

MULTI-HYPHENATES BY HARRY ZHENG / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Harry Zheng, of Carmel, Ind., is a second-year student at Purdue University majoring in computer science, math and physics. This is his second crossword for The Times. During high school, when Harry started submitting puzzles to the paper, his economics teacher said that if Harry got one in, he would frame it and hang it in the classroom. The teacher made good on his promise.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Soul _____ Itself" (Emily Dickinson poem)
 - 5 Conceal
 - 10 Gamer's annoyance
 - 13 Wail, blubber, etc.
 - 17 One of six in garden croquet
 - 18 Emmy-winning drama series set in the Midwest
 - 19 Disney C.E.O. Bob
 - 21 Early phase of software development
 - 22 Electrician who might put in overtime after a bad storm
 - 24 Politico Buttigieg
 - 25 Partner of dreams
 - 26 Anesthetized
 - 27 Have a banquet
 - 28 Graphics that show trends
 - 30 Like cobras and some jackets
 - 32 Doc that ensures secrecy
 - 33 Rapscaillon
 - 34 Dog with "small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose"
 - 35 Prepared
 - 37 Lion's prey
 - 39 Preceding times
 - 40 Loud whistlers
- DOWN**
- 44 Unnecessarily lengthen, as an essay
 - 45 Brought aboard
 - 47 Language from which "curry" comes
 - 48 Increased suddenly
 - 51 "No time to lose!"
 - 53 Without help
 - 54 Step (on)
 - 55 Dien Bien _____, 1954 battle site in Vietnam
 - 56 Dough dispenser
 - 59 Hard hits off the bat
 - 61 McEvoy of cosmetics
 - 63 Dish of chopped meat, potatoes and onions
 - 66 Portrayer of Grindelwald in "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald"
 - 67 Author Zola
 - 68 Large Starbucks size
 - 69 Fascinated by
 - 70 Potatoes, on an Indian menu
 - 71 Nb3, Bxh7, Ra4, etc.
 - 72 The Macarena and Cha Cha Slide, for two
 - 74 Education support grp.
 - 76 "The Simpsons" character who says "I've done everything the Bible says! Even the stuff that contradicts the other stuff!"
 - 77 Love affair
 - 78 Corrupt
 - 79 Snack brand with "Classic" and "Wavy" varieties
 - 81 Iced coffee drink
 - 82 Colorings
 - 83 Jamie who pitched on eight major-league teams over his 25-year career
 - 86 Weigh (down)
 - 87 Wild tours
 - 89 Grave
 - 90 They might make you jump
 - 95 Winter mo.
 - 96 Praiseful poems
 - 97 Attack from all sides
 - 98 Solar wind particle
 - 100 Places to dock
 - 105 Defensive position
 - 107 Catch
 - 109 Man's name meaning "strong" in Hebrew
 - 110 Director Sam
 - 111 Exude, as charm
 - 112 Indication of where to cut ... or something written five times in this puzzle?
 - 114 Gave support
 - 115 Seeks compensation, maybe
 - 116 Relative of a badger
 - 117 Starter with chips?
 - 118 "_____ Turismo" (2023 film)
 - 119 Certain fantasy football stats
 - 120 Part of MGM
 - 121 Rise dramatically
 - 6 Product of rendering
 - 7 Big name in pest control
 - 8 Plan for the day
 - 9 Like bibimbap
 - 10 Watch one's language?
 - 11 From time immemorial
 - 12 Very start
 - 13 Full of unnecessary costs, as a budget
 - 14 Sign off on
 - 15 Sharpened
 - 16 Loops around a rodeo
 - 20 Sign on again
 - 21 "That feels good"
 - 23 Fought in a ring
 - 29 Green with the bowdlerized hit "Forget You"
 - 31 Home state of the senator Lisa Blunt Rochester: Abbr.
 - 36 It's heard in a hearing
 - 38 Pulled a classic prank on, for short
 - 40 Superman's birth name
 - 41 Genre for Fall Out Boy
 - 42 Descriptor for a dictator
 - 43 Stays alive
 - 46 Santa _____
 - 47 Magic word?
 - 49 Lurched
 - 50 What Boyle's law pertains to
 - 51 Bar exercises
 - 52 Highly recommended story
 - 55 Awaiting surgery, informally
 - 57 Vanishing point?
 - 58 Henry who composed the theme for "The Pink Panther"
 - 60 Sleep stage
 - 61 Rating that signifies lewdness or violence
 - 62 Concealed
 - 64 Medical inserts
 - 65 Parasites' needs
 - 73 Quite fond of, with "to"
 - 75 Hefeweizen, e.g.
 - 77 Jason's ship
 - 80 Vacation destination in the Caribbean
 - 81 Stronghold
 - 83 Place to hover
 - 84 Big name in frozen food
 - 85 Obsequious types
 - 86 Sauntered (in)
 - 88 Meager
 - 89 Closefitting headwear, in a variant spelling
 - 91 _____ Bill, folk hero who is said to have ridden a tornado like a bucking bronco
 - 92 Invite on a date
 - 93 "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of _____": Thomas Jefferson
 - 94 Piece of classical music
 - 99 Repulsive
 - 101 Strongman of myth
 - 102 "I Know a _____" (rhyming children's book)
 - 103 Soda with strawberry and pineapple flavors
 - 104 Derivative expression
 - 106 Auction action
 - 108 Clarified butter
 - 113 Botch things



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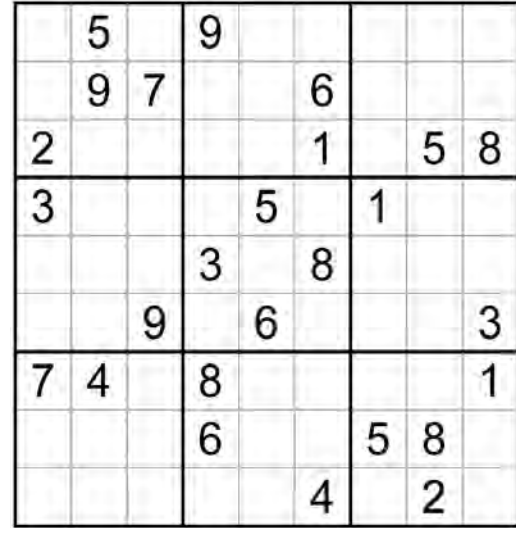
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HARD - 4

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

WCGC DECORATES ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

Decorating St. Martin's Church during the holidays were Worcester County Garden Club members Cheryl Middleton, Anna Schumann, Karen Trigger, Rebecca Galyon, Pat Prince, Martha Bennett, Jan Owens, Jan King, Sue Ann Hudson, Patsy Bell and Joan LaHayne.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPTIMISTS BOAT SHOW STUFFING

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club members stuffed 2,500 envelopes with Seaside Boat Show \$10,000 raffle tickets. Tickets are available for purchase at the show in February. The money raised from the raffle goes to college scholarships for graduating seniors. Pictured, from left, are Optimists Larry Campbell, Ron Ferger, Doug Thumser, Candy Thumser, Bob Grimm, Sharon O'Hare, Eddie Fooks, Carole Spurrier, George Solyak, Donna Smith, Roger Pacella, Margie Givarz, Patty Campbell, Bill Hickey and Ron Frew.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRAFTER OF MONTH

The Pine'eer Craft Club recently announced Donna Wojculewski as its December Crafter of the Month. Wojculewski, a resident of Beverly, New Jersey, works as a municipal court administrator for the City of Beverly. Her connection to Ocean Pines stems from her aunt, Carol Quinto, a longtime Craft Club member. Her creations can be found at the Pine'eer Craft Club's Artisan Gift Shop, located in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

4 STEPS DONATION

Delmarva Two-Way Radio Inc. of Ocean City has donated radios to the 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program located in Parsonsburg. The 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located at the Hoof Prints Trail Riding Center. This program provides safe horseback riding adventures to abled and disabled youth and adults. Learning how to be with a 1,000-pound horse provides physical, emotional, cognitive, and social benefits in a relaxed environment. Above, Delmarva Two-Way Radio Customer Service Representative Ella Floyd presents the radios to Sandy Winter, executive director.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION DELIVERED

American Legion Post 166 Leathernecks made a special donation for hurricane victims in North Carolina. Leatherneck Jon Pearl, flying his personal Grumman Tiger aircraft with his wife Kim in the co-pilot seat, delivered a \$7,550 Leatherneck check to Samaritan's Purse in North Carolina on January 2. The couple presented the donation to Chris Johnston, Director of Donor Response and Services. When they learned Johnston and his wife had 10 children, they gave him a \$200 Chick-fil-A gift card before leaving the next morning to fly back to Ocean City Airport where their airplane is hangared.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

COMMISSIONERS RETIRE

The Worcester County Commissioners commended Water and Wastewater Construction Supervisor Mike McCabe (pictured center) for his contributions to Worcester County government and to the public. Throughout his career, McCabe budgeted, planned, directed, and administered the day-to-day installation and repair of water and sewer service activities and supervised both contractual and in-house construction crews.

Obituaries

Continued from Page 15

Worcester Preparatory, and always being there to take him and watch him at the skatepark on almost a daily basis. She poured everything she had into her son Cody and played a significantly positive role in teaching him the values he has today. Her nurturing spirit and unwavering dedication as a mother will remain a guiding light for Cody for the rest of his life.

Gloria was also a loving sister to her brother, Robbie, who was her constant companion and source of strength. Their deep connection and loyalty to one another was evident to all who knew them. Robbie was always there to ensure she wasn't alone, which she deeply cherished.

She was fond of spending her younger years enjoying the beach life in OC and working summer jobs like Love's Lemonade stand, but in the 1980s while working at the Carousel Hotel she met her ex-husband, Bill Shoemaker. When they weren't tending to the cats, pigs, horses and cows on their farm, the two started a successful meeting management business in which she was integral in

acquiring one of their biggest lifetime customers. Along with this accolade, Gloria started her own business, Holland Corporation, which outfitted homes and businesses up and down the Delmarva Coast with top-of-the-line decor and window treatments. Another great joy was having her niece Jen and nephew Johnny visit her home known as "Jessica Ranch" and spending time together, going to the beach and just hanging out with all the animals.

Gloria was an avid bike cyclist, and her great accomplishment was the Seagull Century 100 Mile Ride and riding with her son, Cody and brother, Robbie, when they got the chance.

A woman of profound faith, Gloria was a devout Christian who lived her life with love, grace, and an unwavering belief in God's promises. She found peace and strength in her relationship with Jesus Christ and held onto the blessed hope that one day

she would be welcomed into her heavenly mansion, reunited with loved ones in the presence of her Savior. Her faith shaped everything she did.

She knows that her time on earth was only temporary, and she looked forward to the eternal life that awaited her with joy and certainty.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Residence Inn, Ocean City.

Worcester Youth marks 50th year

Continued from Page 14

much of the year. The drawing, she said, will take place at the Oct. 11 anniversary event, which officials are hoping will be attended by the organization's founder, Barry Johansson.

"Hopefully, the pot will accumulate throughout the year," she said.

Leggour added that the organization will also host 50 various events and fundraisers throughout 2025. Those events, she said, would include

the agency's Shine on the Shore Luau and its Every Children Needs fund.

Leggour said additional information will be posted on the Worcester Youth & Family website - gowoyo.org - and on social media pages as it becomes available.

"We're hoping to have a lot of activities and fundraising events throughout the year and highlighting the organization in that process," she said.

For more information about

Worcester Youth and Family's events and programs, call 410-641-4598, or email shine@gowoyo.org.

"Worcester Youth and Family has been able to endure the test of time and stay true to its original goal of increasing access to mental health and social support services," Leggour said. "This year is the time to thank our partners, supporters, and staff (both former and current) and celebrate this amazing milestone."



OPEN HOUSES

Jan. 9 - Jan. 16



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-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
Saturday Noon-2pm	261 Charleston Rd., Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	404 143rd St. Unit 11, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Townhome	\$529,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday Noon-2pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	424 Lark Lane #E303, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$273,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	73 King Richard Road, Berlin	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$749,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1-3pm	9 46th St., Unit 6 Old Wharf Condos, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$295,995	Steve Green/Coastal Life Realty Group



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Calendar

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

Thurs., Jan. 9

2025 MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST - GUEST SPEAKER BILLY BLANKS

Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:45-10 a.m. VIP check-in from 7:15-7:30 p.m. Standard check-in and breakfast, 8:15-8:40 a.m. Key note speaker is Billy Blanks. Tickets cost \$35 standard ticket or \$100 VIP tickets. <https://www.ocean.com/events>, 443-664-3052

STORY TIME: IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

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

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SIP N S'MORES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Listen to a cozy story while you sip hot chocolate and make a super sized marshmallow treat. For ages 6-11 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Fri., Jan. 10

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories. For ages 0-2 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join in for STREAM activities and socialize with other homeschool families. For ages 6-11 years. 410-632-3495, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB: 'FAHRENHEIT 451' BY RAY BRADBURY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean Pines Library circulation desk. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. One crab cake sandwich platter (\$14), two crab cake sandwich platter (\$24) and crab cake sandwiches (\$10). Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Carryout or eat in. Bake sale table.

MIXED MEDIA WITH SISTA BIG

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 5:30 p.m. Create your own art and poetry pieces with guidance from Sharnell Tull. Registration necessary: 410-957-0878. 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., Jan. 11

DIVINE LITURGY & BLESSING OF THE WATERS

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 8805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Orthros, 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.; followed by Procession & Blessing of Waters. Divers contact ocgocpriest@gmail.com for more info. Prizes for all participants. www.stgeorgebythesea.org, 307-365-3930

BULL & OYSTER ROAST

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 3-6 p.m. Pit beef, oysters, Cole slaw, potato salad, oyster stew, beverages and desserts. Raffles and music. All-you-can-eat \$55 or table of 8 for \$400. 410-289-3166

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. 12

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. 13

STORY TIME: SHAPES

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 express. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MOVIE MATINEE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Come see a movie you might not have had a chance to see in the theaters. Light refreshments provided. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB: 'AMERICAN PREDATOR' BY MAUREEN CALLAHAN

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join in for an afternoon of true crime. 410-524-1818, 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, 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

COOKING FOR BRAIN HEALTH

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Create a delicious and nutritious dish using ingredients that promote brain health. Presented by the Worcester County Health Department. 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., Jan. 14

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 @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 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

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Mike Ivankovich will introduce you, via Zoom, to "What Determines Value" — and reveal what your antiques, collectibles and treasures are worth today. Registration required: 410-208-4014.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Providing discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765

SONG CELEBRATION

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

Continued on Page 20

Calendar

Continued from Page 19

BOOK CLUB: 'OONA OUT OF ORDER' BY MARGARITA MONTIMORE

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening of books and wine. Must be at least 21 years of age. Pick up books from Tides & Vine or at the Snow Hill Library. 410-632-3495, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Guest speaker Capt. Neil Brosnahan to speak on a variety of fishing topics. Food and refreshments available after 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with

optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

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

Wed., Jan. 15

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for imaginative play and social interaction. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Promoting the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skills levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BACKGAMMON CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

3RD ANNUAL BABY BINGO SHOWER AND LUNCHEON

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway,

Ocean City, 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., lunch served at 11:30 a.m. and bingo at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$45. Proceeds benefit the Grace Center. Bring a baby gift. Tickets, sponsorships and donations: Dee, 410-409-5660.

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 make a keepsake. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORYTELLERS THEATER TROUPE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Theater activities like improv, memorization, public speaking and learning about theater. Best for ages 6-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

CREATIVITY CORNER

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., during January. Students engage in STEAM-related projects and crafts. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

I SPY LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during January. Drop by to complete the I Spy Library game and enter for a chance to win a puzzle prize. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878

SCAVENGER HUNT: SNOWMAN HUNT

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, during January. Find the snowmen in the children's area to win a prize. For families. 410-208-4014

TEENY ARTS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington

St., during January. A themed craft program available in the teen section all month long. January's Teeny Art is "Pop Art." For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495

TEEN TIMESHARE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, during January, 3 p.m. to close. Drop in and create a seasonal craft or study for a test in your own teen area. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014

JANUARY INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during January. Art, photography or poetry competition for all ages. Pieces will be displayed in the library for viewing and voting by age bracket. The theme is "Memories." Due by Jan. 29. 410-632-3495

QUEEN OF HEARTS

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

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

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

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF DELMARVA

Meets the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 2-4 p.m. A social organization of men and women of Polish or Slavic descent.

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