# BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**JANUARY 23, 2025** 

**BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY• OCEAN PINES** 



Touch of Italy owner Bob Ciprietti responds to a question from the audience during the Ocean Pines Association town hall meeting on Ciprietti's company's plans when it takes over in May as the operator of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the golf club and the Beach Club in Ocean City. Touch of Italy has a five-year contract with the OPA to run the venues.

## **OPA** audience gets to grill **Touch of Italy's big cheese**

Restaurant owner Ciprietti lays out how his company will run food, drink venues

## **By Tara Fischer** Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Touch of Italy will take over the Ocean Pines Association's three food and beverage service locations on May 1, following the expiration of the association's contract with Matt Ortt Companies.

Last week, the community invited residents to a town hall where homeowners could ask Touch of Italy and Ocean Pines Association representatives questions about the five-year lease arrangement the two parties signed earlier this month.

Per the agreement, OPA, as the owner of the Yacht Club, the Clubhouse Bar and Grille, and the Beach Club, will be the restaurant company's landlord.

See CIPRIETTI Page 6

## **Bay Club's back-to-nature** project nears finish line

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) The former Bay Club Golf Course is being transformed into a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property as officials work to establish trails and pollinator meadows, restore wetlands and enhance recreation space.

Last week, the Lower Shore

Land Trust, a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat, invited community members to an information session about the DNR's purchase of the Bay Club golf course property on Libertytown Road outside Berlin.

In 2023, the state acquired the See BAY Page 4



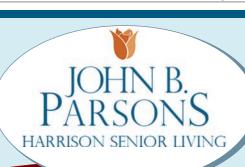
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## **Neighbors question Berlin parking lot lease**

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Some Berlin residents have concerns regarding the 10-year lease agreement inked recently for a new parking lot.

The Mayor and Council recently announced a lease deal with a private property owner to establish a municipal parking lot in town. Officials have said it's a move to grow the downtown business district and address a capacity shortage for parking.

According to a Town of Berlin press release issued on Jan. 8, the parking lot will be located on a parcel of property owned by the Esham family at the corner of West Street and Washington Street. Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), also known as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package, will fund the first two years of the lease. The municipality will work to implement a "sustainable funding plan" for the remainder of the arrangement. The cost to transition the empty lot into parking spaces has not been determined.

Per the lease, which commenced on Jan. 15, rent for years one, two, and three will be \$30,000. At the commencement of the arrangement, rent for the first two years, a total of \$60,000, was paid through ARPA funds. Rent for years four and five will be \$35,000, and rent for years six through 10 will increase 3% annually.

The deal clarifies the tenant, in this case, the Town of Berlin, is to cover the premises with gravel, crush-and-run, or a "similar type of surface." The agreement stipulates the "tenant is not permitted to pave or blacktop the leased premises."

"This new municipal parking lot will significantly increase parking capacity for our downtown busi-

ness district and provide much-needed overflow parking during town events," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said in the press release. "Based on conversations with our downtown businesses and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, we know that a lack of accessible parking has limited the ability of our businesses to grow and thrive. This investment will help strengthen an already vibrant business district and encourage further growth and reinvestment in our community."

At the Berlin Mayor and Council's Monday, Jan. 13 meeting, Tyndall emphasized the town is aware the proposed lot will be constructed in a residential area.

"We don't want to degrade the neighborhood in any way," the mayor said.

The mayor assured additional visitor spaces would solve a supply challenge, as the town could not offer parking near the downtown area. This problem often caps business revenue, limits event attendance, and can lead to safety concerns when cars searching for a parking space block residential driveways.

Some residents responded with negative feedback upon the announcement at the Jan. 13 meeting.

Along with the visual change outside his home, West Street resident Brad Parks, an environmental engineer by trade, said that his hesitations lie with the potential for stormwater runoff from the possible gravel usage. Tyndall maintained the town knows the flooding challenges, particularly on West Street, and that stormwater engineers will help vet the project.

"We want to make sure whatever we do does not add to [stormwater runoff]," Tyndall said. "I'm not an engineer, but I am pretty sure we legally can't



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A 10-year lease agreement has been signed by Berlin and the property owner to make the vacant lot at the corner of West and Washington streets a municipal parking lot to serve the town.

make an exemption for ourselves, nor would we want to. The same vetting process we ask everyone else to do, we will do ourselves."

Berlin Planning Commission member Erich Pfeffer, who lives across from the vacant lot on West Street, also spoke at last week's meeting. The resident said that environmental concerns must be considered throughout the lot's construction, referring to people he has spoken to who are "up in arms" over the lot being transitioned into a parking lot.

"Doing things like, 'Oh, we'll get the horticulture department in there to make it pretty,' it's not going See PARKING Page 6



## **Bay Club being returned to its natural state**

Continued from Page 1

672-acre property to be managed by the Maryland Forest Service to provide water quality and habitat benefits and create opportunities for public recreation, such as walking, horseback riding, hunting, bird watching, and cycling.

Leaders of the initiative were present at the Jan. 16 information session, providing project updates and outlining their mission with the Bay Club transformation.

Alex Clark of the state Forest Service said the work already completed at the site includes the removal of buildings and pavement as a condition of the acquisition, the majority of the parking lot construction, and planting trees across 62 acres. Officials have also coordinated with the Berlin and Ocean Pines fire companies to provide them with access to the property in the case of emergen-

Still to come are some finishing touches on the parking area, additional signs and more cleanup, especially collecting all the golf balls that have found their way into the space's ponds. In addition, DNR engineers are making sure the property's bridges are structurally sound.

"We want to make sure that if you put a horse on [the bridges], it's not



Representatives from the Lower Shore Land Trust, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service were at the Berlin Library last week to update Worcester County residents about the state's acquisition and ongoing transformation work at the old Bay Club Golf Course property.

going to fall through," Clark said.

Officials are looking to change the name of the property. Clark said renaming suggestions are now being welcomed from community members. The forest service representative maintained that any update to the title must be approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works, comprised of Gov. Wes Moore, Treasurer Dereck E. Davis, and Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman.

Leah Franzleubbers of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service told the audience that the restoration of the wetlands on the parcel is environmentally vital.

"The main animating issue behind this is the sheer scale of wetlands loss that we have experienced both in the US and Maryland, historically," Franzleubber said. "Prior to European settlement, a lot of the Eastern Shore would have been largely forest, and a lot of that would have been forested wetlands ... We do restoration because wetlands are important for clean air, clean water, and species' biodiversity, and they can be beautiful and productive areas for human recreation.'

The Bay Club acreage will see seasonal wetlands on the golf course fairways, an enhancement to the existing golf course ponds, using ditch plugs to restore the wet forest in the southern portion of the property, and semi-permanent wetlands in the former agricultural areas.

Franzleubbers said the seasonal wetlands will consist of shallow excavation in the fairway areas to produce areas that are "primarily driven by groundwater and precipitation." These spaces will likely be dry in the summer and fall but wet in the winter

"This shortened wet time allows a different kind of species to inhabit them than if you had a pond that's wet all year 'round," the USFWS representative said.

This excavation project will also generate a good bit of material that will then be used to enhance the existing golf course ponds, such as reducing their depth and adding some

islands. This will allow different species of plants to grow in those

"They dig the golf course primarily for aesthetic value," Franzleubbers noted. "So they are really deep, very flat on that bottom, so we will be mixing that up, adding some differences in the topography.

Franzleubbers said the forested areas have ditches that were put in by the previous landowners in an attempt to drain the woods. To remedy this, her team will install earth and ditch plugs to keep the wooded area saturated like it once was and keep the roots wet. Additionally, semi-permanent wetlands, which will be damp for more of the year than the seasonal ones, will be established in the agricultural areas.

'Our intent with this project is to seamlessly integrate our wetland restoration activities within the other restoration activities that the Lower Shore Land Trust and the Maryland Forest Service are doing to create a complex of varied upland and wetland habitat that can benefit wildlife, but also is a wonderful place for humans to enjoy for recreation," Franzleubbers said.

Representatives said they can be contacted with questions and suggestions. Clark can be reached at alexander.clark@maryland.gov, Franzleubbers at leahfranzluebbers@fws.gov, and Matt Heim, Jared Parks, and Beth Sheppard of the Lower Shore Land Trust at info@LowerShoreLandTrust.org.

The Lower Shore Land Trust is hosting the same information session again on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Berlin Library from 1 p.m. to 2:30

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## Ciprietti explains plan for OP clubs

Continued from Page 1

"Ocean Pines will become our landlord," Touch of Italy owner Bob Ciprietti said. "I have signed a personal guarantee on that lease, which means that if I don't live up to my obligations, you have recourse to come after me for the rent. I believe right now since we signed that, you will always be in the black at this point."

The agreement provides that Touch of Italy will pay OPA a rent equal to the combined depreciation of the food and beverage facilities, or about \$380,000 a year. This amount will increase by 3% annually. OPA General Manager John Viola said the association also will receive 6.5% of the operation's gross, non-alcohol revenue.

"The depreciation of the food and beverage facilities is about \$384,000 a year," Rick Lawrence, Touch of Italy's financial manager, said. "That is a minimum return that Ocean Pines is guaranteed now with the lease arrangement they made. Leadership in this community made that decision and now is protecting the community in that regard.

"On top of that," he continued, "so that the community actually is benefitting from the food and beverage operations, they get what is known as a rent-kicker, and they participate in a percentage of the adjusted gross."

The lease arrangement dictates that the new food and beverage company will bear most of the replacement and maintenance expense. Viola said that if equipment breaks in the first few years of its useful life, Touch of Italy would cover it.

Ocean Pines may be responsible if a device needs to be replaced in the final stages of its expected duration. Additionally, any changes Touch of Italy wants to make to the facilities would require community leaders' approval.

"If [the restaurant company] wants to make any changes, everything has to be approved by the Ocean Pines management and the board," Viola said. "If there is anything they want to do to the build-

ings, we own the buildings, and they are renting ... they have to get approval from the Ocean Pines management team and the board depending on what they are going to do."

Ciprietti told the audience that his team is looking to "soften" the Yacht Club's dining room by adding privacy measures for guests. Currently, the area is a single, exposed space.

As for the Beach Club in Ocean City, its under-utilized second floor could see more activity, Ciprietti said.

The restaurant company will offer a diverse menu. While Touch of Italy's locations in Ocean City, Rehoboth, and Lewes boasts primarily Italian cuisine, the Ocean Pines operations will include items across the board. Patrons can expect to see chicken, fish, lobster rolls, burgers, fajitas, and egg rolls. Gluten-free options will also be available.

"We have a very diverse menu and culinary team so that it won't be just Italian," Ciprietti said. "Will there be some Italian items at the Yacht Club restaurant? Yes, of course. But it is not going to be the focus of it at all."

He added that Ocean Pines residents can contact his cell, 914-906-0175, with any suggestions or concerns.

"We do listen, and we do pay attention," the Ciprietti said. "I have no problem speaking to anybody that wants to call me, and I seriously mean that."

Residents at last week's town hall asked if the staff currently employed by Matt Ortt Companies at the Yacht Club and the other OPA locations would still work there come May 1. Ciprietti said because Ortt is still the operator at this point, his team isn't talking to any of them, but they are open to interviewing anyone who wishes to stay on upon Ortt's departure

Ciprietti also noted that once his company takes over, the venues' hours of operation, particularly at the Clubhouse Bar and Grille, will be expanded. He said he would like to give golfers the option of stopping in for coffee before early-morning tee times

Also addressed during the town hall were residents' concerns about events at the Yacht Club. Ciprietti replied that the off-season Thursday night trivia at the Yacht Club would likely be maintained and that bands that regular play the venue, including Great Train Robbery and Tranzfusion, would return.

The annual Thanksgiving buffet will be revied, as Ciprietti said he and his team are committed to upholding traditions favored by the Ocean Pines community. Previously scheduled private events like banquets and weddings will be honored.

Furthermore, Touch of Italy will accept gift cards sold by the previous operator. The group also acknowledged the Ocean Pines locations will yield a different clientele than the Ocean City Italian restaurant and pricing will prioritize affordability based on the needs and desires of OPA residents.

Among the areas that need work, according to the new operators, the floors in the Yacht Club kitchen, and paint touch-ups and cleaning at the Beach Club.

Those interested in applying to the community's food and beverage facilities can email their resumes to info@touchofitaly.com. While individuals may apply now, company representatives said the recruitment via social media channels will increase leading up to the May 1 start date.

Ocean Pines' new deal with Touch of Italy was announced on Wednesday, Jan. 8, following a special OPA Board of Directors meeting.

In addition to the company's Touch of Italy restaurants in this area, it also operates the Royal Prime Steakhouse at Bally's in Dover, Del. and runs Sunset Island Bar and Grille at 1 Beach Side Drive in Ocean City.

"We are working now, every day for the transition day," said Ciprietti.

Those who wish to view the entire town hall can visit the Ocean Pines Association's YouTube channel.

# **Parking lot lease** mission outlined

Continued from Page 3

to be enough," he said. "It's a big piece of property. Noise pollution, sound pollution. All those types of pollution need to be taken into account. Hopefully, it will be an open process."

Pfeffer added that because the space would most likely be pay-to-park, it would continue to lead to street parking, which the council noted creates safety concerns for emergency vehicle access and hurts downtown businesses due to a lack of ample spots.

Councilmember Jay Knerr responded that the new parking lot will be used primarily for events when the town's existing lots and parking spaces fill up quickly.

"During events, people want to park close to the event, and this lot provides that," he said. "People don't really question paying for parking."

The new parking lot's mission is to address a shortage of spaces, impacting visitors and residents alike. Tyndall noted that the town's goal is to "test the waters" and build something that works. The 10-year lease allows Berlin to break the arrangement, stipulating a termination penalty of \$60,000 at its sole discretion. The mayor added that, hopefully, the municipality could purchase the property at the end of the initial deal. This would give the town more control to add amenities and "change things around."

Berlin leaders hope the parking lot will address an ongoing challenge. The Mayor and Council emphasized that they would appreciate feedback and input from community members as the initiative gets up and running.

"A non-option was to not do anything for parking in the Town of Berlin," Councilmember Steve Green said after hearing the concerns. "It is something I hear about every day. Since I have been on the council, next to the cost of living, it is the biggest issue I've heard ... It was time for a bold move. I have had businesses communicate with me and neighbors communicate with me about the annoyance and the public safety concerns."





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# **County planning education effort on solar land leases**

Commissioners approve mailer to ag land owners about pitfalls with deals

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) As demand grows for filling fields with solar panels instead of corn or soybeans, Worcester County's farmers should be on the lookout for aggressive and predatory salespeople in the solar industry, officials said this week.

"It's almost kind of a David and Goliath situation," environmental programs director Bob Mitchell told the county's Board of Commissioners at its Jan. 14 meeting. "These guys and ladies are getting contacted by sales folk from the companies. Some are doing option contracts — there may not be a project in the pipeline, but they want to lock up their land for a time."

Agricultural lands are now highly profitable for solar development. As a result, county officials plan to mail educational material to eligible landowners, in an effort to help them from being burned by shady sales tactics and questionable contracts.

The trend can be traced to the state's rising energy demands. Maryland is seeing a surge in popularity of electric vehicles, in full building electrification, and the rise of data centers, Mitchell explained in a Dec. 20 internal county memo.

Not only that, but in just five short years, the state is supposed to be generating 14.5 percent of its energy from solar power, according to the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

As state leaders set increasingly ambitious renewable energy goals, vast farm fields become prime candidates for electricity-churning solar panels, Mitchell said, putting dollar signs in the eyes of solar salesmen.

"Environmental Programs can attest to the aggressive tactics by the solar industry locally and have heard concerns from both the agricultural sector landowners and the members of our county Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board," he wrote in the memo.

first learned about this issue at the 2024 winter convention of the Maryland Association of Counties. Fiori met colleagues from Caroline County who shared horror stories of landowners who got mixed up with complex solar panel contracts, and how many didn't realize they gave up their rights in the fine print of a contract

"What Caroline County has seen is that, farmers are struggling to make ends meet. They look at the solar as a great option to rent their space," Fiori said in an interview. "Solar is paying them \$800 an acre to let rent their ground and they have to do nothing. It allows farmers to make more money off their property without doing any more work, which is wonderful."

The problem, Fiori said, is that salespeople sometimes leave out ther part where solar panels eventually reach the end of their useful life, and a site needs decommissioning, which can be costly. Also, as property tax assessments rise statewide, solar leases are simply less lucrative.

One solution Caroline adopted was to mail warning notices with red flags about long-term solar lease. It's a fix Worcester's leaders say they want to adopt.

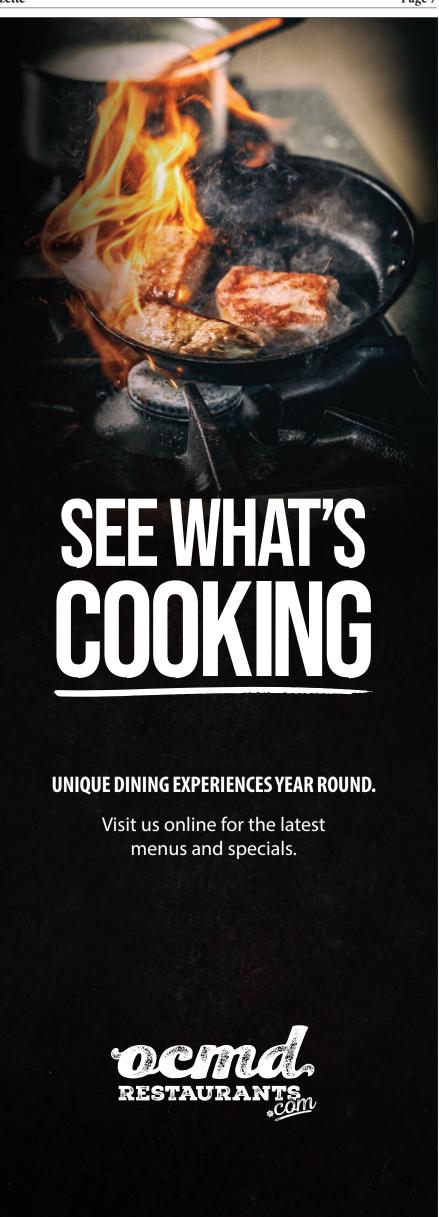
Mitchell on Tuesday presented a draft letter to the commissioners, one that could be mailed to property owners whose acreage is ripe for solar. It asks: are you being pressured to sign a contract quickly? Is the solar company reputable? Does signing a lease trigger a breach of your mortgage?

The final notice will be fine-tuned by county staff before going out to landowners with eligible quantities of agricultural acreage.

Commissioner Chip Bertino (District 5, Ocean Pines) at Tuesday's meeting said solar panel placement, and how much control local government gets in the process, is a conversation many rural counties are having lately in Maryland.

"When it gets right down to it, the individual property owners are the ones that really decide whether those solar panels go on their property," he said. "The more information they have, the better off we'll all be."







PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARA GORFINKEL AND CHAMBER

## **BERLIN AWARD WINNER**

Dr. Melissa Reid, president of the Berlin Heritage Foundation as well as art teacher at Buckingham Elementary, was surprised with the Berlin Award at the annual awards banquet put on by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. Pictured, from left, are last year's recipient Nornie Bunting, Councilman Steve Green, award co-presenter Cam Bunting, Reid, Mayor Zack Tyndall and Council members Jay Knerr and Dean Burrell.

## Berlin Chamber recognizes award winners



## **BEST NEW BUSINESS**

Berlin Chamber President Garrett Neville presented the Best New Business Award to the Berlin Beer Co. and The Street Kitchen, which opened last year in the former home of Southern States at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Broad Street. Pictured, from left, are Neville, Tammie Faille of The Street Kitchen and Adam Davis and Lauren Georgevich of Berlin Beer Co.

(Jan. 23, 2025) About 100 people attended last week's Berlin Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Awards Banquet at the Berlin Fire Company.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Berlin Award to Dr. Melissa Reid for her leadership of the Berlin Heritage Foundation, which operates the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum.

Reid, an art teacher at Buckingham Elementary School for more than 25 years who lives in Berlin, was surprised with the recognition and presented citations and commendations from the Town of Berlin, Worcester County and the Senate and House of Delegates.

Previous Berlin Award recipients include Frederick Brueckmann, 1964; Jane Q. Parker Gantz, 1965; Willis W. Hudson, 1966; Paul Scott, 1968; Audrey Pennington, 1969; Horace E. Quillin, 1970; Oscar Littleton, 1971; Anna A. Burbage, 1972; William S. Hudson,

1973; James G. Barrett, 1974; Elton W. Parsons, 1975; William Briddell, 1976; Mable S. Holland, 1977; Rev. E.C. Hackshaw, 1978; Charles T. Martin, 1979; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Abernethy, 1980; Edgar Gaskins, 1981; no award, 1982; Wilford and Rhoda Showell, 1983; Laurence Eastburn, 1984; Edward H. Hammond, 1985; Luther Shultz, 1986; Frank Timmons, 1987; Gee Williams, III, 1988; Stuart J. Scott, 1989; Mary E. Humphreys, 1990; Barbara Derrickson, 1991; Doris Taylor, 1992; Mildred Ann Villani, 1993; Denman E. Rayne, 1994; Raymond D. Coates, 1995; Patrick L. Henry, 1996; John T. Bruehl, 1997; Frank Villani, 1998; Bennett Scott, 1999; Leola A. Smack, 2000; Ellen H. Lang, 2001; RoxAnne D. Williams, 2002; Tom & Judy Patton, 2003; Jesse Turner, 2004; Clayton P. Collins, Jr., 2005; Deborah S. Frene, 2006; William Burke, 2007; Tim and Christine Rayne, 2008; Susan Taylor, 2009; Joel J. Todd, 2010; Terri Sexton, 2011; Jan Quick, 2012;



## **IFETIME RECOGNITION**

Doug Westfall, owner of Gold Crafts in Berlin, was presented a Lifetime Achievement in Retail award for his decades of being a town merchant. Westfall, with Neville, plans to retire this year.









# Annual banquet installs new board, announces awards

Doug Parks, 2014; Mike and Helen Wiley, 2014; Woody and Cam Bunting, 2015; Barbara Purnell, 2016; no award, 2017-2022; and Nornie Bunting, 2023.

Other awards presented were:

Best New Business: Berlin Beer Co. and The Street Kitchen

Bright Idea: The Bubble Project, created by Ivy Wells of the Town of Berlin and Jeffrey Auxer of Jeffrey Auxer Designs

Chamber Partner: Matt and Brooke Borrelli of The Sterling Tavern

Volunteer of The Year: David Fitzgerald of the Berlin Fire Company Lifetime Achievement in Retail: Doug Westfall of Gold Crafts

Dedication Award: Tanja Giles for her dedication to volunteering and organizing the annual Cruiser events in Berlin Legacy Award: Helen Wiley for her longtime affiliation and leadership of the Church Mouse Thrift Shop

Outgoing Board member and former chamber president Mike Poole was thanked and addressed as a pivotal member of the chamber, and William Outten was inducted as the new board member. Outgoing President Cindi Krempel was also recognized.

The event was sponsored by the Bank of Ocean City, Bradley Atlantic Insurance, Broad Bookkeeping Co., East & Main Shore Supply and Taylor Bank. In-kind contributions were provided by Berlin Beer Co., Burley Oak Brewery, Bleached Butterfly, Eastern Woodlands, Dr. Johnathan C. Patrowicz, Forgotten 50 Distilling & Restaurant and The Street Kitchen.

Above left, new Berlin Chamber President Garrett Neville is pictured at last week's installation dinner and awards banquet. Above middle, accepting the Bright Idea award recognizing The Bubble Project was Ivy Wells, economic and community development director for Berlin. Jeffrey Auxer of Jeffrey Auxer Designs was unable attend. Above right, outgoing Berlin President Cindi Krempel is pictured providing an annual overview. At left, David Fitzgerald of the Berlin Fire Company was honored for his service and dedication to the chamber during the last calendar year. Fitzgerald is the incoming president and volunteered many hours with new Executive Director Rebecca Patrowicz.



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## **Beach to Bay Heritage gets grant**

Local nonprofits score funds through Maryland Humanities SHINE program

## By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Seven groups throughout Maryland's lower shore, including Beach to Bay Heritage Area, received thousands of dollars in funding via the Maryland Humanities' Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE (Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity) grant program.

According to a press release issued by Beach to Bay Heritage Area Executive Director Lisa Challenger, the Maryland Humanities, a nonprofit dedicated to learning and promoting dialogue about Marylander heritage, culture, and future, awarded \$70,000 to Maryland's lower shore, distributed evenly between seven groups. Each organization received \$10,000.

The Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE program provided the general operating support grants to 90 non-profits throughout Maryland. The funds are to be used for humanities programming.

"The humanities explore the human experience and help us think about who we are — our ideas, histories, and values — and how we relate to each other. It is through the humanities that we improve our understanding of one another, and this, we believe, will help build healthy and equitable communities," the Maryland Humanities website says.

The groups on the lower shore to receive the award include the Berlin Heritage Foundation, Buffalo Soldier Living History Site, Epoch Dream Center, Furnace Town, Lower Shore Cemetery Preservation Organization, Westside Historical Society, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured, from left, are Beach to Bay Heritage Area Program Manager Andre Nieto Jaime and Executive Director Lisa Challenger and Board member Ivy Wells.

Beach to Bay Heritage Area.

Through this award's funding, the Beach to Bay Heritage Area plans to continue its mission of safeguarding the lower shore's history. Last year, for instance, Beach to Bay Heritage Area received a grant to develop African American products, including 12 interpretive signs across Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Of those markings, Worcester County Public Works assisted in the installation at the Germantown School Community Heritage Center and the New Bethel United Methodist Church in Berlin. The postings give a concise history of the importance of the sites. The structure located at the Germantown School details the facility's past, as the structure was built at a time during segregation.

The school closed in the 1950s and was later converted into a truck and

storage garage. In the late 1990s, community members raised money to restore the structure, intending to preserve its history. Renovation was completed in 2013, and now, the building serves as a museum and community gathering place.

According to the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant program guidelines, the award prioritizes organizations that center diversity, equity, and inclusion, serve audiences underserved by the humanities, like veterans, rural populations, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), and low-income individuals, like Beach to Bay Heritage Area.

"The Beach to Bay Heritage Area is one of 13 Maryland-certified heritage areas whose mission is to promote, preserve, and protect the cultural heritage, historical linkages, and natural assets of the lower eastern shore," Challenger said.

# School system's records hit with cyber incident

**By Stewart Dobson** 

(Jan. 23, 2025) Worcester County's public school system was one of some 60,000 schools around the world caught up in a Dec. 28 cyberattack on a company that stores and manages information on students and their families

Power School, a California data management company, informed its clients on Jan. 7 that information stored in its system, including student health records, social security numbers and parent-supplied data, might have been breached by criminal actors.

The extent of that incursion is presently unknown, although school Superintendent Lou Taylor said in a Jan. 10 letter to parents that Power School acknowledged "that ... accessed data includes staff, parent, and student contact information and some personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers and medical information."

Taylor wrote that Power School reported it had contained the breach and that there is no threat to staff, students or parents.

"PowerSchool has assured WCPS that it will provide more information and resources, including the availability of credit monitoring or identity protection services for impacted individuals, as it becomes available, Taylor said in his letter.

"PowerSchool has made a commitment to conduct a thorough notification process to all impacted individuals. WCPS intends to hold PowerSchool to its commitments," he added. "It is our intention to openly communicate with and support our students, staff, and their families to the best of our ability throughout this process and to closely monitor PowerSchool's legal obligations to safeguard against and manage cybersecurity data breaches.

Taylor assured parents Power School informed Taylor and his counterparts around the world that the attack was on the company itself and not its customers.

The company also said there was nothing local school systems could have done to prevent the prevent the breach.

Although Power School may not be a familiar name to people outside the field of education, it provides information management services to 18,000 school systems in 18 countries, according to its web site.

As to how the attacker made their way into the stored data, Education Week reporter Caitlynn Peetz said they gained access by using compromised credentials — stolen identification — to enter an online portal the company maintains for the use of its customers. She said the company traced the account and deactivated it.

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## Officials weighing ordinance for homeless

County will explore tougher penalties for those found sleeping on public property

## By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Taking inspiration from a recent Supreme Court ruling, Worcester County officials say sleeping on public property could go from a civil infraction to a criminal misdemeanor, a move that specifically targets the homeless.

"When the intersection happens between behavioral health issues and homelessness, and then criminality or victimization of others in that area, that's where my office comes into play," said Worcester County State's Attorney Kristin Heiser. "It's not our goal to prosecute the same person for the same type of low-level offense over and over again. We'd rather resolve the underlying problem."

Under the guidance of Heiser and county attorney Roscoe Leslie, Worcester County's Board of Commissioners says it will work in the near term to pen a draft ordinance that revisits penalties for sleeping on land owned by the county. Any such bill would then be subject to a public hearing.

Heiser said the goal of what she called an encampment ordinance is to provide a tool for law enforcement, "to make sure that the community is safe from the other effects these sort of individuals can have sometimes," she told the commissioners at the meeting.

The commissioners discussed the issue at length during a Jan. 14 meeting with the input of several officials from the county's social services agencies.

The biggest issue when trying to help the homeless population – or asking them to move along, if disruptive – is simply figuring out where to put them, said Sandy Kerrigan, who works on behavioral health programs with the county's Health Department.

She added how the West Ocean City nonprofit Diakonia, which has shelter space, "is great and wonderful – but it's often full."

"Anytime we take somebody from an encampment or somebody hanging out on the Boardwalk, they're going somewhere else and they're somebody else's problem at that point," Kerrigan told the commissioners. "We can't evict them from the county. Where do we go? That's where we get stuck. Because the people we're dealing with are very chronically mentally ill individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.

Kerrigan also said this segment of the homeless population often cycles through police custody, jail time, hospitalization, and public spaces.

"It's frustrating and I understand the reasoning behind where we are," she said. "I wish there was a magic wand and an answer. I don't know what it is. I don't know that this will fix anything.

Last year, between 19 and 31 people were identified in a semi-annual survey as living in Worcester County without shelter, according to the county's Department of Social Services.

Agency director Roberta Baldwin called them "chronic homeless individuals" – people facing some combination of behavioral and mental health issues, addiction, or other problems that keep them from holding down a job or a place to live.

While some actively choose to remain unhoused, Baldwin said the county is plagued by too few shelter beds, a lack of transitional housing, and a need for an additional homeless shelter.

A limited housing supply and high rental prices also are contributing factors – though you can't get into subsidized housing if you have certain criminal charges on your record, she said.

"For someone who wants to get into housing or has a mental health issue and may be eligible for subsidized housing, that prevents them from being able to access a lot of services or programs that, if they didn't have that conviction, they would be open to," Baldwin said.

It was the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in the case of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson that inspired county officials to adopt similar tactics when dealing with a homeless population.

In Colorado, repeat offenders caught sleeping in Grants Pass public parks faced fines, a temporary park ban, and eventually jail time, according to the court's June 28 opinion. A class action case against the city claimed this violated their Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

The Justices ultimately ruled that a municipality imposing criminal penalties for acts like sleeping in public is not unconstitutional.

When advised Nov. 19 of the high court's decision by solicitor Roscoe Leslie, the commissioners expressed

interest in developing their own antiencampment criminal ordinance – even though one already exists.

Since 1987, it's been a civil infraction in Worcester County to camp on, tent on, sleep on, or inhabit any county-owned property, including parks or roadways. Revamping that penalty as a crime is now on the table.

"It's really up to the commissioners to give us a direction on what you'd like to see," Leslie said at last week's meeting, calling the conversation "just a discussion starting point."

Heiser added she's looking to model existing legislation from San Diego, California, that targets the problem. Hearing that, Commissioner Jim Bunting (District 6, Bishopville) responded by saying, "I can't think of a worse state for its homeless and taking over."

"We got to decide whether we want one that looked like California or Worcester County. And I think we do need to stiffen our laws criminally or whatever it takes to get this under control," he said.

District 3 Commissioner Eric Fiori said he's heard increasingly from his constituents that homelessness is an escalating problem in the West Ocean City area, especially in more rural pockets.

"We're trying to come up with a solution," he said, "to make sure that we're doing everything at the county level that we can possibly do as far as helping these folks. But the ones that choose not to have help, or choose to cause problems within the community, we need to have some tools within government to try to get them the help they need."



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#### NO INJURIES REPORTED IN CRASH

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, first responders were dispatched to Trappe Road outside Berlin for a reported collision caused by icy conditions. The vehicle's occupants sustained minor injuries. The road was closed for several hours as crews worked to replace a downed pole and apply salt to the road.



# Diakonia eyes new funding through tax credit program

By Brian Shane

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) The nonprofit agency Diakonia expects a \$50,000 funding boost this year for its new West Ocean City headquarters from a state program that aims to attract donors to nonprofit projects.

Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) selected Diakonia to participate in its fiscal 2025 Community Investment Tax Credit program. People and businesses who donate at least \$500 to a nonprofit get a tax credit in the amount of their gift. The recipient then gets back twice that amount as an award, which must go toward a specific project.

It means Diakonia is slated for a \$50,000 award if they can secure \$25,000 in tax credits for this funding round. The award specifically funds Diakonia's long-planned campus project along Route 611 south of the Decatur Diner, part of a \$4.1 million project, according to executive director Ken Argot.

"It'll be a veteran's center with administrative offices, case management, as well as a larger thrift story. We're currently renting space for the administrative offices and thrift store

right now," he said.

This first phase of their campus project would include affordable rental units and a living facility where they can move people from emergency shelters to temporary housing. Residents could then get adjusted to paying a monthly rent, and then onto independent living, Argot said.

A new facility would provide more room to serve shelter clients and a much larger space to accommodate food donations. They'll save money, too, by not having to rent office space, Argot said.

More revenue could come from a larger store in the new location. Argot said about 10 percent of Diakonia's income is raised through its thrift store.

"Our hope is with the expansion of the thrift store, we can move that to 25 percent," he said. "The more we can get through a service industry like the thrift store, the less we have to beg for money. It'll allow us to provide more operational money for the program that we serve."

Founded in 1972, Diakonia now runs a shelter on Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City and has a separate thrift store and office space nearby on

See DIAKONIA Page 13



PHOTO COURTESY WCPS

#### RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN

At this week's meeting, recently re-elected members of the Worcester County Board of Education were administered the oath of office for their next terms. Pictured with Clerk of Court Susan Braniecki are Board members Donald C. Smack, Sr., Elena McComas and Jon Andes. At this week's meeting, Board President Todd Ferrante was nominated and motioned to remain as president for the next two years. Board member Bill Buchanan was also motioned to remain as vice president.

## Diakonia hopeful about project

Continued from Page 12 Route 611.

Land for the project was gifted by West Ocean City-based Blue Water Development. The real estate development and hospitality business donated \$150,000 to Diakonia in 2021 to pay off the loan on the property, which they bought in 2018. "At that point it became ours to start building, this project that we've been talking about forever," Argot said. "

Diakonia also participated in the same tax credit incentive program last year, and raised \$50,000 from that campaign. Argot said Diakonia still has another \$400,000 in preconstruction cost to raise for this phase of the project, which they hope to complete in the next two years.

Argot, who joined Diakonia in 2022 after 15 years with the Salvation Army, also said they still need to secure additional wastewater capacity for the second phase of the project, which has no timetable yet.

For this round of awards, which has a 24-month window, the state will give \$1.75 million in statewide tax credits for nonprofits involved in community and economic revitalization activities.

To date, the program has leveraged nearly \$27 million in charitable contributions to approximately 700 projects in Maryland, according to

DHCD.

The program helps nonprofit organizations to "build connections with the communities they serve on an everyday basis," said DHCD Secretary Jake Day in a statement. "This tax credit encourages residents and business owners to directly invest with local nonprofit partners to improve the places where they live and work."

Anyone who wishes to participate in the Community Investment Tax Credit program with a donation to Diakonia may contact Ken Argot at 410-213-0923 for the paperwork.





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# **Opinion**

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

## Wind: cloudy picture

When President Trump's executive orders came out yesterday, Ocean City and Worcester County officials, as well as parties on both sides of the offshore wind energy argument, asked, "What does this mean?"

That's about all anyone would conclude judging from the official responses from Ocean City and Worcester County governments on how the Wind Energy executive order might affect plans by US Wind to erect up to 114 wind turbines off Maryland's coast.

US Wind, which has almost everything it needs to begin construction, was equally guarded in its reply to similar inquiries.

The order says: "I hereby withdraw from disposition for wind energy leasing all areas within the Offshore Continental shelf (OCS) as defined in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands act, 43 U.S.C. 1331. This withdrawal shall go into effect beginning on January 21, 2025, and shall remain in effect until this Presidential Memorandum is revoked.

"Nothing in this withdrawal affects rights under existing leases in the withdrawn areas. With respect to such existing leases, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Attorney General as needed, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the ecological, economic, and environmental necessity of terminating or amending any existing wind energy leases, identifying any legal bases for such removal, and submit a report with recommendations to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy."

The order seems to be clear, but at the same time it is nonspecific and subject to interpretation.

US Wind has its leases and so would not be affected by the end to all leasing. But its status, along with its permits and approvals, are subject to review. That leaves room to argue that the possibility does exist that the Maryland projects could be shut down if a federal review of the permissions US Wind has received turned up some legal justification for hitting the off switch.

That circumstance leaves the public in pretty much the same place that local governments and US Wind have found themselves: cautiously waiting to see what it all means and whether anything will happen here.

## BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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## **Aquatics group planning for summer**

Committee meets to review off-season priorities for pools

**By Tara Fischer** Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Despite the ongoing winter weather in Ocean Pines, the community's aquatics advisory committee continues to meet, brainstorming ways to improve the neighborhood's five pools when the sun starts to heat up.

The group met on Thursday, Jan. 16, where Gary Miller, the committee's chair, reiterated priorities and initiatives the body is looking at this season. For instance, the steps at the Mumford's Landing and Yacht Club pools continue to be a slipping hazard.

Miller said that last year, his team suggested that the association leaders replace the metal ladders with less slick plastic or install non-slip tape. He maintained that pool personnel did take a ladder out, dried it off, put the tape on it, and put it back in the pool. Further work is required to ensure the material works properly.

"Apparently, there needs to be a curing plan for the tape, so we were told that that would be done over the winter," Miller said.

The chair added that he in-

tends to follow up with the aquatic advisory team's board liaison, OPA Board of Directors Vice President Rick Farr, to ensure that the task is on track for completion.

Miller also pointed to an ongoing issue at the Beach Club: non-pool members using the restrooms. Bathroom attendants and cameras have been implemented to remedy the problem, but the chair said that "none of that was working well." A swipe card was tossed out as a suggestion for restroom entry and providing access to the pool to mitigate lines.

Committee members mentioned that a physical card would not be needed. Residents could instead use the QR code they are given when purchasing their aquatics membership.

"We will work on that as an additional suggestion [to the board]," Miller said.

The committee chair again raised the possibility of holding an evening class at Mumford's Landing Pool despite the association's denial. Miller noted that before the COVID-19 pandemic, an aerobics class was held at 6 p.m. at Mumford's Landing, with an additional charge for participants to cover the cost of having a lifeguard on site.

Miller said that his group suggested bringing the after-

hours activity back but did not get much feedback from the board and staff, other than that OPA Aquatics Director Michelle Hitchens would not support the idea and that there were concerns regarding the cost.

The chair emphasized that the previous program garnered much interest and that the "fees more than paid for the lifeguard and instructor." He added that he believes the community should offer the class anyway, and if there is not enough response, cancel it before it incurs an expenditure for the community.

Others on the committee pointed out that people oftentimes opt to drop into these types of sessions rather than purchase the package because they are not sure they can make it to every single one. Instead, an analysis should be taken of the percentage of guests who are dropping in or signing up over a period of time, and that should be factored into evaluating the feasibility of the class

Miller also said he would ask the board liaison if there is any data on the Mumford's Landing class's profitability before the pandemic.

The OPA Aquatics Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, Feb. 13.

## Feedback sought on final bays draft

10-year update now available for review, public comments

(Jan. 23, 2025) Public comments are now being received on the final draft of a comprehensive master plan for the coastal bays watershed.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), along with all National Estuary Programs, is required by the EPA to develop and implement a 10-year Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) as the roadmap for success for the program and its partners. EPA requires the CCMP to be revised every 10 years to reflect changing conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

After two years of effort, thanks to the input from MCBP staff, collaborative partners and stakeholders, and the public, the final draft of the revised Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) is available for public review and comment.

The draft plan can be found on their website (https://mdcoastalbays.org/ccmp-draft-review/) It can be

reviewed on the website or download it to your computer.

Interested members of the public are being asked to review the draft document and provide individual comments - both general and specific to the program no later than Friday, Feb. 28. Specific comments should reference the page number, section and specific location in the text that is being addressed when providing feedback.

All comments should be sent as a Word attachment (preferred) or in the body of an email to Steve Farr at sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## **BERLIN MAIN STREET DONATION**

The Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club recently made a donation to Berlin Main Street. The club sponsored The Merry Marketplace during the holidays. Pictured, from left, are Cliff Berg, club co-chair Merry Marketplace; Ivy Wells, economic and community development director for Berlin; and Margaret Mudron, club co-chair Merry Marketplace. The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Don's Seafood, Ocean Pines South Gate.

# Library branch opens new artwork exhibits

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(Jan. 23, 2025) Artwork by two Worcester County Arts Council creators is now featured at the Berlin Library.

Patrons can view the pieces for free at the facility's second-floor exhibit until March 11. The items are also available for purchase.

Virginia Eastern Shore-based artist Margaret Bradach's work featured at the library includes acrylics, watercolors, and inks, while pieces by Richard Husband, a Pocomoke City resident, focus on oils, watercolors, and graphite drawings.

"Art is a communal thing," Bradach said. "It brings people together in a format that allows for sharing ideas and experiences. Over the years, I have interacted with viewers of my art, a dialogue of many subjects that my works of art instigated."

Bradach's work, viewable at the Berlin exhibit, boasts images of a "whimsical" carousel, animals, a local general store, an abstract, and two moon paintings, which she said are her favorites in the gallery collection. The artist said that she dabbles in an array of mediums, focusing on those best suited to capture a painting's subject rather than sticking to a few specialties. Her pieces at the library primarily include acrylic and watercolor works.

The painter said she ventured into the art scene following her retirement in Gargatha, Virginia, in 2007. During her career, Bradach acted as a teacher and social worker in New Jersey, and she completed her working life as a paralegal, all the while exposing herself to different artistic mediums. The Virginia resident said she was able to make creation her main focus once she settled into her post-career years.

Bradach maintained that she is "mostly self-taught," hav-See BERLIN Page 17

#### **OPEN HOUSES** 曲曲曲曲 Jan. 23 - Jan. 30 DAY/TIME **ADDRESS BR/BA STYLE PRICE AGENT/AGENCY** 1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+ Condos, Towns & SF Fri-Mon 11am-4pm Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate 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 Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm 12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC 2BR/2BA Single Family starting at \$284,750 Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community Saturday 10am-Noon 11603 Windward Drive, Unit A, Sea Mist, Ocean City 2BR/2BA Condo \$429,000 Katie Landon/Coldwell Banker Realty 424 Lark Lane #E303, Ocean City 2BR/1BA \$273,900 Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty Saturday 11am-1pm Condo 798 Ocean Parkway Ocean Pines 3BR/2.5BA Single Family \$399,900 Grace Masten/North Beach Realtors Saturday 11am-2pm Sunday Noon-2pm 261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines 4BR/4.5BA Single Family \$849,900 Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty Saturday 1-3pm 3A 63rd Street Unit 14, Lazy Whale, Ocean City 1BR/1BA Condo \$220,000 **Greg Nohe/Samson Properties** 5BR/6BA/2-Half BA Single Family Saturday 1:30-3:30pm 733 Bradley Road, Ocean City \$2,800,000 Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty 4BR/4.5BA Single Family Sunday 1:30-3:30pm 261 Charleston Road, Ocean Pines \$849,900 Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

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## **Puzzles**

#### I THINK KNOT BY JEFFREY MARTINOVIC / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jeffrey Martinovic is a mechanical-engineering student at Western University, in London, Ontario. He has been solving crosswords since he was 10, helping his mother with the puzzle in the local paper. He was fascinated by the seemingly impossible across-and-down interlocks. He started constructing puzzles in high school. "The idea for this one came to me when I was lying in bed one night unable to fall asleep," Jeffrey says. "I figured I may as well do something useful and let my mind wander."

#### ACROSS

- 1 "It's fine, I guess"
- 4 Dash follower
- 7 Source of some insomnia
- 12 Quick reads on the subway, perhaps
- 15 Filing pro
- 18 Treasure-seeking woodcutter of folklore
- 20 More in need of a massage
- 21 Group that works only for a few seconds at a time
- 23 H.S. club with student "diplomats"
- 24 In unison
- 25 [Oh, puh-lease!] 26 "To add on ..."
- creatures
- 28 Concocts 29 Buffalo's county
- 30 Feline
- 32 Needles
- 33 "The Situation Room" airer
- 35 Nicholas II was the last one
- 37 Measure of resistance 38 Cathedral feature
- 40 Disco fan on 'The Simpsons"
- 43 Some professions
- 45 Literary recommendations
- 48 Stick in a bathroom cabinet
- 49 Goofs
- 52 Like the glow of the last embers in a fire

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles nytimes.com/cn (\$39.95 a year).

- 53 Completely destroyed 107 The stuff of Persian 16 He was named Athlete
- 56 Doctoral hurdles 57 Double-
- (hypermobile, medically)
- 59 Gives an illegal assist 60 Produce and
- discharge
- 62 Some Korean smartphones
- 63 R&B singer Williams
- 65 Suffix with legal and official
- 66 Publican's offering
- 68 It's connected to the eustachian tube
- 69 Org. with four divisions: Atlantic, Central, Pacific and Metropolitan
- **70** Told (on)
- 74 Accepts a ring, in a
- 77 Court figure
- 79 Oxford institution, familiarly
- 81 Many apartments in a warehouse district
- 84 Lucky charms
- 86 Like a porcupine's back 87 Put in front of a fan
- 89 Person who likes to go solo
- 91 [I'm shocked!]
- 92 Like many video game characters 93 A long, long time
- 94 Even ... or like three pairs of answers in this puzzle
- 97 Some drinks and breads
- 98 Germs, on the
- playground 101 Enthusiastic
- response 104 Shots, for example

- myths?
- 111 101, 508-meter skyscraper that was once the world's tallest
- 112 Altoid alternatives
- 116 "Count me in!"
- 117 Goad
- 118 It might be rolled out in a studio
- 119 Archenemy of the Avengers
- 120 "No thanks"
- 121 U.S. president during the moon landing
- 122 Walker with the 2015 triple-platinum hit "Faded"

#### DOWN

- 1 Common first word
- 2 Big first name in American business
- 3 Devices worn by informants ... and what can be found inside three pairs of answers
- in this puzzle 4 Coin toss directive
- 5 Exploits, as power
- 6 Spanish hand
- 7 Sitting meditation pose
- 8 How an animal's length may be measured
- 9 Feature visible on a tree stump
- 10 Feelings
- 11 Lock
- 12 Did like
- 13 Ones unlikely to call the handyman, for short
- 15 Bit of embroidery ... or what's depicted literally three times

- of the Century by the I.O.C.
- 17 Hole punchers
- 19 Symbol of a downturn in the business world
- 22 House, slangily
- 30 French wine designation
- 31 Was ill with
- 33 Big letters in the pharmaceutical industry
- 34 Like a situation that can't end badly
- 36 Electrical unit
- 39 Tire reading, for short
- 41 Shiny festive décor
- 42 Co. that may have a package deal?
- 44 They watch from afar
- 46 West Coast airport code
- 47 Downed
- 48 Title bestowed annually in New Orleans
- 50 Photography inits.
- 51 "What's the
- 54 Grandma, endearingly
- 55 Result of a hit single, maybe 57 Ingredient in a
- certain "salad" 58 Do-or-die occasions
- 61 Self image?
- 64 Destinations for ambulances, for short

most famous film

- 67 Slippery sorts
- 68 Equestrian's command
- 14 Many-hit Wonder 71 Over
  - 72 Dog whose name was Terry before her in this puzzle
- 73 Station locations 74 Lightly burns
- 75 Hip bones

117

- 76 Blue tang fish of Pixar fame 77 Ecological
- portmanteau since 1905
- 78 Pull some strings, say? 80 Opera character
- whose name might be heard in an opera singer's warm-up
- 82 Country singer Keith 83 Heavy part of a platform shoe

112

118

113 114

- 84 Styled after 85 List of candidates
- 87 Muesli brand with mountains on the packaging
- 88 Rock and roll Paul of
- fame 90 Like some playful teasing
- 92 Very precise sort 95 Wound
- 99 Frequently dessert items

96 Slain king in

deconstructed

- 100 Mythological owner of an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir
  - 102 Foe of a Saxon
  - 103 "Hi" or "bye" on Kauai
    - 104 Imperial energy meas.

102

116

119

- 105 Grp. making after-work plans?
- 106 Baltic capital city 108 cava

108 109

- 109 English prep school with a shade of
- blue named after it 110 Cry for help
- 113 Tool used in many a sci-fi film
- 114 Burden
- 115 Part of a Latin trio



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## su|do|ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

**HARD - 2** 

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.

# MARKET

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## **Answers to last** week's puzzles

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



## **Berlin's library** hangs new work

Continued from Page 15

ing attended workshops, read books, and joined art groups to hone her skills and expand her knowledge of artistic methods and techniques. Much of her inspiration comes from the scenery of the Eastern Shore.

The environment on the Shore is so beautiful, I take my inspiration from it," she said. "The skies especially are dynamic, ever-changing, and so full of color. They motivate me to capture the soul of the Shore.'

According to the WCAC website, Bradach's paintings have been juried into shows in Virginia and Maryland. She has also been painting, making jewelry, and sculpting for about 15

"When someone stops to look at my work, I have connected with another human," Bradach said. "That connection is what means the most to me ... Art is a language I understand, and it is well spoken on the shore."

Work by Husband is also viewable at the Berlin Library exhibit.

Husband grew up in Oklahoma, moved around a bit, and settled in Colorado for 30 years before coming to Pocomoke City in 2015. During his career, the artist worked in information technology as a computer operator, programmer, and database designer. Husband said that he was first exposed to art as a child.

"Like so many others, I loved to draw as a kid," he said. "My Dad would draw planes for us, and I would be mesmerized. To see something real created with just a pencil was magic. Of course, I forgot all about that until I retired a few years ago. Then it became important for me to try to develop as an artist or regret that I never

Husband said much of his work includes drawings and sometimes paintings of his most admired actors and musicians. He is currently working on a drawing of singer-songwriter and actor Kris Kristofferson. The artist added that he likes to focus on graphite as his primary medium; however, most of his Berlin Library exhibit pieces are oil paintings with themes of vehicles and still life.

"I hope the people who look at my art will see ordinary objects as objects of art," Husband said.

The creations will remain in the gallery until March 11. The collections can be visited during the Berlin Library's business hours: from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Besides the library exhibit, local artwork is viewable at WCAC's gallery, located at 6 Jefferson Street. The facility is open on Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3

## **Obituaries**

Ocean Pines

Ruth Marilyn Duvall, age 92, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at The Macky and Pam Stansell

House in Ocean Pines.



**Ruth Duvall** 

Born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, she was the daughter of the late William Lewis Craig Helen Ruth (Samuel) Craig.

Ruth was a quickwitted, kind-hearted woman who fiercely

loved her family. Her smile, warmth and positivity were infectious. A graduate of Anacostia High School, she spent nine years working in Washington, DC, before dedicating herself fully to her family-a role she embraced with grace and devotion.

Ruth and her husband, Ed, were the heart and soul of their family. A true social butterfly, she treasured her time on 36th Street, surrounded by her beloved husband, family, and lifelong friends. Her sharp wit and endless love will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

She is survived by two daughters, Vicki Verbich (Ted), and Nola Duvall (Jack), three grandchildren, Lauren Martin (Josh), Teddy Verbich, and Jack Gibson-Duvall, and two greatgrandchildren, Isaac Martin, and Zoey

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar A. Duvall, and a brother, William Craig, Jr.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, with a viewing one hour prior. Interment will follow at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock.

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

## **ELLEN HENDERSON WENTZEL**

Ocean Pines

Ellen Henderson Wentzel, 88, of Ocean Pines, passed away on Dec. 25,

She is survived by her two children, Deborah Harriet Wentzel and Howard Thomas Wentzel Jr, and her two grandchildren, Emily Wentzel and Ryder Wentzel.

Originally from Pocomoke, Ellen received her RN at a young age and began working as a nurse in Arlington, Pa. where she met her husband, Howard Thomas Wentzel.

They moved to Huntington Beach, Calif. to raise their children before moving back to Maryland 38 years

While living in California, Ellen re-



ceived a Bachelor's degree and eventually became a nurse administrator. She loved sewing, knitting, and quilting and was a longtime member of Quilters by the Sea. Ellen was a beacon of

happiness, hope, and positivity. She inspired others to live their lives with care and cheer.

Ellen will be dearly missed by her family and all the friends she made throughout her life.

## **LORRAINE CROUSE**

Ocean City

With heavy heart we announce the passing of Lorraine Crouse, 87, on

Jan. 13, 2025. She was loved by



her family and friends and will be remembered for her love and passion for cooking and patronizing her favorite restaurants. She is survived by

her husband, David

Crouse; three daughters, Sharon Frisbee, Karen McMillan and Nicole Elliott; five grandchildren; her three brothers; and a sister.

A celebration of life will be planned in the spring.



**Bayside Gazette** Page 18 January 23, 2025

## **Snapshots**



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## **WORCESTER GRADUATES**

Thirty-six jail and correctional officers from Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Caroline and Talbot counties graduated in the 119th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy (ESCJA) operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury. Graduation exercises, which were held in Guerrieri Hall on the college campus, featured a commencement address by Monika Brittingham, assistant warden at the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI). Above, Worcester County officers, from left, were Damien Ward and Tyler Hunter of the Worcester County Jail and Detention Center, and Anna Hoffnagle and Jessica Lagas of the Ocean City Police Department.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## **ANGLER OF YEAR**

Secretary John McFalls, left, presented the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association (ACSA) Angler of the Year Award for 2024 to Brian Reynolds, who caught the biggest fish of most local species in both the ocean and bay.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SPECIAL OFFERING

Buckingham Presbyterian Church recently held a special offering to collect money for supplies and postage for Dress Ministry. Dress Ministry volunteers support the needy in the United States and abroad. The ministry is led by Director Barbara Entwistle. Pictured are Kelly and Steve Smith, Guatemala missionaries, who are aided by Dress Ministry donations. Pastor Mark Piedmonte assists with the effort.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## **NEW ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

At its Dec. 15 annual meeting, the South Point Association elected its officers for 2025. Pictured front, from left, are Diane Steiner, secretary; Rick Martelo, director; and Bob Rubenstein, vice president. Pictured back, from left, Eric Fiori, county commissioner vice president; Alex French, director; Michael LeCompte, president; and Brian Julian, treasurer.



## CLUB LEARNS ABOUT SNAKES

Ocean Pines resident Russell Lederman, known to some as the Snake Whisperer or Snake Wrangler, gave an interesting and informative presentation about local snakes to the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Russell often captures and relocates snakes, but not further than three to five miles from where they are caught. Lederman, left, is pictured with Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tom Southwell.



## **CRAFTER OF MONTH**

The Pine'eer Craft Club announced Janet Payot as its January Crafter of the Month. Payot, a longtime crafter, began working with fabric and yarn at age 9 when her mother helped her make her first skirt. Over the years, she developed a passion for counted cross-stitch, quilting, and knitting, which she describes as a comforting craft. A 23-year resident of Ocean Pines, she recently relocated to Berlin. Payot joined the Pine'eer Craft Club after her sister, also a member, encouraged her to showcase her creations at the Artisan Gift Shop. 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 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# 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. 23

## STORY TIME: LITTLE CRITTER

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. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **WINTER WONDERLAND STEAM**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Bring our creativity and craftiness and join for an afternoon of ice-tastic fun. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

## Fri., Jan. 24

#### **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

## MINDFULNESS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Using Mindfulness and Gestalt techniques, join psychotherapist, Bevin Jones, in exploring and embracing the different parts of self. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

## ARTSY HOMESCHOOLERS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Every 4th Friday, come to Snow Hill Brach for an art project that includes everything from painting, writing, crafting and more. For ages 6-18 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

## SWITCH PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Play with friends or against them in games like Mario Wonder, Smash Brothers, Mario Party and Mario Kart. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

## INAUGURATION OF THE ROMANIAN LIBRARY CORNER - OCEAN CITY LIBRARY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-4 p.m. More than 160 titles, the collection primarily includes books in Romanian, along with several bilingual editions. Light refreshments. Registration encouraged: https://forms.gle/uVgJPysP3EJinviE9.

#### **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-

## **Sat., Jan. 25**

## **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET**

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

#### **SQUISHMALLOW ART**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Choose your favorite squishmallow coloring sheet, trace it on a canvas and paint it. 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., Jan. 26

## **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. 27

## 26TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY BLOOD BANK DRIVE

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. 888-825-6638,

https://donate.bbd.org/donor/umc/vie w/2025\_ocean\_city\_blood\_drive.

## DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., a.m.-noon. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. Bring your own beverage. Baked goods provided. Cindy Dillon, Lower Eastern Shore Sierra Club, will discuss their work on environmental issues affecting our area.

#### **STORY TIME: 5 SENSES**

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

#### **FIBER ARTS**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Bring your own fiber art project (crochet, knitting, etc.) and join in for a casual meet up to work on projects. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Those newly diagnosed, in treatment or in remission are welcomed. Friends and family members are encouraged to participate. 410-641-2626

#### **MAGIC MONDAY**

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

#### BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 5 oplus 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. 28

## 26TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY BLOOD BANK DRIVE

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. 888-825-6638,

https://donate.bbd.org/donor/umc/vie w/2025\_ocean\_city\_blood\_drive.

## STORY TIME: DINOSAUR STOMP

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m.

Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **SENSORY STORY TIME**

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 0-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **OC KNITTING GROUP**

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

## **WINTER BIRDING 101**

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Jim Rapp from Delmarva Birding talks about our feathered friends during the cold season. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

#### **ARTSCAPE**

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 6 p.m. A casual meetup for artists of all levels to share techniques and explore different mediums. Basic painting and sketching supplies available for use or bring your own supplies. 410-957-0878

## **BEACH HEROES-OC**

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

## **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING**

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

#### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

## 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 Continued on Page 20

## **ABSOLUTE ONLINE AUCTION**

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www.CompassionPlace.org

## **Calendar**

Continued from Page 19 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. 29

## 26TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY BLOOD BANK DRIVE

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. 888-825-6638,

https://donate.bbd.org/donor/umc/vie w/2025\_ocean\_city\_blood\_drive.

#### **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

## **COOKING FOR BRAIN HEALTH**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m.
Learn how to create a delicious and nutritious dish using ingredients that promote brain health. Presented by the Worcester County Health Department. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

## THE ORIGINS OF CANDLEMAS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:30 p.m. Also held via Zoom. Candlemas marks the return of the light, initiations and the midpoint between winter and spring. Registration required for zoom only: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

## PAINT & SIP

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

#### **KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**

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

## **ONGOING EVENTS**

## BUS TRIP - WASHINGTON CAPITALS VS. EDMONTON OILERS

Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23, game time is 1 p.m. Depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$135 and includes ticket, transportation and food package (unlimited beer and wine for the first two periods of the game). No glass or alcohol allowed on bus. Tickets: 410-641-7052

## BUS TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Takes place at the Philadelphia Convention Center on March 1. Depart from the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. Featuring a day of stunning floral gardens, unique plants and artistic displays. Enjoy shopping, live music, entertainment and learning opportunities. Cost is \$80 and includes transportation and show ticket. Reservations: 410-641-7052.

## **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.

# Classified

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## Call 410-723-6397

by Monday 5 p.m.

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Classifieds 410-723-6397

## **ESTATE SALE**

## LARGE ESTATE SALE 10831 Griffin Road, Berlin, Maryland SAT. & SUN., Jan. 25th &

**26th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Queen bedroom suits, two twin bed sets, china cabinet, couch, ottoman and chair, riding lawn mower, above ground pool and shed contents.

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## SERVICE

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#### **AUCTIONS**

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

Units to be auctioned: B28-B47-BS7-019-029-0151-0164-0165-SI17-S173-S211-S523-SS24 Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are, household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paint-ings, antique and vintage

Date: Friday, January 31st, 2025 Time: 10:00 am

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

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

## MISC./OTHER

Many browns and greys, Naked trees and winter sun. All of us and Him. His love is warm and yellow, And dances with the shadows!

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