

BAYSIDE GAZETTE



FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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Phil Cropper and Nick Zlotorzynski were celebrated last week after receiving Maryland ProStart Teacher of the Year and Maryland ProStart Student of the Year, respectively. ProStart is a nationwide, two-year high school program that aims to develop future food service leaders.

Sheriff says ICE won't go into schools

Crisafulli assures parents they have nothing to fear

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) Anxiety over immigration crackdowns has found its way into Worcester County, but law enforcement has assured the public there are no plans to target local school children.

On Jan. 29, Worcester County Public Schools released a message to families in light of a US Department of Homeland Security order permitting certain immigration enforcement tactics.

To uphold the Trump administration's campaign promise of mass deportations, the DHS issued a directive on Jan. 20 that allows immigration officers to carry out enforcement tactics in "sensitive areas" such as schools and churches.

'Their primary focus is criminal enterprises, criminal gangs, and other criminally related behaviors.'

Sheriff
Matt Crisafulli

"Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest," a DHS spokesperson said in the department's Jan. 21 policy announcement.

The WCPS communication emphasized that because of the potential increase in this type of regulation, school officials will do their best to maintain a disruption-free learning environment.

"Last week, the Department of Homeland Security issued a directive allowing immigration enforcement actions to occur in sensitive areas, including schools and bus stops," the WCPS message said. A link was attached for recipients to see how the

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Pines Cafe pair earn state honors

Worcester Tech restaurant training ground produces teacher, student of year

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) The Pines Café can now accommodate more dine-in customers, as the Worcester Technical High School-operated shop has added chairs and tables in the space's waiting area.

Furthermore, the store's creator Phil Cropper and student apprentice

Nick Zlotorzynski were recently recognized for their dedication to culinary arts as the Maryland ProStart Teacher of the Year and Maryland ProStart Student of the Year, respectively.

The Pines Café sits between the main lobby and the pharmacy in building number one of the Ocean Pines TidalHealth Campus, near the community's North Gate Entrance. The store opened in September and offers baked goods, sandwiches, soups, and salads prepared by WTHS students to patients, medical staff,

and OPA residents.

The eatery is an interactive project created by Cropper, the head chef of the WTHS culinary and pastry arts program, to offer students real-life experience running a retail food business.

When the initiative kicked off last fall, the space included 12 seats for patrons who prefer to enjoy their breakfast or lunch as a dine-in experience.

The café has now increased that by three tables and eight seats to accom-

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Ocean Pines amenities receive upgrades, repairs

OPA adds new Beach Club walkway, fixes community center gym flooring, more

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) A new Beach Club walkway, a gym floor repair, and ongoing amenity and facility upgrades were the focus of the Ocean Pines Association's monthly general manager report at the community's January board of directors meeting.

OPA General Manager John Viola and his team updated Ocean Pines homeowners on the neighborhood's maintenance and initiative efforts at the community's regularly scheduled board of directors meeting last month. OPA staff look to improve the area's conditions ahead of the upcoming bustling summer season.

According to the OPA leadership, a walkway around the Ocean Pines-owned and Ocean City-located Beach Club was recently replaced. The path, previously constructed from wood, was remade with concrete to address drainage and safety concerns. An outside contractor completed the project for a total of \$4,500.

"Up at the Beach Club this past year, we had a situation where somebody fell," Viola said. "The boards during the season started to buckle a little bit at the bottom of the stairs, so instead of just replacing them with wood like we have done in the past, we went with concrete. I think we got a really good cost on it."

A gym-floor separation at the Ocean Pines Community Center was also recently repaired. Viola said the OPA recreation department reviewed the surface's health and reported a split. The general manager maintained that this type of work is typically an annual occurrence and that it was taken care of in-house by the neighborhood's public works team.

"That floor is a floating floor in the gym," Viola said. "It does separate. It's an easy fix ... we have it on routine

maintenance, and outside of that, I believe the floor is okay."

Community leadership updated residents on ongoing initiatives at the January meeting. Six personal watercraft (PWC) slips, for instance, were approved for the Swim and Racquet Club, with insertion planned for May 1. The total cost of the project, including materials and installation, is around \$20,000, but Viola said that he believes the rental income generated from the new slips will quickly make that money back.

"To enhance the opportunities here for different amenities, we are going to put in six floating slips at the Swim and Racquet Club," Viola said. "It should be in by the beginning of the season."

The general manager also provided status updates for more long-term, continuous projects and facility upgrades.

The improvement to the racquet sports building was reported as a "green" initiative. While the work, which will primarily include renovations to the restrooms and the pro shop, was delayed due to unexpected snowstorms, it was reported as set to finally begin on Jan. 27. The Laurel, Del.-based Whayland Company is handling the enhancement project.

Viola added that the work will also see an "extension of the building, a couple of feet on each side."

Viola said the initiative to construct a new firehouse on the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department's current South Station property is in the preliminary planning stages, as expected, and that come March, April, and May, OPA leadership and the fire team will be able to provide more frequent and in-depth updates.

In July, the OPVFD and the OPA Board of Directors signed a contract outlining each party's responsibilities in improving the community's current South Station, located at 911 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines. Per the agreement, "OPA shall manage the construction on the South Station Property of a

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To improve safety, the Ocean Pines Association replaced a wood walkway around the community's Ocean City-located Beach Club with concrete ahead of the upcoming summer season.

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Berlin Fire Company continues recruitment

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) To address a people shortage, the Berlin Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services plan to prioritize volunteer recruitment and retention throughout next year.

During the Berlin Town Council's Monday, Jan. 27 meeting, the Berlin Fire Company representatives presented a regular update to the governing group. The presentation revealed that a primary concern for the department is successful recruitment.

"It's hard to recruit volunteers and careers," Chief Andrew Grunden said. "On the career side, finding paramedics ... if we knew where that pot was, we would go."

Grunden added that the company has found securing volunteers has

also proven challenging.

"Volunteering right now is hard," the chief noted. "A lot of us have training when we come in, so getting somebody off the street, telling them, 'Hey, you have six months of training to do,' stuff like that. We're trying to butter that bread and making us more appealing."

Grunden asked that the Town of Berlin offer their own aid to these recruitment efforts. He emphasized that if the department is doing something that could be considered interesting or exciting, Berlin officials put a positive spin on it and get it out to the public.

"As we go forward and try to recruit, recruit, recruit, anytime you see us out there doing something, saying, 'Hey, doesn't that look neat?' 'Don't you want to do that?' Help us out,"

the chief said. "Money is always a thing; resources are always a thing. Everything is getting more expensive by the day. Apparatus especially, so... we will be back for me. For me, the single most important thing right now is people and getting them in."

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall asked if the department has a link or a page on its website that is easily accessible to potential recruits.

Grunden said they do but are looking to enhance it, as no one in the company "speaks fluent Gen Z."

Tyndall said that if the emergency services group creates a link that could take those interested in joining the department to an application or a learn more page, town officials would happily include it in the monthly bulletin. The mayor added that the attachment could also be posted to the

town's get involved page for boards, commissions, and committees.

The emergency services group mentioned that their cadet program is currently "okay."

"We have a couple of new ones coming in," Grunden said. "We have some active ones as it is."

The chief added that they are attempting to encourage recruitment through their young members.

"We are trying to get them to cultivate [recruitment] amongst themselves," Grunden said. "You go out and talk to your friends.' If I go out and talk to a teenage kid, it doesn't translate. But they can speak their own language and push that along... Once that fuse is lit, we can generally use the inertia to start grabbing more and more."

The representatives noted that a few students from Stephen Decatur High School are preparing to enter the cadet program.

Councilmember Shaneka Nichols noted that a possible hook to encourage more kids to get involved is to communicate that a high school student could easily rack up 200 or 300 service hours as a cadet. She emphasized that current teenagers are committed to earning honors like the Presidential Service Award for accu-

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Sheriff reassures school parents about ICE

Continued from Page 1
schools are “supporting students and their families.”

Part of the communication was the “Immigration and Resources Support” page on the WCPS’s official website, featuring key immigration facts, including a note that, per federal law, all children are entitled to a K-12 education and college counseling services regardless of citizenship or residency status.

The website adds that without parental consent, schools are prohibited from offering information from a student’s file to federal immigration agents “unless they have a subpoena.”

Despite the school system’s efforts to provide these services to families potentially affected by the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement efforts, Worcester County

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli said ICE will likely not be targeting county children.

“My office is in receipt of the Department of Homeland Security’s directives,” Crisafulli said. “I spoke directly with the Assistant Director for ICE, on two separate occasions ... They will not be targeting bus stops or schools. Their primary focus is criminal enterprises, criminal gangs, and other criminally related behaviors.”

He added, “The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is fully committed to upholding the rule of law,” and that the local deputies intend to work collaboratively with all federal law enforcement agencies that may operate in the county at any point.

School administrators were instructed on what to do should a state or federal agency representative unex-

pectedly stop by a Worcester County school.

“When visitors arrive at the school, the school principal or assistant principal will greet them and ask them to join them in an office or conference area and seek to learn the reason for the visit,” the WCPS’ immigration webpage says.

“At that time, the school administrator will contact the designated leadership contact at the Worcester County Board of Education for further guidance. Families will be contacted in case of such an inquiry or occurrence.”

Additional guidelines and resources are offered on the WCPS website to families that an increase in immigration enforcement could potentially affect. Materials created by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center are linked, such as the “Know Your Rights Handout” that provides details on the best way to create a family preparedness plan and the necessary documents — green cards and work visas — that should be carried at all times. The form notes that country of origin documents and any false identification or immigration documents should not be carried.

Additionally, the WCPS website lists community organizations that support immigrant families.

Lower Shore CASA, a non-profit providing legal services such as asylum and citizenship application aid to economically disadvantaged Maryland Immigrants, is included, as are the Immigrant and Refugee Outreach Center and the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees. The Princess Anne-located Seton Center was also added to the collection of resources.

The Seton Center “works to identify and respond to the needs of local residents, the Hispanic community, and the area’s migrant farm workers,” the school system’s website says. “As a gateway to the many programs and services of Catholic Charities, the center welcomes families who are vulnerable and in crisis.”

Crisafulli said that he has asked ICE officials to let his office know when they plan to enter Worcester County

for any immigration-related activities and that “it is imperative that all partners communicate effectively to ensure that all law enforcement matters are being handled efficiently.”

“Our office has not been made aware of how frequently immigration enforcement initiatives will take place in Worcester County,” the sheriff continued. “Our primary mission remains clear: To ensure the safety and security of all residents of Worcester County.”

In an email response, Carrie Sterrs, the school system’s public relations coordinator, added, “In regard to the Jan. 21 directive from the Department of Homeland Security regarding immigration actions, Worcester County Public Schools and the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office are committed to continued communication and collaboration in support of students and families.”

A White House spokesperson said last week, no ICE raids have occurred in schools and that, “By ending the absurd policy of exempting many locations from enforcement of the law — and giving criminal illegal aliens places to hide and avoid arrest — this action empowers the brave men and women in CBP and ICE to enforce our immigration laws and make our country safer; it is NOT a directive to go into schools and churches.”

The representative added that “secondary supervisor approval is also needed before any action can be taken in locations such as a church or school” and that they expect these situations to be “extremely rare.”

Since the immigration enforcement directive, the advocacy group, the National Immigration Law Center, has created a fact sheet with information about ICE and schools.

Now that the language on the protection status of these “sensitive” locations has been rescinded, at-risk individuals can look to the Fourth Amendment. The NILC website says the Fourth Amendment safeguards spaces where people have a “reasonable expectation of privacy.”

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Warrant needed for some areas

Continued from Page 6

Areas like lobbies and parking lots are considered public. Interior areas and those labeled with a sign as "private" are considered private.

"For immigration enforcement to search or enter a private area within a formerly protected area, the Fourth Amendment requires a valid judicial warrant signed by a federal judge unless staff at those areas consent to the search," the NILC factsheet explains.

"If ICE agents enter a formerly protected area—either a public area or by gaining access to a private area through a warrant or consent—they can arrest people if they have a valid administrative warrant for that person or if they have probable cause to believe that the person is 'removable' from the United States," the immigration support website continues.

An individual is considered "removable" if they do not have current lawful status to be in the county or have engaged in violent actions, such as involvement in the criminal legal system.

In this case, ICE would have the authority to proceed with deportation efforts. NILC maintains that probable cause can be obtained via "questioning of individuals who disclose their immigration status or documentation that indicates they are noncitizens" and attempting to run from ICE offi-

cers, which is why the Fifth Amendment, the right to remain silent, is vital for those that may find themselves in these situations. More information about the WCPS' support efforts for immigrant families in the area can be found at <https://www.worcesterk12.org/page/immigration-supports>.

BFC continuing volunteer effort

Continued from Page 4

mulating 100 or 200 volunteer hours.

"I know the big thing with kids in middle and high school right now, a lot of them are really service driven," Nichols said. "Pushing that aspect of it to these high schoolers, and even pushing that as young as the eighth grade. This group right now wants to be a part of something service-related and rack up their service hours, so that may be a great avenue to sway them in your way."

Tyndall added that another effective way to encourage involvement is to have a booth at the Berlin Farmers Market during the season to remind the community of the Berlin Fire Company's presence.

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Pines Cafe almost doubles size of its dining room area

Continued from Page 1

modate more customers.

“It almost doubles the size of our dining room area,” Cropper said.

The new seating options expand into the TidalHealth waiting space. Natural plants were assembled to create a “green wall” around the recently added tables and chairs, dividing the waiting and dining areas.

“It gives people a little bit of privacy and doesn’t make you feel like you’re having lunch in a waiting room,” Cropper noted. “It’s aesthetically pleasing, and it brings a little life with all the nice plants and just adds to the whole experience.”

Before the addition, the chef said patrons would stand in the café, waiting for others to vacate the tables.

The expansion now provides customers with more dine-in availability. Cropper added that the community had received the changes well and that the establishment was filled up on Monday.

As a testament to the success of the Pines Café, Cropper and his student, Zlotorzynski, were notified earlier this week that the Restaurant Association of Maryland had recognized them both for their dedication to the culinary arts. Cropper was named the Maryland ProStart Teacher of the Year, and Zlotorzynski was honored with the Maryland ProStart Student of the Year award.

Maryland ProStart is a program managed by the Restaurant Association of Maryland and is a two-year high school curriculum “designed to merge classroom learning with real-world industry experience,” says the Worcester County Public School press release. “Currently, over 4,000 students across nearly 80 Maryland high schools benefit from this program, which equips them with essential culinary and management skills for success in the foodservice industry.”

Cropper said he is primarily excited for Zlotorzynski, his student

apprentice, to receive the award.

“He’s a sweet kid; he really deserves it,” the chef said. “Something like this can really shape someone young’s future and what they want to do.”

Cropper added that he believes Zlotorzynski received the award because of his work with the Pines Café.

“He played such a big part in the initial, behind-the-scenes planning,” the educator said. “It was his culinary class where we got the idea [for the café] and started talking about it. [Zlotorzynski] was part of the planning process. And then for him to go full speed and turn into the first apprentice, the first main hire, and the main student intern at the café, it really brought him out of his shell and gave him a sense of ownership and confidence.”

Cropper said he wrote an essay about his student, nominating him for the award. The essay detailed Zlotorzynski’s work as a young culinary learner and expressed the strength of his character. Cropper is unsure how and why he himself was in the running for the teacher of the year recognition but surmised a lot of it had to do with the startup of the Pines Café.

According to the culinary program head, he found out about the award on Monday, Jan. 27, when he showed up for a staff meeting and was met with the Maryland ProStart colors, green and blue, in decorations splashed throughout the WTHS lobby. When he saw the two trophies, he knew that he and Zlotorzynski were both this year’s teacher and student of the year winners.

The pair will be honored at the Restaurant Association of Maryland’s 2025 gala on Sunday, March 2, at the convention center in Ocean City.

Zlotorzynski will pull the winning ticket for the organization’s car raffle to raise money for education.

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PHOTO COURTESY ERIK DOWELL

Ocean Pines is pictured in an elevated perspective in early January when about seven inches of snow fell over the region.

Recent snowfall blows Pines budget

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) Last month's snowstorms had a fiscal impact on Ocean Pines, surpassing the budgeted snow removal costs by 170%.

During last weekend's meeting, Ocean Pines Association Director of Business Administration Linda Martin briefly mentioned the snowstorms and the community's efforts to make

the parkway and back roads as safe as possible for drivers and walkers.

For the first time in several years, Martin said the association surpassed the \$10,000 allocated for snow removal.

The current price tag has reached over \$27,000 from labor, overtime, mailbox pad clearing and road salting costs.

"Don't think that the efforts of

your snow removal group and everything that you did went unnoticed," OPA Board of Directors President Stuart Lakernick said, addressing Martin. "It was a Herculean task on a monumental scale, this last snow. I just wanted to let you know that we feel your team did an incredible job."

"Public works was working hard," the business administration director added. "It was a team effort."

Viola details fire station project

Continued from Page 3
newly constructed firehouse to be utilized exclusively by the Department ... The firehouse shall be constructed to meet industry standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Association and all State and local regulatory requirements."

The OPVFD will choose the building's design, interior dimensions, layout, color schemes, and furniture and submit them for approval by OPA. Upon the project's completion, the department will pay all property taxes and maintenance associated with the South Station property and its upgrades.

The contract also breaks down the initiative's funding by the fire department and OPA. The agreement determines that the fire company will use "grant and bond funds previously secured toward the project's construction cost. The department shall also utilize funds raised through charitable fundraising efforts or otherwise available for the Department for the project."

Ocean Pines will be responsible for the remaining costs, "subject to OPA having exclusive control over the ultimate cost and scope of the project, as well as management after that."

While the project is still in its initial phase, Ocean Pines and the OPVFD look forward to the enhancement work.

"So far so good," Viola said. "I'm excited about it."

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Zoning change will allow OP to install more digital signs

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) Ocean Pines will get two more electronic signs installed at the entrance to the community after successfully petitioning Worcester County leaders for a tweak to zoning rules.

“They’re not meant to do advertising or be flashy. It’s really just to provide information to our community,” Elaine Brady, a member of the Ocean Pines Association (OPA) Board of Directors, told the County Commissioners at their Jan. 21 meeting.

The commissioners unanimously granted OPA’s request for a text amendment to the county’s zoning code, the result of which grants permission for the electronic monument-style signs to be added to a commercial zoning district.

It means Ocean Pines will see two more monochromatic electronic signs added, at Manklin Creek Road and Cathell Road. The community already had one electronic sign at its North Gate entrance, Brady said.

Brady said the OPA had been focused on community beautification and wanted to reduce the visual clutter along Ocean Parkway. To that end, the OPA had already removed more than

80 directional signs, she said, and wanted to replace a dozen informational signs with the electronic ones.

Brady said OPA will be removing all signage that is not required on Ocean Parkway, which she said were distracting to walkers and bicyclists. It’s “for safety reasons as much as getting rid of the clutter,” she said.

Worcester County’s zoning code allows only one electronic messaging sign per lot or parcel, according to Jennifer Keener, the county’s director of Development Review and Permitting.

The OPA was looking for an exception to that rule, and Brady noted that two of the signs would be well over 1,000 feet apart. The minimum distance by code for signs is 100 feet apart.

The discussion on signage goes back to 2020. The county and the Ocean Pines Association eventually concluded that a text amendment was needed to accommodate the desired sign placement, Keener wrote in a Nov. 12 internal memo to county staff.

Some members of the county’s zoning staff expressed some concern that more than one electronic sign was not necessary, the memo said, and could potentially open the door for more commercial businesses to request electronic signs.

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WCPS to discuss Blueprint compliance at input sessions

By **Tara Fischer**
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) The Worcester County Board of Education will welcome members of the public-school community to information and input sessions to learn more about the system's progress toward compliance with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a statewide plan to improve the quality of education.

On Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m., Chief Academic Officers Denise Shorts and Annette Wallace will be present at the Board of Education office to discuss Worcester County Public Schools' progress toward Pillar One (early childhood education) and Pillar Three (college and career readiness) of the Blueprint.

The following month, on March 12, also at 5:30 p.m., Chief Operations and Human Relations Officer Dwayne Abt and Coordinator of Student Health Services Lauren Williams will share ef-

forts towards Pillar Two (high quality and diverse teachers and leaders) and Pillar Four (resources for students to be successful).

Both sessions will be offered in person at the Worcester County Board of Education Office and live-streamed and recorded on the school system's YouTube page.

In discussing the first session on Feb. 19, WCPS's event announcement said, "[Shorts will share] how WCPS' continued investment in pre-kindergarten programs and building partnerships with local childcare providers shape implementation efforts. [Wallace will present] the varying pathways WCPS has implemented and/or expanded for students to demonstrate College and Career Readiness."

To be compliant with Pillar One (early childhood education), a school system must prioritize the expansion of early education opportunities that

See MEETINGS Page 14

Exhibit features area students

(Feb. 6, 2025) The Worcester County Arts Council has announced a special exhibit throughout February, showcasing remarkable artwork created by local high school students as part of the annual art competition sponsored by the Berlin/Ocean City Optimist Club.

This competition aims to inspire and celebrate the creative talents of Worcester County students while highlighting the importance of quality art education programs.

The competition offers an impressive \$2,000 in cash prizes for the participating student artists. Esteemed artist and art educator Lisa Marie Penn will serve as the judge for this

year's entries.

A reception and awards ceremony will be held on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m., with ribbons and monetary prizes presentation at 6 p.m. The event, open to the public, will take place at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery located at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

Visitors to the exhibit will also have a chance to participate by voting for the "People's Choice" award. Voting will run from Feb. 4 through Feb. 13.

The exhibit will be on display at the Worcester County Arts Council Gallery through Feb. 28. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Opinion

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

Schools, or sheriff? They're both right

In the absence of data on the illegal immigrant population, if any, in Worcester County, the public might wonder whether public school Superintendent Lou Taylor or county Sheriff Matt Crisafulli was right to assure parents of their children's safety considering the federal government's aggressive deportation program.

On one hand, Taylor reassured parents that protocols are in place to protect children in the event of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid on local schools. Sheriff Crisafulli then seemed to counter that assertion by stating that ICE has no intention of going inside schools in search of illegal immigrant students.

These two public announcements would seem to conflict, leading parties who are following this issue to wonder which of these two institutions, the board of education or the sheriff's office, is right.

Both are correct, given what little information is available, as both seek to allay any fears that federal agents will be turning up in the classroom.

From the school board's perspective, the situation is so uncertain these days that coming out with a statement to ease concerns is hardly out of place.

The same rationale applies to Sheriff Crisafulli's response. If he has been advised by ICE authorities that the agency has no intention of targeting school bus stops or the schools themselves, that's just as important for the public to know.

The greater problem is that given the dearth of information on illegal immigrants, or the American-born children of illegal immigrants, in this county, no one really knows much of anything and are therefore susceptible to opinions, speculation and rumors.

Because of that, these anxiety-reducing efforts seem to agree that regardless of what anyone thinks, when it comes to schools, the kids are alright.

Letters

Police need tools to do their jobs

Editor,

An ill-conceived bill making its way through the Maryland General Assembly will further restrict law enforcement officials throughout the state from doing their jobs in order to advance progressive objectives aimed at condemning police officers as a societal threat.

Senate Bill 292 sponsored by Senator Charles Sydnor III (D - Baltimore County) reclassifies multiple primary traffic violations, for which police can pull a driver over, to secondary violations. Included in this category are driving without functioning headlights or taillights, driving without a mirror, window tint, throwing litter from a car and failure to illuminate a license plate among other violations.

Under the bill, citations can be written for these violations but only as secondary offenses. Officers would be required to stop vehicles for other, primary, reasons.

So, who is responsible if a car without functioning headlights, ignored by police, causes a fatal accident? How about a situation where a road officer makes a traffic stop and is unable to see inside the vehicle because the windows are too dark? What if the driver, hidden behind very dark tinted windows, has a weapon aimed at the officer walking alongside the vehicle? And, what if, heaven forbid, the officer is shot as a result? Will the supporters of this bill, should it become law, be held accountable?

This is yet another attempt by Annapolis lawmakers to take away law enforcement tools necessary

to protect our communities.

The mindset of individuals attempting to water down the effectiveness of sworn officers working to protect and serve our communities is as frustrating to law enforcement as it is dangerous to the citizens they are sworn to serve.

Admittedly law enforcement has a responsibility to labor without malice toward any individual or group. But just as important is the responsibility of citizens to obey the law, a concept that some people fail to appreciate and accept.

This is a bad bill that's wasting the time of Annapolis legislators who have much more important issues to resolve for the people of this state. The multi-billion deficit comes to mind.

*Chip Bertino
Worcester County
Commissioner*

Meetings scheduled for Feb., March

Continued from Page 12

"prepare all children for school and success," the Maryland State Department of Education's website says, as a child's early years are "the most critical period for brain development and set the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement."

Pillar Three emphasizes college and career readiness (CCR). According to MSDE, the Blueprint's mission is to have all students meet the CCR standard upon the completion of their sophomore year of high school and aims to develop support pathways for CCR to help students achieve this goal.

The Blueprint outlines that Pillar Three's priority is to "develop a Career and Technical Education (CTE) system that is aligned with industry's needs and ensures that prekindergarten through 12th-grade curriculum, standards, and assessments are all aligned with the new CCR standard."

WCPS community mem-

bers will have the opportunity to attend a second information session on March 12, where they will hear more about the school system's progress towards Pillar Two (high quality and diverse teachers and leaders), and Pillar Four (resources for students to be successful).

"[Abt will share] how WCPS is working to implement a career ladder, make progress toward increasing starting teacher salaries, and enhancing Grow Our Own programs to build a pipeline of up-and-coming educators," the school system wrote. "[Williams will present] how WCPS is strengthening wraparound services for students, building Community Schools with targeted support, and ensuring learners with specialized needs are supported."

Pillar Two (high quality and diverse teachers and leaders) seeks to elevate the teaching profession's status by implementing a career ladder and competitive salaries. This

goal's stipulations include raising starting pay to \$60,000 and offering incentives for National Board-Certified teachers up to \$17,000. The expectations for educator preparation, induction, and mentoring programs must also be enhanced to recruit and retain high-quality teachers.

Resources for Students to be Successful is the Blueprint's Pillar Four. This aspect of the educational improvement plan "focuses on equity and closing deeply entrenched opportunity and achievement gaps to ensure that all students, from advanced learners to those who are struggling and have been historically underserved, receive the necessary support in order to reach their full potential," MSDE's website says.

Members of the WCPS community can learn more on Wednesday, Feb. 19, and Wednesday, March 12, by tuning in virtually or in person at the Worcester County Board of Education Office at 5:30 p.m.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Adkins supply business back in operation

By Brian Shane
Staff Writer

(Feb. 6, 2025) A devastating fire gutted one of Berlin's oldest businesses early Jan. 29, The Adkins Company hardware store and lumber yard on Harrison Avenue. The cause of the fire is unknown and remains under investigation. Nobody was hurt.

Fourth-generation owner Rick Holland lives around the fire from his business. He said the fire alarm woke him at 2:30 a.m. He arrived in a panic just eight minutes later to find the hardware store fully engulfed in flames.

"Once I was in the car and made the turn, I could see the orange glow and see the smoke. For once, it wasn't a false alarm," he said. "It's pretty much a total loss."

The fire originated near the sales counter, and the blaze eventually led to a collapse of the second floor and roof, according to the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office.

Responding fire companies included crews from Ocean Pines, Showell, Bishopville, Ocean City, Newark, Snow Hill, Powellville, and Willards. They contained the flames to their point of origin, and brought the two-alarm fire under control within an hour. Some firefighters remained on the scene for several hours

more.

Holland said it was the first-ever fire on the site of his family's 117-year-old business.

With the help of a rental trailer, Holland said the lumber yard will be back open this week, but hardware sales will be out of commission for some time. The store employs 11 people, and nobody will lose their job, he added.

Royal Plus disaster teams were on the property most of this week assisting in cleanup and securing the property. Employees were seen helping lumber customers with their needs throughout the week with makeshift accommodations.

Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall shared a photo of the fire on his Facebook page, stating, "It is a sad day in the Town of Berlin. The Adkins Company was founded in 1908 and is one of the longest-running businesses in our community. Thank you to the Berlin Fire Company and all of the neighboring departments who came in to help this morning. Please keep the Holland family and their employees in your thoughts and prayers."

Hours later on Jan. 29, the BFC was in again called into action for an outside fire just outside Berlin on Bass Lane. According to the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office,



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Damage to the retail area of The Adkins Company is pictured in Berlin last week. Over the last several days, the building has been secured while employees continue to meet customer needs.

crews arrived on the scene to find an outside fire that had extended into a box trailer and a two-car garage, resulting in the call being upgraded to a structure fire.

The fire marshal's office released said, "Fire units from Ocean Pines, Showell, Bishopville, Ocean City, Newark, Powellville, and Willards responded to assist with fireground operations. The Maryland Forestry

Service also responded to assist. The fire quickly contained and brought under-control. Fire units remained on the scene for approximately two hours. Deputies from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office determined the fire was caused by a homeowner burning a pile of debris which quickly got out of control. The high winds and low humidity also added to the quick spread of the fire."

OPEN HOUSES

Feb. 6 - 13



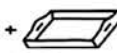
DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
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 10-11:30am	424 Lark Lane #E303 Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$273,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	8 60th St. Unit 502, Meridian Ocean City	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$929,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	702 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines	6BR/4BA	Single Family	\$529,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	711 Mooring Road #5, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$495,000	Eileen Bumba/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	19 High Sheriff Trail, Berlin	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$524,888	Debbie Hileman/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday Noon-2pm	7709 Scotts Landing Road, Snow Hill	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$709,000	Debbie Bennington/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday Noon-3pm	5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	109 Caroline St #106, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$299,000	Team Bouse House/ReMax Advantage Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	189 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$352,000	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Sunday 11am-2pm	5603 Atlantic Ave., Unit 301, Ocean City	3BR/3.5 BA	Condo	\$1,499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty

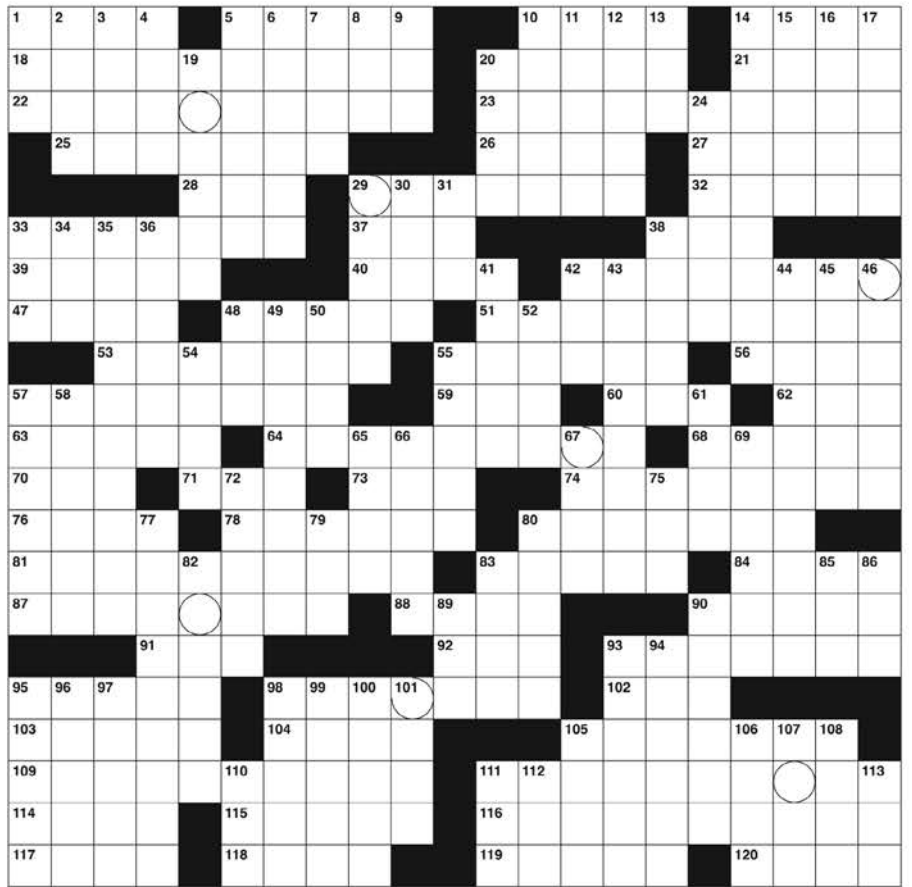
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Puzzles

LETTER OPENERS BY RICH PROULX / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rich Proulx (pronounced "proo") of Berkeley, Calif., works for the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S.D.A. This is his ninth crossword for The Times since 2017, and his first Sunday. For this puzzle, he originally wanted the images to appear in circles in the grid, but those proved too small to make out. So he revamped the puzzle and placed them in the clues instead. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The weekend is almost here!"
 - 5 Pioneers of freeze-drying food
 - 10 Share from an illicit endeavor
 - 14 Polite term of address
 - 18 Lifted one's spirits?
 - 20 Riveting persona of W.W. II
 - 21 Frozen treat with a domed lid
 - 22 See 19-Down
 - 23 Place for a white picket fence and a mom-and-pop shop
 - 25 Aid for using Bluetooth
 - 26 Startle
 - 27 Flirt with
 - 28 Feel bad
 - 29 See 29-Down
 - 32 Highly capable
 - 33 Passion
 - 37 Water feature created by rising sea levels
 - 38 STEM part: Abbr.
 - 39 Sierra _____
 - 40 "What are the _____?"
 - 42 See 46-Down
 - 47 Awkward people to butt-dial, perhaps
 - 48 Circuit board device
 - 51 Vast, as an operation
 - 53 _____ Collins, author of "The Hunger Games"
 - 55 Helen of "The Queen"
- DOWN**
- 56 Futon component
 - 57 Was transfixed by, in a way
 - 59 Glass _____, spaghetti-like fish
 - 60 Give a darn?
 - 62 French aperitif
 - 63 Weapon with wires
 - 64 See 67-Down
 - 68 Justice Kagan
 - 70 Natural feature between México y Texas
 - 71 _____ Kosh B'gosh
 - 73 TV journalist Navarro
 - 74 Annual observance for breast cancer awareness
 - 76 Knee parts, in brief
 - 78 Auto mechanic's tool
 - 80 War room briefings, in military shorthand
 - 81 Gold Medal offering
 - 83 "Au contraire!"
 - 84 Cause of puddles in early spring, say
 - 87 See 82-Down
 - 88 Go a little one way or the other
 - 90 Gordon _____, engineer with a "law" predicting a doubling of transistors on microchips every two years
 - 91 Record label for the Backstreet Boys
 - 92 Tech company exec, for short
 - 93 In a corner
 - 95 Cause of some sleep issues
 - 98 See 101-Down
 - 102 "Ten-_____!"
 - 103 Show listlessness
 - 104 "See above," in footnotes
 - 105 Got online, say
 - 109 "Conclave" actress Isabella
 - 111 See 107-Down
 - 114 Saber alternative
 - 115 Worst time for a double fault
 - 116 Approaches furtively
 - 117 "Over here!"
 - 118 Hydroelectric projects
 - 119 "White & _____" (2006 Weird Al Yankovic parody)
 - 120 Structure that's set on fire
- ACROSS**
- 15 Sharp
 - 16 "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" author
 - 17 Intended
 - 19 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
 - 20 Kashmiri king
 - 24 Offs
 - 29 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
 - 30 Number two
 - 31 Bit
 - 33 Public house offering
 - 34 White House dog of the 1980s
 - 35 Helps, informally
 - 36 Guarantee
 - 38 Part of an act
 - 41 More crafty
 - 42 [Shivers]
 - 43 Visible signs of maturity
 - 44 Got down to business, in a way
 - 45 _____ Urquhart, co-host of the podcast "Morbid"
 - 46 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
 - 48 Many a school chaperone
 - 49 Later
 - 50 Cognizant of
 - 52 Folk singer Guthrie
 - 54 Diddly-squat
 - 55 Hip-hop's _____ Thee Stallion
 - 57 They're for suckers
 - 58 Meditative martial art
 - 61 Common word with or without an apostrophe
 - 65 Meaty pasta sauce
- DOWN**
- 1 Network owned by Showtime
 - 2 Mighty wind
 - 3 One might start as a seed
 - 4 "Have no _____ of perfection — you'll never reach it": Salvador Dali
 - 5 Just like *that!*
 - 6 Without regard to privacy
 - 7 Temporary residence
 - 8 Largest public sch. in the U.S., by enrollment
 - 9 P.S.T. part: Abbr.
 - 10 So far
 - 11 Safe harbors
 - 12 Poker pot
 - 13 Fair-hiring letters
 - 14 Storage devices made obsolete by MP3 players



- 66 Ridge in metalworking
- 67 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
- 69 Office folder?
- 72 Vowel sound in "father"
- 75 Dude
- 77 Audiophile's system
- 79 Cut (off)
- 80 What "fitz-" or "-ovic" means, in names
- 82 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
- 83 Innocent sort
- 85 "Chances _____"
- 86 Became one
- 89 Modern prefix with anxiety
- 90 Salt's companions
- 93 Theseus' need in the Labyrinth
- 94 In an uncouth manner
- 95 Marketing worker, informally
- 96 Credit, informally
- 97 Prominent features of elephant seals
- 98 Comedian Radner
- 99 A perfect storm, e.g.
- 100 Planet whose day is longer than its year
- 101 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
- 105 Done
- 106 Extend one's military service
- 107 **CIRCLED LETTER** + 
- 108 Hard thing to find in a house of mirrors
- 110 "Wee" fellow
- 111 Channel with the onetime spinoff America's Store
- 112 Suffix with emir
- 113 S.F.-to-Napa dir.

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HARD - 100

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

MENS	SPUD	ASSAM	SKIN
IMOK	KARO	FROYO	UTILE
DIVISION	FLAVOR	SALON	
GRADUAL	FAA	PREMISE	
ESC	PRODUCT	OF THE	TIMES
AGEE	ESE	CEO	NONA
UMNO	AIM	SETTLE	ANT
FACTS	ROOT	CAUSE	JAM
COYOTES	DARNS	TAGSALE	
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Obituaries

RICHARD STACEY LUDLAM

Ocean City

Richard "Dick" Ludlam passed away peacefully at home on January 20th, surrounded by his family, just days after celebrating his 89th birthday. He was one of the last to be born in Ocean City in a small home off Washington Lane.

The son of the late Stacy Sleeper Ludlam and Kathryn (Brady), he was also a great-grandson of Christopher Sleeper Ludlam, the third mayor of Ocean City. A graduate of Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy and Mount Saint Joseph's High School.



Richard Ludlam

In 1955, he enlisted in the Army and became an honor student at the Sixth Army Communication School at Fort Lewis, Washington. He completed his AAA Operations and Intelligence Specialist Training and took part in Exercise Sagebrush.

In 1951, Richard met the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betsy" Barrett, while running his beach stand at 1st Street in Ocean City. They married in 1957, beginning a blessed and happy marriage that spanned 68 years. In 1961, Richard opened The Furniture House in downtown Berlin, later expanding to a new location on Route 50 in 1968 and then The Finishing Touch in north Ocean City. He later renamed the business Casual Designs Furniture and grew it into a thriving operation

with multiple locations, including stores in Fenwick, Selbyville, and Bethany Beach.

A true Eastern Shoreman, he had a passion for boating, fishing, sporting clays and collecting decoys. Once an avid duck hunter, he later became a dedicated member of Ducks Unlimited. This passion also led him to open a small art gallery, Wildlife Art, where he showcased his love for nature's beauty. Above all, he cherished time with his family. His strong faith and unwavering love for his family were reflected in his kind and humble ways.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife, Betsy, their four daughters: Susan Russell (widow of Gene), Terry Bell (Jonathan), Jeanne Watson (Wil), and Kathy Ryan (Paul), along with 13

grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, who knew and loved him as "Pappy."

He was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Blaine.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m., located at 200 S. Baltimore Ave, Ocean City. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church at stmary-holysavior.com, or Coastal Hospice at www.coastalhospice.org.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Coastal Hospice and all the caregivers who were involved in his care.

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

MCBP opens mini-grant application process

(Feb. 7, 2025) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is now accepting community stewardship mini-grant proposals and scientific research funding proposals for environmental projects benefiting the Coastal Bays watershed.

The MCBP Mini Grant Program seeks to support watershed-based community, science, and educational initiatives that align with CCMP action items. Through this funding opportunity, MCBP is seeking to engage new applicants and organizations from diverse communities in small-scale projects.

The grant opportunity is available to any individual, group, school, organization, service youth and civic groups for projects that will raise awareness about the challenges and solutions to restore our Coastal Bays, engage citizens in community-based restoration and protection projects, or educate students about the Coastal Bays.

The Research Grant Program is available to MCBP's partners to assist in responding to research needs identified in the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Opportunities include reachable scientific goals and the most effective means for implementing them. Existing and on-going projects that seek to augment or add an additional element to an existing scope of work may also be considered for funding.

Both funding opportunities must align with the Maryland Coastal Bays Management Plan, the CCMP. This plan can be found on the MCBP website at www.mdcoastalbays.org.

The funding opportunities are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. With BIL funding, the EPA will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities and taking significant strides to tackle the climate crisis.

Applicants for the community stewardship mini-grants may request up to \$5,000 for their project. Applicants for the scientific research grants may request up to \$25,000.

Funding details and contact information can be found on the Maryland Coastal Bays website at <https://mdcoastalbays.org/funding-opportunities/>. The proposal deadline for both funding opportunities is March 7.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

VISION PROGRAM SUPPORT

Ocean City Lions Club President Scott Stark, left, presents a \$1,000 check to District Governor Bijoy Mahanti, right, and his wife Carol, center, for the Lions Vision Research Foundation, which is a joint effort by the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, Lions Club International and Multiple District 22 Lions to provide treatment of low vision disorders. The efforts predominately address vision disorders such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and other conditions not corrected by glasses, surgery or medication.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TIDALHEALTH FOUNDATION DONATION

The TidalHealth Foundation has announced a generous \$100,000 donation from the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation in support of the "Drive For Mobile Mammography" campaign. This significant contribution is one of the largest donations to the campaign and plays a critical role in helping the TidalHealth Foundation reach its ambitious \$1 million goal in support of a mobile breast clinic, which is planned for an October launch. Pictured, front from left, are Carole Sizemore, Vice President, Total Rewards, Perdue Farms; Kim Nechay, Executive Director, Perdue Foundation; Kathryn Fiddler, Vice President, Population Health, TidalHealth and Jessica Hales, Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Foundation President, TidalHealth. Back, from left, are Perry Aulie, President, Perdue Agribusiness; Steve Leonard, TidalHealth President/CEO; and Charles Dolan, Vice President, Clinical Operations, TidalHealth.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

AFTER-SCHOOL ART CLUB

Students in Buckingham Elementary School's After-School Art Club, taught by Carol Rydel and financially supported by the Art League of Ocean City and the Worcester County Arts Council, are shown making heart art in time for the February holiday.



NEW OFFICERS

Worcester County law enforcement officers who graduated in the 93rd entrance-level law enforcement class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury are shown, front from left, Michael Arnold of the Ocean Pines Police Department; Brandon West of the Berlin Police Department; Chad Miller of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office; and Ryan Barrett and Fernando Garcia of the Ocean City Police Department. Back, from left, are Kyle Mann of the Ocean Pines Police Department; Nicholas Smithhart and Mitchell Adams of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office; and Olive Taylor and Hayden Gable of the Ocean City Police Department.

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., Feb. 6

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Meet new friends and play some chess. Bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

POCOMOKE BRANCH BOOK CLUB: 'SONG YET SUNG' BY JAMES MCBRIDE

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

MAGIC THE GATHERING

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

QUIT SMOKING & VAPING CLASS

Gudelsky Family Medical Center, 10614 Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines, 5-6 p.m. Participants receive one-on-one support, group support, weekly prizes and quit resources. Register: 410-632-1100, Ext. 1103 or www.worcesterhealth.org.

PLANES, TRAINS, & AUTOMOBILES: HOW TRANSPORTATION SHAPED THE SHORE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. A presentation on how transportation has changed Worcester County throughout history. 410-632-3495

Fri., Feb. 7

OCEAN CITY FUTSAL CLASSIC

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Play soccer on an indoor court, but without walls. Cost is \$275 per team.

<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/ocean-city-futsal-classic/>, 410-250-0125

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

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 required: 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., Feb. 8

OCEAN CITY FUTSAL CLASSIC

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Play soccer on an indoor court, but without walls. Cost is \$275 per team. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/ocean-city-futsal-classic/>, 410-250-0125

AFRICAN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO LABOR

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Topics include African American labor history and contributions made to local, state and national labor. Presented by the African American Heritage Society of Snow Hill. 410-632-3495

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., Feb. 9

OCEAN CITY FUTSAL CLASSIC

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Play soccer on an indoor court, but without walls. Cost is \$275 per team. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/recreation-parks/ocean-city-futsal-classic/>, 410-250-0125

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

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., Feb. 10

VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the crafting table anytime this week to make Valentine's Day cards. Ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

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

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

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

TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB: 'MURDER ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE' BY JOSEPH E. MOORE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. 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@worcestercity.org. 410-632-3495

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

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

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

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

promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

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.

Tues., Feb. 11

VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the crafting table anytime this week to make Valentine's Day cards. Ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME

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

STORY TIME @ THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, crafts and songs that feature one of the 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

SAFE BOATING COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. Held Feb. 11 and 12. Cost is \$20. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

MOVIE MATINEE

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

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology at the Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:15 p.m. Discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise,

Continued on Page 20

Calendar

Continued from Page 19
nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, kkinnikin@atlantic-general.org

SONG CELEBRATION

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

BOOK CLUB: 'THEY CALLED US ENEMY' BY GEORGE TAKEI

Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. An evening of books and wine. Stop by the Snow Hill library to pick up a book. Must be at least 21 years of age to participate. 410-632-3495

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., Feb. 12

BIARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

VALENTINE'S CARD MAKING WEEK

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the crafting table anytime this week to make Valentine's Day cards. Ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

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

MERRY MAKERS: COLLAGE BOUQUET

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Create a colorful picture of flowers using collage papers, glue and other art materials. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-208-4014. [\[brary.org\]\(http://brary.org\)](http://www.worcesterli-</p></div>
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BOOK CLUB: 'THE KITCHEN HOUSE' BY KATHLEEN GRISSOM

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, 11 a.m. Stop by the Snow Hill library or the 50+ Center to pick up a book anytime, then meet for a great discussion. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

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

MANGA AND MORE

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

TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Come play selected role-playing game. For adults and teens. Registration required: 410-632-3495. Limit 10. www.worcesterlibrary.org

HARRIET TUBMAN AND HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Also held via Zoom. Historian Dr. Richard Bell zooms in to talk about these two important women. Registration required for zoom only. 410-641-0650, 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.kiwanisofpoc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

PHILLIES VS DODGERS BUS TRIP

Bus departs from Ocean Pines Community Center at 8:30 a.m. on April 6 for Citizens Bank Park. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Cost is \$85 and includes transportation and ticket. Tickets: Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks, 410-641-7052.

BUS TRIP - BARNES FOUNDATION

Join the Art League of Ocean City and Robinson Fellow - Jenn Carter for a bus trip to the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, PA on Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$95 for Art League of Ocean City members and \$115 for non-members. Tickets: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/classes/2186>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COLLAGE

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St. Drop in anytime during February and add pictures, words, poems and anything inspiring to the collage featuring famous Black Americans. For families. 410-957-0878

TEENY ARTS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during February. A themed craft program available in the teen section all month long. February Teeny Art is "Post-It Art Show." For ages 12-18 years. 410-632-3495

TEEN TIMESHARE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, during February, 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

FEBRUARY INSPIRATION CHALLENGE

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during February. 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 "Fantasy." Due by Feb. 20. 410-632-3495



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MISC./OTHER

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