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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Tutorial plan gains traction at board level

New committee members would receive orientation

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) After gaining traction with the OPA Board of Directors during its meeting on Dec. 4, the OPA Communications Committee at its Dec. 19 session revisited discussions of creating a protocol tutorial for new advisory committee chairs or members.

Jenny Cropper Rines, communications committee chairwoman, said during the meeting that the concept has been considered previously by different association leadership but failed to resonate.

"It didn't go anywhere at all," she said.

Unlike the past cold reception, this time the proposal found a receptive audience, Rines said.

"This year at the Executive Council, it came up again [about] how many See ORIENTATION Page 2

BUILDING MOMENTUM

Crew members with Bishopville-based Atlantic Building Associates continue site work on the police and administration building expansion in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Saturday.

Berlin mayor, council goals focus on repairing finances

Restoring wastewater fund, building community center also make list for 2020

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) Finances, infrastructure and policy goals are top priorities that Berlin's elected officials hope to tackle this year.

"First and foremost to get the finances in order. That's absolutely priority one," said Councilman Troy Purnell.

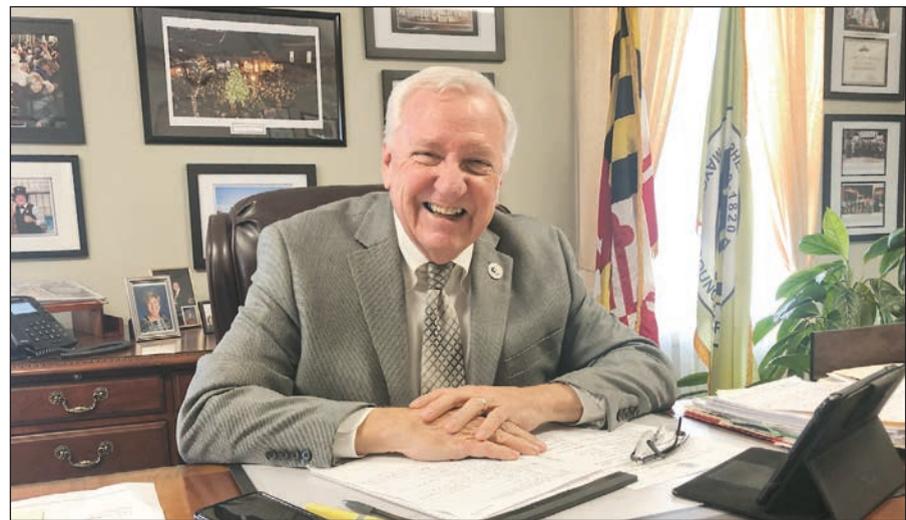
Despite a tumultuous budget process, the Town Council approved a \$15.2 million budget for fiscal year 2020 in June 2019.

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams said there will be discussions over the next several months regarding the fiscal year 2021 budget.

"I think that the new year will be very quickly immersed into the budget process for fiscal '21, and that will need to establish a reserve policy and we'll need to look if there needs to be [an] upward adjustment in stormwater fees," Williams said.

Last year's budget process resulted in a property tax increase to \$.80 per \$100 of assessed value. During a previous budget discussion, Mayor Gee Williams said that fiscal year 2021's rate is "to be determined."

It's something with which Councilman Zack Tyndall disagrees. He said he



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams says this will be the year that the idea of an excursion train will either pull into the station or go away.

offered several suggestions to avoid a tax increase last year, and emphasized the need to keep taxes low.

"I saw [a] path forward that didn't include a tax increase, and now that the

tax increase has gone into effect, I definitely see no need for future tax increase[s] for the people of Berlin," Tyndall said.

See RESTORING Page 2



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Orientation tutorial gains traction

Continued from Page 1

chairs and committee members aren't aware of the resolutions and their actual purpose," she said.

Rines said OPA President Doug Parks, board member Tom Janasek and committee liaison Dr. Colette Horn have expressed interest in participating to develop the training curriculum.

"To me that sounds like a task force," she said.

Horn said based on the board discussion earlier this month, it was determined the process would be ongoing once content decisions were reached.

"My thought has been that boards change more radically and quickly than membership of committees," she said. "This is exactly the kind of thing that the communications committee could take on as a long-term task that they do for the board."

Horn concurred that the yet to be formed task force should be comprised of members from both the communications committee and board of directors.

Horn also noted the importance of advisory committee board liaisons obtaining sufficient foundational knowledge of OPA governing guidelines.

Rines said in some instances a lack of knowledge by board liaisons has been noted.

"Over the years, there are liaisons who have never participated in committees who are now board members," she said.

Horn said when the issue was talked about by the board earlier this month, the directors concluded that committee chairs and board liaisons should be oriented together.

"Doug [Parks] sees it as a recruitment tool," she said.

Through revamping orientation efforts, the hope is to encourage those previously hesitant to consider running for the board of directors.



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Jenny Cropper Rines, right, reviews a revamped orientation for new committee members, with OPA board liaison Dr. Colette Horn last month.

"There are people that I've [asked] 'would you run for the board' [and] they don't want to have anything to do with it," she said. "There are people on committees who are very happy being on committees, but they don't want to run for the board."

Horn said what will have to happen is that people must be willing to "do their homework."

"That's a cultural issue in our governance, making sure that everybody brings their best game," she said.

Horn volunteered to chair a related task force that would likely be established in January.

Restoring wastewater fund priority

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, there were increases to two enterprise funds: the sewer and water utilities.

"The wastewater is my number one priority because that seems to be the number one problem," Purnell said.

Berlin's sewer utility has lost money for years because of the low rates and funds borrowed from the general fund reserves.

Purnell added that they're brainstorming about how to restore the fund, and he said he hopes to receive some answers by February.

"We've already been working on it," Purnell said.

The stormwater utility fund is also important to elected officials such as Tyndall, who said constituents in his district have experienced flooding near Henrys Mill and Green. He added that he'd like to tackle some preventative stormwater management initiatives.

"So, looking into the 2020 calendar year, I'm really looking for ways that we can leverage the money coming in through the stormwater fund and making sure every dollar that comes in is used to its fullest extent," Tyndall said.

Purnell and Councilman Elroy Brittingham also stressed the importance of addressing infrastructure concerns.

Purnell said that repairing Harrison Avenue is on his list. He added that it could cost anywhere from \$300,000 to \$500,000 to complete the work.

"It's going to take the taxpayers to come in and say, 'Hey, we want to pave that road. We want you to spend our money to pave that road,'" Purnell said.

Brittingham also said that Showell Street also needs repair.

"Most of the streets are down to the point where you can't just repave them, you almost got to demolish the street and start over again," Brittingham said.

As for new development, Brittingham and Williams said they'd like to make progress on the proposed community center on Flower Street.

"That center is way past its time because they only allow for so many years for it to be used and it's probably — I don't know — probably 10 years past it's time," Brittingham said.

It requires transferring the deed of the existing multipurpose building from the Berlin Community Improvement Association. Brittingham added that once that's completed, officials can begin the process of applying for grants.

Brittingham also said he'd like to see the new space have meeting spaces and an indoor basketball court.

Brittingham and Williams said that it's something they'd like to see happen this year. Once the paperwork is filed, Williams said constructing the new building could take approximately three years.

In addition to the community center, also goals for Williams are establishing short-term rental regulations and economic generators.

Williams said he'd like to have legislation passed to regulate short-term rentals including Airbnb's in town.

"To be responsible, we need to have regulations that are right for Berlin, and I do think this is the year to do it," Williams said.

The long-discussed excursion train could be a revenue and tourism generator in Berlin. Williams said it involves the Maryland-Delaware Railroad Company and a potential train operator coming to an understanding.

"I think once they reach an agreement ... the engine will start, and then how fast it goes and how it goes, but I think that this is the year that it either will happen or it will go away," he said.

Williams also said he'd like to have a conversation with county officials about the possibility of a tax differential in Berlin.

"We're all in this to provide services to the public and we all have our different responsibilities, but really, it can work so much better if we're coordinating with them," Williams said. "So I think that has to be part of the discussion."

Communications committee talks electronic signs

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) After opening discussions with Worcester County officials about a possible change in the sign code, the OPA Communications Committee concluded on Dec. 19 that its next step is to see what the cost would be to replace the current community marquees with digital messaging boards.

See PINES Page 4



Brian Reynolds, right, provides the OPA Communications Committee technical details regarding electronic messaging signs during the groups meeting on Dec. 19.

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Wolf intends to focus environmental efforts

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) OPA Environmental & Natural Assets Committee Chairman Ken Wolf, freshly reinstated to the post in October, hopes to focus the group work this year on establishing achievable benchmarks for long-standing goals.

"The real concern that I had is that we were trying to do a lot of good things and we weren't really getting any traction," he said. "The primary focus I wanted it to be was the environment ... and the water around us."

Wolf reassumed the committee leadership role from former chairman Tom Janasek, who stepped down after being elected to the OPA Board of Directors in 2019.

"When I stepped away, he became the chairman," he said. "He's somebody that is talented, responsible and understands what's happening in the environ-

ment."

The duo has worked together for the last several years to foster a working relationship with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, to improve watershed health and to reduce pollution levels in the St. Martin River.

"We started working seriously with Maryland Coastal Bays," he said. "At that time [the St. Martin River] was the worst quality water in the watershed. It's improved marginally, but it's still very troubled."

Wolf, who previously served as president of Assateague Coastal Trust, installed Janasek with the group prior to stepping away to head the OPA Environmental Committee.

"Tom is on the board of directors for the Assateague Coastal Trust," he said. "I brought him on when I was president."

Since sounding the alarm over high

pollution levels in the St. Martin River several years ago, Wolf said area environmental leaders have worked with Maryland Department of Natural Resources officials to reverse the trend.

"This is going to be an area of concentration on water quality," he said. "We want to get the [OPA] board to buy in and step up and be involved in some of these opportunities the Maryland Coastal Bays presents us."

Wolf said the evolving relationship with Maryland Coastal Bays now provides OPA leadership the opportunity to influence events, as opposed to remaining sideline spectators.

"Now we're included on some of these subcommittees with Maryland Coastal Bays," he said. "We really have to take an active role in that. We can't just stand by and let things happen."

Wolf said a principal area of attention related to water quality involves CAFOs,

or concentrated animal feeding operations.

"It's a factor, but more globally in the watershed, it is the primary factor," he said. "Localized CAFOs with these massive operations is something that we want to watch."

Protectors of the St. Martin River was formed in 2018 after a proposed CAFO operation on Peerless Road in Showell applied for a federal water discharge permit.

Unlike previous eras the poultry industry has made recent strides to reduce waste related pollution, Wolf said.

"We're hopeful that we're going to see continued improvement there," he said.

Wolf said another perk to the OPA's growing partnership with Maryland Coastal Bays has been helping to secure state funding to improve drainage-related flooding issues.

Pines contemplates electronic messaging

Continued from Page 3

The committee has been considering the possibility of upgrading 17 manually managed community signs with a far smaller number of electronic ones. The hitch, however, is that county zoning laws could restrict placement of the digital signs.

County officials told committee members the only option would be pursuing a code amendment specific to Ocean Pines, while also suggesting that ideal sign locations would likely be at the north and south gate entrances.

Committee board liaison Dr. Colette Horn introduced the topic during the board of directors meeting on Oct. 2, and the consensus was to pursue developing a code amendment with county officials.

Since that time Horn and committee chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines consulted further with county zoning officials on a code text amendment.

Horn said the meeting was productive and that the general sentiment at the county level was positive.

"They were not discouraging," she said. "As long as they can generate the language that they feel is enforceable on their end."

Another issue raised by county staff involves commercial messages on these signs, Rines said.

"What they're concerned about ... is a sign going up and us selling advertisements," she said.

Rines said Worcester County officials also wondered whether a code amendment permitting electronic signs

in the Ocean Pines area would establish a troublesome precedent.

"It requires a change to the law, so we're going to have to work through that with them in a way that isn't going to cause them problems in other communities," she said.

Developing the appropriate code language could take anywhere from 3 months to one year according to county officials, Rines said.

After presenting the communications committee with an initial digital sign estimate in mid-October, Brian Reynolds returned to the meeting on Dec. 19 to review technical specs.

"Fastsigns put together a real quote for us for a 5 foot by 6-foot digital sign and it came up to \$38,000," he said.

Reynolds said the price would increase a bit if the sign included a cellular modem option and could fluctuate further based on the sign being one- or two-sided.

Another cost-issue consideration involves resolution levels.

"If you're going down the road and

you see the flashing signs and they seem kind of grainy, those are big LEDs," he said. "The smaller they make the ... LEDs, the clearer the sign is but the more expensive they get."

If the bulbs are small enough, the sign resolution can achieve TV viewing quality.

"They have different levels and they gauge it by how far away someone needs to see the sign," he said.

Reynolds said a comparable rough quote had been provided by Gable Signs and Graphics in Baltimore.

Rines, who last week also contacted Seaford, Delaware-based Phillips Signs, agreed Gable should be consulted again.

"Gable and Fastsigns are \$5,000 apart [at] \$35,000 and \$40,000," she said. "We'll see what Phillips says. At this point our job is to get these estimates."

If the board approves the plan — and there's no guarantee it will — it would not be included in this year's budget, as that work is already underway.

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Pines Community Gardens taking reservations for '20

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) With the new year underway, organizers with the Ocean Pines Community Gardens are now soliciting reservations for plots during 2020.

Co-organizer Tracy Jones said a small waiting list has formed, while past participants are contacted to confirm continued involvement with the garden area in the Manklin Meadows complex next to the playground.

"We have about 10 open plots right now," she said.

The precise availability will be confirmed soon, Jones said.

"There are some people who have left," she said. "Some moved out of the area or couldn't handle the weeds anymore."

Jones said anyone interested in signing up or requiring further information should contact either her at 215-990-1537 or Sam Schwartz at 410-641-7978.

"We give them a tour of the garden and we tell them what's available," she said. "We have a big shed and the garden has all the tools people need."

Jones said short of sweat equity,

required implements such as shovels and wheel barrels are provided.

"Really, all you need to do is bring your own plants, hand tools and plant," she said.

The cost to join the Ocean Pines Community Gardens is \$27.50 per plot, which includes a trio of four-foot-by-eight-foot raised garden beds. The cost for two plot areas is \$55.

"We provide mulch and some compost soil in the spring," she said.

Jones said while warmer weather remains on the distant horizon, initial soil tilling and planting of certain freeze-resistant crops could begin by February.

"We want to get people in as early as they want to take a look at their plot," she said. "You can start planting some things like radishes, snow and snap peas, broccoli, [or] cauliflower."

Participants are left to decide what vegetables, fruits or flowers to grow, with the primary challenge stemming from invasive weeds, which Jones said does require regular attention to maintain.

"You've got to keep on top of the weeds," she said. "Weeds don't go on vacation."



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION

Plot assignments for the 2020 growing season are currently being conveyed for the Ocean Pines Community Gardens.



DONATION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Roy Foreman presents a check for \$1,000 to meeting guest speaker, Diakonia Executive Director Bee Miller, on Nov. 6. Diakonia, in West Ocean City, provides emergency services for men, women and families.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

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PHOTO COURTESY STACI APERANCE/BUCKINGHAM ELEMENTARY

Buckingham Elementary School students, staff and local firefighters gather for a photo after receiving brand new coats on Tuesday, Dec. 10 through Operation Warm, an initiative dedicated to providing outerwear for children in need.

Operation Warm gives coats to Wor. children

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) More than 400 Worcester County public school students received a new winter coat last month as part of Operation Warm, an initiative sponsored by area firefighters to provide outerwear to children in need.

Sean Sullivan, a firefighter paramedic for the Ocean Pines Fire Department, said the Worcester County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 4916, and other volunteers supplied coats to Buckingham Ocean City, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill ele-

mentary schools.

“We try to do everything we can to distribute to as many kids as we can,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan, who serves as a union liaison for the schools, contacted school counselors from the schools to inquire about the number of coats needed, according to organizers. School counselors will then send home permission slips to parents and get size information from the students. On distribution day, local firefighters will come to the school and help the children pick out a new coat.

“It’s a wonderful resource for our

families who may not be able to otherwise afford a brand new winter coat each year, and this gives them a way to do that for their kids. Every time the kids receive a coat, they’re so proud, and they leave smiling, and they’re so excited to receive a coat,” said Staci Aperance, a counselor at Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin.

Aperance said that 65 children received new coats on Monday, Dec. 9.

Linda McGean, a school counselor at Ocean City Elementary School in West Ocean City, said 20 students received new coats on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

“The children are not just getting a new beautiful warm winter coat, they’re also getting some interaction with some very important people in our community, and they know that these firefighters they came this year with the firetruck and the whole deal,” McGean said.

LaVerne Cray, a school counselor at Snow Hill Elementary School in Snow Hill, agreed and said approximately 80 children were given new coats on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Cray added that the coats are essential for students as the temperatures begin to drop.

“Even today, it’s very, very cold and so it was just a blessing that they came even today and was able to help our families out a little bit during the holiday season,” Cray said during an in-

terview on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Aperance also said that the coats benefit the children in more ways than one.

“Well, of course, it helps their physical needs to be met, to stay warm in such a cold winter, but also, it helps their self-esteem to be able to have a new shiny coat to be able to wear and be proud of,” Aperance said.

McGean agreed. She added that she loves how the students are able to meet the firefighters, and she hopes the students will pay it forward one day.

“They don’t have to worry about what am I going to wear when it’s cold? It makes them feel special, puts them on more of an even playing field with other kids who have these things without having to worry about it,” McGean said. “And I’m hoping that down the line they’ll remember that people in their community helped them, and when they’re in a position to do so they’ll help others.”

Cray also said that she loves how the firefighters create a personalized experience for each child by helping to find their size, ensuring it fits properly and writing his or her name inside.

It’s something Cray said that she always looks forward to.

“I love it. I love it every year,” Cray said. “I truly enjoy being able to do whatever I can to help the families at

See FIREFIGHTERS Page 8

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DELMARVA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS RETAIL RATES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND

CASE NO. 9630
DECEMBER 17, 2019

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW JUDGE’S NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

On December 5, 2019, Delmarva Power & Light Company (“Delmarva” or “the Company”) filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Maryland (“the Commission”) for authority to increase its operating revenues by \$18,523,166. The Company’s application included supporting testimony and exhibits, and requested an effective date of January 4, 2020 for its proposed rates and charges. On December 6, 2019, by Order No. 89384, the Commission suspended the proposed rates and charges for a period of 150 days from January 4, 2020, and delegated this matter to the Public Utility Law Judge Division.

A pre-hearing conference in the above-entitled matter is hereby set for Monday, January 6, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission’s 19th floor hearing room, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland, to establish a procedural schedule and consider any petitions to intervene, as well as any other preliminary matters.

Delmarva is hereby directed to publish a notice of the pre-hearing conference, including the caption, case number, the time, date, place of the conference, and the purpose of the conference, as a display advertisement in newspapers in general circulation throughout the Company’s service area at least two times before January 6, 2020. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to intervene in this proceeding that petitions to intervene should be filed with the Commission’s Executive Secretary, Andrew Johnston, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-6806, on or before January 3, 2020. The Company is directed to file certificates of publication with the Commission on or before the date of the pre-hearing conference.

Jennifer J. Grace
Public Utility Law Judge
Public Service Commission of Maryland

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Historic Berlin Foodie Tour to come to town

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) For Sandy Gillis, creator of the OC Foodie Tour, the soft opening of the Historic Berlin Foodie Tour that took place last month was a success.

“Everyone raved about how delicious everything was and how much they enjoyed it,” she said.

Gillis said the inaugural Historic Berlin Foodie Tour was used as a way to promote tourism. She added that several representatives from Worcester County, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and the Berlin Welcome Center attended the Dec. 10 event.

Gillis said the tour stopped at several restaurants in downtown Berlin to sample tasting portions, including Rayne’s Reef Soda Fountain & Grill, Baked Dessert Cafe, Gilbert’s Provisions, and the Atlantic Hotel.

“Each restaurant served their signature dish, things that they’re famous for, or things that their chefs do best,” Gillis said.

Gillis also said that they didn’t leave hungry. She said that many of the tour’s attendees couldn’t finish their sampler at the Baked Dessert Cafe.

“They actually took theirs to go,” Gillis said. “[Owner] Robin [Tomaselli] actually made a peach dumpling and they all took it in a box.”

Gillis also said that she was inspired by these types of tours while on her travels and wanted to do them in Ocean City and Worcester County.

“I always knew from the beginning I wanted to add it to Berlin,” Gillis said.

Gillis said she hopes guests will discover more information about the town’s history and claim to fame, as “Runaway Bride” and “Tuck Everlasting” were filmed in Berlin.

“I want it to be a great experience for visitors of Ocean City and Berlin,” Gillis said. “I want them to learn a lot about our town and some of our traditions and a lot about the families that started here.”

Once the Historic Berlin and Chauffeured Vineyard Foodie tours officially start in mid-May, Gillis said



PHOTO COURTESY SANDY GILLIS/OC FOODIE TOUR

Tourgoers enjoy food and drinks at Boxcar40 in Pittsville during the soft opening of the Chauffeured Vineyard Foodie Tour on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

she plans to have the Historic Berlin Foodie Tour and Chauffeured Vineyard Foodie Tour once a week through the holiday season.

“Berlin has got that wonderful small town charm, and I mean everyone from Ocean City loves Berlin, and it’s only less than eight miles away from Ocean City, so it’s a great little afternoon thing for people to [do] when they’re in Ocean City one afternoon when they’ve had enough sun,” Gillis said.

Patrons also took advantage of another tour that was recently added to OC Foodie Tour’s repertoire: the Chauffeured Vineyard Foodie Tour that took place on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Gillis said the culinary adventurers met at the Ocean Downs Casino on Racetrack Road. The group traveled to Boxcar40 in Pittsville and Windmill Creek Vineyard & Winery in Berlin. They capped off the tour by returning to the casino and eating at Poseidon’s Pub.

Gillis said all of the excursions are capped at 12 people because “we want to keep it small, intimate and personal.”

Gillis also said that gift certificates are available on the company’s website. To purchase tickets and get more information about the tours, visit ocfoodies.com.

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Worcester County to collect Christmas trees until Jan. 31

(Jan. 2, 2020) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through Jan. 31.

Area residents can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may take them to the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the Central Landfill. For more info, contact Recycling Manager Mike McClung at 410-632-3177.

Wor. treasurer's office turns in financial report for fiscal 2019

(Jan. 2, 2020) Worcester County Treasurer's Office officials recently completed the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2019. This CAFR, which adheres to the guidelines recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association, outlines county finances and fiscal management practices.

Chris Hall of TGM Group Certified Public Accountants met with the commissioners on Dec. 17 to review county government's annual financial report and reported that his firm found that financial statements are both complete and accurate.

Worcester County government is also compliant with the internal policy requiring that a reserve fund be maintained at a level equal to 10 percent of budgeted annual general fund expenditures.

For more information about the CAFR, contact Finance Officer Phil Thompson or Assistant Finance Officer Jennifer Swanton at (410) 632-0686.

OP Angel Tree collects record haul

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) Bolstered by unexpected donations from American Legion Boggs Disharoon Auxiliary Unit #123 in Berlin, the Ocean Pines Aquatics Angel Tree program last week donated gifts so 10 children from four families would have wrapped presents tucked under the tree on Christmas morning.

Operations Director Colby Phillips said the holiday charity endeavor, now in its sixth year, is produced in conjunction with Worcester County GOLD's (Giving Other Lives Dignity) "Helping Hands for the Holidays" program.

"We have been doing this since 2014," she said.

Starting in mid-November, residents are invited to visit the "Angel Tree" at the Sports Core Pool and remove a paper ornament containing a requested gift donation, which is returned wrapped and packaged to spread holiday cheer for the less fortunate.

The nonprofit Worcester County GOLD helps area residents by providing assistance to at-risk adults, families in need and children in foster care.

Each holiday season, Worcester County GOLD's "Helping Hands" program distributes clothing and toys for families and the elderly under financial distress who might otherwise be unable to provide Christmas presents.



OPA Operations Director Colby Phillips said the community outpouring of support for the annual Ocean Pines Aquatics Angel Tree program was overwhelming this yuletide season and was further bolstered by an unanticipated donation from American Legion Boggs Disharoon Auxiliary Unit #123 in Berlin.

PHOTO COURTESY COLBY PHILLIPS

Speaking on Dec. 18, Phillips said after dropping off three loads of donated gifts a day earlier, one more stack was being delivered that day.

"Our community is truly amazing with opening their hearts to this annual event," she said.

Phillips said community response to the program, which had originally sought to assist three families, occurred at a blistering pace after the tree was erected at the Sports Core Pool last month.

"We put up the 'Angel Tree' on Sunday and started on Monday," she said. "Over 50 [ornaments] were all gone by Wednesday."

As it turned out, the lightning fast collection was not quite complete,

when much to Phillip's amazement another load of wrapped gifts was delivered by American Legion Unit #123.

"They doubled our toys," she said.

After the surprise surplus, the outreach effort was extended to a fourth family.

"Each child will be getting 8-10 Christmas gifts each," she said.

Phillips said the outpouring of community generosity year after year enriches the soul.

"As the person who drops the gifts off each year to the families, I can tell you that I always leave with tears of joy because of the tears of joy shed upon receiving all of the gifts," she said.

Firefighters help supply coats for students

Continued from Page 6
our school and in the community.

Aperance, Cray and McGean thanked the firefighters involved with this program and helping to change a child's life.

"It's very heartwarming not only to help the kids in their families, but also just to see our community step up and reach out and be able to put on such a great program for our kids," Aperance

said. According to the Operation Warm donation page, the program started in 2012, and firefighters have granted \$250,000 coats to area children.

Sullivan said that organizers spend between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per year to purchase between 300 and 400 coats each year.

Cray and Sullivan agreed that seeing the expression on a child's face

when they receive a coat is priceless.

"That's what keeps you going from year in and year out and that's what's driven me to try to ... give as many coats to kids year in and year out," Sullivan said.

Operation Warm organizers are seeking donations for a \$10,000 fundraising goal, according to the initiative's website. Each \$20 contribution "provides one coat for a child in

need."

"I hope that ... our community is able to continue to help them through that so we can continue to benefit our kids," Aperance said.

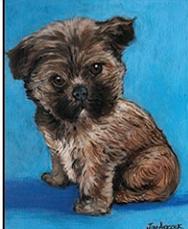
For more information visit Operation Warm's donation page at give.operationwarm.org/campaign/worcester-county-professional-firefighters-for-operation-warm-2019-20/c252983.

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Showell progress continues after board authorizes funds

Several projects still in works including installing metal panels and roofing

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) Construction continued at the replacement Showell Elementary School after the Worcester County Board of Education authorized a \$2.5 million requisition during a meeting last month.

Over the past month, crews have installed wood blocking for the roof, as well as stormwater structures and piping, according to a construction progress report discussed during the

school board's Dec. 17 meeting.

There are several projects in progress at the school site, including the ductwork, roofing, metal panels, insulation, and the exterior stud framing and sheathing, according to Oak Contracting LLC. Project Manager Bill Moschler.

Workers are expected to put the quarry tile and kitchen exhaust hood in place within the next 30 days.

Construction began on Sept. 18 and work is expected to finish by next September.

The project's budget is \$39.8 million, and roughly \$17.1 million has been authorized since the project's outset.



PHOTOS COURTESY WCPS

The Worcester County Board of Education authorized a \$2.5 million requisition to continue construction at the replacement Showell Elementary School site during a meeting on Dec. 17. The project is expected to finish in September 2020.

Letters to Santa initiative successful

Approximately 100 pieces of mail sent to North Pole from Berlin mailbox this yr.

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) About 100 people got into the holiday spirit and sent a letter to the North Pole through the Letters to Santa campaign last month, according to Ivy Wells, the economic and community development director for Berlin.

People were able to submit the mail to the "Letters to Santa" mailbox in the foyer of the welcome center on South Main Street from the week of Thanksgiving until Thursday, Dec. 19.

Wells acted as Santa's helper in ensuring the letters got to their final destination: the North Pole.

Wells said she was inspired to bring the campaign to Berlin about five years ago after starting the initiative in her last job in Sykesville, Maryland.

Wells said the concept was open to all children, and that there were a few "standout" letters this year.

"So the standout for this year ... it says, 'I want things for Santa because he gets other people things but no one gives anything,'" Wells read from a letter.

Others outlined some of the top present requests on their lists.

"Somebody else wrote, 'I want a real live dog,'" Wells said. She also said that the children's letters ranged from comical to heartwarming.

"So there's always some standouts that catch our eye," Wells said. "That either make us laugh or make us cry."

Wells also said they've received letters from across the nation with some addresses as far away as California.

With the help of Santa, Mrs. Claus and Wells, each child received a "personalized letter" from Old St. Nick, as well as a coupon for a "free treat" from the following downtown loca-

tions: Baked Dessert Cafe, Crush N Crab, Island Creamery, On What Grounds, and Rayne's Reef Soda Fountain & Grill.

"Ultimately, the goal for us is to get people to always come back to Berlin," Wells said. "So the way to get them to come back is by giving them a reason to."



Ivy Wells

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Clubs Committee 2020 objectives

Amenity-focused advisory group has number of ideas for yacht and beach clubs

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) With another year just beginning, Ocean Pines Association Clubs Committee Chairman Gary Miller outlined a number of objectives the group plans to tackle during 2020.

Miller said the clubs committee, which focuses on association amenities, is looking at additional tweaks for work undertaken during 2019.

“This year, we helped to formulate a designated smoking area at the yacht club and beach club,” he said.

Miller said despite those improvements, work remains to develop an overall smoking policy for OPA facilities that would curtail instances of patrons passing through clouds of smoke when entering buildings.

“It’s already established at the yacht club and beach club, although we have noticed that it needs to be enforced a little bit more,” he said.

Other open air topics on tap for the clubs committee during 2020 include installing additional outside seating

areas at the yacht club.

The committee is hoping to create a more isolated lounge area on the waterside of the tiki bar, featuring couch-type furniture.

“So people can sit out on the deck of the yacht club in a communal, comfortable area,” he said. “We also talked about some sun umbrellas around the deck of the yacht club and especially along the bar rail that’s on the water side behind the tiki bar.”

Easing the ability for the mobility challenged to enter the yacht club is also under discussion, Miller said.

“If people are in wheelchairs, or on crutches, when they come up to the door, if there isn’t anybody there to open the door for them they have difficulty,” he said.

Miller said the clubs committee included updating handicapped accessibility to the yacht club among numerous topics mentioned in its annual report to the OPA Board of Directors.

“If they could set up some automated door openers so that people ... could push the button and the door opens

and possibly something similar to that in the bathrooms to make it easier accessibility,” he said. “They’ve kind of straightened out where the

handicapped parking is [and] that’s gotten better.”

Acoustic challenges will be another point of focus at the yacht club during 2020, Miller said.

“We are still working on the acoustics issue,” he said. “There is a working group now that’s approved by [General Manager] John Viola to work on some ideas to improve the acoustics upstairs and downstairs at the yacht club.”

Shifting to overall façade issues, Miller said the clubs committee is hoping to foster a more proactive and less reactive approach for building maintenance needs at both the yacht club and beach club.

“We’re going to try to push for that a little bit more [and]

make sure that the yacht club and beach club are kept up to the level that they should be,” he said.

To avoid becoming a victim of its own success, the committee will examine reducing the often lengthy lines due to capacity crowds at the yacht club during weekend nights in the summer.

“There’s long lines at all of the bars,” he said. “We might try to figure out a way of adding another drink location for people on busy nights.”

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Berlin Restaurant Week to showcase cuisine

Event to take place from Jan. 13-19 across town; features several eateries

By Rachel Ravina
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) Area residents and visitors should go hungry and return well satisfied during Berlin Restaurant Week, which begins Monday, Jan. 13.

Berlin Restaurant Week will run until Sunday, Jan. 19 at most downtown eateries, according to Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells.

Cam Bunting, Berlin Restaurant Week founder and owner of Bunting Realty, said 15 establishments will be participating this year.

Wells also said that the type of discounts will vary from place to place. She added that while some offer a prix fixe or fixed price menu while others will have deals on the menu.



Cam Bunting



Ivy Wells

“There’s no structure for our restaurant week because this is Berlin,” Wells said. “We do things our own way.”

Additionally, diners can pick up a Berlin Restaurant Week passport at the Berlin Welcome Center on 14 S. Main St. or Bunting Realty on 24 Broad St.

Wells said patrons should bring the passport during restaurant week to get it stamped by his or her server.

She added that those who dine at three or more establishments can turn the passports in at the welcome center.

Patrons would be eligible to win a basket with gift cards from several restaurants and a donation from Bunting.

Wells said Berlin Restaurant Week started four years ago and added that Bunting is the event’s main sponsor.

Bunting said she was inspired to start a restaurant week in Berlin after visiting her daughter in Bethesda, Maryland. She then approached Wells with the idea.

“I said, ‘I can take this. I don’t have a restaurant, but I can certainly take this, and run with it,’” Bunting said.

Justine Zegna, owner of Blacksmith on Pitts Street, said she plans to have a three-course prix fixe menu for \$30. She added that the restaurant would also have wine and cocktail specials.

“Whatever’s fresh and really good is what we’re going to do,” Zegna said.

Zegna and Wells agreed that Berlin Restaurant Week is a great chance for area residents to experience a variety of foods at a discounted price.

“I think it’s the perfect time of year because there’s a little lull so we see our

locals too,” Zegna said. “We love it, it’s really fun for us. As a chef, because we’re chef-owned, we make a big deal out of it.”

When asked why people should attend Berlin’s Restaurant Week, Wells simply said “because people don’t realize how many restaurants we have and the diversity of our restaurants and you could literally eat here for breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert at a different place.” Bunting agreed and said it’s something she looks forward to every year.

“I love going around to all the restaurants, so it’s my good excuse,” Bunting said.

Wells said the menus from participating establishments will be posted online, on social media as well as on the welcome center’s front window at the office on South Main Street.

For more information about the event, visit the “Berlin Restaurant Week” Facebook page or berlinmainstreet.com.

Dean-Colley takes WYFCS communication gig

(Jan. 2, 2020) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services welcomed Deborah Dean-Colley on Nov. 18 as the new communications coordinator.

This position encompasses social media specialist, preparing press releases, photographing events, attending marketing forums, administrative duties, with an extension of outreach into the Worcester County community.

Dean-Colley, artist at heart, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and attended the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

Additionally, she studied environmental education at Duquesne University, and traveled internationally to London, England and Rimini, Italy, teaching platform work to her colleagues in the salon industry.

Her experiences in life have utilized nature, her environmental interests, while emerging art to be used as healing components in her everyday life.

Prior to joining Worcester Youth, she served as the Outreach and Volunteer coordinator for the Art League of Ocean City for five years, managing over 400 volunteers annually.

She has a strong background in project management and volunteer service with additional skills of art instruction throughout the Delmarva area.

She currently teaches healing art programs within the community and at the Art League of Ocean City.

Her previous commitments include a position as the project manager for Grow Berlin Green; an extension of Assateague Coastal Trust, a program initiated to generate a more sustainable, living community within the town limits.

She also served on the PTA board as past president and treasurer, the Arts Council, and the Maryland Extension.

She enjoys spending her free time with



D. Dean-Colley

her two teenage daughters, Damiana and Kaya, gardening in nature, making vegan culinary meals and creating art, all used as a form of therapy.

Dean-Colley was thrilled to become a part of the team at Worcester Youth, as she sees herself as a liaison and a beneficial resource to the Worcester County community. Her diverse skills and interests within the community will benefit Worcester Youth and Family at various levels.

More information is available at www.gowoyo.org, or by calling 410-641-4598.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a nurturing community in which children are well cared for, where the opinions of young people are valued, where adults are empowered to

live healthy, productive lives and where all are valued members in the community.

Worcester Youth helps people of all ages with a broad spectrum of services that include mental health counseling,

youth and adolescent enrichment programs, advocacy for abused and neglected children, and empowerment programs for those who are less fortunate.

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HALLOWEEN CHARITY

The Delmarva Hand Dance Club held its Halloween party on Oct. 30 and presented a donation of \$1,000 to the American Legion Riders from Post 8. These Legion Riders, many of whom are veterans, have adopted veterans from three different nursing homes in the area and provide them with clothing and other items.

OP virtual residency academy under review

Communications advisory committee examines online tutorial highlighting area

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 2, 2020) The OPA Communications Committee continues to consider developing an online “virtual resident’s academy.”

Chairwoman Jenny Cropper Rines said at the committee’s Dec. 19 meeting that the concept has remained in limbo, since being discuss by the OPA Executive Council in November.

“We have not gone anywhere with it because I think we got overwhelmed by it,” she said

The concept is piggybacking an earlier resident’s academy introduced a few years ago by former General Man-

ager Bob Thompson.

Rines said, in light of the discussion about forming a task force to draft committee and board orientation materials, the two concepts could be pursued in unison.

Rines said the recent conversation about reviving the online virtual resident’s academy concept went up to the point of fiscal matters.

“In the annual report, I did ask for a \$5,000 budget item,” she said.

Committee board liaison Dr. Colette Horn said she would confirm how General Manager John Viola would like to proceed in terms of long-term

ownership, as well as associated costs and potential involvement of OPA staff. “How does he want this owned?” she said. “There’s definitely support for the idea.”

Although acknowledging that developing orientation materials would take precedence, Rines said the online academy remains a viable concept.

“An interactive map with the amenities and [information] about each amenity ... would save us from printing maps,” she said. “Now we’re either going to have to spend some money or try to figure out how to do this.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW STUDENT

Stephen Decatur High School senior Liz Berkey was greeted by Salisbury University's Sammy the Seagull and Director of Admissions Charles Overholt, during her on-site admission to the college. Berkey was one of over 100 students who participated in the college and career counseling services offered by the fourth annual Senior Seahawk Week at Decatur and one of 26 seniors who gained on-site admission to Salisbury University. Also pictured is Decatur Principal Tom Sites.



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Organization gains board members

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore appoints Barber, Lewis and Mitchell

(Jan. 2, 2020) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore recently announced that Ed Barber, Dean Lewis and David Mitchell have joined its board of directors.



Ed Barber



Dean Lewis



David Mitchell

Business Career Advisory Board at Salisbury University, and the Investment Committee of the Community Foundation.

He resides in Berlin with his wife, Michelle, and their three children.

Judge Mitchell retired as an associate judge of Baltimore City Circuit Court.

He was appointed to Maryland's Eighth Judicial Circuit in 1984 and served until his retirement in 2001.

Mitchell has served on the board of directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and The Peddie School.

He has served as chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Canons for the Episcopal Diocese of Easton. He resides in Hebron with his wife, Diane. They have three children and five grandchildren.

"The Community Foundation has always prided itself on having a di-

verse and knowledgeable board of directors," said Erica Joseph, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore president. "We are looking forward to the contributions Ed, Dean and David will make in foundation leadership, coupled with their strong passion for philanthropy and the local community."

As leaders, grant makers and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors and has provided \$84 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

It collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources.

The foundation is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy.

For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or vkent@CFES.org.

Woman dies after Berlin house fire; cause not known

(Jan. 2, 2020) The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fatal fire that occurred on Sunday, Dec. 22.

The fire was reported at 6:11 p.m. at 10347 Trappe Road in Berlin.

Volunteer fire companies from Berlin, Showell, Bishopville, Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and Newark responded to the fire.

Firefighters reported heavy fire conditions upon arrival.

The fire was placed under control at 7:33 p.m.

A female occupant of the home was located inside the house and transported to Atlantic General Hospital Berlin where she later died.

Identity of the deceased is pending official notification from the Office of the Maryland Chief Medical Examiner. No other injuries were reported with the fire.

The house did not have a working smoke alarm or residential fire sprinklers.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Deputy Fire Marshal Hunter Mauk at 410-632-5666, ext. 3 or hmauk@co.worcester.md.us.

Substance abuse prevention grant funding given to county

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services supplies \$125K, Rep. Harris says

(Jan. 2, 2020) Rep. Andy Harris, M.D. (R-1st) this week announced the award of a \$125,000 grant to treat and prevent substance abuse in Worcester County.

The grant is through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the funds will be administered by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

The \$125,000 federal grant is to Mosaic Community Services Inc. in Pocomoke City for the Berlin Prevention Works Coalition for Drugs and Alcohol-Free Communities.

The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention works with federal, state, public and private organizations to develop comprehensive prevention systems.

The center helps prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.

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Local man helps solve model vessel mystery

Boatmaker's son shows old newspaper clipping as proof of father's build

(Jan. 2, 2020) The restored three-mast model schooner on permanent display at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club is familiar to many, but few know the true story of its origin.

When members of the 50th Anniversary Committee hosted a dedication and unveiling of the restored and newly encased model in November, they told the large crowd present that Boise Cascade gave the boat to Ocean Pines during the opening of the first yacht club in 1975. Committee member Sharyn O'Hare said her research suggested the boat originated during the mid 1950s, but its builder was unknown.

As chance would have it, Farrell John Lynch read local newspaper coverage of the dedication and reached out to Ocean Pines with surprising new information.

"My father built that boat," he said. "My father's name [was] Farrell Wrendel Lynch and that boat was built right over here on Gum Point Road."

As evidence, he produced a faded clipping from an old newspaper that shows the model boat. The size of the model and shape of the bow, bowsprit and stern line up, as does the location of the cabin. Mark Hordeman added the sails during a restoration, years later.

The clipping's caption reads:

"The result of an interesting hobby of Farrell Lynch is pictured above...a three-masted schooner 7 feet long. The model boat took nearly two years to complete. On the table below the model are pictures of Farrell, Jr. a paratrooper at Fort Bragg and Ronnie, a navy man on the destroyer USS Blue."

"That picture was taken right in my mom and dad's house on Gum Point Road," Farrell said. His uncle, Roland B. Powell (no relationship to the former Ocean City mayor), took the photo around or just after 1965.

"My dad was very handy at crafts," Lynch said. "He could carve decoys, but he was an exceptional boat builder. A lot of my dad's family on his side and his mother's side were all boat builders, back in the day. My dad, somehow, inherited skills to build boats and whittle and carve."

Farrell Wrendel Lynch was born in 1914 in Taylorville, right behind the church. The elder Lynch was a fisherman who occasionally worked for the Martin Fish Co, according to his son. He also was a carpenter for E.S. Adkins & Company and owned the campground formerly on Gum Point Road, and he was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and served during World War II in the Navy. He passed away about 20 years ago.

The younger Lynch, now 74, recalled as a child hunting on what's presently Ocean Pines. The community wasn't developed until 1968.

"There was nothing here when I was growing up, nothing but a forest and a swamp," he said.

Lynch said his father built the model boat in the garage next his childhood home, near the present location of the Worcester County boat ramp.

"We used to live in an old farmhouse up in the field. All of that's gone now," he said. "Almost everything we're talking about is long gone. There's hardly anybody living [from] the family except for myself and my brother. You're lucky you got us before we died, or you'd never know where that boat comes from!"

His best guess is his father built the model during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

"I went into the Army in 1963 and I kind of remembered that boat being in the house when I left," he said.

After building the first 7-foot schooner, Lynch's father crafted a sister boat to the model, which his brother, Ronnie, still has.

Lynch said he's uncertain of the details, but the boat somehow changed hands and became a display piece in a local bar.

See BOAT Page 15



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Farrell Wrendel Lynch is shown building the model schooner believed to be the same boat now on display in the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Farrell John Lynch talks to longtime Ocean Pines resident Sharyn O'Hare about the model boat his father built.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Farrell John Lynch stands in the Ocean Pines Yacht Club near the model boat he said his father built during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Boat built late 1950s, early 60s

Continued from Page 14

"This boat went from mom and dad's house ... to the Yankee Clipper Motel in Ocean City, which is no longer there," he said. "The boat ended up at the Yankee Clipper Motel in the Pirate's Den lounge. I can't tell you whether somebody bought that boat from dad. I can't tell you if dad gave it to them. I can't tell you if it was family.

"My father was the type of person, he probably never would sell you this boat - he'd probably give it to you before he'd sell it to you," he added.

Lynch also is unsure how the boat might have traveled from the motel to Ocean Pines, but more than half a century after he last saw it in person, he opened up a newspaper in November and recognized the model that once sat in a chicken house next to his childhood home.

His first reaction?

"Jesus, I know who built that boat! That's dad's boat," he said.

Lynch said he talked it over with his wife, and later called his brother to ask what he should do: reveal the boat's origin or "let it be a mystery forever."

"He said, 'I want them to know where it came from ... Ocean Pines probably deserves to know and dad needs to get the recognition,'" Lynch said of the conversation.

Lynch was not surprised the boat became a showpiece in Ocean Pines.

"I figured it would end up on display somewhere," he said. "I always knew where the sister boat was, but I kind of lost track of the first one dad built."

As for those missing years between the Pirate's Den and the yacht club, Lynch believes someone, somewhere has a clue to what happened.

"Whoever had it in the Pirate's Den, who knows what they did with it? Where did it go all those years from when it left mom and dad's house, I don't know," Lynch said. "It

could have traveled all around different places until it ended up in your yacht club ... it just didn't sail over there, I'll tell you that!"

The model boat amassed many other stories between 1975 and the present day, but exactly how it traveled from the Pirate's Den to Ocean Pines remains a mystery.

If anyone has more information, email info@oceanpines.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester Preparatory School math team placed third at the 36th annual Eastern Shore High School Mathematics Competition. Pictured, from left, are math teacher Linda Bragg with students Eli Prushansky, Max Huber and Daniel Chen.

Wor. math team gets third place

(Jan. 2, 2020) The Worcester Preparatory School math team placed third at the 36th annual Eastern Shore High School Mathematics Competition hosted by Salisbury University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science on Nov. 14.

Worcester Prep Upper School math teacher Linda Bragg coached the three-person team consisting of seniors Max Huber and Eli Prushansky and junior Daniel Chen.

The annual contest celebrates students who have an aptitude and enthusiasm for mathematics.

The competition consists of open-ended questions and the individual competition consists of multiple choice questions covering subjects such as algebra, geometry, functions and functional notation, exponents and logarithms, trigonometry, probability and statistics, logic and set theory, arithmetic sequences, geometric series, and number theory.

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Opinion

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

Williams mentions idea of Wor. tax differential

Maybe it was an offhand remark or a subtle political jab, but Berlin Mayor Gee Williams' comment this week about seeking a county tax differential for the town was one of the waning year's most surprising endings.

For county residents who haven't been following Ocean City's decades-long pursuit of a better tax deal with Worcester County government, a tax differential in this instance is a rate that's adjusted downward to reflect the costs of services the tax-levying entity provides but the taxpaying entity doesn't use.

Avoiding specifics — therefore avoiding an argument over whether the example is fair — say the Worcester County government keeps and maintains a dozen pogo sticks for use by county residents. The cost of maintenance is paid by every taxpayer in the county. But Berlin has its own pogo stick supply as does Ocean City. With a tax differential, the county's pogo stick costs would be deducted from the local tax bills.

Breaking down the expenses of duplicate services is complicated, because it involves issues of the public good, degrees of use and other nontangible factors. That makes Williams' comment a little more startling, since Berlin depends on more county services than Ocean City does.

Another intriguing question, however, is what effect Williams' comment will have on the county commissioners and their prolonged argument with the Town of Ocean City?

The concern that other jurisdictions might follow Berlin's lead could cause them to become even more entrenched against the whole idea of differentials, as well as any concessions they might make to Ocean City to keep the peace.

Maybe Mayor Williams was just tossing out an idea that won't go any farther than that, or maybe he said it to see what kind of reaction it produced both locally and at the county level. Maybe it was nothing at all.

But one thing is certain, it's an end-of-the-year cliffhanger that entices the public to stayed tuned for the next episode.



"You'll get used to it"

OPFD shares CO recommendations

Fire officials urges residents to have maintained alarms

(Jan. 2, 2020) The Ocean Pines Fire Department this week reminded residents that homes should be outfitted with well-maintained carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

Otherwise, CO poisoning could occur, since the deadly gas is odor-free.

According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CO alarms should be installed and maintained in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.

The commission recommends that consumers look for UL or CSA listings on the packaging. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one interconnected CO alarm sounds, they all sound.

"Some homes in Ocean Pines may not have functioning carbon monoxide alarms," said Steve Grunewald, chief of

the Ocean Pines Fire Department. "We want all residents to understand the need for CO alarms."

Grunewald says CO alarms can mean the difference between life and death. According to NFPA, fire department responses to non-fire CO incidents have increased over the past decade.

"CO is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn incompletely," Grunewald said. "In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of CO."

"Also, anything that has an engine, such as vehicles running in an attached garage, or portable generators running inside a home, shed, attached garage or too close to a home also can produce dangerous levels of CO. Burning charcoal in fireplaces or barbecue grills inside a home or in semi-enclosed areas can also result in lethal carbon monoxide levels."

The Ocean Pines Fire Department along with federal agencies offer the following tips for making sure the CO alarms in your home are maintained and working properly:

Install and maintain CO

alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, placed low on the walls.

Smoke alarms should be placed high on the walls.

People who employ a combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms should follow the directions for smoke alarm installation.

Test CO alarms once a month, and replace them if they fail to respond correctly when tested.

Replace the CO alarm according to manufacturer's instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.

Know the difference between the sound of the CO alarm and the smoke alarm, and each alarm's low-battery signals. If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries, or replace the device.

CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms, and vice versa. Know the difference.

Ocean Pines residents with questions and/or concerns about CO alarm requirements may contact the Ocean Pines Fire Department at 410-641-8272 or visit www.nfpa.org/CO for more information.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

P.O. Box 3500, Ocean City, Md. 21843
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

- EDITOR** Stewart Dobson
- MANAGING EDITOR** Lisa Capitelli
- STAFF WRITERS** Greg Ellison, Morgan Pilz,
..... Rachel Ravina, Joshua Kim, Elizabeth Bonin
- ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Elaine Brady
- ACCOUNT MANAGERS** Mary Cooper, Shelby Shea
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- PUBLISHER** Christine Brown
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Gini Tufts

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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Eastern Shore children of Eastern European descent greet Grandfather Frost, the Russian equivalent of Santa Claus, who is traditionally accompanied by his granddaughter, Snegurochka, to bring presents on New Year's Eve, during a holiday celebration at the Ocean Pines community center last Saturday.



COPELAND HONORED

Worcester Prep girls' soccer Coach Carol Hartnett presents senior Emily Copeland with the United Soccer Coaches "Senior Excellence Award." Copeland was honored for her exceptional contributions to the team while exemplifying the finest attributes of a high school student-athlete.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

Attorney Brian Clark presented a \$3,000 check to Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) to benefit its Emergency Food Assistance Program. From Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2019, GOLD provided over \$10,000 in emergency food assistance for 291 adults and 228 children who live in poverty and low-income circumstances in Worcester County. Worcester County GOLD is a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which depends on community support to enhance the lives of those less fortunate by providing emergency assistance to meet basic needs. Pictured, from left, are Bethany Didriksen, vice president of Worcester County GOLD's Board of Directors; Sandy Sipes, GOLD executive director; and Clark.

OPEN HOUSES JAN. 2 - JAN. 9

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Tony Matriona/Resort Homes
Sat-Mon, 11-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Fri-Sun 11-5pm	9800 Mooring View Ln., #32 West Harbor Village	3BR/2.5BA	Duplex/Townhouse	From Low \$300,000s	Kathleen Clark/Monogram Realty
Saturday 12-2pm	10 Leslie Mews, Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$699,900	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11-2pm	8 Harwich Ct., Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$219,900	Power of 2/Hileman Real Estate





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SHORE BANK DONATION

For the past few months, Shore United Bank employees have been selling cookbooks to raise money to donate in honor of GivingTuesday, a global movement, where companies come together to give back to the communities they serve. Collectively, Shore United Bank donated over \$7,000 to 23 different nonprofit organizations, including health and human service organizations, such as homeless shelters and food banks; youth and education organizations, such as schools and youth sports teams; and animal rescue organizations, such as shelters and clinics.



SPONSORSHIP

Showell Elementary School has a Kiwanis Student Leadership Club sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Pictured are the K-Kids displaying the \$500 check they received from the Kiwanis Club in support of the program.

PHOTO COURTESY
D.J. LANDIS, SR.

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RECOGNITION

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently recognized Tom Southwell and Ed Ahlquistis, co-chairs of the October Pancake Breakfast, on Nov. 6. Southwell, left, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman.



GUEST SPEAKER

During a recent Ocean City Lioness meeting, Marian Bickerstaff of Sarah's Pantry at the Community Church of Ocean Pines, left, spoke about their project for helping and feeding the less fortunate of Worcester County. Lioness President Amy Bishop presented a donation of \$100 and many non-perishable goods for Sarah's Pantry.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NOW PLAYING



NEW CENSATION

Ocean Club Nightclub: Friday & Saturday, Jan. 3-4, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.



SIDE PROJECT

Harborside Bar & Grill:
Saturday, Jan. 4, 2 p.m.

BEACH BARRELS

13207 Coastal Highway, Ocean City
410-250-0522 / www.beachbarrels.com
Jan. 3: Identity Crisis, 9 p.m.
Jan. 4: Taylor Knox Project, 9 p.m.
Jan. 7: Open Mic, 8 p.m.
Jan. 8: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City
410-524-7575 / www.bjsonthewater.com
Jan. 3: Thin Ice, 9 p.m.
Jan. 4: Chest Pains, 9 p.m.
Jan. 8: Monkee Paw, 6 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave., Ocean City
410-289-7192 / www.captainstableoc.com
Every Friday & Saturday:
Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street, Ocean City, Montego Bay Shopping Center
410-250-1449 / www.duffysoc.com
Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-8 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road, West Ocean City
410-213-1846 / www.ocharborside.com
Jan. 3: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Jan. 4: Side Project, 2 p.m.;
DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
410-524-3535 / www.clarionoc.com
Every Friday and Saturday: DJ Dusty,
9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Jan. 3-4: New Censation, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City
410-289-4891 / www.picklesoc.com
Jan. 4: Sean Loomis, 9 p.m.

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RED NO BLUE - Jan. 24th

ZANDER JETT - Jan. 31st

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6909 Coastal Highway
Next to Rommel's Ace Home Center
410-524-7981

12849 Ocean Gateway
Just over the Rt. 50 Bridge
410-213-7655

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Cuisine

Top seared swordfish with mango salsa

The holidays have just passed, having survived weeks of pretending that we were ready for them.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Isn't that what we always do? Just pretend that we have everything under control?

Most of us can admit that we don't, despite the admirable stack of presents in the closet and various hiding

places throughout the house.

The kids, as old as they are, still do not know all of my stashes, so it gives me a bit of an advantage on Christmas morning when they open that one gift that they are completely surprised by.

Oh, who am I kidding? I am a terrible gift buyer. I was not blessed with the innate gifts that my late wife had, apparently from birth.

And for the most part, the kids have taken after me. We do our best, and every now and then we hit the jackpot.

But, for the most part, we just kind of work our way through the day, act surprised and genuinely at least appreciate being together.

To me, that's more important than anything that can come in a box.

As I look around the house, I realize that there is very little decoration up. This year, it just didn't happen.

The tree is beautiful, we have a few wine bottles with LED strands adorning the mantle in true wino fashion, and the fire has been crackling on every chilly day so far. I guess that will have to suffice.

Our holiday parties at the restaurant are finally winding down and we can take a deep breath. They went exceedingly well and we are excited to book most of the same clients for next year's holiday celebrations.

That is truly a sign of success, and something of which we as a team are very proud.

Earlier in the year, I had every intention of taking the family to Costa Rica or the Caribbean for a vacation, but as they say in our industry, the easiest way to make a million bucks is to start with five million bucks.

As such, I have another year of building this business before I can consider an expensive vacation. But, I dream of a vacation such as this every day.

The warm beaches, a little surfing and fishing, ice-cold beers while playing volleyball and finishing it all off



with a bottle of white wine and a seared swordfish topped with mango salsa.

I mean, not that I've put too much thought into this, or anything. I just know that I'd rather be relaxing on a beach somewhere, something that is long overdue.

This has indeed been a difficult year on the family with restaurant growing pains and the myriad adventures that accompany such a foolhardy venture.

We haven't had a family vacation in almost two years and we are slowly trying to figure out a way to pull it off. And if we play our cards right, we could be in Costa Rica at the marina, with those of us who love to fish shoving off at 4:30 a.m. while the rest of the lazy slobs sleep until 11 a.m.

As I write this, I can feel the salt air, very different in the tropics than up here. While we still have the salt air, it's just different close to the equator.

I'm glad I made this dish. It was warming and as I close my eyes, I can see myself half a world away.

Seared Swordfish

Serves 4

4 6-ounces pieces swordfish
1 Tbsp. Butter
1 Tbsp. Olive oil
1 Paul Prudhomme's Redfish Magic, as needed
1 1/2 c. Mango Salsa (recipe follows)
sherry drizzle (recipe follows)

1. Pat the swordfish dry and set aside until ready to cook.

2. Heat the butter and oil in a pan until hot but not smoking.

3. Season the fish and sear until it has nice color on the first side, probably two to three minutes.

4. Turn the fish over and continue to cook until it is cooked through. Unless the swordfish has been frozen, I do not recommend that you eat this undercooked. As much as I love sword, it does have a propensity to harbor parasites. And as much of a weight-loss program eating a parasite might put you on, it might not be ideal. Cook it through!

Mango Salsa

Makes about 2 cups

1 mango, peeled and cored, diced
3 Tbsp. Finely diced red onion
Fresh cilantro, chopped, as desired

4 heirloom grape tomatoes, finely diced, seeds and all
Sugar if the mango is not ripe, to taste
Salt & pepper as needed

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl and allow to sit refrigerated for at least two hours

2. Keep chilled until ready to serve

Sherry Drizzle

Makes about 1 cup

1 c. White grape juice

1 c. Apple juice

1 c. Good sherry vinegar

1. Combine ingredients in a saucepan and heat to a very low simmer. Do not let this boil, as that can result in a bitter, raisin-esque taste.

2. Barely simmer for a long, long, long time until it is one-third of the original quantity.

3. Pull off the stove and cool until it is nice and syrupy. Set aside until ready to use.

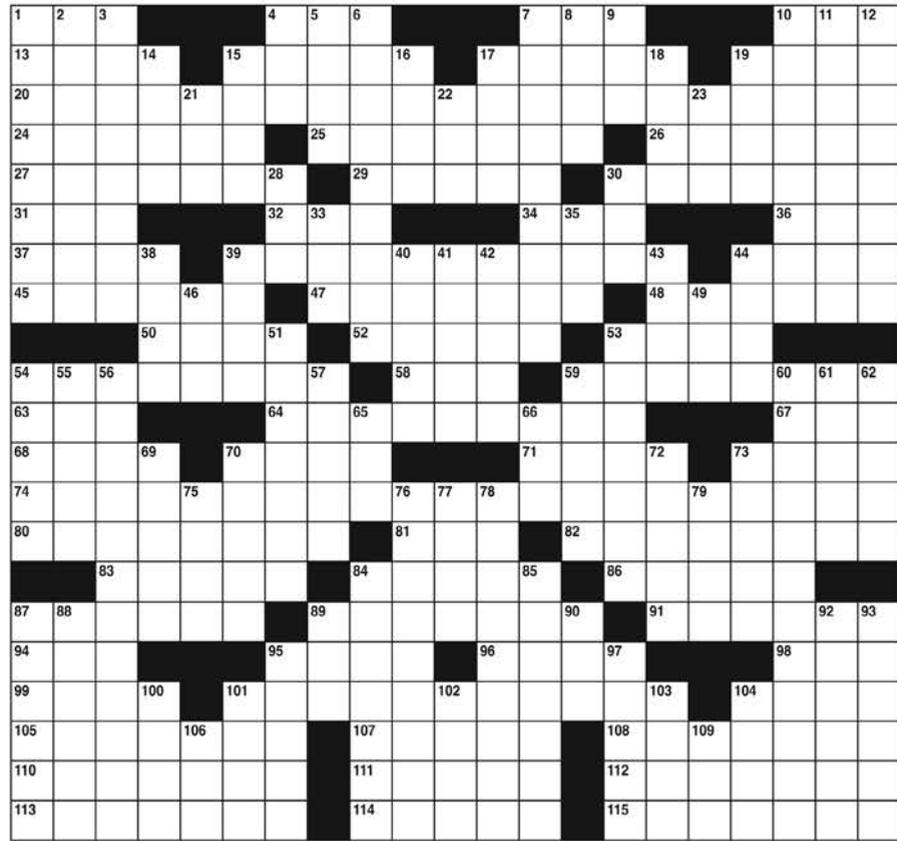
— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

Puzzles

DOWN FOR THE COUNT BY LAURA TAYLOR KINNEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Laura Taylor Kinnel, of Newtown, Pa., teaches math and is the director of studies at a Friends boarding school near Philadelphia. She got her interest in crosswords at a young age through her grandmother, who used to solve the Sunday Times puzzle and ask for Laura's "help." The first crossword Laura made was a year-in-review puzzle for a 2018 Christmas letter. This puzzle is her debut in The Times. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 TV-screen inits.
 - 4 Steinfeld
 - 7 Cut (off)
 - 10 "Nope"
 - 13 Lucky strikes?
 - 15 Massage target
 - 17 Capital of Belarus
 - 19 Spa amenity
 - 20 1/x, for x
 - 24 Top type
 - 25 Hay-fever irritant
 - 26 Online payment option
 - 27 Record holder for the most Indianapolis 500 laps led (644)
 - 29 Lowly workers
 - 30 Mythical being depicted in bronze in Copenhagen Harbor
 - 31 Followers of dos
 - 32 Home of the N.C.A.A.'s Rhody the Ram, for short
 - 34 Director DuVernay
 - 36 Govt. org. often impersonated on scam calls
 - 37 Picked a card
 - 39 Abstainers ... or the central column's answers vis-à-vis 20-, 39-, 74- and 101-Across, respectively
 - 44 One in a pocketful
 - 45 Has finished
 - 47 Speed that would enable a 23-minute D.C.-to-L.A. flight
- DOWN**
- 1 Super Bowl trophy eponym
 - 2 Deep-fried doughy treats
 - 3 Picked nits
 - 4 ___ tear (athlete's injury)
 - 5 Thieves' place
 - 6 Yosemite attraction
 - 7 Hides one's true nature
 - 8 Group with the 2012 chart-topping album "Up All Night," to fans
 - 9 It's pitchfork-shaped
 - 10 "Why do you ask?" response
 - 11 The 1 in (1,2), in math
 - 12 Work times, typically
 - 14 Phaser setting
 - 15 Admiral Graf ___ (German W.W. II ship)
 - 16 Leaf (through)
 - 17 Bearing
 - 18 One might be taken in protest
 - 19 Longtime NPR host Diane
 - 21 Satellite inhabited continuously since 2000: Abbr.
 - 22 Complement of a turtledoves in a Christmas song
 - 23 Obsolescent TV companion
 - 28 Paris's ___ La Fayette
 - 30 Disfigure
 - 33 ___ sleep
 - 35 Perturb
 - 38 "The Caine Mutiny" author
 - 39 End of some school names, for short
 - 40 Orbicularis ___ (eyelid-closing muscle)
 - 41 "We ___ Kings"
 - 42 What fools might make of themselves
 - 43 "Je ne ___ quoi"
 - 44 Joint winner of FIFA's Player of the Century award in 2000
 - 46 Top-level foreign-policy grp.
 - 49 Monopoly quartet: Abbr.
 - 51 Fold
 - 53 Fuel line
 - 54 Wallop
 - 55 1935 Triple Crown winner
 - 56 Top-ranked professional tennis player for a record 237 consecutive weeks
 - 57 Ark contents
 - 59 ___ fast one
 - 60 Labor-day setting?
 - 61 "Beau ___"
 - 62 Signs off on
 - 65 "I tell ya!"
 - 66 Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
 - 69 Universal self, in Hinduism
 - 70 Preserves something?
 - 72 Houston A.L.'ers
 - 73 Trump who wrote 2017's "Raising Trump"
 - 75 Tiny margin of victory
 - 76 When one usually goes through customs
 - 77 Purple pool ball
 - 78 Brushed up on
 - 79 Lucky-ticket-holder's cry
 - 84 Famed Chicago steakhouse
 - 85 A couple of Bible books
 - 87 Completely unrestrained
 - 88 Tribute
 - 89 Swollen, as a lip
 - 90 Drain, as blood
 - 92 Swiss dish
 - 93 Derivative expressions
 - 95 Runs smoothly
 - 97 They can't do without does
 - 100 Prefix for a polygon with 140° interior angles
 - 101 Headed for overtime
 - 102 A short rest, so to speak
 - 103 He: Lat.
 - 104 Top female baby name of 2014-18
 - 106 Year that Michelangelo's "The Crucifixion of St. Peter" was completed
 - 109 Things the Energizer bunny may need



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- 109 Things the Energizer bunny may need

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HARD - 66

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

P	O	B	O	Y	S	N	I	P	E	R	S	M	A	D	A	M		
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S	T	R	I	P	L	I	N	G	S	T	R	I	P	L	I	N	G	
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L	E	V	I	T	E	S	T	H	E	C	W	L	E	V	I	T	E	S
F	R	E	R	E	S	G	E	E	W	H	I	Z	N	I	C	E	S	T
I	M	C	O	O	L	N	O	O	D	L	E							
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E	A	T	O	F	L	A	N	D	S									
B	O	X	E	R	S	P	I	R	A	T	I	C	B	O	X	E	R	S
M	A	I	T	R	E	T	R	I	T	O	N	E	A	M	E	L	I	A
I	T	S	S	A	D	S	E	A	L	E	G	S	Y	E	S	M	O	M

Calendar

Submit calendar items to: editor@oceancitytoday.net. Submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, the week of publication. Local submissions have priority. Area event listings are subject to space availability.

Thurs., Jan. 2

MERRY MAKERS 'MACRAMÉ'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. An adult craft group that meets the first Thursday of each month. January spotlights ways to enhance your home with macramé items. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

PLAY TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. A play date for infant to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'SILLY STORIES'

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

3D THURSDAY

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Visit the library to see the 3D printer in action. Bring questions and enter a raffle for a free 3D print. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

POCOMOKE BOOK FOR THE MONTH

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Featuring Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

BEACH SINGLES

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Beach Singles, 45 years and older, meet for happy hour. Info: 302-436-9577, 410-524-0649 or BeachSingles.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Thursdays - Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. Coastal Hospice provides grief support and education. Participants work together to help each other navigate through grief at their own pace. Free and open to the public. Nicole Long, 443-614-6142

Fri., Jan. 3

FIBER FRIENDS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Bring your lapwork and join the group as they knit, crochet and embroider. All are welcome. Victoria Christie-Healy, 703-507-0708, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STEM SCIENCE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS 'SNOW!'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Come explore and experiment. For ages 4 to 14 years. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This show, titled "Shared Visions," is a partnership between the Art League of Ocean City and the Ocean City Writers Group. The writers authored prose and poetry that was then interpreted into visual art by members of the Art League. Both sides will be on display during January. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Free admission and open to the public. 410-524-9433, <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>

ANNUAL CASH BINGO

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road. Doors open at 5 p.m., early bird games begin at 5:45 p.m. and regular games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Food, beverages and 50/50s available for sale. Advance tickets: 619-922-9950.

BINGO FOR BABIES BONANZA!

Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 6:30 PM. Doors open at 5 p.m. Every Friday in January the Knights of Columbus Ocean City Council #9053 will donate all proceeds to The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. Cost is \$22 to play all night. Refreshments available. <http://www.koc9053.com>

Sat., Jan. 4

CRAFTY SATURDAY MAKE & TAKE 'LET IT SNOW'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Crafty fun for children of all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM. Novice and established writers gather to share their fiction, non-fiction and creative writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop-ins welcome. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TEDDY BEAR WORKSHOP

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Stuff your

own Teddy Bear and take it with you. All ages welcome. Register: 410-524-1818. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

SATURDAY STORY TIME 'HIBERNATION'

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:00 PM. Books, songs and Saturday silliness for kids of all ages. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Featuring live music, chef demos, children's activities and other special events. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Mon., Jan. 6

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

HYPERTENSION CLINIC

Apple Discount Drugs, 314 Franklin Ave., #600, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital and takes place the first Monday of every month. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Genie, 410-641-9268

IPAD CHICKS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM. Explore the world of iPads while learning from each other. Register: Norma Kessler, 410-641-7017. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 AM. Mother Goose-themed songs and play for children 2 years and younger. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

THE MOBILE MENTOR

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Providing one-on-one assistance for those who want to make the most of their tablet or mobile device. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. The group meets twice a month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'I AM ME'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 PM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

BOOK PAGE VOTIVE JARS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 5:00 PM. Repurpose an old book and decorate a votive jar. Register: 410-632-3495. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

AGH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Open to the public and meets the first Monday of each month. Speaker and education related to diabetes is provided. AGH Diabetes Outpatient Education, 410-208-9761

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00 PM. Come and sing. Drop-ins welcome. Carol, 410-641-6876

Tues., Jan. 7

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center Conference Room, 9707 Healthway Drive, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. A cooperative effort for local Worship Centers and Atlantic General Hospital & Health System to increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

STEAM STORYTIME 'PAINTING FUN'

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 10:30 AM. Stories and painting activities for young children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'WINTER CHILL'

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For children ages 2 to 5. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GORDMANS JOB FAIR

Gordmans, 11561 Coastal Highway, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM. To be held at Gold Coast Mall Peebles location; soon to be Gordmans opening Feb. 18. Positions include store manager, assistant manager, sale and stockroom associate. Interested candidates are invited to first apply online at gordmans.com/careers and then visit the job fair. Walk-in welcome.

KETO-TARIAN VEGETARIAN AND KETO COMBINED FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Take the best of plant-based foods and add ketogenic elements like organic eggs, wild salmon, avocado and

CALENDAR

nuts to create a way of eating that is lighter and more sustainable. Food samples available. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

FAMILY TIME MOVIE WITH WOODY AND BUZZ (2019)

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Enjoy movie related activities before the movie begins at 4:30 p.m. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle.

jeanduck47@gmail.com

Wed., Jan. 8

GRACE PARKER BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City,

1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Eggs to order, bacon, ham, sausage, biscuits, grits, potatoes, pancakes (plain or buckwheat), coffee and tea. Cost is \$9 for all-you-can-eat and \$7 for carry-out.

WITTY KNITTERS

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Knitters, crochet enthusiasts, needle artists of all skill levels are invited. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

STORY TIME 'SNOWFLAKES'

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 AM. For 2 to 5 year old children. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

LAP TIME

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 AM. Songs, stories, games and finger plays for children under 2 years old. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

HYPERTENSION CLINICS

Sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital

and takes place at Rite Aid, 10119 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin and at Rite Aid, 11011 Manklin Creek Road, Ocean Pines, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Free blood pressure screening and health information. Genie, 410-641-9268

ACUPUNCTURE: AN INTRODUCTION

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Dr. Mark Stoehr discusses the healing properties of acupuncture, including its use to alleviate stress and pain. Register: 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TEEN SILENT BOOK CLUB

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. Bring a book (or borrow one) and read with fellow book lovers. Discuss the books and enjoy some snacks. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OP/OC

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open

at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Wednesdays - Ocean City Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s music. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans and local charities in the Delmarva region. Members and guests. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OC/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 6:00 PM. 302-540-2127

BRIDGE WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Knowledge of basic Bridge (Goren/American Standard). 410-596-5498



STUDENT LEADERS

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City is involved with helping students learn how to volunteer in support of their community. The club supports Student Leadership Clubs at two elementary schools - Buckingham and Showell K-Kids, at the Berlin Intermediate School and Stephen Decatur Middle School Builders Clubs and at Stephen Decatur High School Key Club, plus the Aktion Club, for people with disabilities at Worcester County Developmental Center. The advisors at Buckingham Elementary are Kiwanians Ralph and Wilma Chinn who presented the annual \$500 donation at the club's October meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST MUSICIAN

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School welcomed Kevin Martin, local steel pan drum musician, instrument maker and MBS parent, for an artist in residence visit, Oct. 28-30.

CALL
410-723-6397
BY MONDAY
5 P.M.

MARKETPLACE

CLASSIFIED

Classifieds now appear in Ocean City Today & the Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com and baysideoc.com.

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410-599-6906
 to schedule appt.

YR Ocean Pines. Large 2 story. 3BR, 2.5BA, screened porch, fireplace, oversized garage. No smoking, no pets. Good credit. Security deposit plus utilities. \$1495 per month. **301-509-6515**

Captain's Table Restaurant
 2 15th Street,
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 Now accepting applications for the following YR position:
• Year Round Line Cook
 Apply in person or email resume to:
duan.showell@marriott.com
 All candidates must go through a satisfactory background check.
www.courtyardoceanacity.com ~ No phone calls please.

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Production Crew
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 \$14-\$16/hr.
 Apply online at:
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Part-time position in law office. Proficient computer skills, Word Perfect, Dictaphone, telephone and light bookkeeping required. Familiarity with E-filing a plus, but will train.
Please respond by sending resume to P.O. Box 56, Ocean City, MD 21843

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 References required/Real Estate License a Plus
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 Must be willing travel to properties mostly in Ocean Pines and Ocean City.
 Must work most weekends as needed – No Evenings
 Administrative skills needed
 Please fax resumes letters and references to or inquiries to
Hileman Real Estate, Inc.
 Attn: Chris to fax # 410-208-9562 or email Hilemanre@aol.com

LACROSSE COACHES
 Worcester Preparatory School, a coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK-12, is currently seeking Head and Assistant Coaches for Boys Lacrosse. Minimum of 2 yrs. experience and CJIS Background Screening required. EOE

Contact: Matt McGinnis
410-641-3575 or
mmcginnis@worcesterprep.org

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 Employment is contingent on drug screen & background check. ResortQuest is an EOE.

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 Available May 10th-Sept. 10th. 312 Sunset Dr. 2BR/1.5BA, newly remodeled, big kitchen/living area. Sleeps up to 6. \$13,500/season, you pay utilities. Security deposit \$2,000. Call 410-428-7333. www.SunsetTerraceRentals.com

Winter-Short Term Rentals ~ until 4/15/20
 • SUNSET DR - 2 bdrm, 1.5 ba. Apt., \$700/mo.
 • TIBURON 139TH ST - 3 bdrm, 2 ba. Condo \$900/mo.
 • GOLF COURSE RD - 2 bdrm, 1 ba. Apt., \$600/mo.
 • SILVERPOINT LANE - 3 bdrm, 2 ba. Home \$950/mo.
 ALL units: fully furnished, include cable & TV, Wi-Fi, washer/dryer. Require: sec. dep., electric, references
410 213-8090 or email: events@oceanpromotions.info

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RENTALS

YR RENTAL - 5 Bed / 3 Bath Home in WOC, Cape Isle of Wight. Fenced-in back yard, 2-car garage with full upstairs storage space. New carpet, paint, will be available around 1/1/20. \$1750 per month, plus electric and cable. Resort Rentals, 410-524-0285.

Year-Round Rental Available in West Ocean City. 2BR, 1BA. Call 1-877-289-1616 for more information.

ROOMMATES

Responsible, mature, reliable roommate wanted for mid-town OC apartment. \$450/mo. Shared electric. 410-251-6678

REAL ESTATE

Remodeled From Foundation Up, 3BR, 2BA Home on .25 Acre In Bishopville. No HOA. \$239,000 Call Howard Martin Realty, 410-352-5555.

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REAL ESTATE

\$59,900 cash buys you a BEAUTIFUL mobile home! Thoroughly renovated, near boat ramp. Lot rent \$425/month. Call Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555

Ocean Pines Early Bird 4 Large bedrooms and great room w/cathedral ceiling and fireplace. Master bed with whirlpool and sit-down shower. Large kitchen with lots of cabinets. All purpose room. Two car garage and large deck. Overlooks golf course. \$359,950 Open Daily by Apt. Call 410-726-0698

Classifieds 410-723-6397

COMMERCIAL

1 Office/Retail Space & 1 Warehouse Unit available in West Ocean City. Call 443-497-4200

Berlin: 225 sq. ft. Office Space, \$350/mo. includes utilities. 120 sq. ft. Storage Sheds, each \$95/mo. Call 410-726-5471.

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Spacious, climate-controlled corner office with beautiful views, available in Class A office building. Use of Conference Room and reception area, in a modern, well-maintained building, in prime mid-town Ocean City location. Call 410-524-3440 for appointment.

SERVICES

House and Rental Clean Out, small and local moving, and removal of junk and furniture. Also, will clean out garages/sheds. 302-222-7297, 302-422-9390

DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.

www.oceancitytoday.net

FURNITURE

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AUCTIONS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

Self-storage Cube contents will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for the Owner 11906 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842 to satisfy a lien for rental on January 14, 2020 at approx. 11:00 AM at www.storage-treasures.com. The contents of approximately 16 Cubes will be sold.

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REAL ESTATE

Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. Homes from low \$100's, No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or www.coolbranch.com

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CALL BY MONDAY AT 5 P.M.

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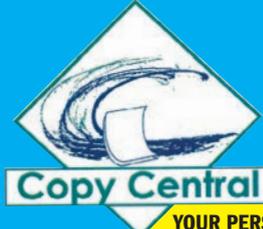
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