



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## CHRISTMAS PARADE

Santa and Mrs. Claus sit atop the Berlin Fire Company's antique truck as Santa waves to specators following the conclusion of the 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade, last Thursday. See more pictures on page 12.

## OP finances continue their upward climb

Interim report shows major improvement over budget

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) In addition to reporting that the Ocean Pines Association has beaten its annual budget by \$551,000 so far, General Manager John Viola last Wednesday brought the board of directors up to date on capital projects and the results of an employee compensation study.

Viola opened his report at the Dec. 4 meeting with completion dates and updated spending figures for the golf course clubhouse and cart barn construction, as well as the new craft building and police building expansion projects.

Viola said work on the clubhouse remains on track, while the less involved cart barn project is nearing completion.

"The concrete has been poured and the foundation is in," he said.

See PINES Page 4

## Viola's contract extended

After six months, GM signs up for another two-and-a-half years

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) After witnessing the rapid improvement of the Ocean Pines Association's finances following the June appointment of General Manager John Viola, the board of directors last week voted 7-0 to extend the agreement for 30 more months.

OPA President Doug Parks said both parties negotiated an agreement for a



John Viola

two-and-a-half-year extension of Viola's original six-month contract, with no discussion preceding the unanimous vote during the board meeting last Wednesday.

Few details of the agreement were available, although one cost-cutting measure revealed was that Viola agreed to forgo medical benefits for the length of the contract that runs from Dec. 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

Following the ouster of

former General Manager John Bailey in March, Viola assumed the reins on a temporary basis until inking a six-month contract that expired this December.

In addition to his experience as budget and finance committee chairman, additional qualifications supporting Viola's ascension to the general manager role was his service as OPA treasurer at the time of Bailey's departure.

When Viola stepped into the position, a transition management team was formed around Viola, Aquat-

See VIOLA Page 7

## Wetland rain catcher work delayed by rain

Graham Ave. project close to completion

By Rachel Ravina  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) Work on the final stages of a submerged gravel wetland project on Graham Avenue have stalled because of bad weather, Water Resources Director Jamey Latchum told the Town Council meeting Monday night.

Latchum, who updated the council on the project's



Jamey Latchum

process in his departmental report, said most of the work has been completed.

Adding the topsoil and assorted plantings of trees and flowers would take a few days, he said.

"So it's two or three days with appropriate weather?" Councilman

See GRAHAM Page 7



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# Board approves capital purchases

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) Among the capital purchases the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors approved last Wednesday were an audio system for the community center, a turf tractor and cart path repairs at the golf course.

In addition, the board voted to replace the rubber safety surface at the Swim and Racquet Splash Pad and Mumford's Landing Pool, and to proceed with long-delayed bulkhead repairs.

Because the board recently experienced audio problems during its meetings broadcasts, General Manager John Viola asked to spend roughly \$16,000 to buy new sound equipment from Mid-South Audio.

"They've been a top vendor for ... over two decades," he said. "With this change, from an operational standpoint, we are estimating approximately \$17,000 in savings."

Although the item was not included in this year's budget, Viola said several pieces of audio gear currently used could be sold to partially offset costs.

Shifting to golf course concerns, Viola asked to spend roughly \$12,000 to purchase a Dakota 410 turf tender and more than \$17,000 for a John Deere ProGator.

"There was damage done to the greens this year caused by the current vehicle," he said. "The current vehicle needs constant maintenance, is very old, and does need to be replaced."

The board also signed off on spending more than \$39,000 in unbudgeted money with Chesapeake Paving to repair sections of the golf cart pathway.

Viola said Chesapeake Paving had been the low bidder for other recent road paving projects in Ocean Pines and plans to return soon to complete



OPA Board member Tom Janasek drilled down for details regarding milling procedures for proposed cart path repairs at the golf course during the directors meeting on Dec. 4.  
GREG ELLISON/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

repairs on Golf Course Road.

"They are not finished with Golf Course Road so we can get a good price," he said. "They're giving us a guaranteed same price as their current contract to continue on and to do the cart path."

Viola said of the three bids received for road paving work, Chesapeake provided the lowest asphalt price.

"If I try to get somebody in just to do that, it's a small job and it would be more," he said. "I'm looking at economies of scale."

Board member Tom Janasek asked about the scope of work included.

"They're going to actually dig the roots out?" he said.

Viola said the cost would cover only the most damaged sections of the cart pathway.

"They will go in and mill it just like they did on the roads," he said. "They'll be able to seamlessly put that with the rest of the path."

While noting the cost to replace the whole pathway would top \$200,000, Viola said ignoring the problem areas would cause problems with the golf carts.

"It will cost us more in maintenance," he said.

The board also agreed to spend more than \$31,000 to replace rubber safety surfacing at the Swim and Racquet Splash Pad and Mumford's Landing Pool.

"The area around Mumford's and the splash pad have started to break apart, causing tripping hazards," he said. "The [Worcester County] health department told us we needed to repair it prior to opening Summer 2020."

To complete the repair using Rubaroc brand flooring would require half the cost paid up front, Viola said.

"In order to get this done by the spring we do need to have a deposit," he said.

Noting the quick deterioration of the current surface, Janasek asked if the new layer would come with any guarantees.

"Is there any warranty?" he said. "We just put this stuff in three years ago at the swim and racquet."

"Rubaroc will do it right and will warranty it," he said.

The board also approved boosting spending for bulkhead repairs by

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**'I believe the amount budgeted for this year was \$1.3 million and we're probably going to come in at about \$1.6 million.'**  
 OPA Board of Directors General Manager, John Viola

roughly \$500,000.

"In 2018/19, and the prior years, we really didn't get that much done in bulkheads," he said. "This should have been spent in the prior year."

In addition to approving \$325,000 for Fisher Marine to repair the bulkhead along the OPA-owned portions of Ocean Parkway, the board also gave the nod to spending more than \$140,000 with McGinty's Marine Construction for lots 2,4,6 and 8 in the area from Wood Duck to Mallard

Drive west.

Viola said the contractor options were somewhat limited but ongoing work also helped secure improved pricing.

"These were the two [marine contractors] that were able to bid on it [as] the other two are doing other work for us," he said. "The price that they gave us is within the prices that we're getting for all the other contracts."

Board member Larry Perrone

asked if the more than \$450,000 proposed would increase the sums already dedicated to bulkhead work.

"This is in addition to the \$70,000 that were spending?" he said. "We do have the money in the bulkheads reserve so that's not an issue."

Viola confirmed the entire sum would be come from the bulkhead reserve fund.

"I believe the amount budgeted for this year was \$1.3 million and we're probably going to come in at about

\$1.6 million," he said.

Speaking by phone, Board member Frank Daly asked if the extra expenditures would make up for past delays.

"We had this two-year hiatus in doing bulkhead work," he said. "With these additional contracts, how close are we to what I call being on schedule?"

"We're pretty close," Viola replied. "Definitely by next year we'd be on track."

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# Pines ledgers showing plenty of black ink

Continued from Page 1

Construction of the \$1.6 million clubhouse is expected to be completed in May. So far, \$256,000 has been spent on the job, he said.

The new cart barn at the golf course should be in place next month with about \$118,000 spent of the \$400,000 estimated cost.

Viola also said the new craft building, estimated to cost \$85,000, should be wrapped up next month with about \$71,000 spent so far.

"We have a transition plan with the [Pine'er Craft] club," he said.

Work is just getting underway to expand the police building at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. The building is expected to be ready by June, and \$107,000 had been spent as of last week.

Turning to financial matters, Viola told the board the association is \$551,375 ahead midway through this fiscal year, although that number is expected to drop during the next few months and balance out at year-end on April 30.

"Keep in mind, the next six months we do utilize cash," he said. "We don't have the revenue coming in that we normally do so this number will come down."

Still, Viola said OPA Finance Director Steve Phillips agrees the asso-



OPA General Manager John Viola, center, provides a positive year-to-date financial picture, while Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett and Director of Finance Steve Phillips listen to the presentation during the board of directors meeting on Dec. 4.

ciation's finances will end the year in the black.

"We do have an estimate ... and I feel comfortable saying that we definitely will be favorable to budget for the year," he said.

Viola also reported that October was a particularly profitable month, with revenue coming in \$33,000 over budget, for a \$10,000 gain over October 2018, which posted a positive variance of \$22,000.

In large part, the half-million dollar positive budget variance is attributable to Ocean Pines amenities, where revenues have outpaced expenses by about \$327,000. That nearly doubles the \$166,500 variance at the same time in fiscal 2018, Viola said.

Viola also credited the departments for scrubbing their budgets clean of any excess expenditures.

Looking ahead to fiscal 2020,

Viola said the budget process began in September.

"We're actually a little ahead of schedule," he said. "We are committed to handing over the binders and the proposed draft budget ... Dec. 23."

Phillips said studies of reserve funds (replacement, bulkheads and roads) to ascertain optimal funding levels are also underway.

"We're working through the reserve balances to come out with a recommendation on the reserve spending and the balances in each of those for the budget," he said.

Viola also reviewed the findings from a recently completed employee compensation study by the Sibson Group that involved 215 OPA staff members.

"I want to emphasize this was an objective, data-driven, independent study by Sibson," he said.

In addition to updating job descriptions and analyzing performance reviews, the study was intended to construct target salary ranges.

"That's what this whole study was about, a minimum, mid-point and a maximum for each range that the jobs were classified in," he said. "Their recommendation is to get every employee to the minimum."

See PAY Page 7



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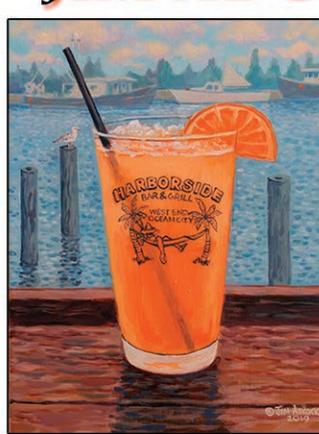
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# Berlin Parks Comm. explores memorial policy

By Rachel Ravina  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) A standard operating procedure for memorials in public parks cleared its first hurdle during the Berlin Parks Commission meeting last Tuesday.

Mary Bohlen, deputy town administrator and commission liaison, said there's no official plan in place for memorials in municipal parks. Members began the early stages of the discussion process last week.

Berlin Parks Commission member Mike Wiley said the idea for the pro-



Mike Wiley

gram was inspired by a proposal made at the Oct. 1 commission meeting to plant a memorial tree at Stephen Decatur Park.

Wiley said people planning to elect to take advantage of these memorial planting services should keep in mind that there are certain types of plants that work better with the environment as opposed to others.

"Everyone means well when they

want to do it, but they don't think about the long-term effects of it," Wiley said.

He also said that people should come to the town's parks commission with requests discuss their plans. He added that applicants could learn if the types of plants they've chosen are "acceptable or unacceptable."

Wiley said people frequently remember a loved one with a commemorative tree or flower. Others choose to install a bench.

"Well, by putting in environmentally correct things ... we can make sure

we have native species that are attractive to wildlife," Wiley said.

He added the initiative could "be very important for" Berlin's Bee City USA affiliate recertification. The efforts aim to increase the town's pollinator population by planting types of native species in gardens throughout the area as well as several public parks.

As for developing a policy, Bohlen said the Berlin Parks Commission would research approaches made by other communities via the National and Maryland Recreation and Parks associations.

# Town Council appoints commission member

By Rachel Ravina  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) Berlin resident Matthew Stoehr was appointed to the Berlin Planning Commission Monday night in an unanimous decision by the Town Council.

Mayor Gee Williams said he was referred to Stoehr by several people, and after interviewing him, Williams said he felt confident in his appointment selection.

"We talked extensively, not only about his background, but about the town, where it's been, [and] the differ-



Matthew Stoehr

ent directions or destinations the town could conceivably go in for over the next 20 years or more," Williams told the Bayside Gazette.

When selecting a candidate for an appointment, Williams said he considers several factors, including character, experience and willingness to serve on the board or commission.

"The main thing is to look for someone who really cares about the commu-

nity, and shows interest and enthusiasm for the position," Williams said.

Williams also said that having a younger member on the commission could add a new perspective.

"The idea is to constantly develop new leaders in our ... community's decision making and policy making, so that was an added plus," Williams said.

"It was not only his age, but his experience and his knowledge of the area and of the town."

Stoehr is replacing Berlin Planning Commission member Barb Stack, who's "term ran out," according to

Williams. Stoehr will serve a five-year term.

Stoehr, co-owner of Poseidon Plumbing & Home Services, said "this is a great opportunity for me to give back."

When he's not working, Stoehr said he enjoys walking his dog or eating at restaurants in Berlin.

"I spend a lot of time in this town," he said during the Town Council meeting.

The council voted 4-0 in favor of the appointment. Councilman Thom Gulyas was absent from Monday's meeting.

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# Drive aims to 'repurpose' supplies

By Rachel Ravina  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) For Maddox Bunting, a junior at Stephen Decatur High School, collecting old markers through the Crayola ColorCycle project allows him to put these supplies to good use instead of in the trash.

"The whole bin in the front office is full, and we have to set up another one," Maddox said.

Maddox's mother, Misty, a physical education teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, said she discovered the project on social media and talked to her son about establishing the project at their school.

"We got to talking about how many markers we have sitting around our house from when they were little," Misty said.

Misty said Maddox sent an email to several Worcester County Public Schools' principals asking if he could place a bin in each of the main offices. He also included a letter that could be sent home with students to inform their parents about his plan.

"I am proud of him," Misty said. "He took the bull by the horns with this one, and ... it's nice that they can actually be repurposed. They can't just be tossed in a recycle bin, and if we actually repurpose them, by sending them back to Crayola, they don't get tossed in a landfill."

In addition to Stephen Decatur High School, Buckingham and Show-



Maddox Bunting

ell elementary, Berlin Intermediate, Stephen Decatur Middle, as well as Buckingham and Showell elementary schools are participating in the project, Misty said.

All brands of plastic markers, including dry erase and highlighters, are eligible for the Crayola ColorCycle drive, according to the retailer's website.

Misty also said that Maddox approached art teachers about donating their old supplies. He offered to take the markers, test them, return the working ones, and donate the others.

"So that's helpful, because art teachers have the most," Misty said. "And they're still people bringing them in from home I think, [and] other teachers [have] also thrown theirs in there, but he's had a really good response from the art programs in each school."

Misty said the "bins are filling up" as more people elect to discard inoperative supplies.

Misty and Maddox said the collected materials would be recycled for other uses.

"They turn it into wax, and they can use it for electricity [to] power homes, and cook food and stuff, and then they can make it into asphalt, or reuse it for roofing shingles," Maddox said.

The donation boxes are open until next Wednesday, Dec. 18. Misty said Maddox would weigh each school's box to let them know how much they contributed over the past month.

Maddox will then send the materials back to Crayola at the company's expense.

"That's the nice part of it, it's free, it's easy," Misty said. "We just box it up and they pay for the shipping."

Worcester County residents may also donate, according to Misty, who said that they can bring markers to the main office of any of the aforementioned schools.

With the Crayola ColorCycle drive in its final days, Maddox encouraged students and community members to donate their otherwise discarded goods.

"Just bring them in," Maddox said. "It'll help out the environment, and instead of just throwing away, or recycling them, because they'll end up in a landfill."

Misty believes the project helps to spread awareness about the need to reduce waste.

"I think everybody's becoming a little bit more environmentally conscious, and I think this is another step in that direction," Misty said. "[It's] one more thing we could avoid tossing into landfills."

For more information about the project, visit [crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx](http://crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx).

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# Graham Ave. wetland job nears completion

Continued from Page 1  
Dean Burrell asked.

The Graham Avenue submerged gravel project was built on a piece of town-owned property between Graham Avenue and Old Ocean City Boulevard.

Darl Kolar, a consultant with E.A. Engineering, Science and Technology Inc., said the project aims to treat stormwater runoff and to reduce runoff pollution.

He also acknowledged that the

project would be most effective during lesser rain events.

"During sizeable rain events ... it's not going to mitigate the flooding here," Kolar said in an October interview.

Construction began in October after months spent in the pursuit of funding. The town received a \$75,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the project, and "the town committed \$40,000 in stormwater funds as a match," bring-

ing the total budget to \$115,000, according to a staff report.

Funding was approved during the fiscal year 2020 budget cycle.

However, council vetoed the project at a June 27 meeting after bids for the work came in well above what the town budgeted. The town would have needed to transfer about \$37,500 from the town's water utility fund to the stormwater fund to cover the cost.

The council voted to reject the bids in that meeting in a 3-1 vote with Councilmen Thom Gulyas, Troy Purnell and Zack Tyndall forming the majority. Councilman Elroy Brittingham was the sole dissenter, and Councilman Dean Burrell was absent.

Two months later, the council unanimously agreed to continue the

project after Maryland Coastal Bays Program Director Frank Piorko offered \$54,500 via the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The wetland project required 800 tons of stone, 300 tons of pea gravel and 150 cubic yards of composite planting soil, Latchum said in October.

The remaining tasks, however, are minimal, Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood assured the council.

"The engineers have said that we're at 95 percent competition, so what Jamey's waiting on now [is] just mainly cosmetic work," Fleetwood said.

The project is expected to finish by Dec. 30, according to a memorandum of understanding between the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Town of Berlin.

# Viola, board agree to extend contract another 30 months

Continued from Page 1

ics Director Colby Phillips, who was promoted to operations director, along with Director of Finance Steve Phillips and Executive Secretary Michelle Bennett.

While the board had considered tapping an executive hiring firm to find a permanent replacement for Bailey, that suggestion was tabled in early April, with Viola announcing at the end of that month the transition management team was being disbanded.

Viola said the combination of tal-

ents appeared sufficiently capable to abandon the transition management team.

By late May, the board decided against using an outside management firm because of the expense, and locked in Viola until December.

In August, Viola reported during the annual homeowners' meeting the OPA fiscal 2018/2019 budget closed with a positive variance of roughly \$116,000 and this month disclosed the association is favorable to budget at the mid-point of the current fiscal year by more than \$550,000.

# Pay study reveals disparities

Continued from Page 4

As part of the compensation study, Sibson also reviewed medical benefits and retirement plans offered to association employees.

"We ourselves updated all the job descriptions [and] there was an overview from Sibson as far as format," he said. "We also gave them our performance ratings which they needed as part of the study."

Viola said the data helped Sibson prepare a salary range forecast.

"I now have everything at grade levels and all our different positions

are within the grade levels," he said.

The study found 22 non-seasonal employees were being paid under the minimum salary range of \$34,162, with the compensation costs ranging from \$74 to \$9,680.

In the Ocean Pines Police Department, eight staff were paid below the minimum salary structure of \$28,336, with the compensation costs ranging from \$1,270 to \$4,765.

"Basically the officers, as [Police] Chief [Dave Massey] has been telling us for years, did fall below the minimum," he said.

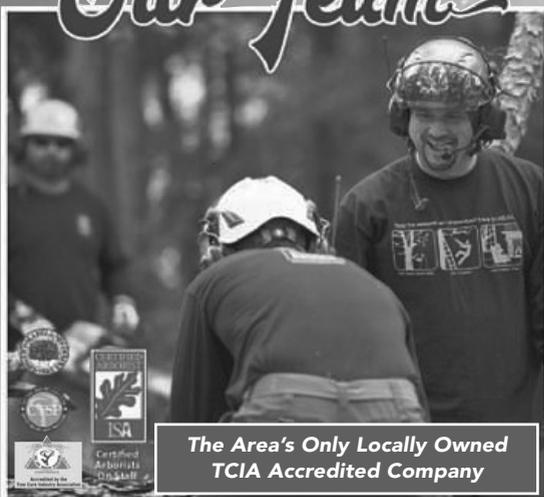


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# State report card shows high marks for Wor.

**By Rachel Ravina**  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) No school district in Maryland had a better state report card than Worcester County's public school system, according to the state Department of Education, which released the results of its assessment for 2019 last Tuesday.

Nine schools in Worcester received four- and five-star ratings on the 2019 Maryland State Report Card. It was the only district to post overall performance at that level.



**Denise Shorts**

Superintendent Lou Taylor praised Worcester County Public Schools efforts following the declaration.

"That we have the highest concentration of four- and five-star schools in the state is further validation of the great work going on in our schools every day," schools Superintendent Lou Taylor said in a statement last week.



**Lou Taylor**

The county had two five-star and seven four-star educational institutions, according to the state education department's findings.

• Stephen Decatur Middle School was awarded a five-star rating. The school earned 73.4 out of 96.5 points, which accounted for a 76 percent score.

• Snow Hill High School received a five-star rating. The school scored a 76 percent by earning 69.2 points out of a possible 90 points.

• Buckingham Elementary School had a four-star rating. The school earned 48.2 points out of a possible 73 points, which translates to 66 percent.

• Ocean City Elementary School received a four-star rating. The school scored a 70 percent by earning 51.5 points out of a possible 73 points.

• Berlin Intermediate School obtained a four-star rating. The school earned 64.2 points out of a possible 100 points, which accounted for 64 percent.

• Pocomoke Middle School was

SCHOOL	POINTS EARNED	TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	TOTAL EARNED PERCENT	STAR RATING
Buckingham Elementary School	48.2	73	66%	★★★★
Ocean City Elementary School	51.5	73	70%	★★★★
Berlin Intermediate School	64.2	100	64%	★★★★
Pocomoke Middle School	122.8	176.5	69%	★★★★
Snow Hill Middle School	112.3	176.5	63%	★★★★
Stephen Decatur Middle School	73.4	96.5	76%	★★★★★
Pocomoke High School	66.7	90	74%	★★★★
Snow Hill High School	69.2	90	76%	★★★★★
Stephen Decatur High School	70.3	100	70%	★★★★★

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Several Worcester County Public Schools received four- and five-star ratings on the Maryland Report Card that was released last week.

awarded a four-star rating. The school scored a 69 percent by earning 122.8 points out of a possible 176.5 points.

• Snow Hill Middle School had a four star rating. The school earned 112.3 points out of 176.5 points, which was a 63 percent score.

• Pocomoke High School received a four-star rating. The school earned 66.7 points out of a possible 90 points, which accounted for 74 percent.

• Stephen Decatur High School obtained a four-star rating. The school scored a 70 percent by earning 70.3 points out of a possible 100 points.

In order to be eligible for a star rating, a school needs to have at least 45 points, according to school officials.

According to Carrie Sterrs, a spokesperson for Worcester County Public Schools, Pocomoke, Showell and Snow Hill elementary schools did not satisfy the "necessary point threshold," and Worcester Technical High and Cedar Chapel Special schools did "not meet the qualifications for a star rating."

School report cards were made available online last year to aggregate data in an accessible fashion to show how a particular educational institution is performing, according to educational officials.

School quality, student success, academic achievement, and English language proficiency progress were contributing factors for ratings across all schools, according to officials.

In elementary and middle schools, academic progress was also measured,

according to school officials. Graduation rates and readiness for postsecondary success were also considered at the high school level.

According to education officials, this was the first year that school composite scores from a statewide school survey also made up a portion of the rating. The questionnaire covered several topics including safety, relationships and environment.

"Although we were very thrilled with the results, we'd also been keeping a

close eye on it all year long, and we're just thrilled that it came out the way it did," Denise Shorts, chief academic officer for kindergarten through eighth grades, said last week.

Also of note is that Worcester's schools are locally funded for the most part, as it receives little state aid as compared to other counties.

For more information about the Maryland Report Card website, visit [mdreportcard.org](http://mdreportcard.org).



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# Snapshots



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## BOOK SIGNING

Cathy Nickell, author of *Yazzy's Amazing Yarn*, left, poses for a photo with Brenda Trice, owner of *A Little Bit Sheepish*, during a book signing on Nov. 23 at the store on Main Street in Berlin.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.,

## DAWG TEAM

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City "Dawg" team sold hot dogs and refreshments during the Ocean Pines Halloween Celebration on Oct. 26 in White Horse Park. Pictured, from left, are Skip McComas, Tim Lund, Joe Beall, Dan Peletier, Suzanne Foley, Ed Ahlquist, Ted Vanvick and Barb Peletier.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## HONOR AWARD

Sarah Walker has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City for 27 years. She was the first female president of the club and has been active in its events. In recognition of her long service, Walker received the "Kiwans Legion of Honor Award" bestowed by Kiwanis International. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Roy Foreman, center, and Kiwanian Ralph Chinn.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## DONATION DRIVE

Stephen Decatur NJROTC recently participated in an "Operation We Care" donation drive at the Berlin Walmart, supporting military troops deployed overseas with care packages. Patrons were given a list of items most commonly asked for by troops. In addition to food and other various donated items, the cadets also collected \$1,467. Pictured, from left, are cadets Skylar Wesche, Matt Miller, Nick Cardamone, Andrew Palovitz and Martin Kaeufer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SDHS CLEANUP

The Stephen Decatur High School Atlantic Athlete Outreach group participated in a grounds cleanup to promote clean athletic facilities. The group also promotes equal access to athletic programs by recycling equipment. Pictured, from left, are Stephen Decatur High School Atlantic Athlete Outreach members Mary Mergott, Summer Vorsteg, Macy Dill, Isy Kristick, Gabby Izzett, Prutha Patel, Richard Poist, Jake Gillespie and Luke Mergott.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SPOOKY FUN

The Stephen Decatur High School National English Honor Society sponsored its sixth annual Haunted Hallway featuring an R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps" theme on Oct. 25. Pictured, from left, are students Devin Tucker, Dylan Wilkins and Eddie Aksu.

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# Berlin Christmas Parade



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Representatives from Jolly Roger Amusement Park smile as they wave to spectators during the 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade last Thursday along Main Street in downtown Berlin.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pocomoke High School band members perform during the 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade last Thursday.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The holiday lights on Trimmer's Rides' float glow during the Berlin Christmas Parade last Thursday.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Ocean City-Berlin Leo Club, a service organization at Stephen Decatur High School sponsored by the Ocean City Lions Club, perform a song during the parade.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company firefighters and Sparky wave to the crowd from the top of a truck last Thursday night during the 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade.



RACHEL RAVINA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Most Blessed Sacrament students sing a holiday musical number during the Berlin Christmas Parade.

# Berlin Christmas Parade: what's involved?

**By Rachel Ravina**  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) The Berlin Christmas Parade has several moving parts to make it the successful event people look forward to year after year.

Organizers, volunteers and participants are all involved in the process.

Ocean Pines resident Ginger Fleming, who has been volunteering for the past seven years, praised last Thursday's parade.

"It just seemed to go off without a hitch last night," Fleming said last week.

More than 40 residents and town staff volunteer their time to help ensure the parade runs smoothly, according to Ivy Wells, Berlin's community and economic development director.

"It's kind of a well-oiled machine right now with our volunteers," Wells said.

She added that there's a "solid core volunteers [who've been] doing it for the last five years."

Anyone interested in volunteering

is welcome to do so, Wells said, adding that volunteers would need to be outside in cold temperatures and on their feet for several hours during the event.

Nearly 80 floats traveled down Main Street last Thursday and hundreds of people accompanied those entries and walked in the parade.

Wells added that float size and the

number of walkers determines how much space is accounted for each float.

The planning process for the Berlin Christmas Parade begins in June, when people call and email inquiring about participating, Wells said.

Prospective participants receive an application while repeat parade en-

tries and Berlin floats get first pick, she said.

Once applications are sent, they are due by the end of September, at which time organizers will follow up from people who've participated in past parades.

"We reach them pretty much every way possible with the exception of See BERLIN Page 14

## 49th annual Berlin Christmas Parade winners

- **Marching bands:** winner, Snow Hill High School; runner-up, Pocomoke High School
- **Youth-sponsored floats:** winner, Assateague Coastal Kids; runner-up, Berlin Little League
- **School-sponsored floats:** winner, Ocean City Elementary School, runner-up, Showell Elementary School
- **Adult-sponsored floats:** winner, Buckingham Presbyterian Church, runner up, Bearded Men's Society

- of Ocean City
- **Fire units:** winner, Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company; runner-up, Berlin Fire Company
- **Commercial units:** winner, Sun Communities (Frontier Town RV Resort & Campground); runner-up, Harrison Group
- **Adult marching units:** winner, Ocean City Honor Guard and Mounted Unit; runner-up, Boggs Disharoon American Legion Post 123

- **Youth performing:** winner, Seaside Dance Academy; runner-up, OC Stars
- **Vehicle clubs:** winner, East Coast Car & Truck Club; runner-up, Bikers Without Borders
- **ROTC marching units:** winner, Snow Hill High School; runner-up, Pocomoke High School
- **Antique cars:** winner, Bad Monkey; runner-up, 3 Guys Fire Apparatus

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# Fourth annual Meal for the Hungry fills Berlin

By Rachel Ravina  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) More than 200 people were fed last Tuesday during the fourth annual Meal for the Hungry at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

"From the standpoint of community outreach, it's a win-win for everyone," said Robin Tomaselli, vice president of Berlin's Arts and Entertainment committee.

"The people that are served are served well and incredibly appreciative," she continued. "The volunteers that come to help serve all leave feeling exceptionally grateful and kind of rewarded for doing something good and making that connection in the community."

Last week's meal had several offerings including turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, and iced tea, she said.

Tomaselli emphasized the importance of the chefs, restaurants and organizations who made last week's dinner possible.

Prepared dishes came from the At-

lantic Hotel, Blacksmith, Fin's Ale House, Chef Phil Cropper and Worcester Technical High School culinary students, according to Tomaselli. She also expressed her gratitude to the church's men's ministry. The Church Mouse Thrift Shop and Atlantic Retreat donated additional proceeds to cover some of the food costs.

"So it's our way to kind of highlight the culinary arts in our community, along with being good stewards of the people that live close to us that could benefit from a hot meal and some fellowship," she said.

Among the 25 to 30 volunteers who helped to provide a hot meal to members of the community were student representatives from Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services. Tomaselli said idea for the event was to make sure that children had a good meal during the holiday season.

"We became aware of the fact that there are children, particularly in our immediate area, that can become super stressed out prior to the holiday because some of them only can count



Volunteers prepare to-go packages during the Berlin Arts and Entertainment Committee's Meal for the Hungry, last Tuesday at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Flower Street. More than 200 meals were served during the fourth annual event.

RACHEL RAVINA/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

on their meals coming from school. And so that completely like took us all back a little bit, and we just felt that there was something we needed to do about that," she said.

The event is open to the public. She said the event always falls on Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, at the church on Flower Street.

Tomaselli praised the efforts of Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing, who, along with other volunteers helped deliver meals to area residents

who were unable to leave their homes.

"We're blessed with a police chief that happens to know practically every single person in the community who is shut in and in need of a meal delivery. So he has a couple of volunteers, and he goes out on his route ... people just love to see him as well, so he's a gift," Tomaselli said.

In addition, the leftovers from the meal were donated to Stevenson United Methodist Church's Spirit Kitchen last Wednesday, Tomaselli said.

## Berlin parade requires months of planning

Continued from Page 13  
carrier pigeon," Wells said.

If they still don't get a response, Wells said people on the waiting list will get a chance. She added that there were between five and 10 new participants this year.

In the months leading up to the parade, Wells said organizers create the lineup, and gather the judges and participants.

While the lineup takes a few hours to create, Wells said several factors need to be coordinated, including the political dignitaries, fire trucks and floats involving children.

"So, it's an art to be able to line this parade, to do the lineup," Wells said.

Wells also held a participant meeting last month to answer any questions.

On parade day, organizers are re-

sponsible for assembling the stage, checking with the Berlin Police Department about road closures and posting signs for parking, restrooms and the event route.

Wells also said volunteers are given safety vests, flashlights and copies of the parade route.

"Everybody that puts it on, they're 150 percent invested in making sure that it goes off and make sure it's under two hours. That's our goal," Fleming said.

To make sure the parade runs smoothly each year, Wells has made some changes. She's changed the lineup direction to run south to north, and moved the stage to the intersection of Baker and Main streets as opposed to the previous location in front of the Atlantic Hotel.

She said she created a texting

chain to make communications more efficient and had walkers along the parade route to make sure people are keeping pace.

When asked about any unexpected situations, she said the 2018 Berlin Christmas Parade involved vehicular difficulties.

"Last year, one of the vehicles broke down we had to get a whole bunch of volunteers to push it out of the way," Wells said.

As for this year, she said, the only obstacles organizers encountered was some communications issues involving some of the road closures and a few entries failed show up without giving notice.

"We didn't know that they weren't showing until they just didn't show up," Wells said.

After the Berlin Fire Company's

antique truck, as well as Santa and Mrs. Claus drove away, and the parade ended, spectators made the mad dash to their cars. However, there was trash left behind that required additional staff and took a couple of hours to collect.

"The Christmas Parade is the dirtiest event the town puts on," Wells said. "[There's] more trash after the Christmas Parade than any other event we have."

Although the parade is over, Wells said about 10 people are already on the wait list for next year's parade, which will also mark the event's 50th anniversary.

"Berlin — it's just a magical town. it's just the greatest little area," Fleming said. "It's a small parade, it's short ... it's just a great hometown experience I think."

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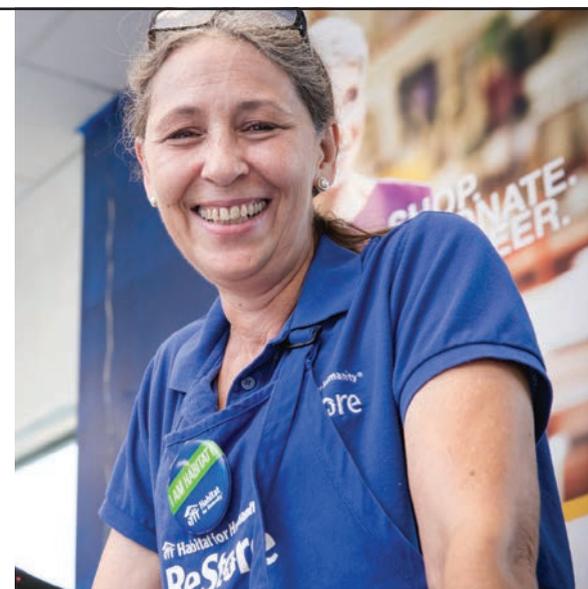
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# OPA work group for committee orientations

Board approves new effort to compile training format for incoming chairpersons

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) New Ocean Pines advisory committees should have a clearer path to follow from a procedural standpoint once guidelines are developed by a work group that itself is in the formation process.

During the OPA Board of directors meeting last Wednesday, Dr. Colette Horn said the OPA Executive Council on Nov. 6 group discussed how some advisory committees don't always follow the correct communications procedures in exchanges between committee members, OPA staff and contractors.

"Revisions to the resolutions governing various advisory committees has cleaned up the language related to these issues," she said.

Despite those improvements, Horn said internal support for a protocol tutorial for new committee chairs, or members, is gaining traction.

"The communications advisory committee recommends they lead a work group to develop content for orienting new chairs and board li-

aisons each year to prevent a breakdown or confusion in processes," she said.

Horn said the communications committee is seeking the board's approval and guidance in the matter.

OPA President Doug Parks, acknowledging the situation, said the idea would be put a framework around what it takes to be a committee chair versus a committee member.

Parks said the chairperson has added responsibilities, and that people with committee experience could help new committee heads gain their footing.

"There's a lot of intellectual capital that's been collected over time, and I think it's only prudent for us to share that information in a more formal manner rather than having people have to ask for it," he said.

Jenny Cropper Rines, communications committee chairwoman, has already begun to research the issue and has expressed interest in compiling materials, Parks said.

"There a lot of people within Ocean Pines now that either have been on committees and aren't now or are still on committees," board member Tom Janasek agreed.

Janasek said previous committee chairs and members could be so-

licitated to compile a precise list of responsibilities and expectations.

"The main thing is getting information from the committee to the board," he said. "That's one of the biggest struggles. We have all these people that want to help but they have no idea when they get ideas what to do with them."

Parks said the orientation materials also could serve as a recruitment tool.

"I wonder how many people who maybe wanted to volunteer for a committee felt that they didn't have enough information," he said. "They didn't know how to really go through the process to become a committee member."

Board member Frank Daly, speaking by phone, agreed with the proposal and suggested any related training coursework should be required for committee chairs.

"I think that advisory committee chairs should have to participate in a mandatory manner as part of the new board orientation," he said.

Daly said communication protocols, as well as procedural expectations and limitations in working with the board should be made clear.

"That should be all part of ... a process orientation ... for the committee chairs," he said.

Horn said requiring new chairpersons to participate in the tutorials would require a revision of the association's resolutions.

"What I'm hearing from the board tonight is they would like to be the owners of a work group to achieve this objective," she said.

Janasek balked at the suggestion of making attendance at these orientations mandatory for new chairpersons.

"It's a lot of work to rope people into committees," he said.

He suggested instead that any subsequently drafted recommendations for new committee chairs could be communicated directly.

"The more structure you give them, the more willing they are to participate, if they know that they're being heard," he said. "That's always been a big problem with committees ... thinking that they weren't being heard by the board."

Horn proposed forming the work group and having their eventual insights returned to the board.

Parks agreed and suggested the inclusion of Rines, in addition to his own involvement with the work group.

"Reach out to Jenny, since she has done background work," he said. "Then we'll run with it."

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Viola extension brings about little discussion

The absence of discussion before the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors' voted last week to extend General Manager John Viola's contract was a powerful endorsement of his performance over the last six months.

Although it is a given that the GM and the board did talk privately about the terms of his two-and-a-half-year contract extension, it remains that little beyond that needed to be discussed.

Clearly, the board wants to continue the productive managerial arrangement the association has enjoyed since last spring, so the only real issue between the directors and Viola had to be whether he was up for an extended term of service.

Considering the sensible and effective business style of Viola as compared to the off-the-wall ineptitude of some of his predecessors, chances are the board was more than amenable to whatever conditions he might have set for his return.

Without having that contract in hand, we can only speculate about what those terms might be, but chances are they are reasonable.

To be sure, the OPA management team doesn't deserve all the credit for the association's constantly improving fiscal fitness. A good portion of that is due to the board's own actions, which, more specifically, would be its decision to turn over its restaurant operations to industry professionals. That alone has produced hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings and revenue increases, reversing years of sorry results posted under the various do-it-yourself programs.

No offense to the personnel who worked in those earlier operations, but it's always better to employ people who not only know what they're doing, but also have a real stake in the outcome.

As for Viola and his team of managers, the results show they do know what they're doing, and, with the board's blessing, they will keep doing it for the foreseeable future. No discussion required.



## Children to star in OP Players' show

Play set for Friday in Ocean City; Sat. and Sun. in Berlin

(Dec. 12, 2019) Nearly a dozen local children will be the stars in the Ocean Pines Players' production of Ken Ludwig's play, "Twas The Night Before Christmas," based on the original classic poem.

The play will be performed on Friday, Dec. 13 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 10301 Coastal Hwy. in Ocean City, at 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14-15, at 2:30 p.m. at the Red Doors Community Center located at 10959 Worcester Highway, Berlin.

The cast of young performers come from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Selbyville, Berlin and Bishopville. They were chosen in November after an audition call by the Ocean Pines Players.

This children's story follows the quest by a spunky little girl named Emily, her friend, Amos, a mouse, and Calliope, an Elf, who want to find out why Santa missed her house the previous year.

The children, ages 9-14, who have been cast in the

show are: Alyssa Clymire of Ocean Pines, who will play Emily; Emma Feagans of Selbyville as Amos the mouse; Emily Backof of Ocean City, playing Calliope the good elf; Kenady Scott of Ocean Pines as Amos of Kansas, a cousin to Amos; Marlie Scott of Ocean Pines as Sir Guy, an evil elf; And Elise Baycura of Bishopville as Mulch, sidekick to Sir Guy.

Rounding out the cast as elves and reindeer are Amori Purnell, Maheila and Makaiya Robinette, and Seamus and Ewan Betz, all from Berlin.

Adult roles in the play will be performed by members of the Ocean Pines Players – Jerry Gietka, who also directs the show, Lee Olsen, and Kathy Wiley.

Ocean Pines Players President Karen McClure is the show's musical director. Andrea Clymire is the assistant director.

Tickets for the play cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-16, payable at the door, although seats can be reserved in advance on the Ocean Pines Players website at [www.oceanpinesplayers.com](http://www.oceanpinesplayers.com).

The group is also hoping to feature a special presentation by some of the students from the dance classes at the Red Door Community Center at St. Paul's by the Sea. The Ocean Pines Players wishes to express a special thank you to them for hosting this production.

The Ocean Pines Players is a local, all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

Consider joining our organization and continue the tradition of "local" theater in the greater Ocean City area. Follow the Ocean Pines Players on Facebook and visit online at [www.oceanpinesplayers.org](http://www.oceanpinesplayers.org).

Ludwig's "Twas The Night Before Christmas" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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### Have an opinion?

We invite you to share it, but all letters are subject to verification, so please include your name and phone number. All letters are subject to editing for space and to protect the author and this newspaper from legal action. Email letters to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com). For questions, call 410-723-6397.

# OPA board resolution procedures first read

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) Efforts to solidify procedures for amending Ocean Pines Association resolutions inched closer to fruition following a first reading last week of an attachment to resolution B-01 to clarify the reporting process to the board.

Bylaws & Resolutions Committee Chairman Jim Trummel presented the B-01 amendment to the board of directors last Wednesday.

"What you have before you is an amendment to resolution B-01," he said. "That attachment provides guidance in the preparation and processing of amendments to resolutions in the book of resolutions."

Trummel said the book of resolutions

was established by the bylaws committee.

"Virtually everything came through the committee starting back in 2009," he said, "That resulted in what we now have as the book of resolutions."

Tracing back a decade, Trummel said little emphasis was given to the process of turning a thought into an actionable amendment, because the bylaws committee controlled the activity.

"Now that's changed," he said. "We're up into a situation where we're in a maintenance mode."

In recent years, a number of proposed changes or revisions have been generated outside the bylaws committee.

"More recently, you've seen an amendment to resolution F-03, which added the new capital reserve account,"

he said. "Now you have the M-01 compliance resolution that's under review because there appears to be a need to change policy and operations in the compliance area of our association."

Trummel said there have been concerns about perceived difficulties in the amendment process.

"Over a year ago, the committee started to see what we felt was an uneven, disorganized, confused process of getting a resolution amendment started through to completion and approval," he said.

Since that point, the bylaws committee membership has developed guidance to streamline the procedures.

"In the initial thinking, we were going to develop ... a pamphlet to distribute to the board members, staff, committees and any other parties who may be the ones who initiate or who desire to bring

about a change to a resolution," he said. "That's evolved into making a more formal part of the book of resolutions in the B-01 resolution."

The bylaws membership fully supported the changes, Trummel said.

"All of us on the committee agreed it wasn't working right," he said. "It was a complete committee effort that has put this together."

OPA President Doug Parks said the bulk of resolution B-01 would remain intact regardless of the proposed amendment.

"What the intent here is to add the resolution amendment procedure," he said.

Subsequent to the board meeting on Dec. 4, last Friday, the bylaws committee prepared a second reading of the measure that could be heard at the board meeting in January.

## Pines Tones Chorus perform at Fourth Street church, Fri.

(Dec. 12, 2019) The Pine Tones Chorus will present its Christmas Concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church, on Fourth Street in Ocean City, on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert opens with its title song, "Everywhere Christmas Tonight."

Popular selections will include the all-time favorites "Have Your Self a Merry Little Christmas" and "Happy Holiday" as sung by Sinatra, Andy Williams and other artists. Cinema fans may recognize "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas" from the movie, "Home Alone 2."

"Masters in This Hall" and "Here We Come A-Caroling" are some of the holiday carols in the program.

Classical selections will feature "Gesù Bambino" a song cherished by many stars including Pavaratti.

The well know Christmas favorite "O Holy Night" will include a duet performed by Mary Price, soprano, and Fr. Michael Moyer, tenor.

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 55 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City and nearby areas.

June Todd is the chorus director, Jim Meckley is assistant director, and Jenny Anderson is the group's accompanist.

Guest musicians will include Becca Doughty (percussion), Julie Barton (oboe), Kristilyn Friese (cello), Sally Hendon (flute) and Tom Baione (string bass).

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For additional information, call Chorus President Dave Holloway at 410-641-5672, or Todd at 410-289-7373.

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities has been from individual dona-

tions and patrons as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. These organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

## Gift holiday soap baskets created by WCDC clients

By Morgan Pilz  
Staff Writer

(Dec. 12, 2019) Clients of the Worcester County Developmental Center in Newark, Maryland, are once again making scented and festive soap baskets for the holiday season.

Different soap styles are available, including seashells, shorebirds, crabs, starfish, seahorses, sea turtles and sand dollars, ranging in sizes from 2-7 ounces.

"The plant-based glycerin soap moisturizes your skin naturally," Jack Ferry, executive director of the Worcester County Developmental Center, said. "It is gentle and works with your skin's PH to retain your natural moisture. It is very good for people with dry, problem skin."

Ferry said the idea for the project  
See SOAPS Page 19

### Correction

The Pup of the Pines winning canine, Teddy, was incorrectly identified in last week's print edition, but is indeed a bernese mountain dog.



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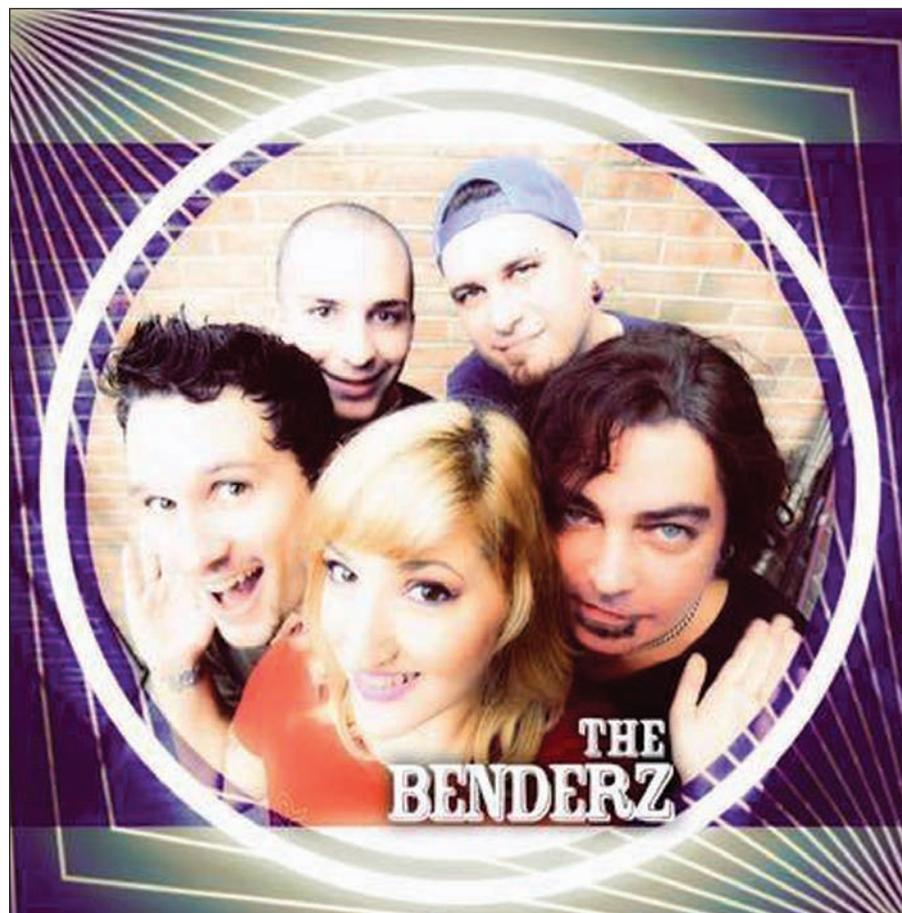
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# NOW PLAYING



## THE BENDERZ

Seacrets: Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.



## THE STIMS

Skye Raw Bar & Grille: Saturday, Dec. 14, 4-8 p.m.



## 2 GUYZ & A MAMA

BJ's On The Water: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.



## ON THE EDGE

Ocean Club Nightclub: Friday & Saturday, Dec. 13-14, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## BEACH BARRELS

13207 Coastal Highway, Ocean City  
410-250-0522 / [www.beachbarrels.com](http://www.beachbarrels.com)  
Dec. 13: Lennon LaRicci, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 14: Lovin Cup, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 17: Open Mic, 8 p.m.  
Dec. 18: Bingo w/DJ Rupe, 6 p.m.  
Dec. 19: Christmas Party w/DJ BK, 7 p.m.

## BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay, Ocean City  
410-524-7575 / [www.bjsonthewater.com](http://www.bjsonthewater.com)  
Dec. 13: Tranzfusion, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 14: Dust N' Bones, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 18: 2 Guyz & A Mama, 6 p.m.

## BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, Ocean City, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium  
443-664-2896 / [www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com](http://www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com)  
Dec. 13: Dave Sherman, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 14: Randy Lee Ashcraft, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 15: Jack Worthington, 6 p.m.  
Dec. 18: Reform School, 6 p.m.; Open Mic, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 19: Jimmy Charles, 7 p.m.

## CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave., Ocean City  
410-289-7192 / [www.captainstableoc.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.ocharborside.com)  
Dec. 13: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Dec. 14: Chris Button, 2 p.m.;  
DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Dec. 15: Opposite Directions, 2 p.m.  
Dec. 18: Dust N' Bones, 6 p.m.

## OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

101st Street, Ocean City  
In the Horizons Restaurant, in the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel  
410-524-3535 / [www.clarionoc.com](http://www.clarionoc.com)  
Every Friday and Saturday:  
DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Dec. 13-14: On The Edge, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## PICKLES

706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City  
410-289-4891 / [www.picklesoc.com](http://www.picklesoc.com)  
Dec. 13: Beats by Jeremy, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 14: TBA, 10 p.m.  
Dec. 15: Karaoke w/Jeremy, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 17: Beats by Adam Dutch, 9 p.m.  
Dec. 19: Beats by Wax, 9 p.m.

## SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay, Ocean City  
410-524-4900 / [www.seacrets.com](http://www.seacrets.com)  
Dec. 13: Ocean 98 & Seacrets Christmas Party, 5-10 p.m.; High Five Swan Dive, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; DJ Tuff, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Dec. 14: Grad Night Celebration, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.; Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Bobby-O, 6 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.; DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; The Benderz, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.

## SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, Ocean City  
410-723-6762 / [www.skyebaroc.com](http://www.skyebaroc.com)  
Dec. 13: Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.  
Dec. 14: The Stims, 4-8 p.m.

## WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17, Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines  
410-208-3922 / [www.whiskersbar.com](http://www.whiskersbar.com)  
Dec. 13: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey

# Soaps range in size and prices

Continued from Page 17

came as a way to provide jobs for their clients, who are adults with intellectual disabilities.

“We were looking for another business venture to provide jobs for our clients,” he said. “We felt that craft soaps were a growing trend that we could take advantage of. The Inner Ocean line is a perfect fit for us as it enables many of our clients to learn new skills and the self-confidence that comes from that learning.

“It is a way for our clients to express their creativity and show their talent,” Ferry continued. “When people purchase the soap and see how beautiful it is, I feel they gain a better understanding of the abilities that people with disabilities have. [Plus] it’s a way for our clients to earn money by creating and then selling the soap.”

Prices range from \$4 for the round, 2-ounce soap bar to \$30 for the special-order holiday gift baskets, which come with seven soaps of different sizes and shapes.

Clients can also customize the soap colors to match any décor, and the products come in a gift-wrapped organza bag. Each gift basket includes information about the clients who put it together.

Last year, the Worcester County Developmental Center sold 21 baskets along with 14 dozen individual bars

and 15 guest soap mini-basket sets, Ferry said.

“Your skin will thank you for using Inner Ocean soap,” Ferry said. “It is made locally, so you help a local, small business with your purchase, and because your purchase and support of Inner Ocean creates meaningful employment for adults with intellectual disabilities in the area.”

The Worcester County Developmental Center’s mission is to empower people with intellectual disabilities to achieve economic and social independence by providing work opportunities and a support system.

This is the fifth holiday season of sales and clients have been making soaps for six years.

“When you purchase Inner Ocean soap you support a local, small business and lastly, you support people with disabilities,” Ferry said. “Our clients are talented and produce a quality product anyone would want to use. It’s not a product produced by ‘them.’ It’s a quality product created by talented, local craftspeople. We want people to support us for the same reasons they support any other business.”

Purchase soaps year-round and learn more about the Worcester County Developmental Center by visiting [www.wcdcservices.org](http://www.wcdcservices.org) or call 410-632-2382.

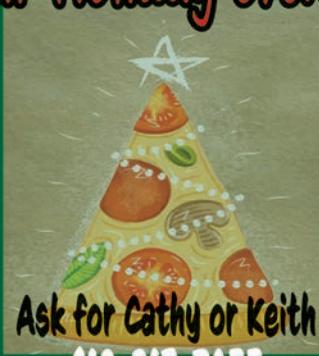
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# Cuisine

## Add baked brie to holiday party menu

My Christmas party-addled brain is just about to melt. With 14 parties this week alone (on top of the end of the semester), I made a command decision: one in which my German, French, Irish and Scottish ancestors would recoil in horror. I am not drinking a drop until Friday night.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

As we are finishing out the semester (always an incredibly busy time of year), we are all getting ready for Christmas and other holidays.

Parties at home and work are popping up. We teachers/professors are in the middle of grading, fielding student questions and student opposition and trying to tidy things up as we get geared up for the following semester. And so the cycle continues.

As usual, my mind moves somewhere around a million miles per hour, and as I have said for years, if I had an ounce of focus, I would be dangerous. You can be thankful for that.

As such, I shall bounce around from topic-to-topic today trying to land somewhere that makes sense.

As for my ancestors, I always knew that I had the whole Western European thing going on, as evidenced by my savage pale in the summertime. As such, I decided to do the one of those DNA tests last year.

As so many people have done as they awaited for the results, I was hoping for something a little more exotic than Western European.

Maybe one-half of one percent from the Caribbean, or Asia or possibly the Levant.

You always hear about these great stories of discovery, diversity and unknown family members of great fame and repute. In some cases, people have learned of ancestors of quite-ill repute.

That still would be fascinating to learn in many instances.

And then I received my results. I am literally the most vanilla human being on the planet.

There wasn't anything even remotely reminiscent of shocking, exciting or exhilarating. I guess at this point, at the ripe age of 51, I have to accept that my tan in August is not far off from my Mid-Atlantic February tan.



And if you haven't seen me in February, I am known to stand by the seashore so that the moonlight reflects off of my skin, acting as a beacon for wayward ships. Yes, I am bright.

I guess one good thing about my lineage is that Christmas is a big deal in so many of these countries. Perhaps this is where I got my love of the holiday; the decorations, the smells, the parties, the holly, the sticky toffee pudding et al.

Of course, I'm speaking singularly as the season is celebrated around the globe by countless people. It is not unique to Western Europe. I'm just trying to have a moment, people.

Any time I have a party at my house at this time of year, I have brie in one form or another. Brie is to cheeses as chicken is to protein for me.

I love the stuff. It's like I can't get enough of it. Granted, I enjoy my Humboldt Fog, Stilton and all of that jazz, but sometimes a simply prepared brie is all it takes to make a good party. And for me, the best part is that it reheats well the next morning in an omelet.

Plus it's French, and I'm French; or at least part of me is. So to my an-

cestors, I plan to raise a glass this holiday season of my newly constructed cocktail, "The Vanilla;" one that will salute all of my heritage.

One that is the perfect blend of champagne, stout, scotch, Jagermeister and Cointreau. It should be pretty festive, if not downright disgusting, to say the least.

### Baked Winter Brie

*Serves 6*

2 wedges brie cheese  
1 sheet puff pastry  
1 Tbsp. Whole butter  
1 Granny Smith apple  
1/2 c. Walnuts  
1/4 c. Maple syrup (the good stuff)  
1/4 tsp. Cinnamon  
Dash of black pepper  
Leftover homemade cranberry sauce (you know you have some!)

• Make sure that the puff pastry is thawed out, unless you are super cool and make your own from scratch.

• Dice the apples after peeling.

• Melt the butter in a saucepan and sautee the apples for about 4 minutes. You still want them to have a little bit of a bite to them.

• Combine the apples, walnuts, maple syrup, cinnamon and pepper in a bowl and set aside until ready to

assemble.

• Roll out the puff pastry to about 2/3 of its original thickness.

• Place a fair amount of the apple mixture on the pastry.

• Place the cheese on the apple mixture and stretch the dough so that it will seal completely, trimming excess dough.

• Use water to moisten the pastry dough, folding the dough over and pressing to seal it tight.

• Turn the cheese over so that it is seam-side down and press/form it back into a triangle.

• Refrigerate until ready to cook. This can be done up to 2 days in advance.

• When ready to serve, simply brush with some whole eggs and bake at 350-375F (depending on the oven) until the cheese is melted and the pastry is a golden brown.

• As for the other wedge of cheese, melt that in a small casserole for your gluten-free friends.

• Serve with fruit, compote, jam or whatever suits your fancy.

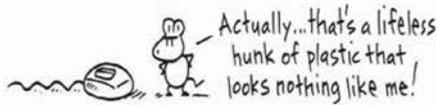
— Paul G. Suplee is an Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at [www.heartofakitchen.com](http://www.heartofakitchen.com).

# Puzzles

ACTUALLY ...

BY PATRICK MERRELL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Patrick Merrell, of Vero Beach, Fla., is a freelance cartoonist, writer, graphic designer, photographer and puzzle maker — "all in about equal measure," he says. For 40 years he has been drawing cartoons for books, periodicals (including Mad magazine) and other publications. Mice are a recurring theme. Below is the illustration he added to this puzzle just for fun. This is Pat's 91st crossword for The Times. — W.S.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bird growing up Down Under
  - 4 Russian novelist Maxim
  - 9 Honey
  - 13 Suddenly stand at attention
  - 19 Apt move when dancing the salsa?
  - 20 Home of the Huskies, informally
  - 21 "He's like \_\_\_ to me"
  - 22 Undo, legislatively
  - 23 Notwithstanding
  - 25 It abuts water on only one of its four sides
  - 27 Attach, as a ribbon
  - 28 Possible result of late payments, informally
  - 30 Verb on a candy heart
  - 31 Tithing portion
  - 32 It's an ellipse
  - 36 "Little House on the Prairie" girl
  - 37 Italian "darling"
  - 38 Like drumheads
  - 39 Frankish finish
  - 41 Inker's artwork
  - 42 Meeting expectations
  - 45 Source of Andrew Carnegie's fortune
  - 47 Heir extension?

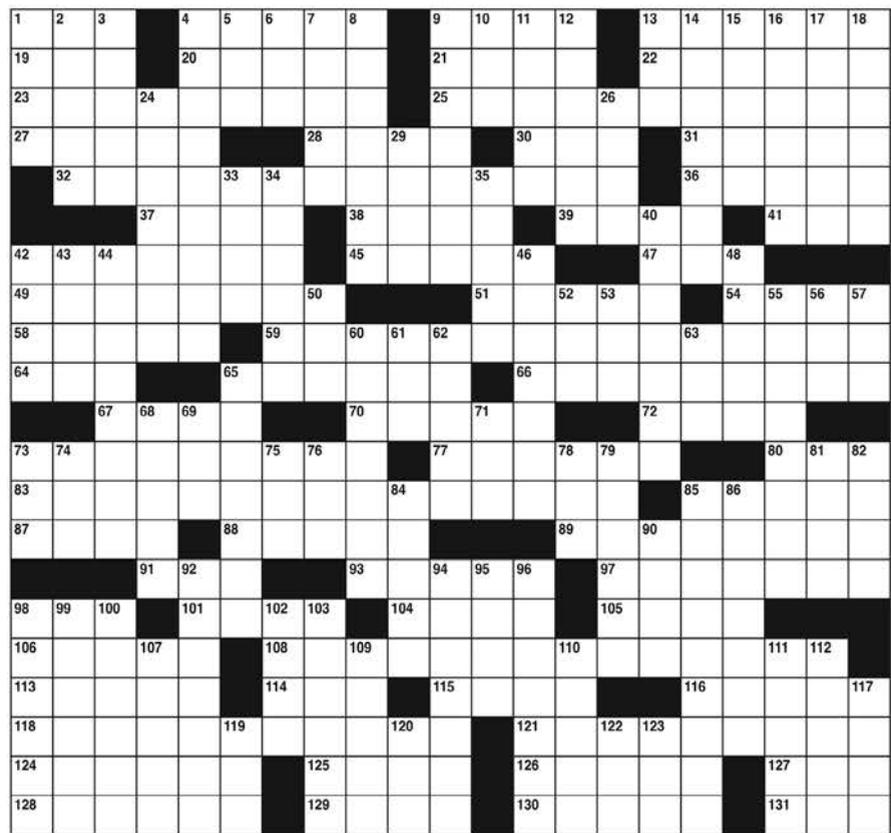
- 49 Lambaste
- 51 Competitor
- 54 Of all time
- 58 Impersonator's skill
- 59 It was predominantly German
- 64 Sci-fi character depicted as a glowing red dot
- 65 Punjab's capital
- 66 Things around a cloverleaf
- 67 Footprint maker
- 70 Give \_\_\_ on the wrist
- 72 Jennifer who wrote the Pulitzer-winning "A Visit From the Goon Squad"
- 73 Currently
- 77 Van Gogh masterwork
- 80 Move offshore, say
- 83 It's an American name for a German game
- 85 Fuel mileage, for example
- 87 Gambling game akin to bingo
- 88 Drift ice pieces
- 89 Vouch for
- 91 Letters on an incomplete syllabus
- 93 Serious
- 97 Like par 2 holes among all holes in miniature golf
- 98 Rapper Tone \_\_\_
- 101 \_\_\_ the Orange (Syracuse mascot)
- 104 Pretentious

- 105 Defibrillator pros
- 106 Some rectangular tablets
- 108 They're of Indian origin
- 113 Wind-up toys?
- 114 It's often performed by 105-Across
- 115 Sounds of enlightenment
- 116 Like bicycle chains
- 118 It's a woodwind from Central Europe
- 121 Onetime home of the Vikings and the Twins
- 124 Make litter-proof?
- 125 Wholehearted endorsement
- 126 Flanged structural support
- 127 Yang's opposite
- 128 Cool red giants
- 129 U.S. viticulture region
- 130 Printing hues
- 131 I t starts in Mar.

**DOWN**

- 1 Make amends?
- 2 They're compact than compacts
- 3 Miffed
- 4 It's a rodent native to the Andes
- 5 Mo. when the N.F.L., N.B.A., N.H.L. and M.L.B. all have games

- 6 Unidentified person in a suit
- 7 Big name in the soup aisle
- 8 Overruns
- 9 Highly decorated
- 10 Eruption particulates
- 11 When doubled, a Yale football song
- 12 Survive
- 13 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 15 Cop \_\_\_
- 16 It's a legume
- 17 Hindu tradition that's two men's names in reverse
- 18 Trite
- 24 Popular microwave snack
- 26 What avengers get
- 29 Exam for many sophs. and jrs.
- 33 Second-most-popular Vietnamese surname (after Nguyen)
- 34 Kitt who played Catwoman on TV
- 35 In \_\_\_ development
- 40 Expunges
- 42 Home to the Sundance Film Festival
- 43 Salt's hip-hop counterpart
- 44 Aerobic maneuver
- 46 Tart dessert
- 48 Vintage-looking shade
- 50 La-la lead-in



- 52 Preventive medicine, slangily
- 53 "Star Wars" nickname
- 55 Short story
- 56 West end?
- 57 Pixelatedness, for short
- 60 Abhors
- 61 Slices of life: Abbr.
- 62 Historic discovery
- 63 Umami enhancer, for short
- 65 What diet products often contain
- 68 Alternative indication
- 69 First, last, male or female name
- 71 Gilded chest in the Bible
- 73 Cathy's comics cry
- 74 Not just any
- 75 Fish that's 69-Down reversed
- 76 High-grade U.S.M.C. enlistee
- 78 Lima lady: Abbr.
- 79 Regard
- 81 Atoms
- 82 A rancher might pull one over a calf
- 84 Cornerstone abbr.
- 85 They're lousy places to sleep
- 86 "To repeat ..."
- 90 Subdued
- 92 More overbearing
- 94 Huffington of journalism
- 95 Septennial symptom?
- 96 Charismatic
- 98 Compares (to)
- 99 Throws in one's two cents
- 100 It usually comes from sheep
- 102 Dash dial
- 103 Unmatched sock, informally
- 107 Silty spot
- 109 Welcoming whiff
- 110 Phrase before a date
- 111 Eponym of a London insurer
- 112 Highway haulers
- 117 Parking-lot souvenir
- 119 AARPers
- 120 Part of a gym set
- 122 Bagged leaves?
- 123 Dashed

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## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

### HARD - 69

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

# Calendar

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

## Thurs., Dec. 12

### O.C. WRITERS' GROUP

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Participants share their poetry/prose and receive encouraging feedback. New members welcome. Bring something you've written or participate in a writing prompt/creative exercise.

<http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### HERBAL HOLIDAY: GIFT MAKING

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 2:00 PM. Join certified Therapeutic Herbalist Michaela Eggers to discuss the medicinal properties of holiday herbs and create homemade gifts. Register:

410-957-0878. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### RAINBOW SOAP-MAKING

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. Make your own soap. Suitable for gift giving. Pre-registration: 410-641-0650. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### COMMON SCAMS: BRAIN HEALTH advantage

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Consumer Affairs Supervisor Emalu Myer leads a discussion on scams aimed at older adults. Learn ways to avoid these online and telephone schemes.

<http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave., 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Featuring Christmas Trivia with prizes. Surprise questions of Christmas history, holiday facts and holiday cheer.

<http://www.dunesmanor.com>

### 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](http://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., Dec. 13

### FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Christmas Bingo with prizes, 4-5 p.m. (all ages welcome); Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his

elf); and Zippy's Ugly Sweater Party, 7-9 p.m. (featuring drink specials). <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

### FIBER FRIENDS

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

### OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. Featuring Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Copies of books are available in advance at the library. 410-208-4014, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Featuring local musicians and children as well as the Stevenson UMC Hand Bell Choir. Desserts served. Free and open to the public. Donations appreciated. Benefiting CASA for Children.

### "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS' PERFORMANCE

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, 7:00 PM. Nearly a dozen local children will perform in the Ocean Pines Players' production of Ken Ludwig's play, "Twas The Night Before Christmas," based on the original classic poem. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-16 years, payable at the door, although seats can be reserved in advance at [www.oceanpinesplayers.com](http://www.oceanpinesplayers.com).

### PINE TONES CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 4th St., 7:30 PM. The concert opens with its title song "Everywhere Christmas Tonight." Popular selections include "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" and "Happy Holiday." Admission is free and an offering will be received. Info: Dave Holloway, 410-641-5672 or June Todd, 410-289-7373.

### BRIAN'S CHRISTMAS SONGBOOK

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Featuring the Mid Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and special guest performances by Santa Clause, Keebler his elf, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The concert is intended to give children a strong feeling of self-worth and hope for the future. Some of the children will be brought on stage to participate in the concert. If you are interested be there by 6:30 p.m. After the show Santa will hear Christmas lists in the lobby, the Conductor, songbirds and performers will also be in the lobby to

great guests. Although there is a ticket price of \$10, should any parent be unable to afford a ticket, they should notify the convention center so that one of the business donors can sponsor them directly. Tickets are available at the Convention Center Box Office or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Sat., Dec. 14

### FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Holiday DIY Treats, 2-3 p.m. (featuring creation and design of tasty goodies); Holiday Arts & Crafts, 1-2 p.m. (featuring creation of Christmas-themed ornaments and gifts); Playtime with Mrs. Clause, 4-5:30 p.m. (featuring face painting, story time, crafts and balloon animals); and Santa Comes to Visit, 5-7 p.m. (featuring gifts and free photos with Santa and his elf).

<http://www.dunesmanor.com>

### SANTA BREAKFAST

Residence Inn by Marriott, 300 Seabay Lane, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Featuring a breakfast buffet, photos with Santa, baked goods for sale, raffles and prizes for wearing the most festive pajamas. Admission costs are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door for adults; \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door for children ages 4-9 years; and free to those 3 and younger. Tickets: Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842. <http://believeintomorrow.org>

### DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. All interested persons are welcome. 410-213-1956

### OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 AM. The speaker will be Mark Sampson, a full time Ocean City Charter Boat Captain who specializes in shark fishing and assisting scientists with shark research. Sampson's subject for the meeting will be flats fishing in Ocean City's bay waters. All welcome. Members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or donation for Diakonia. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

### OCEAN CITY COMIC CON

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Along with meeting celebrity guests, attendees will have access to anime screenings throughout the day, informative and entertaining panels, a costume contest with prizes, and more than two hundred booths full of geeky goods and independent content creators. Professional cosplayers will be in attendance to take pictures with attendees and discuss the art of costuming. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and free to children 9

years and younger with a paying adult. Attendees can receive \$1 off if in costume and \$1 off with a non-perishable food item for Diakonia. Additionally, a portion of admission will be donated directly to the Hero Initiate and to the Samaritan Shelter. James Dufendach, [promotions@plbcomics.com](mailto:promotions@plbcomics.com), 410-289-2800, <http://www.oceancitycomiccon.com>

### 'COOKIES BY THE POUND' SALE

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 18 Third St., 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Offering a variety of beautiful and tasty homemade cookies, candies and other treats for sale for only \$8 per pound.

### DICKENS WEEKEND

Downtown Snow Hill, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. See your favorite Dickens characters reenact scenes from "A Christmas Carol." There will be horse drawn carriage rides with picture with Santa. Many area residents, shop owners and strolling carolers will be in costume bringing the scene alive. Come in costume if you wish. <http://snowhillmd.gov>

### SANTA HOUSE OPEN

Downtown Pocomoke City, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Bring a camera to take your child's picture with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Cost is free. 410-957-1333, Ext. 111, <http://downtownpocomoke.com>

### "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS' PERFORMANCE

Red Doors Community Center, 10959 Worcester Highway, 2:30 PM. Nearly a dozen local children will perform in the Ocean Pines Players' production of Ken Ludwig's play, "Twas The Night Before Christmas," based on the original classic poem. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-16 years, payable at the door, although seats can be reserved in advance at [www.oceanpinesplayers.com](http://www.oceanpinesplayers.com).

### 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.

## Sun., Dec. 15

### "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS' PERFORMANCE

Red Doors Community Center, 10959 Worcester Highway, 2:30 PM. Nearly a dozen local children will perform in the Ocean Pines Players' production of Ken Ludwig's play, "Twas The Night Before Christmas," based on the original classic poem. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-16 years, payable

# Calendar

at the door, although seats can be reserved in advance at [www.oceanpines-players.com](http://www.oceanpines-players.com).

## FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 Baltimore Ave. Featuring Breakfast with Santa, 9-10 a.m. (featuring an appearance by Santa at breakfast in the Victorian Room; Art Bar, 5-6 p.m. (an adult activity featuring craft cocktail lesson from the Dunes' resident mixologist). <http://www.dunesmanor.com>

## DICKENS WEEKEND

Downtown Snow Hill, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. See your favorite Dickens characters reenact scenes from "A Christmas Carol." There will be horse drawn carriage rides with picture with Santa. Many area residents, shop owners and strolling carolers will be in costume bringing the scene alive. Come in costume if you wish. <http://snowhillmd.gov>

## THE NUTCRACKER

Ocean City Performing Arts Center, in the Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Presented by Sussex Dance Academy. Tickets cost \$17 or \$20 for adults and \$14 or \$17 for Seniors 65 years and older and students 12 years and younger. Tickets are available at the Convention Center Box Office or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). 410-289-2800

## Mon., Dec. 16

### 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.

### MOVIE MATINEE (2017)

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:00 PM. A paralyzed billionaire hires a paroled convict to be his caregiver and driver. They become friends despite their very different background. Starring Bryan Cranston and Kevin Hart.

### GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 PM. The Great Books Discussion 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>

### 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

### AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE DIRECTORS: 3 PART FILM SERIES

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:00 PM. This film series explore

three underappreciated gems by family African-American directors. Each film will feature a short introduction and an audience discussion afterwards. <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 Champion, 410-641-0157

## Tues., Dec. 17

### HOLIDAY PARTY

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 AM. For all ages. Come decorate cookies and hear some special stories. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### VEGANISM: WHAT IS IT?

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:00 PM. Learn the difference between veganism and vegetarianism. Sample vegan food and get easy recipes to impress your vegan friends. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### WW TUNES: BRAIN HEALTH advantage

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 7:00 PM. Music is fun and a brain workout, improving mood, memory and sleep quality. Join Frank Nanna and the WW Tunes for a swinging good time. <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](mailto:jeanduck47@gmail.com)

## Wed., Dec. 18

### 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>

### MARYLAND VA REPRESENTATIVES

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Representative Michelle Licata is available to offer outreach services to veterans and their families on the third Wednesday of each month. No appointment necessary. 410-713-3482, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 11:00 AM. This workshop starts with a 20 minute lesson on genealogy research followed by a Q&A session. Register: 410-208-4014. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SURPRISE SNOW

Third graders at Showell Elementary School show their shock over the surprise snow flurries on Nov. 12. Pictured are Cole Gribble, Thomas Gallagher, Lily Staubs, Madeline Spirito and Paige Oass.

### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. 'Jack' Burbage Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center Conference Room, 9707 Healthway Drive, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Women Supporting Women/AGH Support group for women and men who are battling breast cancer (current patients and survivors). Lunch is provided. RSVP: 410-548-7880.

### LET THEM EAT CUPCAKES

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 2:00 PM. The owner of Berlin's Baked Dessert Cafe will demonstrate how to make and ice cupcakes. <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

### CRIME VICTIMS AND INFORMATION RESOURCE

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:00 PM. A representative from the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center will offer information and referrals for local resources to anyone who might have questions after experiencing crime. Stop by to speak with an attorney. <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>

### 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

### 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](mailto:dance@delmarvahanddancing.com), 410-208-1151, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

## ONGOING EVENTS

### WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, Nov. 21-Dec. 31. Featuring a 50-foot Christmas tree and hot chocolate and pictures with Santa in the heated Winterfest Village pavilion. Board the Winterfest Express to tour the 58 acres of fairy tale themed exhibits of lights. Admission for the train costs \$5 for adults and free for children 11 years and younger. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-626-2326, 410-250-0125 or <https://oceancitymd.gov>.

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

Berlin business are creating their own unique gingerbread houses. Vote for your favorite at any participating locations, Nov. 29th through Dec. 30.

### BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Through December, contact your closest library branch to schedule a personal appointment for help with resumes, job applications, E-Reader or basic computer skills. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CROSSWORD CLUB: BRAIN HEALTH advantage

Through December, ask at the circulation desk at your closest library branch. Form a club to figure out the clues. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SCRABBLE! DELUXE EDITION: BRAIN HEALTH advantage

Through December, Bring a group to start up a game with other patrons in the library. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**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](http://oceancitytoday.com) and [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com).

**HELP WANTED**

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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
Sunday 10-12	7 127th St., Top Royal North #200	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$204,900	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Sunday 1-3	7601 Coastal Hwy., Coral Seas #110	3BR/3BA	Condo	\$379,900	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Friday 12-2	306 13th St, Unit 7B	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$240,000	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
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**TOP 5%**  
**in the Nation**  
*by Healthgrades (2018)*

[peninsula.org/cancer](http://peninsula.org/cancer)