



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SIZZLING SUMMER

Socially-distanced beach goers seek heat relief by the waters outside the Ocean Pines Swim and Racquet Club on Sunday.

Pines election comm. looking at online voting

Upcoming election will be test of community interest

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) After redesigning balloting systems to abandon the Scantron technology that had been used, the Ocean Pines Elections Committee will be watching this year's board of directors' race to gauge community interest in using electronic voting in the future.



Steve Habeger

"This year we're going away from [Scantron]," said Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger. "It's obsolete in many ways."

Habeger said while creating a new election balloting system for 2020, committee members weighed the po-
See BOARD Page 9

OP Police near move to safer digs

New building represents one final goal for Massey before his retirement

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Closing out a law enforcement career spanning five decades, Ocean Pines Police Chief Dave Massey is notching one last accomplishment before retiring Aug. 1 — the imminent unveiling of an expanded, safety-enhanced headquarters.

Massey said a precise date to break the seal on the remodeled police building is contingent upon obtaining certificate of occupancy approval from Worcester County.

See POLICE Page 10



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pending receipt of certificate of occupancy from Worcester County, the Ocean Pines Police Department will resume operations inside its newly expanded headquarters.

Worcester County Libraries closed; services provided

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) While all five Worcester County Library branches remain closed, public services are gradually restarting.

Worcester County residents can register for a free digital library card to access digital content. Cards are valid for 90 days.

Digital resources, including streaming media for kids, teens and adults, are available for a computer, tablet, eReader or smartphone through a library account.

"We have seen increased usage of eBooks and downloadable audio
See COUNTY Page 8



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Fourth candidate joins mayoral race

Jennifer Allen says she will be voice for Berlin citizens and bring fresh perspective



Jennifer Allen

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Berlin resident Jennifer Allen, 68, became the fourth candidate for mayor in the Oct. 6 municipal election ballot after filing on Monday.

Allen will run against incumbent Mayor Gee Williams, District 2 Councilmember Zackery Tyndall and The Globe General Manager William "Bill" Todd.

"I think that Berlin needs a fresh set of eyes," Allen said. "I think that everybody that's running has been here in Berlin practically their whole lives, and my coming in and looking at all of this, I think I see things that maybe they don't see."

Allen said she began thinking about running for mayor after the 18 percent tax increase in 2019.

"When all of that was publicized in the paper that they were going to

have that huge tax increase, I thought I should get more involved in town," Allen said.

Since then, Allen has attended every Berlin Mayor and Council meeting either in-person or online.

"We need somebody in here to look at the big picture and see what exactly goes on in this town," Allen said. "What kind of processes are they following? And is there any way that we can look at them and redesign them or improve them to find a better way to do things so that we could save money in the budget and not impact the taxpayers with increasing taxes?"

Allen said her campaign will focus on the budget and stabilizing taxes, the Heron Park project, the annexation and expansion of the town and storm water.

"In the near future, we need to look at what's going on with the wastewater plant," she added.

Allen is also concerned about pub-

lic safety issues, such as crosswalks and safe bicycling.

"Lots of adults are bicycling right now because of the pandemic," she said.

Allen originally considered running for the District 2 council seat. However, she ultimately chose to file for mayor because "the council is hindered" with access to financial information.

From Montgomery County, Allen purchased her home in District 2 in 2015. She moved to town in April 2016 after retiring from her role as deputy assistant chief of staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

She has an associate degree in applied science and nursing, a bachelor's degree in health care management and a master's in quality systems management.

"The definition of quality is listening to the voice of the customer, and in our case, the voice of the customer would be the citizens of Berlin," Allen said. "And it bothered me that mayor

See ALLEN Page 4

Deadlines for 2020 Berlin election

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Berlin Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen and the Board of Supervisors of Elections reviewed the 2020 Berlin municipal election schedule during its meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

Voter registration and regular candidate filing are due on Sept. 4.

The town will also begin accepting absentee voting applications that day.

"We can't start accepting them

until Sept. 4, but the application itself will be on the website right around Sept. 1," Bohlen said.

Sept. 29 is the deadline for receiving absentee applications by mail.

"I have to have it in my hand by Sept. 29," Bohlen said. "The postmark is not sufficient to meet that deadline."

According to the town's website, write-in candidates' filing is due Sept. 29 at 4:30 p.m.

Bohlen has to mail out absentee ballots by Oct. 1 for any applications

that have been received.

In-person absentee applications are due at Town Hall by 5 p.m. on Oct. 2.

Election Day is Oct. 6 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The five board members and additional poll workers must be at the polling places on Election Day at 6:30 a.m. and remain there until polling is closed.

For more information, visit berlinmd.gov/government/municipal-elections/.



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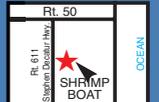
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Berlin celebrates Christmas in July

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) The Town of Berlin in partnership with local businesses is hosting Christmas in July downtown until Sunday.

Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said all the shops and restaurants are celebrating in their own way.

A sidewalk sale is among the festivities that began on July 18. Heart of Gold Kids has sale racks and a Christmas sale outside its shop.

The Treasure Chest is offering a 20

percent discount storewide and Bruder Hill and Bruder Home are having select sales for various items.

In addition, Uncle Jon's Soap has a 10 percent discount on Uncle Jon's handmade products.

Throughout the week-long event, the Berlin Welcome Center has been giving away free shopping bags.

According to the Facebook event posting, some restaurants are having dining specials.

Carriage rides are also available downtown, weather permitting for both rain and heat.

All who click going or interested in the event on Facebook will be entered into a drawing to win \$100 in Berlin Bucks! The drawing will be done at the Berlin Farmers Market on Sunday, but the winner does not have to be present.

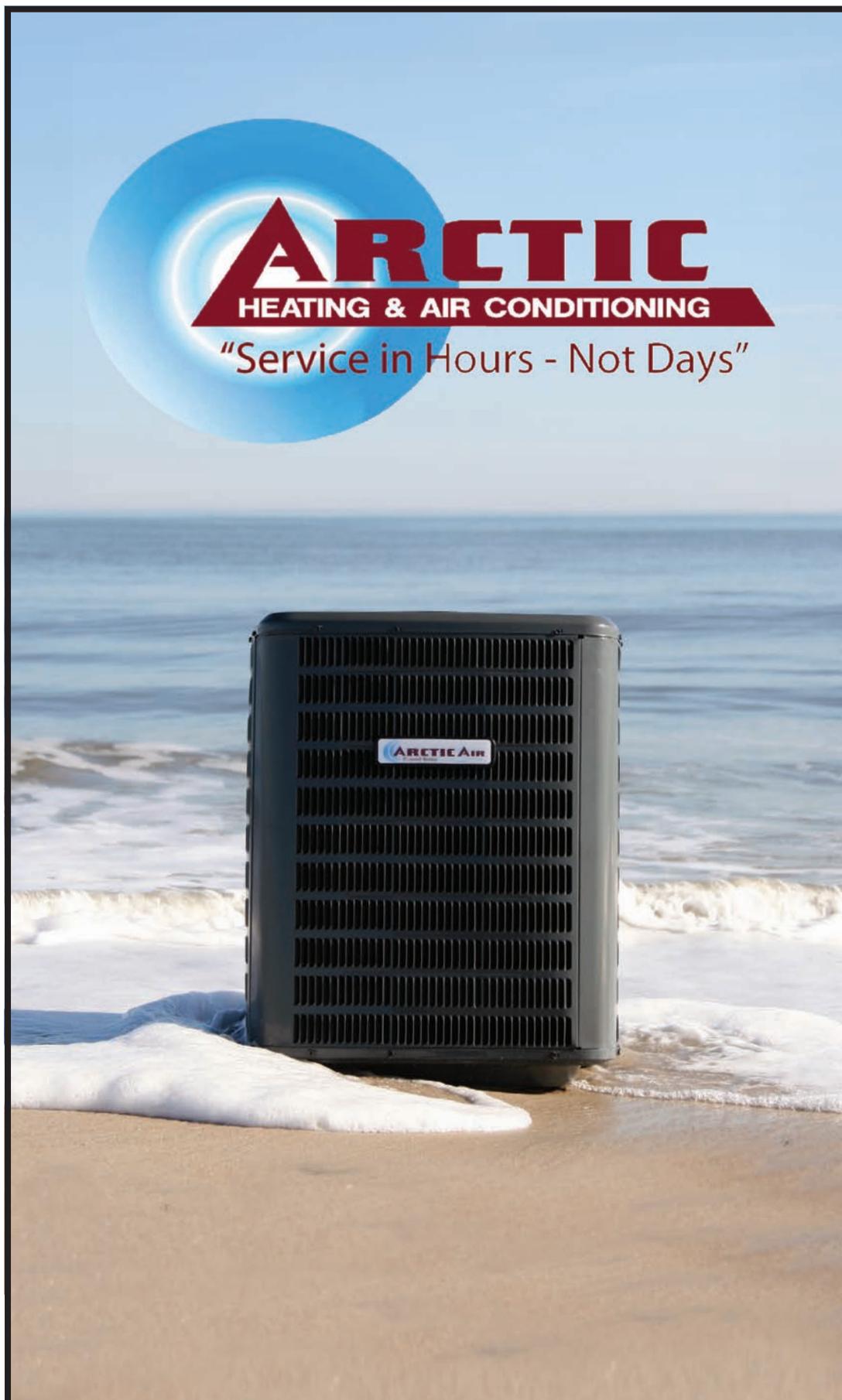
Berlin businesses have taken the Back to Business pledge as part of Gov. Larry Hogan's recovery plan for Maryland to ensure the safety of visitors.

For more information about the promotion, visit facebook.com/events/98174529835983.



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Heart of Gold Kids at 27 N. Main Street is continuing to display sale racks and its Christmas sale in front of its store until Sunday for the Berlin Christmas in July Sidewalk Sale.



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Berlin Bd. of Supervisors of Elec. Briefs

By Ally Lanasa

Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) The following took place during the Berlin Board of Supervisors of Elections meeting on Tuesday, July 14:

Guidebook

The five board members reviewed sections of the guidebook before a training session that will occur closer to election day. The first section of the guidebook details the role of board members, said Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen.

The next section includes a list of board members and how the board functions. A list of materials for election day belongs in this section and will be added after the town administrative staff learns what is needed for social distancing requirements.

Bohlen said the board will review the third section about paper ballot instructions when there are actual examples. The fourth section provides alphabetized lists of district information and a map of the Town of Berlin.

The fifth section contains forms for the board members' reference about absentee voting and candidates. Sections six and seven pertain to the town charter and town code in reference to the elec-

tion process. The last section has legal notices.

Social distancing at polls

Districts 3 and 4 voters will vote at the Berlin Police Department, 129 Decatur Street, this year. Districts 1 and 2 voters will vote at Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main Street.

Bohlen said the town administrative staff will be evaluating how to arrange the layout at the Berlin Police Department and Buckingham Presbyterian Church to enforce social distancing. PPE will be purchased, and the town is considering adding acrylic shields between voters and poll workers.

In addition, the town is strongly encouraging people to vote by absentee ballot, Bohlen said.

Typical issues

Bohlen said common problems on election day are people arriving at the wrong polling place for their district or insisting that they are registered to vote. The Worcester County Board of Elections will be readily available all day to verify their records of registered voters, Bohlen added.

"We have not had issues that have not been readily solved within just a few minutes," she said.

Campaign signs

Board members can call into question campaign signs. Bohlen addressed the town code's regulations, stating campaign signs cannot be posted more than 60 days preceding the applicable election and must be removed within seven days following the day of the applicable election.

Candidates must receive permission from property owners to post any campaign signs, posters or placards.

Campaign signs cannot obstruct traf-

Continued on Page 6

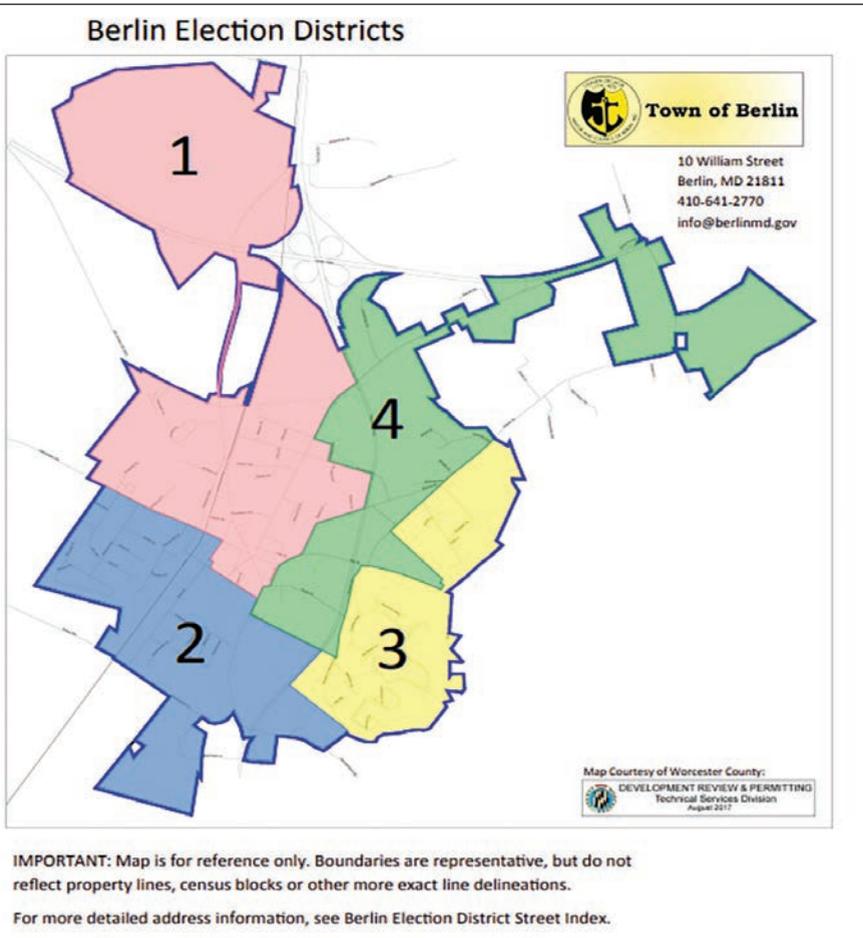


PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF BERLIN

Districts 3 and 4 voters will vote at the Berlin Police Department, 129 Decatur Street, this year. Districts 1 and 2 voters will vote at Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main Street.

Allen files for Berlin's fall election

Continued from Page 2
and the council seem to not be hearing the voice of the customer and trying to listen and work with the customer with compromise."

Allen added that she could be the voice for those customers that may feel like they are ignored.

Although she has no political experience, Allen, who is a registered nurse, has 46 years of experience in healthcare with 33 years of experience in federal service.

In advance of the fall election, Allen encourages the town's citizens to check their voter registration information.

Last year, Allen helped with the annexation petition and discovered many citizens had moved and did not realize their addresses were not updated automatically for their voter registration.

"People's addresses didn't match their names in the voter registration, and those names were excluded from the petition," Allen said. "If people

want to vote and they want to impact what happens in Berlin and Worcester County later in November and nationally, they need to just check, if they recently moved, and make sure that their voter registration got updated."

Berlin citizens can check this information on the Maryland State Board of Elections website and update their addresses if necessary.

For more information about her campaign, contact Allen at jenniferforberlinmayor@gmail.com.



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OP Chamber relocates flounder tournament

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce's 13th annual Flounder Tournament returns to its roots this year.

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kerrie Bunting said the tournament, which takes place Aug. 1, was originally staged at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club before being relocated to Pines Point Marina and is now coming full circle back to the club.

"The biggest change we've had to make is change of location," she said. "We had been at Pines Point Marina and now we're right back where we started."

The flounder tournament begins at 7 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. on Aug. 1. Fishing lines drop in the water starting at 7 a.m. and are pulled by 3 p.m. with weigh-in at the Yacht Club marina by 4 p.m. Due to space considerations, event organizers request anglers drive netted flounders to the docks for weight verification.

Registration cost is \$45 for one angler and \$40 per person if registering multiple parties. Also, Calcutta's for length and weight are \$10 each.

Bunting said participants must pre-register by noon on Friday, July 31, with a steady stream of fishing enthusiasts already on board.

The first 100 anglers to register receive a commemorative T-shirt.

"It's one of those things that's weather-dependent," she said. "Once the forecast comes out that week, I'm sure we'll get a lot more people registering at that point."

Bunting said previous tournament participants

had expressed concerns about holding the event at Pines Point Marina because its smaller space would make adhering to covid-19 health safety guidelines challenging.

"This year, the Yacht Club patio is huge and there's more than enough room to socially distance," she said. "Pines Point didn't want us there because they were worried."

The return to the Yacht Club also provides ample space for perusing a wide array of auction items.

"Anybody can show up and check out the auction. You don't have to have fished to bid on the items," she said. "We usually have 20-30 items ranging from jewelry ... up to hotel stays."

Bunting said food and beverages would be available for purchase.

Leading the pack among an array of businesses lending financial backing this year is "Captain Sponsor" i.g. Burton.

Bunting said in addition to support from car dealer i.g. Burton, a number of businesses have contributed to the event.

"We've got (more than) 15 sponsors at different levels," she said.

The list includes 1st Mate sponsor 5 Star Plumbing.

Skipper Sponsors are Short's Marine, Taylor Bank, American Granite and Tile, Shore United Bank, Clutter Angels, Bluewater Advisory, Bank of Ocean City and Donna Frankowski of Shamrock Realty.

T-Shirt Sponsors are The Ocean Pines Association, Mitchell & Hastings, Ocean Pines Stump and Tree Removal, WMDT, The Courier, BB & T Now Trust, Coastal Fisherman, PKS and Red Sun Cus-



PHOTO COURTESY KERRIE BUNTING

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce volunteers measure a fresh catch at the Pines Point Marina during the 2019 Flounder Tournament.

toms. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three fish, with the venue change providing more of a happy hour or early dinner type atmosphere, Bunting said.

"I really want to emphasize that this is such a larger venue that we can space out appropriately," she said.

For more information visit the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce online at oceanpineschamber.org/ or call 410-641-5306.

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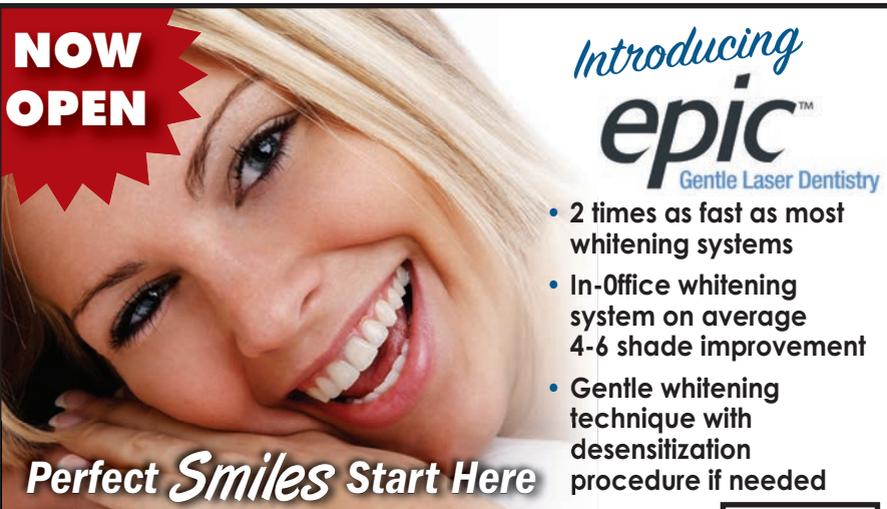
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Six candidates certified for Berlin's municipal election

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) The Berlin Board of Supervisors of Elections last Tuesday reviewed and certified the eligibility of the six candidates who had filed as of that date for the Berlin municipal election in October.

Candidates enter the contest by filling out forms from Berlin Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen.

According to the town charter, a candidate must be a registered voter and live in the district they are running to represent on the council. In addition, the candidate had to live in that district for a year prior to the election.

Those who are elected into office will serve a four-year term.

"I have already gone through and made sure that the candidate is eligible to vote, he or she is registered ... they live where they say they live, they have lived there for a year, financial disclosure forms have been filed, either for the incumbent—they should have been filed for April 30 of this year and they're kept on file in the ad-



Mary Bohlen

ministration office. New candidates have to file their financial disclosure when they file for office," Bohlen said.

The Ethics Commission receives those forms, Bohlen added, so the board members just need to certify that the forms were turned in.

The board members are responsible for certifying that the candidates are eligible to run in agreement with Bohlen's assessment.

"We have a couple more meetings before the election, and if more people file between now and then, [the board] will go through this process again," Bohlen said. "There's no sense of sitting on these candidates until September when we can go ahead and get them certified."

The Board of Supervisors of Elections will meet twice in September before the Oct. 6 election day.

For more information, visit berlinmd.gov.

Berlin Bd. of Supervisors of Elec. Briefs

Continued from Page 4
fic view from any direction or obstruct any pedestrian or public road.

Lastly, prior to the close of polls on election day, campaign signs that have been lawfully posted cannot be removed by anyone not authorized by the candidate or group responsible for posting those signs.

Upcoming meetings

The board will meet Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. to further discuss its function in the Berlin municipal election on Oct. 6 for mayor, Districts 2 and 3 council seats and at-large council

Seat (special election).

Election districts

Board member Nicky Chavis asked why the local election is not held the same day as the county or national election. Bohlen said the elections are not connected. She added that there is no guarantee that the election districts would match up for county, state and federal elections because there are geographical differences in district lines.

Chavis said she believes the voter turnout rate would be higher if the elections were held the same day.

The Women's Club of Ocean Pines donates to community

(July 17, 2020) The Women's Club of Ocean Pines recently announced that it has awarded \$1,100 in community donations for 2020.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the awards ceremony normally held in May was canceled. The following organizations will be receiving their letters and donation checks in the mail:

Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks, Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department (EMT), Coastal Hospice, Mid-

Atlantic Symphony Student Outreach Program, Shore Elite, Stories Love Music, Town Cats, Women Supporting Women, and Worcester County Veterans Memorial "Flags for Heroes."

Throughout the year, monies are raised by the women through fundraisers. The use of these donations is limited to organizations that promote the welfare and interests of the residents of Ocean Pines.

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OP Yacht Club pauses live shows

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Recently launched live music at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, slated to run four nights a week through Labor Day, took a quick hiatus last weekend because of mixed feedback from patrons concerning covid-19 health restrictions.

Matt Ortt Companies cofounder Ralph DeAngelus said the situation became untenable following a performance by Fab Four devotees Beatlegacy on Saturday night.

"We were catching hell from both sides," he said. "There were the people who didn't think we were taking enough safety precautions, and then there was the other side who said we were taking way too many."

Before the headline act, First Class, hit the stage on Sunday, the decision was made to pull the plug, with tentative plans to reevaluate matters in three weeks.

"My managers were getting pulled in both directions," he said. "It was really, really tough on them and the staff."

While most concerns communicated to wait staff were reasonable, DeAngelus said proactive measures were still deemed appropriate.

"Then they're the ones that make the outlandish claims to try to get their point across to the local jurisdictions," he said.

After considering all the comments and reactions, the scales appeared to be unfavorably balanced.

"We thought we were in a no-win situation, so we just cancelled the bands," he said. "To make it clear, that's not what we wanted to do."

DeAngelus said regardless of seaside melodies taking a pause, Yacht Club food and drink offerings remain unchanged.

"All the tables and everything else stays, it's just that we're not going to have the bands," he said. "We obviously still hope people come and dine on the water even though there's no entertainment."

Yacht Club management will look at the possibility of bringing back live



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Following a live performance by Beatlegacy on Saturday night, the Ocean Pines Yacht Club management opted to temporarily suspend live music offerings due to widespread concerns over social distancing.

shows in several weeks.

"We know not having bands is going to be a huge financial blow," he said. "We just wanted to keep our fingers crossed and never say never, so we're going to reevaluate around Aug. 10."

DeAngelus said it's too soon to predict what direction the coronavirus health crisis could take over

the remainder of this summer.

"In three weeks, if the climate is exactly the same, then we'll remain the same," he said.

"If it's gotten better then, hopefully, we can go back to it, if not then we won't."

For more information visit online at <https://www.opyachtclub.com/live-music>

OPA assessment payment deadline slated for Aug. 1

(July 23, 2020) The Ocean Pines Association is reminding property owners who have not yet paid the annual assessment that the deadline to do so is Aug. 1.

Homeowners with unpaid assessments after Aug. 1 will be charged 6 percent interest on late payments.

The Board of Directors this year extended the normal deadline, from May 1 to Aug. 1, citing concerns that some homeowners are facing unique and unprecedented financial difficulties caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

Assessments may be paid over the phone by calling 410-641-7717, or paid in person by visiting the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The association accepts payments by check and credit or debit card. However, there will be a 3.5 percent convenience fee added to any credit or debit payments.

Checks may also be deposited in a drop-box in the Administration Building lobby, or mailed to 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.





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ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

While the Worcester County Library remains closed, physical materials are available to card holders at the Berlin branch on Harrison Avenue and the other four branches through a limited to-go service.

County library services help counter closure of branches

Continued from Page 1
books since our closure,” said Worcester County Library Director Jennifer Ranck. “Patrons will find a wide selection of magazines, movies, eBooks, and research databases—all you need is your library card to access. Library staff are available at all branches for anyone who needs help by phone and, of course, by email.”

A limited pickup service called “Library to-Go” offers contactless pickup of physical materials currently available at the branch a patron is visiting.

According to a recent newsletter, the library is unable to transfer items between branches at this time.

Patrons can contact a library at least 24 hours before they want to

pick up materials and request up to 20 books, five DVDs, and audio-books.

There are three ways to place an order: call the local branch between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., use the library webform or select items in the library’s catalog. When using the library catalog, patrons must limit results to their local branch by clicking the “Narrow Your Search” option.

“Staff will schedule a convenient time for patrons to pick up, and items are placed on a table just outside the branch,” Ranck said. “Staff are also able to help with recommendations since we are not allowing browsing at this time.”

The updated hours for “Library to-Go” at all branches are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In addition, book returns are now being accepted through the outdoor book drops.

“Staff are removing materials from the outdoor book returns and using our meeting rooms to place everything on tables,” Ranck said.

Library items are being quarantined there for up to seven days before being placed into circulation for others.

Worcester County Libraries are fine-free, so any temporary charges listed on patrons’ accounts during the closure will be removed when items are checked back in.

Ranck said the next phase of reopening the Worcester County libraries is to provide access to computers and copiers by appointment.

Meanwhile, all branches are providing weekly program-to-go kits for children, as well as virtual programming, including the Summer Reading program. This year’s theme is “Imagine Your Story” and each week performers are featured. Viewers can watch through Zoom on Thursdays at 7 p.m. or view on the Worcester County Maryland Library page on Facebook four days later, Ranck said.

Upcoming virtual events include Kid’s Book Club on Tuesday at 10 a.m., Doc & Talk for adults on Tuesday at 2 p.m., Adult Virtual Book Club on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and Make Your Own Zine for Tweens and Teens on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The library also hosts a story time program.

“Call our Dial-a-Story number, 1-888-964-2686 to hear a children’s book read by a librarian,” Ranck said. “The stories are updated every week on Wednesday and will be read by librarians from across Maryland’s Eastern Shore.”

For more information, visit <http://worcesterialibrary.org>.

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Board election will be used as test of electronic voting

Continued from Page 1
 potential to provide electronic voting as a non-paper option.

“Certainly electronic voting is an entity that’s used,” he said. “Every professional society that I belong to — we elect our officers by electronic ballot.”

Habeger, who lives in the Parke section of Ocean Pines, said similar methodology has already been adopted for comparable elections in his neighborhood.

“We’ve been using electronic voting for our board elections a few years now,” he said.

As part of researching voting systems earlier this year, committee members got pricing for electronic balloting from one of the many vendors providing such services.

“There’s a million of them out there if you do a search on electronic voting sources,” he said.

Recognizing the many options available, the committee opted to include a survey question on this year’s ballot to see how the community feels about it.

“Primarily, we’re not sure if the membership would be interested in doing something like that,” he said. “It’s more taking the temperature of the association members.”

Habeger said opinions vary widely on the topic.

“Some people tell us we’d get greater voter participation if we did that [but] other people say the exact opposite,” he said.

Further muddying the waters are OPA bylaw requirements.

“The bylaws ... talk about people getting ballots,” he said. “It might be difficult to do without changing the language.”

Habeger said careful attention should be paid to accommodate the older demographic in Ocean Pines if electronic voting were adopted for future elections.

“Not everybody has a computer, so it would require us to put up a kiosk

somewhere like the community center clubhouse with a person there trained to help people log in,” he said. “That’s what we do in the Parke.”

The possibility of deploying a hybrid approach with both electronic voting and mail-in balloting also exists, Habeger said.

“People could vote using their smart phone, tablet or computer,” he said. “There’s so many possibilities out there it’s amazing.”

This summer’s OPA Board election pits incumbents Doug Parks and Dr. Colette Horn, and Stuart Lakernick in a three-way battle for a pair of open seats.

Ballots were mailed to more than 6,500 association members earlier this month and should be received by the OPA, not postmarked, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Habeger said the ballot survey question regarding electronic voting is an attempt to ascertain the ideal approach for Ocean Pines.

“We’re doing well with what we have [but] we’d like to get more participation,” he said. “We’d like to make it easier for people.”

OPA board election ballots can be returned by mail to the Berlin Post Office located at 20 Broad Street or dropped off in person in the ballot box inside the Ocean Pines Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway.

Returned ballots will be counted on Aug. 7 with results validated the following day at the OPA annual meeting.

The annual meeting takes place on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial located by the South Gate Pond. Property owners are requested to bring identification for verification purposes, with a minimum quorum of 100 required to stage the meeting and validate vote totals.

Members with election questions can contact the Ocean Pines Elections hotline at 410-208-3989 or email elections@oceanpines.org.

August OP board meeting cancelled as unnecessary

(July 23, 2020) An Ocean Pines Board of Directors meeting previously scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 5 has been canceled, because the directors agreed the meeting was not necessary.

The annual meeting is scheduled on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m. on the grounds of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. The memorial grounds can be accessed from the

Sports Core Pool entrance, on 11144 Cathell Road.

The association will follow CDC guidelines for covid-19 prevention during the meeting.

Members must check in, to verify voter eligibility, and must provide a valid ID with photo and name. Attendees should arrive by 8:30 a.m., to ensure the verification process is finished before 9 a.m.

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Police station awaits occupancy certificate

Continued from Page 1

“They’re still inspecting the building, but it’s close,” he said.

Erected in 1985, the former police department building had less than 1,800 square feet and will now balloon to about 5,400 square feet.

Massey, who had long championed the expansion, said the goal was to enhance safety for both officers and the community.

“I’ve tried in the past to get a different facility and the timing wasn’t right, the finances weren’t right or the board wasn’t right,” he said.

Approved in April 2019 by the OPA Board of Directors as one of three capital projects topping \$3.1 million, the police and administrative building was budgeted at \$1.2 million and is slated to finish about \$200,000 below that tally, General Manager John Viola reported on July 10.

“I’m very glad the board and GM saw the need and aggressively promoted this building,” he said. “They are all to be commended for that.”

Massey said the minimal space provided in the original station left Ocean Pines, the county’s largest community, with the smallest police station.

“The building was not designed by criminal justice consultants,” he said. “When I first came in there was one

cell and it had no toilet.”

After later installing plumbing fixtures to relieve officers of accompanying subjects in custody requiring a bathroom break, other adjustments were made as staff numbers grew over the years but space remained constant.

“We kind of cannibalized the building,” he said.

Less-than-ideal spaces were turned into holding areas and interview rooms.

“You had to really pay attention for your safety because without the proper channelization and security in a cellblock it can be very dangerous,” he said. “You had to be on guard.”

The new structure, which was designed after conferring with criminal justice consultants, includes areas specified for booking, interviews, evidence storage and a weapons armory.

Massey said in addition to resolving a past lack of proper cellblock facilities, the new police building would include access controls and security monitoring.

“They’ll be cameras on everything, not only for the safety of officers but

for anyone that comes in,” he said. “It will be safer and reduce the liability of the association dramatically because of the nature of the building.”

Massey said enhanced safety measures protect not only officers but also people in their custody.

“We have some people that can be pretty violent that we deal with (for) domestics, burglaries and break-ins,” he said. “Then people that are on drugs (or) that hate authority and we’re just the target of it.”

The small footprint caused other challenges as well,

“Things were stacked up everywhere and we just didn’t have any space,” he said. “You can’t put a quart in a pint jar.”

Eyeballing the end of 46 years in community policing, starting as a seasonal officer in Ocean City before ascending to chief in that jurisdiction, followed by serving the past 17 years as the top law enforcement official in Ocean Pines, Massey directed credit to his predecessor, Rod Murray, who served a similar number of years before handing over the reins in 2003.

“Chief Murray was instrumental with getting me an interview with the

(then) General Manager Dave Ferguson,” he said. “He was the special police chief when we had special police here.”

In 2005 Massey oversaw state legislation to recertify the department to be on par with neighboring agencies.

“They were really at a disadvantage compared to the other police agencies in the county,” he said. “The certification gives you a lot more authority (and) you come under the Maryland State Police Training Commission.”

Despite being past retirement age after reaching 70 this year, Massey hung in for an extended time to assure the improved headquarters came to fruition.

“I had thought that last year would have been a good time for me to retire, but I wanted to get one last push for this building,” he said. “A chief’s job is to leave the department better than he found it.”

Massey, who is on the verge of handing over the keys to incoming Chief Leo Ehrisman, envisions future departmental growth based on the foundation established by former Chief Murray.

“I believe that I built the first floor,” he said. “I’m very sure that Leo Ehrisman, my successor, will build the second floor and continue to make this department better.”

‘I’m very glad the board and GM saw the need and aggressively promoted this building’
Ocean Pines Police Chief
Dave Massey

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OP recreation dept. moves ahead with activities for July

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) In addition to receiving a Worcester County Commissioners proclamation earlier this month, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks staff members have launched a number of sports and summer camps during July according to coronavirus health and safety guidelines.

Director of Recreation and Parks Debbie Donahue accompanied department staff for a presentation commemorating National Recreation and Parks month during the commissioners meeting on July 7.

“We are so very happy that Worcester County made the proclamation for July to be Recreation and Parks month,” she said.

Regardless of unprecedented limitations for social interaction being practiced as covid-19 cases continue to mount, July typically marks a peak period for recreational pursuits.

“We love July,” she said. “We get to celebrate, show off our staff and why we love what we do.”

The annual county proclamation marking National Recreation and Parks month recognized that recreation programs are fundamental to community health, while designating the 2020 theme as “We Are Parks and Recreation.”

The county commissioners proclamation encourages residents and visitors to embrace the great outdoors while exploring the array of parks, trails, playgrounds and natural areas found in Ocean Pines and throughout Worcester.

“We have been posting things about July being Recreation and Parks month to our Facebook page,” she said.

On July 14, a video produced by Recreation and Parks staff was posted to Facebook to introduce department members to the larger community.

“Katie Geotzinger and Brittany Jarman made a video of different employees, stating how long they have worked

here and why they love Rec and Parks,” she said. “We will also post some pictures of Ocean Pines Recreation in July.”

Turning to the current slate of summer activities, Donahue said a few new offerings are now on tap.

“We are starting soccer and T-ball next week with a limited number of participants,” she said.

Summer soccer for kids ages 6-8 takes place on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. from July 22-Aug. 19 at Somerset Park. Cost is \$40 for Ocean Pines residents and \$45 for non-residents.

Summer T Ball for kids ages 4-6 takes place on Thursdays at 6 p.m. from July 23-Aug. 13 at the Mankin Meadows Field. Cost is \$25 for Ocean Pines residents and \$30 for non-residents. Participants must provide their own baseball gloves.

Both summer soccer and t-ball will be modified to meet CDC guidelines, with attendees requested to social distance at least six feet from non-family members.

Ocean Pines staff will disinfect equipment and participants are required to only use the ball provided. Participants must also sign a registration waiver.

“We’re also making adjustments to the normal style of the game to follow social distancing and CDC guidelines,” she said.

Donahue also noted both the previously launched Big Wave Surf Camp and Body Boarding Camp, held on the Ocean City beach near 36th Street, were conducted without incident and are slated to return shortly.

“Surf and body boarding went well earlier in the summer,” she said. “There will be more dates later in the summer.”

Donahue said the recreation department is continuing to monitor state directives and will post future updates as they arise.

For more information or questions, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052, email rec@oceanpines.org, or visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks.

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Investigation continues for shooting near Flower Street

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Worcester County Sheriff's Office responded to a shooting on Tuesday about 10 p.m. near Flower Street in Berlin. No injuries were reported, but two residences and three vehicles were struck by gunfire.

Sheriff's deputies turned the case over to the Worcester Bureau of Investigation and the Maryland State Police Forensics Science Division was called in to process the scene for evidence.

Witnesses told investigators that a private gathering was being held at a residence, when a dark colored passenger

vehicle allegedly pulled into the area. Apparently, the occupants of that vehicle were denied entry to the private party.

Witnesses said when the vehicle left the residence, numerous gunshots were fired from the vehicle.

As of Monday morning, there have been no updates to the case. The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact the Worcester County Bureau of Investigation or Worcester County Sheriff's Office at 410-632-1111. Callers may remain anonymous by contacting the Lower Eastern Shore Crime Solvers at 410-548-1776.

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Childcare centers adapt to safety guidance

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Childcare centers in Berlin are adapting to standards set by the Maryland State Department of Education during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a July 10 press release from the Maryland State Department of Education, additional family- and center-based child programs could reopen as part of Stage 2 of the recovery plan with safety guidelines.

This includes a limitation of 15 people allowed in each room in a childcare facility “with a ratio of no more than 1 teacher for 14 children ages three and above and the teacher must be qualified,” the release states.

In addition, “the state will transition away from unlicensed return to only authorizing licensed childcare and making payments in the Child Care Scholarship program based on attendance rather than enrollment.”

As of Monday, any remaining essential persons school age (EPSA) approved sites will no longer be allowed to operate. Only licensed childcare programs in Maryland can serve families at this time.

More than 5,300 licensed child providers throughout Maryland have re-

opened as of July 10.

“We are incredibly grateful to our educators, parents and community partners for all of their outstanding efforts to provide essential persons and other parents and guardians with access to childcare in these unprecedented extraordinary times,” said Dr. Karen B. Salmon, state superintendent of schools, in the release. “As we move forward, we will be upholding our rigorous licensing standards to ensure the health and safety of children. State and local education leaders are preparing their instructional plans for the fall, and this must include provisions for students when they are not in school facilities. The Division of Early Childhood’s Office of Child Care stands ready to assist, but planning must begin now.”

According to the Maryland State Department of Education, there are 16 licensed childcare personnel in Berlin.

Coastal Early Learning Center on Seahawk Road has remained open throughout the spread of covid-19, except for a voluntary two-week closure as a precautionary measure in March, said owner and director Carrie Coots.

Coastal Early Learning Center serves children 6 weeks old to 6 years old and



ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Eastern Shore Early Learning at 9028 Worcester Highway Building A in Berlin has taken health safety prevention steps such as requiring the staff to wear masks and recording the temperatures of children every morning as they are dropped off at the facility.

is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

By limiting class sizes to meet the guidelines from the Maryland State Department of Education, the center has not reached its enrollment capacity of 64 children.

The center has taken several preventive measures to ensure the safety of the children and staff.

“We do take the children’s temperatures and the staff’s temperatures every morning before they come in and begin,”

Coots said. “We have a health screening questionnaire that both the parents have to fill out for the children as well as the staff have to fill out each day.”

Coots said the staff conducts cleaning and sanitizing as needed throughout the day and at the end of the day.

The staff also enforces frequent hand washing daily.

“It hasn’t been a huge difference in
See FACILITIES Page 14

Annual backpack giveaway at TCC stores this Sun.

(July 23, 2020) More than 800 participating TCC and Wireless Zone stores are teaming up to donate 140,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through TCC’s annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

This year will mark more than one million total backpacks donated since the campaign launched in 2013.

Between 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, participating TCC stores are inviting local families to pick up backpacks for their children filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and other items.

Each participating store location will follow the CDC’s social distancing and state guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and event attendees.

For a list of participating locations in Maryland, visit <https://locations.tccrocks.com/search.html>.

Each TCC store is donating up to 180 backpacks, and backpacks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Any leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

In addition to the backpack donations, TCC and Wireless Zone stores will be awarding five \$10,000 college scholarships. Children in grades K-12 are eligible for entry and can be registered at their local stores during the Backpack Giveaway event. Entries will be accepted July 24-31.



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Facilities record temperatures and cleaning

Continued from Page 12

how we operate, because we've always cleaned throughout the day and as needed and at the end of the day," Coots said. "The staff and the children have always washed their hands constantly throughout the day."

Coots aims to maintain a routine and familiarity for the children.

"We are trying to keep their daily life here as normal as possible," Coots said. "I do think that it's really important to keep some sense of normalcy for the children, especially as they go through such big changes in other parts of their lives through this pandemic."

Coastal Early Learning Center does not require children or staff to wear masks.

"Some of the staff have tried to wear the masks at the very beginning of the pandemic, and it just wasn't working ... a big part of working with children is your facial expressions," Coots said. "Part of [children] learning to speak is watching your mouth move and hearing the different inflections of your voices. So, wearing a mask really hinders those conditions that we want young children to hear and see and listen for. It's really hard to wear a mask in childcare."

The center only serves snacks, so children bring their own lunches.

"We have switched to all [disposable] plastic ware," Coots added.

Children can still bring blankets and

a stuffed animal from home for nap time.

"We do send it home to be washed at least weekly," Coots said.

Another precaution that Coastal Early Learning Center and other childcare facilities are taking is prohibiting parents inside the building.

"We have to go out front and the parents take the temperature of the child. They show us the temperature, and then we have to record it," said Sandra Buckwalter, director and CEO of Eastern Shore Early Learning on Worcester Highway. "We all have to wear masks. The staff member that goes out has a mask on and so does the parent, and once a week they have to sign off that we've been doing this. Then, we bring the children inside. They have to immediately wash their hands."

Buckwalter said the staff logs every time children wash their hands throughout the day.

There are also charts to record the amount of sanitizing done in each room daily.

Children are not allowed to bring any toys from home because there is no guarantee that they are sanitized, Buckwalter said.

"The only thing we do allow the older children—our school age children—to bring are their tablets or their computers because when school was out, we were doing their schoolwork with them," she

added.

The center also offers a food program.

Eastern Shore Early Learning is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and serves children 6 weeks old to 12 years old.

"When the pandemic first started, we were very, very limited. I only had 15 kids in my entire building at that time," she said. "I'm up to about 45 now because of some of the changes."

Children remain in the classroom unless they are going outside.

With a maximum of 15 people permitted per room, Buckwalter said she has rooms that aren't being used.

"Two of my rooms can hold 25 to 30 and they're only allowed 14 [children]," she said. "That's what we're all arguing about because if they don't change that, we're going to have real problems."

Buckwalter said she is currently using less than a third of her building.

Little Lambs Learning Center on Racetrack Road has adjusted to the limited class size as well while it has remained open during the pandemic.

"We are following the regulations that [the Maryland State Department of Education] MSDE has put upon us for all childcare centers, which right now is no more than 15 people in any one classroom," said Joceyln Snelsire, director of the center. "We have limited our younger classrooms, our preschoolers, and we are only holding 10 children and one teacher in the room right now, which is the state ratio."

The school-aged classrooms are a ratio of 1 teacher to 14 children.

Little Lambs Learning Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and serves children 6 weeks old to 12 years old. Currently, between 80 and 90 children are enrolled at the center.

Similar to other childcare centers, Snelsire said she had to change the drop-off procedures because parents are not allowed in the building.

"Parents now bring their children in. They go straight into a bathroom located right inside our front door, and they wash their hands and then they come out to our lobby where we have set up a check-in station," Snelsire said. "We check children's temperatures and are

recording those every day and then we take the children and all their belongings, and we walk them back to the classroom."

Parents are not permitted past the lobby. Snelsire said the lobby is enclosed and separated from the rest of the center by double doors.

Children are not required to wear masks at the center, although children 5 years and older are encouraged to wear them.

"Honestly, they didn't keep them on very long. It was somewhat impractical for them to wear them. Our staff are all required to wear masks ... and we've implemented physical distancing in our classrooms as much as we possibly can."

In addition, teachers serve food with gloves rather than children serving themselves.

Generally, Little Lambs Learning Center follows a "no outside toy" policy. Snelsire said certain play items have been removed for the time being as well.

"We've eliminated some of the toys from the classroom that are harder to clean and sanitize, so a lot of our softer toys [and] dress up stuff," she said.

As for school-aged children who were doing distance learning and may continue to do so in the fall, there are laptops at the center for them to work on or they could bring in their own laptops and tablets.

"They are still doing approximately 30 to 40 minutes of some type of online learning or game every day just to keep them in that same sort of mode," Snelsire said.

Snelsire added that sanitizing has increased at the center during the covid-19 crisis, which includes disinfecting the playground equipment between each group.

"We are keeping classes from using shared spaces more than we used to," she said.

Snelsire commended her staff for taking extra measures to protect the children and themselves the last few months.

"We have had very limited illnesses or sicknesses to report," she said.

For more information about state and local childcare providers, visit maryland-publicschools.org.

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Special education staff meets needs of WCPS students

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

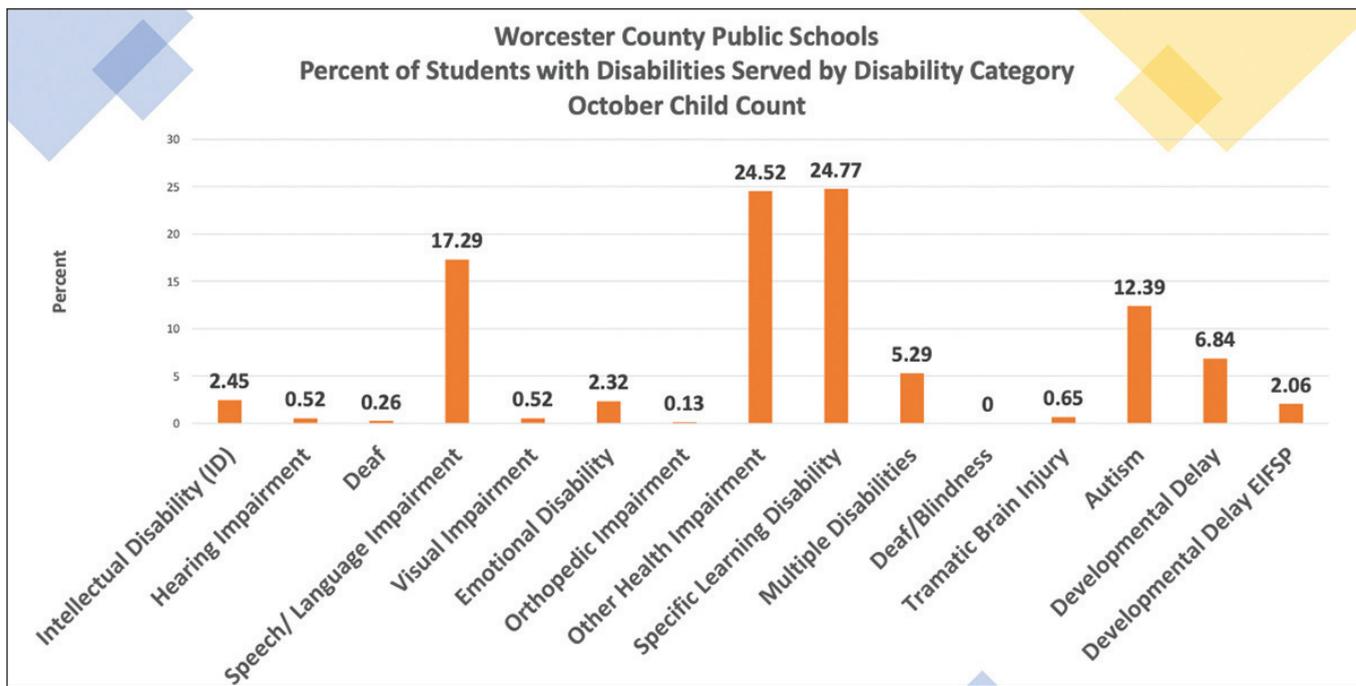
(July 23, 2020) The Worcester County Board of Education on July 14 addressed changes to the school system's special education staff for the 2020-21 school year, including a new teacher at Pocomoke High School and an additional speech pathologist for elementary schools.

Supervisor of Special Education Rae Record, who presented the annual staffing report, said staffing is constantly evaluated based on the needs of students to be provided a free, appropriate public education.

"When we have a plan for staffing, it isn't about numbers, it's about need," Record said.

According to the October child count, 12.39 percent of students with disabilities served by the disability category in Worcester County Public Schools were identified with autism.

"Students that are identified with autism sometimes have a cognitive disability, so they will need specialized instruction," Record said. "[Some]



A new special education teacher at Pocomoke High School and an additional speech pathologist will help meet the needs of Worcester County Public School students with disabilities, Supervisor of Special Education Rae Record said during the Worcester County Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

have a communication disability, so those students will need speech and language therapy, and students with autism usually have some kind of a sensory perception disability, which will require occupational therapy."

Over 80 percent of students with disabilities in Worcester County Public

Schools spend more than 80 percent of their day inside the general education classroom.

Although most students with disabilities are in full inclusion in general education, the school system provides services inside and outside the classroom to meet the needs of all students, Record said.

"At the end of that continuum, where students need more services and a more restrictive environment,

we have our special school," she added.

County public schools offer programs for people with disabilities, starting at birth.

The infants and toddlers' program serves children up to 3 years old in their natural environment.

"We also have itinerant [services], which means that sometimes the parent may bring a child into an elemen-

See SERVICES Page 16

Donation helps AGH mission

(July 23, 2020) The Atlantic General Hospital Foundation announces the Leslie Kopp Group has donated \$10,000 to support programs that help fulfill Atlantic General Hospital and Health System's ongoing mission to provide access to quality care, personalized service and education to create a healthy community.

"As these heroes battle covid-19

and provide exceptional care to patients with all types of illness, we want to help and also send our most sincere thanks," said Leslie Kopp.

"We are very grateful to the Leslie Kopp Group. Their support, and that of all our donors, helps us ensure we meet our mission to the community," said AGH President and CEO Michael Franklin.

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ALLY LANASA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Public Schools Facilities Planner Joe Price shared that the construction of the 9,600-square-foot Showell Elementary replacement school off Route 589 is almost done, during the Worcester County Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

Construction of Showell Elem. almost done

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) Worcester County Public Schools Facilities Planner Joe Price on July 14 updated the board of education on the two-year Showell Elementary replacement school project as it nears completion.

According to the floor plan, storefront and curtainwall windows have been installed and light fixtures hung. Kitchen equipment and ceiling tile have also been placed.

Price said painting is being finished, insulation is being installed and final cleaning is being conducted within the facility.

Next month wood stage flooring will be laid inside the building.

Pictures in Price's presentation show an administration office on the right of the main entrance and a cafeteria on the left.

A media center will be located near the secondary entrance of the school.

Currently, demolition of the exist-

ing slab and footings is underway, Price said in reference to the site plan.

The construction team is also completing the road and parking asphalt paving, site sign and final grading and topsoil placement.

New exterior concrete, curb and gutter are being added as well.

Within the next 30 days, a site gate will be installed, and site stabilization will take place.

The construction has remained on schedule for the first day of school on

Sept. 8, if in-person instruction resumes.

The new 9,600-square-foot building will eliminate the need for nine portable classrooms that were utilized at the former 5,200-square-foot school off Route 589.

Payments up to July 14 totaled \$32,418,809.29.

The remaining project balance is \$6,205,502.21.

For more information, visit worcesterk12.org or showellelementary.org.

Services provided to students with disabilities

Continued from Page 15

tary school to receive speech or occupational therapy, just depending on the need," Record said.

Services are also provided for that age group at Head Start, childcare centers and nursery schools.

Staffing for the infants and toddlers' program consists of two speech therapists, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a home educator, a case manager, a teacher of the vision and hearing impaired, an assistive technology teacher and a behavioral coach.

Early childhood intervention services for children with disabilities aged 3 to 5 include an inclusive 3-year-old program, an inclusive prekindergarten

and an inclusive kindergarten within the general education classroom.

In addition, the Worcester County Public Schools provide special education services from grades first through 12th.

"We have a High Road Program for students who have more intensive behavioral needs," Record said.

Other programs for older students are the Community Work Experience Transition Program and the Tri-County Wor-Wic Project for high school students between 18 and 21 years old.

Record said there is nonpublic school placement as well if necessary.

"We usually have very few students in nonpublic because we are able to

provide the services within Worcester County," Record added. "Our goal is to narrow the gap for students with disabilities, and we do that by providing services in the natural setting."

Generally, there are special education teachers per grade level in grades prekindergarten through fifth in most schools as well as in each core content area at the secondary education level.

"Then, of course, related services are provided as indicated in the student's [individualized education program] IEP," Record said.

Relative service providers are speech therapists, occupational therapists and physical therapists.

Special service providers vary by need such as, transition facilitator, au-

diologist, school psychologists, behavior intervention teacher and assistive technology teacher.

The special education staffing plan is determined by obtaining public input, collaborating with building level administration on staffing needs, monitoring the service currently provided and needs of the students and monitoring caseloads of case managers and service providers.

This upcoming school year, a new special education teacher at Pocomoke High School will help with the intense need of students there and an additional speech pathologist will help elementary schools with a high volume of students with autism that require speech services, Record said.

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Anonymous donor food funds aid neighbor

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) An elderly Ocean Pines resident, still working to survive despite being more than 80 years old, was overjoyed last week after a surprise donation helped fill her cupboards with food.

Ocean Pines Chapter of AARP President Larry Walton, who also is president of the Ocean Area chapter of National Active Retired Federal Employees, was contacted because of his volunteer work sponsoring food drives through the Community Church at Ocean Pines.

Walton said about two weeks ago Colby Phillips contacted him about a \$100 donation from an Ocean Pines homeowner who wished to remain anonymous.

In March, Phillips launched a social media campaign to help senior citizens living in the Pines who needed food, medicines and other necessities.

"I had done the donation thing when covid-19 first started because I just wanted to help people," she said. "The homeowner remembered that and reached out to me because they wanted to honor a friend's birthday."

Earlier this year, Phillips established the "Local Help for You Worcester County" Facebook page.

"People always need help and it's not just a covid situation," she said.

The unidentified donor recalled Phillips' earlier work and decided to touch base about a surprise birthday gift for a close friend in his 60s.

"He has everything he needs and every year I have a struggle and usually end up sending a fruit basket," she said. "I wanted to do something that would mean something this year, especially with the pandemic going on."

Hatching plans for a donation in her friend's honor, the 80-plus year old reached out to Phillips who put her in contact with Walton.

"Colby contacted him and gave me his number," she said. "We got together to talk, and I found out he was involved with the Community Church."

After conversing with Walton, the donor felt assured the charitable donation would be applied to an appropriate end.

"I got the name I should make the check out to and I said, 'You apply it where you want to,'" she said.

Searching for a worthy recipient, Walton called on Community Church elder Ken Walters. They both work closely with the Sarah's Pantry outreach mission.

After mulling over options, the pair thought of an ideal candidate, an 80-plus year old Pines resident still hard at work despite being long past retirement. The recipient's name was withheld for privacy.

"[Ken] gets the lady food once a



Larry Walton

month from Sarah's Pantry," he said.

Aware of the woman's financial challenges, the duo opted to purchase a \$100 gift card from Food Lion.

Walton said last Thursday the recipient was shellshocked after the pair unexpectedly knocked on her door and shared news about the kind gesture.

"Her jaw dropped, and it was down for 3-4 days," he said.

Walton said the trio shared tears of joy during a quick trip to the grocery store with all the funds expended short of pocket change.

"The lady sent a thank you card to the donor," he said.

For her part, Phillips was relieved to find the donation served its purpose.

"When someone offers money for food, you want to make sure it's

going to someone who absolutely needs it," she said.

Noting the random nature of the birthday honor, Phillips said the chain of communication between community volunteers exemplifies the virtue of caring for others.

"If we're able to do that and help others, whether it's a cash donation, gift card, food or even prayer," she said. "It's important that we're always looking out for our neighbors."

Worcester County hosts Just Walk

By Ally Lanasa
Staff Writer

(July 23, 2020) The Worcester County Health Department is inviting people to participate in the "Move Your Way Just Walk" scavenger hunt for Worcester health tip messages on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Worcester County Health Department Public Affairs Officer Travis Brown said there will be 25 general health and wellness tips in each park, with each focusing on healthy eating and physical activity.

Residents can choose from John



Travis Brown

Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill, Cypress Park in Pocomoke or Stephen Decatur Park in Berlin.

All registered participants who submit a photo from the walk at one of the designated parks will receive a free T-shirt.

Those who submit the number of messages found will be entered into a free raffle drawing for a chance to win a prize. Submissions should be emailed to Chronic Disease and To-

bacco Supervisor Crystal Bell at crystal.bell1@maryland.gov.

The scavenger hunt is a self-directed walk.

"Social distancing and CDC safety guidelines should be followed," Brown said. "The State of Maryland does not currently mandate masks while outdoors at a park."

The registration deadline is Friday.

Visit worcesterhealth.org or www.eventbrite.com/e/move-your-way-just-walk-scavenger-hunt-tickets-110974706334 to register for the event.

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Opinion

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

Parks, Lakernick get election endorsement

Ocean Pines ballots have gone out, with three candidates running for two available seats. Two incumbents are running, Doug Parks and Collette Horn, along with third candidate Stuart Lakernick, whose wife, Esther Diller, served the community well a few years ago during a crucial transition period.

While not all is ever perfect, things in Ocean Pines have been relatively quiet this year. The current board has managed to bring both financial stability to the organization along with a focus on working together to accomplish projects put on the sideline due to in-fighting amongst prior boards.

Much of the progress can be attributed to the quiet, but steady, leadership of Doug Parks. Parks' style at times may be viewed by some as sitting on the fence, as he patiently listens to all sides of an issue before weighing in. However, he has shown he can quickly put a stop to any rancor on the board and bring consensus when needed. We would recommend Doug Parks for another term, while wishing to allow someone else the opportunity to serve as president, he will help retain a non-agenda-driven board focused on keeping the community in good financial shape.

Our second choice would be Stuart Lakernick. As a part-time property owner, soon to retire and reside here full time, Lakernick will provide the perspective of part-time property owners who feel their voices are not always heard. His experience as a successful business owner should be welcome during a time when maintaining Ocean Pines' good financial track will have some challenges with the loss of revenues in key amenities this summer. Additionally, his willingness to prioritize drainage issues will keep the board focused on prioritizing solutions.

Another key asset which both candidates share, is the willingness to communicate to the community. The desire to "control the narrative" to residents, as some would like to do, has proved disastrous in the past. Nothing gets community members more riled up than when they feel they are not getting straight information. Many Ocean Pines managers and board members have learned this the hard way. It is of primary importance that residents vote for those who are willing to provide frank and timely information to the community.



July 19, 2020 - The Day the Music Died (at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club)

County seeks volunteers for boards

Worcester soliciting community members for array of openings

(July 23, 2020) Worcester County Government encourages those interested in becoming more involved in the community to volunteer on a board or commission.

Members are appointed by the County Commissioners to fill two types of vacancies: seats that represent each of the seven election districts, and open seats that may be filled by residents throughout Worcester County.

Current district seats are available on the following boards and commissions:

- District Two (Central District) – one seat is available on the Social Services Advisory Board
- District Three (Sinepuxent District) – one seat is available on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

- District Five (Ocean Pines District) – seats are available on the Social Services Advisory Board and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

- District Six (Northern District) – seats are available on the Tourism Advisory Committee and the Commission for Women.

- District Seven (Ocean City) – seats are available on the Building Code Appeals Board, Ethics Board, LDC, Planning Commission, and Social Services Advisory Board.

Current open seats that may be filled by residents countywide include the following: Commission on Aging (2) and the Local Development Council for Ocean Downs Casino (1).

There are also two vacancies open on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for representatives to be appointed from the towns of Berlin and Snow Hill.

There is currently one vacancy as an alternate on the Worcester County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. Members of this board are nominated by the County Commissioners, with final appointment by the governor of Maryland.

In the event that WCG receives more individuals interested in volunteering for a particular committee than there are available seats, the Commissioners will maintain an interest list to help fill future vacancies.

For more information about county boards and commissions, contact Karen Hammer at 410-632-1194. To volunteer to serve, send a letter of interest, along with a resume or cover letter outlining any pertinent experience, to khammer@co.worcester.md.us or Worcester County Administration at One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

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OP pickleball tournament scheduled Aug. 8

(July 23, 2020) Hoping to make up some fundraising ground lost to covid-19 postponements, the Mary Mac Foundation announced plans for a charity pickleball tournament, scheduled next month in Ocean Pines.

Foundation co-founders Tim and Don McMullen previously announced the cancelation of the ninth annual charity golf tournament, because of the pandemic. However, the McMullens said they still hope to raise \$30,000 to keep their pledge to area youth groups, who annually receive donations from the Mary Mac Foundation.

Enter pickleball tournament organizers Daryl and Cathy Noble, and Frank Kramer, who came up with the idea for the inaugural "Mary Mac Foundation Pickleball Beach Fest."

"We had made \$30,000 in commitments to youth groups, and the [foundation] board of directors met and decided we still have to fulfill their commitments," Tim McMullen said. "And, on their own, Daryl, Cathy and Frank stepped up with the idea for the tournament ... I was deeply humbled."

The Mary Mac Foundation each year raises funds for local and regional youth programs to honor Mary McMullen (1948-2012), a special education instructor at Severna Park High School and Ruth Eason School in Millersville, Maryland.

During the 1970s, she also helped established the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department.

Programs supported by the foundation include Camp Barnes, a residential camp in Frankford, Delaware, for low-income children, and Camp St. Vincent de Paul in Baltimore, an organization offering eight-week summer camps for homeless children.

The foundation also supports summer youth recreation programs in Ocean Pines.

The Mary Mac Foundation Pickleball Beach Fest is scheduled Saturday, Aug. 8 beginning at 8 a.m. Scattered start times are possible and the rain date is Sunday, Aug. 9.

The tournament will have a round-robin format based on skill level, with alternating partners.

The cost to enter is \$30, per person. For questions or to register, email OPSummerClassic@gmail.com. Checks may be made payable to: Mary Mac Foundation, 174 Nottingham Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

To pay online, visit marymac.org. Along with the pickleball tournament, McMullen said members of the Ocean Pines Golf and Racquet Sports community, upon hearing news that the annual golf event was canceled, have already pledged to aid the foundation.

That support, he said, should help the foundation come close to its fundraising

goals, despite not being able to host what has become its signature event.

"It's because of the generosity of this great community that we are going to be able to fulfill many of our commitments," McMullen said. "I just think it's fantastic, and it means that people understand that the purpose of the foundation is to help homeless and low-income kids. It's always a problem within our society but, now, with the pandemic, it's more important than ever.

"All of this is just a testament to the fact that this community that we live in is so special. It's full of wonderful people and it's just a great community to live in," he added.

Shore councils awarded fed grants

(July 23, 2020) Congressman Andy Harris (MD-01) announced last week the Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore have each been selected to receive sizable grants from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Specifically, the Mid-Shore Regional Council will receive \$400,000 and the Tri-County Council will receive

\$107,937. Funding was provided through the CARES Act, which passed Congress this past spring. These grants are designed to provide supplemental financial assistance to help the councils respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic.

"As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I applaud the award of these federal grants to the Eastern

Shore regional councils to support redevelopment and revitalization on the Eastern Shore," Harris said. "These funds will help our regional communities and businesses respond to and recover from the devastating impact of the coronavirus outbreak and the shutdown of our local economy. I will continue to support our local governments and main street businesses working to maintain jobs during this pandemic."



OPEN HOUSES JULY 23 - JULY 30



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Mon.-Fri. 11-3, Sat-Sun 10-4	1200 St. Louis Ave., Island Time – OC	3BR/3.5BA	Townhomes	\$399,900	Dan Clayland/Coldwell Banker Res. Brokerage
Friday 11-1	762 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$289,900	Lauren A Smith/Keller Williams
Sunday 1-4	1513 Teal Dr., Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$574,900	Terri Looney/Century 21



Calendar

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

Thurs., July 23

STARPOWER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway. World championship competition for dancers who qualified at regionals held across the U.S. General information: 301-870-9550. Registration questions: daniella@starpowertalent.com. 301-870-9550, <https://starpowertalent.com>

ONLINE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via video call, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. An informal gathering of people whose lives are affected by the caregiving needs of another. An opportunity to share in the wisdom, insight and humor of fellow caregivers. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

CARD MAKING (SERIES 3 OF 3) (ADULT)

Beginning at 2:00 PM. Materials needed: card stock, glue, colored paper, colored pencils or markers, scissors, print outs (will be send to you via email). Register: <https://worcesterialibrary.libcal.com/event/6750730>.

PLANT CLINIC (ADULT)

Ask Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz your questions and even show her your plants via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Participants can also call the first phone number on the Zoom link to listen in. Registration closes 24 hours before the event begins. Register: <https://worcesterialibrary.libcal.com/event/6779335>.

FREE FAMILY BEACH GAMES

Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums, 11700 Coastal Highway, 6:30 PM. Held Thursdays through Aug. 27. Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/family-beach-games2020Hel>

TALES FROM THE GOOD EARTH (YOUTH)

Pocomoke Library, 301 Market St., 7:00 PM. New Moon Theater's Julie Kurzava shares folk tales from around the world in her theatrical performance. See it Drive In style, register to see the show on Zoom or watch the recording on the library's Facebook page from July 24-27. <https://worcesterialibrary.libcal.com/event/6780539>

SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS

Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Grab a bite to eat from the food truck and enjoy music by "8 Track Mind" ('70s dance party band). Admission to the park is free, while beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. It is recommended to bring your own seating. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at

your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/sunset-park-party-nightso20>

FREE OC BEACH DANCE PARTY

Caroline Street Beach, 8:30 PM. Each week a new DJ hits the Caroline Street Stage where participants can dance under the lights on the beach. The event leads into the fireworks at 10:30 p.m. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/oc-beach-dance-party2020>

THURSDAY'S DOWNTOWN BEACH FIREWORKS

Talbot Street Beach, 10:30 PM. Partakers must adhere to State guidelines in practicing physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/thursday-s-downtown-beach-fireworks>

Fri., July 24

GREEN MARKET

Weekly on Fridays. Trimper Rides, 600 S. Atlantic Ave., under the New EYE Ferris Wheel and the Boardwalk, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Weekly at Trimpers we hold a Local Farmers Market - Fresh everything and more from our Local Farmers' and more. Sally Kneavel, Sally@Trimperrides.com, 4102898617, <http://TrimperRides.com>

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

424 W. Market St., Suite B, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Sponsored by Worcester County G.O.L.D. to assist families with school-aged children in Worcester County. Simply pull-thru to receive one food bag per child living in the home.

HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC

Talbot Street Pier, 311 Talbot St. Live entertainment and vendors open at 3 p.m. Scales open at 4 p.m. <https://www.big-fishclassic.com>

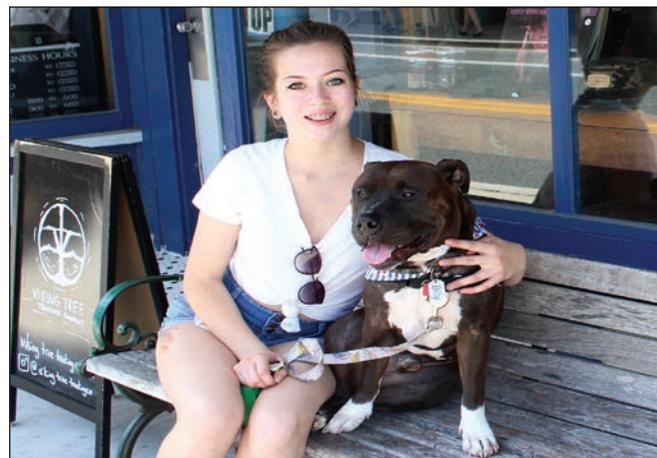
FREE MOVIE ON THE BEACH

27th Street Beach, 8:30 PM. Sit in the sand and enjoy a free movie. Featuring "Wall-E." Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. All titles are subject to change without notice. All movies are weather permitting. Attendance is at your own risk. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>

Sat., July 25

JUST WALK SCAVENGER HUNT

Held 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to get in their steps at one



DAY IN BERLIN

(Top) Berlin residents Cathy and Dean Farlow spend the morning having coffee from On What Grounds? on June 20 in Berlin. (Left) Carson McGlothlen of Chevy Chase, enjoys an afternoon in downtown Berlin with her dog on June 20.

ALLY LANASA/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

for the following park locations: John Walter Smith Park, Snow Hill Maryland; Cypress Park, Pocomoke Maryland; or Stephen Decatur Park, Berlin Maryland. All who register and submit a photo from one of the park locations will receive a free t-shirt. Residents that report the number of Just Walk Worcester Health Tips found within each park will also be entered into a free raffle drawing. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/move-your-way-just-walk-scamenger-hunt-tickets-110974706334> or visit worcesterhealth.org.

HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC

Talbot Street Pier, 311 Talbot St. Live entertainment and vendors open at 3 p.m. Scales open at 4 p.m. <https://www.big-fishclassic.com>

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL CREW COMPETITION

North Division Street Beach, 6:45 PM. Watch the Ocean City Beach Patrol lifeguards compete against each other in events and demonstrate their athletic

skills. KJoson@oceancitymd.gov, 410-289-7558, <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/emergnecy-services/beach-patrol/>

Sun., July 26

SCHOOL ROCKS BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Participating TCC stores will be giving away backpacks filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and more, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. For a list of participating locations in Maryland, visit <https://locations.tccrocks.com/search.html>.

HUK BIG FISH CLASSIC

Talbot Street Pier, 311 Talbot St. Live entertainment and vendors open at 3 p.m. Scales open at 4 p.m. <https://www.big-fishclassic.com>

SUNDAES IN THE PARKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 7:00 PM. Featuring free music by "Groovalicious" (ultimate '70s dance party) and various free activities and entertainment for children. Prepackaged ice cream will be available for purchase. Take a picnic basket and beach chairs. The night will end with a fireworks display at 9 p.m. Participants are asked to

Continued on Page 23

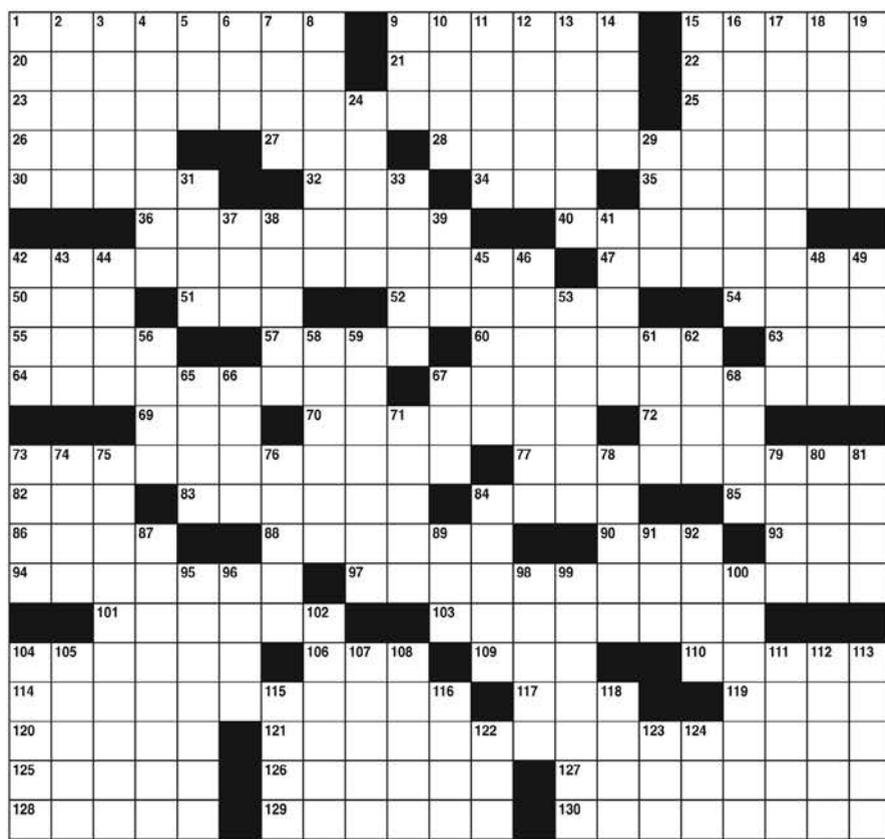
Puzzles

CHORES GALORE

BY SAMUEL A. DONALDSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Sam Donaldson is a law professor at Georgia State University, teaching contracts to first-year students and wills, trusts and estates to upper-division ones. He is the author or co-author of several textbooks on these subjects. Since 2011, Sam has written the annual Orca Awards for the blog Diary of a Crossword Fiend, his choices for the best American crosswords across all publications. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The King of Latin Pop"
 - 9 "The Tale of Puddle-Duck" (Beatrix Potter children's book)
 - 15 Give an address
 - 20 Onscreen twins, often
 - 21 Ruler of the afterlife, in Egyptian mythology
 - 22 Benefit of some online purchases
 - 23 Chore for a censor?
 - 25 LaBelle or LuPone
 - 26 With, at a café
 - 27 The Cards, on scoreboards
 - 28 Chore for a satellite-TV technician?
 - 30 Wayne's sidekick in old "S.N.L." skits
 - 32 What a digital subscription might end
 - 34 Current location
 - 35 Certify formally, with "to"
 - 36 Scientist who said: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious"
 - 40 Wet-weather wear
 - 42 Chore for a security guard?
 - 47 Notchlike
- DOWN**
- 50 Wildcatter's target
 - 51 ___ Na Na
 - 52 "Othello" setting
 - 54 Like a list of lists of lists
 - 55 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"
 - 57 ___ Verde National Park
 - 60 Having zero talent for
 - 63 Wisconsin senator Johnson
 - 64 Person to look out for
 - 67 Chore for a rower?
 - 69 "Chandelier" singer, 2014
 - 70 "Be honest!"
 - 72 Hippy medium?
 - 73 Chore for a knight?
 - 77 Eats daintily
 - 82 Japanese vegetable
 - 83 Icy moon of Jupiter
 - 84 Author James
 - 85 Air Force One maker
 - 86 Calf-length skirt
 - 88 Bakery enticements
 - 90 "Come to think of it ..."
 - 93 Proven postulate
 - 94 Zen principle
 - 97 Chore for a dog-walker?
 - 101 More watered down
 - 103 Statement before a demonstration
 - 104 Children's author Richard
 - 106 Insurance giant
 - 109 It's spotted at the craps table
 - 110 Fool, in Canadian slang
 - 114 Chore for an N.F.L. owner?
 - 117 Pro at deductions
 - 119 Daughter of Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise
 - 120 "The Princess Bride" character ___ Montoya
 - 121 Chore for a bowling-alley employee?
 - 125 Carrying a key?
 - 126 Forthcoming
 - 127 Goes wild
 - 128 Horse ___
 - 129 Double-black diamond section of a ski mountain, with "the"
 - 130 With a firm grip
- DOWN**
- 1 Conference attendee's clip-on
 - 2 Tropical sorbet flavor
 - 3 Magic, once
 - 4 The people's choice
 - 5 B'way posting
 - 6 Kitty paper
 - 7 Utah resort town
 - 8 Fixed charge
 - 9 Average guy
 - 10 Abbr. on a city-limits sign
 - 11 Certain Spanish Surrealist paintings
 - 12 Ticked off
 - 13 Cause of a small setback
 - 14 World's largest tennis stadium, familiarly
 - 15 Hitting the right note
 - 16 Common Christmas entree
 - 17 Where Groucho, Chico and Harpo spent a night
 - 18 Crispy cookie brand
 - 19 Live
 - 24 Like most modern TVs, informally
 - 29 Judo levels
 - 31 Coxae, familiarly
 - 33 Most common surname in Brazil
 - 37 Math degree
 - 38 Former SeaWorld attraction
 - 39 San Francisco's ___ Valley
 - 41 Patent
 - 42 Scattered about
 - 43 Nintendo gaming console with a pileup of vowels
 - 44 Tourney format, for short
 - 45 Baked
 - 46 Potential result of social unrest
 - 48 ___ mess (traditional English dessert)
 - 49 Cold and humid
 - 53 "Germ" that's passed from one child to another
 - 56 Heroic exploit
 - 58 Bewitch
 - 59 Redundant name for a drink
 - 61 Captain with a whalebone leg
 - 62 Bad thing for a bluffer
 - 65 Ceremony
 - 66 Home to the landmark Koko Crater
 - 67 Poet ___ Scott-Heron
 - 68 Served as
 - 71 It's due south of Hollywood
 - 73 Shoving match, in a way
 - 74 Thor's father
 - 75 Motel 6 alternative
 - 76 Strike
 - 78 Tops
 - 79 Isolated team of workers, in business-speak
 - 80 "I guess"
 - 81 6:00 broadcast
 - 84 Didn't just assume
 - 87 Noble thing
 - 89 German exclamation
 - 91 "That hits the spot"
 - 92 Michelle of "Crazy Rich Asians"
 - 95 Helmet opening
 - 96 Scottish terrier type
 - 98 Actor Robert of "Spenser: For Hire"
 - 99 Eyes, informally
 - 100 Like the rank of major general
 - 102 Lambaste
 - 104 Barbecue rods
 - 105 Vessel whose name anagrams to where it might be used
 - 107 Woods who voiced Cinderella
 - 108 Open space in a forest
 - 111 Snarky challenge
 - 112 Swashbuckling Flynn
 - 113 Like investing in a start-up
 - 115 Loops in, in a way
 - 116 Small cut
 - 118 Bad fit
 - 122 Six-pt. plays
 - 123 Chapel Hill sch.
 - 124 Houston sch.



- 61 Captain with a whalebone leg
- 62 Bad thing for a bluffer
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- 122 Six-pt. plays
- 123 Chapel Hill sch.
- 124 Houston sch.

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su | do | ku

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HARD - 37

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Cuisine

Suplee provides recipe for Md. crab soup

Man, this pandemic is really beginning to become a hassle, don't you think?

There are mornings when I wake up and don't even know what day it is.

Even more exciting is the ever-present thought that August is just around the corner. I mean, dear God, I'm still waiting for



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

the Y2K bug to hit. What is going on around here?

While we prepare ourselves to reopen the restaurant, the remodeling being just recently completed, we yet again find ourselves on an amazingly limited crew, reminiscent of the tales of woe we read coming out of Ocean City. Yes, this has been a strange year, indeed.

Hopefully, many of us small business owners will be able to continue putting out the shingle, waiting for brighter days and (we can only hope) deeper pockets. At least we have the hundred-degree weather to give us a sense of summer fun. I'll take it.

I would much rather endure a hot day than look out my window and see barren trees and a brisk wind. I get cold just thinking about it.

And when we align ourselves with the season, what better way is there to enjoy a hot soup (yes, I did just write hot soup) than by celebrating our most popular import here in Maryland, the blue crab?

It amazes me, but certainly does not surprise me to see countless people eat even more countless crabs, those scavenger bottom-dwellers that have come to be synonymous with our beautiful state.

Yes, between the flag and the crab, we are unique and well-known. I'll take that.

But back to the crab, one of my favorite dishes to make is the simple Maryland Crab Soup.

I remember digging through an older version of The Professional Chef and running across their recipe for this wonderful soup.

The only problem was that the recipe was for cream of crab soup, and quite frankly, it was an aberration, only somewhat closely resembling the creamy goo to which we are so warmly accustomed.

And the more I write this, the more funny stories just pop into my head.



Years ago, my wife and I took the kids to Asbury Park (yes, you may start laughing) to see Brian Regan in concert.

Walking down the Boardwalk, we entered the "finest" restaurant in town. My wife loved cream of crab soup, so we ordered two bowls.

The bowls were placed in front of us with hard boiled eggs chopped in the bottom, and a gluey substance was thus glopped into the bowls from some small pitchers.

We sat there, numb and afraid. The server noted our hesitancy and stated "everyone loves this soup. It's our best seller!"

We each took one bite as the server was walking away, and it was everything I could do to not spit it back in the bowl. I have never eaten Elmer's Glue, but I dare say this was the closest I have ever come to doing so.

It took us a few minutes to get the server back to the table and we promptly returned the soup.

I am not one to complain about food in a restaurant, but I stated that the soup was not up to par, or, in fact, good in any way.

The server rolled her eyes and asked, "where are you from?"

"Maryland"

Deep sigh from said server: "Oh, yeah. We always get that complaint all the time from you people."

Wow. So we were not the first ones to complain about the crab glue-bowl-thing? And what was up with the hard-boiled eggs? It was so bizarre.

So forget about the cream of crab soup for a moment. It was just good to vent a little bit.

In the summertime, nothing hits the spot better for me than a nice bowl of real Maryland Crab.

And here is where you get to really learn how strange I am. I don't like picking crabs and I don't like crab cakes or crab imperial. I know. It's an affront to Marylanders everywhere. Too bad, deal with it.

But, this soup is a winner and so easy to make. It screams crab and also celebrates the harvest of local vegetables. Make this, if for no other reason than to beat the pandemic doldrums.

Maryland Crab Soup

makes about 1 gallon

8 pieces pepper bacon
2 medium onions, finely diced
2 c. Vegetable blend (corn, carrots & green beans)
2 quarts crab or seafood stock

2 c. Chicken stock (optional)
2 c. George's Spicy Bloody Mary Mix
8 ea. Vine ripe tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped (seeds intact)
1 lb. Crab meat
Old Bay or other seafood seasoning, to taste

1. Cut the bacon into little strips (lardons) and render in a pot large enough to hold the remaining ingredients.

2. When the bacon is crispy, add the diced onion.

3. When the onion is ready, add vegetables.

4. Add remaining ingredients up to and including the vine ripe tomatoes.

5. Cook until the tomatoes are soft and the flavors have married well.

6. Adjust your seasoning with the Old Bay and add crab meat. While there is obviously flavor in the base, you will want the flavor of the crab meat itself to permeate the soup.

7. Serve with crackers if preferred, garnishing with more seafood seasoning if that is what you heart desires.

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 20
practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, <https://ococean.com/events>

THE BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through Aug. 30 - Located on Pitts Street and Main Street, 9:00 AM - 1:00 pm. Special senior shopping time from 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM. www.berlin-mainstreet.com

Mon., July 27

26TH ANNUAL JESUS AT THE BEACH MUSIC & MINISTRY FESTIVAL

The festival will be held at the Ocean City convention center from 10 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. and from 7-10 p.m. on the beach at North Division Street. Featuring praise, worship, dance, drama, testimony, preaching, prayer and Holy Spirit ministry. 410-289-1296, <https://sonspot.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

The meeting will be held via conference call, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Dial 605-472-5789, wait for voice command, then press 944874. TOPS is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. Berlin group No. 169. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring "Playing With Fire" (PG) (96 minutes). Movie audio is via FM radio frequency (monitor your car's battery). Participants are reminded to stay inside their vehicle unless using available amenities. Portable restrooms will be available. All movies subject to weather-related conditions. 00-OC-OCEAN or 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/drive-in-movies2020>

Tues., July 28

26TH ANNUAL JESUS AT THE BEACH MUSIC & MINISTRY FESTIVAL

The festival will be held at the Ocean City convention center from 10 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. and from 7-10 p.m. on the beach at North Division Street. Featuring praise, worship, dance, drama, testimony, preaching, prayer and Holy Spirit ministry. 410-289-1296, <https://sonspot.org>

KID'S BOOK CLUB (YOUTH)

Beginning at 10:00 AM. The group will discuss "This is How We Do It" by Matt Lamonte, available on Hoopla. Register: <https://worchesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6832551>

DOC & TALK (ADULT)

Beginning at 2:00 PM. Join the Doc & Talk for a monthly discussion of a thought-provoking documentary available on Hoopla. July's film is Grizzly

Man. Access Hoopla via worchesterlibrary.org under resources or at hoopladigital.com. Registration closes 24 hours before event begins. Register at <https://worchesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6801050>. Participants can join by phone by calling the Germantown number listed in the Zoom link.

FREE FAMILY BEACH GAMES

27th Street Beach, 6:30 PM. Held Tuesdays through Aug. 11. Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. Attendance is at your own risk. <https://ococean.com/events/family-beach-games2020>

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8:00 PM. Featuring "Forrest Gump" (142 minutes). Movie audio is via FM radio frequency (monitor your car's battery). Participants are reminded to stay inside their vehicle unless using available amenities. Portable restrooms will be available. All movies subject to weather-related conditions. 800-OC-OCEAN or 410-289-2800, <https://ococean.com/events/drive-in-movies2020>

Wed., July 29

26TH ANNUAL JESUS AT THE BEACH MUSIC & MINISTRY FESTIVAL

The festival will be held at the Ocean City convention center from 10 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. and from 7-10 p.m. on the beach at North Division Street. Featuring praise, worship, dance, drama, testimony, preaching, prayer and Holy Spirit ministry. On Wednesday, there will be a baptism service on the beach across from the convention center. 410-289-1296, <https://sonspot.org>

ADULT VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Beginning at 5:30 PM. The group will discuss "Dust Tracks on a Road." Zora Neale Hurston's autobiography. Registration closes 24 hours before the event begins. Register: <https://worchesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6824093>. To join by phone, call the first phone number on the Zoom link.

MAKE YOUR OWN ZINE FOR TWEENS AND TEENS

Learn about zines and begin your own project with this course from Creative-Bug, 7:00 PM. Register: <https://worchesterlibrary.libcal.com/event/6824276>.

FREE MOVIE ON THE BEACH

Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums, 11700 Coastal Highway, 8:30 PM. Sit in the sand and enjoy a free movie. Featuring "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker." Participants are asked to practice physical distancing. All titles are subject to change without notice. All movies are weather permitting. Attendance is at your own risk. Ocean City Recreation & Parks, 410-250-0125, <http://www.oceancitymd.gov>



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RECOGNITION

The Worcester County Commissioners are joined by Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados to recognize July as National Park and Recreation Month on July 7, and to encourage residents and visitors to head outdoors to explore the parks, trails, playgrounds and natural areas.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BERLIN VISIT

Representatives of Bodyguards Against Bullying USA were in Berlin recently. They are planning to participate in one of the town's events in 2021. The national and international nonprofit organization of professional bodyguards works with youth to curtail and end bullying of youth worldwide. Bubba Almony, who is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School was just elected chairman of the United States branch of the BAB organization. Pictured, from left, are Michael Wright, bodyguard and manager to Almony; Berlin Mayor Gee Williams; Celebrity Entertainer Allen "ATown" Sherrod; and Almony.



SWEET TREAT

Shannen Hartnett of Ocean View, indulged in a cookie dough ice cream cone outside of Rayne's Reef on North Main Street in Berlin on June 13.

ALLY LANASA/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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5 P.M.



MARKETPLACE CLASSIFIED

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

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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HELP WANTED

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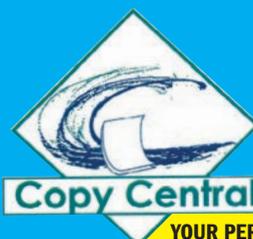
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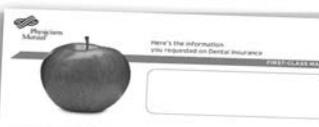
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