



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## DOG DAY

Sunshine-savoring canines carouse with their human counterparts at the Ocean Pines Dog Park on Sunday.

## Berlin nudges property tax up 1.5 cents

Council says mayor's plan to keep old rate won't work

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The Berlin Town Council spent two hours Monday night vetting a proposal from Mayor Zack Tyndall to keep property tax rates static for FY22 but eventually voted for a minor increase to 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value.



Zack Tyndall

Tyndall remind the council that it was advised at its March 8 meeting that a \$130,000 shortfall existed between expenditures of about \$6.5 million revenue and projections of \$6.4 million.

Since that point, Tyndall said efforts to reduce the budget gap indicated that ledgers could be balanced without increasing Berlin's current 80-cent real

See COUNCIL Page 8

## OP Board looks to self-evaluate

Plan proposes to improve working environment and directors' professionalism

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors is launching a self-evaluation process to gauge the performance of directors and officers.

Director Dr. Colette Horn introduced the proposal, which would begin with board members completing a detailed survey.

Horn said the evaluation form would be used as a starting point to develop plans for improving problematic areas within board inner workings.



Colette Horn

"This discussion is meant for transparency purposes," she said. "This is not a process that we intend to take place as part of our public meetings."

Horn said the evaluation's purpose is to foster professionalism among directors as they operate the association in a business-like manner.

"It's not about pointing fingers [or] solving problems," she said. "It's about moving the board forward."

Horn also stressed the board has dealt with past conflict.

"We've been able to work through that conflict sometimes through director attrition or through

discussions on the board," she said.

Horn said the new self-evaluation process would provide the board an additional means to ease dissension.

Director Camilla Rogers supported the concept.

"It will open up avenues of discussion," she said.

OPA President Larry Perrone said the intent is to improve the working environment among board members.

"Hopefully, this will be beneficial for the entire board," he said.

Horn said the initiative could keep the board focused on "accountability to stakeholders and transparency to membership."

Perrone said Horn would distrib-

See BOARD Page 8

## Main Street will close for market

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) A portion of Main Street will be closed for the fourth season of the Berlin Farmers Market every Sunday from May to September, town representatives announced this week after receiving approval from the Maryland State Highway Administration.

"During the farmers market last year, there were safety concerns associated with people having to cross Main Street to visit both sides of the market," Mayor Zackery Tyndall said. "I want to thank the state of Maryland for approving the town's request

See MAIN Page 2



Ivy Wells



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Farmers and other vendors will still be located on Pitts and Commerce streets for the Berlin Farmers Market on Sundays from May to September, but parts of Main Street will be closed for safety.

# Main St. will close for market

Continued from Page 1

to shut down Main Street to help people remain safe during their trip to the market. I look forward to the market returning on May 2.”

Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director, said Main Street will be closed at World of Toys, 115 N. Main St., so the parking lot remains open. Main Street will be closed at Rayne’s Reef Soda Fountain & Grill, 10 N. Main St., while Broad Street will remain open for traffic. Pitts Street will be closed at William Street, and Commerce Street will be closed as well.

Local farmers and producers will still be located on Pitts and Commerce streets. Twenty-eight vendors are reg-

istered for the 2021 season.

The Berlin Farmers Market began on Artisans Green near HOUSE Furnishings & Decor, 111 Artisan’s Way before moving to the parking lot behind J & M Meat Market and Grille, 101 William St. The market then expanded to Pitts and Commerce streets.

Now, market visitors will also be able to enjoy food and drinks from vendors and other downtown Berlin businesses at café tables set up on Main Street.

“Our 13 café tables and 26 chairs [will be] set up on ... Main Street,”

All current covid-19 protocols from the CDC will remain in effective in accordance with the Maryland Health Department.

# Short-term rentals proposal prompts extended comments

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) Although a motion for short-term rental guidelines was delayed because a town hall meeting on the topic is scheduled next month, Ocean Pines residents spent nearly two hours airing their views on the proposed rules during a board of directors’ virtual meeting Saturday.

Board member Dr. Colette Horn preempted public comments on Saturday by noting the level of interest in the plan warranted delaying a vote on it until after a town hall meeting on April 17 at 9 a.m.

“We’re seeing interest in a virtual and in-person town hall, [but] we don’t have capabilities currently,” she said. “If we can get 1,000 subscribers on YouTube, we could live stream in the future.”

The OPA YouTube channel had 291 subscribers as of this Monday.

Board member Frank Daly said the motion to adopt short-term rental regulations in Ocean Pines would be revived at the next regular board meeting on April 21.

In light of those developments, OPA President Larry Perrone opened public comments by asking homeowners interested in the short-term rental guide-

lines to allow people with other discussion points to speak first.

What followed was a flood of residents worried about unintended consequences of proposed changes to ARC [Architectural Review Committee] rules to establish guidelines for short-term rentals.



Frank Daly

One recurring point raised was that the additional layer of regulations, which were aimed at a small number of irresponsible landlords, could cause hundreds of responsible homeowners to lose rental income.

Daly said the rental initiative was launched nearly two years ago because of problems with a handful of properties.

Aware that Worcester County was then in the midst of establishing short-term rental licensing, which eventually became effective Jan. 1, 2020, Daly said OPA officials opted to await the outcome before proceeding.

“When the county passed regulations, they said this was Ocean Pines’ problem,” he said.

Daly said county officials advised  
See RENTAL Page 3

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# Rental rule aims at problem units

Continued from Page 2  
the association that it could request Pines-specific amendments if need arose in the future.

The current effort reflects recurring issues with a rental property at 91 Abbyshire Rd. that came to a head last year.

Daly said police had visited the location a dozen times in four years for complaints from neighbors about renters there.

“Unfortunately, county regulations proved ineffective in enforcing,” he said.

Despite Worcester County issuing \$100 fines for the unlicensed rental property when online advertisements were noticed, the property owner continued to flout regulations.

“The person with the Airbnb contract said they had no interest in changing their ways until someone shows up that could evict tenants,” he said.

More recently, Daly said Worcester reported the issue was resolved after a \$500 fine was issued.

“So, for four years the person rented for hundreds per night and ultimately got fined \$500,” he said.

Following this experience, a short-term rental work group was formed last summer. It met several times with the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and public safety officials as well as the Worcester County zoning office.

Daly said the information gathering concluded, as legal counsel advised the association to exhaust all internal options before consulting with Worcester officials.

Association governing documents currently lack guidelines to regulate rentals lasting 29 days or less.

Daly said while a percentage of Pines properties rented for short terms meet county regulations, a far greater number might be ignoring the requirements.

“I’ve been told there are far more rentals in Ocean Pines than 145 and they do not have county licenses,” he said.

Daly said the ARC guideline changes were proposed in lieu of an outright ban on short-term rentals in the Pines.

“This is complaint-driven,” he said. Daly said the alternative is the association lacks an ability to assist neighbors reporting nuisance renters.

“If abiding the rules, people won’t have problems,” he said.

In response to multiple residents questioning the wisdom of holding the April 17 meeting in person, Perrone said the board is exploring the possibility of using the Yacht Club’s upstairs ballroom to permit greater capacity.

Regardless of location, Horn said all comments made during the April 17 meeting would be considered when revisiting approval of short-term rental rules at the April 21 board meeting.

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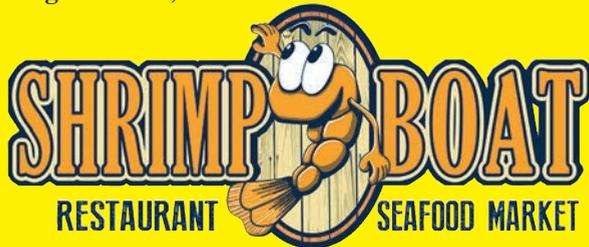
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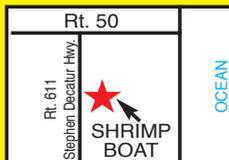
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# OP treasurer outlines costs for holding referendum vote

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) Ocean Pines Treasurer Doug Parks reported on assessment collection totals, reserve balances, investment rates of return and referendum costs during the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday.



Doug Parks

Parks said the percentage of uncollected assessment fees for the current fiscal year continues to dwindle with more than \$8.9 million received by the end of February.

“Which is actual 98 percent of the billed assessment,” he said. “Unfortunately, that still leaves us with a shortfall of \$181,679.”

Despite the remaining balance, Parks said the current mark is on par with prior years.

“We are at a pretty good pace,” he said.

Looking at reserve account balances, the association closed February with total of \$6.5 million: \$4 million in general replacements, \$1.5 million in bulkheads, \$700,000 in drainage, \$200,000 for roads and \$100,000 for new capital.

“That’s pretty much on par with where we had hoped to be at this point and time,” he said.

Parks said recently improved efforts to track reserve expenditures have helped to assure that sufficient funds are retained to manage operations.

“The projected balance in reserve funds right now is \$5.5 million [and] last month it was \$5.2 million,” he said.

Parks attributed the higher projec-

tion in part to recent delays for several planned purchases.

“We’re looking a little bit more favorable with regard to the amount of money that will projected to be in reserve funds by the end of the fiscal year,” he said.

Parks also cautioned that reserve balances could fluctuate depending on potential spending requests during the current fiscal year that runs through April.

Turning to investment rate of return and cash deposits, Parks said the percentage has remained stagnant since last August.

“We’re still running at 1 percent interest on CDARS,” he said.

At the end of February, association ledgers reflected \$9.9 million in cash, down from \$10.5 million the prior month.

“Obviously, we had some spending in that arena,” he said.

Cash and investments included \$6.1 million CDARs (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) and \$3.8 million in money market funds and other operating accounts.

With the public hearing for the spending-limit referendum scheduled to take place next Saturday, Parks explained how the bill for the referendum would be paid.

“So people understand if we had to run a referendum where that money would be pulled from in our budget,” he said.

Parks said all related costs are deemed an operational expense and not derived from reserve accounts.

“That will always come out of the operational side of our budget and not out of the reserve funding,” he said. “It has a direct effect on the assessment dollars.”

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# Berlin Town Council approves reserve policy

**By Greg Ellison**  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The Berlin Town Council voted unanimously this week to approve a previously rejected general fund reserve policy.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said no additional changes or adjustments were made to a draft version of the reserve policy discussed in detail during the mayor and Council meeting on March 8.

“No suggestions or questions were received,” she said.

Saleh said after the reserve policy was shot down last year by the council, the proposal was streamlined for FY22.

Employed as a benchmark, but not

legally required, the reserve policy had been recommended by auditors PKS & Company and the Government Finance Officers Association.



**Natalie Saleh**

Saleh previously explained the reserve policy would ensure the continuation of essential services should an emergency situation occur and cover losses that might be incurred in the general fund.

The policy states that reserve balances would be monitored to hedge against service disruptions for town residents.

In addition to improving bond rat-

ings for Berlin, the reserve policy could also be deployed to provide sufficient cash flow to address revenue or expenditure fluctuations.

Policy guidelines recommend maintaining a \$250,000 sum in the general fund to offset unanticipated costs from natural disasters or manmade emergencies.

In terms of debt service, the reserve policy proposes fund balances should be on par with related principal and interest charges.

Saleh reported that reserve policy debt service requirements would be about \$310,000 for FY22.

Looking at assigned fund balance (committed to specific purposes), the

reserve funding would need to retain 20 percent of the general fund operating budget to function as a stabilizing measure. That 20 percent would be about \$1.1 million, Saleh said.

The reserve policy also includes \$100,000 to finance large scale infrastructure projects or equipment.

Saleh previously told the mayor and council reserve fund totals are not budgeted but rather established as benchmarks to avoid tax increases or foregoing capital projects.

Mayor Zack Tyndall previously stated the immediate goal would be earmarking \$1.1 million to provide budget stabilization.

# Residents receive free tree, shrub seedlings

**By Ally Lanasa**  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The town of Berlin is working through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ Backyard Buffers program to offer free tree seedlings to county landowners, who have a creek, drainage ditch, stream or other waterway on or near their property.

The Backyard Buffers program started as a pilot in Frederick County in 2005, then expanded beyond the state’s western region in 2011, said Dr. Anne

Hairston-Strang, associate director of Maryland Forest Service in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The program is offered once a year in the spring when seedlings are available from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery outside of Preston, Maryland.

“Staff and partners take the larger bundles from the nursery and make smaller packets with a diversity of species, usually four or five trees of five different species, great for planting a small area,” Hairston-Strang said. “The foresters pick

trees that will grow well near water.”

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said Berlin first participated in the program two years ago.

“In 2019 we had reservations for and gave away 85 bundles,” she said.

The 2020 event was canceled because of the covid-19 pandemic, Bohlen added.

Trees and shrubs planted along waterways help improve water quality by absorbing excess nutrients, lowering peak water temperatures, reducing sed-

iment and stabilizing stream banks.

“A streamside buffer can create habitat for wildlife, reduce peak winter temperatures, and reduce the amount of sediment, fertilizer and toxic materials that enter our waterways,” Hairston-Strang added. “Deep-rooted trees and shrubs can also stabilize streambanks, protecting them from erosion.”

Each “buffer in a bag” contains approximately 25 native bare-root tree and shrub seedlings with species appropriate

See PICKUP Page 6

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# Communication cmte. looks for engagement

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The recently formed "Ocean Pines — Get Involved" Facebook community group and the soon-to-be-unveiled online "residents academy" dominated discussions during the Communications Committee meeting last Thursday.

Committee member Jenny Cropper Rines said the Get Involved Facebook group should provide insight on issues of concern to the community.

Rines, who joined the private Facebook group but has yet to attend any virtual meetings, questioned what, if any, role the committee should play.

Judging from online comments to this point, Rines said she recognized similarities between the Get Involved page comments and public observations obtained via from a community survey sent to membership two years ago.

"It's the same ongoing stuff, it's just in a new platform," she said.

Rines asked if the group's formation indicated another town hall meeting would be warranted.

Committee Chair Cheryl Jacobs said the group is the latest example of a recurring theme.

"It's what happens in Ocean Pines now and then," she said. "It can never be peaceful and calm for very long."

Rines suggested the committee could help with communication between Get



Jenny Rines

Involved membership and the Board of Directors.

"That's our charge," she said. "Do you think it might be time for a town hall or do you want all this stuff to all shake out at a board meeting?"

Board Liaison Dr. Colette Horn asked what issues Rines would propose for a town hall agenda.

Rines said regardless of specifics, a town hall gathering could reduce tensions between the public and the board.

"To dissipate the negativity that going on," she said.

Horn said previous town halls have been tied to topics, such as the short-term rental initiative proposed by Director Frank Daly, which is on the Board agenda for March 20.

"The intention is to open up public comments to dialogue in that meeting on Saturday," she said. "That still remains to be decided if we would veer off into town hall meeting before deciding that issue."

Horn said the Get Involved group and other online forums are helping to ascertain potential issues for future town halls.

"All of these platforms inform us what members are interested in debating," she said.

While previously committed to staging a trio of town hall meetings annually, Horn said since the coronavirus pan-

dem has blocked that effort because of bans on in-person gatherings.

"We've relied on the virtual format and we've had strong attendance at some virtual meetings depending on items on agenda," she said.

Rines said the proliferation of forums full of complaints could harm property values and discourage people contemplating relocation to the community.

"I hate to see us airing our dirty laundry on Facebook," she said. "We're all property owners [and] it scares people."

Horn said town halls permit community members to sort fact from fiction.

"Some of this controversy grows up out of misinformation," she said. "People

putting opinions out there as though those opinions are fact."

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski said the residents academy is overflowing with OPA specifics.

"It's kind of all there in a nutshell," she said.

Rines said while the committee could provide its own opinions on the final product, all involved parties should review their sections first.

"The department heads really needed to review their sections before it went anywhere," she said.

Malinowski concurred that department heads have yet to view video content.

## Pickup at Berlin town hall office

Continued from Page 5  
to the region.

Maryland Forest Service staff will provide information on tree maintenance and planting techniques, in addition to suggestions of other suitable native species at the time of pickup.

Quantities are limited so reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline to order in Worcester County is April 16. Pickup will be on April 17 at Town Hall, 10 William St. Pickup times are to be determined.

"Berlin is happy to act as host for

Worcester County," Bohlen said. "The program is in keeping with Berlin's sustainability efforts."

To reserve seedlings, contact Bohlen at 410-641-4314 or mbohlen@berlinmd.gov.

Worcester County residents must provide the address where the trees will be planted.

Residents in need of more than a couple dozen trees to plant are advised to contact Rob Clarke, the Worcester County forester, to learn about other assistance available for tree planting.

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# Viola updates Pines projects, new financials

By Greg Ellison  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola provided status updates on current projects and year-to-date financials during the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday.

Viola said association members' assessment dollars are currently dedicated to recurring and new updates for amenity facilities.

In addition to completing normal court maintenance at the Racquet Sports Complex on Manklin Creek



John Viola

Road, repairs to cracks in Har-Tru courts would be addressed in short order, assuming board approval, Viola said.

After Public Works crews finish removing outdated playground equipment from Robin Hood Park, Viola said, River Valley Playground Company was scheduled to start installing replacement gear this week.

With boating season approaching, plank replacements have been finished

at the Ocean Pines Marina for a cost of roughly \$12,000.

Viola said months of filming and editing have been completed and the new Ocean Pines online residents academy is on the verge of going live.

Marketing Coordinator Julie Malinowski has been compiling information from department heads for inclusion with an online reference source for association members.

"It's been put together to educate homeowners," he said.

Viola said the roll out date for public access has yet to be determined.

Work to replace underground piping on High Sheriff Trail is slated for next week, with a road closure slated from March 22-26.

Viola said mailboxes on High Sheriff would be temporarily relocated to the south side of the road while the work is being done.

Viola also reported that work began Monday for the Bainbridge Pond drainage project, which is expected to be completed by June.

In addition to Public Works Manager Nobie Violante and Public Works

See VIOLA Page 9



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# Council overrules mayor on property tax rate

Continued from Page 1  
property tax rate.

"I thought we could do it without raising taxes," he said. Tyndall said employee health care costs and revised revenue projections would be forthcoming.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said department heads were in attendance that evening to answer questions and provide clarifications.

"Yes, the budget is balanced but take a look at the guts of how you got balanced," he said.

Fleetwood stressed the importance of providing resources for departments to perform adequately.

"We're all part of the same team," he said. "It's a monumental decision on your part."

Among other means to flatten the budget differential, Tyndall proposed keeping salaries flat for FY22.

Questioning that approach was Planning Director Dave Engelhart, who asked council members to confirm if proposed department funding allocations were on par with initial budget requests.

"It's balanced on the backs of employees," he said.

Economic Development Director Ivy Wells said additional input regarding potential budget cuts would have been welcome.

"We were told what we had to cut," she said.

Berlin Police Chief Arnold Downing said the current budget process has been the most difficult in his two-plus decades in charge.

"The employees are actually taking the hit," he said.

Downing said withholding pay increases this year would only serve to exacerbate the situation in subsequent budget cycles.

"Who better than me to tell you what's needed in the budget?" he said. "Nobody makes an educated guess better than people that do it full time."

Downing said the decision to forgo pay and benefit considerations for FY22 was not communicated properly.

"The council didn't tell us anything [because] they didn't know anything," he said.

Town Finance Director Natalie Saleh said the 60 percent of the general fund comes from tax revenues.



Jeff Fleetwood

"We can cut the budget to the bare bone but what do we do in two to three years?" she said. "Three years in a row we've been tightening."

Fleetwood said employee health care rates remain an unknown variable.

"We won't know until early April what health care will do," he said.

While 3 percent is the largest increase to health care costs absorbed over the last decade, Fleetwood said rates have spiked up to 40 percent annually in the past.

Asked why the tax rate would need to be set in advance of pending budget hearings, Saleh said prior to 2019 the order was reversed.

"In the past we would draft the budget and leave the tax rate until the end," she said.

Councilman Dean Burrell said the tax rate conversation thus far had been one sided.

"If I'm not considering other points of view, what good is talking?" he said. "The only point of view that we considered is yours," he told Tyndall.

Burrell championed treating employees fairly in terms of compensation and benefits.

Tyndall said as mayor his charge is to present tax rates and a balanced budget.

The goal is trying to avoid job cuts or layoffs, Tyndall said.

Councilman Troy Purnell highlighted the importance of assuring adequate roads funding existed.

"We need to put this money aside or we're going to have pot holes," he said.

Tyndall said in lieu of financing road repairs on Grant Avenue and Stevenson Lane, funds would be used to purchase a new street sweeper in FY22.

"We can pave two streets or sweep them all," he said.

Councilman Jay Knerr suggested tax rates should be bumped up to 81.5 cents.

Saleh said the increase would produce roughly an extra \$60 for real property assessed at \$300,000.

Tyndall said twice that sum would be required to fully cover the budget deficit. "We would need 3 cents to cover \$130,000," he said.

Engelhart proposed delaying the tax rate decision that evening.

"The budget has to be received 32 days prior to the end of the fiscal year ... so the charter would allow us to delay the decision," he said.

Tyndall disagreed with the approach.

"We put the work in [and] I'm comfortable with 80 cents," he said.

After Purnell's motion to set tax rates at 86 cents failed to gain traction, Burrell followed with a motion for 83 cents that also lacked a second vote.

Concurring with Burrell's suggestion was Saleh.

"My professional opinion was 83 cents," she said.

Tyndall acknowledged Saleh's input but disagreed.

"I understand your professional opinion, but mine is different," he said.

Fleetwood also argued that 83 cents was the minimum number required to stabilize the FY22 budget.

Another motion for the 83-cent rate from Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols managed to garner a second from Burrell but was rejected by members Knerr, Purnell and Jack Orris.

The council eventually voted 4-1, with Purnell opposed to set property tax rates at 81.5 cents.

## Board aiming to work together

Continued from Page 1

ute the survey forms to board members with a closed-session discussion to follow next month.

Director Doug Parks asked if a sense of urgency was lacking.

"It looks like your proposing at least a four-month process," he said.

Parks suggested further consideration should be given to timeframes for completing the process.

"That there's a possibility for some resolutions with some of the issue that we've been having," he said.

Horn said recommendations should be identified following the closed session next month.

"We have committed to the public that we will keep them informed as to actions we're going to take, tools we're going to use to increase the level of professionalism and ensure our board is operating effectively," she said.

Director Frank Daly said his experience with evaluation processes in the business world indicates that two aspects should be considered.

"One is how you work together," he said. He added that the board should create a list of goals that could be assessed at the end of the year.

"Working well together and achieving nothing doesn't solve any problems in the community," he said.

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# Board of Education Briefs

**By Ally Lanasa**  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) The following occurred during the Worcester County Board of Education meeting last Tuesday:

## Proclamation

The school board presented Lauren Williams, the coordinator of school health services, with a proclamation for School Social Work Month this March as well as a special recognition for her services.

“Lauren Williams we hired when the state allowed us to hire a mental health coordinator in every school system a little

over a year ago. We were fortunate enough to get somebody of this caliber, and I say that because she brought a wealth of knowledge into the mental health arena,” said Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor. “She’s been instrumental in the development and execution of health and safety protocols for our ‘Responsible Return.’”

Williams is also the point of contact for anyone in the school system with covid-like illnesses.

“I will tell you, including the superintendent of schools, her job has been the most vital or the most important job in the last 12 months in this school sys-

tem,” Taylor said.

## Teacher of the Year

Taylor said Worcester County Public Schools will livestream a celebration for the 2021 Teacher of the Year on March 26 at 6 p.m. Finalists and the 2021 Teacher of the Year will be announced that evening.

The nominees for Teacher of the Year are: Caleb Wilson from Stephen Decatur Middle School, Laura Wheeler from Showell Elementary School, Lauren Walker from Pocomoke Elementary School, Nicholas Traud from Snow Hill

High School, Jennifer Taylor from Pocomoke High School, Aarti Sangwan from Worcester Technical High School, Stacey Russell from Cedar Chapel Special School, Melissa Reid from Buckingham Elementary School, Ellen Masters from Berlin Intermediate, Kurt Marx from Stephen Decatur High School, Cara Kurtz from Snow Hill Middle School, Catherine (Kitty) Herr from Ocean City Elementary School, Beverly Hart from Pocomoke Middle School and Mia Byrd from Snow Hill Elementary School.

“These teachers are outstanding examples of high-quality teaching occurring  
Continued on Page 10

# Viola reviews Ocean Pines pending projects

Continued from Page 7

Drainage Supervisor Justin Reiner overseeing the project, Public Works Director Eddie Wells will coordinate activities with Worcester County officials, Vista Engineering and contractor EQR.

On other drainage-related fronts, repairs on numerous sections of underground piping, budgeted at more than \$200,000, are set to begin April 12.

Viola said the board approved spending \$207,167 for Louisiana-based Pelican Underground to repair failing corrugated metal pipes through

a trenchless rehabilitation method.

“The big thing with these pipes is we don’t have to cut into the road,” he said.

The work includes four sections of piping running under Ocean Parkway by Route 90, the four-way intersection at South Gate, Fosse Grange, along with three addresses on Ocean Parkway and one each on Robin Hood and Offshore Trail.

Contractors will employ a process that involves inserting linings containing an inflatable epoxy-saturated felt tube.

Offseason maintenance repairs at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club in the ball-

room and bridal suite were also finished recently.

The spruce up included removing wallpaper, applying fresh coats of paint and swapping out for LED light bulbs. Budgeted at \$14,500 the work was concluded in less than three weeks.

Viola said bulkhead repairs along the Pintail Drive canal began on March 15 with work anticipated to wrap by April 30.

“Once completed all bulkheads will be backfilled [and] sodded,” he said.

Fisher Marine has been retained at a cost of roughly \$1.18 million to replace 3,300 linear feet of bulkhead.

Turning to financials, Viola said the association closed February with a negative operating fund variance of \$16,726, which included total expenses finishing under budget by \$88,701 offset by revenues falling below projections by \$105,427.

“February came in better than I anticipated,” he said.

Looking at year-to-date totals with two months remaining in the current fiscal year, the association has a positive operating fund variance of \$1,130,251, comprised of revenues over budget by \$124,552 and expenses under projections by \$1,005,699.

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# Board of Education Briefs

Continued from Page 9  
in our classrooms across this great school system," Taylor said.

Visit worcesterk12.org or Worcester County Public Schools MD on Facebook for more details about viewing.

## Job fair

Taylor also said a countywide teacher job fair will be held on March 27 by appointment only from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## Covid-19 testing

Williams said school nurses have been trained to administer rapid tests (BinexNOW) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests (MAKO Medical Labs).

With the rapid test, results are reported to CRISP and to parents by nurses. As for the PCR tests, results are reported directly by the lab to families in patient portal after the sample is sent to MAKO by FedEx.

Amanda Underkoffler, the school nurse consultant in the county school system, said teachers were trained about how to provide information in age-appropriate ways. For elementary school students, it's best to explain in a story-like manner as well as give children a job and praise them for how well they are doing during the test. For secondary students, nurses are advised to explain the equipment and why the test is being performed as well as use calming strategies.

A continuing need for the covid-19 test-

ing program for K-12 students is maintaining an adequate supply of PPE, tests and cleaning supplies in the health suite.

## Safety update

Dr. Dwayne Abt, chief safety & human relations officer for the county school system, said planning for the summer safety conference is underway. The conference is scheduled to take place on Aug. 11, 2021.

## Agreements

The school board approved the ratified negotiated agreements from the Worcester County Teachers' Association and the Worcester County Educational Support Personnel Association, which will provide a step increase for eligible employees, an increase for salary scale adjustments, modification to existing contract language and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Worcester County Teachers' Association.

## Showell Elementary

Joe Price, the school system's facilities planner, said the current payments to date on the new Showell Elementary School project total approximately \$38.58 million. The remaining balance is about \$1.5 million.

With the unanimous approval of the requisition, Price said 12 of the 15 contractors will be fully paid.



Lauren Williams, the coordinator of school health services, received a special recognition last Tuesday during the Worcester County Board of Education meeting for leading the county school system in developing safety protocols and a covid-19 testing program. Pictured, from left, are Eric Cropper, Worcester County Board of Education president, Williams and Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Program at PHS promotes careers in education field

By Ally Lanasa  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) Male students of color at Pocomoke High School have been participating in Men Achieving Dreams through Education (M.A.D.E. Men), which is a Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) program in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore that focuses on promoting the education profession.

Matt Hoffman, assistant principal of Pocomoke High School, told the Worcester County Board of Edu-



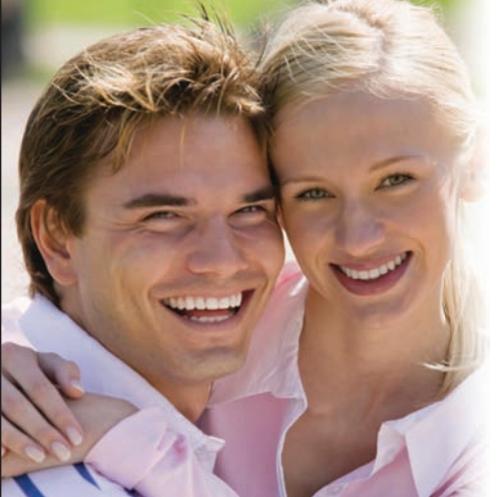
Matt Hoffman

cation last Tuesday that most educators in the U.S. are White, while 67 percent of students across the U.S. are White and 43 percent are Black or Hispanic.

As for Pocomoke High School, 96 percent of educators are White.

"Compared with our students, we actually have slightly more of Black or Hispanic students," Hoffman said.

See WOMEN Page 11



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# Worcester Arts Council offers scholarships to 12th graders

(March 25, 2021) The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Arts Scholarship award program is underway.

The scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$2,000 for qualifying high school seniors who are Worcester County residents interested in majoring in the arts.

Scholarships are also available to college art majors wishing to continue their education in the arts.

In 2020, a total of \$10,000, including the John Sisson family's contribution, was awarded to five students pursuing an education in the arts.

The Worcester County Arts Council's Student Arts Scholarship program is designed to identify, recognize and encourage students who demonstrate excellence in creative writing, culinary arts, dance, music, theater, or visual arts.

This is a merit scholarship and award decisions are based on evaluation of talent, dedication, and potential – not financial need.

The number and amount of the award are based on the funds' availability. Funds are provided for tuition costs and fees and are paid directly to the applicant's school.

Application and scholarship guide-

lines are available on the Arts Council's website: [www.worcestercountycouncil.org/artsscholarship](http://www.worcestercountycouncil.org/artsscholarship). All applications must be received by Monday, May 3.

For further information, contact Anna Mullis, executive director, at [anna@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org](mailto:anna@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org).

The Worcester County Arts Council welcomes donations to support the arts scholarship fund.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit [www.worcestercountycouncil.org](http://www.worcestercountycouncil.org).

The Worcester County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support, promote and encourage visual, performing, and literary arts in Worcester County.

As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity, and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community.

The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by the grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.

# Women Who R.I.S.E. established

Continued from Page 10

"There's a glaring disparity. It's something we're aware of, and we're actively trying to change."

Jai Sample, a sophomore at Pocomoke High School, said representation matters for a better connection.

"We know it's important. We know we want to recruit more teachers of color," Hoffman said.

However, there is a teacher shortage. In 1980, 22 percent of students were majoring in education in college. Last year, only 4.6 percent of students were majoring in education, Hoffman said.

Through M.A.D.E. Men, Worcester County Public Schools is trying to grow its own future educators.

Students participating in the program can earn 12 credits composed of three dual enrollment education courses, plus an internship opportunity.

M.A.D.E. Men involves on-site mentorship at Pocomoke High School, student-centered activities, student portfolios and field trips to universities post-covid. In addition, guest speakers would Zoom with stu-

dents to provide information about their schools.

At the end of the first 2020 summer academy, seven boys in grades 10 through 12 were recognized at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for completion of their first college courses and commitment to become teachers.

"We are looking to have another summer session and new fall and spring sessions coming up," Sample said.

M.A.D.E. Men has also recently been extended to young men of color at Snow Hill High School.

Hoffman added that students will be joining the National Education Association (NEA) and attending conferences virtually and, possibly, in person.

"We are also starting a female version of M.A.D.E. Men, which is called Women Who R.I.S.E.," he said, adding that the program is in partnership with Salisbury University.

R.I.S.E. stands for "Reach and Inspire Students through Education."

"We've already begun recruiting female students," Hoffman said.

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# Pre-k literacy prioritized at school

### Young students participate in read-alouds, repetition of sounds and storytelling

**By Ally Lanasa**  
Staff Writer

(March 25, 2021) Pre-kindergarten classrooms at Buckingham Elementary School in Berlin adopted curriculum resources for the 2020-21 academic year through a district initiative including American Reading Company 100 Book Challenge, Foundations and Fountas and Pinnell read-alouds to prepare students for kindergarten.

Buckingham Elementary is using the materials in a half-day program in two classrooms.

Denise Shorts, chief academic officer for grades pre-kindergarten through eighth, told the Worcester County Board of Education last Tuesday that Buckingham hopes to join Pocomoke Elementary School and Showell Elementary School soon in offering a full-day pre-kindergarten program.

The literacy initiative aligns with the instructional resources used in kindergarten through fifth grade at



Christina Welch



Darlene Beall



Lisa Lynch

Buckingham Elementary.

According to the presentation from Principal Christina Welch, Coordinator of Instruction Cassidy Hamborsky, literacy coach Ali Giska, and teachers Lisa Lynch and Darlene Beall, Foundations was adopted to meet the phonics needs of students. Also, Fountas and Pinnell's planned read-alouds support the 100 Book Challenge's heavy emphasis on reading aloud to children.

"The theme-based text sets in the Fountas and Pinnell system allow students to compare stories, genres and authors,"

Beall said in a video shown to the school board. "The fantastic library of books includes classic stories, new favorites and author studies."

Additionally, Lynch said Founda-

tions help students have a routine.

"The repetition of letter, key word and sound provides scaffolding for kids at multiple levels," she said.

As part of the 100 Book Challenge, pre-kindergarten students are able to look at and read picture books daily and discuss the books to increase their oral development as well as literacy skills.

"During the writing portion of the 100 Book Challenge, students are given an opportunity to share their ideas and their stories just like the authors of the stories that we read together do," Beall said. "They're so excited to share their work, share their ideas with their classmates, and they're learning to organize their thoughts to speak in complete sentences and to tell stories sequentially."

The video presentation also included footage of read-alouds, repetition of sounds in the classrooms and students telling their stories.

"I was a kindergarten teacher for many years, and I have to tell you what they were doing in this pre-k classroom is really going to impact our students' learning as we push them into kindergarten," Welch told the school board.

# Spring Festival in Pocomoke to take place on Saturday

(March 25, 2021) The City of Pocomoke and the Downtown Pocomoke Association will host the seventh annual Downtown Pocomoke Spring Festival on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the downtown Pocomoke area.

Vendors will line the sidewalks of Market Street for this free event.

Children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets to walk through the Easter Egg Loop where local churches and civic organizations will pass out goodies for the kids.

Children can also have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., free of charge at the gazebo in the mini park on the corners of Market Street and Second Street.

The "Hook'd on Fishing" program sponsored by the Pocomoke Recreation Committee, will allow children to fish on the docks of the Pocomoke River. Equipment and supplies will be included.

Other children activities include a petting farm and juggling entertainment by Cascading Carlos.

Families are encouraged to take a tour of the Sturgis One Room School House.

A car show will be hosted by the Kiwanis Club in the Downtown Pocomoke Farmers & Flea Market parking lot on Market Street. Cars may show up and register the morning of the event.

In the event of rain, the festival will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 3.

For more information, visit [downtownpocomoke.com](http://downtownpocomoke.com) or "Downtown Pocomoke Association" on Facebook.

This event has been approved by the Worcester County Health Department.

Practice safe social distancing and frequent handwashing while attending. Masks are required in high traffic areas and where social distancing cannot occur.

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# State takes pandemic unemployment claims

Gov. Hogan announced on March 23 Maryland now issuing eligible payments

(March 25, 2021) Gov. Larry Hogan announced on March 23 that the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor) has begun accepting claims and issuing payments for the Pan-

demie Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation (PEUC), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) federal unemployment insurance programs extended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

There will be no gap in benefit eli-

gibility or payment for claimants.

“While our state is making great strides in its recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19, unemployment insurance benefits still remain a critical lifeline for many struggling Marylanders,” said Hogan. “As a result of Maryland’s fast programming and implementation of the newly extended federal programs, eligible claimants will once again continue to receive much-needed financial relief without interruption.”

The federal PUA, PEUC, FPUC, and MEUC unemployment insurance programs have been extended in Maryland until the week ending Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021.

All claimants received an email over the weekend specifying whether they should file their weekly claim certification or reopen their claim for

the week ending Saturday, March 20, 2021 in their BEACON 2.0 portal.

All claimants who are eligible to receive benefits, including regular unemployment insurance claimants, will continue to automatically receive the additional \$300 from the FPUC program in their benefit payment beginning Sunday, March 14, 2021, through the week ending Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, as long as they remain eligible for benefits and file their weekly claim certification.

If determined eligible for benefits, claimants will begin receiving payment this week.

To find a detailed overview of the four federal extended unemployment insurance programs, including recently expanded PUA program eligibility requirements, visit MDunemployment.com.

## Easter festivities on tap at recreation ctr. in Snow Hill

(March 25, 2021) Worcester County Recreation Center will be hosting a Kids’ Night In Eggstravaganza on Friday, March 26 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Parents will be able to enjoy a night out while children get to participate in a variety of activities at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill.

The event is open to students in grades kindergarten through sixth.

Participants will put their search-

ing skills in gear for an Easter egg hunt, make their own Easter egg trees, and decorate jelly bean bracelets. Pizza and Gatorade will be included and served as dinner.

The price per child is \$30, and \$25 for each additional child.

For more information, contact Program Manager Kelly Buchanan at 410-632-2144 x2503 or kbuchanan@marylandscoast.org.

Visit [www.playmarylandscoast.org](http://www.playmarylandscoast.org) to learn more about other programs.



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Representatives of Worcester County, Ocean Pines and other participants last Wednesday officially broke ground on the Bainbridge Pond project, which is designed to reduce flooding in one of the most poorly draining areas in the community.

# OP and Worcester officials kick off Bainbridge work

(March 25, 2021) Representatives of Worcester County, Ocean Pines and other participants last Wednesday officially broke ground on the Bainbridge Pond project, which is designed to reduce flooding in one of the most poorly draining areas in the community.

Officials said they hoped this would be the first of many similar projects designed to tackle drainage problems.

The \$800,000 Bainbridge Pond project was paid for with a \$549,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, with Ocean Pines contributing the balance.

The grant was made possible with the help of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Worcester County government.

Drainage improvements at Bainbridge Pond will include replacement of storm drain inflow and outflow pipes, construction of a new forebay, re-grading the perimeter of the pond and installing aquatic benches, and building a new weir to control water levels and slow flooding during larger storms.

Present during the groundbreaking were Worcester County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting (both of whom represent Ocean Pines on the county board), Worcester County Director of Environmental Programs Bob Mitchell, Vista Design Director of Engineering Rich Polk, Maryland Coastal Bays Program Watershed Coordinator Steve Farr, and Ocean Pines Association President Larry Perrone, Vice President Colette Horn, and Director Doug Parks.

"I think this is an opportunity to show how the community can come together [with] the county. We had a lot of good people who put this together," Bertino said, singling out Mitchell, Eddie Wells and former Ocean Pines staff member Colby Phillips, and Sen. Mary Beth Carozza.

Mitchell credited Bunting with earlier efforts to improve drainage in Section Three of Ocean Pines, and he said Bertino joined the cause upon his election in 2014. Mitchell also said Vista Design was instrumental on the project.

"I really hope this works for the Ocean Pines Community," Mitchell said."



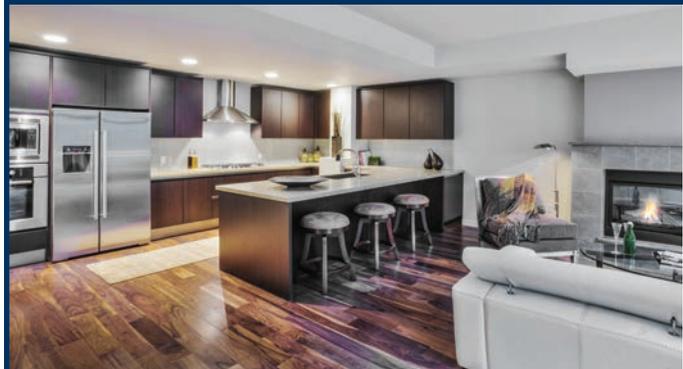
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# Shepherd's Nook Thrift Store adds extra day for sales

(March 25, 2021) Beginning March 23, the Shepherd's Nook Thrift Store and Flea Market located at the Community Church at Ocean Pines will expand their operations to include an additional day.

The new schedule is Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The thrift store and flea market offer gently used (and some new) clothing and household goods at greatly reduced prices.

Items being sold include clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children, jewelry, baby items, linens, books, CDs, DVDs, housewares, tools, sporting goods, home décor, collectibles, toys and holiday decorations.

Funds raised are used for the missions of the church. Clothing that cannot be sold is redistributed to other outreach agencies and shelters.

Volunteers work tirelessly to provide clothing and household items to meet the needs of the community. Temperatures will be taken at the door. Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.4 will not be allowed to enter. Wearing face masks and using hand sanitizer are required.

The church supplies food to the community through Sarah's Pantry. The pantry's hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Community Church at Ocean Pines is located at 11227 Racetrack Road. For directions or more information, contact the church office at 410-641-5433 or visit [www.ccaop.org](http://www.ccaop.org).

# Pines Chamber to sponsor Open Air Community Expo

(March 25, 2021) Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual Open Air Community Expo on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., socially distancing at White Horse Park.

Rain date is Saturday, May 8. More than 50 local businesses and community agencies will be on hand, including health care, education, home services, retail and nonprofits.

There is no cost to attend. Exhibitor fees are: Chamber partners pay \$175 for one exhibition space with 8-foot table; \$200 for non-chamber businesses and non-profits and government agencies \$75. Reserve an exhibitor space at <https://business.oceanpineschamber.org/events/details/2021-community-expo-12674>.

For more information and to register - See PINES Page 16

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# TidalHealth facility underway in Ocean Pines

(March 25, 2021) Work has begun on the final TidalHealth medical facility project in Ocean Pines, Palmer Gillis of Gillis Gilkerson (GGI) announced last week.

Gillis said the new structure will complete the 120,000-square-foot healthcare campus on Cathage Road, by adding a variety of medical disciplines to its current offering.

In the new building, TidalHealth plans to add orthopedics, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), endocrinology, medical imaging, and weight loss and wellness clinics. The addition of these medical specialties supplements those already in place – primary care and gastroenterology physicians, a pharmacy and laboratory, an adult fitness center, and the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute.

“In partnership with Gillis Gilker-



Work has begun on the final TidalHealth medical facility project in Ocean Pines.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

son, we broke ground on our Ocean Pines campus in 2014, and over the past seven years we've been warmly welcomed by this community," said

Chris Hall, MSM, TidalHealth's vice president of strategy and business development and chief business officer. "This final building rounds out the

site at nearly 120,000 square feet of healthcare space operated by the largest and most complex healthcare provider in our region. "

# Worcester Arts Council unveils youth winners

(March 25, 2021) The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced winners of the "Art Connects Us" youth art contest.

The contest was open to all Worcester County K-12 artists in celebration of Youth Art Month in March.

All submissions were judged by Tamara Mills, coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts for Worcester County Public Schools.

"This contest is so wonderful, not only because it encourages children to be creative, but also shows how art really does connect us as a human race," Mills said. "While our society is currently very divisive, we all feel, hurt, love, and smile the same way. We really have more in common than we are different."

Anna Mullis, the executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council, added that the Council is dedicated to providing a forum to support art education because it "develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, and critical thinking skills.....all vital to the success of our future leaders, our children."

One winner was selected in each of the following categories:

K-4 grade: Laila Jones, fourth grade, Buckingham Elementary School

5-8 grade: Emily Skorobatsch, seventh grade, Pocomoke Middle School

9-12 grade: Silas Cascio, 12th grade, Stephen Decatur High School

Winners were awarded cash prizes.

Sixteen other students participated in the contest: Morgan Adkins, Bryse Ayers, Zaviana Brown, Jasmine Carrigan, Maddie French, Holden Gorman, Cameron Jones, Ara Kang, Sierra Merritt, Will Pellingier, Conor Pellingier, Lily Philavanh, Aynaeh Pitts, Tristan Plata-Arce, Talia Redmon, and Brianna Spence.

All submissions are on display at the Worcester County Arts Council's Gallery and featured on the Arts Council's website: [www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org](http://www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org) until March 31.

The Gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Winners' artwork will be featured on a banner hung outside the Worcester County Arts Council at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin.

The Worcester County Arts Council thanks all students for participating in the contest and their teachers for emphasizing the value of art education and encouraging support for quality art programs in Worcester County.

For more information, contact Mullis at [anna@worcestercountycouncil.org](mailto:anna@worcestercountycouncil.org).

The Worcester County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to aid, encourage, advise and correlate all activities dedicated to the promotion of the arts in Worcester County and to integrate such activities into the total life of the communities served by the Council.

The Arts Council is committed to providing access to and participation in a diverse spectrum of artists and arts and cultural experiences.

The Arts Council is funded by the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by donations through memberships, local grants, and contributions by local patrons and sponsors.

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## Pines Chamber heads outdoors

Continued from Page 15  
ister, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or email [info@oceanpineschamber.org](mailto:info@oceanpineschamber.org).

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit corporation comprised of area businesses organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

# Newark resident Mills named Art Educator winner

(March 25, 2021) The National Art Education Association has named Tamara Mills, of Newark, to receive the 2021 Eastern Region Supervision & Administration Art Educator Award.

This prestigious award, determined through a peer review of nominations, recognizes the exemplary contributions, service and achievements of an outstanding NAEA member annually at the regional level within their division. The award was presented during the [Virtual] NAEA 2021 National Convention.

"This award is being given to recognize excellence in professional accomplishment and service by a dedicated art educator," said NAEA President Thom Knab. "Tamara Mills exemplifies the highly qualified art educators active in education today: leaders, teachers, students, scholars and advocates who give their best to their students and the profession."

Founded in 1947, the National Art Education Association is the leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts educators.

Members include elementary, middle and high school visual arts educators; college and university professors; university students preparing to become art educators; researchers and scholars; teaching artists; administrators and supervisors; and art museum educators—as well as more than 54,000 students who are members of the National Art Honor Society.

It represent members in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, U.S. possessions, most Canadian provinces, U.S. military bases around the world, and 45 foreign countries.

The mission of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) champions creative growth and innovation by equitably advancing the tools and resources for a high-quality visual arts, design, and media arts education throughout diverse populations and communities of practice.



Tamara Mills

# Obituaries

**JOYCE CARTER**  
Ocean Pines

Joyce Carter passed on March 10, 2021, at the Macky & Pam Stansell House of Coastal Hospice in Ocean Pines, Maryland.



Joyce Carter

Joyce grew up in Glen Burnie, graduating from Glen Burnie High School.

She worked in the clerical/bookkeeping field during her life beginning at the Two Guys store on Ritchie Highway. After moving to Ocean City several years ago she was employed at the Provident/PNC bank in Selbyville, Delaware.

Joyce enjoyed getting together with family and friends, whether for playing cards or lots of conversation. She looked forward to the Friday get-together dinners at Dirty Harry's restaurant with friends.

Her hobbies included collectibles of figurines and teddy bears. She enjoyed crafts as well starting with ceramics, hanging plant macrame, and more recently counted cross stitch.

She completed numerous pieces with some, at first glance, looking like paintings.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Anna Duffey, and brother, Patrick.

She is survived by her sons, Paul, Mike and Brian; sister, Rita; six grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is being planned for July at Saint Matthews by the Sea United Methodist Church in Fenwick, Delaware.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Avenue, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit [www.easternshorecremation.com](http://www.easternshorecremation.com).

**JAMES FREEMAN**  
Ocean Pines

James Freeman passed away at his home in Ocean Pines, Maryland, on March 15, 2021.

In his final days, Jim was surrounded by his family and was able to watch the eagles and ospreys dive into the Manklin Creek from his favorite spot in his sunroom.

He could often be seen prowling the local parks and waterways to capture wildlife with his camera.

When he wasn't trying to get the perfect shot, he could be found playing platform tennis at the paddleball courts, tending to the tomatoes in his garden, golfing, kayaking and casting a line off the coast of Assateague to catch some bluefish.

Jim was a dedicated Marine who



James Freeman

served our country with honor. After his service, Jim earned a B.S. from Temple University.

He worked as a seventh grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Hatboro-Horsham School

District for 31 years before retiring to Ocean Pines with his wife, June.

In Ocean Pines Jim always kept active with platform tennis where he made many wonderful and caring friends and served as the president of the platform tennis group for many years. Jim always lived life to the fullest.

Jim was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family.

He leaves behind his wife, June Freeman; his two sons, Jimmy and Dave; daughter-in-law, Nancy; his five grandchildren, Cameron, Jillian, Evan, Owen and Ben; his brother, Nick, and his nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers or donations, in the spirit of Jim, please consider a kind word or random act of kindness.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Avenue, Berlin, Maryland 21811. To send condolences to the family, please visit [www.easternshorecremation.com](http://www.easternshorecremation.com).

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# Opinion

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

## Board should simply take care of business

In their pursuit of a more harmonious relationship, the members of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors have agreed to critique their own performances and to hash out the results and their differences, presumably, in private.

This desire to eliminate the interpersonal friction is laudable, even though the cause of this discord has never been fully explained publicly. The self-evaluation concept is good as well, assuming that it can be done objectively.

There is just one thing: the directors intend to heal themselves by discussing their self-surveys behind closed doors. That's understandable, but it's also a violation of the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, which makes no allowance in its prescription for closed meetings for political marriage counseling for a quorum of elected officials.

The directors probably would contend their private meeting would fall under the exception for "matters pertaining to employees and personnel." But labeling themselves thusly would also mean that the entire General Assembly could convene privately to discuss the political and personal differences of its members. It. Cant. Be. Done.

The directors also might argue they would be protecting "the privacy or reputation of individuals in matters not related to association business," except that the disagreement between directors concerns how association business is conducted.

Applying any of the other exceptions listed in the act would be even more far-fetched, since they refer to litigation, assessments, court orders and business negotiations.

As the law says, if the discussion does not qualify for any of the exceptions to the closed meeting rule, no discussion or action may take place.

Clearly, the directors are in a jam, since they are legally required to announce publicly why they propose to meet privately to discuss how they present themselves to the public.

Here's a better way: be straight with each other, stop maneuvering for advantages and take care of business. Do those three things and you can dislike each other all day long. The public will be fine with that.



**"I just spoke to Senator Ben Cardin. Essential Oils are not protected under the New Covid bill."**

## Letters

### OP Facebook group looks for change

Editor,

*This letter was sent to the Ocean Pines Association directors and forwarded to Bayside Gazette.*

Dear directors,

We wanted to introduce the Facebook group Ocean Pines- Get Involved to you. The purpose of the group Ocean Pines Get Involved (OPGV) and the intent and essence of this group is to assist and work together with the board and GM on issues that we feel are valid.

Having a large group of homeowners come together like this is a good thing. We also reminded the group to GET INVOLVED. Join committees, consider running for the board, join this group at meetings and give your input. Invite other OP residents to join this group.

Let's dispel the rumors. We are not looking to have John Viola removed. We are not looking to put Colby [Phillips] in as the GM.

This is not a witch hunt for board members or the GM. We are looking to open dialogue with the board as a

community group who cares. The issues of Ocean Pines goes back years.

This board has these issues like every board before them. It is the desire of this group to help. We are already up to 500 members in just three weeks.

If nothing else, that should tell you people want to get involved. We have a diversified group of homeowners that could offer a wealth of knowledge and help to our board.

We are looking to open up communication both ways with the board. The board only really gets input from the community when someone complains.

We are looking for a two-way conversation. In other communities at the board meetings during public comment the boards responds.

However, no one, including me, wants to sit at a board meeting for five hours. We are suggesting that after public comment the board responds in the following weeks Ocean pines newsletter with the answers to the questions.

It would stop community frustration of not being

heard. This group would like to be able to speak with the directors or representatives of the board on a regular basis as to not only the issues but the solutions.

In the past I was vocal and started a community group. It did not continue because I decided to run for the board. In that group, we also made clear we were looking to work with the board not attack them.

Director [Doug] Parks who was president at the time reached out to us to open conversation because of that.

We look forward to hearing from the board on this email. We are offering to work together for the betterment of our community.

*Esther Diller  
Member of Ocean Pines –  
Get involved*

### Supports spending referendum in Pines

Editor,

The spending referendum to limit the board of directors to \$1,000,000 without authority from referendum is definitely necessary.

The directors seems to all

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# Letters

have agendas to what they want to accomplish in their terms in office. Sometimes good for the whole community, sometimes good for just a few. So too often we spend money unwisely.

I have listed just a few of well-intended board approved items.

Several years ago we were told we had to have a fire house on the north side to meet the needs of all the growth. It's used as a storage unit now, but just in case we need it, it's ready. Until we decide that it's too old and should be replaced.

Then there was the Community Center, they wanted to build a great building across from post office. It had to go to referendum and was not approved.

What we ended up with is a very nice building inside the Pines and very functional a reasonable cost. The people spoke.

Oh, and then there is the golf course. It's like owning a boat, a hole that you constantly pour money into and never fill up.

Gee, how much money can we pour into it? It seems every year there are major problems to address.

Did we forget that all the greens just had to be replaced (drainage) to keep them from burning up? And they burned up anyway. Again more

money to fix.

Did we forget that we poured over \$500,000 to fix up the club house, and then new directors, not just over a year later, decided to tear the building down, and rebuild. When people were against this and fought it.

The board did it anyway. In fact, they tore the building down early, so we could not get a say in the matter.

Now, the county would like us to use wastewater to irrigate the course. Who do you think will have to pay for a whole new irrigation system? Guess.

If you have read anything about the board of directors, you know there is a great need for the community to have a little bit more control. Just attending meetings does not work.

After all, if the whole community attended meetings, I guess we would have to build a meeting hall so we could all fit in.

I think that we still live in a democracy, for how long I don't know, so gives us a vote.

If this spending referendum is passed, it will give the community a chance to see where their association fees go. After all, it's our money. We like to see it spent wisely.

*Al Keeney  
Ocean Pines Resident*

## Colby Phillips espouses sensitivity as superpower

Editor,

So in the recent report released by Ocean Pines on my complaint (which was only a small part of what I expressed to the attorney) I was deemed as being "too sensitive."

Look up sensitivity and you get this:

"Sensitivity is a superpower. The opposite of sensitive is not brave. It's not brave to refuse to pay attention, to refuse to notice, to refuse to feel and know and imagine. The opposite of sensitive is insensitive, and that's no badge of honor.

"Highly sensitive people are too often perceived as weaklings or dam-

aged goods. To feel intensely is not a symptom of weakness, it is the trademark of the truly alive and compassionate. It is not the empath who is broken, it is society that has become dysfunctional and emotionally disabled. There is no shame in expressing your authentic feelings. Those who are at times described as being a 'hot mess' or having 'too many issues' are the very fabric of what keeps the dream alive for a more caring, humane world. Never be ashamed to let your tears shine a light in this world."

I'm proud to be a sensitive person. Just sayin'.

*Colby Phillips  
Former Ocean Pines Director of  
Amenities and Operational  
Logistics*

## Have an opinion?

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



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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## CELEBRATING 100 DAYS

Worcester Preparatory Lower School celebrated reaching its 100th day of school on March 3. Students from Pre-K to grade 5 participated in a variety of educational and philanthropic activities throughout the day. Fifth graders celebrated the 100th Day of in-person learning with a “Pajama-Comfy-Thon” where, in addition to coming to school in their pajamas, they donated 100 new comfort wear items to those in need at Diakonia.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Each Pre-Kindergarten student brought in 10 cups to create and design a building of their imagination. Following completion, they rotated around the room taking part in 10 different exercises, 10 times each, until they reached 100.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Second and third graders designed 100th Day T-shirts to wear to school. Second grader Darius Jones is pictured.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SNACK DONATION

The Delmarva Chorus of Sweet Adelines International collected and delivered snacks for healthcare workers. The response to this project, along with donations by members of the Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club, made it possible to provide large buckets and boxes of snacks to Tidal Health Oncology, Radiation, Family Medical and Lab, Cardio Rehab, Divita, Coastal Hospice at the Ocean, Southern Coastal Emergency and the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Members of the Delmarva Chorus, from left, are Elissa Mulligan, Carol Ludwig and Jeannette Latzo.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES

## TREATS FOR KIDS

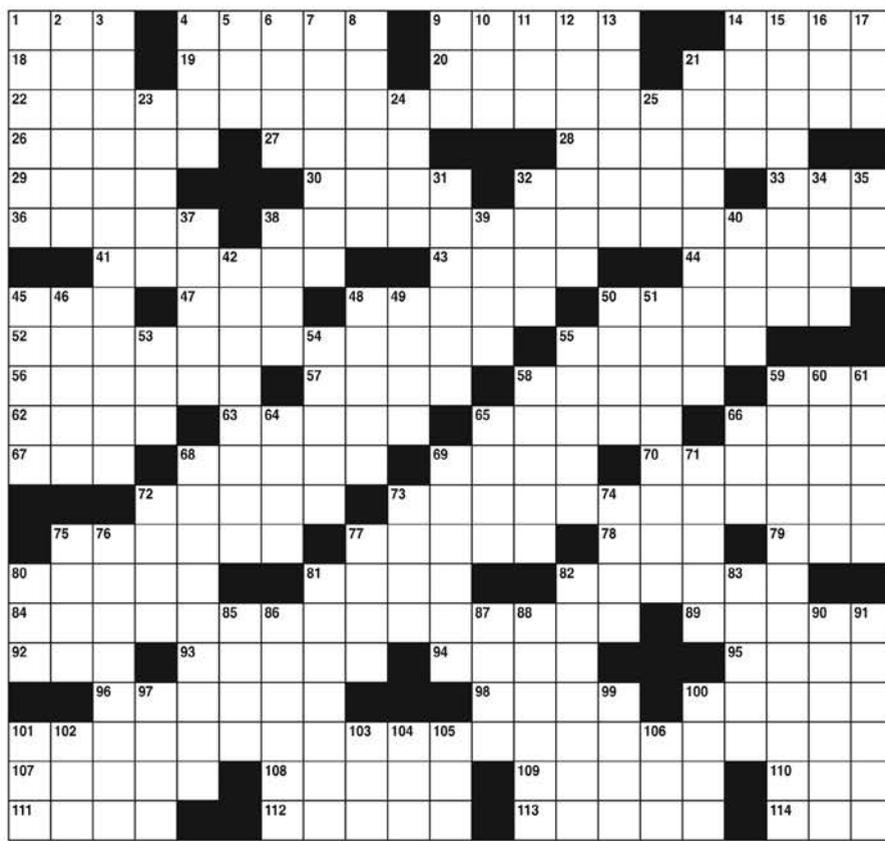
Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services provided free snacks, books and fun activities to Worcester County Public Schools students as they exited the bus on March 5 on Bay Street in Berlin.

# Puzzles

## THEY ALL LAUGHED BY JACOB STULBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jacob Stulberg, of Otis, Mass., is a second-year law student at New York University, currently taking classes remotely. He's been making crosswords for The Times since 2013. Jacob is a longtime fan of the publication mentioned in 101-Across. When he was 11, he wrote a letter to the editors, which they published, correcting their use of the term "gluteus maximus." — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Some rappers
  - 4 Music genre for Carmen Miranda
  - 9 Pioneer in 35mm. cameras
  - 14 Bit of bait
  - 18 His face overlooks Havana's Plaza de la Revolución
  - 19 Fire \_\_\_
  - 20 See 67-Across
  - 21 Refurbish
  - 22 Architectural innovation jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1982
  - 26 Actress Perez
  - 27 Performer's showcase
  - 28 Gave out
  - 29 God of love
  - 30 Goofy images, perhaps?
  - 32 Kitchen brand whose name becomes an animal after adding a T
  - 33 Old N.Y.C. subway inits.
  - 36 Wish-list items
  - 38 Grooming tool jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1979
  - 41 "Gotcha"
  - 43 \_\_\_ Sea, whose eastern basin has become a desert
  - 44 Either spy to the other in "Spy vs. Spy"
- DOWN**
- 45 Prop in a Shakespeare tragedy
  - 47 Abbr. at the end of a planner
  - 48 Classic board game derived from pachisi
  - 50 Place to order a cassoulet
  - 52 Writing aid jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1967
  - 55 Therefore
  - 56 \_\_\_ block
  - 57 Midnight trip to the fridge, say
  - 58 "Yellow Flicker Beat" singer, 2014
  - 59 Type of headsail
  - 62 Super-duper
  - 63 Shake off
  - 65 Hammer out, say
  - 66 "\_\_\_ Lisa"
  - 67 With 20-Across, yearly
  - 68 Some sports car options
  - 69 Painter Paul
  - 70 "Them's the breaks!"
  - 72 Butler played by Gable
  - 73 Winter sport jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1965
  - 75 Treadmill settings
  - 77 They're not known for neatness
  - 78 Word connecting two place names
  - 79 Word connecting two last names
  - 80 Taters
  - 81 Ragamuffin
  - 82 Nominee's place
  - 84 Telephone feature jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1961
  - 89 Porters, e.g.
  - 92 Stampede member in "The Lion King"
  - 93 Manual readers
  - 94 "\_\_\_ fun!"
  - 95 Early smartphone model
  - 96 Italian lager
  - 98 Square thing
  - 100 Like some rights and engineers
  - 101 Satirical cartoonist, born 3/13/1921, known for dreaming up ridiculous inventions ... or are they?
  - 107 Ransacks
  - 108 Peter the Great and others
  - 109 Eponym of an M.L.B. hitting award
  - 110 Jellied British delicacy
  - 111 Goes down
  - 112 Fender product, for short
  - 113 Windows forerunner
  - 114 Droll
  - 9 Language not traditionally written with spaces between words
  - 10 Ambient musician Brian
  - 11 Like Bach's first two "Brandenburg" Concertos
  - 12 Like dice, shapewise
  - 13 Finding it funny
  - 14 Off the mark
  - 15 Substance that helps a spaceship's fuel burn
  - 16 Direct
  - 17 It's greener the higher it is, for short
  - 21 Glow, in a way
  - 23 Narrow inlet
  - 24 Part
  - 25 \_\_\_ of Man
  - 31 Exposed to high heat, in a way
  - 32 Cosmetics brand with "Face Anything" ads
  - 34 Ex-QB football analyst Tony
  - 35 Word repeated before "again"
  - 37 Move stealthily
  - 38 Big part of the S&P 500
  - 39 "It's co-o-old!"
  - 40 Toss in a chip, maybe
  - 42 Hid
  - 45 Org. concerned with performance rights
  - 46 Mace, for one
  - 48 Oodles
  - 49 "\_\_\_ From Muskogee" (Merle Haggard hit)
  - 50 Cartoonist Dave famous for "The Lighter Side of ..."



- 51 How anatomy charts are drawn
- 53 Mormon church, for short
- 54 Blow
- 55 "Mountain of God," in Exodus
- 58 Longtime name in cinemas
- 59 Hire calling?
- 60 Like slapstick comedies
- 61 Feature of a Care Bear's belly
- 64 Oodles
- 65 Hazard on an Arctic voyage
- 66 1960s style
- 68 Blues ensemble?
- 69 Slices easily (through)
- 71 Brush brand
- 72 Command+Y, on a Mac
- 73 Swizzle
- 74 Cartoon speech bubble, often
- 75 Whirled around
- 76 Sting, e.g.
- 77 Egg holders
- 80 Droop
- 81 Most sinewy
- 82 Its coat of arms features a marlin and flamingo, with "the"
- 83 Baseball's "Big Papi"
- 85 Since
- 86 Principles
- 87 Russian assembly
- 88 Gutter nuisance in cold climates
- 90 Apt surname for a ho-dog vendor?
- 91 Alone
- 97 Gobbles up
- 99 Suet alternative
- 100 Survivalist's stockpile
- 101 It might come in a yard glass
- 102 High toss
- 103 Crew's control?
- 104 \_\_\_ diavolo (in a peppery tomato sauce)
- 105 Year-round Phoenix hrs.
- 106 Sticky stuff

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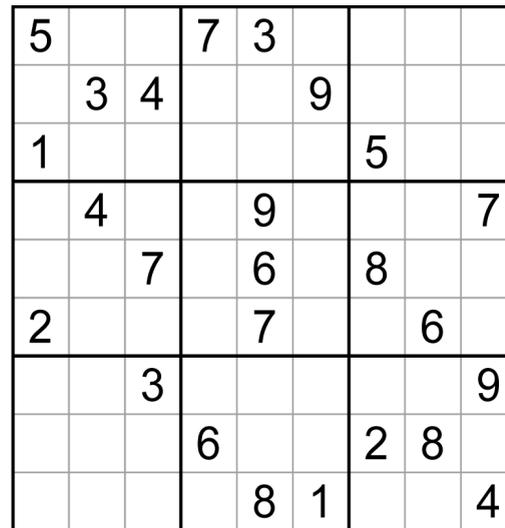
(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

### HARD - 2

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



### Answers to last week's puzzles

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



# Cuisine

## Gin-Gin Mule variation of Moscow drink

Misery loves company, and I have come to discern that no populace holds this truism closer to its heart

than parents of young children in Disney, and now that it has finally reopened to the dismay of many a father, I smile an evil little grin, knowing that I am free.

My observation lies in the sheer desperation

on the faces of parents as they manage strollers, screaming children, diaper bags and water bottles as they fumble onto the tram.

It lies in the fact that most parents simply wanted this vacation to be over so they could go back and tell the neighbors how amazing the experience was. Of course, a few probably bragged about their week in Club 33, a myth in its own rite, but I digress.

I smile with near sympathy, as I recall the face of many a father, before whom I had traveled along this wearying path, as they imagined the peace and quiet of their workweek seven days later. It will be so much more relaxing then, they are telling themselves. I could see it.

When someone shouted, "Who lost their binky?" or "Someone dropped their sippy cup," I chortled as I knew that it certainly was not I.

I had not been found in the good company of either of these in more than a few years.

As our children were older, the last time we went to Disney, it was almost enjoyable. Almost.

We made sure to spend some quality time in three of the parks, and the scenery was good as was the weight loss regimen, as I believe that I dropped at least six pounds during the trip.

One day, halfway through the trip, we were in Hollywood Park, which shall forever be MGM Studios to me, but what can you do? So many employees were having a hard time with 'Disney Springs,' which is the renaissance of Downtown Disney, so I certainly couldn't feel too terrible about the misnomer.

After meeting the kids in the early afternoon, we went on a few rides, checked out the architecture and movie sets (we were and still are nerds) and tried to find anywhere that we could all agree upon for dinner.

Weighing our options, we decided



on the Lounge at the Brown Derby. It was outdoor seating and an extremely limited menu, but I may have persuaded the kids to eat there. I really wanted to.

Since the menu was so limited outside, my daughter ordered the Wagyu sliders, and it didn't even register with me that she disdains burgers. That's just the kind of dad that I am.

My son ordered the sliders as well, foregoing the duck slider that should have accompanied it as did his sister.

Duck? I don't think so. Not with these kids.

I ordered the classic Brown Derby Cobb Salad (of course), a braised pork belly starter and a Gin-Gin Mule, the latter being a cocktail that I have never tried before.

A playful rendition of the Moscow Mule, this variation on a theme became my new summer beverage of choice back here at beach outings and barbecues.

I grew up in a gin house, with Tan-

queray and Tonics being the drink of choice for decades; ergo I have a taste for juniper-laced spirits.

With the bite of the ginger beer and the freshness of the lime and mint, this is such a winning combination that I seriously might have to mix one up to reminisce one of the last decent times I had in this over-extracted wasteland of gift shops and souvenir kiosks.

As for the Cobb Salad and the burger, let me just tell you that my kids were converted on different levels on this one fine evening. My daughter could now deal with burgers. However, they must be Wagyu burgers – damn you, universe.

Both of my younger kids adored the salad, despite the fact that they can't walk around a piece of bleu cheese without at least a touch of the old gag reflex.

All in all, I would call it one of our more successful evenings on that trip. And after experiencing the overstimulation of the closing show, I ended up sitting in the laundry room in a Disney resort, sweating profusely and drinking a large Gin-Gin Mule that I had made myself.

I could only afford so many in the park. And that was a mere two hours before my young son and I were kicked out of a Disney pool, but it had nothing to do with the mule.

### Gin-Gin Mule

Per drink

2 Mint leaves

1 1/2 oz. Hendrick's Gin

1 oz. Simple syrup

3 oz. Ginger beer or ale

Lime and mint for garnish

1. Place mint leaves in the bottom of a hi-ball glass, and add a splash of gin.

2. Gently muddle the leaves, but do not smash them like you do for a mojito. I like to think of this drink as a much more demure cocktail, as it reflects the royalty of gin. At least, I hold it in regal regard.

3. Add ice, remaining gin, simple syrup and ginger beer and gently shake.

4. Pour into the glass and garnish with more mint and lime. This drink will be a bit on the sweet side, so I prefer a more-than-fair amount of lime. Do so at your discretion.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40.

Visit him at [www.boxcar40.com](http://www.boxcar40.com).

# Calendar

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

## Thurs., March 25

### 'HEART & SOUL' FREE ART CLASS

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Barbara Buford will instruct this class. Geared towards adults dealing with stress, trauma or grief, projects are designed to focus on centering and healing. All materials provided. Masks required. Advance registration required: 410-524-9433 or [www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org/Classes](http://www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org/Classes).

### ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of Zumba. This is a webinar style program, meaning you can practice your moves without being seen. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org).

### HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF WORCESTER COUNTY

Meeting via Zoom, 2:00 PM. To celebrate Maryland Day, join Worcester County Library's Local History Librarian to dive back in time and view photographs of Worcester County from the special collections.

### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting via video call, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

## Fri., March 26

### REACH THE BEACH: ALL-STAR NATIONAL

Cheerleading National Competition hosted at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. For event details, visit [www.acdaspirit.com](http://www.acdaspirit.com), [www.theepicbrands.com](http://www.theepicbrands.com) or call 410-579-8668. Fans can watch live on Varsity TV.

### STORY TIME

John Walter Smith Park pavilion, 6030 Public Landing Road, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Registered participants, ages 2-5 years, will have a blast by connecting crafts and songs to the story, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," by Eric Carle. Cost is \$5. Register: Kelly Buchanan, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2503 or [kbuchanon@marylandscoast.org](mailto:kbuchanon@marylandscoast.org).

### KIDS' NIGHT IN EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Worcester County Recreation Center, 6030 Public Landing Road, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Open to students in grades kindergarten through sixth. Participants will enjoy an Easter egg hunt, making their own Easter egg trees and decorating their own jelly bean bracelets. Pizza and Gatorade will be included for dinner. Cost is \$30 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child. Info: Kelly Buchanan, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2503 or [kbuchanan@marylandscoast.org](mailto:kbuchanan@marylandscoast.org).

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL DRIVE-IN WEEKEND

Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., 8:00 PM. Friday night is Local's Night featuring two locally-produced films, Sheena Don't Mind and Reggie's Forest (new cut version). Tickets cost \$25 per car per showing. Tickets: [OCMDFilmFestival.com](http://OCMDFilmFestival.com). Showings are weather permitting and no refunds will be issued. Gates open one hour prior to showtime. View discretion is advised.

## Sat., March 27

### OCEAN CITY SPRING BULK PICK-UP

This free service allows residents to get rid of large household items, such as furniture, appliances, bicycles, carpet, etc. Yard debris and shrubs are also permitted, however the maximum diameter of tree limbs accepted is three inches. Residents are asked to place their items curbside from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ocean City's Solid Waste Division, 410-524-0318

### REACH THE BEACH: ALL-STAR NATIONAL

Cheerleading National Competition hosted at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. For event details, visit [www.acdaspirit.com](http://www.acdaspirit.com), [www.theepicbrands.com](http://www.theepicbrands.com) or call 410-579-8668. Fans can watch live on Varsity TV.

### ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Whaleville United Methodist Church, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, chipped beef, hash brown potatoes, toast, fruit and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Masks are required to enter.

### OCEAN PINES BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 AM. The board has scheduled a public hearing on a proposal submitted in a petition for a referendum: *Should OPA By-Laws Section 5.13.(d)(1) be amended to read If the total estimated cost, capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, of any single capital expenditure exceeds One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), the proposed single capital expenditure SHALL require approval of the members by a referendum?*

### 7TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL

Downtown Pocomoke City, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Kids are invited to bring their Easter baskets to collect goodies in the Easter Egg Loop. Also featuring free pictures with the Easter bunny (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), antique car show, sidewalk vendors along Market Street, Hook'd on Fishing for kids, petting farm and juggling. Participants are asked to wear facemasks in high traffic areas. Rain

date is April 3. <http://downtown-pocomoke.com>

### OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL DRIVE-IN WEEKEND

Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave. Saturday matinee 3 p.m., features eight award-winning short films from the 5th Annual OC Film Festival, plus this year's Best Feature award winner, "The Lights of Baltimore." Saturday night, 8 p.m., features "My Amityville Horror." Tickets cost \$25 per car per showing. Tickets:

[OCMDFilmFestival.com](http://OCMDFilmFestival.com). Showings are weather permitting and no refunds will be issued. Gates open one hour prior to showtime. View discretion is advised.

### 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.

## Sun., March 28

### REACH THE BEACH: ALL-STAR NATIONAL

Cheerleading National Competition hosted at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. For event details, visit [www.acdaspirit.com](http://www.acdaspirit.com), [www.theepicbrands.com](http://www.theepicbrands.com) or call 410-579-8668. Fans can watch live on Varsity TV.

### PALM SUNDAY

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road. Palm Sunday with palms at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. 410-641-5433, <http://www.ccaop.org>

### PALM SUNDAY

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, 10:00 AM. Attend in person or for Youtube or Zoom visit [bethanyberlin.org/worship](http://bethanyberlin.org/worship) online or listen in by phone through Zoom at 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 2181121842, password: 21811 or on FM 93.9 on your radio dial from the church parking lot. [bethany21811@gmail.com](mailto:bethany21811@gmail.com), 410-641-2186

## Mon., March 29

### PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Meeting via Zoom, 10:30 AM. Dance and sing to the music of classic silly songs including, "The Freeze Dance" and "We Are Going On a Lion Hunt." For ages 2-5 years. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under events.

## Tues., March 30

### OUTSIDER ART

Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 PM. This pres-

entation will discuss the definitions and concepts of outsider art, and will also feature profiles of some of its prominent figures. Register: [worcesterlibrary.org](http://worcesterlibrary.org) under events.

### BINGO FOR RECOVERY

Greene Turtle West, 9616 Stephen Decatur Highway, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Play bingo for a chance to win one of five beautiful prize baskets. Bingo cards are \$2 each and proceeds benefit the WGP Worcester County Warriors Against Addiction. There will also be a 50/50.

## Wed., March 31

### DIVERSE ABILITIES VOICES MEET UP

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 PM. Teens register on Beanstack for the Read Woke Challenge at [worcesterlibrary.beanstack.org](http://worcesterlibrary.beanstack.org). Choose a book from Diverse Abilities Voices to read and discuss at the Zoom Meet Up. Earn badges that give you a chance to win one of two \$500 grand prizes. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under events.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### MAC GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAC Inc., the Area Agency on Aging, is sponsoring a golf tournament on May 19 at Nutters Crossing Golf Club in Salisbury. Team registration is underway and sponsors are needed. Cost is \$400 per team of four. Register by March 31 for a \$50 discount. Individual registration is \$125. Tournament registration begins at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Lunch, cash prizes and other awards are planned for 2 p.m. Info: Mike Hedlesky, 410-742-0505, Ext. 166. [www.macinc.org](http://www.macinc.org).

### 14TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

On April 30 and May 1, the Lower Shore Land Trust will host the plant sale. The event will be pre-order only with curbside pickup. There will be more than 75 varieties of native plants, shrubs and trees. Info: [www.lowershorelandtrust.org](http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org) or Taylor Carty, 443-234-5587 or [tcarty@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:tcarty@lowershorelandtrust.org).

### COURTNEY'S SUPERHERO 5K VIRTUAL FUN RUN

Hero goody bag for the first 100 runners and doggie bags for the first 30 dogs who register. Prizes awarded and race shirts are guaranteed for everyone who registers before April 1. Support Courtney Blackford's bid to be crowned Prom Queen for Believe In Tomorrow's Prom Night event. Register: [believeintomorrow.rallybound.org/superhero-fun-run](http://believeintomorrow.rallybound.org/superhero-fun-run). Registration fee is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 11 and younger and \$5 for dogs.

# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Call **410-723-6397**  
by Monday 5 p.m.



Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

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free Spotify/ Headspace & more!

Apply today at [www.starbucks.com/careers](http://www.starbucks.com/careers)



**TOWN OF BERLIN**  
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
**Seasonal General Laborer**

The Town of Berlin is in search of a seasonal general laborer. Duties include but are not limited to grass cutting and trash removal. The selected candidate must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Normal working hours will range from 20-40 hours per week including weekends.

Applications may be downloaded from our website: <http://www.berlinmd.gov> Applications must be submitted to the Administrative Managers office located at 10 William St. Berlin, MD 21811 via our drop box. The Town of Berlin is an EEO employer.

**Cleaners Needed**  
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**Ocean Pines & W. OC Areas**

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- References Required
- W-9
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Responsible for providing administrative, clerical and accounting support to management.

**Jobs Tasks and Responsibilities**

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- Manage internal Billing of departments
- Work actively with Emails, Word, Excel and Quickbooks
- Correspond with customers
- Issue checks for account payable
- Support accounting personnel
- Input, invoices, checks, account statements, reports and other records
- Provide front desk customer service
- Match invoices to work orders
- Utilize computer systems to run databases, pay bills and order supplies
- Order Parts and Supplies as needed

**Education and Experience:**

- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Previous office experience preferred but this can also be entry level position
- Competent computer skills including MS Office, internet skills including use of e-mails, group messaging and data collection, Numeracy and literacy skills

**Required Key Competencies**  
Organization and planning skills, Work management and prioritizing skills, Verbal and written communication skills, Problem solving ability, Attention to detail, Accuracy, Flexibility, Reliability, Teamwork

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positions available  
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**GROUNDWORKER II**  
Worcester County Government - Maintenance Division in Snow Hill, MD is currently recruiting for a grounds worker to perform landscaping and property maintenance, minor carpentry and painting. HS diploma or GED required, experience with operating landscaping equipment: zero turn mower, string trimmers, edger, leaf blowers, snow throwers, leaf vacuum and chain saws. Excellent benefits. Apply online: <https://worcesterrh.co.worcester.md.us/> EOE

**LANKFORD HOTEL - Now Hiring!**  
~ Front Desk Clerks  
~ Housekeeping ~ Housemen

Looking to work for a family run business where people care? We are looking for motivated individuals with a good attitude and a professional appearance. Weekends are required. Competitive wages. Experience is a plus, but not necessary. Must have knowledge of computers and be motivated to work.

Please call Mary at 410-289-4041 or email resumes to: [oclankfordhotel@outlook.com](mailto:oclankfordhotel@outlook.com)



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Please contact Bob at 410-289-6846 for further information or to schedule an interview.

**TOWN MANAGER POSITION, SNOW HILL, MD:**  
The Town of Snow Hill seeks a well-qualified candidate for their Town Manager position. Prior Town Manager experience is required. Please visit [www.snowhillmd.gov](http://www.snowhillmd.gov) for more details.  
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