



Mayor Tyndall reviews 2021, goals for 2022

Asks for public's opinions on what it hopes to see

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall gave the Town Council his overview of operations for 2021 on Monday evening, and followed that up by promoting the formulation goals for this year when the council convenes again on Jan. 24.

Tyndall said the 2021 data traces back to the start of his term as mayor in October 2020.



Zack Tyndall

Staffing issues were minimal during 2021, with the town employing 70 full-time staffer and two part-timers, along with three unfilled positions.

"Employee turnover remained below 3 percent," he said.

Tyndall said although a number of employees had reached length-of-service times with the town of up to 35 years, none were honored in 2021 because of covid-19 restrictions.

"We're looking in 2022 to hold events to mark anniversaries," he said.

The numerous awards and accomplishments in 2021 recognized by Tyndall included those going to the Electric Department.

"It is worth reiterating our staff are receiving individual and departmental awards for safety many years in a row," he said. "It's representative of the leadership in the Electric Department."

Other accomplishments by the Electric Department included savings consumers money.

"In 2021, we saved customers approximately \$600,000 from peak shaving operations," he said.

Tyndall said Berlin received numerous honors in 2021 including a sustainable Maryland designation, See TYNDALL Page 4



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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A domestic goose sees an opportunity to buddy up with the flock of Canada Geese grazing along side the road in Ocean Pines, and skates across the ice to join them.

Pines fire budget talks get testy

As volunteer numbers drop, department emphasizes need for more paid staff

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Immediate costs for additional staffing and long-term expenses to transition to an all-paid staff dominated budget planning discussions with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department last Wednesday.

OP Fire President Dave VanGasbeck, Chief Steve Grunewald and Capt. Harvey Booth reviewed estimates with the Budget and Finance Committee on Jan. 5, after presenting numbers during a meeting on Dec. 22.

Among the larger budget requests for fire/EMS services are two addi-



Dave VanGasbeck



Steve Grunewald

tional paid positions. "Currently we have three paramedic firefighters on duty 24 hours a day and four ... on 12 hours a day," VanGasbeck said.

Booth attributed the proposed staff increase to higher call volumes and steadily decreasing volunteer ranks.

Booth said in 2020 the department responded to more than 1,700 calls for service, with roughly 1,160 involving medical transport.

"An EMS unit must respond on all fire responses [per] Worcester County policy," he said. "We run a significant amount of EMS responses

while the first crew is out ... or helping nearby areas."

Also taking part in the budget talks were several board members, including Director Frank Daly who asked how often a crew was out responding when another emergency call was received.

Booth about 280 calls were received within a 10-minute time period in 2020.

"We moved two staff from part-time to full-time," he said. "This helps cover four shifts during the day."

OPA President Larry Perrone asked why the department is requesting additional crew when it failed to increase estimated billing for transport services to medical facilities.

"If you are adding more head count to do more calls, then the percent of calls that would generate EMS See FIRE Page 3

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Fire ops expenses grow, but revenue static

Continued from Page 1

billing should go up," he said. "Otherwise, why do you need additional people?"

Booth replied that all staff are cross-trained as firefighters and EMTs.

"Our basic call volume has slowly increased," he said.

Again citing 2020 numbers, Booth also said more than 450 responses did not involve transport.

Grunewald said the level of need for emergency services in subsequent years remains unknown.

"We can't predict call volumes," he said.

Booth said the proposed staff expansion would allow the department to have four crew members on duty 24 hours a day.

"It's not related to the number of calls," he said.

Perrone's perspective remained unchanged.

"That's an explanation; I'm just not sure I accept it," he said.

Grunewald said another challenge is the continuous loss of volunteer members.

"Everybody across the country is losing volunteers," he said.

He also said the volunteer pool in Ocean Pines typically includes retired members from departments in other regions.

"We have less young cadets," he said. "The volunteers are just not here."

Booth said other challenges include average patient weights increasing from 200 pounds in past years to roughly 275 pounds currently.

"We have more equipment," he said. "It's heavier and it requires more manpower for us to do things."

Perrone said the potential increase to assessment fees tied to adding staff is significant.

"This is a gigantic ask," he said.

Perrone requested overtime pay and salary details for the department.

VanGasbeck said the relevant figures were presented to the Budget and Finance Committee last month.

"It needs to go to the full board," Perrone said.

Director Doug Parks took a different tack.

"I don't see the correlation between adding staff and automatically worrying about an increase in EMS billing," he said.

Parks said limiting expense increases was of greater importance.

"It's a big ask but I don't have the same concerns," he said. "I believe we should add staff based on the operational analysis that the folks at the fire department have done in order to maintain that very important aspect

of safety within Ocean Pines."

Perrone agreed, up to a point.

"Safety is important, but we need more details regarding salaries and benefit costs for the department," he said.

General Manager John Viola said detailed salary and benefit costs for the fire department would be forwarded to all board members.

In response to questions about precisely how the department determines the need to add staff, Grunewald said Berlin's fire department has four crew members on duty 24 hours, with the count even higher in Pocomoke.

"We are the most populated area in Worcester County," he said.

VanGasbeck said the National Fire Protection Association focuses on response times, with six minutes the target in the Pines.

Daly said the main concern should be how rapid emergency responders arrive.

"We, as a board, need to consider that as a sacred time," he said.

Daly said any moves that would increase response time should be abandoned.

"I think we should not be 'Mickey Mousing' around it," he said. "It's a cornerstone of the community to have public safety."

Daly also said discussions on the direction of the fire department have touched on abandoning the volunteer element.

"At some point in time in the future, we're looking at a full-time paid fire department to protect our community," he said.

Grunewald backed up Daly's assertion.

"That's 100 percent correct, Mr. Daly," he said. "This whole thing is very important and Mr. Perrone, I'm sorry, but you're on record saying,

'Why don't we get rid of the fire department.'"

Perrone denied having said that, with VanGasbeck quickly taking exception.

"He said that in two meetings," VanGasbeck said.

Grunewald acknowledged the Ocean Pines transfer agreement with original developer Boise Cascade required fire and EMS services be provided.

"Again, Mr. Perrone, you're on record saying, 'We have to have that, but we don't have to use you,'" he said.

Perrone clarified his position.

"Let's be clear, I never said we don't need the fire department," he said. "I did say that our DRs (Declaration of Restrictions) require us to provide fire protection, but it doesn't say we have to provide it through you guys."

Perrone added that his views reflected discussions of building a new fire house.

"Doing my job as the president of the association, I need to make sure what's being asked here is appropriate," he said. "I'm 100 percent behind fire and EMS, but we need to explain the cost to our community."

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Dick Keiling suggested researching other ways to bring in revenue to reduce the financial dependency on Pines residents.

Grunewald, who in addition to volunteering with the fire department is chairman of the Worcester County Volunteer Firemen's Association, said recent requests to increase county funding have had no results.

"We are trying every year to get more money from the county," he said. "I'm willing to try anything, but we do this on an annual basis."

County government seeking candidates for committees

(Jan. 13, 2022) Worcester County Government encourages those interested in becoming more involved in the community to volunteer on a Worcester County board or commission.

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

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

- District One, Southern District – Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Local Management Board, and Social Services Advisory Board
- District Three, Sinexent District – Board of Electrical Examiners, Ethics Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Commission for Women, and Water and Sewer Advisory Councils (WSAC) for Mystic Harbour (three seats) and West Ocean City (two seats)
- District Four, Western District – Economic Development Advisory Board, Tourism Advisory Committee, and Recreation Advisory Board

- District Five, Ocean Pines District – Social Services Advisory Board, and Ocean Pines WSAC (two seats)

See COMMITTEE Page 4





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Tyndall outlines what was and what could be

Continued from Page 1

recertification as a “Bee City,” gold-star award from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and top 10 percent attraction rating on Trip Advisor.

Berlin was the beneficiary of numerous state and federal grants in 2021.

Topping the list was \$122,000 from the Maryland Department of Energy Administration for a rooftop solar project at Schofield electrical facility and a \$500,000 Strategic Demolition Grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

The latter will be used “To help take care of all or a portion of that building on the Heron Park property,” he said.

Tyndall also noted Berlin was awarded relief grants for electric customers, USDA funding for police vehicles, money for Main Street improvements and backing from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to build bathrooms in Stephen Decatur Park.

Capital projects completed in 2021 included replacing pavilion roofs at both Henry and Decatur parks, installing new roofs at the power plant and planning building and replacing 37 windows in Town Hall.

Looking at financial management, Tyndall said improvements were made to the annual budget schedule.

“We received a favorable independent audit in FY 20 and FY 21,” he said.

Other financial high points included establishing a general fund reserve policy and continuing efforts to increase that sum.

“We identified 400-plus water meters that were reading incorrectly and implemented a replacement schedule,” he said.

Development and growth in 2021 were also reviewed, with Tyndall noting the town issued 361 building permits last year.

“We collected \$232,000 in impact fees for new development,” he said.

Berlin also generated roughly \$1.8 million in revenues from selling 114 EDUs in 2021.

“We negotiated an agreement with Willows to transfer a portion of town property at end of Maple Avenue in exchange for milling and ... installing new sidewalks,” he said.

Berlin also netted \$18,000 from issuing 250 business licenses last year.

“We had seven new businesses open,” he said.

Town pursuits undertaken in 2021

included adding POW-MIA flags and discontinuing single-stream recycling at Heron Park for an annual savings of \$50,000.

Tyndall said the town established a partnership in 2021 with Eastbound Disc Golf to install a course at Decatur Park.

Also, in 2021 Berlin issued requests for proposals for parcels in Heron Park, street paving and improvements at Decatur Park

In addition to soliciting sugges-

tions for 2022 goals from council members and department heads, Tyndall is also seeking comments from the community.

“I have been asking for some public help in developing the Town of Berlin 2022 goals,” he said.

Residents wishing to suggest 2022 goals, in addition to commenting on the Town of Berlin Facebook page, can also email MayorZack@berlinmd.gov or call 410-641-3858.

Committee candidates sought

Continued from Page 3

• District Six, Northern District – Ethics Board, Planning Commission, and Recreation Advisory Board

• District Seven, Ocean City – Economic Development Advisory Board, Board of Electrical Examiners, Housing Review Board, Social Services Advisory Board, and Tourism Advisory Committee

Current open seats that may be filled by residents countywide include the Adult Public Guardianship Board (two seats), Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (one), Local Development Council for Ocean Downs Casino (four), Commission for Women

(one), and the WSAC for Mystic Harbour (one), West Ocean City (two), and Ocean Pines (three).

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

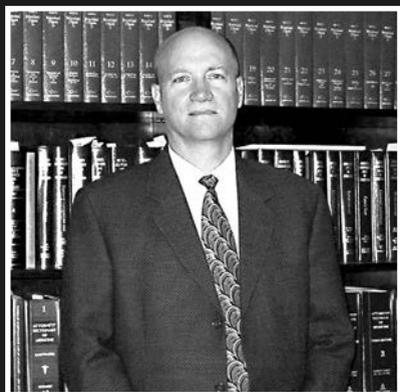
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Berlin Restaurant Week runs through Sun.

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Berlin's sixth annual Restaurant Week continues through Sunday, with numerous local dining establishments offering special fare with special pricing.

Economic & Community Development Director Ivy Wells said public response has been overwhelming since the promotion began on Monday.

"The community has been excited," she said.

Participating establishments include Pop's Kitchen, Blacksmith Berlin,



Ivy Wells

Baked Dessert Café, Rayne's Reef Soda Fountain & Grill, Gilbert's Provisions, Main Street Deli, Boxcar on Main, Burn Wood Fire Pizza, On What Grounds and the Globe Gastro Theatre.

Wells said two new establishments, the Rusty Anchor Seafood Market and the Sterling Tavern would also join the list this year.

Restaurant Week "passports," which patrons use to collect stamps from par-

ticipating eateries they sample, have proven tough to keep in stock.

"The passports are flying out the door," she said.

Wells said Restaurant Week founder Cam Bunting refreshed the supply of passports yesterday.

Passports, which double as raffle tickets, can be obtained at the Welcome Center at 14 S. Main St.

Completed passports can be turned in at a drop-box in the Welcome Center foyer accessible 24 hours.

Wells spent last weekend posting the special menu offerings available during

the event.

In addition to finding menus online, patrons can also view the list by visiting the Welcome Center.

"If people want to see what all the menus are, we have them in the Welcome Center window," she said. "They can come by ... and look at all the menus for the participating restaurants."

Completed passports will be selected after the event for a raffle drawing including gift cards and cash.

"Make sure to bring your card and go to three different restaurants," she said. "Happy dining."

Pines opens FY22/23 budget presentations

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Ocean Pines officials took a deep dive on the proposed budget for next year during multi-day departmental presentations begun last Tuesday.

General Manager John Viola said the association anticipates both favorable tailwinds and challenging headwinds during the next fiscal year that starts on May 1.

Among the financial hurdles in FY22/23 cited by Viola were inflation, wage increases, rising insurance premi-



John Viola

ums and pending state legislation mandating reserve levels for homeowner associations.

On the positive side, Viola said the improved bottom lines of various amenities and departments in the current budget year suggest a continuation of that trend in the year ahead.

"We have a surplus," he said. After ending FY20/21 with revenues ahead of expenses by more than \$1 mil-

lion, the association estimates the current budget year will see the same thing.

"We did not use any of the surplus for this budget," he said.

Viola said Finance Director Steve Phillips is compiling a schedule to reflect how surplus balances would be applied to reserve accounts.

At this point, the proposed budget reflects a one dollar reduction in assessment fees from the current rates of \$996 for non-waterfront lots and \$1,611 for waterfront properties

"That's where we are before all the tail and head winds," he said.

Viola said even though revenues are outpacing expenses by a significant amount now, indicating that a more substantial reduction in assessments is possible, increased personnel costs in the new year will use up a good portion of that variance.

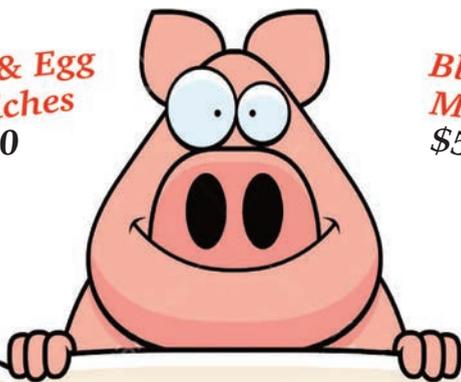
In addition to an estimated increase of roughly \$262,000 for association payroll, staffing requests from the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department could add about \$319,000 to costs.

Shifting to specific amenities, Gen- See OP Page 6

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OP three-day budget meeting covers details

Continued from Page 5

eral Manager of Golf John Malinowski projected that revenue from the golf course, which are expected to close the year \$1.23 million, will be up slightly in the new year at roughly \$1.29 million.

"Our expenses aren't much more," he said.

Although golf salaries are only slated to bump up by about \$12,000, Malinowski said the price tag for chemicals and fertilizers used for green maintenance is anticipated to jump from about \$130,000 to roughly \$155,000.

"Fertilizers and chemicals are kind of going through the roof right now," he said.

Malinowski said minimal price increases are planned at the golf course during the next fiscal year.

"We raised the prices for non-resident play at times we were sold out essentially," he said.

In addition to increase rates for non-residents who play from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the charge for residents to shoot 18 holes is going up.

Greens fees for non-member property owners and guests are budgeted at \$59 for 18 holes, up from \$54 this year, with the cost for nine holes remaining unchanged at \$35.

Also rising slightly are golf cart fees, which are budgeted at \$25 for 18 holes and \$15 for nine holes for FY 22/23, up from the current \$22 and \$12.

Association President Larry Perrone said questions over charging identical rates for owners and guests to play the course have been raised.

"We're getting some questions about why owners' guests are paying the same rate as owners," he said. "Why are they not paying a little bit more? They're not owners here and they're not members."

Malinowski said resident guests have traditionally paid the same rate at both the golf course and swimming facilities.

"We've always done it that way," he said.

Next up was Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue who highlighted the payroll adjustments in the new budget.

"Our previous full-time administrative assistant is now part time," she said.

Other budget measures slated for the new year include higher charges for special events and bus excursions.

"We raised the fee for July 4 to offset some costs," she said. "We haven't raised that in a long time."

Revenue from special event bus trips, estimated at \$60,000 for this year, are budgeted at \$90,000 for FY 22/23.

"It would generate revenue if we can do bus trips safely," she said. "We haven't been able to do them in a year."

Other proposed price hikes include a \$10 increase for Camp Ocean Pines.

"It's been four to five years since the last raise," she said.

Shifting gears, Marian Manager Ron Fisher presented budget projections for slip rentals and fuel sales.

"I tried to be conservative on fuel sales," he said.

Fisher said Mother Nature also dampened fuel sales this past season.

"This year we had 57 days with small craft advisories," he said.

Of that number, Fisher said 14 occurred during weekends, including Memorial Day.

Director Amy Peck questioned the absence of higher rates for boat slip rentals and inquired about the number of people currently on the wait list for slips.

Fisher estimated 76 boat owners were on standby for slips.

"We did increase 4 percent last year, but we didn't want to again," he said. "We don't offer the same amenities as other marinas."

Based on the number of interested parties, Peck suggested that a price hike could be absorbed by users.

"I think we could bump up our rates and still sell every slip easily," she said.

The possibility of renovating mailbox clusters was discussed during the Public Works budget presentation.

Committee Chairman Dick Keiling said the issue is of prime importance.

"I would prioritize those mailboxes that are most visible ... some are hor-

rendous looking," he said.

Viola noted the high cost for replacing concrete pads associated with mailbox clusters.

"If you want to start doing this, it's a lot of money," he said. "We can go in and repair the worst examples."

Perrone said after recently contacting state officials to inquire if the U.S. Post Office would foot the bill, it appears the association is solely responsible.

Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook reviewed proposed rate hikes for pools.

"It was my recommendation that we make a change in the daily fees for both residents and nonresidents," she said.

Cook said daily-use fees have been stagnant since 2012.

"I'm also proposing that we begin to charge children from 1 to 4," she said. "They have to count in my capacity numbers. However, I don't generate any revenue."

Perrone said the price inclusion for tykes was a bad idea.

"This is not going to be received well by the community," he said.

Perrone suggested charging more for nonresidents.

Cook said bumping up charges for nonresidents would not appreciably increase revenue.

"When I break down the data ... it's like 4 percent of people that aren't residents," she said.

Berlin shuts Town Hall, meetings go virtual from covid

(Jan. 13, 2022) In response to Gov. Larry Hogan's Jan. 4, Declaration of a State of Emergency, Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall has directed Town Hall, the Planning Department and the Visitor Center to close or remain closed to the public until at least Feb. 3, and for public meetings of the mayor and council and boards or commissions to begin meeting virtually.

While the Planning Department and Visitor Center have remained open to the public during regular business hours, Town Hall has been open to the public only on Wednesdays since late November.

Tyndall said several Town Hall employees had tested positive for covid-19 and, out of concern for staff, residents and business owners, Town Hall was closed to the public with the intent to review that decision following the New Year holiday.

In the meantime, to ensure the daily operations of the town continue, Town Hall, the Planning Department and the Visitor Center will be closed to the public for the next 30 days.

Staff will report for work as nor-

See HOGAN Page 7

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OP Bylaws examines candidate rule tweaks

Proposed changes would require board review, with final referendum approval

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Amending governing documents to clarify election eligibility requirements for candidates for the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors was the focus of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee meeting last Friday.

Committee member Steve Jacobs reviewed possible amendments to bylaws section 5.02 concerning candidate requirements, and said the changes were drafted in conjunction with committee member Keith Kaiser. He said the changes attempt to resolve conflicts in the declaration of restrictions and association charter rules for board elections.

"It struck us as worthwhile to have this be the principal section to refer to," he said.

In addition to proposed revisions to section 5.02, Kaiser took lead on drafting a revised board candidate registration form.

"We were trying to find a way to address the whole list of things that people we're bringing forward as considerations for board candidacy," he said.

The proposals include amending section 5.02a to specify that candidates be listed as property owner on Worcester County land records and Maryland Department of Assessment taxation rolls.

Committee Chairman Jim Trummel said current bylaws provisions do not reference county land records.

Other language additions would restrict board candidacy of members whose property is owned by a corporation, LLC or partnership.

Jacobs said the matter warrants review by legal counsel.

Further additions include language to address the process for disqualification of board candidates.



Keith Kaiser

Jacobs said the intent is for the association secretary, who oversees candidate applications, to inform the board of any controversial issues that arise during the election process.

"It gives the candidate the ability for notice and comment," he said.

Committee member Lora Pangratz questioned the wisdom of assigning sole responsibility for candidacy matters to the secretary, proposing at least two board members investigate any issues pertaining to disqualification

"It's putting a lot of responsibility on one person," she said.

Trummel recommended drafting bylaws language requiring current

board members running for re-election to recuse from voting on motions for disqualification of fellow candidates.

All committee members concurred on the suggestion.

Trummel also recommended deleting the term "owner of record" from bylaws language, suggesting to reference "member" for candidate rules.

"Member is used throughout the bylaws," he said.

Turning to the revised candidate application form, Kaiser said the goal is to provide a more thorough registration procedure that lightens the secretary's task list.

"For the property ownership issue ... it would state if your name is not on the deed, it's your responsibility to provide documentation to ... prove

that you are owner," he said. "It puts it on the candidate and not on secretary to figure it out."

Jacobs said the proposed revisions reflect most of the suggested changes that arose out of the lawsuit brought by Rick Farr after he was disqualified in mid-campaign during the 2021 election.

"If this was in the bylaws and had been followed some of the controversy could have been avoided," he said.

The bylaws revisions will be forwarded to OPA Attorney Jeremy Tucker for review prior to the next board meeting on Jan. 22. Any changes to bylaws provisions would require a majority vote of residents through a referendum.

The next Bylaws Committee virtual meeting is Jan 21 at 1 p.m.

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Hogan declares state emergency

Continued from Page 6
mal and no other services, such as trash or recycling collection, will be affected. The town offers online bill payment and drop boxes are located at the corner of Bay and William Street on the building, and by the stair tower off the parking area between Bay and Pitts streets.

Virtual access to public meetings is available through the town's website at berlinmd.gov or via @townofberlinmd on Facebook.

Anyone with any questions, should contact Town Hall at 410-641-2770.

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Ocean City blood drive searching for donors

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) The Blood Bank of Delmarva returns to the Roland E. Powell Convention Center on 40th Street for the 23rd annual Ocean City Blood Drive, Jan. 18-20.

The yearly January blood drive is crucial for the Delaware-based regional blood bank as it works to replenish inventory during the slowest time of the year.

“The Ocean City blood drive is our biggest and best blood drive by far ... nothing else comes close,” said BBD spokesman Tony Prado. “We do it in January, in the middle of National Blood Donor Month, (which) is meant to raise awareness in winter when people are hibernating, busy traveling, busy with the holidays. Donating blood is the last thing on their mind. Ocean City has just been a phenomenal place to hold a blood drive in the middle of the winter.”

The timing is especially significant right now because the blood bank is currently far below the inventory numbers it strives to maintain.

At any given time, the blood bank ideally has seven days’ worth of blood in its inventory, Prado said. Right now, the average spanning all blood types is about 3.3 days.

O-positive, the most in-demand, is at 1.8 days; O-negative, or universal

donor blood, is at 1.3 days, A-positive, which is very common, is at 3.6 days; and B-negative is at 3.3 days, Prado said.

“Appointments are lower than expected. We need more donors to make appointments as our local patients are depending on us,” BBD Director of Donor Recruitment Marie Forrestal stated in a press release.

Prado added that, fortunately, Ocean City has typically been an ideal partner for the blood bank.

“The good news about this blood drive is Ocean City just tends to be a phenomenal experience for us. We love going there, the town is great and they’re always supporting us,” he added.

Typically, the blood drive has been facilitated over two days but in recent covid-impacted times, organizers decided to spread it out over three days.

As of Tuesday, scores of appointments for all three days were still available.

“We don’t regret spreading things out three days,” Prado said. “(We can) maintain social distancing with omicron throwing us a curveball. It gives time for our staff to clean, sanitize, et cetera, after every donor.”

“And it is safe for people to donate,” Prado continued. “We don’t ask people to make an appointment



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean City resident Maia Miculinic donated blood last January at the Ocean City Blood Drive at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center on 40th Street. A total of 630 people signed up for the three-day Ocean City Blood Drive. The 2022 event is scheduled for Jan. 18-20.

unless they’re feeling healthy and well. No cold-like symptoms. A fever is a deal-breaker.”

Prado said the blood bank is looking to replicate last year’s success in which it set a record with 685 donors producing 738 units of blood. It easily surpassed record-setting 2020 total by 120 units.

The Blood Bank of Delmarva Ocean City Blood Drive’s hours will

be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Wednesday and Thursday.

Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. There is no age limit. Donors will receive a “Cruising OC for blood” T-shirt.

Visit <https://www.delmarvablood.org/give-blood/ocean-city-blood-drive> for more information.

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Farr wins lawsuit for Pines board election

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Rick Farr, the previously disqualified candidate for the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, was vindicated last week in a Worcester County Circuit Court finding that current board leadership acted improperly to block his campaign.

Visiting Judge Sidney Campen of Talbot County issued his opinion Wednesday, and ordered the association to appoint Farr and Frank Daly, who finished second to Farr in the 2021 board contest, to fill the two open seats.

Speaking on Thursday, Farr expressed mixed emotions: joyous in victory, but saddened to have fought the battle.

“The actions of the majority of this board split our community and pitted resident against resident and that is truly unfortunate,” he said. “Although this produced a victory for me personally, the negative impact on our community is disheartening.”

Farr was declared ineligible to run on July 27, even though now former Ocean Pines Board member and Secretary Camilla Rogers certified Farr’s candidacy on May 11. An “anonymous tip,” however, suggested that Farr was not a property owner at the qualification deadline of Jan. 1.

Since 2000, Farr has been a designated beneficiary and equitable mem-

ber of the Farr Living Trust, the legal owner of the property purchased by his parents in 1999.

In October, after months of delay, Campen ordered the association to count all the ballots cast, which revealed Farr led the pack with 1,629 votes, followed by Frank Daly with 1,571, Stuart Lakerick with 1,511 and David Hardy with 941.

“Despite the unauthorized efforts of the current board members to influence the outcome of the election, both during and after the final ballots were collected, the Ocean Pines voters have spoken,” Campen wrote.

The court ruled that Farr was an equitable property owner in Ocean Pines and at all relevant times was a qualified candidate.

“It is in the best interest of the OPA that election results stand, and the two winners appointed at the next regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors,” he said.

Speaking on Thursday, Farr’s attorney, Bruce Bright, said, “We are very pleased with the court’s thorough and well-reasoned ruling, which settles all issues in the case.”

Bright said the court rejected the full range of the board’s arguments.



Rick Farr

“Including its attempt to insulate the board’s wrongful decision-making within the so-called ‘Business Judgment Rule,’” he said.

Ocean Pines attorney Anthony Dwyer had argued that Maryland abides by the doctrine of judicial non-intervention in matters involving the internal affairs of a homeowner’s association.

But Campen noted the business judgment rule does not apply in instances that suggest the possibility of self-dealing and unconscionable conduct.

“The general rule under Maryland law is that decisions made by a homeowner’s association’s board of directors will not be disturbed unless there is a showing of ‘fraud or bad faith,’” he said.

Campen said OPA board leadership claimed the election actions were legitimate, based on the advice of counsel

and consistent with the by-laws.

“OPA maintains that regardless of the correctness of the Board Secretary’s interpretations, the rule of non-intervention constrains the court from substituting its judgment,” he said. “The court does not agree.”

Campen cited prior court rulings that found if an organization acts inconsistently with its own rules, those moves could be deemed sufficiently arbitrary to invite judicial review.

“Minimizing judicial involvement in private organizations does not mean that members have no guarantee of procedural fairness,” he said. “The decision to derail the election mid-stream with Mr. Farr already on the ballot ... deprived [him] the opportunity to campaign, and disenfranchised OPA members.”

See FARR Page 10

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market recently recognized its merchants, artisans, volunteers and community partners with achievement awards.

Ocean Pines farmers market presents awards

Merchants, volunteers, artisans and community partners earn recognition

(Jan. 13, 2022) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market recognized its merchants, artisans, volun-

teers and community partners during the 2022 Achievement Awards, held at the marketplace on Saturday.

"We are excited to celebrate this outstanding group of 2022 winners," Market Manager David Bean said.

Honorees included Parker Place owner Anne Taylor, who was named

Marketplace Merchant of the Year. Taylor features upcycled rugs made from recycled plastics, along with other home products.

Calm Coast Boutique was named Artisan of the Year. Boutique owner Jamie Millhoff creates unique hand painted artwork and jewelry.

"It was so nice to be honored for doing something that I truly love," Millhoff said.

Del Vecchio's Bakery was named Green Market Merchant of the Year. During the pandemic shutdown, owner and baker John Del Vecchio made several trips to his Snow Hill bakery during each market day to restock his Ocean Pines market stand to make sure his customers could have the comforts of his baked goods while sheltering at home.

Cove Craft and Treasures was also honored with Peddler Merchant of the Year. Owners Ruth and Gary White offer estate sale sterling silver jewelry to shoppers.

"This is so exciting. We are so honored! We have never been nominated for anything," Ruth White said. "We so love our OP Farmers & Artisans Market Family and look forward to another great year."

The market also recognized three

participants with Legacy Honors. The awards are given for commitment through service and leadership to the Ocean Pines marketplace.

Those honored included the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department for its participation as a community partner; greengrocer D. J. David & Company, recognized for 10 years of continuous participation at the market; and John Chandler, assistant market manager, for his outstanding contribution to market leadership.

Also recognized were Janice Curtis, Educational Programming; Terry Jordan of Longridge Gardens, Storefront Presentation; the Jessie Klump Memorial Fund, Community Corner Partner of the Year; Brightman Farm, Outstanding Social Media Promotion; and Janine Dufrene of Amish Friendship Breads, the 2022 Inspiration Award.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, through February. In-season hours return in March, with the market open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>.

Farr on board following lawsuit

Continued from Page 9

Farr said the court ruling validates his decision to pursue a legal remedy.

"The (Board President Larry) Perrone majority's decision-making in the election matters lacked good faith and they were called out by the judge in his ruling," he said.

Campen was unequivocal in his written opinion.

"The OPA directors have not acted in the best interest of the Association, in the view of the court," he said.

Bright said in accordance with court directives, Farr should be formally recognized as a board member immediately.

"Rick is ready to get on with serving the OPA membership as a duly-elected board member and to work construc-

tively with the rest of the board to get important work done," he said. "Hopefully the other board members will be like-minded."

Bright said further litigating the matter through an appeal by the board would be wasteful and counter-productive.

For his part, Farr is ready to put the legal haranguing in the rearview mirror.

"I believe that it is time for the community to heal and the board to work hard for the best interest of the Ocean Pines community and not for their self-interest," he said.

Association leadership was unable to be reached for comment.

Ocean Pines officials scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday (after press deadline) where Farr is anticipated to be seated on the board.



OPEN HOUSES

January 13 - January 20



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Sat., 10am-1pm	4 74th St #502, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$484,900	PO2 Team/Hileman
Sat., 11am-1pm	10002 Coastal Hwy #205, Ocean City	1BR/1.5BA	Condo	\$375,000	PO2 Team/Hileman

SDMS mourns longtime band, music teacher

Peter 'Pete' Mundrick began working at school in 1998 and leaves 'lasting imprint'

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Jan. 13, 2022) Students and staff at Stephen Decatur Middle School are mourning the loss of one of their own.

On Jan. 5, news began circulating that Peter Mundrick, 48, the school's band, orchestra, general music and tech ed teacher, had passed away.

"Today, we mourn an incredible loss in our school community," Principal Lynne Barton said in an emailed

statement Jan. 6. "The unexpected passing of Peter "Pete" Mundrick has devastated us all. Mr. Mundrick has been a guiding light for our band program, and he has left a lasting imprint on so many students both currently in our school and those who have carried his lessons along with them as they progressed into their futures."



Peter Mundrick

Mundrick began his career at SDMS in 1998, shortly after the current school opened. He graduated from West Chester University in

Pennsylvania, with a bachelor of science in music education, a major in saxophone, and minors in bassoon, voice and piano. He lived in Wicomico County.

In 2015, he was nominated for Worcester County Teacher of the Year. According to his profile submitted at the time, he was passionate about creating a classroom atmosphere where students felt safe exploring musical talents.

Barton added that the students and staff at the school will feel the impact of Mundrick's loss for a long time.

"Our main focus right now is to help our students and staff cope with this loss, assisting his family in any way we are able, and remembering Mr. Mundrick as our band director and educator, who was well-loved for

his dedication to his students — both past and present — at Stephen Decatur Middle School," she said.

Superintendent Lou Taylor also paid his respects to Mundrick in an emailed statement Jan. 6.

"We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Stephen Decatur Middle School's (SDMS) teacher and band director Peter Mundrick," he said. "It's always painful when we experience a loss in our school system community, and we will support Mr. Mundrick's family and the students and staff at SDMS however we are able through this time of mourning."

Carrie Sterrs, the coordinator of public relations and special programs at WCPS, said in an email that district officials are discussing options for a potential commemoration for Mundrick.

Mediacom offering \$60K in scholarship funds to seniors

(Jan. 13, 2022) Mediacom Communications is offering \$60,000 in scholarship support for high school seniors who plan to obtain further education.

The scholarship program is in its 21st consecutive year and Mediacom's investment will award \$1,000 World Class Scholarships to 60 high school seniors.

Scholarship recipients are given the flexibility to use the financial awards to support post-secondary college costs or vocational training from an accredited institution starting in the fall of 2022. Award selection is based on academic achievement and leadership.

Applications for Mediacom's World Class Scholarships are available online: mediacomworldclass.com. Information recently was sent to all high schools in areas where Mediacom de-

livers its high-speed internet services. School officials are asked to encourage seniors to submit applications on or before the Feb. 15 deadline.

"Our company makes it a priority to give back to communities in which we do business, and we believe one of the best ways is to invest in promising young students who will be our future leaders," said Mediacom Regional Vice President Doug Frank.

Applicants do not have to be Mediacom customers but must live in areas where Mediacom's broadband service is provided. Recipients will be selected from the 22 states where Mediacom's residential customers reside. A complete list of communities in Mediacom service areas is included with the online application. Inquiries may be sent to scholarship@mediacomcc.com.

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The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines recently announced annual donations of \$5,800 to several Ocean Pines departments and community groups. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OP Craft Club announces annual donations

(Jan. 13, 2022) The Pine'er Craft Club of Ocean Pines recently announced annual donations of \$5,800 to several Ocean Pines departments and community groups.

Since forming in 1974, the club has given more than \$175,000 to the Ocean Pines community.

This year, Club President Sharon Puser said funds were distributed to the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks, Police and Public Works departments, along with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Ocean Pines Library, Neighborhood Watch, and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

Puser said profits from craft fairs and from the Artisan Gift Shop went toward the donations.

Additional money was raised this year during "Desserts in the Park" events that coincided with summer "Concerts in the Park."

"This was the first time we tried that, and that went over well. Our members baked, and then we sold the goodies at the concerts," Puser said, adding the events would continue next summer.

"The purpose of our club is basically to give back to the community," Puser continued. "Through our creativity – making crafts and selling

crafts – it means a lot to us to be able to support our local groups."

During a recent holiday and installation luncheon, Puser said a new club member was surprised to find out how much the group has donated.

"She said, 'Now I'm even more proud to be a member!'" Puser said. "She knew we gave money back, but she never realized how much it was in total."

Puser said the club is always looking for new members. Regular Pine'er Craft Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 10 a.m. in the community center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

"People can come in any time, and we love to have new members come and help us," she said. "For January, we're doing a project for Meals on Wheels, so we would love to have some extra help."

The Artisan Gift Shop, in White Horse Park next to the Farmer's Market and across from the Administration Building on 239 Ocean Parkway, is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the shop or the Pine'er Craft Club, contact Puser at 410-208-3032 or opcraftclub@aol.com.

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Dress Ministry of the Eastern Shore (formerly Pillowcase Ministry) collaborated with Jewish Family Services of Wilmington, Delaware, to provide needed goods to Afghan refugee families. Pictured are Dress Ministry Director Barbara Entwistle, left, with Judy Davis, publicity chairperson. Donations included 161 handmade hats, 28 blankets, 51 sleep mats, 198 shower kits and 24 sweatshirts. PHOTO COURTESY JUDY DAVIS

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ARTIST VISITS

Local artist Laura Jenkins recently visited Worcester Preparatory School to give a two-day Plein Air presentation to fifth grade students. She also helped students create a water color painting in the school's garden. (Left) Lily Barker is pictured painting in the garden. (Right) Jenkins is joined by Lisa Rill's fifth grade class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FEATURED CRAFTER

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines announced Barbara Stilwell as the January Crafter of the Month. Stilwell and her family moved to Ocean Pines from Milltown, New Jersey, in 2003. Twenty-five years ago she taught herself to crochet, when she made a baby afghan for her first grandson. Eight grandchildren later, she is still crocheting. Her latest creations are rectangular granny square afghans with interesting color combinations. She also enjoys making different types of jewelry, including earrings, bracelets and anklets, as well as eyeglass holders. She has also started making mask holders. View Stilwell's crafts at the Pine'eer Craft shop in White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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Opinion

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

Paid fire department will happen eventually

Ocean Pines, like many communities in this and other areas, might as well accept the idea and prepare for the eventuality of an all-paid fire and rescue service.

Unless towns and communities revert to a way of thinking that has faded over the last 20 years, it's going to happen at some point, as the number of people willing to commit to volunteer service is dwindling.

This isn't a problem specific to Ocean Pines, it's a national situation for a variety of reasons, including the continuing disappearance of small-town culture.

The sense of community that made joining the local volunteer company a matter of tradition and pride isn't what it used to be, as fewer people work where they live and fewer of their children remain in their hometowns once they come of age.

Homeowners associations face the same situation, except many of them haven't existed long enough to benefit from the generational tradition that once provided towns and villages a steady supply of new volunteers.

Volunteer recruiting and retention efforts are further hampered by the time and training requirements. Time was, a volunteer could get a few hours of training, put on the gear and learn on the job. Now, recruits must take hundreds of hours of training because of state and federal safety regulations, and then remain up to speed throughout their service.

Having to split time between fire company responsibilities and other commitments also causes prospective recruits to shy away, or leave a department when life circumstances change.

Being a volunteer may be rewarding, but it isn't easy, and it seems fewer people are willing to give up their time in exchange for a such a demanding challenge. It's also doubtful that the people who benefit from these services understand or appreciate what volunteers must do and how much money they save the public.

They're going to find out one of these days, and they're not going to like it. But it's going to happen, like it or not.



"Larry, I couldn't even get a volunteer to take down the VOLUNTEER signage!"

©Jim Aronoff
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Carlson Scholarship for WP students

Open to 9th graders; will cover tuition for four years of school

(Jan. 13, 2022) Worcester Preparatory School is currently accepting applicants for the Sara Chase Carlson Scholarship for students entering the ninth grade in September 2022.

A student will have the opportunity to join the WPS community, which is recognized for its high academic standards, small classes, individual attention and strong sense of community.

A need-based, four-year high school scholarship cov-

ering tuition is available for a new student – a value of more than \$64,000 over four years.

A recent graduate, Damiana Colley, achieved the Sara Chase Carlson Scholarship and joined the school in the ninth grade. Upon graduating in May of 2020, Colley moved on to attend the University of Maryland.

"I was looking to this scholarship as a way for me to prepare for the future," she said at that time. "Winning the scholarship was so great for me. It has given me so many opportunities and experiences that I wouldn't have had elsewhere. I've been exposed to so many dif-

ferent and unique things because of it. It's let me pursue my art much further than I ever expected."

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- new student entering the ninth grade
- strong academic ability
- strength in the arts and/or technology
- demonstrated financial need

Application deadline is Feb. 5, 2022. For more information about the Sara Chase Carlson Scholarship, contact the WPS Admissions Office at 410-641-3575 or email admissions@worcesterprep.org.

Drop off Christmas trees until Jan. 15

(Jan. 13, 2022) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County Public Works will host its annual collection of Christmas trees through Jan. 15.

Area residents can drop off Christmas trees at the Central Landfill in Newark

and the Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill Homeowners Convenience Centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that sold trees will not be permitted to drop off trees at the convenience centers, but may take them to

the Central Landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

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

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842
Phone: 410-723-6397 / Fax: 410-723-6511.

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Have an opinion?

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

'Disney's Frozen, Jr.' performed Jan. 14-15

(Jan. 13, 2022) The Ocean Pines Children's Theater announces its upcoming production of the musical, "Disney's Frozen, Jr.," in January.

The production will take place in the Performing Arts Center, located in the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 15 at 3 p.m.

Based on the Oscar-winning film, the stage adaptation of "Frozen" opened on Broadway in 2018, earning three Tony award nominations, including best musical.

Unfortunately, in May 2020, after 825 performances, the decision was reached to suspend further Broadway performances of "Frozen" due to the

covid-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of 2021, the show has been on the road, again captivating audiences across the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia. The Ocean Pines Children's Theater is proud to offer audiences yet another opportunity to see this magical show.

"I am so proud of the 16 talented and hard-working young people in our cast, and of course incredibly grateful to our

wonderful artistic directors and production crew," said Paulette DeRosa-Matrona, director/choreographer and president of the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. "Everyone is so excited to be a part of this. I'm particularly honored to represent one of the theater groups performing this enchanting modern Disney classic, and I encourage all to come out and experience its magic. Help us truly celebrate Elsa and Anna's

song, 'For the First Time in Forever.'"

Tickets can be purchased through ticketmaster.com, or in person at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 40th Street, bay-side.

The Children's Theater acknowledges and is grateful for special funding awarded by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Worcester County Arts Council.

"Disney's Frozen Jr." is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

'I am so proud of the 16 talented and hard-working young people in our cast...'

Paulette DeRosa-Matrona, director/choreographer and president of the Ocean Pines Children's Theater

Wor. Prep students achieve \$1K goal; funds to WYFCS

(Jan. 13, 2022) A group of Worcester Preparatory School students raised \$1,000 in just four days to benefit the Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services.

Siblings, Dylan and Hunter Simons, along with Jayden and Dillon Scopp, teamed up to create a fundraiser on the GoFundMe website to raise money for WYFCS this holiday season.

The students are focusing on facilitating positive outcomes for kids in need. It is their wish to provide the local youth a place to feel safe, and also have fun.

The goal is to raise funds to create a grand and dynamic space for children by supplying them with smart TVs, video gaming system, and other kid-friendly games at the WYFCS facility in Berlin.

"Everyone should feel special and loved especially during this holiday season," Hunter Simons said.

Although the fundraiser has met the goal of \$1,000, it is still open for donations. The money raised will go directly to WYFCS where any donation makes an impact.

The Simons and Scopp families are asking anyone able to chip in to help make the facility a happier, and more stimulating environment for local youth.

"We hope other kids will want to join us, and giving back will become contagious," Dylan Simons said.

To donate, visit <https://gofund.me/bo8c67eb>.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving the community since 1975. Through programs that include comprehensive mental health counseling, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), youth mentoring, family resource navigation, and youth camps and groups, WYFCS is increasing awareness about mental health, advocating for abused and neglected children, providing community resources and education, with the goal to make a difference in the lives of the people in the community.

The Simons brothers also founded the Only Positive Stories organization. For more information about Only Positive Stories, visit www.onlypositivestories.com.



Worcester Preparatory School students, from left, Dillon Scopp, Dylan Simons, Jayden Scopp and Hunter Simons, raised \$1,000 in just four days to benefit the Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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Cuisine

Roasting clams in combi-oven successful

Whether it's at my "real job" teaching culinary at Wor-Wic Community College, or at one of my restaurants, I am always in a mode of research and development.

There is no rest for the weary, and as Robert Strauss so famously noted, "Success is a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

you're tired. You quit when the gorilla is tired."

If anyone in this business quit when they got tired, there would be no workers. It is an exhausting field, period. But I digress. Back to R&D.

If you have ever had the pleasure of working with a combi-oven (combination oven), then you are familiar with its versatility. These tools are part steamer, part convection and a combination of both (hence its moniker). They are invaluable tools, but unduly expensive.

Along comes Anova Culinary, a brand well-known for bringing sous vide immersion circulators to home cooks years ago. They made circulators so affordable that I purchased six of them for the college program.

It cost me half the price of one commercial circulator, and as we are not selling the food, I can use them to train. They are simply a fantastic teaching tool.

Fast forward to this year and I find myself staring at a wonderful combi-oven in my house. These maniacs literally made one for residential cooking. And this thing is insane.

It pulls many duties, such as aforementioned convection, full steamer, both together, air fryer, dehydrator, toaster oven and I'm pretty sure that I'm missing a couple functions.

But the kicker for me is its ability to cook 'sous vide,' which traditionally has been done in water baths.

With the ability to cook food in a tightly sealed chamber with steam injecting into the oven, we now have an oven that is taking untraditional cooking methods and turning them into even less traditional. And the result is breathtaking.

My first dinner in the oven was roasted chicken. In the first stage, the chicken is cooked at 149 degrees with full steam, the temperature slowly cooking the chicken to an internal temperature of 145.4 degrees.



As most of you know, the rule on chicken is to take it to 165 degrees for 15 seconds. Cooking the chicken sous vide takes a little over two hours, so the time allotted will kill any pathogens just as effectively, but it will simply take that much longer. The ending is the same for that rascally salmonella.

But holy smokes, is that chicken a thing of legends. It is incredibly tender and moist, although it is rather pale. Thus starts the second stage, which is a hot roasting to crisp up the skin and add flavor.

To finish off the week, the following evening I cooked a pork loin that rivaled the chicken in how moist it was. I think I'm starting to enjoy cooking again. I could get used to this.

The next day, as I was sitting on a lot of clams from one of my restaurants that has been closed for a week due to modern inconveniences, I gave roasted clams a shot. I set the oven to 400 degrees and steam at 70 percent.

You certainly do not need the steam, as the wine in the recipe provides moisture, but since I was playing around with the new appliance, I figure that it would be wise to learn all its functionality.

It was the proper call, as the clams came out quickly, the chorizo (the pieces not drenched in the wine and butter) crisping up nicely, adding a new layer of flavor to the broth. The wine and butter melded to create a wonderful sauce for dipping a nice piece of baguette and the lemons became very tender, making them very easy to squeeze onto the clams.

All in all, it was incredibly simple and now a part of my combi-oven arsenal. Again, you do not need to use this type of oven. A standard oven at 400 degrees works just fine. But, if you have an interest in playing with new toys in the kitchen, this might not be a bad thing to investigate and invest in. It is time to start having fun in the kitchen again.

Roasted Clams

Serves 4

- 40 ea. Middleneck Clams
- 1 c. Whole, salted butter
- 1 c. White wine
- 2 Lemons, halved
- 1 c. Dry chorizo, diced
- 2 Sprigs fresh thyme
- 1/4 c. Chopped Italian parsley
- 1/2 c. Freshly minced garlic

1. Rinse the clams and set aside

until ready to roast. If you have the foresight, time and patience, soak the clams in salted water (it should taste of the ocean) for six hours. This will allow them to purge sand from their systems.

2. Combine everything else in a roasting pan. Cut the butter into small pieces so as to expedite its melting.

3. Preheat an oven to 400F, and top your concoction with the clams, ensuring that they are in a single layer.

4. Depending on your oven (conventional or convection), roast the clams for about 12 minutes, or until they have all popped open. Once one starts, the rest should pop open fairly quickly.

5. When the clams have opened, divide them and then cover with the sauce in the pan. The clam juices will blend beautifully in the dish.

6. Serve with a chilled, crisp white wine such as a Sauvignon Blanc or a steel-aged Chardonnay.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40 and boxcar on main. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com; www.boxcaronmain.com

Calendar

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

Thurs., Jan. 13

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR RECREATION & PARKS MIDNIGHTER

Northside Park Recreation Complex, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Held Jan 15, 6 p.m. to midnight. Featuring Gladiator Dodgeball, Laser-Tag, bowling and food. For grades 5th and 6th. Cost is \$38 for Ocean City residents and \$46 for non-residents. Register by Jan 13. 410-250-0125

STORY TIME 'AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT HERVE TULLET'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

INTERACTIVE MUSIC & MOVEMENT: JAMMING W/MR. JAKE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Great, silly songs with Mr. Jake and his guitar. Join in with some simple instruments for all to use. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

TAI CHI

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This 3-week class (Jan. 13, 20, 27) on Shibashi, a Qigong practice, is easy to follow for beginners interested in Tai Chi. Reduces stress, anxiety and high blood pressure. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PFIZER COVID VACCINE CLINIC

Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. This clinic is available for those ages 5 years and older. Register: www.agh.care/vaccine. 410-702-4539

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

BEACH SINGLES

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or Beachsingles.org

Fri., Jan. 14

47TH EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. General admission is \$15 per day, \$25 for two day and \$30 for three

days. Headquarters hotel is Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel, 800-638-2100. 410-216-6610, www.marylandwatermen.com.

CREATIVE UPCYCLE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Hands-on exploration into making something old into something new with local artisan Denise Wagner. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or 410-957-0878.

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'GOOD OMENS' BY NEIL GAIMAN AND TERRY PRATCHETT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Kelley Rouse and Nancy Mitchell of Salisbury University. Books are available at the Ocean Pines branch. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

IN 3D!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2:30 p.m. Join the group for a classic 50's creature feature in glorious 3D. Limited to 20 participants. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6:30 p.m. One crab cake sandwich platter includes green beans, baked potato and cole slaw for a cost of \$14. Two crab cake sandwich platter for \$24 and one crab cake sandwich for \$10. Bake sale table available. 410-641-1137

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTIONS

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists and see the new exhibits. Masks are required indoors. Free and open to the public. Two satellite locations: Coffee Beanery and Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort. 410-524-9433

BINGO FOR BABIES

Ocean City Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Play every game for \$24. Refreshments are available as are pull tabs and 50/50 games. Proceeds will be dedicated to the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin. 410-524-7994

'DISNEY'S FROZEN, JR.' PERFORMANCE

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Featuring the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. Tickets: Ticketmaster.com or at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

RSVP DEADLINE FOR EDUCATION ADVOCACY MEETING

Meeting held via Zoom on Jan. 19 from 10-11:30 a.m. The topic will be education and special education. Speakers include Kimberly McArdle, Jessica Tawes and Gray Jack. RSVP: <https://forms.gle/yrov6o6q4tUJ3CJRA> by Jan. 14.

Sat., Jan. 15

VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

There will be a short presentation by an AGH provider on the hospital's Facebook page, 9 a.m. Walk and share your selfie on social media with #walkedwithagh. Tina Simmons, tsimmons@atlanticgeneral.org.

47TH EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. General admission is \$15 per day, \$25 for two day and \$30 for three days. Headquarters hotel is Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel, 800-638-2100. 410-216-6610, www.marylandwatermen.com.

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A collection of many art forms from metals to canvas to fiber. Cost is \$3 per day or \$5 for both days. Susan Childs, 443-235-2926, schilds2@verizon.net, www.delmarvaartexpo.com.

ANDRIOD AND KINDLE BASICS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your questions and your Kindle or Android device. www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER DRIVE THRU

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7348 New Hope Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Menu includes mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, roll and dessert. Cost is \$14 for adults. 410-543-8244, 443-235-0251.

'DISNEY'S FROZEN, JR.' PERFORMANCE

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 3 p.m. Featuring the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. Tickets: Ticketmaster.com or at the Ocean City Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 16

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. A collection of many art forms from metals to canvas to fiber. Cost is \$3 per day or \$5 for both days. Susan Childs, 443-235-2926, schilds2@verizon.net, www.delmarvaartexpo.com.

47TH EAST COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S & AQUACULTURE TRADE EXPOSITION

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. General admission is \$15 per day, \$25 for two day and \$30 for three days. Headquarters hotel is Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel, 800-638-2100. 410-216-6610, www.marylandwatermen.com.

Mon., Jan. 17

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEETING

Meeting held via Zoom, 10 a.m. Speaker is Delegate Sherry Sample-Hughes. Meeting ID: 849 4544 0089. Passcode: DWC.

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

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a health lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157.

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

Tues., Jan. 18

OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are preferred. Sign up online here: smar-turl.it/BBD_OCMD22 or call 888-825-6638 to schedule an appointment.

STORY TIME 'PIGS WALLOW'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'ALPHABET'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m.
Continued on Page 20

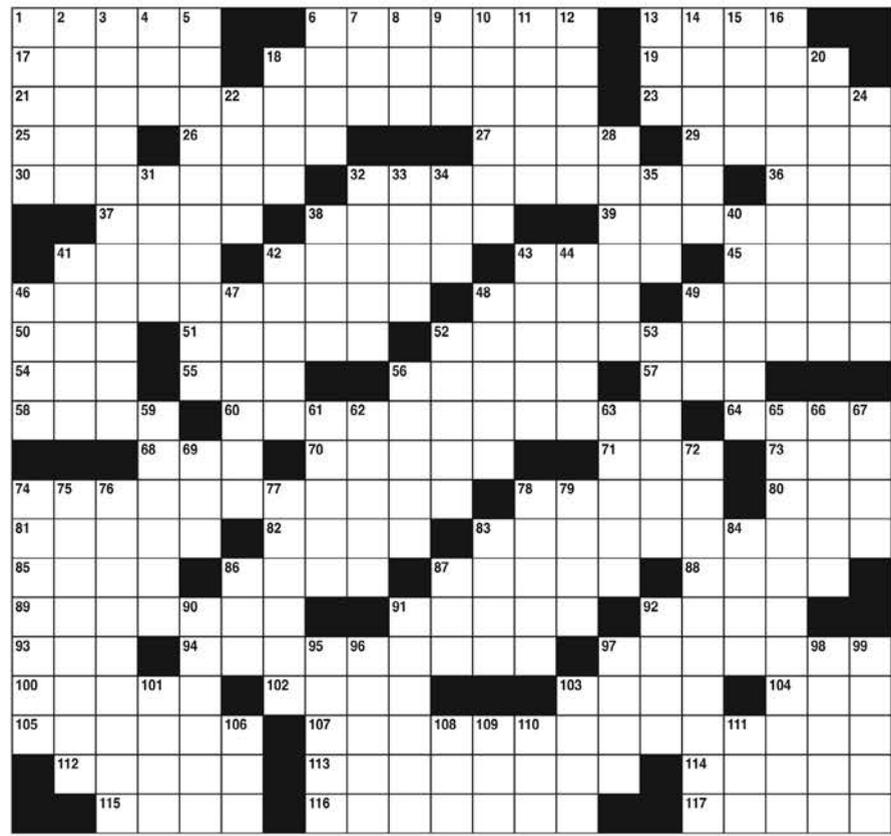
Puzzles

COLOR MIXING

BY PAOLO PASCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Paolo Pasco, of San Diego, is a senior at Harvard studying computer science. He sold his first crossword to The Times when he was 15. This is his 22nd puzzle for the paper. He wrote a program to help him find examples of its theme. He isn't sure about his plans after graduation. "I'm just counting on someone to read this blurb and think, Now there's a guy I want to offer a job to!" — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Game option represented by a flat palm
 - 6 Singer with the 2016 No. 1 album "A Seat at the Table"
 - 13 Disney queen
 - 17 Not clash
 - 18 Front lines?
 - 19 Said without saying
 - 21 CERISE + LAVENDER = certain baby animals
 - 23 God sometimes depicted with green skin
 - 25 State in which "Parks & Recreation" is set: Abbr.
 - 26 Pull some strings, maybe?
 - 27 Clinches
 - 29 Chip away at
 - 30 Employee on an airline or cruise ship
 - 32 CORAL + GOLD = pet-store purchase
 - 36 Veto
 - 37 ___ stick
 - 38 Quarterback who holds the N.F.L. record for most consecutive games started (297)
 - 39 "You're on!"
 - 41 Train set
 - 42 Tailor, maybe
 - 43 One-named singer with the album "Lovers Rock"
- DOWN**
- 45 Lipstick choice
 - 46 AMBER + GREEN = imported brew
 - 48 Final Fantasy character who shares his name with a U.S. city
 - 49 Sashay, say
 - 50 ___ B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting
 - 51 A bunch
 - 52 PEAR + CRIMSON = fighting group
 - 54 Bottle flipping in the mid-2010s, e.g.
 - 55 Hospital settings, briefly
 - 56 Poster board?
 - 57 Max's opposite
 - 58 Bo or bonsai
 - 60 LIME + MAGENTA = visualization
 - 64 ["You're still talking?"]
 - 68 Subj. of some collegiate bragging
 - 70 Actor Gallagher
 - 71 Go astray
 - 73 "Herc could stop a show/Point him at a monster and you're talking ___" (lyric in Disney's "Hercules")
 - 74 RUST + SCARLET = celestial group
 - 78 Daughter in the comic strip "FoxTrot"
 - 80 Cha chaan teng serving
 - 81 Plot problems
 - 82 Dis-tressed
 - 83 CREAM + PEACH = nonviolent protest
 - 85 Plantings lining the Literary Walk in Central Park
 - 86 Skier's accessory
 - 87 Many an art print, briefly
 - 88 "No injuries here"
 - 89 2019 space film
 - 91 B's in math?
 - 92 Devotee, informally
 - 93 A ways
 - 94 TEAL + OCHER = breakfast option
 - 97 Absolves
 - 100 Fisher of 2018's "Eighth Grade"
 - 102 One towering over the rest of the field?
 - 103 Actress Rooney
 - 104 ___ Giedroyc, co-host of "The Great British Bake Off"
 - 105 Nappy : U.K. :: ___ : U.S.
 - 107 MAUVE + TANGERINE = restaurant handout
 - 112 African antelope
 - 113 Frenzied
 - 114 Goddess who turned Picus into a woodpecker
 - 115 Throws in
 - 116 Unbelievable rumors
 - 117 Takes the edge off
 - 7 Fantasy creature whose name is an anagram of another fantasy creature
 - 8 Rural setting
 - 9 What's the point of leatherwork?
 - 10 Newcomer
 - 11 Artist El ___
 - 12 "The motor industry's Titanic," per a 1994 book
 - 13 Nwodim of "S.N.L."
 - 14 Ne'er-do-wells
 - 15 Keep from sticking, say
 - 16 "Wait for It" singer in "Hamilton"
 - 18 Stave (off)
 - 20 Got ready for guests, in a way
 - 22 Prefix with centric or vision
 - 24 Volleyball teams, e.g.
 - 28 Lost traction while driving over
 - 31 Sinuous dance that emulates a creature
 - 32 3/4 and 7/8, e.g.
 - 33 Done
 - 34 Hound sound
 - 35 Homophone of the sum of this clue number's digits
 - 38 Took off
 - 40 Who says "That I did love thee, Caesar, O, 'tis true"
 - 41 Wood in some incense
 - 42 Bring down
 - 43 Truth ___
 - 44 "Jung at heart" persona?
 - 46 Talent
 - 47 Par for the course



- 48 ___ to go
- 49 Chemistry, for one: Abbr.
- 52 Grinding tooth
- 53 Come out
- 56 High on marijuana, in slang
- 59 Way to go
- 61 Twangy, as a singer
- 62 "Us," "It" or "Her"
- 63 Progressive alternative
- 65 Ones doing stellar work
- 66 Total
- 67 One arranging for flood insurance?
- 69 Parts of many gaming rigs
- 72 Payment sent
- 74 In a bundle, as documents
- 75 Wasn't straight
- 76 Culinary phrase after "pollo" or "scaloppine"
- 77 Vessels hunted by K-ships
- 78 Element in many henna designs
- 79 "I'm in heaven!" sounds
- 83 Doner kebab bread
- 84 Latin 101 word
- 86 For
- 87 Film director ___ Isaac Chung
- 90 "That's it"
- 91 Heavy footwear choice
- 92 Evening in Italy
- 95 Car model name made entirely of Roman numerals
- 96 Novelist Ferrante
- 97 Of the flock
- 98 Cross swords
- 99 Sooty channels
- 101 Modern checkout device
- 103 Diagnostic scans, for short
- 106 Map lines: Abbr.
- 108 Clean-energy grp.
- 109 Stuff in cigarettes, but not e-cigarettes
- 110 "... is there more?"
- 111 Rapper known offstage as Mathangi Arulpragasam

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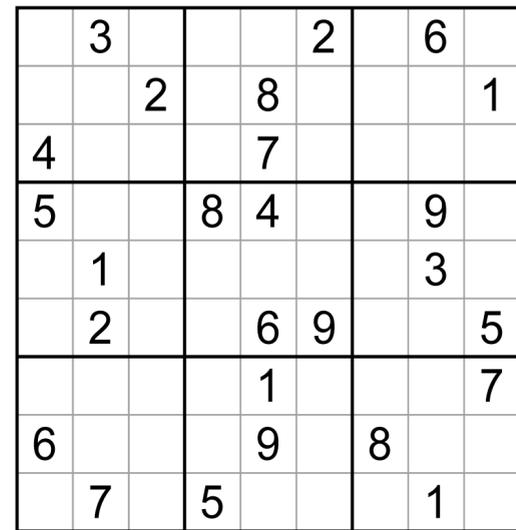
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HARD - 60

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

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



Calendar

Continued from Page 18
ries, songs and games. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will closely examine the short story "Bartley, the Scrivener" by Herman Melville. The group is currently reading selections in Book 2 of Great Conversations. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

DOCUMENTARY: 'I AM MLK JR'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. Cast ranges from history-changing civil rights-era activists to contemporary writers, activists and outspoken celebrities. Each interview provides a unique perspective on Dr. King. 410-632-2600

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 166 MONTHLY MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. The group's mission is to support veterans, active military and their families. Current members and those interested in joining are welcome to attend. 410-289-3166

'SHARED VISION' WRITERS SHARE THEIR INSPIRATION

Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. The Ocean City Writers Group will read their "Shared Vision" work and discuss what inspired them. Free and open to the public. 410-524-9433

DELMARVA DANCING

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Participants show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. delmarvahandance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151

Wed., Jan. 19

OCEAN CITY BLOOD DRIVE

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are preferred. Sign up online here: smarturl.it/BBD_OCMD22 or call 888-825-6638 to schedule an appointment.

STORY TIME 'ANIMALS IN WINTER'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories about animals in winter. For ages 2-5 years.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. 'Jack' Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

RETIREMENT BOOTCAMP: SAVVY SOCIAL SECURITY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Learn how to maximize Social Security benefits, spousal and survivorship, and how they are taxed. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-5 p.m. Drop into the library every Wednesday to receive one-on-one guidance from library staff to strengthen your resume and help with your job search. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: DOUBLE FEATURE!

Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. Discuss L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and Gregory Maguire's "Wicked: The

Life and Time of the Wicked Witch of the West," comparing the two. www.worcesterlibrary.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

VALENTINE DINNER

To be held Jan. 12 from 4-7 p.m. at the Sons of the American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave. N.Y. Strip Steak & Shrimp Dinner with baked potato, vegetable, dessert and complimentary drink. Cost is \$20. Tickets are available at the post or by calling 410-289-3166.

BERLIN RESTAURANT WEEK

Dine three times to win, Jan. 10-16. Pick up a ticket at the Berlin Welcome Center or at a participating restaurant. Dine at three different Berlin restaurants and get your card stamped. Drop your card in the box at the Berlin Welcome Center for a chance to win restaurant gift cards and \$100 cash. berlinmainstreet.com

TINY ART COMPETITION

Pick up a Take & Make Kit from Jan. 3-15 at any Worcester County library branch. Submit your creation by Jan. 17 for judging. Winners will be announced on Jan. 31 and will be eligible to win an art kit. For ages 8-15 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org

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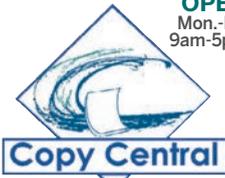
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