



GREG WEHNER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MY NAME IS MUD

An Eastern mud turtle, one of the dozen or so members of that reptilian order that makes this area home, attempts to cross the road at Assateague National Seashore before getting a lift to its (apparent) destination. Mud turtles are prone to wandering in search of food, and can just as easily be found in the woods as they can along a swampy ditch. Growing to no more than five inches long, they can live up to 50 years.

OP financials look strong as year-end nears

Again, revenues outpace forecast, spending down

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) With a month remaining in its current fiscal year, the Ocean Pines Association is beating its budget by roughly \$1.6 million, aided by positive revenue and expense figures for March.

General Manager John Viola and Office Manager Linda Martin reviewed the latest numbers for the board of directors last Wednesday.



Linda Martin

Starting with March balance sheets, Martin said revenues were closing \$124,000 ahead of budget. Revenue for the month had budgeted at approximately \$195,000, but closed out far ahead of that at \$319,000.

Flipping to expenses, Martin reported that the association has spent \$34,000 less than expected, with costs reaching \$891,000 as compared to the \$925,000 that had been budgeted.

Although net operating losses of \$730,000 were forecast for March, the actual numbers ended at \$572,000.

Martin credited monthly revenue increases of \$124,000 in part to a stronger bottom line from amenities, including golf and food sales, while also noting decreased expenses in aquatics.

Viola said operational efficiencies and expense management have helped bolster revenues during the pandemic era.

“Overall, it’s management from this team of expenses throughout the year [and] throughout last year,” he said.

Viola said despite losing revenue related to health-safety mandates fol-

See OP Page 2

Berlin to buy smart water meters

New tech will count usage precisely, eliminating loss of revenue from bad data

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) In an effort to improve the accuracy of water bills, the Berlin Town Council on Monday agreed to spend about three quarter of a million dollars to acquire smart meters.

Water Resources Superintendent Jamey Latchum said a report delivered in February by Jean Holloway, from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc. (SERCAP) in Delaware and eastern Maryland, estimated the town is currently not billing for up to 25 percent of consumers’ usage because of inferior tracking capabilities.

“Right now, we bill per thousand gallons because that’s what our meters read to,” he said.

Following the Holloway report, the council approved purchasing smart meters, with \$1 million earmarked from American Plan Rescue Act funds.

Since that point, Josh Taylor, with engineering consultants Davis, Bowen & Friedel, has teamed with town officials to ascertain meter needs.

“The system needed to be compatible with the town’s meter reading

See NEW Page 2



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OP finances solid with month to go

Continued from Page 1

Following the covid outbreak, those restrictions also cut costs in some instances.

"Sometimes the expenses went down over the year because we had to shut down programs [due to] ... covid ... or we didn't have lifeguards," he said.

In terms of departmental budgets for March, administration, which includes finance, public relations and general manager, led the pack at \$62,400. Also ending March in the black was the Yacht Club at \$35,100,

Public Works at \$29,300 plus Recreation and Parks at \$25,300.

In terms of yearly totals, with only April remaining in FY21-22 the association is operating roughly \$1.6 million ahead of budget estimates.

Leading the charge is Public Works at \$411,000, with Golf Operations at \$328,00, General Administration at \$314,000, Aquatics at \$192,000 and the Yacht Club at \$131,000.

Viola attributed the \$1.6 million budget surplus to strong numbers from amenities, with positive year-

to-date numbers from Recreation and Parks, the Beach Club, Clubhouse Grille, marinas and racquet sports.

"We're talking [up to] \$900,000 for amenities," he said. "That's a big number and hopefully it will continue."

Viola said a large percentage of amenity profits were attributable to food contactor Matt Ortt Companies and better draws at the Ocean Pines Golf Course.

Looking ahead, Viola envisions capturing higher revenues at the Manklin Creek Racquet Sports Center to continue the trend started with food and golf in recent years.

Through March, Racquet Sports is ahead of budget by \$14,200, which ranks it at the bottom of amenities turning a profit.

Viola said with renewed resources being dedicated to spruce up the racquet center, including court surface repairs and new netting, along with expanded pickleball courts under construction, the site could experience higher future returns.

"Now that we're giving them a product that they can sell [and] manage, they're certainly seeing that with the results," he said. "You'll see more with the racquet sports as we go on."

New meters will cure undercount of gallons used

Continued from Page 1

Taylor said vital aspects considered included acquiring lead-free equipment, while also requiring ample warrant coverage.

Latchum said since ARPA funds were being used for the purchase, additional guidelines were included.

"If you're using ARPA money, it had to be American made," he said.

During the background research process, Taylor contacted other municipalities in the region that use smart meters to track consumption.

"We really did a lot of digging," he said.

The feedback steered Taylor toward recommending accepting a bid for \$754,990 from Core & Main to supply Neptune smart meters.

Taylor said both contractor Core & Main and equipment manufacturer Neptune have extensive experience with smart water meter projects of comparable scope.

"The service provided by Neptune and by Core & Main was a big factor in our recommendation," he said.

Taylor said the upgraded meters would permit tracking water usage down to the gallon.

"The 20-25 percent of water not previously billed for would go away," he said. "You will have very accurate meter readings for years to come."

Latchum noted the infrastructure upgrade would also improve wastewater billing.

"We will also recover 25 percent on the wastewater side," he said. "It's double-fold here because all your sewer is billed off your water."

Latchum said a revised rate schedule would be established after smart meters are installed and functional.

Interim Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the revised rate schedule would be set via a council resolution.

Mayor Zack Tyndall noted Holloway's prior caution regarding billing after installing smart meters.

"Jean Holloway recommended six months of having new meters in place to gauge usage," he said.

Holloway stressed the importance of ascertaining if new meters were more accurately tracking water consumption before adjusting rates.

"It will be done in conjunction with SERCAP," he said.

Latchum said smart meter technology would also allow water use to be tracked online.

"They will be getting billed on what they actually use," he said. "In due time, [we] will be able to track

See WATER Page 4



Zack Tyndall

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Viola updates Pines Board regarding pending projects

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola provided updates on amenity improvement projects and infrastructure maintenance during the board of directors' meeting on April 20.

Starting with pickleball courts, Viola said expansion plans were approved by the board last month.

ATC Corporation (formerly American Tennis Courts) was selected to install new courts at the Racquet Sports Center for an estimated cost of \$175,000.

"We have a signed contract and are working on a schedule," he said.

Prior to contractors breaking ground, Viola said Public Works would complete site work by the end of this month at a cost of roughly \$40,000.

On a related note, Viola said two bids were received to repair cracks on the surface of the pickleball courts.

"Cracks on the courts have gotten bigger and they need to be addressed [for] safety ... and ... maintenance," he said.

Viola said staff recommended also awarding the repair work to ACT.

Progress is continuing on the installation of a new kayak launch pier at Pintail Park.

Viola said the work should be completed by the fall of 2023, with costs estimated between \$40,000-\$50,000.

"Staff met with state [officials] on April 6 to review the proposed plans," he said.

Viola said the meeting was to review permit details to assure the project

complied with environmental standards.

"We do have a proposed site and ... are working on getting permits," he said.

Boat launches were also discussed in light of a pending proposal with OC Bay Hopper to provide water-taxi service between the Beach Club and Yacht Club.

"We are in discussions with them and have an agreement," he said.

OC Bay Hopper currently stops for passengers in the resort at 118th Street, 48th Street and downtown by Dorchester Street. Other stops include the West Ocean City Harbor.

One-way passage would cost \$15 and the roundtrip service price would be \$25.

Viola said tentative plans would include adding stops on the bayside across from the Beach Club at 12:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Also drop-offs and pickups at the Yacht Club would be scheduled at 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

"Stops are no longer than 15 minutes to load and unload passengers," he said.

Viola also reported on the schedule for installing T-docks at the Yacht Club.

"T-docks were pushed back slightly ... due to material delays," he said.

The T-dock installation should be completed by the end of June at an estimated cost of \$65,000.

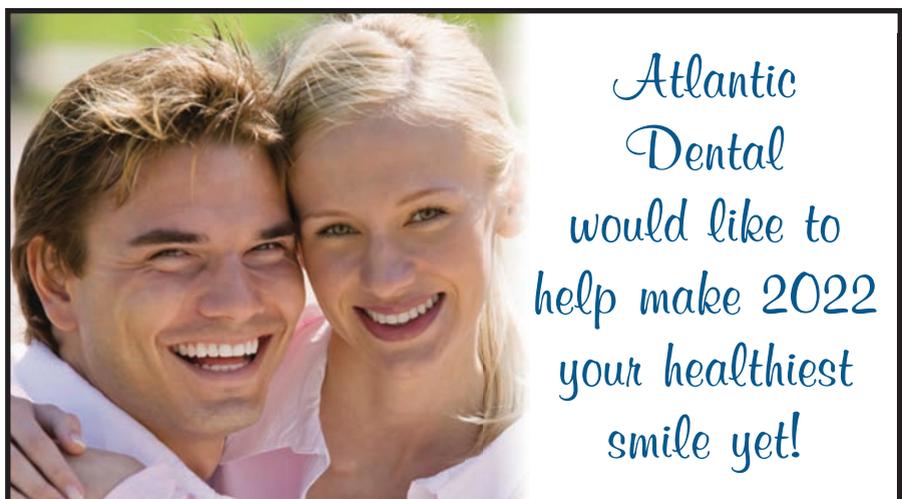
Viola, however, stressed that the water taxi service was not dependent on the T-dock installation.

"Even if we don't have these new T-docks, we have spots where this taxi will pull up," he said.

Assistant Executive Secretary
See MARTIN Page 4



John Viola



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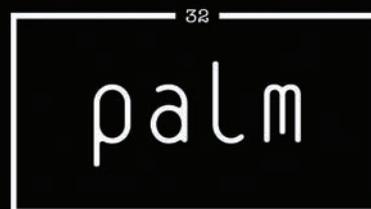


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Deadline for Ocean Pines Golf Club scholarship, Fri.

(April 28, 2022) Members of the Ocean Pines Golf Club and the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council will award several scholarships of \$2,000 or more to 2022 high school graduates in support of their college plans.

The Scholarship Committee of the Golf Members' Council will begin meeting in early May to review scholarship applications. The committee will announce scholarship awards later in May.

"Those who have an application should return it to their school's college guidance office by the April 29 deadline," Scholarship Committee Chairman Bob Long said.

Students seeking an application

may download one online at <https://oceanpines.org//documents/10184/89280/Scholarship+Application+2022.pdf>.

"These scholarships are intended for local students who have shown an interest in golf – active participation in competitive golf is not a requirement," Long said. "Golf team members and recreational golfers, along with those interested in golf management and turf science, are encouraged to apply."

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council has awarded more than \$35,000 to local seniors during the last six years.

For more information, contact Long at rmlong@aol.com.

Martin, Viola update OP board

Continued from Page 3

Linda Martin took the spotlight next to review bulkhead and dredging work.

Martin said the bulkhead upkeep scheduled for this year is nearly complete, and that the work includes Pintail Drive and Crab Cay Court.

"We're doing the backfill and it should be done this week," she said.

Looking ahead, Martin said bulkhead work scheduled for 2023 should begin this fall and will include North Pintail Drive and Pintail Park.

In terms of dredging, Martin said an application filed in 2020 with the Maryland Department of the Environment was recently returned.

"The Worcester County permit was applied for at the end of March," she said.

Martin said if the county signs off by the end of this month, dredging would be conducted at 22 properties during July, but if paperwork delays occur, the work would be pushed back until the fall.

Martin also reported on the business of replacing aging mailbox structures.

Association officials inspected all 55 mailbox sites in Ocean Pines to ascertain the most pressing needs.

In total, 59 pedestals need replacing, she said, with 13 of them listed as high priority.

Eleven mailbox structures were judged to need attention, with three determined to be of top priority.

Also, 22 sites were identified as requiring stone work or new concrete, with four labeled high priority.

Initial steps include giving all sites a thorough cleaning.

To this point, 10 pedestals have been ordered with only a pair received so far.

Viola said pricing to add cover for mailbox sites is being sought, with costs expected to run between \$30,000-\$40,000.

"We also are trying to get estimates for the cost to build overhangs for [mailbox] sites," he said.

Water use data more precise

Continued from Page 2
daily usage online."

Just last week, Latchum fielded a resident's call regarding an internal water leak at a downtown building.

"It ran for 30 days before he realized it," he said. "He used 36,000 gallons in 30 days."

Latchum said smart meter technology would permit monitoring to catch constant use that might indicate possible leaks. That would save the town's water resources and reduce costs for residents.

Town officials are slated to approve installation costs at a later date, with total project price tag anticipated to be within the \$1 million designated from ARPA funds

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Sports complex wins on 4-3 vote, will be on FY23 bonds

Three-hour hearing ends with decision to purchase land next to Decatur High

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) Build it, don't build it, build it but somewhere else, it's too big, it's not big enough, traffic is already bad, it'll bring tax money, it'll take tax money, should've done this years ago, it's happening too fast, government shouldn't be in business.

The citizens of Worcester County did not disappoint when given their chance to sound off about the proposed athletic complex next to Stephen Decatur High School during a public hearing on the project in the Decatur auditorium on April 19.

After the meeting, the commissioners voted 4-3 — Joe Mitrecic, Bud Church, Diana Purnell, Josh Nordstrom, yea; Chip Bertino, Jim Bunting, Ted Elder, nay — to purchase the property for \$7.15 million.

That money will come from the sale of \$11.2 million in general obligation bonds, with the complex's portion earmarked "for a portion of the cost of engineering, designing, constructing, equipping, furnishing and undertaking the site work for the creation for a potential sports complex," County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young said at the onset of the public hearing.

The two hours and 20 minutes of testimony — which preceded roughly 40 minutes of commissioner discourse — was, for the most part, civil, aside from a few small theatrics.

Before testimony began, Commissioner President Joe Mitrecic set a hard cutoff of three minutes per speaker and asked that the crowd hold its applause.

Each of the nearly 50 speakers received a round of applause after testifying. Nearly 200 people attended.

While difficult to ascertain a perfect "for or against" vote tally — seeing as those saying "no" wanted the plan to be different for varying reasons, save for a handful of people who outright didn't want a sports complex — at least 24 of the 47 speakers expressed full support for the sports complex.

A couple speakers were not from Worcester County.

Some of the prominent names to step up to the microphone were Berlin Mayor Zach Tyndall, Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan, Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lachelle Scarlato, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association Executive Director Susan Jones, former Ocean City Council Member Vince Gisriel, current Ocean City Council Member John Gehrig and Maryland Sports Commission Executive Director Terry Hasseltine.

One of the most common themes among naysayers was the belief that government should stay out of business, despite multiple past instances in which county officials have said the goal is not for the county to run the facility.

The basis of this claim most often was that it'll be a doomed venture if the county moves forward in the manner it voted to do.

"I'm afraid we're going to kill the goose that lays the golden egg," West Ocean City resident Spencer Rowe said. "My other objection was is this a wise use of money? I thought we could start a new sport — 'debt ball.' Whoever can waste the most money the fastest wins!"

Tom Simon, owner of Assateague Outfitters, talked about the opportunity the sports complex brings — a common theme among supporters.

"I think what's important here tonight is this keeps getting framed as a business. But it's not. It's a resource for our community," Simon said. "Recreational and green spaces in general positively affect communities. It's very important for a community. Everybody here saying no, no, no and now's not the right time and building costs are expensive, (well) it's not going to get less expensive. Now is the time to act. We have to get this done."

John Fager, owner of Fager's Island, saw the athletic complex as an opportunity to bring the right kind of tourists to the area.

"Do we want to have jocks here or do we want to have gangs? Ballplayers or more bars?" he asked. "What is it going to cost the county if we don't do this?"

Girdletree resident Catherine Freeman spoke on behalf of many disgruntled voices in the lower half of Worcester, pointing to the ever-present disparity between the two halves of the county.

"This has been advertised as a project that will benefit all of Worcester County ... It will (supposedly) provide

See SPORTS Page 12

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Ocean Pines Budget Cmte. talks staffing, maintenance

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) Staffing challenges and maintenance needs were examined by the Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee Monday.



Steve Phillips

Finance Director Steve Phillips opened the session with an overview of operating account balances through March, with FY21-22 set to close next month.

Phillips noted revenues had outpaced expenses by about \$1.7 million, with roughly \$1.3 million tied to amenities.

Phillips noted that amenities are posting positive bottom lines despite some reductions to revenues.

"Recreation and Parks is down on revenues but also significantly down on the expenditure side," he said.

Limited program offerings based on previous health-restrictions cut both incoming fees and wages.

To close March, Recreation and Parks is \$83,800 better than budget year-to-date.

The bulk of the remaining budget favorability is from Public Works, which Phillips estimated at \$350,000.

"In Public Works, some is favorability tied to vacant positions and deferred maintenance not spent to date," he said.

Committee members wondered if unused maintenance funds might flow into the next budget year.

General Manager John Viola said while upkeep of association assets is well accounted for, future unknowns always loom.

"All I need is one situation and it's \$100,000 or \$200,000 to correct," he said.

Overall, Viola expressed confidence that association facilities are in better condition than in past decades.

Despite delays, previous plans to perform interior renovations on the

Administrative Building in White Horse Park are still in the works.

"We currently don't have the manpower or time," he said. "We have approval from the board and are hoping to do that."

Viola highlighted other deferred maintenance projects, such as repairing the cracked surface at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center at a cost of at least \$50,000.

In general, Viola said maintenance needs were being addressed.

"There's nothing on the table right now that needs to be done that we aren't doing," he said.

Unfilled positions in Public Works, and other areas, have also contributed to the positive cash flow.

"We have had a hard time filling positions the last two to three years," he said.

To making attracting candidates easier, Viola has asked the board about offering pay above mandated minimums.

"Minimum wage plus is the only way I'm going to be able to get people," he said.

Market competition for staffing has increased drastically in recent years, Viola said.

In some cases, such as hiring life-guardians, Viola said Ocean Pines faces challenges shared elsewhere.

"We can't get them and other places also can't," he said.

Committee member George Solyak asked if consideration was given to sweetening the pot at hiring time.

"Have you looked at any sign-on bonuses," he said.

Viola said some efforts have been attempted.

"Within the guidelines of the budget," he said.

Viola proposed asking committee members for their ideas on how to surmount staffing challenges.

The next Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee meeting is scheduled on May 23 at 9 a.m.

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Berlin Council Briefs

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) The Berlin mayor and Town Council weighed an event approval, while also considering revised flag designs and updating the walking path in Stephen Decatur Park during its meeting on Monday.

Taylor House concert

Council members voted unanimously in favor of a request from the Taylor House Museum to sell beer and wine during an upcoming outdoor concert.

Taylor House Museum President Melissa Reid said a one-day permit was sought to allow alcohol sales during an installment of its "Concerts on the Lawn" series slated for June 12.

Taylor said Grammy nominated jazz guitarist Ronny Smith, who hails from the Baltimore region, would perform outside of the museum from 6-7:30 p.m.

"Concerts on the lawn will take place every second Sunday this summer," she said.

The stopover by Smith, who has shared a stage with jazz luminaries such as Donald Byrd, was funded through the Maryland State Arts Council.

"Because he's a high-level musician, we were trying to sell beer and wine on the lawn," she said.

Reid said the museum has previously sold beer and wine at social events but never during the concert series.

"People can enjoy a drink and listen to excellent music," she said.

Town flag

Council members also approved a revamped town flag and logo created by graphic designer Brian Robertson.

Robertson said conversations about a town flag redesign began back in October.

"We wanted something symbolic the town can rally around," he said.

To achieve the goal, Robertson said initial steps involved standardizing colors and typography.

"We proposed nine different flag designs and four seal options," he said.

Robertson said a one-color version was also created for use with dark or bright backgrounds.

"Council selected from various designs and that's what's here now," he said.

The goal was updating the town seal for use in limited spaces without

the image running together.

"If you shrink down the seal into a small space ... it disappears," he said.

In terms of cost, Robertson provided a "deep hometown discount" with \$100 charged for design services.

Park walking trail

Council members examined options to resurface a walking path in Stephen Decatur Park.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said during previous discussions with contractors, a recommendation was made to use "crush and run" gravel materials in lieu of asphalt.

"The contractor said it could save \$20,000," he said.

Despite the lower price tag, Continued on Page 8

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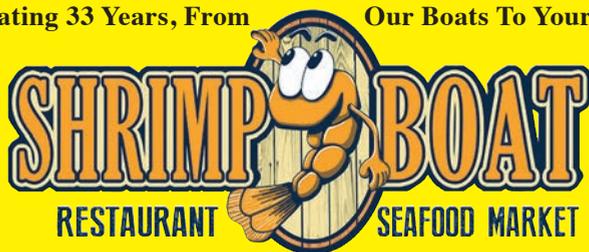
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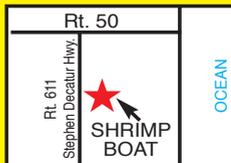
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Horn pledges to cut length of Pines directors' meetings

By Greg Ellison
 Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) In light of the past two Ocean Pines Board meetings running over three hours, Association President Colette Horn unveiled a new tactic this week to quicken the pace.

Speaking during the board meeting last Wednesday, Horn apologized for the extended discussions during board meetings in March and February.



Colette Horn

"I want to apologize for the punishingly long meeting we had last month," she said

The board meeting on March 23 lasted just over three hours, while the meeting on Feb. 23 was slightly longer.

In hopes of keeping meetings to a "reasonable time frame," Horn proposed enacting "agenda management."

"Keeping the agenda at a level that would be appropriate for a reasonable length of meeting," she said.

To that end, Horn has issued Assistant Executive Secretary Linda Martin a handbell and assigned time-

keeper duties.

"When remarks reach the five-minute mark, she will ring that little bell to alert us time is up and we'll move onto the next speaker," she said.

Horn said Director Doug Parks had quipped the past few board meetings may have set records for the longest ever.

If the approach is successful, Horn said the practice would be continued.

"I also have asked colleagues to be mindful of time in our discussions and to try to avoid redundancy and unnecessary repetition," she said.

During president remarks on April 20, Horn also noted homeowners could anticipate receiving referendum ballots for as host of proposed bylaw revisions in the coming days.

"It gives [residents] an opportunity to vote on bylaws," she said.

Homeowners are being presented with 28 potential changes to bylaws with ballots due back by May 19 at 4 p.m.

"The board supports these revisions and urge [residents] to vote in

See OP Page 9

Berlin Council Briefs

Continued from Page 7

Charles said concerns were raised over maintenance.

"Crush and run would require more maintenance than asphalt in the long run," he said. "The cost savings in the long run may not outweigh the benefits of doing the asphalt."

Charles estimated asphalt would last up to 25 years. By contrast, he said that loose gravel surfaces have a shorter shelf life.

"We would have to do more annual maintenance and it wouldn't last 20-plus years," he said. "We may have to replenish the path in 10 years."

Mayor Zack Tyndall said asphalt would provide a smoother surface.

"It impacts those learning to ride bikes or parents with strollers," he said.

Berlin Parks Commission member Laura Sterns and Chair Mike Wiley also provided input during the meeting.

Wiley said regular users of the four-foot wide pathway circling Decatur Park, which includes a large percentage of seniors, expressed reservations over using loose gravel.

Sterns said the park trail was installed a decade back as an experiment using material from the Maryland Scrap Tire Program.

"They tried it and it was cool at first but didn't stand up to winter weather and began buckling," she said.

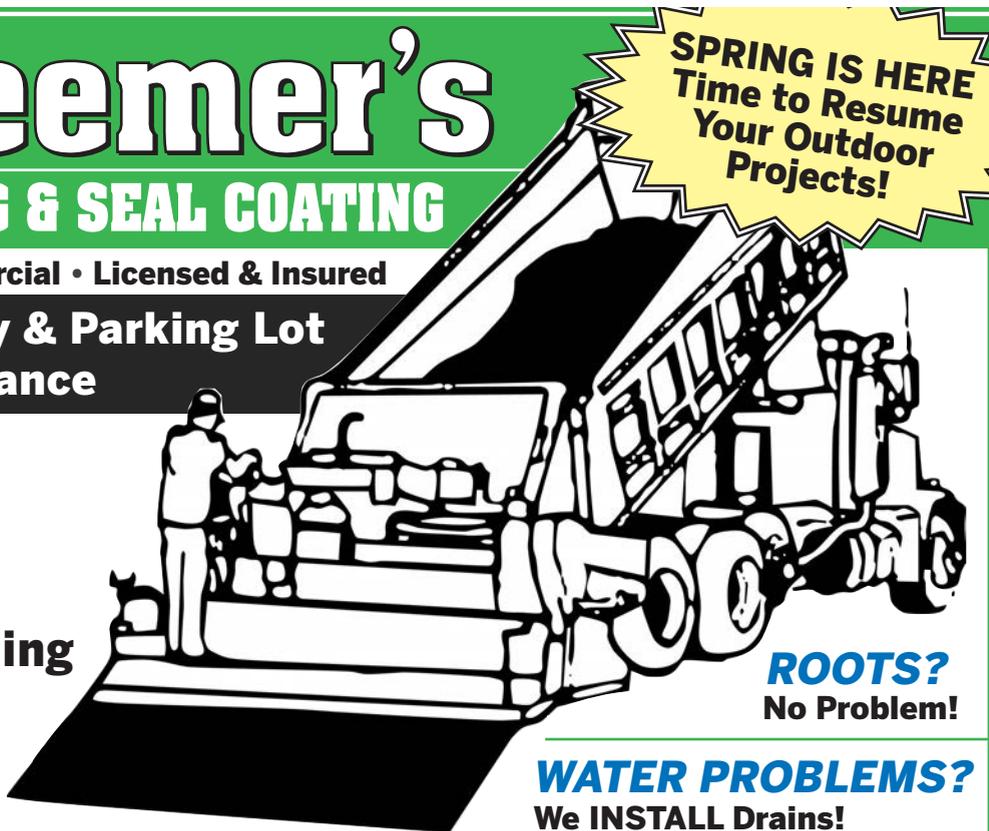
After reviewing material options, Town Council members agreed to proceed with asphalt resurfacing.

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New AGH president, CEO set to hit ground running June 1

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) A seasoned health care executive from the Steel City has been named to take over as head of Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin.

On April 14, hospital officials announced in a news release that University of Pittsburgh Medical Center leader Donald Owrey will step in as president and chief executive officer on June 1.



Donald Owrey

Michael Franklin, the latest CEO and president of the hospital, left abruptly on Sept. 3 after nearly 17 years with the local system. While the details surrounding his departure were never publicized, the move jump-started a nationwide search that began weeks later with the naming of a seven-member search committee.

In mid-October, members of the search committee hired WittKieffer, a national executive firm, to find a permanent replacement for Franklin. And after what officials called an "extensive" search and interview process that attracted "numerous candi-

dates," Owrey came out on top.

"I am incredibly honored to join Atlantic General Hospital and excited for my wife and I to become part of the community," Owrey said in the news release. "From my very first interactions with the board and then throughout the discussions and interactions I had with the medical staff, employees, and community leaders, I was struck by their deep appreciation for the hospital and its commitment to the community."

With a total more than 30 years in the industry, Owrey hails from western Pennsylvania, where he spent the last 20 years in various leadership roles with UPMC. He most recently served as president of UPMC Williamsport, as well as chief operating officer for the system's northern region made up of six rural and community hospitals, a 450-provider medical group, and more than 5,000 employees, according to the release.

Owrey led the development of a fully accredited Level 2 trauma center at UPMC Williamsport and oversaw \$90 million in capital improvement projects, including a cancer center expansion, a 30-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit, and numerous other

See AGH Page 10

OP Bylaws referendum pending

Continued from Page 8
favor of each one," she said.

The language changes under consideration were written during a year-plus process involving the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, a related subcommittee and the board of directors.

"The goal is to clear up inconsistencies and lack of clarity in existing bylaws and to protect us from future litigation," she said.

Ballots are required to be submitted using the included return envelope or otherwise would be considered void.

To cast a referendum ballot homeowners must have paid 2021 assessments by April 15.

Ballots will be counted on May 20 starting at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building. The process, which is open to the public, will be recorded and posted online on the association website.

To request a duplicate ballot or to inquire about other issues related to the referendum, email elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989.

For questions about voter eligibility, email member@oceanpines.org.

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TIER 1 FEIS/ROD APPROVED

CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSING STUDY TIER 1 NEPA

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are pleased to announce the Bay Crossing Study Tier 1 Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD) has been approved. The combined FEIS/ROD focuses on updates to the February 2021 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was available for review and comment from February 23 through May 17, 2021. The FEIS provides summaries of the more than 850 agency and public comments received and responds to substantive comments. The FEIS also details the rationale and information supporting selection of Corridor 7 – the corridor containing the existing Bay Bridge – as the Preferred Corridor Alternative. The ROD officially documents Corridor 7 as the Selected Corridor Alternative.

The MDTA thanks everyone who participated in the Tier I NEPA process. Issuance of the FEIS/ROD approving Corridor 7 as the Selected Corridor Alternative concludes the Tier 1 NEPA process.

The FEIS/ROD is available for viewing online at baycrossingstudy.com. Hard copies are available for review at the following locations in the study area:

- | | | |
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100 W Dover St
Easton, MD | Mountain Road Library
4730 Mountain Rd
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| Centreville Library
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Centreville, MD | Edgewater Library
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A Tier 2 NEPA Study is not currently funded. If funding were to become available, a Tier 2 NEPA Study would evaluate a no-build alternative and specific alignment alternatives along with other alternatives within Corridor 7.



For additional information regarding the FEIS/ROD and the full Tier 1 NEPA Study, please visit baycrossingstudy.com

Optimist Club celebrating 50 years of helping youth

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 28, 2022) Every child could use an optimist in their corner.

Over the last 50 years, the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club has rallied behind thousands of Worcester-area children and on Saturday they will celebrate that achievement at the Ocean City American Legion on 24th Street.

“I think it’s a testimony to the people who have come before us that (our organization) has lasted this long,” said Optimist Club President Bill Hickey. “Many clubs do not. The fact we were able to increase enrollment to over 100 members this year speaks a vast amount of credit to the work that we do throughout the community — from small sponsorships and grants we give to sports times to anyone who’s in need and addresses us by request. Try to fill as much as we can with a year’s budget.”

Those scholarships and grants have been crucial for multitudes of Worcester youths over the years.

“We’re well over \$2.25 million (invested) in scholarships in the last 30-plus years,” said Charles Smith, the most recent past president and organizer of the 50th-anniversary celebration.

Through its biggest fundraising event — the annual Ocean City Seaside Boat Show — the club has been able to support numerous programs and continue to increase its offerings to the community.

The Boat Show isn’t all they do. The local chapter participates in the larger Optimist Club International Oratorical World Championships, a speech contest, as well as offering multiple programs at each Worcester high school, donating thousands of dollars each year to organizations like Ocean City Recreation and Parks and the Ocean Pines Association for youth-aimed programming and sponsor sports teams from Selbyville down to Pocomoke City.

All that the club offers ultimately comes back to the home run they hit
See OPTIMIST Page 11

AGH hires Owrey for CEO role

Continued from Page 9

program expansion and infrastructure projects.

Before taking on his most current roles, he spent 11 years as president of three UPMC hospitals in Western Pennsylvania. He also held leadership positions with UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

In the news release, board members described Owrey as “a transformational leader with excellent organizational skills and a proven track record of success in hospital progression, clinical program development, improved patient experience and quality outcomes, employee and physician engagement, revenue growth and care model redesign.”

They also said his credentials are “a perfect fit” for the hospital’s mission, vision and values.

In his comments in the release, Owrey similarly said the local health systems values align perfectly with his own.

“Even with all its complexities, health care is local and remains deeply personal where relationships and trust matter the most,” Owrey said. “It’s such an honor for me to join the outstanding team at AGH and to ensure that residents from across the region have access to quality care that is compassionate, coordinated and personalized for the patient.”

Upon Franklin’s departure, Dr. Sally Dowling, the hospital’s vice president of medical affairs, and Kim Justice, the vice president of planning and operations, began serving as co-president and CEO. They will continue in those roles until Owrey officially takes over in June.

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Lower Shore Land Trust plant sale

(April 28, 2022) The 15th annual Native Plant Sale is underway, hosted by the Lower Shore Land Trust.

Orders are being accepted until April 29 and will be filled and ready for pickup on May 6 and 7.

There will be more than 125 varieties of native plants, shrubs and trees – an offering of plants with blooming times from March through October.

Native plants beautify landscapes and support a healthier environment.

The populations of pollinators like bees, butterflies, dragonflies, etc., have been on a sharp decline over the past decade. Declines in pollinating insects and birds is a big problem because one out of every three bites of food requires pollination.

Furthermore, more than 90 per-

cent of all known flowering plants, and almost all fruits, vegetables and grains, require pollination to produce crops. This event seeks to celebrate pollinators and educate the public on their vital importance.

Orders must be placed by Friday, April 29. The order form is available at www.lowershorelandtrust.org on the News and Events page.

Wor. Historical Soc. dinner, May 6

(April 28, 2022) The Worcester County Historical Society will hold its annual spring dinner meeting at the Pocomoke Community Center on Market Street, Friday, May 6.

Dinner guests will learn about Worcester County's past from Dr. Ray Thompson, retired history professor at Salisbury University, while

enjoying a meal of chicken and dumplings with all the fixings prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Dr. Thompson will speak to the members and guests about the early history of Worcester County. He said that the Eastern Shore has been fortunate to have the oldest continuous records in British-speaking America

starting in 1632 to help people understand who the earliest settlers were.

He called them hearty men and women who lived in the frontier environment away from civilization. His talk will look into who they were and their lifestyles and how they transformed the Eastern Shore.

He will trace the movements of the settlers up the peninsula of Virginia into Maryland's Eastern Shore and into Delaware. Their economic, political and social history will be discussed. See WOR Page 13

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club commemorates its 50th anniversary with a celebration at the American Legion on 24th Street, Saturday. Pictured, clockwise from top left, are Vice President George Saylak, Treasurer Joe Hammen, Secretary Roger Pacella, board member Sharon Sorrentino, past President Charles Smith and current President Bill Hickey.

JACK CHAVEZ/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



Optimist Club turns 50 years old

with the boat show.

"We feel that because of our main fundraising program, which is the Boat Show, we can support more and more programs and help more and more kids," Smith said.

The celebration itself will occur at the American Legion and will include local and state-level speakers, an "Eastern Shore" dinner and live entertainment, Smith said.

The choice of speakers carries some relevance to the club's mission, too. One speaker, Dr. Tammy Donaway, received one of the initial scholarships the club offers and is now a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at TidalHealth, working out of Berlin.

Smith said that to his knowledge, at least six teachers from Worcester County have come up through the club's various programs.

The local chapter has 101 members ranging in age from 26 to 90 years old. At least 15 are under 55, five over 80 and about 60 percent are in the workforce,

Smith said.

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club meets at the American Legion every Thursday at 6 p.m. For more information about the chapter, visit <https://ocberlinoptimistclub.org>.

Worcester Library branches closed half-day, Friday

(April 28, 2022) All Worcester County Library branches will be closed the first half of the day on April 29, while library staff participate in an in-service training.

Branches will then be open from 1-5 p.m.

The Worcester County Library's website and online resources are always available. Visit www.worcesterlibrary.org to access library services, including reserving materials, renewing items and searching library databases. In addition, book drops will be open at each library location.

All Worcester County Library branches will resume standard operating hours on Saturday, April 30.

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GREG WEHNER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Commissioners and staff sit on a panel in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium last Tuesday to listen to residents' opinions on purchasing a property for a sports complex.

Sports complex gets narrow win

Continued from Page 15
 the opportunity for all local children to play at a first-class facility," Freeman said. "I can assure ... everyone here that not all the children of Worcester County are afforded the same opportunities. Are we not local? ... Everything is in the north end of the county. We in the Snow Hill area and south have been begging for something to happen in the southern end."

After the public testimony, the commissioners had a chance to respond.

"My position might not be popular and it might not prevail this evening, but I hope you can understand that my position comes from a very sincere perspective that government does not belong in business. Certainly, the county treasury is not an ATM and we should not expect taxpayers to be capitalist venturists (sic)," Bertino said.

Bunting likened the issue to the Black Eyed Susan headache flummoxing the Town of Snow Hill today and how its current repair woes might turn the boat into a wasted investment.

"Not too long ago there was a vote ... to lend Snow Hill \$400,000 to buy a paddleboat," Bunting recalled. "I bet Snow Hill wishes everybody voted against it right now because it turned out to be a weight on them."

Aiming at some of the issues he heard regarding the project being rushed with no mind paid to the welfare of the taxpayers, Nordstrom talked about the county's process, which he says is different than what some would have citizens believe.

"We're not talking about costing you money," Nordstrom said. "No one's even mentioned raising taxes except some of the people on this dais who are trying to scare you. All right? What we're talking about here is economic development, an economic driver for the entire county that is important. Whether you know it or not ... it's going to be important in the future."

"There's a reason why your taxes don't go up every single year and it's because we're going to be looking at things like this to generate income for the county so that it can produce the tax dollars so that the dues do not come directly out of your pockets."

Nordstrom added that the county isn't rushing blindly into the deal with no plans for a private partner or no desire to share more about the process with the residents — simply, he said, the county is at point A and "you can't jump to point D or E."

Before the vote, Mitrecic gave the public his raw take on the county's state of affairs.

"I'm here to tell you, there are no more cuts to be made," Mitrecic said about the budget. "The next item is to cut yours. Do you want your trash not picked up? 'Oh yeah, we have to have our trash picked up.' Do you want your citizens' convenience center (compromised)? 'Oh we can't do away with those' ... Nobody wants to do cuts to their services, but that's where we are. That's where we are today. It's (either) cuts to services or raises to taxes."

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Berlin Library 'Teacher as Student'

(April 28, 2022) The Berlin Library will feature an art exhibit called "Teacher as Student" in April, May and June. This show, available to view on the library's second floor, shows how teachers are experimenting with different media, concepts and stepping out of their comfort zone, to become the student.

This partnership between the Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) and Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC), funded by the WCAC, brought new, young and/or diverse artists from the Delmarva community to expand teachers' horizons.

"We felt it was important to bring new, young artists to the art teachers, who can then bring this fresh perspective back to the classroom with their students," said Anna Mullis, WCAC executive director. "Partnering with teachers allowed us to bring art to the classrooms, during a time when (because of safety protocols) we could not directly interact with the students. It exponentially increased our outreach."

The show features three types of art: A painting project honoring Ukraine and teaching how art can build and honor community; vision boards, which help students to brainstorm, focus and reflect on their personal journeys; and digital art through instruction of the computer program, Adobe Illustrator.

The painting project led by fellow art teacher and well-known Salisbury artist, Cindy Sullivan, helped teachers reconnect with several painting styles in a sunflower landscape.

The vision board workshop was



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On display through June on the second floor of the Berlin Library is an art exhibit produced in unison with Worcester County Public Schools and the Worcester Arts Council.

led by We Are Limitless Studios, a Salisbury duo of muralists and new age artists, Brandon and Deserae Bell.

The Adobe Illustrator workshop was led by Stephen Decatur High School grad and artist, Ian Postley.

"This work and the show are a little out of our teachers' comfort zones, because the workshops were really about process, rather than product. We often teach the difference to our

students, but forget that difference when dealing with our own personal artwork," said WCPS Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts, Tamara Mills. "It was also a great way to bring new and different artists into our world of education."

The show will be on exhibit for three months at the library, and all are invited to come view the work during the library's hours of operation.

Wor. Historical Society dinner

Continued from Page 11
ical, cultural and religious societies led to the fundamentals of America today.

He also plans a power point to supplement his discussion.

Dr. Thompson, along with Sylvia Bradley, was the co-founder of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University in 1983.

His 45-year career at the university included teaching history and serving as chair of the history department. Today he continues speaking and doing research in local history.

Doors will open for the event at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to: Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. The deadline for reservations for the dinner, which is open to the public, is April 29.

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Arts Council announces competition winners

(April 28, 2022) The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced the winners in the juried art competition, "Down to Earth."

Entries in this competition are featured in the exhibit at the Arts Council's Gallery and include 28 pieces of artwork submitted by 18 established and emerging artists with work in all media.

Rebekah Simonds won first place for her mixed media painting, "Luminescence." Kathy Gibson placed second for "Eye of the Storm," mixed media, and Jason Giusti came in third for his glass sculpture, "Freyr."

Honorable mention awards were presented to Dee Brua, Gail Stern and Martha Pileggi.

The winning artwork was selected by accomplished local artist, Doris Glover.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced the winners in the juried art competition, "Down to Earth." Pictured, from left, are Anna Mullis, executive director; Rebekah Simonds, first place; Kathy Gibson, second place; honorable mention winners, Gail Stern, Dee Brua and Jason Giusti; and Doris Glover, juror for the competition.

Winners were honored at the opening reception held on April 8 at the Arts Council Gallery, located at 6 Jefferson Street in downtown Berlin.

The exhibit will be on display through April 30. The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.



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Opinion

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

Pines financials solid

Enough can't be said about the financial turnaround of the Ocean Pines Association's finances. Obviously, the association's money management practices have brought about changes that few people could have imagined not that many years ago.

That was back when the OPA wasn't just in a hole, it was excavating its way to insolvency — or extreme increases in assessments at the least — because of a multitude of bad decisions.

What helped get the red out of the financial statements, aside from a big boost from pandemic relief money, was one of the board of directors' best decisions ever — getting out of the restaurant business and turning that operation over to professionals.

Although some directors were skeptical initially about contracting with a private operator, the Matt Ortt Companies did everything they said they would do — plus some. Instead of over-promising and under-delivering, Ortt did the opposite by operating conservatively while also recognizing and delivering the kind of product its market wanted.

It's safe to say that financial awareness is up in all OPA departments these days, and the proof is in the financials. Here's hoping that current practices will be carried on in the years ahead.

Gazette staff changes

This is the last week for Ocean Pines/Berlin reporter Greg Ellison, who is about to head back from whence he came to us in 2016 — Colorado.

A Maryland native who found a home out west while earning his master's degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Greg has accepted a news position out in the Rockies and right about now is getting ready to head for the Continental Divide. We wish him good luck in that venture.

We also wish good luck to reporter Jack Chavez, who will trade in his county government beat for Greg's coverage area and the challenging exercise of covering two communities whose similarities are limited to the same zip code.



WOCM's College Fund deadline, Sat.

(April 28, 2022) The deadline is approaching for local students to apply for WOCM-FM Ocean 98's Cash for College Fund scholarship.

The station's scholarship program recognizes students from Sussex, Worcester and Wicomico counties, with a cash award to use toward future college expenses. One student from each county

will be selected to receive a check for \$2,500.

This marks the first year for the \$2,500 prize, which previously had been set at \$1,000.

Ocean 98, which broadcasts from midtown Ocean City, hosts numerous events throughout the year to raise money for the awards through the Ocean 98 Foun-

ation.

Anyone who is interested in applying or knows of a graduating high school student attending a college or university can find more information online at Ocean98.com. The deadline for applications is Saturday, April 30. For questions, contact Bill Fuhrer at bill@ocean98.com.

Drug takeback day in Worcester, Sat.

(April 28, 2022) Local police departments including Ocean Pines, Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill, along with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring pills for disposal to any of the sites listed below. Additional collection sites can also be found by calling 1-800-882-9539 or visit DEA.gov.

Local drug take back sites:

- Atlantic General Hospital Main Lobby
- Berlin Police Station
- Ocean Pines Police Station
- Worcester County Sheriff's Office in Snow Hill
- Pocomoke Police Department

While the Drug Enforcement Administration cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, the AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy MedSafe medication disposal box located within the lobby of Atlantic General Hospital can accept liquid medications up to 4 ounces if in a sealed bag.

Atlantic General Hospital will also offer to collect and dispose of unwanted needles

or sharps at the event. Sharps must be stored in an FDA-approved sharps container (no coffee cans on laundry detergent containers). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The AGHRx RediScripts MedSafe at Atlantic General Hospital is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

Last fall, Americans turned in 372 tons (more than 700,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 4,900 sites operated by the DEA and its state and local law enforcement partners. This brings the total See POLICE Page 18

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

EDITOR Stewart Dobson
MANAGING EDITOR Lisa Capitelli
STAFF WRITERS Greg Ellison, Greg Wehner,
 Jack Chavez, Mallory Panuska
ACCOUNT MANAGERS Mary Cooper, Vicki Shrier
 Amanda Shick
CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS MANAGER Nancy MacCubbin
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GRAPHIC ARTIST Kelly Brown
PUBLISHER Christine Brown
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
 11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
 The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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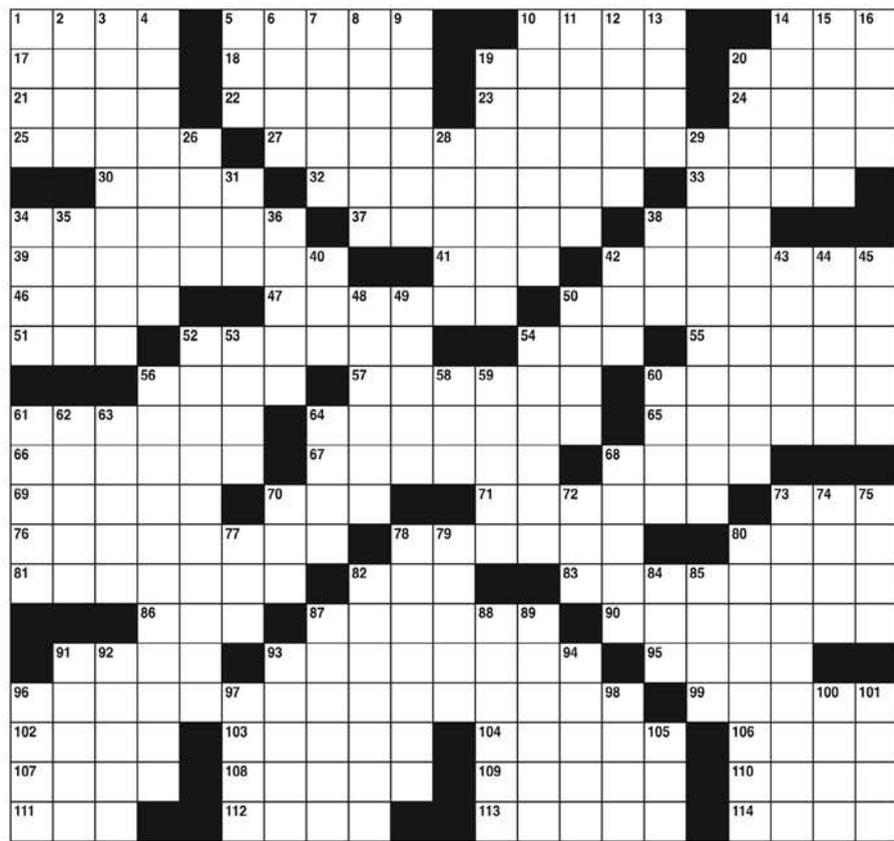
Puzzles

ON THE HUNT

BY EMET OZAR / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Emet Ozar, formerly from Los Angeles but currently in Charlotte, N.C., is a program manager for a software company. She and her wife have three children, all under 6. She finds crosswords appealing partly because they can be picked up and set down easily, which is helpful because of the constant interruptions from the kids. She credits the Crossword Puzzle Collaboration Directory on Facebook for helping her develop her construction skills. This is Emet's New York Times debut. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 What flowers eventually do
 - 5 Children's character who sings "I Love Trash"
 - 10 Ending with bald or bold
 - 14 Issa of "The Lovebirds"
 - 17 On the drink
 - 18 Must pay back
 - 19 Gross-sounding plant?
 - 20 Toll maker
 - 21 List from 1 to ...
 - 22 Overhead lights?
 - 23 Spirit of a culture
 - 24 Shoots the breeze
 - 25 One might help with a connection
 - 27 Apt facial hair for a teacher?
 - 30 "Excuse me ..."
 - 32 Rumrunner, e.g.
 - 33 Lime-A-_____ (alcoholic beverage)
 - 34 Daughter of Polonius, in Shakespeare
 - 37 Admitted it, with "up"
 - 38 Y
 - 39 Bob Marley and the Wailers, for one
 - 41 Passionate (about)
 - 42 Chills
 - 46 Button often denoted by a right arrow
 - 47 China makes up much of it
- 50** Big brass
- 51** Like almost all prime numbers
- 52** Lay down, in a way
- 54** Word before shot and after hot
- 55** Spiritual object
- 56** Words with "with words"
- 57** It "lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar," per Percy Bysshe Shelley
- 60** Bea Arthur was one before her acting career
- 61** Church minister
- 64** Breakfast brand tagline
- 65** Taking Rx drugs
- 66** People in a long line, perhaps
- 67** Covered in long, soft hair
- 68** Jupiter and Mars
- 69** It's spineless
- 70** Private aid grp.
- 71** "Vital" things
- 73** Stock paper, for short?
- 76** Orchestral prelude to an opera
- 78** Fairy-tale sibling
- 80** Beer _____, drinking/running event
- 81** Deems right
- 82** Apt name for a landscaper?
- 83** "On the other hand, I could be wrong"
- 86** Crony
- 87** One of a pair of kitchen tools
- 90** Like anomalies
- 91** Chrysler offering of the 1980s
- 93** Wrestling duos
- 95** Over-the-counter seller
- 96** Engaged in some circular reasoning
- 99** Put on
- 102** First line in a news story
- 103** Congas and bongos
- 104** _____ room
- 106** Name that rhymes with "edgy"
- 107** You are: Sp.
- 108** Essays
- 109** Attack tactic
- 110** Dragon-roll ingredients
- 111** Foreign exchange abbr.
- 112** Big name in skate shoes
- 113** Cartomancy medium
- 114** Broadway musical centered on two girls in love, with "The"
- DOWN**
- 1 Affordable
 - 2 Golfer Aoki
 - 3 Help out
 - 4 Pay attention
 - 5 "How fancy!"
 - 6 Exchange
 - 7 Big star
 - 8 Many, many
 - 9 The "R" of Edward R. Murrow
 - 10 Kicked the ball between the legs of, in soccer slang
 - 11 What Beatles music did at Abbey Road, famously
 - 12 Clean extensively
 - 13 Back talk
 - 14 Undergo a chemical change
 - 15 A Greek letter?
 - 16 Something _____
 - 19 Goes off on
 - 20 Things that might get written down on sticky notes
 - 26 "Scary" Spice Girl
 - 28 Response to "Who's there?"
 - 29 Some purchases for Christmas displays
 - 31 Unaccounted for, for short
 - 34 Ish
 - 35 Identified
 - 36 On edge
 - 38 Safecrackers, in old-fashioned slang
 - 40 Rapper Kool Moe _____
 - 42 Sight at a winery
 - 43 Body feature that approximately 10 percent of people have
 - 44 Plumbing pipe known as a trap
 - 45 Brings under control
 - 48 Chord whose notes are played in succession
 - 49 Comedian's stage prop
 - 50 Welsh guy
 - 52 Something intricately detailed and impressive
 - 53 Without
 - 54 Expecting, in slang
 - 56 Most valued card in the deck
 - 58 Rock type
 - 59 Big name in chicken
 - 60 Dream idly
 - 61 Chinese qipao, e.g.
 - 62 Jazz pianist Blake who composed "Shuffle Along"
 - 63 Unrivaled
 - 64 The Evian Championship is one of its majors: Abbr.
 - 68 Formal festivities
 - 70 Critic's pick?
 - 72 Absolute beaut
 - 73 Resident of the capital of Manitoba
 - 74 Plod perseveringly
 - 75 Ballet jump
 - 77 Zilch
 - 78 Maker of Ding Dongs and Twinkies
 - 79 Puts up
 - 80 Cooking ahead of time, say
 - 82 Chickpeas and peanuts, for two
 - 84 1/1 'til present: Abbr.
 - 85 "La" place in L.A.
 - 87 Actress Anna of "True Bloods"
 - 88 News updates, with "the"
 - 89 "Othello" character who quips, "They are all but stomachs, and we all but food"
 - 91 Beer parties
 - 92 Granted through a treaty
 - 93 Land in Rome
 - 94 On the wagon
 - 96 _____ cheese
 - 97 Purchase for the den
 - 98 Mission cancellation
 - 100 Title Disney character from Hawaii
 - 101 Polite agreement
 - 105 What you might get on a log flume ride



- 52** Something intricately detailed and impressive
- 53** Without
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- 105** What you might get on a log flume ride

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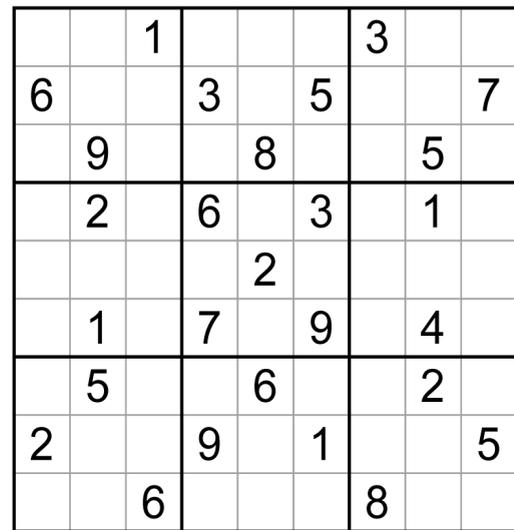
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HARD - 45

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

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



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., April 28

STORY TIME 'FAVORITE PETS'

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

MID-MORNING CRAFT: POPSICLE STICK CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come and make some fun and silly crafts out of popsicle sticks. Be ready to get messy. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FREE TIMELESS TENNIS LESSONS

Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 4 p.m. Timeless Tennis is played with a regular tennis racquet and a lower-bounce tennis ball. Equipment provided. Registration required: OPpaddle2020@gmail.com. New and seasoned players welcome.

STEM POWERED FUN MARSHMALLOW BUILDING CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. A handful of challenges around building different structures out of marshmallows. For ages 7 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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 - Beach Singles join us 55 plus at Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or BeachSingles.org

Fri., April 29

27TH ANNUAL MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2022

On the beach from Third to Seventh streets, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring exhibitions and demonstrations including stunt and power kite lessons, giant kite displays and more. Showcasing some of the best kite flyers from around the world. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

15TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE ORDERING DEADLINE

Orders are being accepted until April 29 and will be ready for pickup on May 6 and 7. Celebrating pollinators and their importance. Order form: [\[shorelandtrust.org\]\(http://shorelandtrust.org\) on the News and Events page.](http://www.lower-</p>
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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Fiesta Park, 500 141st St., Ocean City, 10 a.m. Refreshments; American Legion Color Guard; skits, poems, songs and artwork by OCES students; students, Mayor and Council plant a tree, demos by OCPD mounted police, K-9 units. www.oceancitymd.gov/ocbc. 410-289-7060

Sat., April 30

27TH ANNUAL MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2022

On the beach from Third to Seventh streets, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring exhibitions and demonstrations including stunt and power kite lessons, giant kite displays and more. Showcasing some of the best kite flyers from around the world. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Whaleysville United Methodist, 11716 Sheppards Crossing Road, 7-10 a.m. Buffet will include 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.

ANNUAL SPRING COMMUNITY EXPO

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 9 a.m.-noon. Dozens of businesses will be on hand as well as many community service organizations and governmental agency resources. Free and open to the public. Vendor registration: OceanPinesChamber.org. 410-641-5306

DEA NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK

Atlantic General Hospital Main Lobby, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal at AGH, police stations and Worcester County Sheriff's Office. List of collection sites: DEA.gov or 800-882-9539. 410-641-9241

ECO-CREATIVITY ART CLASS

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 10 a.m.-noon. Artist Dana Simson, a lifelong environmentalist and activist, will conduct an eco-creativity class. Register: www.artleagueofoceancity.org/classes. 410-524-9433

CRAFTY SATURDAY STEM EDITION: MINI ENGINEERS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come and make some exciting STEM crafts with fun little spins and twists. For ages 4 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

37TH ANNUAL BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE EVENT: 'HOW THE WEST WAS FUN!'

Eastern Shore Lanes, 1834 Market St.,

Pocomoke City, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Teams of 4-6 Desperados (western dress encouraged) can register with a donations of \$500, and will receive 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and drinks and an event T-shirt. Register: www.shorebiglittle.org.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

FREE PLATFORM TENNIS LESSONS

Saturdays - Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 9:30 a.m. All abilities welcome and equipment will be provided. oppaddle2020@gmail.com or 516-508-0313.

Sun., May 1

27TH ANNUAL MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL 2022

On the beach from Third to Seventh streets, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring exhibitions and demonstrations including stunt and power kite lessons, giant kite displays and more. Showcasing some of the best kite flyers from around the world. 410-289-7855, www.kiteloft.com

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., May 2

MAKER MONDAY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. The jointed teddy bears will be hand-sewn and decorated over several weeks using a variety of materials, patterns and techniques. Register: 410-641-0650 or www.worcesterlibrary.org.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets twice per month to discuss both classic and modern reading selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

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 healthy 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., May 3

FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Local worship centers offer increase health awareness, education and healthy living incentives, 10-11 a.m. Gail Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org or 410-641-9725.

STORY TIME 'STORIES ABOUT GARDENS'

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.

STORY TIME - 'MANNERS'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join the group for some good reminders about manners in a book about the Berenstain Bears. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600/410-632-2600/410-632-2600

MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC WITH GINNY ROSENKRANZ

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Each month is a different topic. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants as well. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ASK A MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Local Master Gardeners will use their expert knowledge to help answer your garden questions each Tuesday, 1-4pm, May-Sept, at the OP Library. 410-603-1131

EXPLORE THE TRADES

Seaside Plumbing Inc., 10545 Friendship Road, Berlin, 5-7 p.m. Area residents get a first-hand opportunity to learn about careers and pay offered by skilled trades. Sponsored by Seaside Plumbing, Expert Wire and Arctic Heating and Air Conditioning. 410-641-1368.

DELMARVA DANCING

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and more. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Everyone is welcome. Charlie, 410-465-0445

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

Obituaries

KENNETH FRANCIS BUCKLEY

Ocean Pines

Kenneth Francis Buckley, 72, of The Parke in Ocean Pines, Maryland, passed away on April 17, 2022, at home surrounded by his significant other of 10 years, Joan Twigg, and his immediate family.

After a courageous two-year battle, he succumbed to a rare biliary duct cancer.

Ken was born on Sept. 11, 1949, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the eldest child of the late Robert and Helen (nee Oatway) Buckley.

Upon graduating from Charlestown High School, he entered the U.S. Army. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam and returned to the Ft. Meade, Maryland, area in 1970.

He transitioned to civilian employment with the U.S. Army (DOL/NSA) and retired after 41 years of service.

Ken and Joan relocated to Ocean Pines in 2015 and Ken quickly secured a seasonal position at Eagles Landing Golf Course, a job he truly cherished.

He was an avid sports fan all his life, especially all teams Boston, however, he did remain loyal to Tom Brady!

A lover of many sports, he played ice hockey, and men's softball, and coached his son's Little League teams. His favorite sport was golf



Kenneth Francis Buckley

even though he started later in life.

Ken and Joan both enjoyed the sport equally, taking every opportunity to play together often and play wherever and whenever they traveled, making for some fantastic memories.

Additionally, he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren during holidays and trips to the beach.

Ken is survived by his daughter, Patricia McGrath (Steve) of Annapo-

lis, Maryland; his son, Christopher (Monica) of Millersville, Maryland; and his five grandchildren, Reagan and Corinne McGrath, Madison, Brayden and Carson Buckley, and their mother/grandmother, Jeanne Reilly of Severna Park, Maryland.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Tonja Buckley and Peggy McClure, and son-in-law, Michael McGrath.

The Buckley family wishes to extend their most heartfelt thanks to

Coastal Hospice and the staff of Johns Hopkins Oncology Department.

Memorial donations in his name may be made to CoastalHospital.org/make-a-donation/ or AssateagueIslandAlliance.org.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 7, 2022, at The Parke at Ocean Pines Clubhouse. It will be a casual affair serving his favorite foods: cheeseburgers and pizza, per his request!

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.

Police agencies hold pill turnover day this Saturday

Continued from Page 15

amount of prescription drugs collected by the DEA since the fall of 2010 to more than 15.2 million pounds of medication.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet.

Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

In addition, free Narcan training will be offered for those interested. This potentially lifesaving medication is available free without a prescription at AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 30 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com or contact AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy at rediscripts@atlanticgeneral.org or 410-641-9241.

Contact Debbie Smullen, president of Worcester Goes Purple, at www.wocowarriors.org or 410-870-5161 FDA-approved sharps container is needed.

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROCLAMATION

The Worcester County Commissioners presented a proclamation on Feb. 1, to Ed Thomas, co-chair of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force, and Chief Deputy Doug Dods, of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, to retroactively recognize January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Between June 2013 and May 2020 there were reports of child sex trafficking in every Eastern Shore county, but thanks to prevention efforts from law enforcement and groups including the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force, more than 127 victims have been rescued in Maryland.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BOOK DONATION

The Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee of Worcester County and the Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County recently donated copies of "Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement," by Robert P.J. Cooney Jr., to the Worcester County Public Libraries and Worcester County Public Schools. Pictured, are Linda Linzey, left, and Susan Buyer, right, co-chairs of the Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee; with Jennifer Ranck, director of public libraries.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL

Reverend Harry "Skip" McComas was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Before he died, his last wish for a \$1,000 donation to be made to the Berlin Intermediate School, where he was the Kiwanis advisor to the student Kiwanis Club known as the Builders Club, led by faculty advisor Jane Slotter. McComas' wife, Elena, carried out his wish and donated the \$1,000 through Kiwanis Club's Foundation for the BIS music department. Pictured, from left, are BIS music department faculty, Elizabeth Newman and Dr. Kelly Feagans; McComas, a Worcester County Board of Education member; BIS Principal Ryan Cowder; and Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Believe In Tomorrow Children's House by the Sea Director Wayne Littleton, right, visited the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on Feb. 9 to talk about the Believe In Tomorrow Children's Foundation and its three local properties - two in Ocean City and one in Fenwick Island, Delaware, where families with children battling life-threatening illnesses can stay for free. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Seven-year-old Mckenna Birkhead-Thompson continues to serve her community. She joined her family for a second year to ring the Salvation Army bell in support of its Red Kettle Society campaign at the SAMS Club in Salisbury. She is an ardent community advocate, collecting canned food and distributing books to support the community. She is pictured with her mother, Nicolle, and aunt, Janeen Birkhead.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GROUP MEETS

The Republican Women of Worcester County held their general meeting and luncheon on Jan. 20 at The Grand Hotel in Ocean City. Beth Rodier, RWWC member and Maryland Federation of Republican Women Eastern Region chair, left, presented MFRW 2022 legislative priorities of fair redistricting, better education, and safer communities. She is pictured with Sandy Zitzer, president RWWC.

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 & baysideoc.com

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Please send resume to Olivia.smith@casinc.biz or
fax to 410-520-0398

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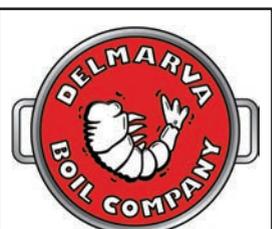
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**Oyster Harbor Community-
Wide Yard Sale** Whisper
Trace Drive, May 7, 2022,
8am-1pm. Rain Date May 14,
2022.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE -
Berlin, Decatur Farm, off
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Date: Friday, April 29,
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Calendar

Continued from Page 17

Wed., May 4

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via Zoom on the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Contact the Atlantic General Bariatrics Center for more information at 410-641-9568.

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-5 p.m. Drop in Wednesdays 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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines

Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Group provides discussion, education and a speaker on the topic of diabetes. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS BOOK CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4:30 p.m. Discussion and activities about the hit book "The Lion of Mars" by Jennifer L. Holm. The book is available on Overdrive. For ages 10-14 years.
www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME: 'JUNGLE ANIMALS'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 p.m., Stories, songs and crafts all about jungle animals. For ages 2-5 years.
www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ONGOING EVENTS

NATURE RAINBOW CHALLENGE
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, during the month of May. Game Boards will be available all month. Complete the challenge for a chance to win a prize. For ages 5-8 years and 9-14 years.
www.worcesterlibrary.org

WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING DINNER MEETING
Held at the Pocomoke Community Center on Market Street on May 6. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner begins at 6 p.m. Dr. Ray Thompson will speak on the early history of Worcester County. Dinner includes chicken and dumplings with all the fixings. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased by sending a check to Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, MD

21863. The deadline for reservations is April 29. Open to the public.

FREE WELLNESS WORKSHOPS
Free workshops dealing with hypertension, chronic pain self-management, chronic disease self-management, diabetes, fall prevention and a free 6-week workshop titled, "Building Better Caregivers." If you would like to register for one of these workshops or you would like more information about bringing any of the workshops to your business or group, contact Jill at MAC, 410-742-0505, Ext. 159 or jak@macinc.org.

'SAVE OUR STORIES'
The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum is asking community members to send in their accounts as to how COVID-19 has impacted them. To submit, visit www.ocmuseum.org. Info: Christine@ocmuseum.org.

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