

the Worcester County
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NEWS FROM THE BEACH AND BEYOND IN WORCESTER COUNTY

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The holiday spirit is coming full force to Berlin.

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Ahhhh... Welcome to the the new Assateague Island Visitor Center



[PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE]

The new Assateague Island Visitor Center celebrated its grand opening on October 2. Superintendent Trish Kicklighter welcomed the Northeast Regional Director of the National Park Service, Dennis Reidenbach, state and local officials, partners, contributors, and the public to the new facility. The building contains a large store, exhibits, maps, telescopes, NOAA's Ocean Today kiosk, oral history, a mural, and much more.

There was a tremendous need for the new center. The old information center, which opened in 1967, served as many as 300,000 visitors a year. Visitors were often unable to get beyond the front doorway when aquarium talks topped 100 people in the small space.

At the new center, you can sit back and enjoy the view from a rocking chair on the deck, attend an aquarium talk, watch a film about the wild horses, or explore the educational offerings of the exhibits. Visitors can still take part in the Foster Horse Program. Thanks to the Assateague Mobile Sports Fishermen's Association, a touch tank and aquarium complete the experience.

The center, staffed by the National Park Service and Assateague State Park, provides information to the public, is a resource for the community, and inspires discovery of a special place called Assateague Island.



[PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE]

NATURE TOURISM



A new water trail map and guide of the creeks and coastal bays behind Assateague Island is in the works. [PHOTO BY JIM RAPP]

Assateague water trails coming soon

[STORY BY JIM RAPP]


Kayak, canoe, and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) enthusiasts will soon have help navigating the winding creeks and coastal bays behind Assateague Island, thanks to a partnership between Worcester County, the Town of Ocean City, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Assateague Island National Seashore and State Park, and Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE).

The water trails will be a hit with kayak, canoe, and SUP enthusiasts.

A water trail map and guide will be created to guide paddlers safely through the waters of Ayres Creek and Newport, Chincoteague, and Sinepuxent Bays. From a trailhead in a protected forest on Ayres Creek, the water trail will flow about six miles to the Worcester County public boat ramp at South Point on Chincoteague Bay. From there, paddlers can

trek to the canoe launches at Ferry Landing Road and Bayside Drive on Assateague Island National Seashore. Paddlers can then travel along Sinepuxent Bay approximately four miles to the Assateague State Park boat ramp at the Verrazano Bridge. Ultimately, paddlers can cruise to the scenic Ocean City Commercial Harbor boat ramp just south of the Route 50 bridge.

Thanks to a Recreational Trails grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration, the trailhead on Ayres Creek will be constructed on the site of what was once the Ocean City town landfill. This site will be converted to a green, useful public space when it serves as a launch for paddlers.

The Assateague Water Trails will be an important tool that will help Worcester County and regional tourism offices continue to attract millions of vacationers to the region each year. The water trails will be a hit with kayak, canoe, and SUP enthusiasts during the summer months, and also during the spring and fall "shoulder" seasons. These travelers support a multi-million dollar nature-based tourism economy in Worcester County. 



Actors Michael Weston, Ryan O'Nan, and Arielle Kebbel rehearse a scene from the movie *The Brooklyn Brothers Beat the Best*. This scene was shot at Goobers in Berlin.

[PHOTO BY TOM MELVILLE]

Movie filming in OC and Berlin

The independent film *The Brooklyn Brothers Beat the Best* is being shot this month in Ocean City and Berlin. This coming-of-age comedy focuses on two struggling musicians, who, with only a guitar and a box of children's instruments, face their fears of love, friendship, and responsibility.

The film is being produced by Baltimore native Jason Berman, as well as Mark G. Mathis and Michael Jenson. It is written and directed by Ryan O'Nan, the lead actor in *The Dry Land*.

Diving into new worlds at the DDC

There's a lot going on these days at the Delmarva Discovery Center (DDC). On Oct. 21, the center dedicates the freshwater aquarium (with thanks going to the Fulton-Owen Foundation for their \$250,000 grant of financial support). The 6,000-gallon tank represents the underwater world of the Pocomoke River and is stocked with native fish.



The DDC has also just added a new employee, Katy Fleming, who oversees visitor services such as the museum store, group tours and bookings, and all aspects of the visitor experience. A Chincoteague resident, Fleming is a graduate of Hollins University in Virginia.

The DDC has a full fall and winter planned. A few highlights:

- **Catching Shadows:** Tintype Portraits and Recorded Voices of 21st Century. Through images and recordings, photographer Anne Nielsen and oral historian Marc Dykeman bring visitors on a journey through Native American culture on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Until Nov. 28, 2010. On Oct. 20 at 7pm, the artist and historian talk about how they created the project. A Native American Round Table happens Nov. 10, 7pm, with tribal chiefs discussing the exhibit and Native American life.
- **Winter Waterman's Festival:** Meet local waterman and try free seafood samples! Free with paid admission. Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 am–4 pm.
- **Fish Feedings:** Watch the fish feast every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 2pm.
- **Aquarium Dives:** Watch an experienced diver make the plunge into the Discovery Center's 6,000-gallon aquarium every Wednesday at 2pm.

For more about the DDC, go to www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org. 🌐

Harbor Day at the Docks was huge!

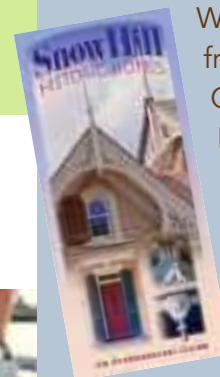
The third annual Harbor Day at the Docks, held Oct. 2 in West Ocean City, was the most well-attended to date. The event focuses on maritime traditions such as commercial fishing, sport fishing, marine aquaculture, safety at sea, and local seafood processing. Highlights included seafood cooking demonstrations, fish cleaning techniques, net mending, scallop harvesting, marlin rigging, and children's activities, all held outside along the waterfront. Next year's Harbor Day is set for Oct. 1, 2011. 🌐



Host Our Coast ends season with a visual bang

If you didn't catch the **final video** of our Host our Coast winners, Errol Webber and Erik Yount, you really need to take the time to see it. It's amazing. They did a super job all summer as they posted blogs, videos, photos, and more all about their adventures throughout Delmarva. Catch all their stories at www.hostourcoast.com—and don't miss their **very last episode!**

Snow Hill and Pocomoke get new brochures



With funding help from Worcester County Department of Tourism, Snow Hill Alliance for Responsible Progress (SHARP) and the Pocomoke

Chamber of Commerce produced new visitor's brochures for their towns. Both brochures were complete overhauls of their last versions.

MAIN STREET CORNER

Berlin gets ready for a Victorian Christmas

[STORY BY MICHAEL DAY]

Berlin's month-long Victorian Christmas is just around the corner. Kicking off the celebration is a true Currier & Ives moment—the traditional **town tree lighting ceremony** in front of the Atlantic Hotel on Friday, Nov. 26, at 6pm. Afterward, **Holiday Arts Night** kicks into high gear with shops staying open late with holiday refreshments, art, and more.



Carriage rides depart from the Atlantic Hotel on some weekends in December.

[PHOTO BY MICHAEL DAY]

Saturdays and Sundays, enjoy **old-fashioned carriage rides** throughout historic Berlin, departing from the Atlantic Hotel (weather permitting).

Victorian Weekend (Dec. 4 and 5) starts with **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, 8:30–10:30am at Buckingham Presbyterian Church; \$6 per adult; \$3 kids 12 and under. Then stroll over to the Hotel and check out the **blacksmith at work** from 11am–3pm. On Sunday, Dec. 5, the Worcester Preparatory School hosts its 38th Annual **Christmas Bazaar**.

The Atlantic Hotel hosts its annual **Dickens Dinner** on Tuesday, Dec. 7, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6pm, followed by a gourmet four-course dinner, with the Montebello Strings providing magical entertainment.

You'll also want to visit the **Calvin B. Taylor House Museum**, decorated for the holidays and open Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5, during Victorian Weekend, as well as Saturday, Dec. 14 and 18, from 1–4pm. Tickets are going quickly for the Dec. 6 **Classic Christmas Concert and Dinner** benefiting the Berlin Heritage Foundation. This candlelit evening of classical music will be held at the Taylor House Museum along with dinner at the Atlantic Hotel. \$50 per person. Seatings at 6 and 8pm. Reserve at 410.641.1019.

Maryland Life magazine will feature Berlin and the Atlantic Hotel on the cover of its November/December issue. The **launch party** for this issue will be at the Atlantic Hotel on Friday, Nov. 19, 5–7pm. All are invited. And don't forget the **2nd Friday Art Strolls**, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10, when you will find art openings and gallery receptions throughout downtown.

No matter when you stop by, you'll find downtown Berlin in the holiday spirit, and it won't take long before you're in the spirit as well!

IN THE NEWS



Crackers make it to the big time

Little Ragghi's Crackers, made in Ocean City, were featured in both the September issue of *Southern Living* and the April issue of *Maryland Life* magazine. They were also featured on the *Today* show as one of Chef Giada's favorite holiday gifts! They've been highlighted on many websites as well as other publications. They're now sold in 270 stores, including Dean & DeLuca. Learn more at www.ragghiscrackers.com.

The **Atlantic Hotel** in Berlin will be featured on the cover of *Maryland Life* magazine for the November/December issue.

Rt. 13 Welcome Center is thriving

Operations at the Maryland Welcome Center on U.S. Rt. 13 are thriving under the direction of Worcester County Government. According to recent statistics, visitor traffic in September was up more than 5 percent compared to 2009. With 400,000 annual visitors pouring through the doors, this facility is among the most widely visited in the entire state, and it serves as a gateway to the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The Welcome Center has been operating under Worcester County Tourism since July 1, 2010, when the state had announced plans to close the center's doors forever. Tourism will continue operating the facility on a trial basis for one year.

Since July 1, operations at the Welcome Center have expanded. As a state agency, the center's hours of operation dipped from seven days to four days per week, even during the busy summer months. Today, the Welcome Center is open to meet visitors five days a week, Thursday through Monday, 8:30am–4:30pm.

Some exciting new technology is coming to the Welcome Center by late 2010. Thanks to the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, the Welcome Center will be home to a new Informational Interactive Kiosk by the end of the year. This technology will provide visitors with the latest travel information for the three lower Eastern Shore counties through an interactive kiosk, which will provide information and coupons for area businesses and restaurants and outline upcoming events.

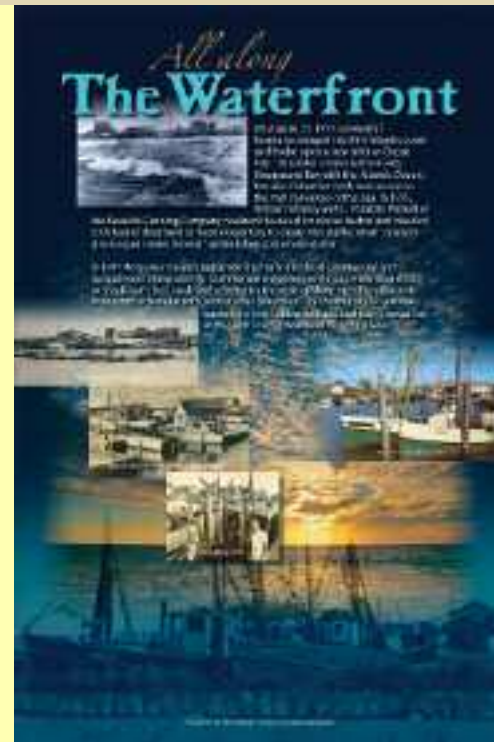
The Welcome Center is seeking volunteers to help keep the facility open seven days per week. For details, call Volunteer Services Manager Cyndy Howell at 410.632.5656. The center is also exploring the possibility of offering retail space for the sale of souvenirs.

Regional arts publication is expanding



Arts & Times is expanding! The regional arts calendar will include spotlights on individual local artists and attractions. These will be showcased on the Arts & Times website in a quarterly video magazine produced by Dana Kester-McCabe of Moonshell Productions. The first edition will feature painters Kevin Fitzgerald and Patrick Henry, and glass artist Jason Giusti. Starting Nov. 1, look for Arts & Times in print (produced by Gerlitzki Design) at your favorite cultural outlet on the Lower Shore—and online at a new web address: artsandtimes.org.

Artists Kevin Fitzgerald (left) and Patrick Henry will be featured in a video magazine on the Arts & Times website.



New sign shares harbor's history

Above is the interpretive panel that will be placed in the west Ocean City commercial harbor.

The sign gives visitors a history of how the harbor came to be. Two more interpretive signs will follow; one on the sport fishing industry and one on the commercial fishing industry. The interpretive signs are being funded by the Worcester County commissioners.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Oct. 29 Snow Hill Halloween Parade.
410.632.3555;
www.snowhillmd.com

NOVEMBER

Nov. 12 Second Friday Art Stroll, Berlin.
443.735.0957;
www.berlinmdarts.org

Nov. 19 *Maryland Life* Magazine Launch
Party. Atlantic Hotel, Berlin.
443.735.0957

Nov. 26 Town Tree Lighting, 6pm. Berlin.
443.735.0957;
www.chooseberlin.org

Nov. 30 Snow Hill Tree Lighting.

DECEMBER

December Christmas Train Garden.
Weekends. Snow Hill.

Dec. 2 Christmas Parade. Berlin.
410.641.4775;
www.berlinchamber.org

Dec. 3 First Friday Holiday Window
Showcase. Snow Hill.

Dec. 3&4 Purnell Museum & Furnace Town
Celebrate. Snow Hill.

Dec. 6 Christmas Parade. Snow Hill.

Dec. 6 Classic Christmas Concert and
Dinner. Taylor House Museum,
Berlin. 410.641.1019;
www.taylorhousemuseum.org

Dec. 4-19 Santa Visits. Saturdays and
Sundays. Berlin. 410.641.4775;
www.berlinchamber.org

Dec. 4-5 Victorian Weekend. Holiday
events throughout Berlin.
410.641.3589

Dec. 7 Dickens Dinner, Atlantic Hotel,
Berlin.

Dec. 10 Second Friday Art Stroll, Berlin.
443.735.0957;
www.berlinmdarts.org

Pennsylvania outdoor writers meet in Maryland

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association choose to leave the state and hold their first annual meeting in Ocean City, Maryland. The group was here in early October and participated in the opening of the new Assateague Barrier Island Visitor Center, toured Harbor Day, rode bikes and ate breakfast on the boardwalk, and rode aboard the *Assateague Explorer*. Thanks to all the sponsors who helped make this possible: Fishtales, Harrison Group, Talbot Street Pier, Eden Roc Hotel bike rentals, Connor's Beach Café, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, and the Maryland Office of Tourism. 🌍

Challenger named to advisory committee

Lisa Challenger was appointed to the Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The development of the committee is identified in the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Maryland's Coastal Bays and also recommend by the Department's Coastal Bays Water-Use Management Plan Workgroup. The Coastal Fishery Advisory Committee serves to advise the Department of Natural Resources on coastal fisheries related issues. 🌍

SAND PAPERS

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Bud Church: District 3 Sinepuxent
Virgil Shockley: District 4 Western
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Linda Busick: District 6 Northern
Louise Gulyas: District 7 Ocean City

Tourism Advisory Board Members
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Annemarie Dickerson: Ocean City,
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Linda Glorioso: Berlin
Ron Pilling: Bishopville
Diana Purnell: Berlin
Barbara Tull: Pocomoke City
Gary Weber: Snow Hill

Send us your story ideas!

Have news to share? Drop us an e-mail at econ@ezy.net or call us at 800.852.0335.