

the Worcester County
SAND PAPER

ISSUE 14

NEWS FROM THE BEACH AND BEYOND IN WORCESTER COUNTY

SPRING 2009

**WORCESTER COUNTY
TOURISM FACTS**

Tourism brought in
\$771.4 million

Tourism employed
11,000 people

Tourism taxes collected
\$215.8 million

(2007 FIGURES)

AT A GLANCE

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The Coolest Coastal Summer Job Contest

Live in
O.C. and
be a travel
journalist
for the
summer!

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY DUSTY PHOTOS. FOREGROUND PHOTO COURTESY
WWW.FOTOLUVER.BLOGSPOT.COM; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JILL JASUTA

Looking for something different to do this summer? The Coolest Coastal Summer Job Contest will draw attention to the wonderful low-impact nature and heritage experiences in Worcester and Sussex Counties.

One applicant will be awarded a two-month opportunity to become a travel journalist for Delaware and Maryland's coastal beach communities—along with \$10,000 and a free place to live at the Makai Condominiums in Ocean City. In return, the Coolest Coastal Summer Job winner will post online videos about their adventures in Delmarva's wild and scenic parks, bays, rivers, and heritage sites. In addition, the travel journalist will link their videos, blog posts, and photos to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other new media outlets.

The contest begins in early April with a call for video entries and other application requirements. The winner will be announced May 25 and will start working June 15.

For details on applying, check soon at www.hostourcoast.com.

Birders flock to Delmarva

Delmarva Birding Weekend is April 22–26

[STORY BY JIM RAPP, DIRECTOR, DELMARVA LOW IMPACT TOURISM EXPERIENCES, INC. (DLITE)]

The Delmarva Birding Weekend celebrates the spring migration of thousands of warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. The April 22–26 weekend combines boat trips, paddling treks, and expeditions by foot.

Delmarva Birding Weekend offers more than 40 field trips, from “Moonlight Marsh Paddle” to “Assateague Coast to Coast” to “Cypress & Songbirds.” New trips have been added for the 2009 event. Worcester County hosts several of the trips.

The Delmarva Peninsula possesses an extensive variety of environments, including barrier islands, tidal wetlands, cypress swamps, upland fields, and primeval forests.

Field trips take place in the land and water that feed into the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, and the Atlantic coastal bays. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in the region. During the 2008 event, 190 species were tallied!

Participating birders will be helping birds by promoting bird and habitat conservation. Birders, both novice and experienced, can make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats through low-impact tourism. Birders are encouraged to remind local businesses that they are here to enjoy Delmarva’s natural areas and the birds that inhabit them.

For more information, e-mail dlitedirector@comcast.net, call 443.614.0261, or visit www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org.



AT A GLANCE

Delmarva Birding Weekend

What: Enjoy spring migration with more than 40 birding trips around Delmarva.

When: April 22–26, 2009

Info: www.delmarvabirdingweekend.org



Berlin has a chance to be a ‘Top 10 Coolest’ small town

There’s still time to cast your vote in *Budget Travel’s* contest to name the “top 10 coolest small towns in America.”

Berlin, Maryland, is one of the nominated cities.

To vote, go to [www.budgettravel.com/bt-srv/](http://www.budgettravel.com/bt-srv/coolestsmalltowns)

[coolestsmalltowns](http://www.budgettravel.com/bt-srv/coolestsmalltowns).

You can also leave comments, or add photos or videos. The polls close April 3. The winners will be announced April 13, and the top 10 winners will be featured in the October issue of *Budget Travel*.




Weaving stories with community looms in Snow Hill

Each year the Arts and Entertainment District in Snow Hill, Arts on the River, sponsors a community art project to engage residents in a town-wide art endeavor that reflects the character and history of the town. For 2009, the Snow Hill Arts & Entertainment Committee will be leading the creation of a series of circular weavings on community looms. The Community Looms project kicks off in early April and will extend into the fall.

The large-scale circular looms will be available at local organizations, businesses, and events throughout the spring and summer. Community members and visitors are invited to stop in, choose some fabric or yarn, and weave on the easy-to-use looms.

When completed, each weaving will have been created by numerous artists. In this way, it is truly a community art project. It's also a project with a "green" emphasis. All of the weaving materials are cast-off—fabric, yarn, ribbons, even plastic

grocery bags—and are being given new life. Participants are also encouraged to bring weaving materials and embellishments that reflect issues important to them. To use thematic materials that reflect a personal or community identity, societal issues, history or nature, in essence, makes great art.

Arts on the River is partnering with the Central Delmarva Fiber Guild to sponsor this project. For details, call 410.546.1978 or 410.632.3555. 



From left: Ann Coates, Claire Otterbein, and Barb Siegert.

[PHOTO BY LISA CHALLENGER]

New *Beach and Beyond Art Guide* toasts local artists

Making its debut in Worcester County is the new *Beach and Beyond Art Guide*, showcasing the work of some 40 local artists along with the Berlin and Snow Hill Art and Entertainment Districts, galleries and art studios, area theater productions, dining experiences, and more.


"We wanted to create something that would promote the arts, culture, and theater here on the Eastern Shore," said Worcester County Tourism Director Lisa Challenger, who spearheaded the project. "We did. And we made it fun. And the galleries were just thrilled!"

The *Beach and Beyond Art Guide* is brimming with one-of-a-kind jewelry, pottery, wood, glass, portraiture, and paintings to scintillate the senses, all within a petite 6" x 6" booklet that can be tucked neatly into purses and other small travel bags.

"This guide introduces residents and visitors to the work of artists who reside in and find inspiration for their work right here in Worcester County," said

Challenger. "Why buy something made in China when you can take home a souvenir handcrafted right here in our resort community? And not everything is two-dimensional. Many of these galleries sell hand-made jewelry and even hand-carved kitchen utensils that are unique, yet practical."

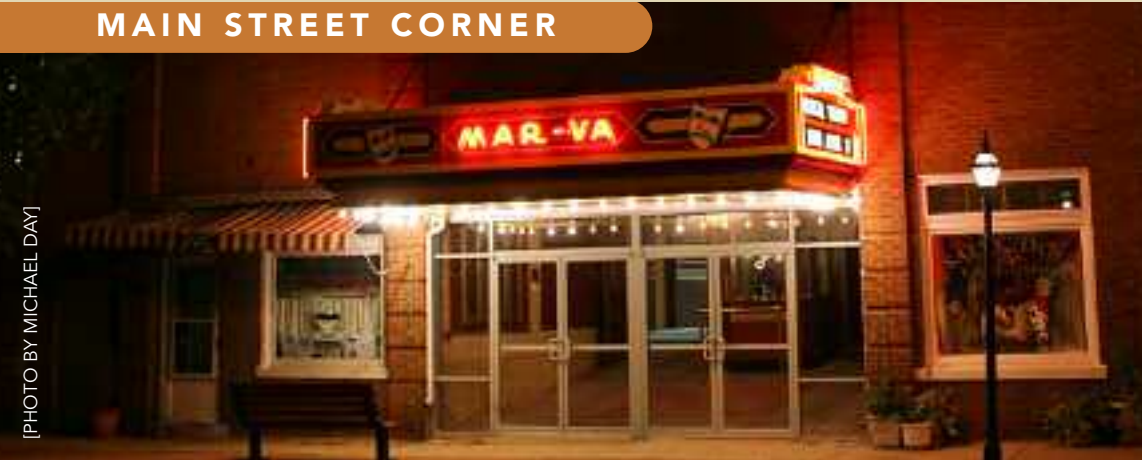
The new guide was funded through a combination of private advertising and grant funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, a nonprofit working to preserve and promote the historical, cultural, and natural heritage of the lower Eastern Shore; and the Rural Development Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

For a free guide, call Worcester County Tourism at 410.632.3110 or visit www.visitworcester.org and click on "Arts & Times." Copies are also available at area art galleries and visitor centers. 



MAIN STREET CORNER

[PHOTO BY MICHAEL DAY]



Bright lights on Market Street!

[STORY BY MICHAEL DAY]

Make a date! Catch the next show! Seeing a movie or performance at the Mar-Va Theater in Downtown Pocomoke City is a real treat. As you enter the double doors be sure to look up at the kaleidoscope of color that shines down from the period chandelier. It's just one example of the many restored architectural details throughout this unique and special historic theater. The renovation of this theater began in 2003 with a dream, dedicated people, and lots of hard work. And now it's open for business!

Step inside the Mar-Va Theater you travel back in time. With the original popcorn machine in the lobby, the wood-framed box-office, and the vintage candy display and concession sign, memories flood the patrons who remember attending events here. Now a younger generation has the opportunity to create memories at this downtown theater that has reinvented itself for the 21st century.



Where else but at Pocomoke's Mar-Va can you buy a movie ticket, drink, and a tub of popcorn for under \$10, while enjoying classic 1927 art-deco ambiance as you experience reel-to-reel 35mm motion pictures? The theater now boasts a full calendar of community events, performances, and movies.

By creating a sense of place and a downtown destination and preserving the past, the Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center has become one of the economic engines for downtown Pocomoke City, the town, and the surrounding community. Visit www.mar-vatheater.org.



Small towns, big ideas

The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has just released a new publication, *Small Towns, Big Ideas: Case Studies in Small Town Community Economic Development* online at www.sog.unc.edu/programs/cednc/stbi/. The website includes a searchable database of case studies on small town community and economic development. This is a valuable resource for small-town leaders across the country.



Steamship christening

The March 25 christening of the Steamship *Discovery* marked a milestone in the completion of the largest and most expensive exhibit of the Delmarva Discovery Center. More than 100 people watched as Board President Barbara Tull (pictured at right) with Executive Director Brian Garrett christened the ship. A grand opening of the museum is planned for late May. For tours and information, call the Discovery Center at 410.957.9933 or visit www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org.



Berlin growing green with new community campaign

A program designed to highlight the town of Berlin as a model community for environmental protection and conservation is ready to launch after receiving funding from a philanthropic group.

Grow Berlin Green (GBG) is a three-year campaign to encourage Berlin residents, businesses, and government officials to connect the community to conservation. Toward that effort, GBG recently received \$125,000 from the Town Creek Foundation, a private, philanthropic organization dedicated to a sustainable environment.

The campaign is being managed by a coalition of the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT), Lower Shore Land Trust, and Maryland Coastal Bays Program, but it will be driven by community education, empowerment and action, said Steve Farr, development director for ACT and the project director of GBG.

The campaign will include events and activities designed to involve citizens, business owners, and elected leaders to better build a foundation for citizen and policymaker participation. A community information meeting held in February attracted a standing room only crowd.

The goals of GBG include improving understanding, engagement, and activism among citizens and policymakers, increasing conservation efforts, improving natural resources management, reducing waste, and increasing recycling.

GBG is planning its formal public launch to coincide with the Berlin Spring Celebration on April 11. In addition to hosting an information and kids' activity booth at the event, GBG is organizing a community ditch cleanup for that morning and plans to install a number of rain barrels along Main Street to promote water conservation and stormwater runoff prevention.

To learn more about Grow Berlin Green, including opportunities to get involved, please contact Steve Farr at 410.629.1538 or e-mail growberlingreen@hotmail.com. The Grow Berlin Green website is www.growberlingreen.org.



IN THE NEWS



Adventure Cyclist Magazine's Top Ten Tours included **Delmarva** and touted the **Great Delmarva Cycling Map** in its January 2009 issue.

See why they like it: buy your own map for \$7. Read the full story at www.adventurecycling.org/resources/200901_TenTopTours_Teasdale.pdf

New courses offer help on interpreting Delmarva

[STORY BY JIM RAPP, DIRECTOR, DELMARVA LOW IMPACT TOURISM EXPERIENCES, INC. (DLITE)]

How did Assateague Island become one of our most popular barrier island parks? What early industries helped shape the towns of Ocean City, Berlin, Pocomoke, and Crisfield? Where on the Pocomoke River did Captain John Smith take his shallop? Which plants and animals contribute to the ecology of Maryland's coastal bays and the Pocomoke River?

If you want to interpret the stories of Delmarva's nature and heritage for visitors to our small towns and parks, then register now for two new courses offered this spring and summer by Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE), Wor-Wic Community College, and interpreters from our local nature and heritage sites.

The courses have been developed for museum and park volunteers, hospitality industry professionals, outfitters, and those with an interest in interpreting local nature and heritage. The 20-hour courses are

COURSES ON INTERPRETING DELMARVA

The Nature and Heritage of the Pocomoke River will be offered April 15, 22, 29, and May 6 and 13 from 9am–3pm.

The Nature and Heritage of Maryland's Coastal Bays will be offered June 8, 10, 15, 17, and 22 from 9am–3pm.

not taught in sterile classrooms—rather, they are taught in and along our historic homes, heritage centers, rivers, forests, and wetlands. The fee for each course is just \$20 per person, thanks to generous funding from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

For details or a course registration form, contact Jim Rapp, Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences, dlitedirector@comcast.net, or Ruth Baker, Wor-Wic Community College, 410.334.2815. 🌿

Park Quest offers family adventures in Maryland's parks

Get your family outdoors and exploring and playing together this summer through Park Quest, a Maryland Park Service program. Now in its second year, this free, 11-week competition invites families to take on outdoor challenges at 14 state parks.

Running May 9 through July 26, Park Quest is designed to get more people exploring the wonders of Maryland's state parks.

Each team must include at least one adult and one person 16 years old or younger. Team members must be family members. Quest challenges include paddling streams, hiking trails in search of historic clues, finding items on a scavenger hunt, and playing disc golf. After your team completes the designated challenge, you'll get a stamp in your Park Quest passport. Park Quest participants get free entry for the day to the 14 participating state parks.

Teams that complete at least eight of the 14 Quest challenges can be part of the Park Quest Finale at Tuckahoe State Park on August 8, when teams compete in games of chance, environmental

knowledge, and outdoor skills.

The state parks that are Quest sites include four on the Eastern Shore: Assateague, Pocomoke River, Janes Island, and Tuckahoe; along with two in Southern Maryland, three in Central Maryland, and five in Western Maryland.

Park Quest is open to the first 300 teams who register online at www.dnr.maryland.gov/parkquest or by contacting the Maryland Park Service at 410.260.8186 or toll-free at 1.800.830.3974, Monday through Friday. Registration opens April 10. 🌿



[PHOTO BY DUSTY PHOTOS]

CALENDAR

APRIL

Apr. 22-26 Delmarva Birding Weekend, Lower Shore locations.

MAY

May 1 Berlin Farmers Market opens, runs through December. Fridays, 410.641.4774.

May 2-3 Warren Mansion Tours, Snow Hill, 1pm and 2:30pm, 410.632.2032.

May 7-10 Springfest, OC Inlet, 800.OC.OCEAN.

May 8 Spring Arts Night, Berlin, 6-9pm, 443.735.0957.

May 9 2nd Annual Berlin Jazz & Blues Bash, 10am-4pm, 410.641.4775.

JUNE

June 5 Arts on the River, First Friday, Snow Hill, 5-8pm, 410.632.3555.

June 10-13 Cypress Festival, Pocomoke City, 410.957.1919.

June 13 Village Fair, Berlin, 410.641.4775.

June 20-21 Arts Alive, Ocean City, 410.524.9433.

Arts Night at Seacrets

Ocean City's largest indoor art event happens 6-9pm Saturday, April 22 at Seacrets nightclub, 49th Street and the

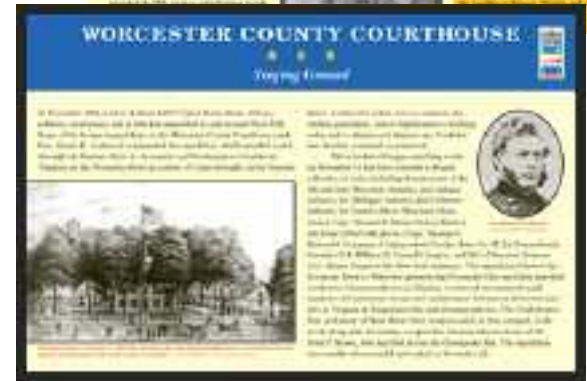


bay. The third annual Arts Night benefits the Art League of Ocean City. The free event includes more than 200 pieces of original artwork by local artists,

live music by Short & Sweet, a starving artists buffet, Chinese art auction, artist demos, and a cash bar. More than 450 people attended last year's event. Artists who wish to participate may contact Jill Glassman at jglassgps@mchsi.com.

Civil War sign erected in Snow Hill

The newest addition to the Maryland & Virginia Civil War trail was added on March 16 in front of the Court House in Snow Hill. General Henry Lockwood led an expedition through Maryland and Virginia's Eastern Shore as a show of Union strength. In November 1861, he and his troops camped here on the courthouse yard. The marker is joined by the only other civil war marker in Worcester, located in Berlin. The Berlin marker commemorates the birthplace of Isaiah Fassett, born into slavery and sold to the US Army. He was Maryland's next-to-last surviving Civil War soldier when he died in 1946.



Send us your story ideas!

Have news to share? Want to become a subscriber to the quarterly *SandPapers*? Let us know. Drop us an e-mail at econ@ezy.net or call us at 800.852.0335.

SAND PAPERS

Worcester County Tourism
104 West Market Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863
800.852.0335
www.visitworcester.org

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