

the Worcester County
SAND PAPERS

ISSUE 11

NEWS FROM THE BEACH AND BEYOND IN WORCESTER COUNTY

SUMMER 2008

Get artsy.

Keep up with the arts on the Shore at www.visitworcester.org or call 800.852.0335.



[PAINTING BY KIRK MCBRIDE]



As part of the 400th anniversary of Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay, a shallow retraced his 1608 voyage. [PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH 400 PROJECT]

AT A GLANCE

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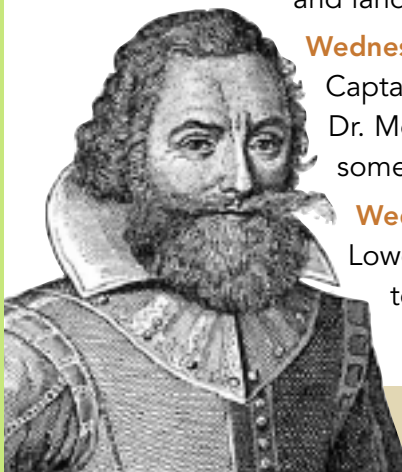
Exploring with Capt. John Smith

The Delmarva Discovery Center is hosting a lecture series in July highlighting maritime history, heritage and Native American culture during the colonial period of the Eastern Shore. Presentations will be given by regional scholars with emphasis on the use of cartography, archaeology, anthropology and ethnography to interpret early area settlements by both Europeans and Native American peoples. All programs begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Below is the list of the "Captain John Smith" lectures. The center is at 6 Market Street in Pocomoke City.

Tuesday, July 15: "Colonial Connections in a Maritime Culture," by Dr. Elizabeth Ragan of Salisbury University, will explore early colonial activity such as maritime trade and smuggling among Eastern Shore settlements and land owners.

Wednesday, July 23: In "The Lore and Legends of Captain John Smith and the Jamestown Experiment," Dr. Melanie Perreault of Salisbury University will debunk some of the myths about Smith and his exploits.

Wednesday, July 30: Field archaeologist Darren Lowery will talk about archaeological excavation techniques and interpreting the past through fieldwork site assessments.



Engraving of Captain John Smith. [ENGRAVING COURTESY OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH 400 PROJECT]

NATURE TOURISM



Take part in the Delmarva BioBlitz in August

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

The Delmarva BioBlitz will connect kids and families to nature through fun, semi-competitive nature exploration, while raising funds for non-profit organizations working on the Delmarva Peninsula. BioBlitz teams will help showcase Delmarva biodiversity in their local park, their watershed, or their region during the week of August 9–16, 2008.

Delmarva environmental organizations, youth groups, businesses and educational institutions can sponsor a BioBlitz team of up to 10 people. Teams can include children and adults, and all-adult teams are welcome. Teams register with Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE). Once registered, teams will receive rules, pledge forms and inventory lists from DLITE.

Prior to the week of August 9–16, BioBlitz teams will solicit pledges for the total number of species they will inventory during a four-hour block that week. All plant and animal species may be included, and total inventory could reach as high as 200-300 species (most likely less, maybe more).



Donors can pledge per species or contribute a lump sum. All proceeds raised will be shared 50/50 between DLITE and the designated partner organization. Teams without a sponsor organization must choose a non-profit, scout group, school or church to receive their portion of the funds raised. No private business or individual may receive funds earned during BioBlitz.

During the BioBlitz week, teams must choose a site to conduct a "bioblitz" inventory for a four-hour period a park, watershed or region (for instance, Trap Pond State Park, Maryland's Coastal Bays, Accomack County). All BioBlitz inventories must be conducted on the Delmarva Peninsula.

For details, go to www.delmarvalite.org. For registration information, contact Jim Rapp at dlitedirector@comcast.net or 443.944.8097.

Exploring wild Worcester

The Worcester County Tourism office has joined the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, DLITE and md.com to create a promotion that will feature low-impact and nature tourism in the county. The partnership will use the Internet and Web 2.0 features to attract visitors, increase tourism dollars spent in the county, educate the public about low-impact tourism, flora and fauna indigenous to Maryland's only seaside county, and the many cultural, heritage and nature activities in the area.

Two-minute webisodes highlighting different features within the county will include Jim Rapp, Director of DLITE, along with an expert on the topic discussed in that segment.

In addition to the webisodes and other online content, a contest will invite viewers to submit their own video, photographs, itineraries or essays to be entered in a contest to win a fabulous week of exploration in Worcester County. Details will be posted at www.visitworcester.org.



Summer Reading Club on tour

There were big smiles and friendly waves as kids and their families recognized the image of Sneaks the cat appearing on an Ocean City, MD bus ad. Sneaks is the popular Summer Reading Club mascot for Maryland's Public Libraries. Sneaks' message to kids of all ages is to "Catch The Reading Bug!" at your local library.

Stop in and see what's new at the Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Pocomoke City, Snow Hill and Berlin branch libraries or visit the library virtually at www.worcesterlibrary.org.

TRAVEL NEWS

Gas prices don't stop road-trippers

High gas prices might make some people think twice about far-flung vacations this summer, but AAA New York says its members have requested more road trip maps this year than ever before.

So where is everybody going? The top 5 driving destinations based on the requested maps are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Washington, D.C. | 3. Williamsburg, VA |
| 2. Montreal, Quebec, Canada | 4. Boston, MA |
| | 5. Ocean City, MD |

Also, six of ten (59 percent, to be exact) Americans who are currently planning a trip with their car, truck or SUV this summer will not change their travel plans even with additional increases in the price of gas, according to the closely watched *travelhorizons*TM survey co-authored by the Travel Industry Association (TIA) and Ypartnership.

Among the 41 percent of respondents who stated their plans would change if gas prices rise further, the greatest percentage would simply drive a shorter distance to their vacation destination.

What's new at the Mar-Va Theater

A year ago the Salisbury Community Players presented their highly acclaimed production of *The Fantasticks* at the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke City to rave reviews. The Players have agreed to put on two productions in the Mar-Va this year: *Wait Until Dark* (July 12, 13) and a Music Revue (August 15, 16, 17).

And the Mar-Va Theater plans to show movies soon. Stay tuned.

To help the Mar-Va bring more events to the stage, consider becoming a member. If you're already a member, give the gift of a membership to a friend. For more information, contact www.mar-vatheater.com or info@mar-vatheater.org.



MAIN STREET CORNER

Berlin becomes a Main Street community

[STORY BY MICHAEL DAY]

The Town of Berlin has become the first municipality in Worcester County and one of the latest Maryland towns to become a Maryland Main Street Community. The designation was announced by Governor Martin O'Malley on June 24 in downtown Berlin. During the ceremony the Governor announced that Princess Anne, Chestertown, Annapolis and Middletown



During the announcement of Berlin becoming a Main Street community, from left to right: Del. Norman Conway, Sec. Raymond Skinner, Del. Jim Mathias, Mayor Gee Williams, Gov. Martin O'Malley and Amy Seitz, Director of Maryland Main Streets. [PHOTO BY MICHAEL DAY]


would also be named Maryland Main Streets. The ceremony took place in front of the Atlantic Hotel on a beautiful warm day, to a large crowd of residents and politicians who were in Ocean City for the Maryland Municipal League's annual conference.

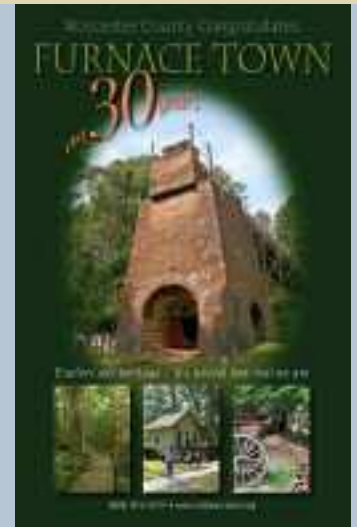
While the Berlin Main Street Program and the Worcester County Department of Tourism had been seeking the Main Street Designation on a county-wide level, they

both feel this is great news for the county and especially the Town of Berlin. The designation opens state doors to the Maryland Main Street Program, offering training, support and grant opportunities. Often small program grants, such as façade renovation funding, will become available to Main Street communities. While the new designation will only affect the Town of Berlin right now, the training and networking will be passed on to the other Worcester County towns through Berlin's Main Street Coordinator, who also works for Pocomoke City.

Along with the Main Street designation, the town received a \$12,000 matching Main Street Improvement Program grant for the Berlin Main Street Program area. The Mayor of Berlin and the Berlin Main Street Program will be hosting a meeting in August to gain public input for prioritizing their goals for the district.

The Maryland Main Street Program coordinates the member towns by following the National Main Street Five Point approach: Organization, Promotion, Design, Economic Restructuring, and Clean, Safe, and Green. Each point is worked on through a volunteer committee to achieve the desired goals set forth by the local Main Street Program.

To volunteer or find out more about the Berlin Main Street Program contact Michael Day, Main Street Coordinator, Town of Berlin/Pocomoke City, at michaelday@berlinmdarts.org or 443.735.0957. 



Celebrate Furnace Town's 30th anniversary

Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum in Snow Hill is turning 30. The anniversary will be celebrated with a special evening July 19, 5:30–9:30 pm, featuring live and silent auctions, wine tasting, and a seasonal and historic 19th century dinner. Tickets cost \$75 per person. For information, call 410.632.2032.

Also, on Sunday, July 20, Furnace Town will offer free admission and special activities from noon–5 p.m. Visitors can "pilot" a cargo plane and a jet, listen to strolling musicians, concerts and a storyteller, chat with local authors, enjoy children's activities, and more.

IN THE NEWS



SNEAK PEEK OF DISCOVERY CENTER A group of about 20 hotel, visitor center, park and museum staff got a chance to tour the Discovery Center as well as the Sturgis Museum, Mar-Va Theater and Costen House on June 24. The tour culminated with a river cruise aboard the Bay Queen. The Discovery Center is slated to open later this summer. [PHOTO BY SCOTT THOMAS]



Chesapeake Bay Farms was featured in the July/August issue of *Maryland Life* magazine in an article, "Your Search for the Perfect Scoop Ends Here." At Logtown Road and Route 50 near Berlin, this place serves homemade ice cream, along with milk, cream, butter, artisan cheeses and seafood. www.chesapeakebay-cheese.com.

Berlin was highlighted in the May 24 *Baltimore Sun* in a story headlined, "History, shopping and art in this Eastern Shore town give tourists a break from the nearby sand and surf."

Assateague Island was featured in the *Miami Herald* on May 21 in an article, "Something different on beaches of the central Atlantic coast," which also highlighted Frontier Town and biking the boardwalk.




Blessing of the Combines turns 10

Snow Hill salutes its agricultural heritage on Saturday, August 2 with the 10th Annual Blessing of the Combines. Area farmers drive their enormous combines into the downtown for a blessing before the harvest.

Secretary of Maryland's Department of Agriculture, Roger Richardson, will join other community leaders to celebrate the agricultural roots of the Snow Hill area.

Artists, artisans, food vendors, musicians, antique cars, and farm animals will all be part of the fun. An Antique Tractor Pull will follow the downtown events at John Walter Smith Park at 4:30 p.m. Events begin at 10 a.m.; the blessing happens at 1 p.m.

For information contact Becky Payne at 410.632.3838. 

On August 2, Snow Hill will celebrate the 10th annual Blessing of the Combines.

[PHOTO BY JERRY GERLITZKI]

CALENDAR

JULY

- July 17 Woodworking with Worcester 4-H, kids 8-14. Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing.
- July 24 Fishing, crabbing with Worcester 4-H, kids 8-14. Assateague-UMES CETRC, Berlin.
- July 31 Habitat with Worcester 4-H, kids 8-14. Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing.

AUGUST

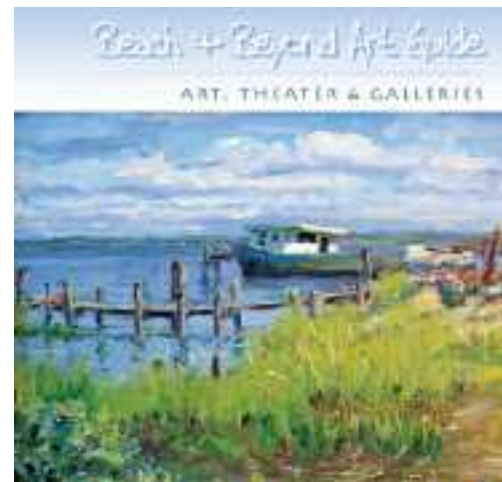
- Aug. 1 Dog Days of Summer during First Friday, Snow Hill. Parade for dogs. Bishop's Stock has "Artists Exchange." 410.632.3555. www.snowhillmd.com
- Aug. 4 Family Movie Night, 27th St. & Beach, Ocean City. Free. 7:30-10:30pm. 800.626.2326. www.ococean.com
- Aug. 5 Concert: The Charlie Daniels Band & .38 Special. Convention Center. 8pm. 800-551-7328. www.ticketmaster.com
- Aug. 10 Concert on the Lawn, Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, Berlin. Free. 6pm. 410.641.1019. www.taylorhousemuseum.org
- Aug. 12-14 Art at the Beach class for kids 5-13. Art League of Ocean City. 410.524.9433. www.artleagueofoceancity.org
- Aug. 25 Open Mic Night, Globe Theater, Berlin. 6-9pm. 410.641.0784. www.globetheater.com

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 5 First Friday, Snow Hill. Galleries, shops open 'til 8pm. 410.632.3555. www.snowhillmd.com
- Sept. 12 Second Friday, Berlin. Exhibits, music. 5-8pm. 443.735.0957.
- Sept. 19-21 Fiddler's Convention, Downtown Berlin. 410.641.4775. www.berlinmdcc.org.

New Artist, Gallery & Theater Guide

With funds from the Rural Development Center and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, Worcester County is producing the Art, Gallery & Theater Guide. The goal is to support artists, arts organizations, small business/gallery owners and theatrical performances to help ensure the accessibility of the arts to a wider audience and to promote awareness of arts resources and opportunities. The guide is planned as an economic development tool to elevate the arts as a viable career and business. This booklet will highlight galleries, artists and performing arts theaters in the county (and a bit beyond), including the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center and the Fulton Hall Black Box Theater.



The guide also fits in well with the growing trend in tourism of visitors wanting to help support the local communities they visit by buying locally-made goods and services. Look for the new guide later this year.

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.

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