



## Power costs stun utility

Soaring price of parts, fuel, along with delivery delays factor into town rate study

**By Maddy Lauria**  
Contributing Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Soaring temperatures and skyrocketing prices are causing some challenges for the Town of Berlin's Electric Utility Department.

Earlier this summer, two transformers blew during "one of the hottest summers" Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence can remember.

"In the latter part of July, the heat index breached to 103 degrees, even 105," he said. With temperatures like that, air conditioning units continue to run, ramping up demand. With de-



Tim Lawrence

mand that high, the two transformers that faulted — one at Mallard Ridge and the other at Town Hall — simply couldn't handle the heat.

It's not so unusual to lose a handful of transformers throughout the year, Lawrence said, and his department budgets for failures caused by weather conditions like high heat and lightning and even for car accidents that can wipe out transformers when a vehicle hits a utility pole. He said he can remember three or four summers where demand was high enough to cause such stress on the system.

Still, replacing two transformers was accounted for in the budget.

What's different from those other summers is how much the cost of a transformer — as well as the price of purchasing power — has changed.

Before the covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, causing a ripple effect of supply chain disruptions now exacerbated by international affairs such as the war in Ukraine, a standard 167KVA transformer cost about \$4,500. Today, the same piece of equipment is almost \$19,000, Lawrence said.

Three-phase transformers that used to cost around \$20,000 are now \$60,000 or \$70,000. On top of the cost issue, delivery times are also exponentially longer: An order that may have taken 20 weeks to arrive is now estimated to take 120 weeks.

See PRICES Page 3

## Bohlen new town administrator

Her time in Berlin's employ has seen her rise through ranks to executive post

**By Maddy Lauria**  
Contributing Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Mary Bohlen, a long-time employee of the Town of Berlin, has been promoted to town administrator.

Bohlen, who began working for the town in 1991, had been serving as acting town administrator since the spring, following the April retirement of Jeff Fleetwood. She was sworn into her new position during the Berlin Mayor and Town Council meeting on Monday.

"Mary brings over 30 years of experience to the position, a wealth of knowledge about the Town of Berlin and how we operate administratively and across all departments," Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall said during the meeting.

At just 25 years old, the Salisbury resident, whose late husband worked for the Berlin Police Department,



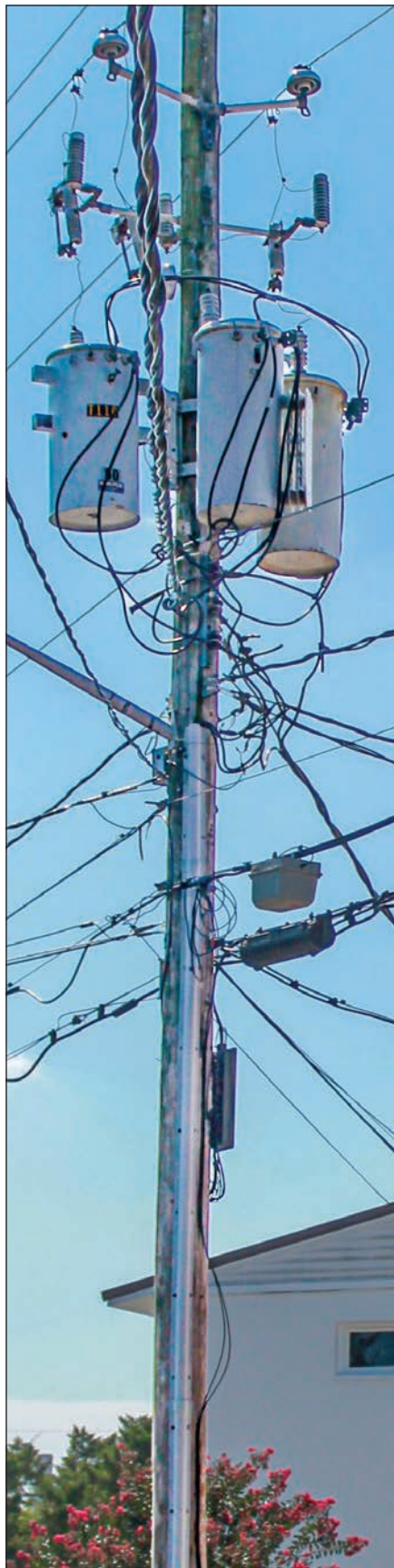
LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Mary Bohlen, pictured in her office on Tuesday morning, a long-time employee of the Town of Berlin, has been promoted to town administrator. She had been serving as acting town administrator since the spring, following the April retirement of Jeff Fleetwood.

started her career in Berlin in the front office of Town Hall, answering phones and ringing up utility customers, she said. Within a couple of

years, she became Berlin's grants administrator, where she found herself helping coordinate with Hollywood

See BOHLEN Page 8



LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

When one of these transformers went out in Berlin, the price of a replacement was \$60,000-\$70,000. A few years earlier, it cost \$20,000.



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# Prices, mandates huge factors in rate study

Continued from Page 1

“So, it can take up to two years to get a transformer right now,” he said. “And every utility across the country is seeing that, not just municipalities. We’re seeing that and seeing costs increasing.”

Add on fuel cost increases of 20 percent to 30 percent and a 2019 state mandate that drove up the price of purchasing required green power and now the town is seeing its electric expenses increase by 30 percent to 40 percent, but no increased revenue to offset it, he said.

During the Aug. 8 council meeting, Finance Director Natalie Saleh reported that preliminary numbers for FY2022, which ended June 30, showed the electric fund operating at a loss of \$345,617.

While the town has explored the option of installing its own solar fields, the estimated price of such a project has been cost-prohibitive, Lawrence said, adding it would be well over \$1 million to build a Berlin solar facility.

“The town just doesn’t have that within the electric department fund to build something that big without raising rates,” he said. But with the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard mandates, the town is required to purchase a certain percentage of

green, or renewable, energy each year in the form of Renewable Energy Credits.

In 2019, Gov. Larry Hogan signed a bill that increased the amount of renewable power that electric providers are required to purchase by 2030 from 25 percent to 50 percent. Lawrence said that shift increased the cost of the solar credits Berlin must purchase by more than 600 percent.

Some states like Maryland are adopting mandates for renewable energy as a way to reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions, which are the driving force of a warming climate.

These cost increases are driving a need for a new rate study that’s planned for this fiscal year. Even without the steep cost increases, the town would be considering a rate study since officials aim to do one every 10 years. The last was completed in 2012, Lawrence said.

Berlin is one of five municipal electric utilities in Maryland, and tries to offset costs during peak usage times — especially during hot summer months and cold winter days — by promoting a “peak shaving” program, Lawrence and Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall explained.

During times of high demand, the town will send customers a message through the Code Red system to ask

them to reduce electricity use by turning up the air conditioning a few degrees or not doing laundry, typically between the hours of 5-7 p.m. to help lower the demand on the grid. That effort, along with running generators at the town’s power plant on William Street, can reduce the amount of power the town needs to purchase. During these peak times, the cost of purchased power also can increase exponentially.

Even though that program saves Berlin ratepayers upwards of \$600,000 per year, according to Lawrence, rates are likely to change this year to keep up with compounding costs.

“Without the study, we can’t say for certain,” said Tyndall, who agreed it would be an accurate assumption to say rates will likely have to increase.

The town has budgeted for a rate study this fiscal year and hopes to have the necessary data gathered by the beginning of 2023.

Once the rate study is completed, any requested rate change will have to be evaluated by the Public Service Commission. Ratepayers will have an opportunity to explore the rate study’s findings at a future public meeting, and there will be public hearings during the PCS review, as well, Tyndall said.

Even if there is an increase, Tyndall said he believes Berlin’s rates will remain competitive, “if not the lowest in the local area.”


“We hope we can have this back in time for us to make accurate predictions for the FY2024 budget,” he said. “It’s mainly making sure we’re on top of our costs.”

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GREG WEHNER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Worcester County Commissioners approved spending \$100,000 for the redesigning of the Riddle Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant on Aug. 16. The decision came after multiple issues of failing membranes that degrade in the presence of chlorine, constantly have to be cleaned, and ultimately reduce the capacity of the facility from 200,000 gallons per day to 100,000 gallons per day.

Failing wastewater treatment filters lead to costly redesign

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Something stinks at the Riddle Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant along Grays Corner Road in Berlin, other than the effluent being hauled off premises multiple times per week because of a faulty system.

Membranes used in the filtering process at the plant have proven to be faulty, limiting the operations of the plant, and now the Worcester County Commissioners are poised to spend well over \$1 million to redesign and construct a system that works as intended.

“This plant just keeps getting better,” County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said sarcastically at the beginning of a discussion about the facility on Aug. 16.

Director of Public Works Dallas Baker asked the commissioners to

approve a \$100,000 intergovernmental loan from the general fund to design improvements at the Riddle Farm Wastewater treatment plant, and in a memo, he outlined the issues the plant is facing.

In the memo, Baker said the current filter membranes clog frequently, requiring them to be removed and cleaned. While they are cleaned, the treatment capacity at the plant diminishes and flows are diverted to an overflow tank.

The plant is rated for 200,000 gallons per day – the average flow in June and July of 2022 was approximately half that at 100,000 gallons.

All the excess wastewater then gets pumped out and hauled away by contractors eight to 10 times a day, four to five days a week.

The plant was built as part of a public/private partnership to provide

See COUNTY Page 6

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# Pines committee clarifies section of bylaws

**By Susan Canfora**  
Contributing Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) After considerable discussion, members of the Ocean Pines By-Laws & Resolutions Committee clarified a section concerning who is eligible to present referendums to the board of directors, and who can represent and assist petitioners.

A petitioner and representative have to be Ocean Pines Association members who are eligible to vote, meaning they are residents or property owners whose annual assessment fees are paid and up to date.

That used to be referred to as "being in good standing," but By-Laws Committee Chairman Jim Trummel said the term is no longer in popular use.

A petitioner can be assisted by others who are not OPA members.

"What we decided is, the person who is going to initiate and circulate the petition has to be a member of the association but that member can be assisted by others who are not necessarily members and that could be a lawyer," Trummel said after the Friday, Aug. 19, meeting. "We are taking this and we will put it in a draft and send it to the board for a first reading. The first reading has to be at a regular meeting of the board, which will be

sometime in September after the new board reorganizes.

"Then, the board can discuss, amend, whatever they want, at the first reading. It has to go through a second reading to be approved," Trummel said, adding the intent is to give the membership an opportunity to comment.

Following that public comment and board consideration, the clarified bylaw will take effect, probably in October, Trummel said.

"Nothing really changed. We have reviewed this on a periodic basis. We have a document that shows a review schedule. It was probably well past time to review this one," Trummel said. "The committee focused on the matter because, during a board meeting in March, one of the directors asked who can initiate petitions and represent petitioners.

"I decided, let's take the initiative and look at this," Trummel added.

Also discussed at the By-Laws Committee meeting was terms of the members — Robert Hillegass, Keith Kaiser, Lora Pangratz, Stephen Jacobs and Trummel.

Members are eligible to serve three terms of a total of six years, divided into three years for the first term, two years for the second and one year for the final term.

Jacobs was elected to the board of

directors so is no longer on the By-Laws Committee.

Trummel's term ends Sept. 24, after one more committee meeting, and Hillegass' term ends Oct. 22.

"Both of us are reaching the end of the third term and we cannot continue," Trummel said.

OPA President Colette Horn, liaison to the committee, said the OPA board can extend terms beyond the end of the third term.

She praised Trummel, Hillegass and all members, saying they have done "a wonderful job."

"There is a provision that allows for an extension for the convenience of the board. I agreed I would extend my term until a replacement is found and the vacancies are filled, so we can have a quorum," Trummel said.

Hillegass also agreed to that arrangement.

Trummel said anyone interested in serving on the committee, an unpaid position, can contact him at jet-lat@verizon.net, or visit the Ocean Pines Association website.

The committee meets each month, usually on Friday afternoons.

## OP Chamber to present annual car show Sept. 3

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host its eighth annual car show on Saturday, Sept. 3.

The car show will be held at Veterans Memorial Park located on the corner of Cathell and Racetrack roads. Several food trucks will be there as well as Radio Ocean City for entertainment.

For more information on registering for the car show or becoming a vendor, call the Ocean Pines Chamber at 410-641-5306 or stop in the office at 11047 Racetrack Road Berlin, Maryland 21811.

The car show will begin around 10 a.m. and trophies will be awarded by 1 p.m.

There will be trophies awarded in these categories: Classic, Antique, Hot Rod, Modern, Customs, Jeep and People's Choice.

Pre-registration is available online for \$15, or \$20 the day of the show. Registration will be at Veterans Memorial Park beginning at 8:30 a.m.

All cars must be registered by 10 a.m. to participate in the car show. Register online at [www.OceanPinesChamber.org](http://www.OceanPinesChamber.org).

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# County frustrations continue to build over treatment plant

Continued from Page 4

more capacity and infrastructure to the area and the shopping center nearby that contains Walmart.

Baker told the commissioners the \$100,000 would be used to pay for the design of improvements to the plant. The company proposing to do the work returned to Baker with a plan for the redesign, which is expected to cost \$1.2 million.

Baker also said he is looking at multiple grants to fund the project but needs the \$100,000 to proceed with at least the design.

"This is very frustrating on many different levels," Commissioner Chip Bertino told Baker.

Bertino said the company that installed the most recent membranes suggested several changes be made to the plan to the tune of \$50,000.

"They've screwed up and it's now costing us \$1.2 million to put it back the way it was?" he asked Baker.

"Yeah," Baker replied, adding they were told the membrane would allow for additional flow without any modifications.

What happened is they installed the membranes and they didn't work properly.

After going back and forth a few times with the company saying to fix this or that, and the membranes still not working, Baker finally took a step back.

"At some point we're chasing our tail here," he said. "We need to get an expert opinion on what to do."

The county was promised that the membranes would last multiple years, and instead they lasted multi-

ple months.

The membranes that the county was told to install came with a price tag of \$160,000 for all four, but the materials used in them degrades in the presence of chlorine, a chemical used to treat water and to clean the membranes.

The new membranes, Baker said, do not degrade in the presence of chlorine but the flow is not where it needs to be for the area.

Bertino asked if there was a way the county could be compensated because the goods sold did not meet what was promised.

Baker also said the manufacturer of the membranes admitted in conversation that they degrade in the presence of chlorine, but he was not sure if that admission was ever put in writing.

Still, the commissioners unanimously agreed to have staff investigate options for recouping the money.

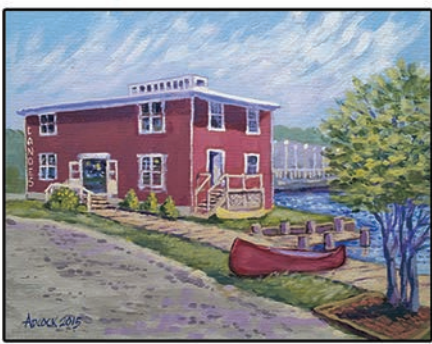
As it stands currently, the membranes are pulled out for cleaning two to three times per month, compared to the wastewater treatment plant at Mystic Harbour, which has the membranes pulled out two to three times per year.

When the membranes at Riddle are pulled out, it can take two to four days to clean, which includes being put into a chlorine bath.

The downtime has the plant working at 50 percent.

Ultimately, the commissioners unanimously agreed give Baker and his team \$100,000 to spend on a re-design of the facility.

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# Berlin seeks grant for new park playground

Funds used to replace existing equipment with ADA-compliant amenities

**By Maddy Lauria**

Contributing Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Stephen Decatur Park could get new, inclusive playground equipment in the coming years if Berlin's request for a nearly \$1 million state grant is approved.

During the Aug. 22 Berlin Mayor and Town Council meeting, officials voted in favor of seeking a Community Parks and Playground Program grant through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for \$969,240 to replace existing playground equipment at the park with modern, ADA-compliant amenities.

The project will require the town to provide a \$55,700 cash match, which newly appointed Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said is what officials would have to spend for engineering, design work, permitting, bidding and required signage.

"The inclusive playground will be built to encourage children, adults and families of all abilities to play together," the application states. "The equipment will be designed to address the needs of every child. It will have pieces that are accessible by all and will also include climbing apparatus, swings, a walking bridge and auditory equipment."

Mayor and all council members endorsed the grant application. Council members Troy Purnell and Shaneka Nichols were absent.

"The intent is to make it inclusive of children of many ages and all abilities," said Bohlen. "The Parks Committee is very excited to present this grant application. We're very hopeful."

Bohlen said that while the existing playground equipment is "not considered unsafe," a lot of pieces are no longer even manufactured.

"There's a lot of hard metal there," she added. According to the application, most of the pieces to be replaced are more than two decades old.

The project also aims to address stormwater issues at the site, and officials said in the application that the design aims to protect as many existing trees as possible and include a "rubber surface graded appropriately to insure minimum stormwater runoff."

If the grant is awarded, it would take at least another year for construction to be complete.

The deadline for the grant application is Aug. 24. Matching funds will be budgeted in fiscal year 2024, Bohlen said, under parks' contract services. Bohlen said at the Aug. 8 council meeting that officials won't know until this time next year if their request is approved.



PHOTO COURTESY BERLIN COUNCIL PACKET  
Stephen Decatur Park could get new, inclusive playground equipment in the coming years if Berlin's request for a nearly \$1 million state grant is approved.



LISA CAPITELLI/BAYSIDE GAZETTE  
During the Aug. 22 Berlin Mayor and Town Council meeting, officials voted in favor of seeking a Community Parks and Playground Program grant through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for \$969,240 to replace existing playground equipment at the park with modern, ADA-compliant amenities.

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# Bohlen works her way to top of administration in Berlin

Continued from Page 1  
when the production of two major films — “Runaway Bride” and “Tuck Everlasting” — came to town. During that time, she was named Berlin’s special projects administrator.

A few years after the town created a new deputy town administrator position, Bohlen went for it. She’s served in that role ever since, stepping in a handful of times to serve as acting town administrator.

“I found this motion one of the most satisfying I’ve ever made,” said Councilman Dean Burrell of his vote to support Bohlen’s latest official appointment. “I just want to say welcome to a position that you have had for a while, and finally being recognized for your work for the Town of Berlin and its citizens is greatly appreciated. And on behalf of those citizens, we thank you.”

Originally from the Saint Michael’s area, Bohlen has a 23-year-old daughter and has enjoyed her various roles working for the Town of Berlin.

“I can remember when we got our first fax machine,” she said. “That gives you a little sense of how things were when I first started working here.”

Not only has the technology come a

long way in the last 30 years, but Berlin’s economic development has also boomed. While the town has been considered a popular tourist destination for decades, Bohlen said there are definitely more events and restaurants to attract people year ‘round — even when the weather is good enough to go to the beach instead.

“It has really come into its own more as its own destination,” she said. “Even in poor economic times around us and throughout the whole country, Berlin has remained pretty steady on its feet.”

Bohlen said if the mayor of Berlin can be considered like a CEO, the town administrator is like the COO, overseeing the town’s day-to-day operations. In her new official capacity as town administrator, she said she aims to continue the positive progress she’s seen over the years.

“[I want to] meet the needs of the citizens while keeping a realistic view of the world around us and what we need to do to keep Berlin thriving and vibrant, primary for residents and businesses, but also for visitors,” she said. “My door is always open. Please reach out to me. I’ve always been very accessible, I think, and plan to continue to do so.”



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# Police search for suspect in Sunday night home invasion

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Police continue to search for the man who broke into a Berlin home on Sunday night, got into a scuffle with an occupant after brandishing a weapon, and then ran before police arrived.

Berlin police responded to reports of an active home invasion near Broad Street at approximately 11 p.m. on Sunday. After arriving on the scene, officers learned a man had forced his way into the home through a window while the residents were inside.

Police said after the man gained access to the home, he brandished a weapon and got into a "brief struggle" with the occupants before taking off on foot. Police did not say what kind of weapon was produced by the sus-

pect.

Officers arrived on the scene after the suspect fled. The Berlin Police Department then handed the investigation to the Worcester County Bureau of Investigation.

Additional agencies — the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, State Police Crime Scene Unit, and Pocomoke City Police Department K9 Division — responded to the scene.

Anyone with information about the home invasion who may have seen anything suspicious in the area during the evening hours should contact detectives with the County Bureau of Investigation at 410-632-1111 or the Berlin Police Department at 410-641-1333.

No other information was available.

# Pocomoke radio station fire sparked by bad electric wire

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigation into the Aug. 18 that destroyed radio station WGOP on Dunn Swamp Road in Pocomoke City has concluded that the blaze was caused by a failed electrical wire in the building's attic.

The Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company and surrounding volunteer fire departments in Maryland and

Virginia were alerted of a fire at radio station, formerly WDMV, at 11:34 a.m.

Firefighters arrived to find heavy fire and smoke conditions coming from the attic area of the structure. Approximately 50 firefighters remained on location for three hours bringing the fire under control.

The station built in 1955 was broadcasting on the air at the time of the fire. The station is owned by the Birach Broadcasting Corporation of Michigan and was operated by Mike Powell. The building was not insured and is a complete loss.



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# Policy green lights medical marijuana in public schools

By Greg Wehner  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) A new policy in Worcester County Public Schools allows students with a prescription for medical marijuana to be administered the cannabis while in school, but only by a school nurse.

Dr. Annette Wallace, the chief safety and academic officer for the school district presented the policy to school board members on Aug. 16, saying it was being put in place to protect all students around controlled substances.



Annette Wallace

In 2020, Wallace said, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring all Maryland schools to allow the administration of medical cannabis during school hours and school-sponsored activities while on a school bus.

The purpose of the legislation is to help designated personnel in the schools to manage and coordinate the care of students who receive medical marijuana for a variety of qualifying medication conditions, like seizures.

If a student is prescribed cannabis for treatment, several steps must be

taken by the parents, prescribing doctor, and school nurse to ensure the medication is checked into a locked and secured locker and administered properly.

Wallace said she is not aware of any requests for the administration of medical cannabis in the schools, but if one ever comes forward, the policy will be in place.

Wallace presented a batch of policy revisions to the board, but led with the new policy for medical cannabis intentionally.

“Just for transparency, we did put this new policy first because in the past, sometimes, we’ve been accused of not being transparent,” she said.

Some of the board members had questions about students being administered marijuana at school, including who would give it to the students and how it was different from any other prescribed medication.

Wallace assured the board that cannabis would be treated just like any other prescribed controlled substance: it will be locked and secured, and will only be administered by qualified personnel, such as a school nurse or substitute nurse.

Superintendent Lou Taylor recommended the policy be approved, and the board members unanimously approved it.

## Locals get chance to dispose of scrap tires this Saturday

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners and the Public Works Recycling Division, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Environmental Services, will host Citizens Scrap Tire Drop-Off Day on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This event will take place at the Central Landfill in Newark.

Worcester County residents are encouraged to get rid of their old, scrap, passenger and light truck tires free of charge, with a limit of 10 tires per household.

No agricultural tires will be accepted, and no businesses, commercial haulers of tires or generators of scrap tires will be permitted to participate.

For more info, contact Worcester County Recycling Manager Mike McClung at 410-632-3177.

## Free Citizen Tire Disposal Event

**Saturday, August 27th, 2022**  
**8am-1pm**  
**Drop-off at:**  
**Worcester County Landfill**  
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## County Commissioners Briefs

By Greg Wehner  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 16 covered topics such as replacing a van and increasing the adult drop-in recreation fee.

### Public Works van request

Dallas Baker, the director of Public Works, requested the commissioners' permission to purchase a used work van off a dealer lot for no more than \$46,000.

At the price point, Bakers said in a memo, the county could purchase a used van with low miles and a factory warranty.

The request came after one of the vans with the Wastewater division was totaled.

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked Baker how the van was totaled and was told it was a single-vehicle crash. The driver, Baker continued, was not on drugs or alcohol, and drove off the road after over correcting the turn.

"Well, it was an expensive turn," Bertino said.

Commissioner Ted Elder asked about the amount being \$2,500 less than a new vehicle. Baker said there is a van shortage, and it could take more than a year to get a new replacement van.

He also said \$46,000 was the max the department would spend when Elder asked if he could find something cheaper.

"I certainly hope you do," Elder said.

The commissioners unanimously approved the purchase request.

### Adult drop-in fee increase

The commissioners unanimously approved increasing the recreation program fee for adult drop-in programs from \$3 to \$5.

Adult drop-in programs include soccer, basketball, pickleball, and volleyball, which typically run once a week for two hours throughout the year.

The drop-in fee, according to a memo from Kelly Rados, director of Recreation and Parks, are paid nightly and are also offered for the fitness room and fitness programs.

The increase is needed as the minimum fee for processing credit cards is \$5, and when the front desk staff charges more than \$3 to the credit card, they are unable to provide adequate customer service.

Rados also said there is a limited amount of cash on hand at the front desk and the staff frequently does not have adequate change.

Heroin coordinator grant

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention awarded a grant of \$50,615 that allows Worcester County to continue employing a heroin coordinator.

The person filling the role is responsible for tracking data related to drug investigations, drug seizures, drug arrests, opioid overdoses, deconflictions and other drug related investigative activities.

Senior Budget Accountant Kim Reynolds told Commissioner Chip Bertino that the position has been funded for about three years and if the grant were to stop, the commissioners would need to treat the position like any other in terms of payroll.

After the brief discussion, the commissioners unanimously approved the acceptance of the grant.

### Police accountability

The commissioners made their nominations and appointments to the newly created Police Accountability Board.

The members of the inaugural group are Jerred A. Johnson, Gregory A. Tate, John Simms III, Mary F. Burgess, Carol M. Frazier, Joseph J. Theobald, and Quincy R. Shockley.



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# Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## NEW OFFICERS

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) installed new officers at a recent meeting. Maryland State Society Vice Regent Liz Dearing installed officers. Pictured, from left, are Sharon Moak, historian; Carol Wanzer, treasurer; Darlene Stevens, recording secretary; Gail Weldin, registrar; and Tally Hann, regent; Dearing and Maryland State Society Editor Pat Arata. Not in attendance: Sara Pugh, vice regent; Carol Morrison, corresponding secretary and librarian, and Chaplain Barbara Rusko. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## APPRECIATION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tim Lund honors a member of the group each month. On June 8, at the weekly meeting, he recognized Sarah Walker for her outstanding volunteering. Walker works with the "Dawg Team" preparing and selling concessions at most of the Kiwanis events. She is also the club's advisor liaison to the Stephen Decatur Middle School Kiwanis Student leadership program Builders Club for students. She was also the Kiwanis Club's first female president (1996-1997).



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GRANT

Friends of Assateague Island State Park recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The grant is to support horse and visitor safety on the island by refurbishing 360 picnic tables to include horse-resistant food storage units.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SCHOLARSHIP

Linda Hilliard, Worcester County NAACP secretary, is pictured with Maya Boyd, Snow Hill High School 2022 Worcester County NAACP Book Scholarship Award winner.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## NEW MEMBERS

Two new Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City members were inducted during the June 15 meeting. Pictured, from left, are new members Lyle Dillon and Elisabeth Prichard, with Membership Chair Diane Sparzak and, Club President Tim Lund.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## MEET & GREET

Worcester County NAACP and the Residence Inn Marriott in Ocean City hosted a Meet & Greet for Negro League Baseball players on June 11. Judy Johnson, Snow Hill native and Baseball Hall of Famer 1975, was also remembered. Pedro Sierra, Detroit Stars, and Sam Allen, Kansas City Monarchs, are pictured with the celebratory cake donated by Malinda Purnell.



# Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Eight graduating seniors from Stephen Decatur High School attended the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City's weekly meeting on June 7, to receive scholarships. Pictured, from left, are Mary Fogle (\$500 - Salisbury University), Meredith Eitel (\$1,000 - St. Leo University), Megan Wheeler (\$1,000 - University of Lynchburg), Hannah Short (\$500 - University of Maryland), Kendahl Parsons (\$1,000 - Salisbury University) Skylar Griffin (\$1000 - University of New Haven), Sommer Smith (\$1,000 - Salisbury University) and Emma Sperry (\$2,000 - North Carolina State University). Sperry scored the highest and was awarded the special Ralph Chinn Memorial Scholarship. Also receiving scholarships were: Decatur graduates Saige Figgs (\$1,000 - Flagler University), Kierstyn Dietrich (\$1,000 - Salisbury University) and Zachary Powers (\$500 - Pace University); Pocomoke High School graduates Sa'Ryha Spence (\$1,000 - Salisbury University), Katelyn Kline (\$1,000 - Sweet Briar College), Meredith Taylor (\$1,000 - Salisbury University), Madison Knight (\$5,000 - Hood College), Morgan Toth (\$500 - McDaniel College); Snow Hill High School graduate Lauren Moses (\$2,000 - college not noted). A total of \$16,500 awarded to 17 students in 2022, bringing the total to \$142,000 presented in the last 10 years.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City welcomed two guest speakers at its June 29 weekly Wednesday meeting. Pictured, from left, are Larry Walton, president of the AARP Ocean Pines Chapter 4507; Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund; and Bob McCluskey, president of the AARP Ocean City Chapter 1917.



PHOTO COURTESY TOMMY VACH

## THANK YOU

Ocean City Surf Club President Tommy Vach and Vice President Rusty Ruszin recently presented Dunkin' gift cards to three law enforcement agencies to thank them and show appreciation for keeping the community safe. Pictured, from left, are Maryland State Police Berlin Barrack First Sgt. Jon Johnson, Ruszin, Vach and Lt. Earl Starner.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## GRADUATES

Worcester County law enforcement officers who graduated in the 88th entrance-level law enforcement class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy operated by Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, from left, are Ray'Ovonte Fitchett of the Pocomoke City Police Department, David Megafu and Austin Mora of the Ocean City Police Department and Benjamin Cropper of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## HELPING OUT

Each year area rotary clubs work together at Camp Fairlee, an Easter Seals Camp, in Fairlee, Maryland, to help the camp open for the summer season. Margaret Mudron and Dan Harris of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club attended this year and one of the projects was sprucing up the welcome garden, which the club sponsored many years ago.





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# Planning grants tower exception

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) A Snow Hill farmer was granted a special exception from the Worcester County Board of Zoning Appeals on Aug. 11 that will allow him to have a cell tower constructed within 1,000 feet of an existing residential structure.

James Kurtz was granted the approval nearly two months after the county commissioners approved amending the code to allow for towers to be erected no less than 500 feet from residential dwellings in agricultural districts.

As part of the approval in June, the commissioners required property owners to provide proof that the agricultural soils were protected, and the land was actively being used for agricultural purposes.

Specifically, the reduction would be based on the protection of the agricultural soils, the land being actively used for agricultural purposes, existing tree growth, steep slopes, stream corridors, wetlands, habitats of threatened or endangered species, and various other aspects the BZA members use to determine reasons to allow the exception.

In June, Kristen Stelzer of the Silver Spring-based Arcola Towers told commissioners the Kurtz Family-owned farm was an excellent location to put a cell tower on, but the exception would be

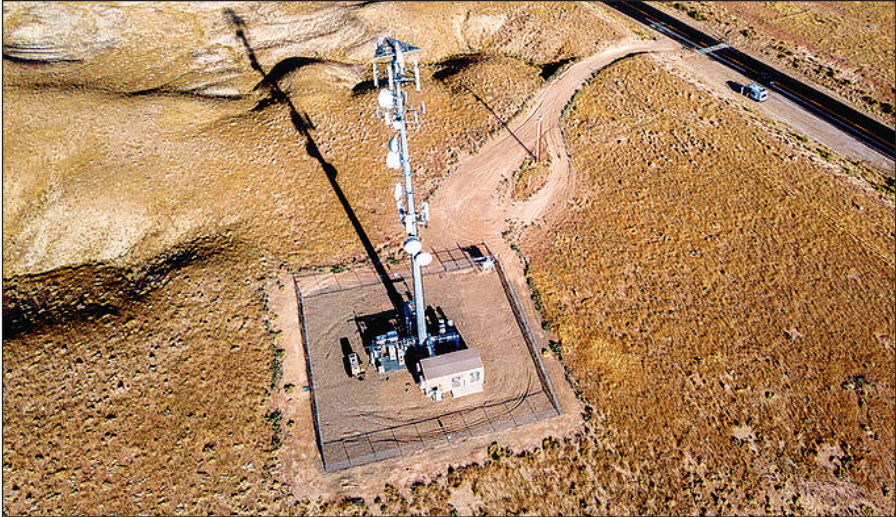


PHOTO COURTESY ARCOLA TOWERS LLC WEBSITE

The Worcester County Board of Zoning Appeals granted a special exception to James Kurtz, a farmer in Snow Hill, that allows him to have a cell tower erected on his property by Arcola Towers LLC, closer than 1,000 feet from a residential structure in an agricultural area. The code previously prohibited towers from being constructed closer than 1,000, but in June, the County Commissioners passed measures allowing for a special exception.

needed.

Josh Kurtz, James's son, operates a farm on Taylor Road and told the commissioners the cell phone service was terrible out that way and Arcola approached the family about putting a tower on the property to improve the service.

The code only allowed for towers to be placed 1,000 feet from all residential towers, and based on those criteria, it would be placed in the middle of a field

and a driveway would need to be cut through to get to the tower. Cutting the driveway would cause the farmers to lose profits and the operations would be reduced.

Instead, with the BZA's approval, the Kurtz family can have the tower placed closer to buildings on the farm where it is more advantageous and a much better fit. Once installed, the tower will be placed into a nook where it is much more hidden and less intrusive to operations.

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Tier 2 of the Bay Crossing Study follows completion of the Tier 1 Study in April 2022. This federally required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study is continuing Governor Larry Hogan's efforts to address congestion and travel reliability at the Bay Bridge and its approach roadways.


To launch the Bay Crossing Study: Tier 2 NEPA (Tier 2 Study), the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) invites all interested parties to join us, either virtually or in-person, at an upcoming Tier 2 Study Open House.

Open House attendees will be able to:

- learn about the Tier 1 Study results,
- learn about the Tier 2 Study,
- ask the study team questions, and
- provide comments.

There will be no formal presentation, however the study team will be available to answer questions during both the in-person and virtual Open Houses.

The same information will be provided at each of the Open Houses. Open House materials are available to review on the study website at [baycrossingstudy.com](http://baycrossingstudy.com).





Tier 1 Study Selected Corridor Alternative (Corridor 7)

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<b>Virtual Open House</b> Wednesday, September 7 (6-8 p.m.) <a href="http://baycrossingstudy.com">baycrossingstudy.com</a>	<b>Queen Anne's County</b> Thursday, September 8 (6-8 p.m.) Kent Island American Legion Post 278 800 Romancoke Rd. Stevensville, MD 21666	<b>Anne Arundel County</b> Tuesday, September 13 (6-8 p.m.) Broadneck High School 1265 Green Holly Dr. Annapolis, MD 21409
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Individuals who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the MDTA at 410-537-1000 (711 for MD Relay) no later than 10 business days before the Open House they would like to attend.



For more information, visit the Study website at [baycrossingstudy.com](http://baycrossingstudy.com).



# State awards Worcester \$1 million to help drive tourism

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) Worcester County will receive a state grant worth more than \$1 million to put toward increasing tourism, and while some will go toward marketing in areas within 50 miles of the county, additional efforts will be placed on marketing outside of the 50-mile radius.

Melanie Pursel, the director of tourism and economic development for the county, presented the grant to the commissioners on Aug. 16 and asked them to sign off on the funds. “This is exciting for us today,” she said, explaining that every year she presents the commissioners with the grant which was established in 2008.

The county was originally going to be awarded an approximately \$300,000 grant but Gov. Larry Hogan dedicated an additional \$8 million into tourism, specifically for advertising, according to Pursel.

As a result, Worcester County will receive \$1,012,508, an increase of \$884,995 compared to last year’s \$127,513.

Commissioner Chip Bertino asked Pursel if some of the money could be used to drive tourism into areas like Snow Hill and Berlin, and she said they could.

Several parameters are in place for the money and how it can be used, according to Pursel, and traditionally, 100 percent of the grant is used on advertising in digital, print, online, television, and radio marketing both in and out of the market.

In-market, she said, includes areas within a 50-mile radius of Worcester County and includes local television and billboards.

Out-of-market areas include what the name implies, but the further out the county goes, the more expensive the advertising becomes.

Much of the advertising Worcester County does is in the more affordable areas, but with this money, Pursel said, the county can target those more expensive markets.

If money is spent on advertising in areas outside of the 50-mile radius and the Maryland state logo is used, 100 percent of the money is reimbursable because it brings more money to the area through booked extended stays.

In-market advertising, in comparison, can be paid for with a 50-50 split between the tourism grant and tourism budget.

Pursel also said after the state grant is spent, the state looks at qualifying expenditures outside of the grant, which are also reimbursed.

“We did really, really well,” she said. “I’m super excited.”

The commissioners unanimously agreed to sign off on the grant.

## County looks into more publications for public notices

**By Greg Wehner**  
Staff Writer

(Aug. 25, 2022) After an increase in the rate the Salisbury-based *Daily Times* charges local governments to publishes public notices, the Worcester County Commissioners are beginning to look at other publications that could save the county a few dollars.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Joseph Parker III told the commissioners on Aug. 16 that the advertising expenses required for bids, hearings, and bills for FY22 were “significantly” over the budgeted amount. To keep on track, he asked the commissioners to approve an overexpenditure of \$26,733.24.

Parker said the shortage was the result of several things, including a larger number of bids, hearings and bills compared to recent years, which ultimately resulted in “a perfect storm” of advertising price increases,

See OVEREXPENDITURES Page 19

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# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Bohlen clearly earned promotion to top job

It can't be said that Berlin's new town administrator, Mary Bohlen, doesn't know her way around the place, or that she may need some time to familiarize herself with the people with whom she will be working, or that she isn't aware of the politics, personalities and visions that drive the mayor and council's policy decisions.

After 31 years in the town's employ, she knows all that. She also knows the challenges the town faces and its responsibilities to the 5,000 or so citizens who depend on its services. After all, very few town administrators started out answering the phones and then worked their way through the hierarchy to become what she accurately describes as chief operating officer.

Bohlen took on various responsibilities following her stint at the front desk in Town Hall and obviously did them in such a fashion that the mayor and council were confident that she could handle this job as well.

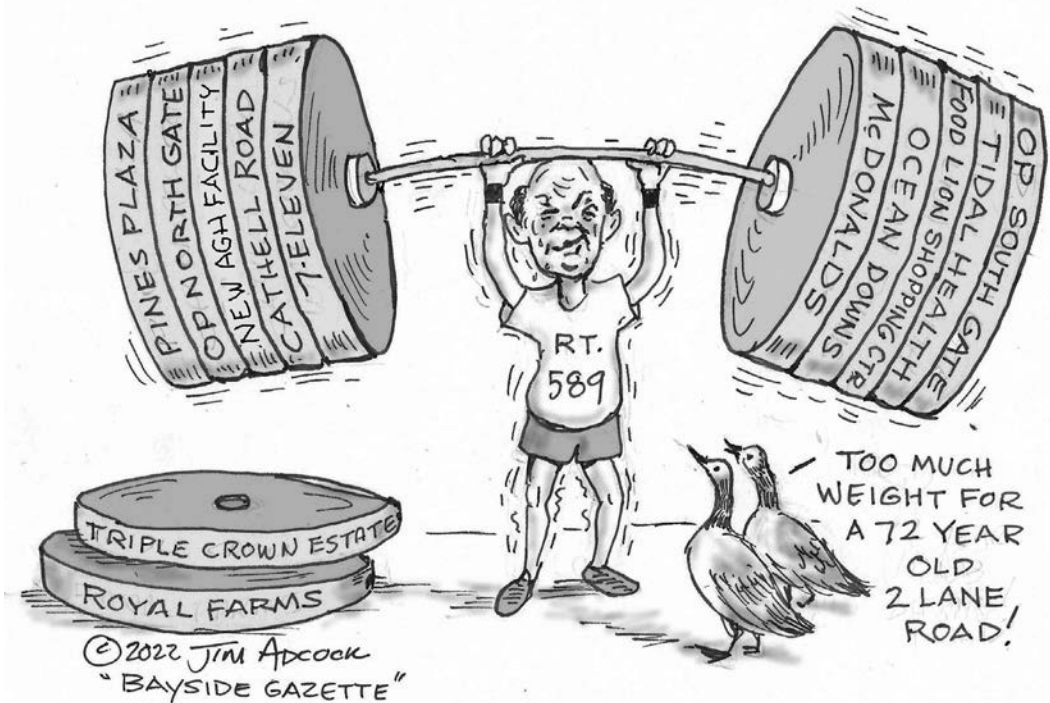
Her official appointment as town administrator by the mayor and Town Council on Monday only formalized what Bohlen had been doing for the past several months anyway, since she took over as acting administrator following the departure of Jeff Fleetwood in April.

It was under his calm and efficient approach to management that she served as deputy administrator, which fully prepared her and the staff for the job she has now.

Congratulations to Bohlen on this achievement, and kudos to the mayor and council for recognizing that she earned this promotion through hard work, diligence and loyalty to the town.

It's always good to promote from within, but it is especially gratifying to see that promotion go to someone who clearly deserves it. In the meantime, it's quietly back to work expediting the mayor and council's wishes while also keeping them apprised of the differences between what they want to do and what the town's resources will permit them to do.

It's a tough job, but with her extensive background in Berlin's government affairs, Bohlen should be up to the task.



## Letter

### Annual book sale successful

Editor,

The weekend of July 22-25 was one of the best yet Book Sale held at the Ocean Pines Library and run by The Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.

Over Friday evening, Saturday and Monday, approximately 20,000 books, DVDs, Audio Books and CDs were offered for sale with all proceeds benefitting the Ocean Pines Library.

The proceeds are used by the library to buy equipment, sponsor programs, offer classes and provide items not covered by the Worcester County Commissioners.

In addition, this year we added a "Specials Room Book Store" that showcased and offered for sale rare, signed, vintage, first edition, small press, collectible, odd and special interest books.

This year was the 21st annual Book Sale and was put together by 105 volunteers and nearly 450 hours to make the sale possible.

Throughout the year, books, CDs, audio books and DVDs are donated by patrons and then sorted and made ready for sale.

This year the Book Sale was attended by over 1,400 people and raised approximately \$10,000.

On behalf of the FOPL and the Ocean Pines Library, we

would like to thank all the volunteers who made the sale possible and who assist with library activities during the year, the charitable folks who donate books throughout the year, the staff of the library who are so patient with our activities, and to all of you who came out to support the sale.

Donations of clean, slightly used or new items are now being accepted. Hope to see you all next year. If you would like to volunteer for the 2023 sales, please contact the Ocean Pines Library and leave your name, address, phone number and email address.

Jim Meckley and  
Eileen Leonhart  
Book Sale Co-Chairs

## Volunteers needed for Worcester fair

(Aug. 25, 2022) This year's Worcester County Fair will be held Sept. 16-18, at Byrd Park in Snow Hill along the Pocomoke River.

Volunteers are being sought to help with the craft

table, front gate, parking, indoor tent setup and take down, as well as judges and superintendents of indoor exhibits. No prior experience is necessary.

Volunteer service credit

hours can be given to students who may need volunteer hours.

Email [worcofair@gmail.com](mailto:worcofair@gmail.com) or call 443-523-0497 and leave a message to volunteer.

BAYSIDE

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Email letters to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com)



# Ocean Pines Players host contest to find new logo

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Ocean Pines Players has announced a contest to find a new logo.

Viewed as a fresh start since being shut down during the pandemic, the new logo is intended to restore visibility and signal The Players' place as a vibrant member of Ocean Pines and Ocean City and the surrounding arts community.

Interested candidates can find the application form (including requirements and deadlines) on the OPP website: <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>.

The contest launched Aug. 1 and is open to all residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Sussex counties, lasting until the midnight deadline of Sept. 5.

At that time, the general OPP membership will have five days to select three finalists, and then the board of directors will choose a winner from among those three at their Sept. 13 meeting.

The winning entry will be announced as OPP's new logo on Sept. 14.

The winner will receive a one-year membership in OPP, two free tickets to any production of the 2022-2023 season, local publicity and attribution for 12 months anywhere the new logo is displayed.

The Players are boosting their first full season since the pandemic with a free open house on Aug. 27 at the Ocean Pines White Horse Park Pavilion.

The regular season includes two musical entries, "A Grand Night for Singing," scheduled as a dinner theater on Nov. 18 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, and "Love...or Not?," Feb. 10-12 at Most Blessed School.

In addition, the group will offer two comedies, "Play On," slated for March 10, 11,17 and 18 at MBS and, "Sweet Delilah Swim Club," May 12,13,19 and 20 at Ocean Pines Assateague Room.

Ticket sales and audition forms can be found on the website: <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>.

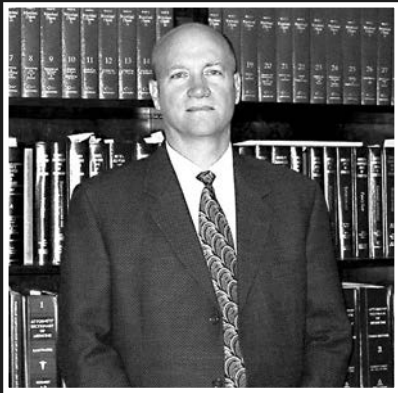
"We're very excited about the new season. It's an ambitious undertaking, but the enthusiasm of our members is very high, with an energy that will certainly carry us through," said OPP's President Frank Pasquilino.

OPP is a local, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For general information about OPP, visit [oceanpinesplayers.org](https://oceanpinesplayers.org) or follow on Facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers.

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# Back to School Bash in Ocean Pines, Sat.

Event will include games, waterslides, moon bounce; backpacks, supplies sought

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department will host a Back to School Bash on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Cathell Road.

The Back to School Bash will include games, waterslides, and moon bounces for children. Wristbands are \$10.

There will also be food and ice cream vendors and a deejay. The event is cash only and open to the public.

Recreation Program Supervisor Kyle Jarmon said the event is a first for Ocean Pines.

“We took some of the inspiration from different counties and different areas that are doing similar events, and we thought it would be nice to do something for the people here in Ocean Pines,” he said.

Jarmon said the event is one of most complex he’s had to plan, bringing together community partners, a major sponsor, food vendors, and volunteers.

“This event will be sponsored by Amerigroup and we’re lucky to have good support from them,” he said. “it’s nice to have different partnerships coming together to help make this a big deal around here. It’s been eventful trying to put all these things together – there are a lot of moving parts – but it will all come together on Aug. 27.”

Jarmon said the Recreation Department is encouraging local teachers to attend, so they can meet new and returning students and make it a “pre-back-to-school” event.

“Come out and meet some of the teachers and principals, and just have fun,” he said.

Those attending are asked to bring donations of backpacks and school supplies, which will be given to Worcester County GOLD, a nonprofit organization that provides emer-

gency financial assistance and basic needs items for Worcester County residents living with low income.

Items may also be dropped off at the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway, now until Aug. 27.

“Worcester County GOLD will be giving supplies to local schools, to help the kids who struggle to get those things at the beginning of every school year,” Jarmon said. “We realize this has been a difficult few years and many people are still struggling. Our goal is to make things a little easier for those parents and families.

“I feel like this is a great opportunity for everybody in the community to come out, have some fun, mingle and see all the kids, but also to help out,” he continued. “We provide a lot of different services and fun things for the community, but to see and know that what you give will be going to people who really need it is a good feeling. Wherever we can help people out and cut them a break is very much needed.”

For more information on the Back to School Bash, call the Ocean Pines Recreation Department at 410-641-7052 or visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/recreation-parks).

## Autism Awareness Conference this Thursday online

(Aug. 25, 2022) Atlantic General Hospital is sponsoring the sixth annual Autism Awareness Conference on Thursday, Aug. 25, from 8 a.m. to noon.

This event is free to the community; internet access is required to join the conference. Call 410-641-9268 or email [amarzola@atlantic-general.org](mailto:amarzola@atlantic-general.org) to register in advance.

Event guest speakers and their topics of discussion are:

Dr. Kelly Coburn, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (they/them), “Autistic Adults of Diverse Genders”

Melissa Copeland, BSN, RN, “Personal Experience of having a son with Autism”

Maureen van Stone, Esq. MS, director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute, “Navigating the Special Education Process, Including Transition Planning”

Deepa Menon, MD, assistant medical director at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute, “Transition Planning in Autism & Resources”

Aaron Dallman, Ph.D., OTR/L, assistant professor at Rutgers University, “Neurodiversity; How to make Environments/Activities Autism-Friendly”

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# OP Players host open house at park pavillion, Saturday

(Aug. 25, 2022) The Ocean Pines Players will host an open house on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines White Horse Park pavillion, adjacent to the farmers market vendor area.

The purpose of the free event is to introduce residents and neighbors to the group and acquire new members.

The event will feature refreshments, theater games, karaoke, costume dress-ups, photo opportunities, singing and auditions.

Attendees can also become a member or donate.

“This event is a great way to find out what we do while you try your hand at various theater skills,” said

## Overexpenditures due to costly ads

Continued from Page 15  
an increase in the number of required legal advertisements, and budget trims.

He also said the *Daily Times* in Salisbury is the only publication that meets the legal criteria of “general circulation,” for the southern part of the county and the publication has increased its advertising rates and outsourced its advertising to a call center in Richmond, Virginia.

In 2018-19, Parker said, the county paid approximately \$300-\$400 for each notice, but now the *Daily Times* charges over \$1,000 per notice, or three times the amount.

Parker said he thought the *Daily Times* is the only publication that has a paid subscription and meets the criteria set forth by the state, but Roscoe Leslie, the county attorney, said the *Daily Ledger* is another.

Commissioner Chip Bertino, however, asked whether Flag Publication’s *OC Digest*, a publication with a weekly paid subscription, met the criteria but was told the subscription must reach down to Pocomoke. The *Digest*, a sister publication of *Ocean City Today*, is circulated in the northern part of the county only.

Commissioner Josh Nordstrom told the commissioners if the state law requires the county to advertise when they hold hearings and there was only one option, then the *Daily Times* probably knew that and can charge whatever they want.

“It’s almost \$27,000 extra,” he said. “That’s outrageous.”

Nordstrom added that the publication was price gouging.

The commissioners unanimously agreed to approve the expenditure, while also approving measures to have Leslie investigate additional publications that fit the state requirement.

Frank Ocean Pines Players President Pasquilino. “We are building our membership base and we hope you will join us.”

The Ocean Pines Players, a local all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization featuring plays and musical entertainment.

The regular season includes two musical entries: “A Grand Night for Singing,” scheduled as dinner theater on Nov. 18 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, and “Love...or Not?” slated for Feb. 10-12 at Most Blessed Sacrament School.

The group will also offer two comedies: “Play On,” March 10-11, 17-18 at MBS, and “Sweet Delilah Swim Club,” May 12-13, 19-20 at in the Ocean Pines Assateague Room.

Ticket sales and audition forms can be found on the website, <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>

Ocean Pines Players’ mission statement is to entertain and educate by offering diversity and inclusion in theater production and promote the joy and kinship of the performing arts to everyone.

For general information about Ocean Pines Players, visit [oceanpinesplayers.org](https://oceanpinesplayers.org) or follow online at [Facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers](https://facebook.com/oceanpinesplayers).



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# Cuisine

## Old Bay Vodka Bloody Mary oyster shooters

Another summer is coming to an end, children returning to school and the dog days of summer and fever dreams caused by 100-degree-plus days fading into memory.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

With only a couple of the famed deck parties left in the season, it is time to get them all in before the snow begins its blustery descent.

I know that the snow is a long way off, but drama sells. I have to say something that will keep you coming back week after week to read this claptrap.

One of my favorite deck parties is on Monday afternoons at The aLoft Hotel.

Sponsored by my dear friends at Old Bay Vodka, it has been fun to watch the party grow and celebrate this local brand. I beam happily as I think of them and all the friends I have who have succeeded locally, and as a result have now succeeded nationally and in some cases internationally.

That's a beautiful thing for our small area.

Alas, this weekly soiree will soon be gone, and we will all be wondering where the time went. I'm fairly certain that I am not alone in that regard.

With my fourth and youngest going into his senior year, I am astonished at the pace at which our lives proceed. Like most people, and dare I say older people, I would prefer it to slow down a little.

Of course, I am grateful for every moment that I am here as I have outlived a good many people in my own life and for that I am eternally grateful, if not confused as to any greater being's "grander plan."

Honestly, I don't know how I've made it this far, but I'll take it. I have not always been the smarter person in many a scenario.

But here we are, celebrating life and the successes of friends and family, that we may be so lucky as to also celebrate our own successes.

My apologies for getting a tad sentimental here, but it happens every year as I prepare for another year as a professor.

I relish in the fact that we can offer so much to our students while they offer as much if not more to us. I love the exercise of "teaching the teacher" with my teaching assistants.

Watching a second-year student teach a first-year student a few skills is inspiring, as we know it only helps to hone their own skills and make them a better cook, and eventually a better chef and manager. And therefore we teach.

Yes, the end of summer, as sad as it may be, is also a sign for a new chapter in every school year.

And this is why we should all meet on Monday at the pool bar for the deck party.

We meet to see each other, those of us in the industry and beyond, all knowing that we are visiting with friendly faces and good times.

If nothing else, it will be a salute to the end of summer and the start of the next chapter in our amazing novels.

In celebration of this, well... celebration... I figured I would write about my favorite shooter, that of the glorious Chincoteague Oyster.



It is a fabulous shot, of course assuming that you like raw oysters in the first place. There is nothing that says, "Hey autumn, come get me" even more than pumpkin spice than an oyster shooter.

Now, If I gathered 300 bartenders in an arena and told them to make me a standard Bloody Mary mix, I would have 300 quite distinct concoctions.

It's almost as bad as handing a recipe for chocolate chip cookies to a class of beginner bakers. If I have 12 students, I get 12 bizarrely different cookies. It's a mystery.

But, mystery or not, celebrate the months that end in "r", your friends, your family, your successes and failures, and above all else your luck. We're still here and there's a lot to be said for that. Now, go get a shot.

### Oyster Shooters

*makes 4 shooters*

- 4 ea. Fresh salt oysters
- 6 oz. Bloody Mary mix (recipe follows)
- 6 oz. Old Bay Vodka™

• Shuck the oysters, ensuring that the oyster and juice goes into the glass.

- Top off with Bloody Mary mix and vodka.
- Sing a sad song lamenting the end of summer.
- Follow with a happy song celebrating the return of autumn and the holidays.

• Know that the school year, once it has started, is officially almost over. Summer is right around

the corner again.

• Tilt head back and take the shooter, making sure to chew the oyster to get all those glorious Chincoteague flavors.

### Bloody Mary Mix

*makes a little more than a pint*

- 12 oz. Clamato
- 1/4 c. Green olive juice
- 1/4 c. Pickle juice
- dash Worcestershire sauce
- Juice of 1/2 a lemon
- juice of 1/2 a lime
- 1 Tbsp. Grated prepared horseradish
- 1 tsp. Granulated garlic
- 1 tsp. Celery seed
- 1/2 tsp. Onion powder
- 1 tsp. Old Bay™ Seasoning
- 1 tsp. Coarse black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. Hank's Hot Sauce™

• Combine all ingredients at least a day ahead of time. Since these are all cold or cool, they will take some time to come together to know each other well.

• Allow it to sit in the icebox, removing as you are ready to make your shooters.

— Paul Suplee is the owner of boxcar40, boxcar on main, boxcar crafted events and sportfish catering. [www.boxcarrestaurants.com](http://www.boxcarrestaurants.com)



# Calendar

## Thurs., Aug. 25

**6TH ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**  
Speakers include several doctors, a Mom with life experience and a representative from the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, 8 a.m.-noon. Register: 410-641-9268 or [amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org).

**OC JEEP WEEK**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:05 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring a variety of activities at various locations: <https://oceancityjeepweek.com>. Register: <https://marylandjeep.com>. For assistance: Brad Hoffman, 443-366-5944 (TEXT), [brad@live-wire-media.com](mailto:brad@live-wire-media.com).

**STORY TIME WITH THE WORCESTER COUNTY GARDEN CLUB**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Also takes place at the Pocomoke location. Come hear a story all about discovering nature and playing outdoors. For ages 5-10 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**STORY TIME: MR. JAKE'S FAVES**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come hear "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Numeroff. Activity included. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

**FEEL-GOOD MOVIE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Monthly movies that prove the human spirit can prevail despite overwhelming odds. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

[brary.org](http://brary.org)  
**FIRESIDE CHAT**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. An entertaining book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. Come find your next great read. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under "Events." 410-632-2600

**SUNSET PARK PARTY NIGHTS**  
Sunset Park, 700 S. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Featuring "The Dunehounds" (jam band). Admission is free, while beverages including beer, are available for purchase. Bring seating. OCDC, 410-289-7739, [www.ocdc.org](http://www.ocdc.org)

**CONCERT IN THE PARK**  
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 7-11:59 p.m. Featuring "Praise in the Park." Free and open to the public. Pack a picnic and lawn chair. [DowntownPocomoke.com](http://DowntownPocomoke.com), Instagram: [@pocomoke\\_downtown](https://www.instagram.com/pocomoke_downtown), Facebook: City of Pocomoke.

**Fri., Aug. 26**  
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# Puzzles

IN THE MONEY

BY JEFF CHEN AND JIM HORNE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jim Horne is a musician and writer from Newcastle, Wash. He is the founder of XWord Info, a website for crossword enthusiasts. He was the original writer (2008-11) for Wordplay, now The Times's daily crossword column. Jeff Chen is a professional crossword constructor and writer in Seattle. This is their fourth collaboration (and first Sunday) for the paper. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Hotel chain operated by Hilton

4 Banned insecticide

7 Big voices with big egos

12 Some users of Cyrillic script

17 Antique furniture expert, perhaps

20 Like bills in arrears

22 Freak out

23 100 percent

24 Sight at a checkout counter

26 Golfer who won the 1998 Masters (Italy)

28 Attach, as a patch

29 "Baa, baa" ma

30 "Rosy-fingered" Greek goddess

31 Snitch out

34 Zip

35 World's end?

36 Grp. led by Mahmoud Abbas beginning in 2004

39 Apples and pears, botanically

41 Seethe (Norway)

44 Queen Latifah's given first name

46 Playwright —Manuel Miranda

47 Benefit

48 Pipsqueaks

49 Give up all at once (Ecuador)

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

53 Org. with a Summer League

54 Churn

55 Response from a therapist

56 Were, for one?

58 "If we don't end \_\_\_\_, \_\_ will end us": H.G. Wells

61 Calculus expert? (2022 Netflix hit)

63 "Inventing \_\_\_\_" (2022 Netflix hit)

66 Die-hard

70 Gate in digital logic

71 Major player in U.S. economic policy (Egypt)

74 Retired jersey number for the 76ers' Moses Malone

75 Post-it notes, e.g.

77 Cousin of a plum

78 It's good for three points

80 Where you might get into hot water

81 \_\_\_\_ Hortons (Canadian chain)

83 Statistician Silver

85 Land with an accent over its first letter

86 Big inits. in TVs

89 Boarding group? (Switzerland)

94 Causes for pauses

97 God: Lat.

98 Stephen of "V for Vendetta"

99 Except for

100 Activity for Santa (Rwanda)

102 Scouts B.S.A. members since 2019

104 Marks, as a ballot

105 "OK, you get it," for short

106 De \_\_\_\_ (freshly)

107 Used room service, e.g.

109 Hamm of women's soccer fame

111 Nickname that's three consecutive letters of the alphabet

112 Torus-shaped gasket

114 One who walks to work? (Qatar)

119 What this puzzle's circled letters are with respect to the surrounding shaded squares?

123 Quite eccentric

124 Noted underground adventurer

125 Sad ass

126 Burger topping that jacks up the cholesterol

127 Rich sources

128 Kidney-related

129 Asphalt component

130 Daily \_\_\_\_ (news blog)

DOWN

1 Disneyland ride

2 McEntire of country music

3 Old map inits.

4 Certain coding snippet

5 Special collection of musical hits?

6 "Je te plumerai la \_\_\_\_" (line from "Alouette")

7 Old gold coin

8 \_\_\_\_ spot

9 Seconds, in brief

10 Open-mouthed responses

11 Tempresses in the "Odyssey"

12 Create an elaborate series of deceptions

13 Part of L.V.

14 Got in the game, perhaps

15 Watch parties?

16 Focus for 15-Down

18 It's a drag

19 Seats

21 Big name in power tools

25 Fail

27 Monitors at school, briefly

32 \_\_\_\_-Eaters

33 Kindle competitor

36 "ASAP!"

37 Sondheim and Bernstein's collaborator on "West Side Story"

38 Pungent party bowlful

40 Ultra-aggressive

42 Freshly

43 Quite a fight

45 Fighting

47 "\_\_\_\_ días!"

50 Instantly get along well

51 Rush

52 Home of the David Geffen School of Drama

57 Laundry product

59 Like some 401(k) contributions

60 It's touchy to hit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17			18			19			20		21		22		
23									24			25			
26						27				28				29	
			30			31			32	33		34		35	
36	37	38		39	40			41		42				43	
44			45		46			47			48				
49				50				51			52		53		
	54					55				56		57		58	59
61					62			63		64	65		66	67	68
70				71			72				73				74
75			76					77				78		79	
	80					81		82			83		84		85
			86	87	88		89		90	91			92		93
	94	95				96		97				98		99	
100						101					102			103	104
105				106				107		108			109	110	
111				112				113		114		115			116
119				120				121	122			123			117
124						125						126			118
127							128						129		130

61 "\_\_\_\_ Rheingold"

62 "The Chi" channel, familiarly

64 It has a devoted following on Sundays

65 Expiates, with "for"

67 "\_\_\_\_ out!"

68 Formal farewell

69 Modifier in digital logic

72 "Oh, really?"

73 Catch a few waves?

76 Lloyd of women's soccer fame

79 Talk smack about

82 Skirt style

84 Getting bored with

87 Suggests

88 Kind of cat or rabbit

90 Flat top?

91 Target of a joke

92 Region of Croatia associated with a canine breed

93 "Did you ring?"

94 Hybrid farm animal

95 Site acquired by Match.com in 2011

96 London's \_\_\_\_ Row

100 Liquor from Mexico

101 Like em dashes vis-à-vis en dashes

102 Benitez of TV news

103 Fuse by heating below the melting point

108 Bomb produced in the 1950s

110 Ritalin target, for short

113 Marvin who sang "Sexual Healing"

115 Offended

116 Food that's a national emblem of Wales

117 "Thus ..."

118 Standard operating procedures, for short

120 Clinch

121 Plasma particle

122 Ambrose Burnside was its first president, for short

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HARD - 28

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

MANORS	JAKOB	JOISTS
ANIMAL	SOCIALS	AGLARE
CINEMA	ALL THAT	CRIMEA
ATANANGLE	UNIQUE	USER
WAS	GRANTS	CRUZ
MASS	IDA	IDEATE
SIZE	SAMADAMS	FORM
TINHAT	IROBOT	TWOAM
ZEROG	ANN	STAR
SIDRA	MOES	APER
TERN	AMIDST	TRIPLEA
DOUBLEU	RELYON	ISNT
WAIL	EXALTS	ETNAS
LOON	FIVEO	FOURH
TEABAG	TETRIS	NAPA
HUSHHUSH	SPAS	LIMPID
IAM	ELLE	HUMP
TERROR	VOODOO	DOLL
OINOINONE	IBADAN	LAYDOWN
TRIVIA	TONITE	TIMELAG
HONEST	ASSESS	NEWER
SNORES		



# Calendar

Continued from Page 21  
Registration is requested but not required. Sign up: [agh.care/vaccine](https://agh.care/vaccine).

### OC JEEP WEEK

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:05 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring a variety of activities at various locations: <https://oceancityjeepweek.com>. Register: <https://marylandjeep.com>. For assistance: Brad Hoffman, 443-366-5944 (TEXT), [brad@live-wire-media.com](mailto:brad@live-wire-media.com).

### OLD FASHIONED RUMMAGE SALE

Showell United Methodist Church, 10115 Pitts Road, Showell, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Kitchen items, clothing, books, Vera Bradley purses and sundries to be sold. Baked items and chicken salad will be available for take-out. B.J., 302-559-4718, [ShowellUnitedMethodistChurch](https://www.ShowellUnitedMethodistChurch.com) on Facebook

### 4TH FRIDAY STREET FESTIVAL

Downtown Pocomoke, Market Street & Front Street, 5-8 p.m. “Touch-A-Truck” will feature activities, artists, vendors and entertainment by Audio Tribe. Food and drinks available. [www.downtown-pocomoke.com](https://www.downtown-pocomoke.com), 410-957-1333, Ext. 111

## Sat., Aug. 27

### 12TH ANNUAL IRON FURNACE FIFTY BIKE RIDE

Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets \$67. Flat, Fast, and Fun! Three separate well-marked routes (50K, 50 mi, or 100K) on rural roads through the scenic Pocomoke Forest! 410-632-2032

### CITIZENS SCRAP TIRE DROP-OFF DAY

Worcester County Solid Waste, 7091 Central Site Lane, Newark, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Worcester County residents are encouraged to get rid of their old, scrap, passenger and light truck tires free of charge, with a limit of 10 tires per household. Mike McLung, 410-632-3177

### OC JEEP WEEK

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:05 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring a variety of activities at various locations: <https://oceancityjeepweek.com>. Register: <https://marylandjeep.com>. For assistance: Brad Hoffman, 443-366-5944 (TEXT), [brad@live-wire-media.com](mailto:brad@live-wire-media.com).

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### CHALK ART

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-1



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

### BIKE RIDE

Ocean Pine Recreation and Parks Department and the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition teamed up to host a free community 14-mile bike ride on May 14. Several Kiwanians volunteered to work the bike ride. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club members Shelley and Steve Cohen, Steve Greco, Sarah Walker and Patti Baglieri, and Patti Stevens, Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee chairman; and in back, Amy Peck, Ocean Pines Board of Director and Liaison to the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Advisory committee and Michael Fraser, member of the Recreation and Parks advisory committee.

p.m. Drop in to create chalk art. Use the supplies in front of the library to decorate the sidewalk. All ages. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### STORY TIME AT THE FARMERS MARKET

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines, 9 a.m. Held during the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. “Mr. Jake,” a youth services specialist with the Ocean Pines Library, will read books to local children. All are welcome. [www.ocean-pines.org](https://www.ocean-pines.org)

### MODEL HORSE SHOW

Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market - White Horse Park, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9:30 a.m. Open to all ages. Ingrid Parker is a professional horse show judge who enjoys officiating model horse shows across Delmarva. Hosted by Rainbow’s End Tack Shop. Registration is \$5. Bring table.

### BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Featuring games, waterslides and moon bounces for children. Wristbands cost \$10. Food and ice cream vendors and a DJ. The event is cash only and open to the public. 410-641-7052

### TABLE TOP GAMES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop by during the day to enjoy Scrabble, I Spy, Battleship and more. Grab a favorite game from the library’s collection or bring your own. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### OCEAN PINES PLAYERS OPEN HOUSE

Ocean Pines Community Center pavilion, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring karaoke, theater games, costume photo op, popcorn and lemonade. Become a member or make a donation. Free and open to the public. [oceanpinesplayers.org](https://oceanpinesplayers.org)

### ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES

Worcester County Library - Berlin

Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories, cool props and live animals from Assateague Island National Seashore. A different adventure each week. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ‘IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH MOTHER’ NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM

Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 12:30-3 p.m. Pocomoke Indian Nation will offer demonstrations, presentations and hands-on creations such as natural tools and flintknapping, games, decoys and shell/feather jewelry. [www.pocomokeindiannation.org](https://www.pocomokeindiannation.org)

## Sun., Aug. 28

### OC JEEP WEEK

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:05 a.m.-2 p.m. Featuring a variety of activities at various locations: <https://oceancityjeepweek.com>. Register: <https://marylandjeep.com>. For assistance: Brad Hoffman, 443-366-5944 (TEXT), [brad@live-wire-media.com](mailto:brad@live-wire-media.com).

### SUNDAES IN THE PARK & FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Music by “Jaded Love” (Boston/Styx tribute). Free activities and entertainment for kids. Ice cream available for purchase. Bring picnic and beach chairs. Fireworks may or may not occur. 410-250-0125

## Mon., Aug. 29

### SUPERHERO MOVIE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Drop by for this week’s marvelous movie. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SUPER POWERED STEM: PROPELLER CARS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines

Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. A building challenge for young scientists. Use the materials provided to make a propeller car. For ages 7 years and older. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### OCEAN PINES CHILDREN’S THEATER CASTING CALL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 5-6:30 p.m., For children in grades 9th through 12th. Selected monologues can be found at [www.facebook.com/opchildrenstheaterOcean](https://www.facebook.com/opchildrenstheaterOcean). Vaccinations required.

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital - Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. T.O.P.S. is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

### OC BEACH DANCE PARTY

Caroline St. Stage, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Featuring DJ Kutt. Free event for all ages. 410-250-0125 or 800-626-2326

### DRONE SHOW ON THE BEACH

Downtown Ocean City beach, 2 N. Atlantic Ave., 9:30 p.m., Come experience Ocean City’s drone show located downtown on the beach on Monday evenings. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326

## Tues., Aug. 30

### CRAFT DAY

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A fun morning of crafting and activities for children. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### T(W)EEN NIGHT SUMMER PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5 p.m. Hang out, do crafts, spend time with friends and play the Nintendo Switch. For ages 12-15 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

## Wed., Aug. 31

### STORY TIME: AMAZING APPLES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Story time all about apples. There will be science, stories and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org), 410-632-2600

### VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB: ‘SOUTHLAND’ BY NINA REVOYR

A fascinating story of race, love, murder and history, against the backdrop of an ever-changing Los Angeles, 5:30 p.m.. The title is available on Hoopla. Register: [www.worcesterlibrary.org](https://www.worcesterlibrary.org) under “Events.” 410-632-2600



# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today** & **Bayside Gazette** each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

Call **410-723-6397**  
by Monday 5 p.m.



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[www.oceancitytoday.com](http://www.oceancitytoday.com)

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## HELP WANTED

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Saturday, 1-3pm	11500 Coastal Hwy., #1002, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	High-Rise	\$599,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday, 1-3pm	35238 Dogwood Drive, Unit 25, Selbyville	3BR/2BA/1HB	Townhouse	\$479,900	Nancy Reither-Smith/Coldwell Banker Realty

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