



## WRESTLING TEAM BENEFIT

The Stephen Decatur Seahawk Wrestling Purse Bingo fundraiser last Saturday night at the high school drew more than 150 people. All proceeds fund the school's wrestling program outside of school-covered expenses. Funds will also be used to send school wrestlers to camps over the summer months to improve their techniques and broaden their experiences. Twenty games of bingo were called. Game winners walked away with designer bags from Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors and other notables.

PHOTO COURTESY PAMELA GREEN

## OP crosswalk nears final stage

State highway officials say project should be ready for use at end of month

By **Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 8, 2024) Ocean Pines is closer to creating a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly community for its residents, as a crosswalk from the South Gate Pond to the Route 589 and Manklin Creek intersection nears completion.

The State Highway Administration, a branch of the Maryland Department of Transportation, has been planning the crosswalk for two and a half years, Worcester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition, or WCBPC, Chair Patti Stevens said.

The two entities worked with the Ocean Pines Association to ensure the connection was appropriately placed at the most trafficked spot.

"The venture faced covid-19-related delays, but we're thrilled that the state is getting it done," Stevens said. "The WCBPC raised attention for the crosswalk, but it has always been a State Highway Administration plan."

The MDOT entirely funded the project. According to Stevens, no grant or additional monetary support was required.

Ocean Pines and WCBPC officials pushed for the path to be constructed in the central commercial area, where a safety gap was identified.

Half the community's residents live on the south side of Ocean Pines, near the Food Lion. Precautions are necessary for those who wish to get to the grocery store on foot or by bike.

Stevens emphasized the amount of jaywalking that currently takes

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TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The new crosswalk across Route 589 is pictured this week.

## Towns nix all-for-one approach to grants

Berlin's Tyndall seeks deal with other municipalities to ask for same funding totals from county

By **Charlene Sharpe**  
Associate Editor

(Feb. 8, 2024) Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall asked his peers throughout the county to consider a unified funding request as local municipalities prepare to seek grants from Worcester County.

Tyndall last week approached the mayors of Snow Hill, Pocomoke and Ocean City as well as the president of the Ocean Pines Association to ask them to consider a unified funding request to Worcester County. The towns typically submit annual grant

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# Towns elect to go own way in asking for county grants

Continued from Page 1

requests to Worcester County each February.

"I think it says a lot more if we come at it together," Tyndall said in an interview this week.

On Jan. 31, Tyndall emailed the other mayors and the Ocean Pines Association. His email pointed out that the Worcester County Commissioners had flat funded the municipalities in fiscal year 2024 but that there had recently been an increase in property assessments. He suggested the municipalities consider a unified funding request of \$500,000 each.

"It's not uncommon to reach out to colleagues in Worcester County and even across the state," Tyndall said.

He said the Town of Berlin received an unrestricted grant of \$400,000 from the county in fiscal year 2013. From fiscal year 2014-2017, the town received an unrestricted grant of \$450,000. In fiscal year 2018, the town received \$455,000. In fiscal year 2019, the county provided the town with \$465,000. The grant hasn't changed since.

Tyndall said the town used the funding to support police, fire and EMS needs.

"We're down to one K-9 unit," he said. "We'll be looking to onboard another. We've got three cadets in the academy. We've got increased costs across the board."

He's hopeful that the commissioners will increase the grant this year, especially since the county's property tax revenues are up. In Worcester County, Group 3 residential values

increased from \$7,837,587,900 in 2021 to \$11,576,277,100 in 2024, a 47.7% increase. Commercial values jumped from \$926,276,300 in 2021 to \$1,227,132,100, a 32.5% increase.

Tyndall said if the county provided the town with an unrestricted grant of \$500,000, that would be a 7.5% increase over what the town received last year.

Snow Hill Mayor Mike Pruitt said he'd received Tyndall's email but that he hadn't yet met with the town's department heads regarding funding needs for the coming year and couldn't say whether the town would be cooperating with Berlin as far as a unified request.

When asked about Tyndall's request, Ocean Pines officials indicated they'd be working with the county going forward.

"As in prior years, Ocean Pines will continue to work with Worcester County on our annual budget request," General Manager John Viola said.

Pocomoke City Mayor Todd Nock acknowledged Tyndall's request but said he felt the towns each had different needs.

"I hold the belief that Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Berlin, Ocean Pines, and Ocean City each possess distinct priorities," Nock said. "Although I advocate for collaborative efforts to enhance Worcester as a whole, I do not deem this particular endeavor as the appropriate means to achieve unity. While I am eager to align my vision with fellow mayors, I am not inclined to prioritize monetary aspects at this stage."

# More crosswalks also set to be added across other trails

Continued from Page 1

place. "We observe many people walking and biking that path," she said. "Both employees and residents. Some people who work at Food Lion, Plaza Tapatia, and Dunkin Donuts need to get across. There needs to be safe access. Currently, there are a lot of illegal and dangerous crossings. That's something we're trying to combat."

The WCBPC chair claims the intersection sees roughly eight to 10 walkers and bikers daily based on her observations. She notes that this estimate is limited to when she drives in and out of the South Gate and suspects the overall number is higher. While the goal is that the safety implementation will allow pedestrians to safely access the Manklin Creek shopping center, officials hope this project is just a start in creating a

more walkable community.

Stevens said the need for safe paths in Ocean Pines extends beyond the Racetrack and Manklin Creek project. The hope is that crosswalks will eventually be added to all the trails that span the road. There have also been discussions about implementing a connection between the North and South sides.

State Highway Administration's Assistant Media Relations Manager, Daniel Allman confirmed that the current endeavor is nearly finished. The main crossing over 589 was halfway painted on Friday, Feb 2, and the SHA contractor, Rommell Electric, is awaiting the delivery of the audible signal and the automated pedestrian countdown. SHA estimates that, weather permitting, the crossing system will be fully operational by the end of February.



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# Councilman planning to seek second term

Berlin election for Districts 2 and 3, mayor, slated for Oct. 1, filing period open

**By Charlene Sharpe**  
Associate Editor

(Feb 8, 2024) Eight months before this fall's Town of Berlin election, Councilman Jack Orris has announced his intention to seek reelection.

On Tuesday, Orris announced on social media that he would be running for a second term on the town council.

"I'm running again to continue what I've always set out to do—serve our community and work to make Berlin the absolute best place on Delmarva," he said.

In October, the town will hold a

municipal election for District 2, District 3 and the position of mayor. Orris, who was elected to his first term as a councilman in 2020, is the first of the incumbents to announce that he's seeking reelection. In an announcement Tuesday, Orris thanked voters for giving him the chance to serve and highlighted achievements of the town during the past four years. He pointed out the town's annual budget process had been adjusted to include more opportunities for public input in recent years. Orris also noted that the town had enrolled its police department in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, or LEOPS, and was addressing speeding in town with the addition of speed cameras.

Orris also highlighted Berlin's focus on stormwater improvements.

"Of course, I'd like to see projects we've started through to the end, but there's also so much more work to be done—the West Street redesign just as one example," Orris said. "I believe my passion, experience and ongoing knowledge of issues and concerns facing our town are valuable to the council. Working together, I also believe we can strengthen the fabric that makes Berlin so special: the people of our community."

The town's 2024 election is scheduled for Oct. 1. Municipal elections are held every even-numbered year with alternating officials being elected to serve four-year terms. The seats currently belonging to Mayor Zack Tyndall and Council member Shaneka Nichols will also be on the ballot.



Jack Orris

## Town of Berlin Public Notice



### TOWN OF BERLIN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP # 2024-02  
Harrison Avenue Water Utility Improvements

Due Date: Monday, 02/26/2024  
Time: 3:00 PM EST

The Town of Berlin is seeking Proposals for the installation of approximately 300 LF of 8" watermain using trenchless installation methods (directional bore), the abandonment of an existing watermain with flowable fill, the installation of a 1" residential water service lateral, the installation of 20 LF of 6" watermain, the installation of a 2" commercial water service, and the replacement and relocation of an existing fire hydrant assembly. A portion of the work is adjacent to Broad Street (MD 374), a MD-SHA maintained roadway, and any work performed in the ROW will need to meet their requirements for utilities, restoration, and traffic control.

Qualified contractors are encouraged to visit the Town of Berlin website at [berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/](http://berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/) or contact Director of Water Resources Jamey Latchum at 4 1 0 - 6 4 1 - 3 8 4 5 / [jlatchum@berlinmd.gov](mailto:jlatchum@berlinmd.gov) for the official RFP. EEO.

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Dr. Rachel Pomycala, Au.D., CCC-A



# Berlin to seek \$3.8M bond for infrastructure upgrades

### Financing pitched for new public works facility, update to electric meters in town

**Charlene Sharpe**

Associate Editor

(Feb. 8, 2024) The Berlin Town Council this week agreed to pursue a bond to help pay for updated electric meters as well as a new public works facility.

The town council voted 4-0 this week, with Councilman Jay Knerr absent, to approve an application to the Community Development Administration (CDA) 2024 Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program. Officials plan to seek a \$3.8 million bond through the CDA process that would fund new electric meters as well as \$2.8 million for the design and construction of a new public works facility.

“A million dollars, \$2.8, \$3.8 total, it seems scary right? We don’t take that on lightly,” Mayor Zack Tyndall said. “Our finance department doesn’t take it on lightly. Our town administrator, myself, the council, none of us do that on a whim. We’re confident there’s a pathway to be able to pay for these things. We’re confident that we can overcome the additional obligations through some costs savings as well as some partnership on how we spend our overall tax dollars. So we don’t take it lightly and we understand that all of you work very hard for your tax dollars that come in and we’re good stewards of that money.”

Tyndall told the council during a special meeting Monday that the town’s electric department had been stressing the need for AMI electric metering for years, as it would cut down on staff meter reading time and would be more accurate. The new metering is expected to cost about \$1 million.

“They’re down to pen and paper right now which is not a good way to be reporting,” he said.

He said that because the town was interested in the possibility of general obligation bonds to fund the electric meters, it made sense to also include funding for a new public works facility. Finance Director Natalie Saleh said there would be an opportunity for the Town of Berlin to participate in a municipal bond issuance in April.

“Advisable was to come up with all of the potential projects we might need to finance,” she said.

As a result, she recommended the town also seek \$2.8 million in funding for a new public works facility. She said the town could plan on a bond not to exceed \$3.8 million.

“If we realize we will not utilize the whole amount or realize we don’t need this amount in April we can adjust the number down,” Saleh said.

She said the public works team currently operated out of a trailer with no heat or air conditioning. While the town has land at Heron Park that could be used for a new facility, water and sewer service would need to be extended to the site and a building would have to be designed and built.

The finance administrator said the town’s electric fund could handle the annual debt associated with its portion of the proposed bond, which would be \$80,000 to \$90,000 a year. She said the general fund portion of the bond tied to the public works facility would come with annual debt of about \$185,000. She added that while the funding would be available in May if the town moved forward with the bond, the first payment, which would be interest only, wouldn’t be until October. The next payment after that would be in April.

“That gives us time to decide how to fund the general fund debt payment,” Councilman Steve Green said.

Tyndall said the council would be presented with a request for qualifications regarding design services for the new public works facility at its next meeting. He acknowledged that

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# First reading on ordinance slated for Feb. 26

Continued from Page 7

there was a little padding on the proposed price but said he felt the town was in good shape to cover the debt associated with a \$3.8 million bond.

Councilman Dean Burrell said he wanted department heads to talk about the needs for the meters and the new building. Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said there were numerous advantages to AMI metering. He said it would save staff time, as it currently takes his whole team

two and a half days to read the meters, and that with the new meters customers would be able to access the data associated with their electric use. He added that when he had his staff using paper and pencil to read meters, mistakes happened and then more time was spent re-reading meters. New meters would eliminate those extra trips.

“You’re saving wear and tear on vehicles, gas, emissions output,” he said.

AMI metering would also allow for remote disconnects, which would improve safety.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles said a new building would allow his staff to better maintain vehicles and equipment. It would also give them space for showers and a kitchen. He said the department could service the town’s police cars, for example, if it had a facility to do so in.

“Right now we’re in a tin can,” he

said.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said the current structure was never meant to be a permanent facility.

“That building was meant to be a temporary solution 45, 50 years ago,” she said.

The council voted 4-0 to move forward with the bond process. A first reading of the associated ordinance is expected to take place Feb. 26 while a public hearing will be held March 11.

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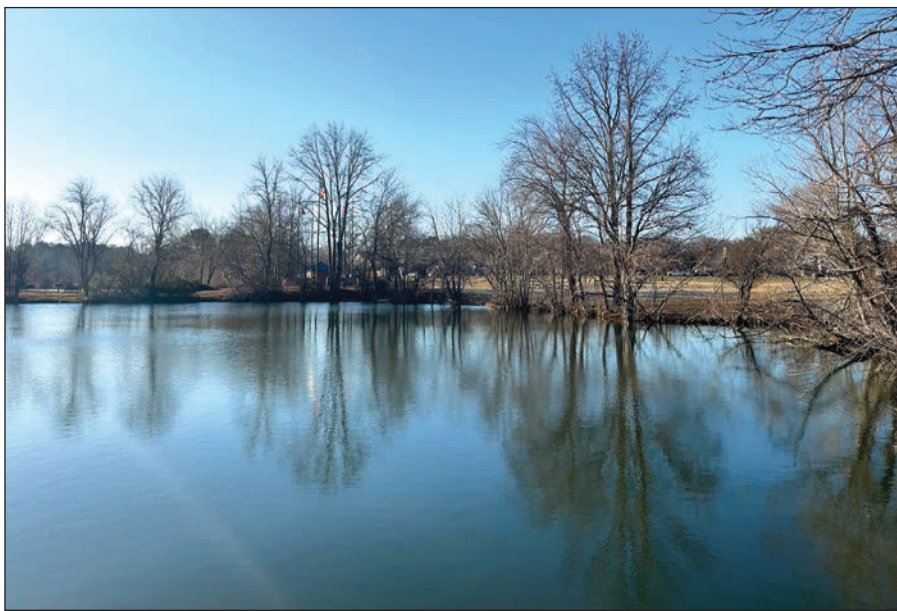
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TARA FISCHER / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The shoreline of South Gate Pond has been identified by officials as needing stabilization.

# Shoreline work set to slow erosion at South Gate Pond

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 8, 2024) Ocean Pines Association and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program intend to combat erosion in the South Gate Pond with a planned soft shoreline project. Beautification and wildlife preservation are also top concerns the undertaking will address.

Environment and Natural Assets Committee Chair Timothy Peck said the venture was proposed and confirmed in January. Discussions of a similar plan came before the board of directors nearly two years ago.

To combat the erosion, MCBP will grow native vegetation around the pond, including grass and flowers. This will occur in May, and officials will monitor the plantings over the summer. The entire project will cover 4600 feet of shoreline, with the initial phase focusing on the area that faces Racetrack Road, where soil loss is most troublesome.

“We initially saw this as doing some plantings to help stem erosion along certain parts of the South Gate Pond,” OPA General Manager John Viola said. “After further review by

our team and a site visit by Maryland Coastal Bays Program officials, we think there’s an opportunity for a larger project to help address erosion issues, improve water quality, and beautify the entire area while also preserving fishing space and protecting local wildlife, like the fish and turtles that live in the pond. This will also create a nice backdrop for the

See DESIGN Page 10

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## Exhibitors, sponsors sought for Pines kick-off event

(Feb. 9, 2024) Ocean Pines is promoting its first-ever kick-off event for the summer.

Set 3-7 p.m., April 20, in White Horse Park, with a rain date of April 27, the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff & Expo is a free, volunteer-led event, designed to launch the season by showcasing the community's amenities, clubs, organizations and businesses. The event will feature music, demonstrations and interactive exhibits.

Attendees can sign up for amenity memberships or lessons, and discover volunteer opportunities and social events. There will also be giveaways and raffle prizes, as well as a dunking booth where association board members have volunteered to be "tanked" in exchange for donations to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Local restaurants will bring food trucks and sell a

variety of food and beverage options.

Area clubs and organizations are encouraged to participate in the event, where they can meet local residents to expand their membership and engagement. Exhibit spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Local business owners can also meet potential new customers and raise their profiles with sponsorship opportunities that include a table or booth space at the event, signage, giveaway underwriting, social media promotion and advertising in the event guide. To learn more about sponsorships, email oceanpineskickoff@gmail.com and include "sponsorship" in the subject line.

For more information about the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff & Expo, email oceanpineskickoffexpo@gmail.com.

## Design of project now underway

Continued from Page 9  
Veterans Memorial events."

Peck noted that the project will also improve stormwater management and deter the Canada geese from congregating near the pond, as they typically avoid high vegetation areas.

Ocean Pines received \$150,000 from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to complete the two-phase endeavor.

The first part of the plan, which is now underway, is design work and will cost roughly \$50,000. The second step, with a \$100,000 price tag, is implementation. The shoreline project will be framed for the established budget. However, if need be, OPA will seek additional monetary support.

Viola confirmed that MCBP will aid OPA in issuing a request for proposals, or RFP, the process required to select contractors. According to the general manager, project officials must hear three bids, and they are currently drafting an RFP for phase one. Phase two will ideally start in the fall.

The shoreline plan will consider the multiple uses of the pond, including the anglers and the park's enjoyment in how it will be established, Peck said. Access points will be made available so as not to disrupt the fishing crowd.

Viola assured that the board and Ocean Pines community have received the project well.

"Who doesn't want a cleaner, more attractive South Gate Pond?" he said.

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# Off-season promotions keep Berlin relevant

Officials say town 'open for business' even during cold and typically slow time

**By Charlene Sharpe**  
Associate Editor

(Feb. 8, 2024) While shoppers might use the early part of the new year to cut back on spending following the holiday rush, merchants are trying to keep customers coming in the door during what's traditionally the slowest time of the retail year.

In Berlin, a variety of promotions are aimed at reminding area residents to support their local business community. Whether it's free carriage rides near Valentine's Day, a week of restaurant specials in January or a February photo contest, Berlin's business community does what it must to keep customers coming to the historic downtown.

"Just because it's the offseason doesn't mean we don't want to remain relevant," said Ivy Wells, the town's economic and community development director. "Berlin isn't closed up because it's cold outside. We're alive and we're open for business."

While most merchants in Berlin's downtown commercial district enjoyed a successful holiday shopping



The town will offer free carriage rides from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10. The offering is one of the many promotions intended to bring people to town. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

season in the weeks leading up to Christmas, they knew that they'd need that income to see them through January and February, which are often the slowest months of the year for retail. A key focus of Wells' department and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce has been developing ways to keep people coming to Berlin no matter the month.

"I'd say that Berlin is at the cusp of no longer enjoying the luxury of calling itself a seasonal attraction," said Ryan Nellans, executive director of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

"Once upon a time the warm fire of Berlin's success was rekindled every spring. Now, a higher demand for 'the Berlin of expectation' means never letting that flame go out. And as you might guess, an eternal flame is no small feat, and nothing that a single person—or business—could accomplish."

The collaborative efforts of the chamber, Wells' department and the businesses themselves is what it takes to keep Berlin relevant. This month, the chamber is hosting an educational series for local business own-

ers. Shops donated gift cards to serve as the prize in this month's #LoveWinsInBerlin photo contest. The town's economic and community development department lined up a horse and carriage to offer rides the weekend before Valentine's Day.

"We try to keep it fresh," Wells said.

The February promotions come in the wake of a busy Berlin Restaurant Week in mid-January. While it's now an annual event, the weeklong schedule of specials at Berlin's eateries was started to encourage area residents to dine out during a slow month. And just how successful was this year's Restaurant Week? There was a wait at The Blacksmith. The Globe ran out of specials in the first hour of the first day of Berlin Restaurant Week.

"It's that kind of promotion that keeps Berlin at the forefront of people's minds," Wells said.

She was thrilled with the buzz generated both before Christmas and again after Christmas with the Berlin Bubble Project, a promotion in which beautiful glass bubbles created by Berlin artist Jeff Auxer were hidden throughout town. Part of what makes the town's contests and promotions effective is the willingness of merchants to donate for prizes. While Auxer donated dozens of handmade glass bubbles, local real estate broker Cam Bunting donated a cash prize for Restaurant Week and numerous eateries donated gift cards. The winner of the Valentine's Day Photo Contest drawing will receive a basket full of Berlin prizes, including a railbike ride for two from Tracks-N-Yaks as well as a spa session at Renaissance Med Spa.

"All of our businesses are very willing to donate," said Allison Early, administrative assistant, noting that the merchants understood the benefits of the various campaigns and promotions.

Nellans agreed and said the coordination provided by the chamber and the town's economic development staff was critical in keeping folks coming to town year-round.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Bubble Project encouraged people to visit the town and look for glass bubbles donated by local artist Jeff Auxer.

## Merchants making big strides

“The work of groups like Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce may appear, at a glance, to be extraneous or unnecessary,” he said. “And, in the past they may have been. However, with the increased exposure the town enjoys, it’s more and more necessary to optimize all our efforts year-round. During the summer and holiday seasons Ivy and I amplify the numbers of visitors through events. During the quiet season we help projects like Restaurant Week or carriage rides along, provide support in the way of educational series, and plan a course through the summer to come. We are always promoting and supporting and investing in ourselves and our business community.”

Also playing a key role in supporting the small town economy is the Maryland Main Street designation and the Berlin Arts and Entertainment District.

As a Maryland Main Street community, the town is able to apply for a \$25,000 grant each year that can be used to promote and support down-

town businesses, whether it’s through buying flower pots for the town’s Victorian lamp posts or installing wayfinding signs. The Arts and Entertainment designation, meanwhile, provides tax incentives for eligible businesses. When The Globe hosts acts like Afroman, it doesn’t have to pay income tax on the cover charge. When artists within the district sell their work, the sales they make aren’t subject to income tax.

The Berlin Arts and Entertainment grant, which varies from year to year, has also helped fund key projects that add to the town’s draw, including the Rev. Charles Albert Tindley mural and Pollinator Way.

“We just want to get people here, so they can enjoy lunch with a loved one or shop with their friends,” Early said.

Wells said the various efforts were all meant to ensure Berlin’s downtown business district stayed healthy.

“Without a vibrant downtown Berlin wouldn’t be the desirable place to live, work and play that it is,” she said.

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# OPA promotes two senior staffers

Nobie Violante, Ruth Ann Meyer set to take on new duties in racquet sports



Nobie Violante

racquet sports complex and the marina, and Meyer will be in charge of the business side of racquet sports along with her current responsibilities in finance and assessments.

team for more than 25 years.

“Ruth Ann has stepped up for us on a number of occasions, and she’s extremely knowledgeable about our organization,” he said in the release.

Viola said both Violante and Meyer would continue to report to their department heads and will also have a “dotted line” to the general manager’s office on the organizational chart at this time.

“I am very pleased to make this announcement. Recognizing our staff is one of my favorite parts of the job,” Viola said. “Nobie and Ruth Ann both earned this and, as I structure the organization to meet the needs of the coming year, I hope to be able to make a few more announcements like this down the road.”

(Feb. 8, 2024) Two Ocean Pines senior staff members have been promoted to new positions.

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola announced last week that Nobie Violante, currently the public works manager, will be promoted to deputy director of public works, while Ruth Ann Meyer, the assessment and memberships manager in the finance department, will be promoted to senior manager.

Viola said in a news release that Violante will take on increased responsibility for maintenance of the

Viola said both staffers were highly recommended by their respective department heads.

“Nobie has been my right hand for many years now and he always does a great job for us,” Public Works Director Eddie Wells said in the release. “It’s well deserved and I’m very happy for him.”

Finance Director Steve Phillips said Meyer has been a key part of the

# Brindley named Feb. crafter of mo.

(Feb. 1, 2024) The Pine’eer Craft Club is recently announced club member Linda Brindley as the February Crafter of the month.

Brindley has served as the recording secretary for the club since 2011 and has been a member for 20 years. Brindley’s craft is counted cross-stitch. She creates pillows, scenes,

bookmarks, and towels for the artisan gift shop.

Although Brindley is not currently an Ocean Pines resident, she has either vacationed or lived in the area since 1989. She and her husband Bill live in Millsboro now but were residents of Ocean Pines when she learned of the Pine’eer Craft Club.

“I joined the craft club to make friends and try new crafts,” Linda said in a news release. “I’ve been crafting since I was 6 years old when my Grandmom taught me to crochet and embroider. My Mom later taught me knitting, Swedish weaving, plastic canvass and sewing. Family and crafting are interwoven for me.”

Brindley is a member of several other clubs in the area, including Sussex County Sip and Stitch as well as the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, which hosts a national counted cross-stitch competition annually, at which Brindley has received first and second place awards over the years.

Brindley said in the release that finding materials is more difficult these days, at least at reasonable prices.

“I search hard to find items on the internet since so many craft stores have closed,” she said. “Plus, my friends and family around the country keep my watch list of materials. And sometimes we get donations at the club I can use.”

Brindley also runs a business called Needles & Strings.

“I finish a counted cross stitch item or kit you may not want or can’t finish yourself,” she said of the business.

To see Brindley’s counted cross stitch, stop in at the Artisan Gift Shop across White Horse Park from the Ocean Pines Community Center. The shop is open Saturdays and Sundays and features all handcrafted treasures, including seasonal items and home décor favorites.

The Pine’eer Craft Club always welcomes new members. Crafter who would like to join the club can email [opcraftclub@aol.com](mailto:opcraftclub@aol.com) for more information. Members do not need to be Ocean Pines residents to join. Since the club’s inception 50 years ago, members have donated nearly \$180,000 back to the Ocean Pines community.

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Linda Brindley, the Pine’eer Craft Club Crafter of the Month for February, poses with one of her counted cross-stitch creations. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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# One dies in camper fire that broke out Sun. in Stockton

(Feb. 8, 2024) One person died last Sunday in an early morning fire at a camper trailer in southern Worcester County.

A news release from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office said crews from the Stockton and Girdle-tree Volunteer Fire departments were called out at 6 a.m., Feb. 4, to a report of an outside fire at two campers in the 800 block of Greenbackville Road.

Upon arrival, crews saw two camper trailers at the rear of the property up in flames. The release said firefighters worked to quickly bring the fires in both trailers under control. During overhaul operations, they learned an adult had been living in one of the trailers. The person,

whose identification has not been released, succumbed to their injuries as a result of the fire.

Deputies from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office and members of the Worcester County Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner responded to the scene to conduct a joint examination.

The release said the cause of the fire remains under investigation. It also said authorities were holding the identity of the resident who died until staff from the medical examiner's office could make a positive identification.

The release said it was not known if working smoke alarms were in the camper at the time of the fire.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The charred remains of a camper that caught fire Sunday morning on a property in Stockton is pictured.

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## Discarded 'smoke materials' cause of house fire in Pines

(Feb. 8, 2024) Firefighters spent roughly two hours last Saturday distinguishing a house fire in Ocean Pines.

According to a news release from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office, crews from the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department were called just before 6 p.m., Feb. 3, to a home on Raft Road for a reported structure fire.

Upon arrival, the release said crews saw "significant fire conditions" at the back of the house.

Firefighters worked to quickly contain the fire to a screened porch, kitchen and the attic area. They remained at the scene for about two hours conducting overhaul operations

to ensure the flames were extinguished.

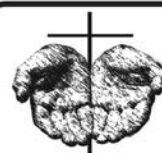
The occupants of the home all evacuated safely thanks to properly working smoke alarms.

Deputies from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office also responded to the scene and conducted an examination. They determined the fire originated on the rear of the home from improperly discarded smoking materials in a plastic bucket, the release said.

Ocean Pines firefighters were assisted by crews from the Showell, Bishopville, Ocean City and Roxana volunteer fire departments.

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PHOTO COURTESY LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST

A northern bobwhite quail, native to Maryland's Eastern Shore, is pictured.

# Lower Shore Land Trust calls to landowners to save quail

(Feb. 8, 2024) Officials with the Lower Shore Trust are sending out a call to Eastern Shore landowners to help save a native quail.

According to a news release from the trust, the northern bobwhite quail, or *Colinus virginianus*, is suffering. The small, ground nesting bird needs help if the species will make a comeback. As farms have become "cleaner," potential breeding and nesting territories for many species of songbirds and wildlife have been swept away.

The release said the trust is working with landowners and farmers and accelerating efforts to increase habitats and educate people about the value of successional vegetable layers in the landscape, including native warm season grasses, legumes, shrubby brush cover, and bare open areas for brood rearing.

Rotational disturbance and fallow

sections of farm fields were once prominent in the rural landscape, providing the type of cover necessary for the species to thrive. As the farming practices were abandoned, quail habitat decreased along with the birds.

Trust officials want to add a minimum of 40 acres of new habitat this year. The organization has funds to cover the cost of the installation and to provide one-time bonus incentives to landowners who enroll in USDA programs. If multiple farms dedicate a small portion (5-10 acres) of their marginal crop fields for conversion into pollinator and warm season grasslands, then the release said the overall picture becomes brighter for the potential rejuvenation of several threatened species.

Research has shown that "connecting farms" is key to population expansion.

See FARMS Page 19

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# Stewardship training offered by Land Trust this weekend

### Free sessions available to area residents to learn about conservation efforts

(Feb. 8, 2024) The Lower Shore Land Trust is offering free stewardship training to people interested in learning more about the land steward program and stewarding conservation lands.

The introductory session will take place at 9 a.m., Feb. 10, at the Lower Shore Land Trust office on 100 River Street in Snow Hill, followed by field trainings on March 1 and 2.

Attendees will learn about the conservation priorities the land trust conserves and protects, and long-term stewardship of the properties. They will learn basic understanding of the lower shore resource-based economies, habitat and natural heritage. Participants will also learn about the Lower

Shore Land Trust, including how to be a volunteer land steward, and what to expect when volunteering out in the field.

The Lower Shore Land Trust has conserved more than 24,000 acres of working farms, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes. Members rely on volunteers to help with stewardship of conservation properties, and assist with other activities, such as fundraisers, tabling at events, and administrative support.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Lower Shore Land Trust and how to get involved, can register for stewardship training on Feb. 10.

Refreshments will be provided. Registration is required at [lower-shorelandtrust.org](http://lower-shorelandtrust.org) by clicking on the registration button. For more information, contact Stewardship Coordinator Frank Deuter by phone at 443-234-5587 or email at [fdeuter@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:fdeuter@lowershorelandtrust.org).

# Ministry seeking donations for Mumford CJ scholarship

(Feb. 8, 2024) Oasis Ministries is accepting donations for the Garry Mumford Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund.

Since 2020, graduating seniors in Worcester County high schools majoring in criminal justice or law enforcement have been awarded scholarships in honor of longtime public servant Garry Lee Mumford.

According to a news release, Mumford, who served Worcester County in various capacities until his death in

2017, loved his community and had a passion for youth and upholding law and order with integrity.

Oasis Ministries, which runs the nonprofit scholarship fund, is soliciting donations from the community to help continue offering scholarships to local students.

Donation checks are to be made payable to Garry Lee Mumford Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund and mailed to Barbara Butler, 731 Shiloh St., Salisbury, MD 21804.

# Funds available to local farmers

Continued from Page 17

sion — designating corridors which link and supplement zones with larger quail habitat populations. Trust officials want to give quail sufficient contiguous acreage to feed and breed.

Spring is ideal for establishing meadows, and funding for the initia-

tive is available now.

To learn more about the incentives and land management adjustments that can help the northern bobwhite quail, contact the Lower Shore Land Trust by emailing [bsheppard@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:bsheppard@lowershorelandtrust.org) or calling 443-234-5587.

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# Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY BERLIN VOYAGERS 4-H CLUB

## VOLUNTEERING FOR HABITAT

Members of the Berlin Voyagers 4-H Club youth clear debris for a Habitat for Humanity build project in Bishopville.



## VALENTINES FOR VETS

Members of the Berlin Voyagers 4-H Club pose with cards and notes they made recently to send to veterans as part of the organization's Valentines for Veterans project.

PHOTO COURTESY BERLIN VOYAGERS 4-H CLUB VIA FACEBOOK

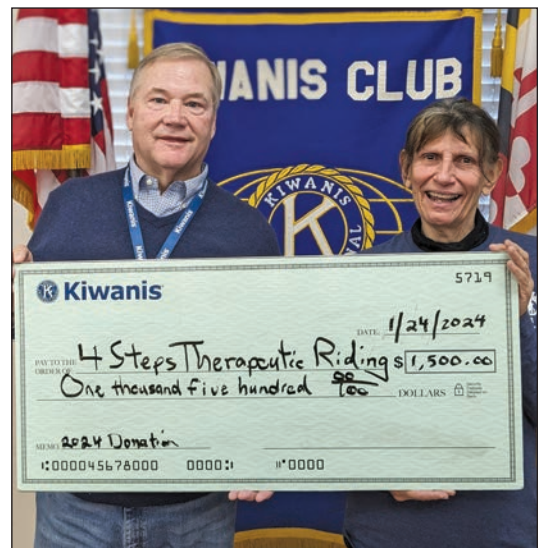


PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

## DONATION

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing presents a \$1,500 donation from the club to Sandy Winter, executive director of 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program in Parsonsburg, during a recent meeting where Winter was the guest speaker.



# Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY

## DEMOCRATIC WOMEN MEET

The 2024 Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County officers recently held their first meeting of the year at the Ocean Pines Library. Pictured, from left, are Maggie Miller, treasurer; Debi Koczen-Doyle, at-large; Susan Buyer, vice president; Debra Fisher-Reynolds, president; Sue Challis, corresponding secretary/newsletter; and Maria Campione Lawrence, at-large.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVIS J. LANDIS SR.

## CLUB HOSTS SPEAKER

Patti Stevens, an advocate, planner and connector for several Eastern Shore groups, poses with Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing at the club's Jan. 31 meeting. Stevens spoke about the needs of not only Ocean Pines and Worcester County, but all eight counties of the Eastern Shore.



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PREDATORY SCHOOL

## BERLIN MAYOR VISITS WORCESTER PREP

Berlin Mayor Zach Tyndall, center, poses with Worcester Preparatory School fourth grade students and their teachers after a discussion of this year's "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest. Each year, WPS students are asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words about what they would do if they were mayor. This year's theme is "Inspiring Leadership in Your City/Town/Community"



## D.A.R.E. GRADUATES

Worcester Prep fifth grade students display the D.A.R.E. graduation certificates and hats they received after recently completing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program taught by Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli. Also pictured from left, in the back are teachers Alayne Shockley and Lisa Rill, Crisafulli, WPS Head of School John McDonald and teacher Camille Jenkins. Crisafulli visited fifth grade classrooms across the county for several weeks educating students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the D.A.R.E. program.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE





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# BIS student surprised to win Shorebirds design contest

Loralei Donaway created bookmarks to be handed out to schools across area

**By Bethany Hooper**  
Associate Editor

(Feb. 8, 2024) A local student was recently recognized for winning a regional design contest.

On Jan. 18, representatives with the Delmarva Shorebirds visited Berlin Intermediate School to recognize sixth-grade student Loralei Donaway as the winner of this year's "Hit The Books" bookmark contest. Donoway's design was selected from tens of thousands of submissions across 100-plus schools on the Delmarva Peninsula.

"I'm excited," she said in an interview last week. "I didn't think I was going to win."

Each year, the Delmarva Shorebirds partner with local schools for its "Hit The Books" program as a way to encourage children to read outside the classroom. The annual event kicks off with a bookmark design contest, with the winning design being distributed to schools across the region each January.

Last fall, Donoway's art class, led by art teacher Sarah Purdue, entered into the Shorebirds' bookmark contest. Donoway said her design depicted the team's mascot, Sherman, learning how to play baseball by reading a book. The picture is accompanied with the phrase, "Home Run Reader."

"My teacher had heard about the contest and decided to do it," she recalled. "We didn't have much time. So I ended up finishing it at home and turning it in."

Unbeknownst to Donoway, her bookmark was ultimately chosen as the winning design. In a pep rally held Jan. 18., Donoway's parents and siblings, as well as representatives from Worcester County Public Schools and the Delmarva Shorebirds, were on hand to surprise her with the accolade.

"I thought it would be a normal day ...," she said. "We ended up having a

pep rally for the winner, and everyone around me kept saying it was someone else. But as soon as I heard the 'L' come out of their mouth, I knew it was me."

Donoway's mother, Tammy Donoway, said she had learned of her daughter's winning design in December. She said she, her husband and their two other daughters hid in the locker room until the name was announced.

"We had to keep it a secret," she said.

As the winner of this year's design contest, printed copies of Donoway's bookmark will be distributed to schools across the Eastern Shore. Donoway will also get to throw the first pitch at Berlin Intermediate's "Hit The Books" night at the Delmarva Shorebirds.

"The bookmarks will be used as inspiration for the next drawing contest," Donoway added. "And it will be attached to the Shorebirds schedule."



PHOTOS COURTESY CARRIE STERRS/WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Berlin Intermediate School sixth-grade student Loralei Donoway, joined by Superintendent Lou Taylor and Sherman the Shorebird, poses with her winning bookmark design depicting the Delmarva Shorebirds mascot.

# Melson's

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## OPEN HOUSES

February 8 - 15



DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat & Sun, Noon-4pm	Harbor Court, 12801 Memory Lane	3-6BR/3.5-6.5BA	Single Family	From \$849,900	Kathleen M. Clark/Monogram Realty
Sat & Sun 10am-Noon	1 66th Unit 101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 12:30-2:30pm	36939 Creekhaven Drive, Selbyville	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$835,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 12:30-2:30pm	121 81st St. #706, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$815,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1-3pm	50 Windjammer Rd, Ocean Pines	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$435,000	Cindy Crockett/Hileman Real Estate





# Opinion

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

## Tyndall wasn't wrong, but should seek more

You can't blame a guy for trying. At least that's how Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall might feel after attempting to unite the county's towns and Ocean Pines in asking the county commissioners for more money for the fiscal year ahead.

Tyndall's strategy was to convince the other jurisdictions to make a unified pitch for \$500,000 each in unrestricted grants during their budget talks with the county later this month. That, he evidently surmised, would put slightly more pressure on the commissioners to do better by the towns with their annual grants considering how much more money the county would be receiving.

Tyndall's pitch, however, didn't work out, as the other districts apparently prefer to make their own arguments to the county for more money in the year ahead. If that is the case, they might consider taking another look at Tyndall's position and then doing the math.

The one problem with Tyndall's plan is that he didn't ask for enough. As he pointed out, Berlin received an unrestricted grant of \$400,000 in 2013 and \$465,000 last year. That's an increase of 16.25% over 10 years. Meanwhile, the county's total revenue over the same period shot up 37%, from about \$166 million to \$227 million. By that measure, Berlin should be due \$548,000 in unrestricted grant money, were it to keep pace with the county's revenue growth.

Although the towns get much more money from the county for other purposes, these unrestricted grants — money that can be spent on anything — have been running light.

While there is no way of knowing at this time what the commissioners will do with the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year, or how it will treat Ocean City taxpayers whose properties were the only ones to be reassessed for this cycle, all the other districts in line for grants — Ocean City, Snow Hill, Ocean Pines and Pocomoke City — should join Berlin in going after their fair share, whatever that number turns out to be.

### OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

## PSA: Keep ditches clear of debris

### OPA warns clogs can lead to violations and fines for residents

(Feb. 8, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association is asking homeowners to keep their ditches clear of leaves and other debris.

Clogging one ditch can cause drainage problems that impact multiple properties, or even an entire neighborhood.

Filling ditches with leaves or other debris can lead to a Compliance Permit and Inspections, or CPI, violation from Ocean Pines, along with up to \$1,000 fine from Worcester County.

Additionally, if clogged ditches cause property owners upstream a hardship and those areas become flooded, violators can be sued civilly under Maryland Common Drainage Laws.

Homeowners may report improperly clogged ditches by emailing [info@ocean-pines.org](mailto:info@ocean-pines.org). Doing so will trigger an investigation by CPI staff.

For residents who are cleaning out their ditches, Republic Services will collect up to four bags of yard debris per house during

normal trash collection, year-round. Ocean Pines Public Works collects bagged leaves in November and December only.

Homeowners can also drop off loose or paper-bagged yard debris at the public works yard on 1 Firehouse Lane. Doing so requires a sticker, which can be picked up at the public works building. There is currently no fee for the stickers.

The public works yard is generally open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesdays. Special drop-off times will be posted on [ocean-pines.org](http://ocean-pines.org).

Ocean Pines Public Works will continue to clean ditches in common areas.

The prior practice of having the association clean out all ditches was discontinued after some residents took advantage of the annual vacuum truck operation by raking their entire yards into their ditches and expecting the truck to clear the ditches out, which became very costly in terms of labor, equipment and disposal.

## Author, journalist to speak in Berlin

### Germantown School heritage center to host Ta-Nehisi Coates

By Charlene Sharpe  
Associate Editor

(Feb. 8, 2024) Ties to a historic Rosenwald school will bring a bestselling author to Berlin.

The Germantown School Community Heritage Center will welcome Ta-Nehisi Coates, an award-winning author and journalist, to Berlin on Feb. 24. Coates, whose grandmother attended Germantown School, will talk about "Between the World and Me," a Pulitzer Prize finalist that won the National Book Award in 2015.

"His family's roots are here," said Barbara Purnell, president of the Germantown School Community Heritage Center. "It's great that he's made it that big and it's good for him to come and speak to the community."

Coates is the author of the bestselling books "The Beautiful Struggle," "We Were Eight Years in Power," "Be-

tween the World and Me" and "The Water Dancer." Purnell, a cousin of Coates, has always admired his work and has wanted him to visit Germantown School, the Rosenwald school his grandmother attended as a child, for some time. She was able to get Berlin on his schedule for Black History Month but knew he would attract too much of a crowd to speak at Germantown School. She coordinated with the Berlin library to host the event there but realized as soon as the date was announced that even it would be too small.

"As soon as we opened reservations we knew we were full," Purnell said.

She's grateful that she was able to work with Worcester County Public Schools to move the event to the auditorium at Stephen Decatur High School. Coates will speak there at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24. Those interested in attending can make reservations by emailing [germantownschooll@gmail.com](mailto:germantownschooll@gmail.com) or by calling 410-641-0638. The event is free though donations will be ac-

cepted to the Anna V. Waters scholarship fund. Family members of Waters, Purnell's cousin and Coates' grandmother, started the scholarship fund in 2010 in her memory.

Scholarship funds support African American students with 2.0 to 2.9 grade point averages who demonstrate a desire to pursue higher education.

"We work each day to honor the legacy of Anna V. Waters, a tenacious woman with an unflinching work ethic," the scholarship fund's website, [avwsf.org](http://avwsf.org), reads. "Ms. Waters instilled in her children a sense of 'doing for self' to lead productive lives in their communities. This is the fundamental tenet in our efforts to support young African-American students. Many financial scholarships are rooted in how a student looks on paper, but grades don't tell the whole story. We are proud to invest in students who may not have conventional markers of success and who need someone to believe in them and their potential."

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pieces of artwork by local high school students are pictured on display at the Worcester County Arts Council's current exhibit in Berlin.

# Arts council displaying pieces by students

(Feb. 8, 2024) The Worcester County Arts Council is hosting an exhibit featuring entries submitted by students from all county high schools for its annual Berlin/Ocean City Optimist Club-sponsored art competition.

The exhibit is open now through Feb. 28 at the arts council's gallery at

6 Jefferson St. in Berlin. Monetary awards and ribbons will be presented to the winning artists at a reception from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9, at the gallery.

The exhibit showcases 28 pieces, including paintings, drawings, and digital media.

A press release said the competition aims to encourage, recognize and honor the artistic expression of talented art students in Worcester

County and emphasize the importance and support of quality art programs.

The competition offers a total of \$2,000 in cash prizes to the student artists. Along with the monetary awards, a \$100 gift certificate, provided by the Blick art supply company will be given to the selected student.

Local artist and arts council board member Doris Glover will be judging

the contest entries.

The winner of a People's Choice award will also be presented, which members of the public were invited to vote on from last Thursday through today.

Along with the featured exhibit, new artworks by members of the gallery co-op are on display and available to buy. Art gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.



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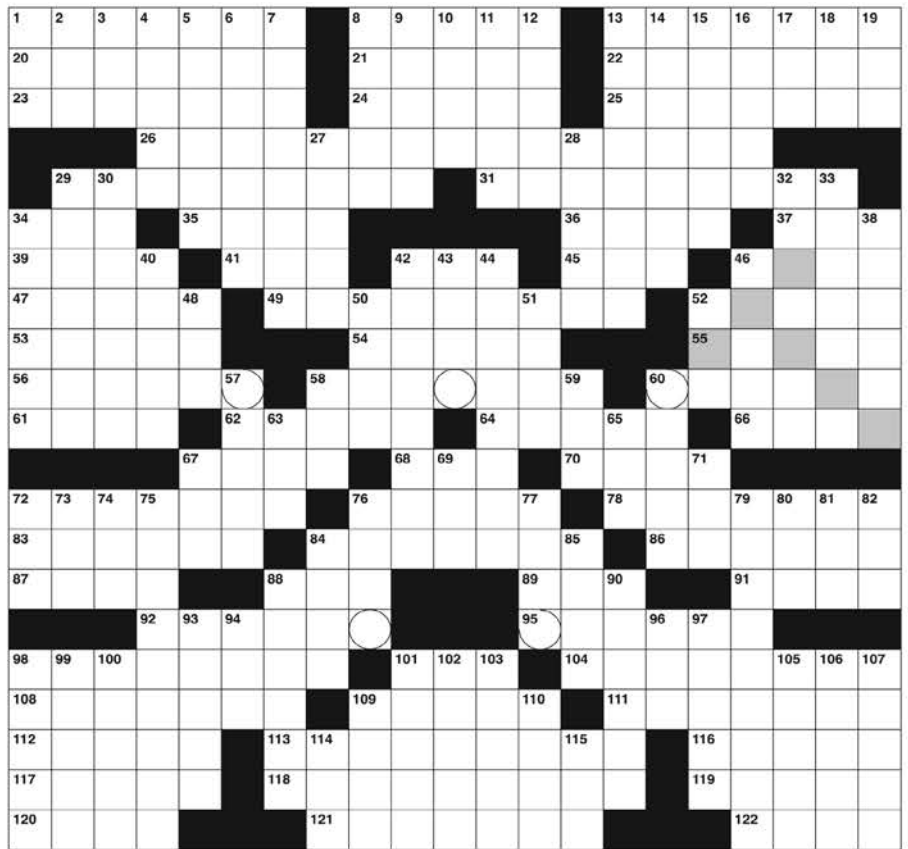
# Puzzles

## HAMMER TIME

BY NATHAN HASEGAWA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Nathan Hasegawa, of Oakland, Calif., is a junior at Harvey Mudd College majoring in mathematics. This is his second crossword for The Times. His first was in 2021, during his senior year in high school, when every student had to pursue a yearlong project and Nathan's was to get a crossword published here. This follow-up, which has a multifaceted theme, was two years in the making (on and off). — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Toy on a racetrack
  - 8 Soccer star who has won a record eight Ballon d'Or awards
  - 13 Like "t," "k" and "p," in phonetics
  - 20 What Hemingway claimed he did to the ending of "A Farewell to Arms" 39 times
  - 21 Dartmouth and Penn, e.g.
  - 22 Fled
  - 23 Mnemonic start
  - 24 Actor Leary
  - 25 Flowerlike sea creature
  - 26 Massive victory ... or a high score in 113-Across?
  - 29 Really enjoys oneself
  - 31 Doofuses
  - 34 Wetland
  - 35 Objections
  - 36 Be part of an uprising
  - 37 Lowercase letter that resembles an "n"
  - 39 Las Vegas resort with a music-inspired name
  - 41 But
  - 42 Resort amenity
  - 45 Medical procedure, for short
  - 46 Overabundance
  - 47 Vodka drink, informally
  - 49 Tremble
  - 52 Contaminating trace
  - 53 Chemical-solution strength
  - 54 "Yeshiva boy" played by Barbra Streisand
  - 55 Author who penned the line "Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart"
  - 56 Climate issue addressed in the Montreal Protocol
  - 58 Approach something with gusto
  - 60 What's the matter?
  - 61 Sunder
  - 62 Shapes of many carrot slices
  - 64 Currency worth a little more than dollars
  - 66 Spreadsheet command
  - 67 Spot for a loft
  - 68 Muesli bit
  - 70 Make a pile, perhaps
  - 72 Rentable transportation options
  - 76 Fracas
  - 78 Music's Little \_\_\_\_\_
  - 83 Used TurboTax, say
  - 84 Journalist's accessory
  - 86 Knuckle-headed act?
  - 87 Biblical man who lost his birthright
  - 88 2017 musical retelling of the stories of Henry VIII's wives
  - 89 Symbol for torque, in physics
  - 91 Many a viral post
  - 92 Point of no return?
  - 95 Ace
  - 98 Coast
  - 101 Ellipsis element
  - 104 Aviator's maneuver in a crosswind landing
  - 108 Proportional
  - 109 "The Last Supper," for one
  - 111 Spot on an afternoon schedule?
  - 112 Doofuses
  - 113 Game represented visually in this puzzle
  - 116 Talks like Tom Waits
  - 117 Justice Kagan
  - 118 Try for a seat in the Capitol
  - 119 Fifth-century pope dubbed "the Great"
  - 120 Constant nuisance
  - 121 Like some postage and parking spaces
  - 122 Fish whose juveniles can climb walls
  - 15 Short tennis session
  - 16 Gregor \_\_\_\_\_, Franz Kafka character
  - 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Jima
  - 18 Small band transport
  - 19 Image at the top of the pyramid on the back of a dollar bill
  - 27 "\_\_\_\_\_ la vista, baby!"
  - 28 Insertion mark
  - 29 Put on a pedestal, say
  - 30 Jennifer of "The Morning Show"
  - 32 "White Noise" author Don
  - 33 What a shock!
  - 34 11,111 vis-à-vis 123,454,321
  - 38 Swear (to)
  - 40 Tweak, say
  - 42 Ejects forcefully
  - 43 Primitive camera feature
  - 44 Like a winner of a mountain marathon, in two senses
  - 46 First name of Julius Caesar
  - 48 Unrefined mined find
  - 50 Finish line for the first stage of the first Tour de France
  - 51 Giant name in Giants history
  - 52 Cinemax competitor
  - 57 It's facedown on a poker table
  - 58 Negroni spirit
  - 59 [I'm SO mad!]
  - 60 Cotton fabric often used in bandages
  - 63 Hosp. areas
  - 65 Gondola propeller
- DOWN**
- 1 Many prom attendees: Abbr.
  - 2 Niuhau neckwear
  - 3 Symbol of wisdom
  - 4 Lock
  - 5 Mountebank
  - 6 "Nice work, little fella!"
  - 7 Dreamy state
  - 8 Skirts that go below the knee
  - 9 Giant slalom at the Olympics, e.g.
  - 10 Choir director's command
  - 11 Tremor
  - 12 Put out
  - 13 Make perfect, maybe
  - 14 Frustrating highway driver
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, [nytimes.com/crosswords](http://nytimes.com/crosswords) (\$39.95 a year).



- 67 Honey
- 69 Verb sometimes abbreviated to its central letter
- 71 Prefix with tourist or hotel
- 72 Series finale
- 73 Counterfactual starters, in logic
- 74 Karachi-based carrier
- 75 Certain urban nightlife
- 76 Military hiding spot
- 77 Place that's cramped and squalid
- 79 Something a presidential candidate often wins
- 80 Gray, say
- 81 Part of a hoop
- 82 It may be repeated after "fiddle"
- 84 Oregon-based athletic brand
- 85 Podium
- 88 Items in a hardware store bin
- 90 Acting as one
- 93 Capital in the Himalayas
- 94 Company originally known as Control Video Corp.
- 96 Shelley's "\_\_\_\_\_ to the West Wind"
- 97 Converges on
- 98 Source of a sleeper hit, perhaps
- 99 \_\_\_\_\_ Holmes, Netflix character played by Millie Bobby Brown
- 100 Pitkin County ski town
- 101 Old Venetian money
- 102 Give a keynote, say
- 103 Performer with lions
- 105 Cotton fabric often used in hosiery
- 106 Urge
- 107 Some dinero
- 109 Part of a lion
- 110 Ear piece
- 114 Bottom line?
- 115 Container component

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**HARD - 52**

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.

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

### Answers to last week's puzzles

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





# Calendar

Please send calendar items to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

## Thurs., Feb. 8

### FINANCIAL LITERACY: BOOKKEEPING WITH SBDC

Berlin Maryland Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 8 a.m. Breakfast and coffee provided. Free event.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fls-2024-2945089?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odlsxcollection&utm-source=cp&utm-aff=escb>

### VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop in and make a homemade card to give to a friend or family member. Fun for all ages. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SWING DANCE WEEKEND

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Workshops on Friday and Saturday. Dance parties held Thursday-Saturday (Thursday is free) and live music from The Funsters on Saturday. 410-524-1000, <https://carouselhotel.com/swing-dance-weekend/>

### STORY TIME: STAFF FAVORITES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in the hear an Ocean Pines staff favorite. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join us for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOVIE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. The true story of Jesse Owens' record-breaking trip to the 1936 Olympics. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ZUMBA

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join licensed, certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Registration required: 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. 302-436-9577, [BeachSingles.org](http://BeachSingles.org).

## Fri., Feb. 9

### SWING DANCE WEEKEND

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Workshops on Friday and Saturday. Dance parties held Thursday-Saturday (Thursday is free) and live music from The Funsters on Saturday. 410-524-1000, <https://carouselhotel.com/swing-dance-weekend/>

### VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop in and make a homemade card to give to a friend or family member. Fun for all ages. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and finger plays. For ages 0-2 years and their caregivers. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MAHJONG CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a fun morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Join in for STEAM activities and socialize with other homeschool families. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### BOOK DISCUSSION: 'THE BLUEST EYE' BY TONI MORRISON

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Ocean Pines circulation desk. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a single-crab cake platter, \$24 for a double-crab cake platter and \$10 for a single crab cake sandwich. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake sale table.

## Sat., Feb. 10

### SWING DANCE WEEKEND

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Workshops on Friday and Saturday. Dance parties held Thursday-Saturday (Thursday is free) and live music from The Funsters on Saturday. 410-524-1000, <https://carouselhotel.com/swing-dance-weekend/>

### OCEAN PINES PLAYERS PRESENTS 'LOVE LETTERS' JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets \$25. Featuring the Ocean Pines Players production of "Love Letters" by A. R. Gurney. Admission cost is \$25 and includes wine and charcuterie. Tickets: <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>. 703-401-5631

### ANNUAL MAC & CHEESE COOKOFF FUNDRAISER

Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 12-3 p.m. Rockstar Chef and Sommelier Paul Cullen as host and emcee. Live music, 2 complimentary drinks and door prizes. General admission \$40 (\$45 at the door). Under 21 years \$15, 5 years and younger free.

### UNCORKED & UNPLUGGED VALENTINE'S WITH PAUL CULLEN

Residence Inn by Marriott Ocean City, 300 Seabay Lane, 12-3 p.m. Paul will have a sampling of five of his favorites wines. Enjoy Paul's acoustic performance. Tickets cost \$20 and include hors d'oeuvres. Must be 21 years or older. Tickets: 443-664-7043.

### CRAFTY SATURDAY: CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come and make some Valentine's Day crafts. All ages welcome. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SMITH ISLAND CAKE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Lisa Evans, from Smith Island, will demonstrate how these cakes are made. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PAWS FOR READING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 11 a.m. Read to Piper, a Portuguese Water Dog, and make a craft. For ages 5 years and older. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### SONS OF THE LEGION VALENTINE DAY DINNER

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City. Seatings at 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 and includes streak, shrimp, baked potato, mixed vegetable, salad, dessert and choice of one wine or beer. 410-289-3166

### FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

## Sun., Feb. 11

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin. Worship Service at 10 a.m. followed by a soup lunch with a love offering to benefit Diakonia. 410-641-2186, [bethany21811@gmail.com](mailto:bethany21811@gmail.com)

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., Feb. 12

### LITTLE LEARNERS WITH ASSATEAGUE STATE PARK SCALES AND TALES

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Scales and Tales will bring animals for participants to see and touch. There will also be a story time and craft. Free program. Designed for children ages 0-5 years, but all are welcome. 410-289-4991

### STORY TIME: 'VALENTINES CELEBRATION'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and a craft about all things love and hearts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health and psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MAKER MONDAY - WALL HANGINGS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Make wall hangings, small or large, plain or intricate. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MEET PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Lincoln impersonator, Chris Hill will give a presentation about Lincoln's boyhood, presidency and Civil War history, ending with the Gettysburg Address speech. All ages welcome. 410-957-0878

### SMITH ISLAND CAKE

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Lisa Evans, from Smith Island, will demonstrate how these cakes are made. 410-632-3495

### TIDALHEALTH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth Avery W. Hall Education  
Continued on Page 28



# Calendar

Continued from Page 27

Center - auditorium, 100 E. Carroll St., Salisbury, 6-7 p.m. Angela Korb, MS, PA-C, discusses the basics of coronary artery disease, the impact of diabetes on cardiovascular health, prevention and cardiovascular risk reduction. 410-543-7061

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin, 7-11:59 p.m. All are welcome.

## DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

*Mondays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies who love to sing invited. Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol, 302-242-7062.

## OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

*Mondays* - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

## Tues., Feb. 13

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4:30-6 p.m. All-you-can-eat. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and free to those 5 years and younger. Carry-out available. 410-641-1137

### TIDALHEALTH ICD SUPPORT GROUP

TidalHealth Adult Fitness, 800 S. Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury, 9-10 a.m. To allow people with implantable cardioverter defibrillator devices to become more knowledgeable and comfortable with having an ICD. Attendees are welcome to bring one guest. 410-543-7026

### STORY TIME AT THE DELMARVA DISCOVERY MUSEUM - SNAKES

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join in each second Tuesday of the month at The Delmarva Discovery Museum to see, touch and learn about local animals and enjoy stories, songs and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878

### STORY TIME: 'LOVE IS IN THE AIR'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Do you love to knit or crochet? Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### HOW TO WORK THE GIG ECONOMY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Rick Leibowitz from the Maryland Small Business Development Center will discuss the basics of setting up a small "gig"

business. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides discussions and mutual support, along with education on exercise nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765

### SHROVE TUESDAY COMMUNITY PANCAKE DINNER

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Featuring Norwegian Pancakes. Love offering collected. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com

### PAINT & SIP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. Register: 410-641-7052.

### TIDES & VINE BOOK CLUB:

'THE UNCOUPLING' BY MEG WOLITZER  
Tides & Vine, 106 W. Green St., Snow Hill, 6 p.m. Stop by Snow Hill Library to pick up your book any time, then meet for a great discussion at Tides & Vine. Must be at least 21 years of age. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### SONG CELEBRATION

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. Bring a song and share it with other players and writers in a welcoming and encouraging space. Originals encouraged. Listeners welcome. Hosted by Mikel Campbell. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be striped bass research biologist, Beth Versak, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The public is invited. Food and refreshments available after 6 p.m.

### BEACH HEROES-OC

*Tuesdays* - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

*Tuesdays* - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

### OC KNITTING CLUB

*Tuesdays* - Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.

### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

*Tuesdays* - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

### ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

*Tuesdays* - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

## Wed., Feb. 14

### ASHES TO GO

The Church Mouse Thrift Shop, 101 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. St. Paul's priest will be in front of the thrift shop to provide ashes and a blessing. All are welcome.

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 11 a.m. Six-week class on "The Third Day" by Tom Berlin, Wednesdays from Feb. 14 to March 20. Led by Pastor Jacob Jackson. Sign up: 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com. Books also available on Amazon.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 2 p.m. For information, contact 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com.

### THE LIBRARY: A UNIVERSAL MEMOIR

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Also held via Zoom. This talk celebrates libraries and encourages participants to share individual experiences. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### SCHOOL'S OUT SWITCH SESSION

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 2 p.m. Come play some Nintendo Switch games on the big screen and hang out with other kids and tweens. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### I LOVE THE BEACH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Free ice cream social featuring Jerry Lee Adkins, who will perform Jimmy Buffett hits and an array of love songs for Valentine's Day. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly on the website and Facebook. Guests are welcome. www.kiwanisofpoc.org

### BINGO

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Play Bingo for prizes and pizza. For ages 8 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### D & D NIGHT

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Get registered for D&D Game Night, great for adults and teens. Limit of 15. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### B.I.N.G.O. FOR A CAUSE

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6-8 p.m. Join Assateague Coastal Trust for a fun night of bingo, prizes, raffles, giveaways and great food. Support your local non-profit.

### ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS

*Wednesdays* - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Dance background not required. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

## ONGOING EVENTS

### OCEAN CITY - BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

Don's Seafood and Chop House, South Gate, Ocean Pines, 6 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of each month. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

### BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during February. Choose a mystery date from the display to take home and read. Fill out the brief form inside the book and return it to the library to be entered into a drawing to win a sweet prize. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### TEEN STEAM STATION

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., during February. Each hands-on activity will focus on art, math, science, engineering or technology. Create jewelry using binary code, construct a flying glider, design your own city out of recycled material and more. Challenges will change each week. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

### 2024 JUST WALK CHALLENGE

Get the most miles of physical activity between Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 and be crowned the Just Walk Worcester Champion of 2024. Sign-up for Just Walk Worcester and report your monthly miles: https://justwalkworcester.org/. 410-632-1100, Ext. 1110

### OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitaly-oceancity.com



# Classified

## MARKETPLACE

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

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



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### HELP WANTED

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Outdoor work, lifting heavy objects. Mechanical, basic pool pump & motors, CPO a plus / not required. Able to pass CPO test. Summer includes weekends & long hours; working alone or with others  
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Classifieds 410-723-6397

**Looking for four months Summer Rental** in Ocean City. Gentleman works on beach full-time downtown for local business. Excellent references. **Call or text Charles, 410-294-1028**

**Seeking To Rent.** Long term, year-round, unfurnished, 2BR/2BA, ground floor. Ocean City/Ocean Pines area. Great references. **410-726-0169**

**5,000 Square Foot Shop/Warehouse** for rent. Just outside of Berlin.  
**\$2,500/month. Call for details 443-366-5935.**

**Efficiency/1 Bath Condo** with full kitchen available for either summer season for \$10,000 or 8 month lease for \$1250 per month. Accommodates 2. 32nd Street, Bayside.  
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**House Share in Berlin,** male preferred, \$600/month, non-smoker, no pets.  
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**Houseshare.** Furnished room in South Ocean Pines. All inclusive. \$800 per month. Year-round. No smoking. No pets. **Call John 443-880-2317.**

**Year-Round Room For Rent** Ocean Pines \$800/month and \$200 security. Fully furnished. All utilities included. **443-880-2317**

**SEEKING ROOM**  
**Seeking Room to Rent:** 60 yr. old seeking room to rent on annual basis. Ocean Pines or Berlin area. Have own furniture for room.  
**443-513-1421**

**REAL ESTATE**  
**For Sale:** 2BR/2BA, Waterfront Condo with deeded boat slips. Open house, 1-16 through 2-18. **Contact Rick, 610-751-5203.**

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**1 Office/Retail Space** available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft.  
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# Service

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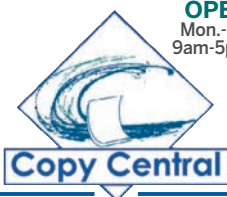
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